



Worcester

CENTRAL
SCHOOL

Strive, Support, Succeed.

Back-to-School 2022-2023 Newsletter



The WCS Class of 2022.



Superintendent's Message

Dear Worcester Central School Families,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2022-23 school year at the Worcester Central School District (WCSD)! Our dedicated staff has been hard at work preparing for the return of our amazing students and families. We are very excited to welcome everyone back to our campus for the first day of school on Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2022.

As we enter the new school year, we all hope that the COVID-19 days are finally behind us. As always, you have my commitment that we will continue to keep you informed of the latest health updates, safety measures and ways we prioritize the wellbeing of all individuals in our school as we exit the pandemic.

This year we have some exciting new opportunities on the horizon. Now that our building condition survey has been completed, we are looking to enhance our school environment with some capital improvements. The best part is that the timing of such an improvement project would not increase any taxes. The district will also be starting to transition our student information system from PowerSchool to School Tool. School Tool offers a more user-friendly platform and will continue to provide parents real time access to your student's grades.

Most importantly we have a great year ahead for your children. This year brings tremendous opportunities for our students to begin the year "normally" and we look forward to supporting them in learning and growing socially, emotionally, and academically. All of us are looking forward to focusing our attention on what we love to do, teaching your children!

On behalf of all of us at WCSD, we are excited to continue our partnership with our families as we support every child at WCSD. We appreciate you entrusting us with your children, and I look forward to seeing you on the first day of school!

Respectfully,

Tim Gonzales, Superintendent



Capital project improvements on the horizon

Vote to draw money from reserve funds planned for December

The Worcester Board of Education is preparing to present a proposition before voters this December, that the district undertake capital improvements which would include spending one million dollars in capital project reserves to complete repairs and upgrades that were identified as issues in a 2020 building condition survey, including:

- Repairs to the radiant-heat walkway in the front of the school, which has cracked due to weather, wear and tear over time;
- Replacing the underground oil tank connected to the school’s boilers;
- Sewer line repairs;
- Installing a keycard keyless entry system for authorized faculty and staff to improve security;
- Renovation of the front office and entrance to the school to improve design, safety and create a more secure entrance; and

- Carpeting installation, paint and other general maintenance repairs.

The capital improvements would be completed at no tax increase to taxpayers, as a portion of the funds would come directly from the capital reserve fund approved by voters in May 2022 and funded in June of 2022. This savings account was created in an effort to offset capital improvement costs and provide a more consistent, regular schedule of updates and maintenance related to building and grounds needs.

The district was audited by the State Comptroller earlier this year. The audit focused on the District’s Fund Balance and presented suggestions to offset the increase in fund balance.

The increase can be attributed to a number of factors, such as careful budgeting and trying to avoid sweeping tax hikes over the past years, looming state aid cuts of up to 20% during the first year of the pandemic,

and the potential merger with Schenevus.

“Being able to enhance our learning environment for our students and at the same time not have to increase taxes for our Worcester residents is a win for our entire school community,” said Superintendent Gonzales.



Cracked Walkways — Repairs to the radiant-heat walkway in the front of the school would be completed.

If your child is absent from school...

If your child is absent from school, you will receive an automated phone call from the district. A parent/guardian written excuse is required if your child is sick. Absences for any appointments do require a doctor’s note to be considered a legal excuse. Please call us with any concerns at (607) 397-8785.

Pandemic Free Meals Program ends

School meal programs across the country will return to pre-pandemic protocols for the 2022-23 school year. This means breakfast and lunch are no longer free to all students but will be based on income eligibility. Worcester families still have options available for free and reduced meals. For more information and to access the Free and Reduced Meal Application, visit the school website worcestercs.org or call the main office at (607) 397-8785.



School Calendar 2022-23

Worcester CENTRAL SCHOOL

July 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2022

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2022

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October 2022

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2022

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December 2022

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January 2023

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29	30	31				

February 2023

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26	27	28				

March 2023

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April 2023

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

May 2023

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June 2023

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25	26	27	28	29	30	

July 4.....Independence Day
 August 31.....Superintendent's Conference Day - All Staff
 September 1.....Superintendent's Conference Day
 September 5.....Labor Day
 September 6.....First Day of Classes
 October 10.....Columbus Day
 October 19.....Early Dismissal at 12:15 p.m./Conference Day
 November 1.....Staff Supt. Conf. Day-Parent/Teacher Conferences
 November 11.....Veterans Day
 November 23-25.....Thanksgiving Recess
 December 14.....Early Dismissal at 12:15 p.m./Conference Day
 December 23-30.....Holiday Break
 January 2.....Holiday Break
 January 16.....Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 January 24-27.....Regents Exams
 February 8.....Early Dismissal at 12:15 p.m./Conference Day
 February 20.....Presidents' Day
 February 21-24.....Mid-Winter Break
 March 17.....Superintendent's Conference Day
 April 3-10.....Spring Break

April 7.....Good Friday
 April 19-26.....ELA Gr. 3-8
 May 2-9.....Math Gr. 3-8
 May 16.....School Budget Vote
 May 17.....Early Dismissal at 12:15 p.m./Conference Day
 May 23-31.....Science Gr. 8
 May 29.....Memorial Day
 June 1-2.....Science Gr. 8
 June 5.....Science Gr. 8 Written
 June 13.....Last Day of Classes Gr. 7-12
 June 14-23.....Regents Exams
 June 19.....Juneteenth Day
 June 22-23.....Early Dismissal at 12:15 p.m./Conference Day
 June 23.....Last Day of School Gr. PreK-12/Rating Day
 June 25.....Graduation, 11 a.m.

KEY:

- Conference Day
- Testing/Regents
- School Holiday/Break
- △ First/Last Days of School
- School Budget Vote



Annual Notifications

Public Notice

The Worcester Central School District is in compliance with the provisions of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. This agency does not discriminate due to race, national origin, sex, age or handicap. The Title IX Officer for Worcester Central School is the Superintendent.

Educational Services for Homeless Students

All District programs are available to homeless and/or unaccompanied youth. For more information on the services available to homeless and/or unaccompanied youth, please contact our District's Homeless Liaisons, Mrs. Melissa Leonard, Secondary Principal, or Mrs. Katie Sill, Elementary Principal at (607) 387-8785.

Use of Video Cameras on School Grounds and Buses

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to promote and foster school safety and ensure a safe and effective learning environment. After having carefully considered and balanced the rights of privacy with the District's duty to promote discipline, health, welfare and safety of staff and students, as well as that of the general public who has occasion to use school facilities, the Board supports the use of surveillance cameras when necessary in its schools, its buses and/

or on school grounds. District surveillance cameras will only be utilized in public areas where there is no "reasonable expectation of privacy." Audio recordings shall not be utilized by the School District officials; such prohibition does not preclude the use of audio recordings by law enforcement officials in accordance with their official duties and/or as otherwise authorized by law.

Asbestos Management Plan

Notice is hereby given to all employees, parents, students, PTO, and all other users of the facilities of the Worcester Central School District, that the District's original Asbestos Management Plan was submitted to the New York State Education Department in Albany, New York.

In accordance with EPA's "Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) of 1987 (40 CFR Part 763) and the New York State Right to Know Law, annual notices pertaining to the inspection and availability of management plans have been posted in each building.

All management plan records are available for review during school hours. For further information please contact Mr. Glenn Jaquish, Building Maintenance Mechanic at 607-397-8785, ext. 123.

No Child Left Behind Act

As part of the federal regulations, parents of children attending

Worcester Central School may request the school to provide information regarding the qualifications of teachers in the Title I/AIS program. If you would like this information, please contact Tim Gonzales, Superintendent at 607-397-8785.

View the District's Computer Acceptable Use Policy, ED2D Law Information, Attendance Policy, Code of Conduct, and Title I information on the District Web site at www.worcestercs.org.

Pesticide Notifications

NYS Education Law Section 409H effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and non-public elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The Worcester Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you would like to receive 48-hour notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled



Annual Notifications

to occur in the school, please contact Mr. Glenn Jaquish, Building Maintenance Mechanic, at 607-397-8785, ext. 123.

Disclosure to the Military

Federal law requires school districts, upon request, release the name, home address and telephone number of high school students to military recruiters unless the student or the student's parent/guardian have directed the school not to release this information.

If you DO NOT want the school district to release this information to military recruiters, you must inform the district to request this in writing. You may make this request by writing a letter to Mrs. Melissa Leonard, Secondary Principal. Please include the following information.

Request NOT to Release Directory Information to Military Recruiters

Student:

Grade:

Parent Signature:

Date:

Student signature:
(Must be over 18)

Date:

Once you have submitted this information, you do not need to do so again unless you wish to change your mind.

Visitors to School

Although we encourage

community involvement in school and school-related activities, please help us to ensure the safety of our children and support quality learning by following the guidelines and requirements for visitations below:

1. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school will be considered a visitor.
2. All visitors to the school must report to the main office upon arrival at the school. All visitors must log into the visitor's identification system and will be issued a visitor's identification badge, which must be worn at all times while in the school building and on school grounds. The visitor must also sign out on the visitor's identification system in the main office upon leaving the building.
3. Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organization meetings or public gatherings, are not required to register.
4. Teachers are not able to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors. Parents wishing to speak with the teacher should schedule an appointment that does not interfere with the teacher's instructional time.
5. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to an Administrator. Unauthorized persons may be

asked to leave.

6. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in the code of conduct. Law enforcement may be called if the situation warrants.



Utica Zoo Mobile — On July 8, WCS students visited the Worcester-Schenevus Library for a hands-on learning experience with a variety of animals from the Utica Zoo mobile.



Annual Notifications

and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

- The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days after the day the Worcester Central School receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

- The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the Worcester Central School to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of

their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance

committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Worcester Central School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202. The Health Office is the link between your child and health and safety. Please review the

WCS is a Smoke-Free Zone

By law and by policy established by the Board of Education, tobacco products and electronic cigarettes and their use are strictly prohibited on school grounds. This prohibited use includes the use of such products by adults anywhere on school grounds during school events.

Please help to keep the campus clean and safe for students while also setting an example for children.



Important Health Office Information

following guidelines and policies below. This ensures appropriate management of any health concerns that may arise while your child is at school. Please help us keep all of our students safe by completing necessary forms and adhering to our health guidelines.

Emergency Contact Forms

Annual Health History and Emergency Forms have been mailed to all families. Please complete these forms and return them in a timely manner. Please keep your emergency contact information up-to-date. It is the only way we have of reaching you in the event of an emergency.

Taking Medication in School

To assure the safety of our students while in school, and comply with New York state law, no medications are allowed in school without prior approval. If your child has a condition which requires them to take medication during the school day we will gladly cooperate with you and your doctor. Please bring us:

1. A provider's order indicating the name of the medication, dosage, time of administration, days to be given. If order states student can self-carry/administer medication, the provider must sign an attestation permission form;
2. Permission note from a parent or guardian;

3. Medication in the original container. This includes both prescription and over the counter medicine, including: Tylenol, Advil and cough drops. Medication must be brought to school by a parent or guardian; and

4. Completed Authorization of Another Adult to Administer Medication form.

MEDICATION CANNOT BE PROVIDED BY WCS.

Immunization Requirements for Students

New York State Public Health Law (section 2164) requires children entering 7th and 12th grades on or after September 1, 2017 to receive a vaccine against meningococcal disease. Vaccine names are Menactra or Menveo. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) requires this vaccine to be administered to all adolescents at age 11 or 12 years and a booster dose on or after the 16th birthday.

Tdap (Tetanus diphtheria and Pertussis): Students entering 6th grade in the fall for the 2021-22 school year are required to have an immunization called Tdap.

NOTE: Religious exemptions are no longer allowed. All students must be vaccinated to attend school.

Screening Requirements

Vision

All new students and students in

Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten and grades 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 11.

Hearing

All new students and students in Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and 11.

Scoliosis

All Students in grades 5 & 7 for girls; Grade 9 for boys.

Health Examinations

A Health Examination including Body Mass Index and Weight Status Category information is required for all newly entering students and student in Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten and students in grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11.

Dental Certificates

A dental certificate is requested for all newly entering students, students in Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten and students in grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11.

Please call the Nurse's Office (607) 397-8785 x126 with any questions or concerns.

More information and forms can be found at worcestercs.org.

Board of Education

William Fisher, *President*
 Stacey Serdy, *Vice President*
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Tim Gonzales, *Superintendent*

*Produced in cooperation with the Capital
 Region BOCES Communications Service.*



Worcester CENTRAL
SCHOOL

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Worcester CENTRAL
SCHOOL

Back-to-School, 2022-23

Mark your CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 6 First Day of Classes
- 29 Open House, 6-7 p.m.



OCTOBER

- 10 No School - Indigenous Peoples' Day/Columbus Day
- 19 Early Dismissal at 12:15 p.m. Conference Day

Emergency Closings, Delays and Early Dismissals

WCS uses School Messenger to notify all students and families of emergency closures, delays and event cancellations. This system makes phone calls directly to every student's household, including cell phone numbers, as provided.

School Messenger is also used to communicate additions and changes to previously scheduled events. Please make sure your contact information is current to ensure you receive these important notifications. Please contact Peggy Nelson in the Guidance Office at (607)397-8785 ext. 104 to update your contact information.

WCS also announces closings, delays and early dismissals on the following radio and television stations: WBNG TV, WKTU TV, WGY, WRGB, WNYT, WTEN, WRVE, WFLY, News 10 Timewarner Cable, WZOZ and WSRK

Food Service Information and FIRST WEEK MENU

2022-23 K-12 PRICING:

\$2.75 Lunch / \$1.50 Breakfast

Available Every Day - Lunch: Can fruit, fresh fruit, hot vegetables, salad, choice of milk. Breakfast: Assorted cold cereals, fresh fruit, choice of milk.

The complete September menu can be found at worcestercs.org

Tuesday, Sept. 6

B: Bagels/Cr. Cheese
 L: Cheesy Baked Ziti/
 W/W Bread/
 Italian Blend Vegetables
 Turkey Sandwich

Wednesday, Sept. 7

B: French Toast Sticks
 L: Chicken Nuggets/
 Mashed Potatoes/
 Gravy/Corn
 Egg Salad Sandwich

Thursday, Sept. 8

B: Blueberry Muffin
 L: Mac & Cheese/
 Stewed Tomatoes
 Ham Sandwich

Friday, Sept. 9

B: Sausage Cheese Muffin
 L: Cheese or Pepperoni
 Pizza/Italian Blend
 Vegetables/Applesauce
 PB & Jelly