



Worcester

CENTRAL
SCHOOL

Strive, Support, Succeed!

Back-to-School 2024-2025 Newsletter



Superintendent's Message

Dear Worcester Central School Families,

On behalf of all the dedicated staff members at Worcester Central School I would like to say welcome back to school. We are looking forward to another amazing year with our students!

Our staff has worked hard to prepare for the new school year, and it is so great to see all our students back in the building. The energy and enthusiasm that our students bring to a new school year creates such a positive environment.

As we begin the new school year, I would like to share some exciting news. We continue to move forward with our capital project, contractors have been selected and later this fall will be starting portions of the project. We are also preparing to offer two Graduation Seals, The NYS Seal of Biliteracy and the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness. The NYS Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in English and one or more world languages. The NYS Seal of Civic Readiness (NYSSCR) is a formal recognition that a student has attained a high level of proficiency in terms of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic mindset, and civic experiences. Last, I want to remind you that all WCS students can eat breakfast and lunch for free again this year as part of the Community Eligibility Provision. This is a great opportunity for our students to have two nutritious meals at school for free.

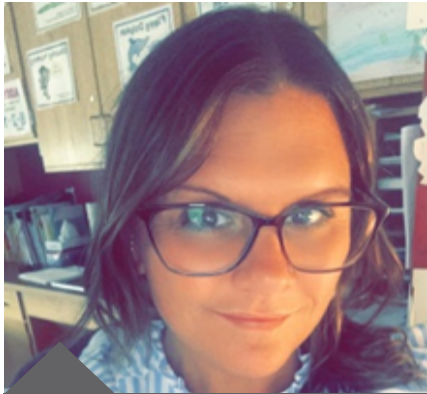
In closing, I thank you for entrusting us with your children. It takes a partnership with every member of the WCS school community to educate, shape and raise our students into productive members of society. Have a great school year!

Respectfully,
Tim Gonzales, Superintendent

Welcome Back!



Welcome New Faculty!



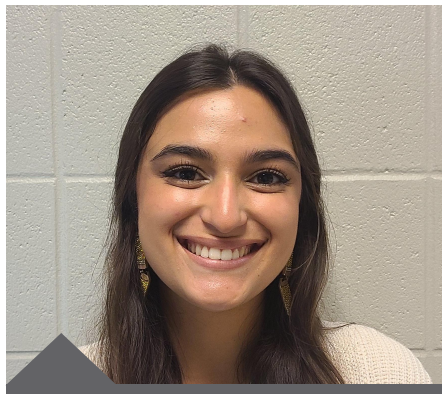
Jessica Kenyon: Sixth Grade Teacher



Ron Pleban: Social Studies Teacher



Monica Ridgeway: Math Teacher



Riley Sauschuck: Fourth Grade Teacher

2024-25 CLIMATE EVENT

During one of the Superintendent’s Conference days, our WCS Climate Team designed an event for all staff consisting of lunch, sponsored in part by New York State Insurance Reciprocal, and collaborative team building challenges. This was an exciting time for all members of the WCS staff to reignite their passion for the upcoming school year!



Climate Team Members preparing for staff team building activities.

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.

POPSICLES ON THE PLAYGROUND



WCS kindergarten students and their families were invited to enjoy “Popsicles on the Playground.” The children were able to meet their classmates and teachers as well as see their classroom.

CROP Summer Wrap-Up:





School Calendar 2024-25

Worcester CENTRAL SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

OCTOBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
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25	26	27	28	29

DECEMBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
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16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

JANUARY				
M	T	W	TH	F
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13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

IMPORTANT DATES

September 2 Labor Day
 September 3 & 4 Supt. Conference Days (All Staff 9/3)
 September 5 ★Classes Begin (PK-12)
 October 10 Fall Open House (PK-12)
 October 11 Supt. Conference Day
 October 14 Columbus Day
 October 23 Early Dismissal 12:15 p.m./Prof. Development
 November 5 Supt. Conference Day-Parent/Teacher Conferences
 November 11 Veterans Day
 November 27-29 Thanksgiving Recess
 December 11 Early Dismissal 12:15 p.m./Prof. Development
 Dec. 23-Jan. 3 Holiday Recess
 January 20 M.L. King Jr. Day
 January 29 Lunar New Year
 February 5 Early Dismissal 12:15 p.m./Prof. Development
 February 17 Presidents' Day
 February 18-21 Winter Recess
 March 14 Early Dismissal 12:15 p.m./Prof. Development
 April 14-18 Spring Recess
 May 26 Memorial Day
 May 14 Early Dismissal 12:15 p.m./Prof. Development
 May 20 Spring Open House
 June 16 Last Day of Classes (7-12)
 June 19 Juneteenth
 June 22 Graduation Ceremony
 June 26-27 Rating Days
 June 25-27 Early Dismissal 12:15 p.m./Prof. Development
 June 27 Last Day of School (PK-6)
 Progress Reports: 10/4, 12/13, 2/28, 5/9
 End of Quarters: 11/8, 1/24, 4/4, 6/13 (7-12), 6/20 (PK-6)

TESTING DATES

January 21-24 Regents Exams
 April 7 – May 1 ELA/Math/Science Tests Gr. 3-8
 June 4, 10, 17, 18, 20, 23-25 Regents Exams

DAYS IN SESSION

SEPTEMBER	20
OCTOBER	22
NOVEMBER	17
DECEMBER	15
JANUARY	18
FEBRUARY	15
MARCH	21
APRIL	17
MAY	21
JUNE	19
TOTAL	185

5 Emergency Days

- ☐ = Vacation or Holiday
- ◇ = Early Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.
- = Conference Day
- △ = Regents/State Exams

Board of Ed. Approval: 2/28/2024

FEBRUARY				
M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

MARCH				
M	T	W	TH	F
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17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

APRIL				
M	T	W	TH	F
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14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

MAY				
M	T	W	TH	F
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12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

JUNE				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27



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



Annual Notifications

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 Name, Grade, Parent and Student Signature, 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.

Your Rights Under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights 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.

Pets/Animals on Campus

The WCS Board of Education allows the use of service animals and, with prior approval from administration, animals for educational purposes on school grounds. All other animals and domestic pets are prohibited on school grounds including at outdoor sporting events.



Summer Wrap Up— WCS CROP
Students out and about!



Annual Notifications

* 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 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 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.

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.

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





Important Health Office Information

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 health care provider. 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. 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;
3. When bringing medication to school, parent/guardian signatures are required to administer the medication to your child.

MEDICATION CANNOT BE PROVIDED BY WCS.

Immunization Requirements for Students

New York State Public Health Law (section 2164) requires **all** students to be age appropriately immunized to attend school according to the schedule recommended by The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). This schedule includes additional immunizations as the student ages.

Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis): Required for students entering 6th grade that are 11 years or older.

Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine: Required for grades 7th and 12th. The first dose can be given at the age of 10 years with a second dose administered at the age of 16 years or older.

New York State only recognizes medical exemptions to school immunization requirements. Religious exemptions are not acceptable.



Screening Requirements

Vision

All new students and students in Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten and grades 1, 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 students 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 at (607) 397-8785, ext. 126 with any questions or concerns.

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



Summer Wrap Up-- WCS Climate Event Winners

Board of Education

William Fisher, *President*

Stacey Serdy, *Vice President*

Peter Kwiatkowski

Tanya Shalor

James Conroe

Tim Gonzales, *Superintendent*



Worcester CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Worcester CENTRAL SCHOOL

Back-to-School, 2024-25

Mark your CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 4** Varsity Soccer Bonfire 6:30-9 p.m.
- 8** Student Picture Day
- 10** WCS Fall Open House (K-12) 6-7 p.m.
- 11** No School - Supt. Conference Day
- 14** No School – Indigenous Peoples' Day/
Columbus Day
- 17** Jr/Sr Bands & Choirs Fall Concert 7:30-9 p.m.
- 23** Board of Ed Meeting, WCS Library, 6:30 p.m.
- 29** PSAT Examination



Emergency Closings, Delays and Early Dismissals

WCS uses SchoolMessenger 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.

SchoolMessenger 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 Facebook, the school website and the following radio and television stations: WBNG TV, WKTV TV, WGY, WRGB, WNYT, WTEN, WRVE, WFLY, News 10 Timewarner Cable, WZOZ and WSRK.

2024-25 FREE SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS

All students enrolled at Worcester Central School can receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at no charge to your household each day they attend WCS during the school year!

All families regardless of income are still asked to complete the Household Income Verification form for this school year. Completion of this form is critical to determine eligibility for other state and federal programs such as:

- Title I and Title II A Reading and Math Remediation programs
- Title IV programs which provide funding for teacher professional development
- E-Rate which provides funding for technology and library services
- CROP (Creating Rural Opportunities Program), our after-school program.
- Future funding opportunities pursued through grant applications.

You only need to submit one form for all children in the household attending school in grades K - 12. If you have any further questions, please contact Jamei Martin in the main office at (607) 397-8787 ext. 101 or jmartin@worcestercs.org. Thank you for your support!