

A message from the superintendent

I hope this letter finds you happy, healthy and energized for the new year! To keep you informed on issues impacting your school community, I have highlighted a few key topics below.

NYS Zero Emission School Transportation Regulations

As you may or may not know, in early 2022, Governor Hochul announced a zero-emission school transportation initiative. Under current legislation, starting in 2027, all school-based transportation purchases must be zero-emission, and by 2035, all school-based transportation on the road must be zero-emission. Currently, the only available zero-emission school vehicles are electric vehicles that contain rechargeable batteries. Meeting this mandate will be a challenging and complex process, requiring a great deal of collaboration on the state and local levels. The regulations around zero-emission transportation are evolving rapidly, and we are working hard to address the changes set forth by the state. Though the aggressive timeline required by these regulations poses a significant challenge to the District, we have begun the process of studying the necessary steps and are exploring all funding options such as various grant opportunities to transition our current bus and vehicle fleet to electric power by 2035. We will keep our school community posted on all updates related to this multifaceted topic.

NYS Native American Mascot Ban

Last year, I communicated with our District about our shift away from the Native American imagery that is used to represent our interscholastic athletic teams at WG. As I stated last January, the name "Senecas" remains in place, but we have shifted our imagery to that of our unique geography and that of Seneca Lake. This year, we began the process of creating a new logo to represent our teams. Last month, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) ordered a formal ban on all "Native American team names, logos, and/or imagery." Thus far, we believe our direction will be approved by NYSED. However, we have paused logo development, and we are awaiting formal guidance from our regulatory authorities before moving forward.

Capital Improvement Project Wrap Up

The capital improvement project that began with the installation of our multi-purpose turf athletic fields has wrapped up with the completion of our extensive roofing projects. Our Business Office is working hard with our architects, engineers and construction managers to finalize the project. Again, we want to thank the community for your continued support of the improvement to our District facilities.

Budget Development

In December, the District began the budget development process. Budget presentations will be delivered to the Board of Education throughout February, March and April. Budget related questions can be answered by calling our Business Office or visiting our webpage at <https://www.wgcsd.org/page/business-office>.

Again, I wish you a happy and healthy new year! Please be on the lookout for our community updates, which are posted on all official WGCSO social media accounts.

As always, we appreciate your support.

Go Senecas!

With respect and gratitude,

Kai D'Alleva
Superintendent of Schools

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athletes

At the end of each sports season, NYSPHSAA honors teams and individuals that excel in the classroom. To receive the Scholar Athlete team recognition with a certificate, the team's average GPA for 75 percent of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90 percent. Individuals within a team receive the honor for achieving a GPA of 90 percent or better and receive a Scholar Athlete pin. Congratulations to the following Varsity athletes, who made the list of NYSPHSAA Scholar Athletes for Fall 2022.

Odessa-Montour Athletes indicated with (OM)



Varsity Volleyball – Team GPA 99.2%

Ava Barber, Kendall Gascon, Alyson Gibson, Sarah Jones, Chelsea Parsons, Jocelyn Sisana, Kiera Sulkey

Varsity Football – Team GPA 90%

Brady Bockelkamp, Daniel Coston, Nicholas D'Alleva, Thomas Field, Alexander Holmes, Shea Young, Daniel Lewis (OM), Gavin Lohmeyer (OM)

Varsity Swimming/Diving – Team GPA 97.2%

Malina Butler, Kendra Fish, Elizabeth Fitzwater, Hannah Hollenbeck, Alannah Klemann, Clarice Lewis, Thalia Marquez, Emily Melveney, Faye Mooney, Sarah Stolpinski, Riley Brooks (OM), Cara Reynolds (OM)

Varsity Boys Soccer – Team GPA 93.2%

Caleb Bressett, Bryce Cady, Logan Debolt, Jack Hayden, Samuel Hohle, Aidan Kelly, Gabriel Majors, Ross Pentz, Michael Purpura, Salvatore Purpura, Liam Smith

Varsity Girls Soccer – Team GPA 96.75%

Lillian Ameigh, Carly Arnold, Gillian D'Alleva, Zade Gomez-Fitzsimmons, Jennifer Gublo, Brianna Hatch, Skye Honrath, Olivia King, Molly O'Connell-Campbell, Natalee Oliver, Brenna Pierce, Katrina Ricca, Maisie Robertson, Erin Snow, Olivia VanSiver, Rachel Vickio, Michaela Wheaton

Varsity Boys/Girls Cross Country – Team GPA 96.83%

Nicholas Bonsignore, Wendy Coleman, Isaac Hendrickson, Enric Lin, Aidan Maphis, Johnny VanScoyk



Varsity Cheerleading (Individuals)

Emmali Mathews, Haley Tuttle

Graduate spotlight

Two WG past graduates were spotted at the Army-Navy football game held on December 10. In the photo below, on the left is Midshipman Bryce Kelly (Class of 2021) aka Plebe, which is the equivalent to freshman status at Annapolis, and on the right is Cadet Joe Chedzoy (Class of 2019) aka Firsty, which is the equivalent to senior status at West Point. WG is certainly proud of all who choose to serve and especially those who go through the process and are selected to attend our military academies.





AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

WHAT IS IT?

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

The benefit provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for internet service;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Participates in any of the following assistance programs: SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in any of the following Tribal specific programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or Tribal Head Start (income based);
- Participates in the Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating broadband provider's existing low-income internet program.

TWO STEPS TO ENROLL

1

Go to AffordableConnectivity.gov to submit an application or print a mail-in application

2


Contact your preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.

Eligible households must **both** apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

LEARN MORE

📞 Call 877-384-2575, or
🌐 Visit fcc.gov/acp



Immunization update

In July 2022, the New York State Health Department reported paralytic polio in a young adult who was unvaccinated. The United States is now the only country in our hemisphere to report a case of polio acquired here. This unfortunate event has refocused our attention on the importance of vaccination and the role of school vaccination requirements in ensuring individual and community protection. It is essential for the health and safety of students and staff, and the public at large, that all schools comply with Public Health Law Section 2164 and associated regulations at 10 NYCRR Subpart 66-1 regarding school immunization and/or immunity coverage.



Children attending day care and pre-K through grade 12 in New York State must receive all required doses of vaccines on the recommended schedule in order to attend or remain in school. This is true unless they have a valid medical exemption to immunization. This includes all public, private and religious schools. A medical exemption is allowed when a child has a medical condition that prevents him/her from receiving a vaccine. There are no nonmedical exemptions to school vaccine requirements in NYS.

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) establishes the recommended vaccine schedule and determines when vaccines are due.

Important school immunization information

Within 14 days of the first day of school or day care, parents must:

- Show proof of their child's up-to-date vaccinations, OR
- Provide a valid medical exemption from vaccination.

In order to attend or remain in school or day care, children who are unvaccinated or overdue must receive at least the first dose of all required vaccines within the first 14 days. They also must receive subsequent vaccines in the series within a 14-day period of when they are due to complete the immunization series.

Vaccines required for day care, pre-K and school attendance

- Diphtheria and Tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine and Pertussis vaccine (DTaP or Tdap)
- Hepatitis B vaccine
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR)
- Polio vaccine
- Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine

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Fall sports wrap-up

It was a banner fall season for WG interscholastic athletics. Congratulations to our teams and individual student athletes on their achievements. Section IV Championship teams include the Schuyler Storm football team, the Schuyler Storm girls swimming and diving team and the Seneca girls soccer team. Girls soccer and girls swimming and diving also won team IAC Championships.

All-State

Soccer: Skye Honrath 1st Team, Carly Arnold 2nd Team

Football Section All-Stars

Thomas Snow, Ryan Willett, Daniel Lewis, Bradley Gillis
Football Honorable Mention:
Alex Holmes, Gavin Lohmeyer

Star Gazette Elite All-Stars for the Elmira/Corning Region

Thalia Marquez, Faye Mooney, Alannah Klemann

IAC 1st Team All-Stars

Boys Soccer: Jacob Yontz, Ross Pentz, James Forker
Girls Soccer: Skye Honrath MVP, Carly Arnold, Sasha Honrath, Lillian Ameigh, Ava Kelly, Brenna Pierce
Swimming: Thalia Marquez 200MR/200F/500F/200FR, Alannah Klemann 200MR/200IM/200FR, Faye Mooney 200MR/100F/200FR/100B, Kendra Fish 200FR/400FR, Emily Melveney 200MR/100B/400FR, Malina Butler 400FR, Aubrey Klemann 400FR

IAC Second Team All-Stars

Cross Country: Johnny VanScoyk
Boys Soccer: Liam Smith, Salvatore Purpura
Girls Soccer: Rachel Vickio, Olivia King
Swimming: Alannah Klemann 100B, Kendra Fish 100BF
Volleyball: Sarah Jones

IAC Honorable Mentions

Swimming: Aubrey Klemann 200F, Emily Melveney 200IM
Volleyball: Aly Gibson, Jocelyn Sisana

ESPN Athletes of the Week

Thalia Marquez, Faye Mooney, Skye Honrath, Zade Gomez-Fitzsimmons, Ryan Willett

Section IV Outstanding Performer Award at the Class C Championships

Faye Mooney

Section IV Sportsmanship Award (Given at the State Championships)

Faye Mooney

WETM Athletes of the Week

Bradley Gillis, Zade Gomez-Fitzsimmons

Upcoming events

January

- 3 Winter 2 modified sports season begins
- 16 No school – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 20 PSAT for eighth-graders
- 27 3rd marking period ends (7-12th grade)
- 28 PTO 5th/6th Grade Dance, 6-8pm
- 30 No school for students – Conference Day

February

- 12 Elementary School Dance – Ties and Tiaras, 6-8 p.m.
- 20-24 No school – Midwinter Recess

Emergency school closing info

When weather or snow conditions cause emergency closings of our schools, the following radio and television stations will make an announcement during their regular programs in the morning: WNKI, WPGI, WNGZ, WENY, WFLR, WGMM, WENY-TV 36, WETM-TV 18 and WTVH-TV 5.

You also can check the district website at www.wgcsd.org for updates on closings and delays.

Generally, the decision to close schools for emergency reasons will be made prior to 6:30 a.m. If you do not hear a radio announcement of closing, please do not call the school or school officials.

The district will use an automated system to notify families through various social media platforms, while also calling and texting families directly.



Immunizations, continued

Additional vaccines required for middle school and high school

- Tdap vaccine for grades 6-12
- Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) for grades 7-12
 - Students in Grade 12 need an additional booster dose of MenACWY on or after their 16th birthday

Additional vaccines required for day care and pre-K

- Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccine (HiB)
- Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (PCV)

Welcome to WGCS D

Josh Wallenbeck, Custodian

Education – Graduate of WGCS D

Prior Work Experience –

Worked as a chef for 12 years at many restaurants including the Harbor Hotel of Watkins Glen and Cornell University

Why did you choose to work for Watkins Glen Central School District? I have fond

memories of when I was in school here, and I like working with some of my favorite

teachers from when I was in school to make a difference for our students and staff.



Students showcase talents

The Music and Arts Department would like to thank the community for supporting our students by coming to see their art work on display and for attending the grades 9-12 concert on December 13 and the grades 5-8 concert on December 20.



(Above) Grades 5-8 chorus students and (below) grades 5-8 band students rehearse for their concert that was held on December 20.



Watkins Glen Central School District

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