



Principal's Talk

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

Welcome to a new school year!

As a heads up, I would like parents know there will be some changes to the school calendar for the months of April and May, as the state recently changed the NYS test schedule. As soon as the new conference days are set for grading the tests, expect an automated phone call and a new posting of the school calendar on our website.

As a reminder to parents, staffing is not in place prior to 8:40 AM, so please do not drop children off early, unless they are part of the Early Morning Care Program. Information on this program is located on the website and in a section of this newsletter.

All walkers will come in the north (front) doors by the main office as the bus entrance is located through the south doors. Parents must use the north parking lot area to drop off students who will also enter at the north main entrance. Those eating breakfast will proceed to Cafeteria #1 in the morning. All Kindergarten students will go directly to the auditorium if they are not eating breakfast. All Pre-K students will meet in the corner classroom by the playground. Students are released to their classes at 8:45 AM.

At the end of the day, buses pick up at the south loop. Walkers will exit the north doors by the main office. **All students being picked up must go to Cafeteria #1 and check out with the staff member stationed at the northwest doors of the cafeteria. Parents, please make sure we have a correct list of people who can pick up your child. Also make sure that changes to any pickups are in writing, with the student's name, teacher's name, name of the individual picking them up and the normal bus number. Always remember to bring a photo ID with you, in case the individual doing pickup duty does not recognize you. These procedures help us maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone.**

I look forward to a great school year.

Rod Weeden, Principal

How can parents access school information and communicate ?

- **School Calendar** – Information on scheduled events, important school policies, school district phone numbers, website address and a variety of other important information. Also included are testing dates, student rights and responsibilities.
 - **Website** – Our district web address is www.wgcsd.org This site will give you access to events, school closings, teacher email addresses, news, links to helpful sites, links to each building, district policies, and photos of our students engaged in school related activities.
 - **Email** - All teachers have district email addresses. Email links can be found on our website.
Example: rweeden@wgcsd.org
 - **Phone** - The elementary school can be contacted through the automated attendant by calling 607-535-3250, Extension 4. During class hours, your call will be connected to the teacher's voicemail, where you will be able to leave your message.
 - **Other Communications** - Monthly newsletters, teacher newsletters, teacher websites, bus notes, Channel 5 (Thursday nights), newspaper articles, local TV and radio stations for school closings or emergencies, quarterly report cards, Open House and parent/teacher conferences.
- Please feel free to give suggestions on how we can improve communication with you.**

Early Morning Care Program

We will continue offering the Early Morning Care Program from 7:15 to 8:45 AM this year. The program will begin the first day of school. Applications can be picked up in the main office or downloaded from the school website under the parent information section. The cost will remain the same as last year and breakfast is included. The cost is \$40 per month, or \$10 per week. The daily rate is \$5. Please note this program is not supported by district funds and payment is required in advance to insure the stability of the program.

Important Dates:

- Sept. 7th – First day of School, Pre-K & K Open House
- Sept. 9th – Early Release 12:05 PM, AM Pre-K Only
- Sept. 14th – PTO Meeting 5:30 PM ES Library
- Sept. 21st – Beginning Band Info 6:30 PM ES
- Sept. 28th – Book Fair 5-7:00 PM, ES Library
- Sept. 29th – Elementary Open House 5:30-7 PM
- Sept. 29th – Book Fair 5-7:00 PM, ES Library



Watkins Glen Elementary News (Cont.)



Please note our Open House is scheduled for Thursday, **Sept. 29th from 5:30 – 7:00 PM.**



Please remember NYS law requires children 4-6 to be properly buckled up. Children who weigh less than 40 pounds should use safety seats and more than 40 pounds booster seats with a lap and shoulder belt.

PTO



Get involved and support your schools with a membership to Watkins Glen PTO. Meetings are held monthly and decisions are made that directly affect your child's experience at school. The next meeting is September 14th at 6:00 PM in the elementary school Library.

4th Grade Instrumental Night



Come in to the elementary school on September 21st at 6:30 PM for information on instrument rentals.

WGES Library In Need!

The WGES is in real need! We will have less than half our money for new books this year. We really need parents to:



1. Support the Library by coming to the book fairs.
2. Read to children and listen to them read back
3. Ask your child if they have a WGES library book out. K-1 students take a book out each week, and Grades 2-4 may take 2 books out at a time. Remind your child (children) to bring back their books when finished. Tips: Writing the book title (s) on a calendar helps keep track of them. Please put books to be returned in backpacks. **Many teachers allow students to take out new books, any day of the week, after they have returned the book(s) previously checked out.**
4. Help return books that are due back every week. Books may be renewed, but should be brought to school for renewal.
5. Pay attention to our library notices for overdue library books.
6. Write, call, or e-mail library staff, when you cannot find a book.
7. Pay for lost books or send a note, when we send overdue notices.
8. Go to the library website in the school's classroom pages. Look for WGES Fantastic Library Media Center.
9. Support the **Read for Speed** AR Reading Program which will begin in October.

If we follow the guidelines above, the library will have fewer lost books and our children will learn responsibility!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Fall Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the WGES Library Monday-Friday, September 26- 30, from 8:30-4 daily. Open House evening hours Thursday, September 29th are from 5-7 PM. To alleviate the number of people attending the Book Fair during Open house, we will be open Wednesday evening, September 28, from 5:00 until 7:00 PM, as well.

Thank you from the library staff!

PBIS



We are in our 7th year of the school wide initiative known as “*Positive Behaviors Interventions and Support*.” This program helps promote positive behaviors in our school. Parents are a large part of the program's success, so please stay tuned for continued information on the program.

Do you know our PBIS school rules? New students will learn these on the first day of school. Others will be reminded, as they should remember them from last year. The four rules are easy to remember and we could use your help in reminding your child of these rules. They are: **Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe and Be Healthy!!!**