**Holiday Events**

**4th Grade Holiday Concert**
Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 pm (High School Auditorium)

**High School Holiday Concert**
Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 pm (High School Auditorium)

**5th and 6th Grade Holiday Concert**
Tuesday, December 19th at 7:00 pm (Middle School Auditorium)

**7th and 8th Grade Holiday Concert**
Thursday, December 21st at 7:00 pm (Middle School Auditorium)

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**Old English Award**

The Old English Award is presented to the student in each class who had the highest average in the course.

Message from the Superintendent . . .

The Budget Balance

The central office staff, building administrators, and department directors have already been hard at work on the 2018-2019 budget. While building the budget we focus on four major areas; the district’s mission, Board of Education goals, student instructional needs, and mitigating financial impact to taxpayers. Each of our budget presentations starts with the following three budget goals:

- Mission Statement – To provide a learning community that inspires character, service, knowledge and wisdom.
- The Budget shall be aligned with Board of Education goals and be both educationally and fiscally sound.
- The Budget shall reflect prudent financial planning while balancing the needs for all students, instructional goals, improved technology and facilities, while minimizing the impact to taxpayers.

Over the past few years with the elimination of the Gap Elimination Adjustment and funds from the Smart Schools Bond Act we have been able to build back some programs that were lost in very difficult times during and after the recession. This has enabled us to embark on our Personalized Learning initiative that is having a very positive impact on teaching and learning in the district.

While this is all very positive and we have been able to enhance our program while lowering the tax rate on assessed value over the past two years, we need to be mindful of the state and national fiscal outlook. There is great uncertainty regarding educational contributions for next year at both the state and federal levels. We all need to be as informed and active as we can be to ensure we have the resources necessary to provide a world class education in our rural communities. As we build the 2018-2019 budget we will work to accomplish the goals above while lobbying for fair and equitable state aid and federal funding.
High School . . .

We hope you enjoy following our adventures on Twitter, Instagram, or via the new school website. Students are hard at work this year, chromebooks in tow. Our athletic teams pushed themselves this fall season, and clubs are up and running and always seeking new voices. Teachers are using new digital tools and adjusting lessons to try even harder to reach every learner through our district-wide Personalized Learning initiative. We are offering new courses this year: Environmental Science Gemini, Google Apps, VEX Robotics, and Intro to Computer Science. We are currently in the middle of sophomore visits to the Wayne Technical and Career Center to give students interested in these training programs first-hand experience. Our new librarian, Mrs. Schauf, has also offered learning for parents around digital citizenship, and packed students in for a Halloween-themed Books and Breakfast. We are looking forward to our winter concerts and auditions for the musical Oliver!

By the time this issue goes to print we will have provided our first annual Student Success Workshop Day on November 16, organized by Pathways Counselor Tracy O’Hara. High School students will spend the morning rotating through workshops provided by nearly two dozen local businesses, organizations, and colleges on Post-Secondary Options, Career Pathways, Personal Financial Management, and the World of Work.
Elementary School . . .

The new school year has gotten off to a great start! We are continuing our Bucket Filling/Kindness program this year. Classes are working on filling their buckets with acts of kindness. The school year kicked off with a welcome back assembly focusing on bucket filling and kindness. The Queen of Storyland, many story characters and the Bucket Fairy all joined us for this special assembly.

The first three months of school had many special events for our elementary students. In October we celebrated Apple Crunch Day…a big thank you to the Cornell Cooperative Extension who donated the apples! October also provided us with our beloved Big Pumpkin Day. Thank you to our BPD coordinators as well as our many volunteers. It was a wonderful day! And finally November brought a special visit to our 4th graders from WHAM Channel 13 news Mark McLean and the Weather Mobile.

SAVE THE DATE
Please join us for the 3rd & 4th grade musical presentation of The Jungle Book
December 1st & 2nd at 7:00 pm in the middle school.

Also the 4th grade Band & Chorus Holiday Concert is December 12th at 7:00 pm in the high school.
Middle School . . .

Our students have successfully completed their first 10 weeks of the school year. Students are continuing to learn, grow and develop. The faculty encourages students to stay organized and to give their best effort. Academic and behavioral expectations remain high for all students.

Our report card accurately identifies student’s progress toward meeting Learning Standards. Students’ work habits are in a separate column, alongside individual assessment scores for each class. Students are proud of their accomplishments and teachers are continuing to work diligently to instruct and challenge them. Together with families, we encourage students to put forth their best effort, be responsible learners and seek assistance, if needed, and participate in the whole school experience.

Activities that have occurred in the first quarter and into the second quarter of this year at the Middle School include:

- **Student Association** – Officers have been elected and many activities are planned for the future.
- **Roller Skating** – 5th and 6th graders have the opportunity once again this year.
- **Spelling Bee** – The annual Spelling Bee begins in December.
- **Book Fair** - All students were given the opportunity to purchase discounted books and school supplies in November. More book fairs will occur this school year.
- **Travel Club** – Forty-two 8th grade students (along with 8 staff) traveled to Washington D.C. in October.
- **International Club and Newspaper Club** – Active clubs with over thirty participants.
- **Radio Club** (PAWS2listen) – Taped radio programing is in full swing again this year. A successful fundraiser took place in October in support of PAWS2listen.
- **Odyssey of the Mind** – Two teams from the Middle School will participate regionally.
- **Red Ribbon Week** – A week-long focus on educating a drug and bully free lifestyle school wide. A great deal of school spirit was evident.
- **100 Mile Club** – Over 60 students are participating in running/walking activities.
- **PBIS** (Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies) – Monthly forums have continued, promoting our PAWS (personal responsibility; attitude; work ethic; social responsibility).
- **PTSA fundraisers** – Box tops are currently being collected with grade level competition.
- **Modified Athletics** - Over 85 students participated in extra-curricular athletics at the Middle School during the fall season.
- **Report Card Night** – Over 70% of Middle School parents picked up their students report card and had an opportunity to speak directly to classroom teachers.
- **i-Ready** – Our on line diagnostic assessment and instructional tool has begun supporting students and their unique educational needs.
- **Volunteer Club** – Shoeboxes will be filled with essential personal items and delivered to the Open Door Mission. Other activities are planned.
- **Veteran’s Day Celebration** – This celebration (held on November 9th) honored our community’s veterans and their families. Eighty-eight veterans and their families attended.
- **Wonder** – All staff and students attended the movie “Wonder” on November 20th & 21st.
- **Robotics Club** – This second year club will focus on design and coding of robotic tools.
Veteran’s Day Celebration
Williamson Central Schools
Personalized Learning Update

Williamson continues to implement personalized learning into all classrooms in all buildings. Our focus on personalized learning incorporates four basic elements: Integrated Digital Content, Targeted Instruction, Student Reflection and Ownership and Data Driven Decisions.

Here is a preview of some of the new digital content our students and teachers are using this year!

Discovery

Discovery provides engaging video and lessons curated by experts into content collections by grade and topics. Resources include interactive activities, reading passages, audio clips, skill builders, and writing prompts that engage students and extend critical thinking.

IXL

IXL is an immersive K-12 learning experience that provides comprehensive, standards-aligned content for math, language arts, science, and social studies. With IXL, children will learn at their own pace—IXL’s adaptive questions automatically adjust to just the right level of difficulty. A wide variety of question types keeps practice sessions fresh and enables all types of learners to excel.

Pear Deck

Teachers can use Pear Deck to create interactive presentations that allow students to work independently to respond to various questions throughout the ‘deck’. Each Pear Deck presentation begins with an access code presented on the screen. Students are prompted to enter the Pear Deck website and plug in their unique access code. During each session, teachers can see the presentation as well as the students participating. Student responses appear on the teacher screen in real-time. Teachers have the option to flex their instruction based on student responses in real time!
Message from the BOE President...

The school year is off to a great start! The administrators, teachers, staff and children are all happy to be back and are ready for another successful school year.

There’s a lot of planning, scheduling, professional development, and general maintenance that gets done during the summer break to ensure the upcoming school year is successful. The Board of Education has also been busy with meetings, workshops, attending training events and networking with other school boards from Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Seneca and Yates counties. By sharing information with other districts, we can learn what works and what doesn’t work. We have launched a new district website and are also working on a new way to brand our district and community.

We are very fortunate that we live in a close knit community. We all want our children to be happy and successful. In order for us to achieve this, we need our community to get involved and support the work that we do. Some of the ways you can get involved include attending athletic and school events, volunteering in classrooms, and volunteering on school committees. The school website calendar will have all of the dates and information you may need. The School Board is always looking for ideas to better our district. I invite you to join us at our Board meetings. If you can’t join us in person, you can follow the meeting in real time by going on the school website. At the menu bar, select the Board of Education tab, and then select Board Agenda, Minutes & Documents. It will take you to Board Docs which will show the meeting. Thank you for your support!