"THE QUOTE"



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST IRONDEQUOIT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

WELCOME BACK!



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A Message from the Superintendent



Zaretta Hammond, an educator, literacy advocate and self-proclaimed believer in the Science of Learning, coined the phrase "learning partnership." It means building a culture of care that moves students as dependent learners toward independence by showing genuine care.

Excitement grows as we prepare to open for the 2023-24 school year. Our faculty, staff and administration are busy preparing classrooms and curricula where students can share, investigate, deliberate and debate in socially and intellectually safe spaces. When I began teaching in the mid-1990s, a highly-effective classroom covered all course content as students absorbed and responded when called upon. Our schools are now vibrant places filled with activity, inquiry, curiosity and conversation, where learning happens in partnership with the learner. We encourage questions and welcome challenges. We acknowledge setbacks as an opportunity to learn and develop resilience along a student's journey of lifelong learning.

Reflecting on how I began my career I realize that, like life, the art of teaching and learning is dynamic and evolves. We model the growth mindset we aspire to see in our students. As defined by our District's Core Commitments, we commit to **exploring**, **developing** and **honing** our skills and those of our students each day. The most influential educators have always personally invested in students by pouring love and attention into their craft. Our District boasts a proud tradition of "Peak Performance" because of our people. Our community cares and collaborates to wrap services, supports and resources around all children to welcome, nurture and inspire.

This partnership begins in the classroom with staff who know our students best. As students and families navigate the year, we encourage you to dig into those relationships. Family engagement is an essential element in student success. Expect regular communication from schools and teachers. Reach out with insight and information and follow our Communication Guidelines (see giant pencil at right) when navigating issues and needs related to your child(ren). Student success is a collective responsibility requiring accountability, balanced encouragement and problem-solving. The home-school partnership is the secret sauce for a genuine culture of care where all

students flourish socially, mentally AND academically.

Entering into year three of our District's "Choosing to Rise" **Strategic Plan**, we have made considerable progress toward achieving goals thanks to commitment and a collective effort. To



support the plan's key focus areas of Curriculum, Instruction, Implementation Systems and Well-being of Self and Community, we have outlined actions in targeted areas such as:

- Inclusive and responsive education
- Meaningful and equitable standards-based grading systems
- Securing and retaining the highest quality staff, reflective of our community
- Equity for all students
- Enhanced communication with the community
- Support for the physical, social and emotional well-being of students, staff, and families
- Engaging people in meaningful opportunities to be heard and represented in decision-making
- Providing an affirming, safe and equitable environment that reflects, respects, and embraces our diverse community

If it sounds comprehensive, it's because it is. Thanks to the breadth of insight, data and discussion amassed by our Strategic Planning steering committee three years ago, we have a well-informed, tight plan focused on the right levers to take us even higher. To review the complete set of 2023-24 District Focus Areas and Management Plan, click on the "Strategic Plan" box at westirondequoit.org.

We just sent our 100th graduating class at IHS into the world. Here's hoping for 100 more (and beyond). That starts with the hope and promise of a new school year starting on Thursday, Sept. 7!

In partnership,

Aaron R. Johnson, Ed.D Superintendent of Schools STEP 1: Teacher

STEP 2: Counselor

STEP 3: Principal

STEP 4: Superintendent Johnson

Leadership Updates at WICSD





Leah Daniels-FarrenAssistant Director of Counseling,
Student Equity & Wellness

Mrs. Daniels-Farren started in her new role last April. The West Irondequoit resident worked previously in the Victor CSD for 8½ years, starting in 2014 as an early childhood

psychologist and moving on to the same role in the senior high school in 2016. In 2022, she became the Psychology Dept. Chair at Victor while also serving as a Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA), working closely with the district's special education directors and pupil services team. She was the school psychologist for Allendale-Columbia in Pittsford from 2010-14.

Mrs. Daniels-Farren earned her Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from SUNY New Paltz and Master's degree from SUNY Oswego. She and husband, Tyler, have two young children who attend our schools.



Peter Hens Interim Principal, Rogers Middle School

Mr. Hens was appointed Interim Principal at Rogers Middle School in July. He replaces Dr. Christine Richards. The district expects to have a new principal in place by Jan. 2, 2024. A lifelong educator, Mr. Hens is also a West Irondequoit

resident. He retired in June of 2022 after spending the final 23 of his 34 years in education as an elementary school principal – the last 16 at Gates Chili. He then served interim roles during the 2022-23 school year in East Irondequoit (Helendale Primary) and Penfield (Cobbles Elementary).

Mr. Hens was a principal for Patchogue-Medford Schools (1999-2006) and an assistant principal/acting principal at Bayport-Blue Point Schools. He also was an associate professor for four years at Dowling College of Long Island (2002-06). He started his career as an English teacher in Hornell in 1989, then became Dean of Students/Continuing Education Director for Wheatland-Chili schools in 1996. The Buffalo-area native received his Bachelor's degree from Buffalo State and Master's from Canisius College. He also earned his Educational Administration certificate from SUNY Brockport in 1997.



New faces at District Office!

We have three new members to our District Office team and two others in new positions. From left to right, Jesseca Tynon (Benefits Clerk), Jill Bellanca (Support Clerk), Adrinne Raines (Secretary/Human Resources), Lindsay Rivazfar (Secretary/Public Information) and Ellen Chor (Receptionist). Raines (Receptionist) and Rivazfar (Benefits) have been with our staff but are in new roles.

Staff Directory

A directory is available at www.westirondequoit.org. Click on "Directory" and then "Staff Directory". You can find an employee when searching by name, building or position.

Code of Conduct

A summary of the West Irondequoit Central School District's Code of Conduct will be mailed to all parents/guardians. Copies will also be distributed to all students during September. The entire Code of Conduct is posted on the district website. Copies are available in each school. This document, adopted July 26, 2001 in accordance with Section 2801 of the Education Law, and reviewed annually, governs the conduct of students, faculty and other staff, and all other persons whether or not their presence is authorized, and also pertains with respect to any other premise or property under control of the District used in teaching, administrative, service, cultural, recreational, athletic and other programs and activities.

Please review the contents of this important document and share it with your child in an effort to support compliance and positively influence a school culture promoting teaching and learning. It is suggested that you retain your copy for future reference.

DASA: Dignity for All Students Act

To maintain a culture and climate of mutual respect in our district, each school is assigned a DASA Coordinator who is thoroughly trained to handle human relations in the areas of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression) and sex. Coordinators are available to assist families with any concerns. Our DASA Coordinators are:

Irondequoit High School

Principal Alecia Zipp-McLaughlin 585-336-2911 / alecia_mclaughlin@westiron.monroe.edu

Dake Junior High School

Principal Troy Bajardi 585-336-2960 / troy_bajardi@westiron.monroe.edu

Iroquois Middle School

Principal Christian Zwahlen 585-336-0804 / christian_zwahlen@westiron.monroe.edu

Rogers Middle School

Interim Principal Peter Hens 585-336-4717 / peter_hens@westiron.monroe.edu

Briarwood School

Principal Brenna Farrell 585-336-1610 / brenna farrell@westiron.monroe.edu

Brookview School

Principal Alicia Spitz 585-336-1630 / alicia_spitz@westiron.monroe.edu

Colebrook School

Principal Brenna Farrell 585-336-1600 / brenna_farrell@westiron.monroe.edu

Listwood School

Principal Gayle Pavone 585-336-1640 / gayle_pavone@westirondequoit.org

Seneca School

Principal Alicia Spitz 585-336-1620 / alicia_spitz@westiron.monroe.edu

Southlawn School

Principal Gayle Pavone 585-336-4753 / gayle_pavone@westirondequoit.org

DASA Compliance Officers

Michelle Cramer

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources 585-336-2995 / michelle_cramer@westiron.monroe.edu

Kimberly Schon Director of Athletics

585-336-3006 / kimberly_schon@westiron.monroe.edu

James Brennan

Assistant Superintendent for Finance 585-336-2993 / james_brennan@westiron.monroe.edu

Christina Miga

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction 585-336-2981 / christina_miga@westiron.monroe.edu

You belong in WICPTSA!

For more than 40 years, the West Irondequoit Central PTSA has brought together caregivers, teachers, administrators and students across all 10 schools to build a caring community where all students and families can thrive. Now, more than ever, WICPTSA needs you as members and as volunteers to support this mission.



Joining WICPTSA is a powerful way to demonstrate your support for a high quality of education for our students and a meaningful partnership with parents/guardians, teachers and administration. Your membership includes membership in the National and New York State PTAs and supports advocacy for children in Washington and Albany. Eleven of your \$15 membership fee stays here in West Irondequoit and supports students and families at all 10 schools, including:

- Family engagement events
- Community building events and celebrations for students
- Visiting artists and cultural arts programming
- Scholarships and staff appreciation

Your membership in WICPTSA also ensures that you are on our email list and stay informed on key issues impacting your children. Thank you for your consideration! To join or make a tax-deductible donation, go to wicptsa.memberhub.store.

We are also happy to share that all the information and events previously in our member-exclusive calendar can now be found on the district website calendar at westirondequoit.org. A printer-friendly version, including letter days and events for all 10 schools as well as district-wide and WICPTSA events, will still be available on our website, and FREE for anyone to access (no more confusing passwords!)

If you want to take your involvement to the next level and can spare even an hour or two, there are many opportunities to be even more involved with WICPTSA, no matter what your interest, talent or how much time and energy you can share. You can take on a role at our central PTSA and make a difference for all the children in our community or get involved with your building PTSA and deepen your connection with your school. We would love to have your help!

For descriptions of the available opportunities, including the approximate time commitment and an easy form to express your interest, go to wicptsa. org/volunteer. Our home page is wicptsa.org. If you have any questions, suggestions or would just like to talk about how you can help, you can email us at wicptsa@wicptsa.org. Feel free to reach out to our WICPTSA Executive Committee members for 2023-2024:

Kate Copeland – President
Erica Kane – VP School Affairs
Jennie Governale-Fox – VP Admin Affairs
Melissa LeVesque – Treasurer
Felicia Nuciola – Secretary

Employment opportunities at our schools

West Irondequoit schools are always looking for good people to work in our district so we can continue to provide the best education possible to your children. We offer competitive wages and flexible employment. In addition to full-time positions, we continually have the need for part-time substitute teachers, teaching aides, food services helpers, monitors and clerical staff as well as custodians and cleaners.

Our security team also plays a critical role in keeping our students, staff and buildings safe.

To apply or find out more information about jobs in our district, please click on the Employment icon on the front page of the district website at westirondequoit.org or scan the QR code at the end of this story.

You also may email humanresources@westiron.monroe.edu or call Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Mrs. Michelle Cramer, at (585) 336-2995.

"The thing I love the most about working in West Irondequoit is the investment our community has made in our neighborhood schools," says veteran kindergarten teacher, Mr. Mark Pringle. "Our youngest learners have the opportunity to begin kindergarten in a really small, close-knit community. Our staff, our families – we work so closely together to give them the best possible start."



SCAN TO SEE CURRENT OPENINGS

Right to Refuse Photo/Video of Your Child



There are times when the West Irondequoit Central School District or the media take photographs and/or video of our students and also interview our students. It could be to publicize an activity or event or to honor achievement.

The student photo and/or interview may be used internally or externally outside of the WICSD in print and/or electronic form and/or on the Internet. Sometimes the media simultaneously publishes student interviews and/or pictures on its own sites.



If you do NOT want your child to be interviewed and/or your child's photograph to be released/posted and/or their name released in print and/or electronic form and/or on the Internet, please sign and return the form below. Additionally, please know that the news media is legally entitled to take photos during events of public interest such as board meetings, athletic events or activities where students are present even if the parent has not granted permission.

The District is required to allow student teachers to videotape themselves providing instruction in a classroom to meet their instruction component for their teaching certification. The video is confidential and is not subject to viewing or disclosure to an individual or entity, other than the student teacher applicant and relevant personnel. This is an exception to parental consent for release of education records under FERPA per New York State Law.

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Right to	Refuse	Photograp	ny	2023-2024	School	rear

I, as parent/guardian of my child, WITHHOLD CONSENT for my child to be interviewed and/or photographed by West Irondequoit CSD and used in print and/or electronic form. I understand that any outside news media may still take and use photos of my child.					
Child's Name	Child's School				
Parent/Guardian Name	Parent/Guardian Signature				
Send requests to:	N E S				

Send requests to:
Office of Public Information, West Irondequoit CSD
321 List Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617



Board of Education Update

Our Board of Education is comprised of seven residents who are elected by the community. It meets twice monthly. Business meetings are on the third Thursday of the month (unless otherwise indicated). Board "study sessions" are the first Thursday each month. Meeting dates, times, locations, agendas, minutes and more are posted on the district website. Meetings are open to the

public and public comment is available at all meetings. Contact District Clerk, Jenna Lustig, at jenna_lustig@westiron.monroe.edu or (585) 336-2983 with questions. Below you will find some thoughts from our Board president, vice president, and a new member who was elected to a three-year term last May.



Mr. Matthew MetrasPresident, Board of Education

"I'm honored to serve another year as the Board of Education President for West Irondequoit schools. This year we will delve into the third year of our five-year Strategic Plan. With two successful years behind us, I am excited to be

into the 'boots on the ground' implementation of this important work. I'm happy to welcome Victoria Bournival, our new board member, and look forward to collaborating with her. I also want to thank recently retired board member Ann Cunningham and celebrate her 12 years of service to the WICSD. I am eager for the new year and am committed to continue serving our community!"



Mr. Matthew SullivanVice President, Board of Education

"I am so honored and excited to serve our district, students and community as Vice President of the Board of Education for another school year. We are now entering the third year of our five-year Strategic Plan and it's been

amazing to see all of the great progress made. I am even more excited

to continue our focus on executing this plan. This year will see an expansion of our Universal Pre-K program, increased investment in our classroom environments and the continued efforts to help our students as they emerge from the educational challenges that the pandemic presented. I truly look forward to the coming year and continuing my advocacy for our district and community."



Mrs. Victoria Bournival Member, Board of Education

"I am humbled and honored for the opportunity to serve as a West Irondequoit CSD Board member. I look forward to delivering a perspective on ways to help prepare our students for success with their time here

in school, and also for when they enter the workforce. As a new member, I am excited to collaborate with the current Board and deeply learn about the district's priorities. My focus is to be a strong advocate for a fair, well-balanced budget that provides a rigorous education to all the children of our community. I am passionate about supporting education and providing life skills the children of our community need to be successful. Again, it is my pleasure to serve and support our students and faculty and I look forward to the upcoming school year!"

Parent/Guardian on Active Duty in the Armed Forces



In an effort to better serve students, the United States Department of Education, under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires school districts to identify the students with parents and/or guardians on active duty in the Armed Forces. Active duty is defined as full-time duty in the active military service of the United States. If you are a parent/guardian on active duty, please notify West Irondequoit's District Registrar, by email at registrar@westiron.monroe.edu or phone at (585) 336-6743.

The West Irondequoit Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic group, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, weight, veteran status, military status, religion and religious practice in its programs and/or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Asst. Superintendent of Human Resources, Mrs. Michelle Cramer, 321 List Ave., Rochester, NY 14617, 585-336-2995.

Summary of District Attendance Policies



West Irondequoit's attendance policy reflects the Board of Education's belief that attendance and achievement are directly related, and that students, parents, and the district all share responsibility for assuring high levels of student attendance. This summary is intended to inform you of the key features of the policy and related procedures.

General

The attendance policy (and its accompanying regulations) provide for a number of components:

- Classification of absences as "excused" or "unexcused" (see below)
- Establishment of a comprehensive register of attendance in each building
- The promotion of incentives for good attendance and disincentives for excessive absence
- Procedures for parent involvement and for school-parent communication regarding attendance issues
- Procedures for school-parent collaboration in addressing excessive absence
- The possible denial of credit (for high school level courses) as a consequence of excessive absence (see below)
- Procedures for annual review and, where necessary, improvement of the district's attendance policy

Classification of Absences

Each student absence, tardiness, and early departure from scheduled instruction will be classified and recorded as "excused" or "unexcused" based on the reason for the absence.

Excused absences may be for the following reasons:

- Personal illness or hospitalization
- Medical or dental appointment that can not be scheduled outside school hours
- Death in the family
- Religious observance
- Legal obligation (i.e., required to be in court)
- Authorized school activity (e.g., field trip, music lesson)
- College visits
- Other reasons as may be approved by the principal and are consistent with the intent of the policy

Absences for any reason other than those listed above are unexcused. Such absences include, but are not limited to:

- · Family vacation
- Oversleeping
- Babysitting
- Car trouble
- Take your child to work day
- Truancy/class cut
- Other

Communication

Prior to any absence (or as soon thereafter as possible) parents/guardians should call their child's school to report the absence (full or part day) and to indicate the reason for it. Phone numbers and specific directions for reporting absences appear in each school's student/parent handbook and on the district's website at https://www.westirondequoit.org. The school will promptly notify parents/guardians of any unaccounted absences from school or class. In addition, school officials in all buildings will work closely with parents/guardians to intervene in cases where excessive absence is a concern.

Policy Availability

West Irondequoit's attendance policy and its related procedures follow the guidelines set forth by the NYS Commissioner of Education. Parents/guardians who would like a full copy of the district's attendance policy and its accompanying regulations should contact Mrs. Jenna Lustig, District Clerk, 321 List Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617, 585-336-2983, jenna_lustig@westiron.monroe.edu. Policies (#7120 and #7140) are also available on our website: www.westirondequoit.org.

Attendance and Course Credit

For courses that carry a unit of credit toward graduation (all IHS courses and some at Dake), the district requires students to attend no fewer than 85% of the scheduled class meetings. For students whose attendance falls below 85% in a course, regardless of the reasons for absences, credit for the course may be denied.

When a student's pattern of absence could lead, if continued, to loss of credit, school officials will notify parents and collaborate with them in steps designed to improve attendance and avoid denial of credit. Prior to any denial of credit, these steps will include an attendance hearing to review the circumstances surrounding the excessive absence and to determine whether course credit should be allowed or denied. While credit could be denied when attendance falls below the 85 percent threshold regardless of the reasons for the absences, principals are authorized to consider those reasons-excused and/or unexcused-along with other circumstances, in rendering a decision.

Child Abuse Hotline

The NYS Office of Child and Family Services operates a toll-free telephone number to receive reports of child abuse or neglect. The number is 1-800-342-3720. The Office of Child and Family Services website can be accessed here: http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps/faqs.asp

La Oficina de Servicios para Niños y Familias del Estado de Nueva York opera un número de teléfono gratuito para recibir informes de abuso o negligencia infantil. El número es 1-800-342-3720. El Sitio Web de La Oficina de Servicios para Niños y Familias se puede acceder aquí: http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps/faqs.asp



Mental health resources available to your children

As part of the district's ongoing efforts to support the social-emotional needs of our students, here is a quick summary of accessible resources outside of the school setting. In addition to the hotlines and resources below, you may also reach out to your respective building Principal, School Counselor, Psychologist or Social Worker to learn more about available community supports.

Call 211

If you need assistance locating long-term mental health resources, talking through a problem, or exploring mental health treatment options, call 211 to speak with a live person who can help.

- 211 conversations are confidential, can be made anonymously and are available in 180 languages
- If you prefer to text, use web chat or search for resources online, go to this local 211 link: 211.org/about-us/your-local-211

Other Mental Health Hotlines

Call 211 to speak to someone and find local assistance. Here are other dedicated helplines available to anyone in the United States:

- Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA): 1-877-726-4727
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Call 800-273-8255
- Veterans Crisis Line: Call 800-273-TALK (8255) and press 1; or text 838255
- Crisis Text Line: Text the word 'Home' to 741-741
- The Trevor Lifeline for LGBTO Youth: Call 866-488-7386
- The Trans Lifeline: Call 877-565-8860

Partnership with University of Rochester Medical Center will better support student behavior issues

In West Irondequoit, we believe strongly in supporting the whole child, academically, social-emotionally and behaviorally. To that end, last May our district began working with the University of Rochester Medical Center's division of Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics, whose goal is to partner with schools to support student behavior. This consultation program is more than 30 years old.

URMC will provide invidualized student support for West Irondequoit schools and provide professional learning to our staff. URMC will also do on-site visits to provide feedback and learn from staff who know our students best. Dr. David McAdam is the doctoral-level behavior analyst who will work with us. Collaborative planning for involvement with our 8:1:1 elementary classrooms started over the summer. "We are excited to continue with this consultation in the 2023-24 school year to support our students behavioral and social-emotional well-being," said West Irondequoit Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Mrs. Chrissy Miga.

McAdam's URMC team also began working with our K-12 Leadership staff over the summer, explaining supports URMC could provide, as well as training on Function-Based Thinking and how to best support student behaviors.



In addition to student/behavioral professional development by URMC last summer, 20-plus members of our leadership staff underwent training to be CPR-certified and to use AED life-saving equipment.

Function-Based Thinking is a school-friendly first step to addressing challenging behavior. The process is designed to serve the needs of students who have behavior challenges that require multiple layers of intervention and support. It helps us determine "why" a student does what they do so the school can find strategies and interventions to support the child more effectively. This research-based practice is

more effective than typical disciplinary practices (for example, sending a student to the principal's office). The intention is to provide early intervention to prevent more severe behaviors from occurring. This process occurs as a part of the multi-tiered system of intervention supports that all students are entitled to receive.

Part of the conversation during the two-day Leadership staff training was which student profiles the experts from URMC could best support and the process of referral for specific students to work with URMC staff. Students will be identified through building problem-solving teams. A formal referral will be sent by the building team to our West Irondequoit Student Services office. For students who then qualify,

Student Services will reach out to the team at URMC. Parent/guardian consent forms must be completed prior to any support that would be given. If you have questions about this program, contact WICSD Student Services at (585) 336-3178.

Keeping students safe during the cold



Each year, we receive questions regarding outdoor play at recess for students during the winter season. Printed below are the guidelines that we follow to ensure the safety of our students while allowing them time during the school day to enjoy outdoor physical activities. These guidelines have been prepared by Larry Denk, M.D., School Physician, and Mary Lou Popolizio, M.S., PNP School Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

If children are properly clothed, they can participate in safe, vigorous play in an outdoor environment in most weather conditions. Increased caution is necessary, however, due to a large body surface area to weight ratio. During cold temperatures less than 20 degrees F, children are at risk of cold-related injury. In particular, the younger the child, the less physical adaptive reactions they have to cold stress. Shivering is one physical adaptive mechanism that alerts caretakers to the negative

effects of cold exposure on the child. However, children can safely play outdoors in cold temperatures over 20 degrees F if properly dressed.

For elementary school-aged children we are concerned about periods of inactivity while outside. Therefore, we have chosen a temperature of 20 degrees F or higher for allowing children to be outside for a planned or structured sedentary activity (including standing in line). This does not apply

to individual children who choose to stand around or sit around at a time when there is opportunity for play and running around; such children will be encouraged to be active at all temperatures. School personnel will not plan sedentary activities in cold weather and will not expect students to be inactive while outside in cold weather. When outdoor temperatures and wind chill factors are greater than or equal to 20 degrees F, children will be allowed to play outdoors with adult supervision if adequately dressed with hats, mittens or well-insulated gloves, and boots. This applies to all children who are physically well enough to attend school.

West Irondequoit will continue to follow the advice of the Monroe County Department of Public Health in using -25 degrees F wind chill as the threshold for closing schools due to cold. As always, parents may choose to keep their children home on any day they deem too dangerous for travel.

Emergency Closing Procedures

There may be times, due to adverse weather or other emergencies, when it will be necessary to close one or more schools. In order to inform the community, the district will contact parents via our automated phone/text system using numbers provided by families at the start of the school year. We will also alert major television and radio channels (TV 8, 9, 10, 13, 31 and 1180 AM and 1370 AM) with details of the situation.

If the determination to close is made before the opening of school, every effort will be made to notify families by 6:00 a.m. There may be occasions when the start of school is delayed. For example, a one-hour delay would mean that schools would open one hour later

than the normal schedule. Buses would pick students up one hour later. The school day would end at the regularly scheduled time.

Should it be necessary to close school during the day, the district will take actions to ensure the safety of children and staff, and parents will be notified using our automated phone/text system. The following procedures will apply:

K-8: Parents/guardians must fill out and

return an Emergency Notification Form in September. It is crucial that we always have correct, up to date phone numbers. If the principal feels that students can reach their destination safely, students will be released in accordance with instructions on each child's emergency form.

9-12: Students (except disabled students requiring transportation) who feel that they can reach their destinations safely will be dismissed. All other students will remain in school until satisfactory arrangements can be made.

Please review with your children, neighbors and relatives the plans you have pre-arranged, should an early dismissal or emergency school closing occur. It is crucial that parents/guardians understand the emergency notification procedures we are using and that you think about how you and your children will respond under these rare conditions. We appreciate your efforts to keep your child's emergency plan up-to-date as family schedules and circumstances change.

Prevention of Cold Related Injury

- Keep hands and feet dry.
- Use mittens instead of gloves.
- Apply clothing in multiple layers.
- Avoid tight clothing.
- Increase fluid and calorie intake in cold weather.
- Cover lips with plain petroleum jelly to decrease risk of chapping.
- Wear a scarf around the nose and mouth to allow re-breathing of warmer air.
- Wear hats to prevent heat loss.
- Head covering should protect sensitive ear tissue.

Before and After School childcare is now 'Eagle's Care'

Offered through
West Irondequoit
Community
Education, the
Eagle's Care
Program provides
children in grades K-6



with a safe, secure and enriched environment before and after their school day. The before/ after program to start this school year will be offered every weekday.

Activities include:

- indoor/outdoor play (weather permitting)
- homework assistance
- independent reading
- board games
- crafts and more!

Children receive a snack during the afternoon session.

HOURS & LOCATIONS Iroquois Middle School

150 Colebrook Drive 7:00 a.m.—8:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Rogers Middle School

219 Northfield Road 7:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Morning

 Quiet socialization, homework, board games

Afternoon

- Snack
- DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read), homework
- Recreation, arts & crafts, board games

FFF

Cost is \$70 per week per child AM only, \$95 per week per child PM only, \$130 per week per child for both, to be paid monthly. A 10% discount is offered for families who enroll more than one child. Cash, checks, Visa and MasterCard are accepted for payment. The Community Education Department is self-supporting.

Students who attend Briarwood, Brookview, Southlawn and Rogers attend the Rogers Middle School site. Students who attend Colebrook, Listwood, Seneca and Iroquois attend the Iroquois Middle School site. An Eagle's Care staff member meets Colebrook students at their school and walks with them to Iroquois School. An Eagle's Care staff member meets Southlawn students at their school and walks with them to Rogers. All other students are eligible for district transportation.

Arrangements for transportation must be made by the parent/guardian; contact the transportation office at 585-336-2992. Iroquois and Rogers students may participate in after school activities and join our program when the activities end. Parents/guardians must pick up their children at the conclusion of the program each evening.

The Community Education Eagle's Care Program follows the West Irondequoit School District calendar and is not able to provide care during school holidays. If schools are closed due to the weather or other extenuating circumstances, the Eagle's Care program will also be closed.

Registration packets are available in the Community Education Office (585-336-3014), the District Office, in K-6 schools, and on the district website at www.westirondequoit.org.

Darlene Martorana Eagle's Care Program Coordinator Darlene_Martorana@westiron.monroe.edu

Katie Tytler
Director of Community Education
Katie_Tytler@westiron.monroe.edu

COMMUNITY EDUCATION: Excellence in Education for All Ages!

West Irondequoit's Community Education office is located on the second floor of Irondequoit High School inside the Athletic Department's office (room number 2094) and its seasonal catalogue – fall, winter, spring and summer – is mailed to residents. For information on programs or how to register, please call (585) 336-3014.

View the Community Education catalogue online by typing this URL into your browser: bit.ly/CommunityEd_WI. You can also find it via the District website at westirondequoit.org, then click on the PARENTS/COMMUNITY tab.

For more details, you also may contact, Ms. Katie Tytler, Director of Community Education, at the number above or via email at katie_tytler@westiron.monroe.edu.

Community Education offers:

- Eagle's Care Program (before/after school care)
- Aquatics
- Permit Testing, Prelicensing
- Art
- Recreational Activities
- First Aid, CPR, Safety classes
- Parent & Child classes
- Health classes
- Wellness classes



For times and classes for lap swim (morning/evenings), family swim and swim lessons, please check the website.

FOOD SERVICES

Betsy LoGiudice, School Lunch Director

Phone: (585) 336-2953

Email: betsy_logiudice@westiron.monroe.edu

Click FOOD SERVICES at www.westirondequoit.org for school sites/MENUS

Food Services will serve breakfast and lunch in our cafeterias this school year and use a cashless operation. Questions? Please call our Food Services office at (585) 336-2953.



Payment Options

Meals or milk can be prepaid online or with cash/check on site. Prepayment allows lines to move more quickly, giving students more time to enjoy meals.

1. Online: Go to <u>westirondequoit.org</u> and click the FOOD SERVICES Quick Link, then the MySchoolBucks logo. At that site, create your account and add money to your child's school meal account. You need your child's name, student ID number and school zip code (14617). ID numbers are in Infinite Campus and also available from the school secretary. Sign up for email reminders so you know when your account is low!

2. By check or cash: Make checks payable to "The School Lunch Fund." Write your child's full name and student ID number on an envelope. Put the cash/check in it. Envelopes can be dropped off at the school's main office, with a teacher or given to Food Service personnel. The entire amount enclosed will be applied to the student account, which rolls over year to year.

Things to know

- If you have more than one child in the district you can handle all online prepayments from the same account.
- Payments may be made through an existing PayPal account or with a major credit or debit card.
- Prepayment deposit transaction fee is \$3.15.
- Any lunch items bought a la carte (including milk-only purchases) must be paid for. This also includes snacks, doubles, water bottles and ice cream.



Studies show that students who eat a healthy breakfast are better able to focus. Schools that offer **breakfast on-site** often see a reduction in tardiness. Our breakfast consists of milk, juice, fruit & cereal. A hot item will be offered on select days.

Free-and-Reduced Meals Program

Program details and applications are included in this publication. We ask families to submit applications (see details and instructions on the next several pages).

- A current application allows students to be temporarily eligible for the first 30 operational days of the school year. This gives families time to put in a new application for next year once the reapplication process begins over the summer.
- Students who request fee waivers for things like AP exams/college applications won't qualify for the waiver if they don't have a current application on file. Questions? Call Sarah Herbert (585) 336-3063.
- Students in grades K-12 will always receive the hot lunch even if they did not bring a lunch with them regardless of whether they have money in their MySchoolBucks account. Each meal will be added to their balance. Parents/guardians will be contacted and encouraged to pay the balance due.

Miscellaenous

 Students may choose from skim, fat-free chocolate or Lactaid milk, if they are lactose intolerant (doctor's note required).

National School Breakfast/Lunch regulations: Schools must offer a full cup of fruit with breakfast and students are required to take at least half a cup; at least half of the bread/grain offerings must meet the criterion for a whole-grain rich food; new sodium targets are in effect, lunches must contain 935-1080 mg. of sodium or less, depending on grade level; for breakfast, levels are 485-570 mg., or less (depending on grade); elementary schools can serve only water, milk, 100% juice (no more than 8 oz.), or 100% juice mixed with water.

For the full list, click the FOOD SERVICES Quick Link at www.westirondequoit.org.

Food Services Info & Application

West Irondequoit Central School District

FOOD SERVICE OFFICE, Irondequoit High School 260 Cooper Road, Rochester, New York 14617-3125 Telephone: (585) 336-2993 • www.westirondequoit.org

Dear Parent/Guardian: July 2023

Children need healthy meals to learn. West Irondequoit Central School District offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast will consist of milk, juice, fruit and cereal. Meal costs: breakfast \$1.80; student lunch \$2.95; cost of milk only \$.60. Children from households that meet federal income guidelines (outlined below) are eligible free or reduced-price meals. As of July 1, 2019, students in New York State that are approved for reduced price meals will receive breakfast and lunch meals at no charge. NOTE: If the student becomes eligible for free or reduced meal benefits, but decides they only want milk for their meal, they will be charged \$.60 per milk. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, submit a Direct Certification letter, including your case number, from the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance OR complete the enclosed application, sign it and return it to Sarah Herbert, WISCD – District Office, 321 List Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617 as soon as possible. Please refer to the guidelines contained in this letter when completing the application.

We cannot approve an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information.

DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD? No. Use <u>one</u> Free and Reduced-Price School Meals
 Application for all students in your household. Complete the application to apply free or reduced-price meals. We cannot approve
 an application that is not complete, so be sure to fill out all required information. Return the completed application to: Sarah Herbert,
 WISCD – District Office, 321 List Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617

WHO CAN GET FREE MEALS?

- 1. All children in households receiving benefits from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), are eligible for free meals. Categorical eligibility for free meal benefits is extended to all children in the household when the application lists an Assistance Program's case number for any household member. Also, your children can get free meals if your household's gross income is within the free limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines (listed on next page). Households with children who are categorically eligible through an Other Source Categorically Eligible designation, as defined by law, may be eligible for free benefits and should contact the SFA for assistance in receiving possible benefits.
- 2. Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals.
- 3. Children participating in their school's Head Start Program are eligible for free meals.
- 4. Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals. Households with children wo meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant should contact the WICSD for assistance in receiving benefits.
- 5. Children may receive free meals if your household's GROSS income is within the free or reduced-price limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guideline. Students in New York State that are approved for reduced priced meals will receive breakfast and lunch meals and snacks served through the Afterschool Snack Program at no charge.
- 6. Your children may qualify for free or reduced priced meals if your household's gross income fall at or below the limits on this chart:

2023-2024 INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEALS

		Reduced	Price Eligibility		
6/4		Reduced Price L	unch and Breakfast		
Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$ 26,973	\$ 2,248	\$ 1,124	\$ 1,038	\$ 519
2	\$ 36,482	\$ 3,041	\$ 1,521	\$ 1,404	\$ 702
3	\$ 45,991	\$ 3,833	\$ 1,917	\$ 1,769	\$ 885
4	\$ 55,500	\$ 4,625	\$ 2,313	\$ 2,135	\$ 1,068
5	\$ 65,009	\$ 5,418	\$ 2,709	\$ 2,501	\$ 1,251
6	\$ 74,518	\$ 6,210	\$ 3,105	\$ 2,867	\$ 1,434
7	\$ 84,027	\$ 7,003	\$ 3,502	\$ 3,232	\$ 1,616
8	\$ 93,536	\$ 7,795	\$ 3,898	\$ 3,598	\$ 1,799
Each Add'l person, add	\$ 9,509	\$ 793	\$ 397	\$ 366	\$ 183



- CAN FOSTER CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Yes, foster children who are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency
 or court, are eligible for free meals. Any foster child in the household is eligible for free meals regardless of income. Foster children
 may also be included as a member of the foster family if the foster family chooses to also apply for benefits for other children. If
 non-foster children in a foster family are not eligible for free or reduced priced meals, an eligible foster child will still receive benefits.
 We require documentation from the county/state regarding guardianship of a foster child.
- CAN HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, AND MIGRANT CHILDREN GET FREE MEALS? Yes, children who meet the definition of
 homeless, runaway, or migrant qualify for free meals. If you haven't been told your children will get free meals, please call 585336-3063 or write James Brennan, WISCD-District Office, 321 List Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617 to see if they qualify.
- WHO CAN GET REDUCED PRICE MEALS? Your children can get low-cost meals if your household income is within the reduced-price limits on the Federal Eligibility Income Chart, shown on this application.
- SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE
 APPROVED FREE MEALS? Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call Sarah Herbert at 585-3363063 if you have questions.
- MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE? Yes, your child's application is only good for that school year and for the first 30 days of this school year. You must send in a new application, using the current school year application, unless the school told you that your child is eligible for the new school year. If you do not send in a new application that is approved by the school or you have not been notified that your child is eligible for free meals, your child will be charged the full price of meals and you will be responsible for expenses incurred.
- I GET WIC. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS? Children in households participating in WIC <u>may</u> be eligible for free. or reduced-price meals. Please fill out a FREE/REDUCED PRICE MEAL application.
- WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Yes, and we may also ask you to send written proof.
- IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children
 with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed may become eligible for free and reduced-price meals if the household income
 drops below the income limit.
- WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials.
 You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to Mr. James Brennan, 321 List Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617, 585-336-2993.
- MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You or your child(ren) do not have to be
 U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
- WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. You must include yourself and all children living with you. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.
- WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.
- WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be
 reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, clothing, it must also be included as income.
 However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income.
 Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.
- MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-342-3009.

<u>How to Apply</u>: To get free or reduced-price meals for your children you may submit an Eligibility Letter for Free Meals received from the NYS Education Department, OR carefully complete **one application for your household** and return it to the designated office. All household member and children should be listed on one application.

• If you receive SNAP, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) for any children or participate in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), the application must include the children's names, the household SNAP, TANF or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member. Contact your local Department of Social Services for your SNAP or TANF case number, if necessary. No application is necessary if the household was notified by the School Food Authority that their children have been directly certified based on Assistance Program participation. If the household is not sure if ANY OR ALL of their children have been directly certified, the household should contact West Irondequoit CSD Food Service Office.

Food Services Info & Application (continued)

• If you do not list a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR case number for all the children for whom you are applying, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income each household member, and how often it is received and where it comes from. It must include the signature of an adult household member and the last four digits of that adult's social security number or check the box if the adult does not have a social security number. An application that is not complete cannot be approved. Contact your local Department of Social Services for your SNAP or TANF case number or complete the income portion of the application. No application is necessary if the household was notified by the school that their children have been directly certified. If the household is not sure if their children have been directly certified, the household should contact the school.

Reporting Changes: The benefits that you are approved for at the time of application are effective for the entire school year and up to 30 operating days into the new school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first). You no longer need to report changes for an increase in income or decrease in household size, or if you no longer receive SNAP.

Meal Service to Children With Disabilities: Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability which may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of federal regulations, as one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual, a record of such an impairment or being regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include, but are not limited to functions such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working. You must request meal modifications from the school and provide the school with medical statement from a State licensed healthcare professional. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information, as there is specific information that the medical certification must contain.

Confidentiality: The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal, State or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, all information contained in the free and reduced price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CNA); including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA. The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian.

Reapplication: You may apply for benefits any time during the school year. Also, if you are not eligible now, but during the school year become unemployed, have a decrease in household income, or an increase in family size, you may request and complete an application with proof of income, at that time.

Sincerely,

James Brennan, Assistant Superintendent for Finance

Non-discrimination Statement

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complaint's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410;
- (2) Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

All-Access: Stay connected online with happenings at our schools!

We have various communication platforms to help you stay connected with our schools. From the latest updates to videos and photo galleries, we are active on Facebook and Twitter to show you what is happening in our buildings and beyond. Our YouTube channel has nearly 1,000 videos and more than 2,600 subscribers. Just search "West Irondequoit" on YouTube. For latest news, visit our social platforms or our district site, westirondequoit.org.

Receive/submit transportation details online!

Parents/guardians can submit ALL transportation forms/ applications on our District site or print them from there. Find the TRANSPORTATION "Quick Link" on the main page. Families must have an Infinite Campus account (see below) to obtain transportation information, such as bus passes, route times and bus numbers.

Infinite Campus Parent/Student Portal

Infinite Campus is our student management system. Parents/guardians of all students can create an account that allows them to view schedules, attendance, report cards and teacher/transportation information. High school and junior-high students have accounts to view their own information. Login credentials are available from school main offices; parents/guardians must present ID to obtain them. If you registered in a previous year, your account stays active, and only one account is necessary for families with multiple children.

Broadcast Call System

Our Blackboard Mass Notification system allows us to contact families via phone/email/text when we need to communicate information immediately. Phone numbers are pulled from Infinite Campus using a secure system. Be sure that we have your most up-to-date information. The system will leave a voicemail message if you do not answer the call.

The Safe School Helpline

Let us know ANONYMOUSLY when you become aware of anything that threatens the safety of our schools. Anyone can call: Parents/Guardians, Students, Staff:

- Call: 800-4-1-VOICE ext. 359 / 800-418-6423 ext. 359
- Text: 66746, then type TIPS
- Website: safeschoolhelpline.com
- Facebook: Facebook.com/safeschoolhelpline

Check out their free mobile app (Apple or Android).



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Connect on Facebook, X, YouTube and Instagram

Follow our **DISTRICT** on:

West Irondequoit CSD

X @WestIrondequoit

West Irondequoit CSD

Follow IRONDEQUOIT HIGH SCHOOL on:

Irondequoit HS Art

Follow DAKE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL on:

Dake Junior High School

Follow ATHLETICS on:

X WIEagles

Follow HELMER NATURE CENTER on:

Helmer Nature Center

Follow the WEST IRONDEQUOIT FOUNDATION on:

West Irondequoit Foundation

West Irondequoit Foundation Cornhole Tourney shifts to Friday, Sept. 29 at Irondequoit SC

Friday night's all right for Cornhole!

The West Irondequoit Foundation's 4th Annual Cornhole Tournament, brought to you by Diamond Packaging, will be Friday, Sept. 29th at the Irondequoit Sports Center, 557 E. Ridge Road. A 48-team field of two-person teams will compete in a round-robin format. The winners bag \$500! Play begins at 6 p.m. with registration at 5 p.m. and happy hour at 4 p.m.

Go to westirondequoitfoundation.org to see if spots remain. This is the WIF's major fundraising event for the year, so even if you're not playing, please stop by to support the Foundation, tournament food sponsor (Chick-fil-A of Irondequoit) and beverage sponsor (Rising Storm Brewing Co.). Three previous tournaments have raised more than \$42,000.

The WIF raises money to underwrite teacher and staff-initiated grants for projects, equipment and programs. Through an annual campaign and variety of fundraising, the WIF has granted more than \$1.2 million to our schools since 1990. Its volunteer Board of Directors is deeply rooted in school pride and an unwavering commitment to the West Irondequoit CSD. The WIF relies entirely on the support of community, businesses and alumni for its support of educational excellence. For more information or to donate online, go to westirondequoitfoundation.com.

Student Health Information

The district's school health services program supports your student's academic success by promoting health in the school setting. One way that we provide care for your student is by performing health screenings (vision, hearing and scoliosis) as mandated by the State of New York. The following are necessary:

Health Appraisals

New York State Education Law (section 903) requires a health examination for new entrants and students in kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11. It is recommended that your child have the exam done by your primary care physician. If this isn't possible, please contact your school's health office or nurse to discuss options. Forms are available at any doctor's office or on the district website, www.westirondequoit.org (see District/Forms and Publications).

NYS Education Law requires that body mass index (BMI) and weight status group be included as part of the student's school health examination. The BMI lets the health care practitioner know if the student's weight is in a healthy range or if it is too high or too low. A sample of school districts is selected each year to take part in a survey by the New York State Department of Health and must report information about student weight status groups. Only summary information is used. No names and no information about individual students is sent.

Hearing

(performed at school if not submitted by private physician) Hearing screening for all newly entering students and for students in kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11.

Vision

(performed at school if not submitted by private physician)
Distance and near vision acuity for all newly entering students and for students in kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11. Color perception screening for all new entering students.

Dental Certificates

A dental certificate is requested (not mandated) for all newly entering students and for students in kindergarten and in grades 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11. The form, available at school and at www.westirondequoit.org (see District/Forms and Publications), is to be completed by your child's dentist.

The New York State Department of Health has a list of dental providers on its website. Go to this link: health.ny.gov/prevention/dental/dental_resource_directory.htm

Scoliosis

(performed at school if not submitted by private physician) Scoliosis (spinal curvature) screening for girls in grades 5 and 7 and boys in grade 9.

Additional Notes:

- Please review and complete the Confidential Student Health Information Update and the Authorization for Use or Disclosure of Protected Health Information that was sent home from your child's school.
- All medication (prescription / over the counter) must be delivered to the school by an adult and received by a nurse or administrator. Medication cannot be administered at school without a written order from the physician and written permission from the parent/guardian.
- If your child has a medical condition that prevents physical education participation, a medical excuse from the physician must be submitted to the school nurse.
- Please notify the school when your child will be late, absent or dismissed early.
- If your child has any special medical concerns or needs, please contact the nurse at your child's school.
- Please return those forms to school at the start of school year.

New York State immunization requirements are listed here: www.health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf

Parents/Guardians have right to know reviews for Teachers, Principals

The District's Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) generates annual ratings for teachers and principals. Pursuant to Education Law 3012-d the District will, upon written request, release the final quality ratings to parents or guardians for each of their child's teachers and principal who are subject to 3012-d.

Upon receipt of a written parental request, the principal will forward the request to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, who will arrange to meet with the parent/legal guardian regarding the sharing of ratings. The Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources will take reasonable steps to verify the parental relationship, including, where appropriate, through photo identification and/or other means.

If the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources cannot verify the parental relationship through reasonable means, information tied to individual APPR ratings will not be released.

Final decisions regarding class placement are up to the principal; changes in teacher placement are extremely rare and are made on the basis of multiple considerations. APPR ratings and/or parental requests alone generally do not result in a change in placement. Parents or guardians may request information about the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teachers. Upon written request, the District will provide this information.

Fill out all bus/transportation information online



West Irondequoit's K-3 students and those who are eligible for transportation in grades 4-8 should already have obtained bus schedules through our Infinite Campus Parent Portal. If you have not done so, please contact your student's school. The information within the Transportation tab of the Portal includes bus number, bus stop location and estimated times for pick-up and drop-off. For your convenience, transportation forms can be found and submitted through our website. They include childcare application, bus authorization release (K-3), Transportation Opt-Out form and applications for private-parochial-charter school students. Go to westirondequoit.org/transportation_department. Please note: No child in grades K-3 will be allowed to exit the bus without a parent or guardian present at the bus stop or visible from it unless a release form has been submitted. A student's morning bus number also may differ from the afternoon bus number. Some bus and safety rules to follow:

- Students should be at the bus stop at least five minutes prior to the scheduled bus arrival
- It's a parent/guardian's responsibility to get the student to and from the bus stop safely
- Students should observe the same conduct as in a classroom
- Students should stay seated while the bus is moving
- Students should never put their hands or arms outside a window
- No eating or drinking is allowed on the bus
- Cross the street ONLY when the driver has signaled to do so If you have questions, call Transportation at 336-2992.

BUS RIDER TIPS

- Be at the bus stop at least5 minutes before arrival time
- Board the bus one at a time, keeping your distance
- We encourage siblings to sit together
- No eating or drinking while on the bus
- Remain seated until instructed

→ For the Crossing Guard schedule, go to westirondequoit.org and click on the Transportation section.

FERPA: Limited disclosure of Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law, generally requires that the District obtain your written consent prior to disclosing personally identifiable information from your child's/your education records (to persons other than those with a legitimate educational interest). The District may, however, disclose "directory information" for limited purposes without your written consent, unless you have timely advised the District of your decision to opt out of such disclosure(s) in whole or in part.

Directory information is information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The District defines "directory information" to include only the following:

- name
- grade level
- dates of attendance
- photograph/image
- honors and awards received
- participation in officially recognized activities and sports

In accordance with FERPA and Board Policy No. 7241, "Limited Disclosure of Student Directory Information," the District's disclosure of directory information will be limited to specific parties and specific purposes only. Specifically, the District will include directory information in certain school publications, such

as the yearbook, honor roll and other recognition lists, graduation programs, sports activity sheets, and playbills showing your child's/your role in drama productions in a timely manner and without the necessity for requesting consent in situations in which it is expected that there would be no significant concern about invasion of privacy or any danger or harm from the disclosure. Unless the parent/eligible student opts out, the District will make the disclosure without obtaining consent. The District may also disclose directory information to outside organizations/parties without a parent's/eligible student's prior written consent but only for school-related activities or purposes. Examples of such outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks.

The District shall not disclose directory information in any situation when a risk to student safety, risk of identity theft, or other harm to student(s) is reasonably perceived.

If you do not want the District to disclose any or all of the types of information designated below as directory information from your child's/your education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing of such decision to opt out in whole or in part. Your written notice must be received by the Office of Public Information on or before September 30, 2023. Mail to 321 List Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617.

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Celebrating 50 Years!

154 Pinegrove Avenue • 585-336-3035

Owned and operated by the West Irondequoit Central School District since 1973, the objective of Helmer Nature Center is to utilize the natural world as a classroom in order to provide practical, integrated learning opportunities, foster environmental awareness, and promote the concept of global stewardship for life-long learners.

Due to a generous bequest from Irondequoit resident Mrs. Elizabeth Merz, and on-going support from the WICSD and the community, Helmer Nature Center continues its 50-year tradition of providing hands-on learning opportunities to countless students from pre-school to adult each year.

Helmer Nature Center is both an outdoor classroom and an environmental resource for the entire community. It encompasses approximately 45 acres of land with trails that are open to the public daily from dawn until dusk. Students from schools throughout Monroe County visit the center for curriculum based lessons in the unique educational setting. The center offers after school programs, evening and weekend events, as well as several family festivals each year. *Please remember that HNC is a sanctuary for wildlife, so please keep your pets at home while visiting.*

Become a member of the nature center and support environmental education programming in our area. Receive discounts and complimentary tickets to most of HNC's events and programs, discounts on REAL maple syrup (locally made), one free snowshoe rental per year, our quarterly newsletter, the Ecolog and admissions and discounts to nature centers across the U.S.

Learn more about the center at *westirondequoit.org* under PARENTS/COMMUNITY tab. Visit us on Facebook for the most up-to-date info on events and more.

Save the dates!

2023-24 events at Helmer Nature Center

Owl Prowl

Friday & Saturday, Sept. 29 & 30 7 - 9 p.m.

Family Owl Prowl Saturday, Sept. 30, 4 - 6 p.m.

Annular Solar Eclipse Viewing Saturday, Oct. 14, Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Fall Harvest Celebration Sunday, Oct. 15, 1 - 4 p.m.

Trim a Tree for Wildlife Wednesday, Dec. 6, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Snowshoe Rentals
Saturdays in January & February
Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27
Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24
1 - 3 p.m.

Trees for Trails

Bring your tree to Helmer anytime after 12/26 Saturday, Jan. 13, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Team Trivia Competition Saturday, Feb. 3, 7 - 10 p.m.

Maple Weekend (tours/breakfast) Sat./Sunday, March 9-10 Times TBA

Eclipse Day Festival Monday, April 8, 1 - 5 p.m.

Bloomin' Baskets Friday, May 10 4 - 6 p.m.

50th Anniversary Party Friday, June 2 (time TBA)

2023 Fall Open Houses and Curriculum Nights for families

Briarwood

Curriculum Night September 27 / 6:30 p.m.

Brookview

Curriculum Night September 28 / 6:00 p.m. (grades K-1) 6:30 p.m. (grades 2-3)

Colebrook

Curriculum Night September 28 / 6:30 p.m.

Dake Junior High

Parent/Guardian Open House October 12 / 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Irondequoit High School

Parent/Guardian Open House September 21 / 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Iroquois Middle School

Curriculum Night October 26 / 5:30 p.m.

Listwood

Curriculum Night September 28 / 6:30 p.m.

Rogers Middle School

Curriculum Night October 11 / 5:30 p.m.

Seneca

Curriculum Night September 27 / 6:00 p.m. (grades K-1) 6:30 p.m. (grades 2-3)

Southlawn

Curriculum Night September 29 / 6:30 p.m.



Invitation for Pesticide Notification



New York State Education Law Section 409-H requires all schools to provide periodic written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the use of pesticides. School districts are also required to maintain a list of persons who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain scheduled pesticide applications. Please note that the following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements. It is our intention to only use these types of methods to control pests:

- Those followed by a continuous 72-hours of no occupancy;
- Anti-microbial products;
- Nonvolatile rodenticides or insecticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- Boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- EPA designated bio-pesticides;
- EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25 applications;
- Aerosol products with a directed spray, in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less, when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

It is our intention to only use these types of methods to control pests as part of our integrated pest management system. Once a month a representative from our contract pest control firm meets with the custodian or custodial assistant from each building to review any pest problems that may exist in the building. If there are any such problems, the area is investigated and the least toxic method of eliminating the problem is chosen. The pest control firm is also available to respond within 24 hours for emergencies. Should an emergency application be necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification after-the-fact to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you would like to be on the list to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that could occur in your school, please complete the enclosed form and return it no later than October 1, 2023. Notification will be mailed to the address that you designate on this form. To obtain further information about the district's pesticide management, please contact John Conti, Executive Director of Operations, 720 Washington Avenue, Rochester, NY 14617; 585-336-3009, FAX 585-336-3064; john_conti@westiron.monroe.edu.

Attention Pet Owners

Residents are reminded that for the safety of all of our students and visitors, pets are not allowed on any of our campuses when students are present, including during athletic competitions.

At other times, pets must be leashed and under control. Please comply with requests from school district security and athletic supervisory personnel regarding pets on our grounds.

In recent years it has become a problem so thank you for cleaning up after your animal, keeping our walkways and fields more pleasant for everyone! WICSD has provided waste bags for use in problem areas.

Flu Shots

September 19

This happens at Irondequoit High School in the large cafeteria from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19. To schedule an appointment for your family, call (716) 805-1020. For more information, email info@INCnursing.com.



Request for Pesticide Application Notification*



Return completed request form to: West Irondequoit Central School District Attn: Pesticide Notification 720 Washington Avenue Rochester, NY 14617

Please notify me of scheduled pesticide applications for the schools I have circled: Briarwood • Brookview • Colebrook

- Dake IHS Iroquois Listwood Rogers Seneca
- Southlawn Evans & McGraw Learning Center

Name.

rvainc.	
Address:	
Phone:	

*You only need to register once for notification. If you have registered previously, DO NOT REGISTER AGAIN. You are permanently on the notification list until you ask to be removed.

District Snapshot

95%

Graduation rate by IHS students over the past 5 years

94%

2023 graduates who earned Advanced Regents and Regents diplomas 88%

Class of 2023 graduates to access college coursework at IHS

22

24

Number of IHS business students who competed in the 2023 DECA State Career Conference 15

Consecutive years
IHS has been a W!SE
Blue-Star HS for
teaching financial
literacy

16th

WICSD rank among 17 Monroe County districts for per-pupil-spending (\$19,821) Number of times in past 24 years WICSD has been named one of the Best Communities for Music Education in America

Achieving Peak Performance!

Comprehensive education: We offer one of the area's most comprehensive high schools with programs in art, building trades, business, music, performing arts, technology and vocational automotive.

Neighborhood schools: Average enrollment of 168 among our six K-3 schools.

Career Connections Program: Helps students thrive in work-study jobs, internships & career shadowing.

Fine arts: Offer 16 courses in art; students regularly have work displayed in local exhibits.

Performing arts: Four major dramatic presentations annually by IHS and Dake Jr. High students.

1:1 technology: Laptop computers for grades K-12, a first, for the 2020-21 school year.

Professional Development: For 39-plus years we have provided a Teaching Learning Center (Evans & McGraw TLC)

Athletics: Varsity teams in 27 sports, including girls flag football.

Unified Sports: Inclusive co-ed basketball/bowling teams that unite students with and without disabilities.

Helmer Nature Center: Our District-owned 45-acre "outdoor classroom" teaches environmental awareness to our students and is a widely used community asset offering exposure to woods and wetlands.

West Irondequoit Foundation: Has awarded more than \$1.2 million in grants to the District for educational programs and equipment.

Welcome. Nurture. Inspire.

PEAK PERFORMANCE

R.I.S.E. Capital Project will enhance our schools

Construction as part of the \$19 million R.I.S.E. Capital Project is not expected to begin until May of 2024, but district administrators, strategic partners and other stakeholders have been busy during the planning and design phase. These are the beginning stages of long-range, transformational improvements across the district, including new Library Media Centers, playgrounds and doors to enhance safety and security, among other upgrades.

The R.I.S.E. Project was approved alongside the 2023-24 district Budget Vote on May 16, 2023. The district is working with architects, engineers and construction managers to develop detailed plans for submission to the State Education Department (SED) for review. This is the project's design phase. That included meeting with a variety of stakeholders. Among them were staff and students who provided key information and perspectives of the various project elements. For example, elementary students gave input in meetings on new playgrounds. Superintendent Aaron Johnson, other district officials and architect/construction partners also met in late July with residents who live near the future home of our

Department of Environmental Services at 330 Pattonwood Drive. They discussed plans for the former home of Lakeview Elementary School, where renovations are expected to begin next July.

Bidding for jobs is expected next January with construction commencing next spring through the fall of 2025. Other highlights of the project include:

- Second-story walkway connecting Irondequoit HS to Dake Jr. HS
- Playground additions at Rogers-Southlawn & Iroquois schools
- Library Media Center renovations at Rogers-Southlawn & Iroquois schools
- Mechanical system replacements at Irondequoit HS, Dake, Rogers-Southlawn
- Interior door and hardware replacements at Dake & Iroquois
- Lighting and stage rigging replacements at IHS Auditorium

Look for updates throughout the school year from district or by clicking on the R.I.S.E. Capital Project box at westirondequoit.org.

The Reimagine - Inspire - Secure - Educate

This project has NO ADDITIONAL TAX IMPACT on District residents and businesses.



A second-story walkway connecting IHS to Dake Jr. HS was initially planned as part of the district's 2003 Capital Project but that was tabled due to funding limitations. However, it's part of the package for the R.I.S.E. Project, which was approved last May. This image depicts what the safety-enhancing walkway will look like once it's built sometime in 2024-25.

playground last spring. Included in the \$19 million R.I.S.E. Capital Project are new age-appropriate playgrounds at Iroquois and Rogers middle schools (grades 4-6).

Notification of rights regarding Education Records

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. Below is a summary of these rights. You can read them in their entirety on the district website. Go to westirondequoit.org, click District, Technology Department and "Data Privacy & Security."

- 1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access.
- 2. 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.

- 3. The right to privacy of personally identifiable information in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
- 4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the 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 20202-8520

West Irondequoit Performing Arts Calendar for 2023-24:

Dake Musical - Matilda Jr	Nov. 17-19
IHS Fall Drama - TBA	Dec. 7-9
IHS Musical - Into the Woods	March 21-24
IHS Spring Comedy - TBA	May 30 – June 1

Senior Citizen Dinner Theatre for "Into the Woods" is Tues., March 19. More details to come!





A scene from last year's production of Mamma Mia.



July

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

August

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

September

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

October

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

November

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

December

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

West Irondequoit CSD 2023-2024 School Calendar



Superintendent's Conference Day Conference Day Holiday/Recess Regents Exams Regents Rating Day

Sept. 4	Labor Day - No School
Sept. 5	Superintendent's Conference Day - No School K-12
Sept. 6	Superintendent's Conference Day - No School K-12
Sept. 7	First Day of School - Grades K-12
Oct. 6	Superintendent's Conference Day- No School K-12
Oct. 9	Indigenous Peoples' Day
Nov, 10	Veterans Day - No School
Nov, 22-24	Thanksgiving Recess - No School
Dec. 8	K-12 Parent-Teacher Conference Day - No School K-12
Dec. 25-29	Holiday Recess - No School
Jan. 2	School Resumes
Jan. 15	Martin Luther King Day - No School
Jan. 23-26	Regents Exams
Jan. 26	Rating Day - No School Grades 9-12
Feb. 19-23	Winter Recess - No School
Mar. 29- Apr. 8	Spring Recess - No School
Apr. 26	K-4 Parent-Teacher Conference Day -
Арт. 20	Half-day Grades K-4
May 27	Memorial Day Recess - No School
May 27	Memerial Bay Resease The Series
June 13	Last Day of school for Grades 9-12
June 4,	Regents Exams
14-26	
June 17	Regents Rating Day
June 19	Juneteenth - No School
June 23	Graduation at RIT 10am
June 24	Last Day of School Grades K-8
June 26	Regents Rating Day/ Last Day all Students and Faculty

Faculty Days 186 Student Days 182

January

- Carraar y				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

February

1 oblidaly				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	

March

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

April

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

May

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

June

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

Approved by the Board of Education:

3/2/23



West Irondequoit Schools 321 List Avenue Rochester, NY 14617

Phone: 585-342-5500

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Rochester, NY Permit No. 1021

Superintendent

Dr. Aaron Johnson

Board of Education

Mr. Matthew Metras, President Mr. Matthew Sullivan, Vice President Mrs. Victoria Bournival

Mrs. Victoria Bournival Mr. Justin Connor Ms. Courtney Shouse Mrs. Rosa Vargas-Cronin Mr. John Vay

Mrs. Jenna Lustig, District Clerk

Aliyah Bozkurt, Student Representative Chloe Curran, Student Representative Andrew Sullivan, Student Representative

Newsletter Editor Mr. Jeff DiVeronica

School contact information

Irondequoit High School

260 Cooper Road Rochester, NY 14617 Main Office: 266-7351 Attendance: 336-2918/336-2919

8 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.

Dake Junior High School

350 Cooper Road Rochester, NY 14617 Main Office: 342-2140 Attendance: 336-3100 8 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.

Iroquois Middle School

150 Colebrook Drive Rochester, NY 14617 Main Office: 342-3450 Attendance: 336-3091 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Rogers Middle School

219 Northfield Road Rochester, NY 14617 Main Office: 342-1330 Attendance: 336-3030 8:50 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.

Briarwood School

215 Briarwood Drive Rochester, NY 14617 Main Office: 336-1610 Attendance: 336-1610 9:05 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.

Brookview School

300 Brookview Drive Rochester, NY 14617 Main Office: 336-1630 Attendance: 336-1630 9:05 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.

Colebrook School

210 Colebrook Drive Rochester, NY 14617 Main Office: 336-1600 Attendance: 336-1600 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Listwood School

325 List Avenue Rochester, NY 14617 Main Office: 336-1640 Attendance: 336-1640 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Seneca School

4143 St. Paul Boulevard Rochester, NY 14617 Main Office: 336-1620 Attendance: 336-1620 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Southlawn School

455 Rawlinson Road Rochester, NY 14617 Main Office: 266-5070 Attendance: 336-3030 9:05 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.

Homecoming Week

September 18-23

Football: IHS vs. Eastridge 3 PM, Saturday, Sept. 23 GO EAGLES!

Athletic Schedules

Athletic schedules are now posted at

www.sectionvny.org

You can view schedules and sign up for e-mail and text notifications. Please check our District Facebook page and the WI Eagles Twitter account each morning for a list of Irondequoit High School varsity sports events that day.

