



Windsor Middle School KNIGHT NEWS

February/March, 2020

From the Desk of Mr. Strahley

All dates and times are subject to change.
Please see our website for most current details.

- 2/3 MS PATS Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 2/4 Board of Education Meeting, HS, 6:00 PM
- 2/7 Pack the House, 6:00 PM
- 2/8 MathCounts, SUNY Delhi
- 2/14-2/17 Mid-Term Recess (NO SCHOOL)
- 2/18 Board of Education Meeting, Bell, 6:00 PM
- 2/21 Volleyball Tournament/Dance
- 3/3 Board of Education Meeting, CR Weeks, 6:00 PM
- 3/9 MS PATS Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 3/10 Spring Sports Parent Meeting, HS, 6:00 PM
- 3/11 MS Dodgeball Tournament
- 3/11 6-Week Progress Reports Distributed
- 3/12 Superintendent's Conference Day (NO SCHOOL)
- 3/13 Mid-Term Recess (NO SCHOOL)
- 3/14 Odyssey of the Mind Regionals
- 3/17 Board of Education Meeting, AF Palmer, 6:00 PM
- 3/23 Spring Modified Sports Begin
- 3/26-3/27 NYS ELA Assessments

"The Mission of the Windsor Central School District is to ensure each learner is future ready by providing empowering educational experiences."



It is with great energy that the Middle School has completed the first half of our school year and entering the second semester. Thoughts of Spring are not *too* far ahead for us, but before then I'd like to take a moment to share with you some of what we have been doing at the Middle School and what is in store for us in the near future.

As a school, we have been busy and productive. We are proud of our students' efforts in the classroom and beyond. Our Winter Concerts in Band and Chorus were extremely entertaining, and we were proud to have them perform at a recent B-Devils game. Our Odyssey of the Mind teams are currently at work preparing for their competition and will take to the stage in no time. In December, two teams of 6th graders competed at the annual Mathalon competition in Vestal. Once again, our teams were well prepared and did extremely well. Our MathCounts team will look to build upon this success as they compete at SUNY Delhi very soon.

Our Winter Sports seasons are coming to a close, and I've enjoyed seeing as many games as I can. It is a source of pride for us to have as many students as we do participating in our interscholastic sports program, and our Black Knight Pride is represented so well by our fine student-athletes. After this season and before our Spring Sports begin, we will conduct our wildly popular Volleyball and Dodgeball Tournaments. These incredible team-building competitions bring out the very best of our school culture and add to the spirit of all who participate.

The biggest night of our year is fast approaching, as well. Our **"Pack the House"** event, which includes multiple exhibits and interactive attractions from all of our student clubs and is highlighted by our Talent Show and Science Fair, will be Friday, February 7. We look forward to seeing you at this wonderful event.

We are proud of our warm and welcoming Middle School culture, but we also maintain our focus on academics. We conducted an ELA Mid-Term assessment in January to help track individual progress and identify grade-level trends. As a Professional Learning Community, we value assessment data from these exams, as well as other local and state-wide assessments, to help us best meet the needs of our student population. A great deal of analysis and planning follow these exams. With state assessments approaching, we will continue our practice of using data to inform our instruction and best prepare our students for current and future success. It is, therefore, important to us that every student sit for these exams and show us what they know and can do. Each year, schools across the state have their ability to best meet the needs of their students diminished because not all students choose to participate in them. Though our own district's and school's "Opt Out" numbers are small, we strive for 100% participation. In my conversations with students, I stress that these exams (like any other) are part of the educational process and should be considered "business as usual". I ask them to do their job so that we can do ours to the best of our ability. I would hope you would agree with this and will help us reach our maximum participation rate this Spring. If any of you have any general or specific questions regarding any local or state assessments, I encourage you to please contact me.

As always, it is an honor to be part of this school and district, and I thank you for the opportunity to serve your children and this community.

For more news and highlights about our school, follow me on Twitter: **@KStrahleyWMS**

Yearbooks

You can order your yearbook online: www.ybpay.lifetouch.com.
Yearbook ID Code: **12680420**

You may also see Mrs. Cappello for an order form and send in a check payable to **WCMS Yearbook**.

Yearbooks will also be on sale at **Pack the House**.

Yearbook Pricing:

Standard Book: \$20
Upgrade to Hard Cover: + \$5
Student's Name in Foil: + \$5
Icons (4 maximum): +\$2 each

Guidance

Middle School students have been taking full advantage of our career exploration program, "Careers and Cookies". We invite community members in each Friday to share with our students what they would need to know about their career. Students will continue to have the opportunity to meet with a multitude of other entrepreneurs, business people, and practitioners of a wide variety of fields in the weeks to come. We encourage all students to participate.

Message from Mrs. Strick

The year is flying by and our students are continuing to do wonderful things! I want to highlight some important information. In November our 6th grade students celebrated their commitments related to making healthy choices concerning schoolwork, drug and alcohol use, and interpersonal relationships during the All-Stars Ceremony. We have partnered with Lourdes to provide the All-Stars program to our students for over 16 years. I was proud to see the enthusiastic dedication the students had in their commitments. During January, our MS PATS distributed Gertrude Hawk fundraising information to each student during advisory. The fundraiser is open to all students. The proceeds from the fundraiser (50% of the total sales) go to each student who sells the catalogue items. These proceeds are put toward the student's Washington, D.C. account and lower the cost for the student's trip. By 8th grade, it is our hope that many students will have a "free" trip from the Gertrude Hawk fundraising completed during middle school. All order forms will be due to the Middle School Main Office on Friday, February 28th. In October, we sent home information for the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. All of the information is located on our website. The next payment of \$65 is due Friday, February 21st. Please make all checks out to the Class of 2024. If you have any questions, please contact me at 655-8247.



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Board of Education

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Andrew Fiorentino, Assistant Superintendent for Business

"If students leave school less curious than when they started, we have failed them."

— **George Couros**