



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear New Windsor School Families,

As we approach the New York State assessment period, we want to remind you about the importance of student participation for grades 3-5.

It's important to understand that there is no official "opt-out" option for New York State assessments. If families choose for a student to refuse the test, it will be recorded as "Refused to Test" in the student's academic record. It's essential to recognize that a Test Refusal does not provide any academic benefits. In fact, it creates an important gap in the data that measures children's progress and supports their educational needs. Full participation is vital for several key reasons:

- Accurate Academic Benchmarking: These assessments serve as the only standardized measure of how effectively students are meeting New York State learning standards.
• Targeted Instructional Support: The results from the ELA, Math, and Science exams allow teachers to pinpoint specific learning gaps, enabling them to offer tailored interventions or enrichment opportunities.
• School Resource Allocation: Participation rates and results directly influence our curriculum choices and the distribution of academic resources within the school.
• Student Development: Taking these assessments allows students to build essential testing stamina and gain experience with structured academic challenges they will face in higher grades.

We are committed to ensuring that students' needs are recognized and addressed. We invite our families to partner with us by ensuring their children are present and ready to do their best during the testing window.

If you have any questions regarding the testing schedule or process, please feel free to contact the main office.

With New Windsor School Pride,



Mr. Camb
Principal



UPCOMING EVENTS



SPRING PICTURE DAY
03-13-2026



NWS ASSEMBLY (3-5)
CHARACTER AMBASSADOR
03-16-2026



BEHIND THE PAGES:
BHM CELEBRATIONS
03-17-2026



5TH GRADE MATH MEET
03-19-2026



NWS PTO POCKETBOOK BINGO
03-20-2026



JANE AUSTEN SOCIAL JUSTICE
CELEBRATION
T-B-D



COLGATE VAN VIRTUAL VISIT
03-23-2026



NYS ELA TESTING
04-08 & 09-2026



DRAMA CLUB PERFORMANCE
04-16-2026



NYS MATH TESTING
04-22 & 23-2026

Mark Your Calendars!
So you don't miss any events!

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### **GRAND PRIZE in ADAC's 39th Annual Substance Use Prevention Poster and Essay Contest**



Congratulations!

We are excited to announce that Olivia Trinh has received the GRAND PRIZE in ADAC's 39th Annual Substance Use Prevention Poster and Essay Contest. This prestigious award is sponsored by the Alcohol and Drug Awareness Council of Orange County.

Olivia, a proud NWS graduate and alumni, continues to exemplify excellence, and we are incredibly proud to celebrate her outstanding achievement.

She will be honored at the ADAC award recognition ceremony, as well as at the 2026 County Executive Awards Ceremony at SUNY Orange this spring.

Congratulations, Olivia — your NWS family is cheering you on. Go Goldbacks!



Congratulations to Ryan Nguyen, a proud 5th grade student from NWS, for earning an Honorable Mention in the ADAC's 39th Annual Substance Use Prevention Poster and Essay Contest!

This is a wonderful accomplishment and a reflection of Ryan's creativity, thoughtfulness, and commitment to making positive choices. His work stood out among many submissions and represents the values we strive to instill in all of our students.

We are incredibly proud of you, Ryan—keep up the great work!

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### **RECENT EVENTS**



**NWS: CHARACTER AMBASSADOR ASSEMBLY**  
03-06 & 16-2026

[Link to Album](#)



**NWS: SHEILA ARNOLD - MASTER STORYTELLER**  
03-10-2026

[Link to Album](#)



**NWS: COLGATE VAN VISIT**  
03-09-2026

[Link to Album](#)



**NWS: SCHOOL BEE**  
FEB & MAR-2026

[Link to Album](#)



### "Board President Visit Highlights the Power of Literacy in 2nd Grade."



Newburgh Enlarged City School District Board President John Doerre recently visited the second-grade classroom of Ms. Hand and Mrs. Gordon to share the inspiring story Rosie Revere, Engineer. The visit underscored the importance of reading to children for pleasure, a practice that is a cornerstone of holistic literacy development. Beyond simple enjoyment, engaging with narrative text in a collaborative setting accelerates vocabulary development and strengthens reading comprehension by exposing students to complex language in context. As students asked thoughtful questions and made meaningful observations, they practiced essential skills such as making inferences and connecting themes—cognitive habits that directly translate into a more robust writing process. By fostering this heartwarming environment of shared inquiry, the visit highlighted how interactive reading empowers students to become more analytical, expressive, and confident learners.



### OUR MISSION

*As the Goldback community, we will educate and empower our students to build their futures and support their community.*

### OUR VISION

*Creating voice, choice, and opportunity for impacting the future of all Goldbacks.*

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## RECENT EVENTS



**NWS: MATH MEET TEAM!**  
**ONGOING-2025-2026**  
[Link to Album](#)



**NWS: ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE WINNERS**  
**ONGOING-2025-2026**  
[Link to Album](#)



**NWS: PBIS Expectations!**  
Be Responsible,  
Be Respectful,  
Be Ready, and  
Be Safe!



**NWS: Attendance Pledge**  
I pledge to go to  
school every day,  
be on time, and be  
ready to learn.





## School Psychologist's Corner!

### Building Stamina for Learning

Just like athletes build endurance through practice, children build learning stamina by gradually strengthening their ability to focus, persist, and work through challenges. In elementary school, developing this stamina is an important part of academic growth and helps students become confident, independent learners.

Learning stamina refers to a child's ability to stay engaged in a task for an extended period of time, even when the work becomes challenging. Young learners are naturally curious, but their attention spans and perseverance develop over time. When students practice sustaining attention, problem-solving through difficulty, and completing tasks, they are building important lifelong skills.

In the classroom, teachers support learning stamina by gradually increasing the amount of time students spend on focused tasks such as reading, writing, math problem-solving, and projects. Students are encouraged to try strategies like re-reading directions, breaking work into smaller parts, or asking thoughtful questions before giving up. Teachers also celebrate effort, persistence, and progress - not just correct answers.

*Families can support learning stamina at home in simple and meaningful ways.*

*Consider trying some of the following strategies:*

- Encourage reading time: Set aside 15–20 minutes each day for quiet reading and gradually increase the time as your child becomes more comfortable.
- Promote problem-solving: When your child encounters a challenge, encourage them to think of different solutions rather than immediately stepping in to fix the problem.
- Create routines: Consistent homework and reading routines help children build focus and responsibility.
- Limit distractions: Turning off televisions and putting devices away during homework time helps children concentrate.
- Praise effort: Recognizing perseverance and hard work helps children understand that learning is a process.

Building stamina takes time, patience, and encouragement. When children learn to stick with tasks, manage frustration, and keep trying, they develop confidence in their abilities. Together, school and home can support students in becoming resilient learners who are ready to tackle new challenges. Small steps each day help build the strong learning muscles that will support children throughout their school years and beyond.



*Mrs. Caci*  
**School Psychologist**

## BLAST FROM THE PAST



**NWS: GOLD CARD ACTIVITIES**

05-23-2019

[Link to Album](#)



**NWS: INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT**

05-22-2019

[Link to Album](#)



**NWS: VOCAL CONCERT**

05-16-2019

[Link to Album](#)



**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!**

2018-2019

[Link to Album](#)

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## NWS FAMILY TIPS

### The School Counselor's Corner!

NWS proudly maintains a Student Leadership Team—an initiative that has been an integral part of our school community for several years. The initial team was formed four years ago, with a mix of third, fourth, and fifth graders. All the original members have since “graduated” from NWS, with our original fifth graders in high school now. The idea behind the team is to build potential and make the members of the team become comfortable with public speaking, so when NWS presents the character ambassador awards every other month, the team leads the assembly. I’ve had kindergarten teachers comment on some of our members and how they wouldn’t say a word when they were five or six and now they’re standing at the podium with a microphone in their hand addressing a crowd of 200+. Additionally, when we have events such as our annual college and career day in February, our team members are called on to bring our guest speakers to their presentation classrooms.

Anyone applying to be on the team goes through an application process and an interview with me and sitting members of the team. These are usually the students’ first interview experiences. Then one student from each of the current school year’s homerooms is selected for the team. Any student who joins the team remains a member until he/she moves up to middle school, unless there is a serious disciplinary incident which makes it necessary to excuse that student from the team (This has not happened as of yet).

Our current team has four fifth graders, two fourth graders, and two third graders. This means that next year, we will have openings for three new third grade members and at least one fourth and one fifth grade member, depending on whether those current members end up in the same homeroom (two of our current fifth grade team members are in the same homeroom this year, which opened up a fifth grade spot). If you think your child would enjoy this opportunity and come into it with enthusiasm, flexibility, and an open mind, encourage him or her to keep their eyes and ears open for the application in the fall. They don’t have to be straight A scholars either, they just should take their education seriously and try their best.

Sincerely,



*Mr. Michalek*  
**School Counselor**



### Participation in New York State Assessments

Dear Families,

As we approach the upcoming New York State assessment period, I would like to provide clarification regarding student participation in the state tests for students in grades 3–5.

First and most importantly, there is no official “opt-out” option for New York State assessments. Families may choose to have a student “refuse to take the test”, but it is important to understand what this means. When a student refuses the assessment, the refusal is recorded in the student’s official record as “refused to test.” This notation becomes part of the student’s academic data for that school year.

State assessments in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science serve several important purposes. These exams are designed to measure how well students are meeting grade-level learning standards and to provide valuable information about their academic progress. The results help teachers and schools identify strengths, address learning gaps, and ensure that students receive the instruction and support they need to succeed in future grades.

Participation in these assessments also helps students gain experience with structured academic challenges, develop test-taking stamina, and demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have worked hard to build throughout the school year. The data gathered from these assessments informs instructional planning, curriculum adjustments, and academic supports that benefit both individual students and the school community as a whole.

It is important for families to understand that refusing to take the test does not provide any academic advantage to the student. Instead, it prevents the school from receiving meaningful information about a student’s progress and may limit opportunities to identify areas where additional support or enrichment may be beneficial.

Our goal is always to support students academically while maintaining a positive and encouraging learning environment. We ask families to partner with us by encouraging their children to approach these assessments with confidence and to do their best. When students participate fully, they help ensure that their learning progress is accurately reflected and that our school can continue to provide the highest level of support and instruction.

If you have any questions about the state assessments or the testing process, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We are always happy to discuss how we can work together to support your child’s success.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to your child’s education.

Sincerely,  
School Administration