



NEW WINDSOR SCHOOL NeWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

A Note on Kindness and Reading at Home

Dear New Windsor School Parents,

I hope you are doing well. I am contacting you today to discuss two important topics that are close to our hearts here at school: **kindness** and the valuable habit of **reading aloud** to your child. These two powerful activities are closely linked to a child's success, both academically and emotionally.

The Power of Kindness

We are dedicated to creating a supportive and caring classroom environment where every student feels valued. Our focus has been on understanding what it means to be a good friend and a helpful classmate, emphasizing values such as **empathy, respect, and inclusion**. Thank you for continuing these meaningful conversations at home. When children see kindness modeled by their families, it strengthens their character and brightens our entire school community.

The Magic of Daily Reading

You are your child's first and most influential teacher! One of the simplest and most effective ways to support their learning is by setting aside **15 to 20 minutes each day** to read aloud to them.

This time spent together is not only a wonderful bonding experience, but it also has a significant impact on their academic development:

- **Boosts Comprehension:** When you read aloud and discuss the story, your child learns to think critically about the plot, characters, and ideas.
- **Increases Fluency:** Hearing you read expressively models what good reading sounds like, helping them read more smoothly and naturally.
- **Builds Vocabulary:** Books introduce words that your child may not encounter in everyday conversation, thereby instantly expanding their vocabulary. The story book you choose doesn't always have to be new—re-reading favorites is just as excellent! The most important thing is to make this special time a **daily ritual**.

Thank you for your partnership in your child's growth. We look forward to a fantastic rest of the school year, filled with good books and kind hearts!

Warmly,



Mr. Camt
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS



**NWS ASSEMBLY (K-2)
CHARACTER AMBASSADOR**
10-27-2025 @ 9:45AM



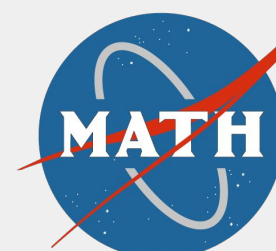
NWS FALL PICTURE DAY
10-30-2025



**NWS 2ND GRADE
MOCK ELECTION**
11-03-2025



**NWS ASSEMBLY (3-5)
CHARACTER AMBASSADOR**
11-13-2025 @ 9:45AM



5TH GRADE MATH MEET
11-19-2025 @ 5:30PM



NWS PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
MORNING: 11-26-2025 @ 9:15 AM
EVENING: 12-04-2025 @ 5:00 PM

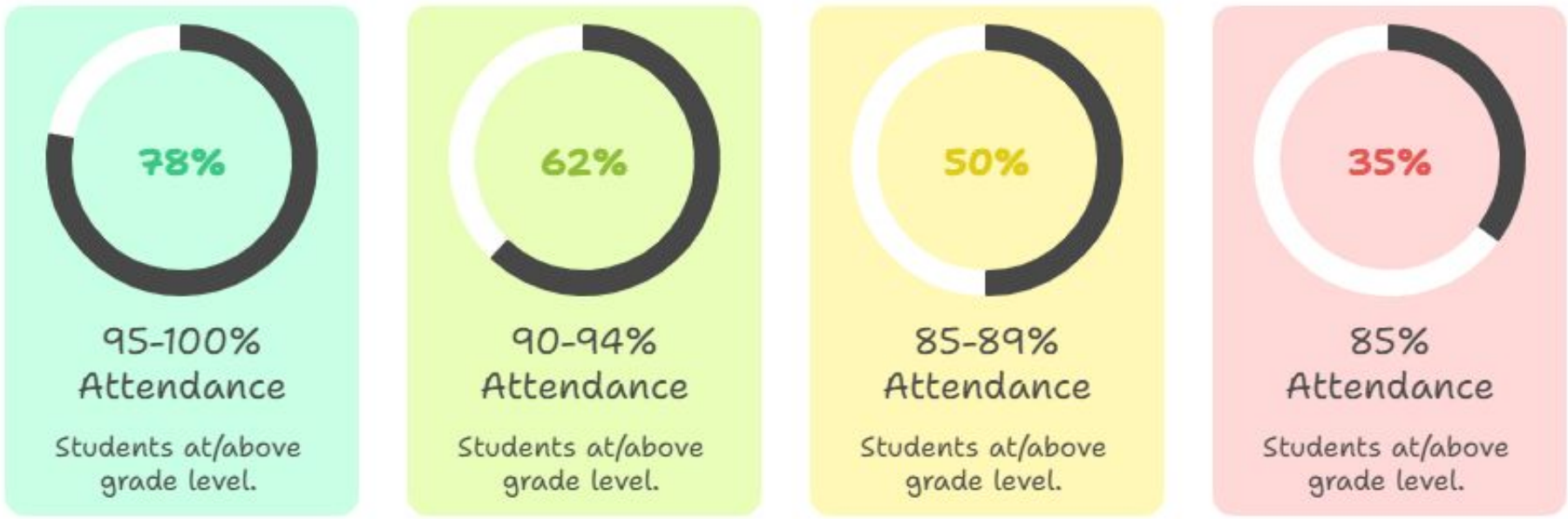
*Mark Your Calendars!
So you don't miss any events!*

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NWS Attendance Challenge Winners!

Student Performance vs. Attendance Rate



Higher attendance correlates with better student performance.

Made with Napkin

Attendance Matters: The Link Between Absences and Academic Performance

Attendance plays a pivotal role in students' academic success — and the data backs it up. Nationwide, about **14 million students** were classified as *chronically absent* (missing 10% or more of school days) in the 2021-22 school year ([ED.gov](https://www.ed.gov)). Longitudinal research shows that elementary students who are frequently absent exhibit **lower academic achievement**, weaker executive functioning skills, and poorer socio-emotional outcomes compared to peers with regular attendance ([PubMed](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/)).

RECENT EVENTS



NWS: PTO BACK TO SCHOOL ICE CREAM SOCIAL
10-03-2025
[Link to Album](#)



NWS: FIRE SAFETY ASSEMBLY
10-10-2025
[Link to Album](#)



NWS: HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
OCTOBER-2025
[Link to Album](#)



NWS: PTO FALL DANCE
10-17-2025
[Link to Album](#)



County Executive Mr. Steve Neuhaus Visit



Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus Visits New Windsor School 2nd Grade Students

Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus recently visited 2nd grade students at New Windsor School to discuss the importance of voting and his role as County Executive. He explained how local government works and how decisions are made to benefit the community.

Before his visit, the students held their own election to vote for their favorite ice cream flavor: vanilla, chocolate, or strawberry. The results were shared with Mr. Neuhaus during his visit, and he congratulated the students on their participation and the outcome. He also answered their questions and shared information about the many exciting projects happening in Orange County.

The visit was a valuable learning experience for the students, helping them understand the importance of civic engagement and the role of local government in their daily lives.

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: CHARACTER AMBASSADOR AWARDS (K-2)
10-27-2025
[Link to Album](#)

RECENT EVENTS



NWS: HALLOWEEN 2025!
10-31-2025
[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!

Why It's Important to Monitor Your Child's Device Use

Children today are growing up in a digital world that offers incredible learning and social opportunities—but also real risks if not monitored carefully. Elementary-aged children are still developing the social, emotional, and problem-solving skills needed to navigate online spaces safely and respectfully.

1. Setting Healthy Boundaries

Children at this age often lack the maturity to manage screen time and online interactions independently. Without limits, excessive use can interfere with:

- **Sleep** – Blue light and late-night chats can make it harder for kids to fall asleep and stay rested.
- **School performance** – Too much screen time can reduce focus and motivation for homework or learning in school.
- **Emotional well-being** – Constant notifications, group pressures, or exclusion in chats can contribute to hurt feelings, anxiety, and/or low self-esteem.

2. Social Media and Group Chats

Even when children are not using social media platforms, group chats (such as on **iMessage**, **WhatsApp**, or **Snapchat**) can act as early versions of social networks. These chats can quickly become overwhelming and sometimes unkind.

- Elementary age children are still learning how to:
- Read tone and intention in messages.
- Handle disagreements or teasing without escalating conflict.
- Recognize when a message might hurt someone else or cross a line.

3. Parental Guidance and Supervision

Parents play a key role in helping children develop responsible digital habits.

Here are some practical steps:

- Set clear rules for when and where devices can be used (for example, no devices in bedrooms at night).
- Review chats regularly with your child. Let them know you will do this—not to spy, but to help them learn how to communicate respectfully and safely.
- Discuss digital kindness and what to do if they see or receive unkind messages. Encourage them to come to you or another trusted adult for help.
- Encourage in-person friendships and activities that don't involve screens to support healthy social development.
- Model healthy behavior -show your child how you balance screen use with family time and rest.

4. The Goal: Independence Through Guidance

The goal of monitoring is not to restrict your child but to teach them. Parents need to help their children understand what is appropriate device use, content, and access for their age. With consistent support and open conversations, children learn how to make good choices online and develop the skills to manage their own digital lives responsibly as they grow.



Mrs. Caci

School Psychologist

BLAST FROM THE PAST



NWS: INFLATABLE COSTUME RACE

06-20-2025

[Link to Album](#)



NWS: HALLOWEEN PARADE

10-31-2024

[Link to Album](#)



NWS: 2ND GRADE ELECTIONS

11-04-2024

[Link to Album](#)



NWS: 5TH GRADE GRADUATION

06-21-2024

[Link to Album](#)

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The School Counselor’s Corner!

What is SEL? The Zones?

Last month I gave an overview of the Zones of Regulation. This month, as our days get shorter and our nights get cooler, we’re diving deeper into our Blue Zone, the first one on the spectrum. As previously mentioned, this is where you don’t have enough energy in your mind and body to fully focus on your important work and responsibilities. Sometimes it’s just being tired. Sometimes it’s just being bored or disengaged. When these feelings arise, you can try getting yourself going by doing something enjoyably physical, like going for a run, working out, doing cardio, dancing, riding a bike, yoga, etc. It’s when sadness is the root of us landing in the blue zone that we have to be mindful, not necessarily of sadness itself, which comes and goes in life. Like I say to the students, we all get sad, there are things and people in the world that make us feel sad. It’s just important to recognize sadness and do something about it before it leads to other more intense and deeper feelings such as hopelessness, apathy, and depression.

At the deepest part of the blue zone we find two feelings that are competing for the title of deepest sad feeling. They are Grief and Physical Pain. This is especially the case with physical pain that we have little or no control over. That brings up a question a first grader asked me recently, which was whether you can be in more than one zone at a time. When we’re grieving, it can easily turn into anger, guilt, and fear; all of which are yellow or red zone feelings. Since these are higher energy feelings, it’s best to do something productive, like the enjoyably physical activities mentioned earlier, or creative things like journaling, writing, drawing; this way, we’re channeling that energy into positives, not negatives.

Next month, we will explore our preferred Green Zone.

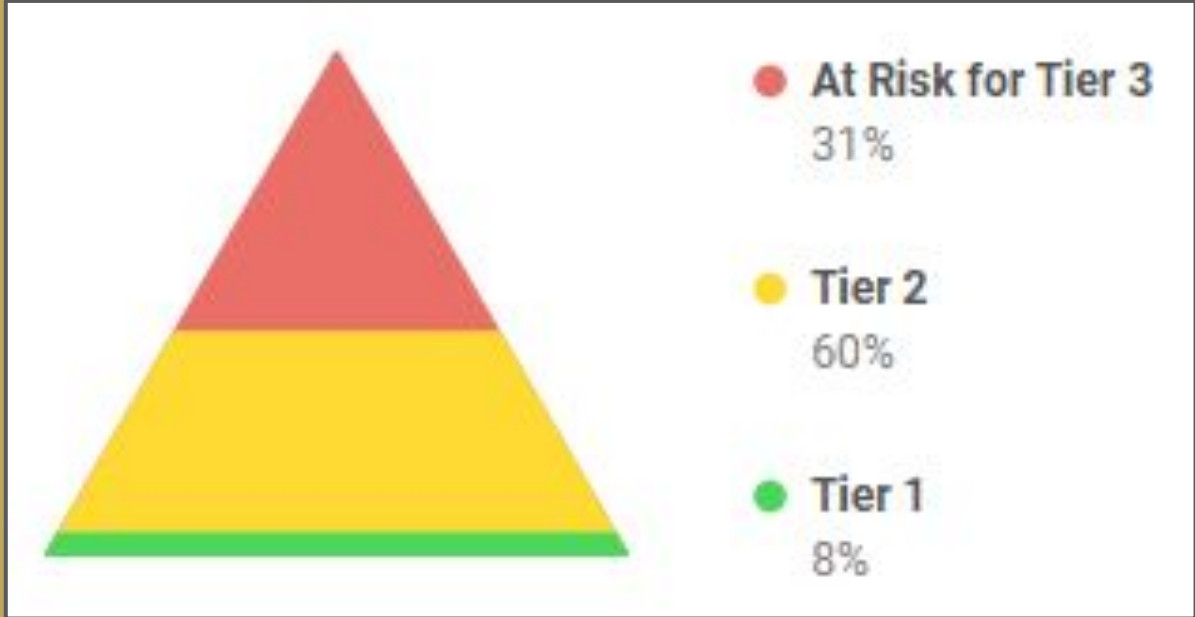


Mr. Michalek

School Counselor

NWS NEWS

IREADY DIAGNOSTIC
SCHOOL LEVEL DATA: MATH



Math Support at Home

1. Build Number Sense

Why it matters: Number sense is the foundation for all later math learning.

How to help:

- Play **counting and grouping games** with real-life objects (coins, Legos, snacks).
- Practice **skip counting** (by 2s, 5s, 10s) through songs or while walking up stairs.
- Use **everyday math talk**: ask “How many more?” or “What’s the total if we add one more?” when shopping or cooking.

2. Practice Basic Facts

Why it matters: Fluency frees up brainpower for problem solving.

How to help:

- Use **flashcards or apps** (like Reflex Math, XtraMath, or Prodigy).
- Play **card games or dice games** that involve adding, subtracting, or multiplying.
- Encourage **quick mental math** (“If we have 7 apples and I buy 3 more, how many?”).

3. Connect Math to Real Life

Why it matters: Students retain skills when they see math in daily life.

How to help:

- Have them **measure ingredients** while cooking.
- Give them a **small allowance** and help them plan a budget or track savings.
- Let them **compare prices or discounts** at the store.

4. Problem Solving and Reasoning

Why it matters: Understanding “why” builds long-term mastery.

How to help:

- Ask “**How did you figure that out?**” instead of just checking if it’s right.
- Work on **word problems** together—draw pictures or act them out.
- Use **puzzles and logic games** (Sudoku, tangrams, pattern blocks).