NEW WINDSOR SCHOOL NeWSLETTER

September 2026

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Hello New Windsor School Families,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! We hope your summer was filled with rest, joy, and wonderful memories. As we open our doors once again, we want to express our deepest gratitude for your ongoing collaboration and partnership. Working together with our families is at the heart of everything we do, and we are truly grateful for your continued trust and support.

This year is an exceptionally exciting time for our community as NWS continues its physical transformation. These ongoing enhancements to our building and facilities are designed to modernize our spaces and ensure we can better meet the unique academic, social, and emotional needs of all our students. Thank you for your patience and flexibility as we work to create a better learning environment for your children.
As we kick off this exciting year, we kindly ask for your help in reinforcing two crucial habits at home:

- *Consistent Attendance: Student attendance is key to our children's success. Arriving on time every day ensures your child doesn't miss vital instruction, hands-on activities, and meaningful social connections with peers.*
- *Daily Reading: Please remember to read with your child daily. Taking time to read together each day is a wonderful way to foster a lifelong love of reading, build strong vocabulary, and expand their imagination.*

Thank you once again for your commitment to our school community. Together, we will make this a safe, inspiring, and successful year for every single student.

Warmly,





Mr. Camt

Principal

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UPCOMING EVENTS



PARP KICKOFF ASSEMBLY
10-01-2026



NWS OPEN HOUSE
10-06-2026



FALL PICTURE DAY
10-07-2026



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK ASSEMBLY
10-09-2026



PEACHY THE ELEPHANT
10-13-2026



K-2 CHARACTER AMBASSADOR ASSEMBLY
10-29-2026



3-5 CHARACTER AMBASSADOR ASSEMBLY
10-29-2026

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

NEW WINDSOR SCHOOL
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Messages from our Teams!



Team Grade 3!

As we begin the school year, our 3rd grade team has been focusing on building strong habits, routines, and expectations that will help our students thrive throughout the year. Students are practicing being responsible, respectful, and ready to learn each day, while developing organization, cooperation, perseverance, and a positive growth mindset. In September, we are also building a strong academic foundation across our subjects. In Social Studies, students are learning about the seven continents, five oceans, and important map skills. In ELA, we are focusing on sentence structure, including identifying subjects and predicates, proper capitalization and punctuation, as well as story elements and different types of traditional literature, including fables, myths, and folktales. In Math, we are reviewing important 2nd grade skills while building our understanding of 3rd grade skills such as place value and rounding numbers. We are excited to establish these foundational skills and routines as we begin a successful year of learning together!

Ms. Tiano and Grade 3 Team!



JUST SOME PICS!









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Messages from our Teams!



Team Grade 2!

We are off to a great start in second grade! These first few days, we have been learning our classroom routines and procedures and getting comfortable in our new classroom.

We are getting familiar with Magnetic Literacy, learning how we can care for each other in our community, and reviewing short vowels during phonics. In math, we are working on number sense and reviewing important skills.
We are excited for a great year ahead!

Ms. Hand and Grade 2 Team!



JUST SOME PICS!









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Messages from our Teams!



Team Grade 1!

We are off to a fantastic start in first grade! These first few days have been all about learning our new classroom routines, making friends, and settling into our big-kid classrooms.

We are getting familiar with our Magnetic Literacy routines, learning what it means to be a kind and helpful classmate in our school community, and starting our phonics practice with single-consonant sounds and letter-building. In math, we are working on making Friends of 10, finding which 2 numbers add up to 10. We are reading and writing number equations.

We can't wait for a wonderful year of learning and growing together!

Ms. Stone and Grade 1 Team!



JUST SOME PICS!









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Messages from our Teams!



Team K!

Our Kindergarten classes have been busy getting to know their new classrooms, new school building, and new classmates.

After listening to the story *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten*, the students went on a scavenger hunt around their classroom, finding the important places and objects they will use in their new room. Next the class followed the cat paws and clues left around New Windsor School by “Pete the Cat”. With each discovery the class learned about special places and people at New Windsor School.

Our kindergarten classes learned that listening is just as important as talking. The class listened to the story *Lucy Walker, Non-Stop Talker.* They listened to indoor and outdoor sounds played by their teachers. Next the students had to find the pictures on their template that matched each sound! It was so much fun, and everyone was so good at listening and identifying the sounds! We are excited to see what these amazing scholars will achieve this year. (And, oh yes, *"achieve"* is the first vocabulary word we learned in our brand new *Magnetic Literacy* reading program!)

Mrs. Zwickel and the K Team!



JUST SOME PICS!









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Messages from our Teams!



Team Music!

Music students began the year strong, reviewing and strengthening their rhythmic and melodic skills. Across all grade levels, students engaged in rhythmic and melodic songs and games while building their call-and-response skills. Students especially enjoyed using Boomwhackers and unpitched percussion instruments to accompany notated songs.

Older students also connected their music learning to math, using their knowledge of fractions to analyze and create increasingly complex rhythm patterns. It has been a wonderful start to the year as students build confidence, creativity, and musical understanding through active music-making.

Mrs. Petruncola and Ms. Sheehy - the Music Team!



JUST SOME PICS!









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School Psychologist's Corner!

Setting Up for Success: A Guide to Back-to-School Readiness

As a new school year begins, transitioning from open summer schedules to structured school days can feel like a big adjustment for elementary students and parents alike. Establishing clear routines early in the term builds confidence, reduces morning rush stress, and sets a strong foundation for learning.

Here are practical, research-backed strategies to help your child prepare for a successful school year across sleep, bedtimes, homework, and technology use.

1. Prioritize Sleep & Standardize Bedtimes

Consistent, high-quality sleep is crucial for an elementary student's memory consolidation, mood regulation, and classroom focus.

- Target 9 to 12 Hours: According to pediatric sleep guidelines, school-aged children (ages 6–12) generally require 9 to 12 hours of sleep per night to perform and feel their best.
- Transition Progressively: If summer bedtimes have drifted late, shift sleep and wake times earlier by 15–30 minutes every few days until you reach your target school schedule.
- Maintain a Predictable Bedtime Routine: Create a soothing, repeatable 20- to 30-minute sequence before bed (e.g., bath, brushing teeth, reading a book together). Predictability signals to the brain that it is time to wind down.

2. Establish Healthy Device & Screen Boundaries

Technology is a helpful learning tool, but unmanaged screen time - especially late in the day - can disrupt sleep cycles and focus.

- Implement a "Screen Curfew": Turn off all screens (tablets, TVs, smartphones, gaming consoles) at least 60 minutes before bedtime. The blue light emitted by devices suppresses melatonin production, making it harder for children to fall asleep naturally.
- Keep Bedrooms Device-Free: Charge all personal electronics in a central family area (such as the kitchen) overnight rather than in your child's bedroom.
- Set Clear Guidelines: Define specific times when screens are allowed - such as after homework and chores are complete - to avoid ongoing daily negotiations.

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NEWBURGH GOLDBACKS™

Partnering in Your Child's Education: Why Being Present Matters

The elementary school years fly by in a blur of lost pencil caps, new books, and growing independence. While teachers guide your child's learning during the day, you remain their primary teacher and biggest cheerleader. Showing a genuine interest in your child's daily life builds the confidence, security, and excitement they need to succeed.

Why Your Involvement Matters

When parents stay connected, children thrive across every area of development:

- Academic Growth: Children whose parents track their progress earn better grades, complete assignments reliably, and develop stronger problem-solving skills.
- Emotional Well-Being: Knowing you care about their day gives children a reassuring safety net. School feels like a shared journey rather than an isolated world.
- Social Confidence: Regular check-ins help identify social friction or learning hurdles early, allowing you and the teacher to support your child before small issues grow.
- A Love for Learning: When you show enthusiasm for what they learn, children mirror that passion and take pride in their achievements.

Simple Steps to Stay Informed and Engaged

Being involved doesn't require volunteering every day —it's about consistent presence and curiosity:

- Ask Specific Questions: Instead of "How was school?", ask "What made you laugh today?" or "What was the trickiest math problem you worked on?"
- Create Daily Connection Time: Set aside 10 uninterrupted minutes during dinner, driving home, or at bedtime to give them your full attention without screens.
- Check Backpacks and Portals: Stay on top of teacher emails, weekly newsletters, and graded work to know about upcoming projects or spirit days.
- Partner with the Teacher: Reach out early in the school year. A quick, friendly relationship with your child's teacher creates a strong support system.

Be There Every Step of the Way

Children take their cues from you. When you show up, ask questions, and celebrate effort over perfection, you send a clear message: ***Your education matters, and you matter to me.***



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School Psychologist's Corner! (Cont'd)

Setting Up for Success: A Guide to Back-to-School Readiness

3. Create an Effective Homework Space & Strategy

Homework in elementary school works best as a tool to reinforce learning habits and responsibility rather than cause frustration.

- Designate a Dedicated Homework Station: Set up a quiet, well-lit space supplied with necessary materials (pencils, paper, erasers, crayons). Keeping supplies organized in one spot minimizes distraction and lost time.
- Pick a Consistent Time: Determine a regular daily window for schoolwork - whether right after an after-school snack or after a short outdoor break to burn off excess energy.
- Focus on Routines, Not Just Answers: Encourage your child to tackle difficult assignments first while their energy is highest. Offer guidance and encouragement but let them complete the work independently so teachers can accurately assess their understanding.

4. Support Daily School Attendance & Punctuality

Beyond homework and bedtime routines, arriving on time and staying for the entire school day reinforces the value of learning and helps children feel fully integrated into their classroom community.

- Build Morning Momentum: Lay out outfits, pack backpacks, and prepare lunchboxes the evening before to avoid a hurried morning.
- Protect Full-Day Learning: Plan appointments and non-urgent family activities outside of school hours whenever possible, helping your child benefit from the full schedule of instruction and social interaction.

By establishing clear expectations around sleep, screen habits, and study routines early in the year, you create a supportive environment where your child can grow academically and socially.

NEWBURGH
ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT





Mrs. Caci
School Psychologist

RECENT EVENTS



NWS: 1ST DAY OF SCHOOL
09-08-2026
Link to Album



NWS: KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION
09-03-2026
Link to Album



NWS: 1ST FEW DAYS WITH STAFF MEMBERS!
09-01&02-2026
Link to Album



NWS: 1ST STAFF MEETING INSTRUCTIONAL COACH PD
09-28-2026
Link to Album

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NEW WINDSOR SCHOOL
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New Windsor School Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month!

When Ms. De Forest, our art teacher, and I began planning New Windsor's observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month—recognized annually from September 15 to October 15—our primary objective was to cultivate a meaningful educational experience that resonates deeply across our school community. We recognized that the most impactful way to highlight these historical and cultural contributions was to place student leadership at the forefront of the initiative.

Through our daily morning broadcast project, student leaders take to the microphone to educate their peers on the extraordinary lives of influential Hispanic figures. Delivering biographical profiles ranging from contemporary culture icon *Jenna Ortega* and rock-and-roll pioneer *Ritchie Valens* to former astronaut *Ellen Ochoa*, our young announcers establish an inspiring, academic tone for each school day.

To complement these auditory presentations, Ms. De Forest and I designed an interactive bulletin board in our main corridor. Featuring portrait posters and corresponding biographical text for each featured individual, this display serves as a prominent visual anchor, encouraging students to engage directly with the material throughout the day.

Collaborating with Ms. De Forest to implement this comprehensive program has been deeply rewarding. As New Windsor's school counselor, my commitment is to support an inclusive environment where representation fosters both self-efficacy and mutual respect. By uniting historical instruction with active student engagement, this initiative effectively promotes cultural appreciation and academic curiosity across our entire institution.



Mr. Michalek
School Counselor



BLAST FROM THE PAST



NWS: CLINTONIAN INDUCTION CEREMONY
06-04-2026
Link to Album



NWS: FIELD DAY! 2026
JUNE-2026
Link to Album



NWS: MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS
05-08-2026
Link to Album



NWS: CHARACTER AMBASSADOR ASSEMBLY
05-11-2026
Link to Album

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NEW WINDSOR SCHOOL
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New Windsor School Health Office Newsletter

Working Together for a Safe, Happy and Healthy School Year

New Windsor School Health Office is committed to keeping our students healthy, safe, and ready to learn. Families play an important role in helping us provide the best possible care for every student. Here are a few important reminders as we begin the year.

Allergies & Medical Conditions

Please notify the Health Office if your child has **any allergies, medical conditions, or other health concerns** that may affect them during the school day.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Food allergies, including peanut and tree nut allergies
- Asthma or other respiratory conditions
- Diabetes
- Seizure disorders
- Medication needs
- Any condition that may require emergency care or special accommodations during the school day

Please also let the Health Office know if there are any changes to your child's health, medications, allergies, or treatment plan during the school year.
If your child requires medication or emergency medication at school, please contact the Health Office to make sure all necessary medication and documentation are on file.

Birthdays, Celebrations & Food Allergies

Birthdays and classroom celebrations are exciting for our students! However, please remember that other children in your child's classroom or school may have serious or potentially life-threatening food allergies, particularly to peanuts and tree nuts.

Before sending food, candy, cupcakes, baked goods, or other treats into school, please follow your child's classroom and school guidelines and be mindful of allergen-containing products. Please send foods with labeled ingredients and if possible send in peanut/ tree nut-free treats when able.
A little extra consideration can make celebrations safer and more inclusive for everyone!

PICS FROM THE PAST









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NEW WINDSOR SCHOOL
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New Windsor School Health Office Newsletter

When Should My Child Stay Home?

We understand that deciding whether your child is well enough to attend school can sometimes be difficult. In general, children should remain home when they are too sick to comfortably participate in normal school activities or when they may spread illness to others.

Please consider keeping your child home if they have:

- Fever- particularly a temperature of 100°F or higher
- Vomiting- especially repeated vomiting or vomiting associated with illness
- Diarrhea
- Persistent or significant coughing that interferes with normal activity, sleep, eating, or breathing
- Significant sore throat, fatigue, body aches, or other symptoms that make it difficult to participate in the school day
- Symptoms of a contagious illness that require exclusion from school

Children returning after fever should generally be fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, unless your school or healthcare provider has given different instructions.
If your child is vomiting, has a significant fever, or feels too sick to participate in their normal activities, giving them time to rest and recover at home helps protect both your child and the rest of our school community.
Thank You for Helping Keep Our School Healthy!

Good communication between families, teachers, and the Health Office helps us provide a safe and healthy environment for all students.
If you have questions about your child's health needs at school, medications, allergies, or whether your child should attend school when they are sick, please contact the Health Office.
Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep our students healthy, safe, and ready to learn!



Sincerely,

New Windsor School Health Office

PICS FROM THE PAST









Newburgh