



2015

2016

2017

Worcester Central School



September 2017

WCS Recognized, Again!

For the third consecutive year, WCS has been recognized by US News and World Report as a Bronze Medal high school. This standing is based on student performance, graduation rates, and a College Readiness Index. Only 25%, 283 of 1,109, schools in NYS received recognition by US News and World Report. Nationally, approximately 30% of high schools achieved recognition for their high school programs.

Congratulations to the entire WCS school and community as such progress and reward comes only with a shared commitment to quality opportunities for students. Worcester Pride!

Board Decides on Capital Project

To Present December Referendum to Residents With No Tax Increase for Project

After nearly two years of discussion and study, the Board of Education, at its regular monthly meeting on September 27, adopted a resolution to present a capital project referendum to residents on December 12, 2017.

In a process that began with a Building Condition Survey (BCS)* performed in the fall of 2015, as required every five years by the New York State Education Department, Scott Duell, of BCA Architects and Engineers, presented final proposals and recommendations to the Board of Education at its September 27 meeting.

While Mr. Duell had previously reported that the overall conditions of the district's buildings have received an "Excellent" rating. He also reported that the BCS revealed some areas that require the district's attention:

1. A roof section not replaced during the last capital project is at end of its life expectancy;
2. The pervious pavement installed during the last capital project is wearing and deteriorating quicker than would be expected;
3. Due to code changes since the last project, instantaneous back-up lighting must be installed in all buildings, and CO detectors must be installed in boiler rooms and the bus garage; and
4. Storage of facilities maintenance equipment.

With the Board's action to move ahead with the recommended project scope, a December 12, 2017 date has been set for the public referendum, at which time residents of the district can vote on the proposed project which will not require a tax increase for work to be performed.

EVERYONE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS.

WCS Bids Farewell, Wishes Well...

WCS extends the warmest of well-wishes to Mr. William Maynard as he departs WCS for retirement, after over 28 years of service to the district. Thank you, Mr. Maynard!

WCS also said goodbye to Mrs. Lauren Thomas, elementary teacher, and Mrs. Mary Mattson, special education teacher, both having taught at WCS for many years.

...and Welcomes New Staff

WCS welcomes Ms. Kelly Chaney and Mrs. Joanne Spina, special education teachers, and Mrs. Samantha Fedor, first grade teacher to the school community. Though not new to the district, Mr. Thomas Moon has moved from teaching special education and social studies to teach social studies full-time.

WCS also welcomes Mrs. Teresa Gorman, Interim Elementary Principal, as she fills in for Mrs. Westfall who is on leave through November.

Visit the district website for school supply lists, menus, student handbooks, the 2017-18 calendar and much more.

www.worcestercs.org

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

WCS uses "School Messenger" to notify all students and families of emergency closures, delays and event cancellations. This system makes phone calls directly to every student's household, including cell phone numbers as provided. It is also used to communicate additions and changes to previously scheduled events.

Please make sure your contact information is current to ensure you receive these important calls. Please contact Mrs. Peggy Nelson in the Guidance Office at (607) 397-8785, ext.104, to update your contact information. You may also complete and return the Change of Address form on our website.

WCS also utilizes the services of the following radio and television stations to announce school closings, delays and early dismissals:

WBNG TV

WKTV TV

News 10

WGY

Time Warner Cable

WRGB WNYT

WTEN

WRVE

WZOZ

WFLY

WSRK

Save the Date!

Band on the Run 5K Fundraiser October 21, 2017

EVERYONE WILL WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS.

How Can We Help You?

For information on academic programs, including Pre-Kindergarten, State testing, remedial programs, guidance and counseling, special education and CSE matters, student discipline and extra-curricular activities, please contact:

MAIN OFFICE

Mrs. Jessie Westfall: Elementary Principal and CSE Chairperson
 (Mrs. Teresa Gorman)
 Mrs. Kimberlea Curran: Secondary (7-12) Principal and CSE Chairperson
 Mr. Steve Fancher: Guidance Counselor (Grades 7-12)
 Mrs. Poletta Louis: Guidance Counselor (Grades PK-6)
 Mrs. Peggy Nelson: Guidance/CSE Secretary
 Mrs. Jessica Head: Receptionist/Building Secretary

For information on the Board of Education, district finances, facilities and maintenance, community use of facilities, cafeteria and transportation services and administrative and personnel matters, please contact:

DISTRICT OFFICE

Mr. William Diamond: Superintendent
 Mrs. Wendy Elliott: Secretary to the Superintendent and District Clerk
 Mr. Gary Pochkar: District Treasurer

BUS GARAGE

Mr. Jeffrey Milavec: Head Bus Driver

School phone number: (607) 397-8785

Bus garage phone number: (607) 397-8873 or 8718

www.worcestercs.org

Easily pay for school meals at **myschoolbucks.com**



Simple & Secure

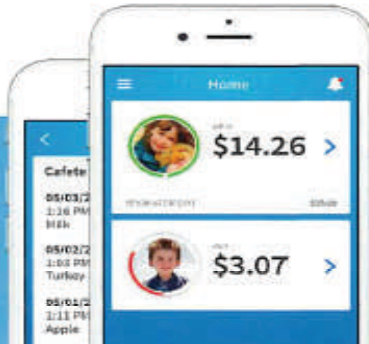


Low Balance Alerts

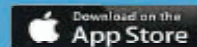


Automatic Payments

MY SCHOOL BUCKS



MAKE MEAL PAYMENTS WHEREVER YOU GO



School Lunch Program

Breakfast: \$1.00 / Lunch: \$2.25 / Reduced Meals: \$.25

We welcome your children back for a new school year. We are proud to provide your children with both breakfast and lunch while at school. I hope the following helps you and your children understand how the school cafeteria works:

1. Extra items not on the menu such as pretzels, ice cream, flavored waters are charged at posted prices. A la carte items do not get counted under the free/reduced meals plan. Full price must be collected for such items.
2. The system works best if you pay on your child's account in advance, and there are several ways to do this:
 - You can put any amount on their account (See the bottom of page 4 for details);
 - You can send the money in weekly or monthly with your child; or
 - You can mail checks, payable to Worcester Central School, to the school, to the attention of the Cafeteria.
3. Each student is given a four digit account number. When they go through the lunch line, at the end is a keypad where they enter their number. The cashier can see the student's name, number, and account balance. No one else can tell what the student is paying, therefore, no one can know if your child is paying full price or qualifies for free or reduced price meals. A student can ask the cashier the balance of their account.
4. The money you pay on your child's account carries over from week to week and remains there until it is used up. A student can still pay for a meal daily.
5. When you put money on your child's account you can tell us what they are allowed to use the money for. There is a form at the bottom of this page. Please complete it and send it in when you put money on the account the first time. It will remain in effect until you change it.
6. If your child runs out of money on their account before you have sent in additional money, they will only be allowed to charge a meal, not snacks or additional portions. It is expected that this will be paid as soon as possible.
7. A statement will be sent home monthly to parents owing money to the cafeteria. The school will initiate debt collection procedures for unpaid balances..

PLEASE NOTE: Please review the information on Free and Reduced Meals on pages 8-10 and consider applying. Information is confidential and no one knows if your child is free or reduced when going through the lunch line. There is no penalty to the school for children receiving free/reduced meals. If your children received Free/Reduced meals last year, that information stays and can be used for the first 30 operating days of this school year; but if you do not file a new application by October 13th, your children must be changed to full price meals.

----- Detach and return to Cafeteria Manager, Mr. Joe Calleja -----
2017-18 School Year

Students:	_____	Grade _____
	_____	Grade _____
	_____	Grade _____
	_____	Grade _____

May use their cafeteria account to purchase the following items, provided that students have money on their accounts:

	YES	NO
Breakfast	_____	_____
Lunch	_____	_____
Extra portions of meal items	_____	_____
Snacks	_____	_____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Important Information from the Health Office

The Health Office is the link between your child and health and safety. There are very important items below that must be addressed in order for the school to appropriately manage health concerns that can arise while your child is at school. Please help us to keep children safe.

Emergency Contact Forms

Annual Health History and Emergency Forms have been mailed to all parents. Please complete these forms and return them quickly. Please keep this information up to date; it is the only way we have of reaching you in an emergency.

Taking Medication In School

To assure the safety of our students while in school and comply with New York State Law, no medications are allowed in school without prior approval. If your child has a condition which requires him/her to take medication during the school day we will gladly cooperate with you and your doctor if you bring to us:

1. A provider's order indicating the name of the medication, dosage, time of administration, days to be given.
2. Permission note from parent or guardian.
3. Medication in the original container. This includes both prescription and over the counter medicine, including Tylenol, Advil, and cough drops. Medication must be brought to school by a parent or guardian.

Complete the **Authorization of Another Adult to Administer Medication** form.

MEDICATION CANNOT BE PROVIDED BY WCS.

Immunization Requirements for Students Entering 6th Grade

Meningitis Vaccine:

New York State Public Health Law (section 2164) **requires** children entering **7th** and **12th** grades on or after September 1, 2017 to receive a vaccine against meningococcal disease. Vaccine names are Menactra or Menveo. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) requires this vaccine to be administered to all adolescents at age 11 or 12 years and a booster dose on or after the 16th birthday.

Tdap (Tetanus diphtheria and Pertussis):

Students entering **6th** grade in the fall for the 2017-18 school year are **required** to have an immunization called Tdap, unless exempt.

Screening Requirements

As mandated by the State of New York, the required health screenings listed below will be performed throughout the school year. If these screenings have been performed at a provider visit, then they do not need to be repeated.

Vision:	All new students and students in Kindergarten and grades 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 10
Hearing:	All new students and students in Kindergarten and grades 1, 3, 5, 7, and 10
Scoliosis:	All students in grades 5 – 9
Physical Exams:	A physical examination including Body Mass Index and Weight Status Category information is required for all newly entering students and students in Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten and students in grades 2, 4, 7, and 10.
Dental Certificates:	A dental certificate is requested for all newly entering students, students in Kindergarten and students in grades 2, 4, 7, and 10.

Please call the Nurse's Office with any questions or concerns.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Public Notice

The Worcester Central School District is in compliance with the provisions of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. This agency does not discriminate due to race, national origin, sex, age or handicap. The Title IX Officer for Worcester Central School is William Diamond, Superintendent.

Educational Services for Homeless Students

All District programs are available to homeless and/or unaccompanied youth.
For more information on the services available to homeless and/or unaccompanied youth,
please contact our District's Homeless Liaisons, Mrs. Kimberlea Curran or Mrs. Jessie Westfall at (607) 387-8785.

Use of Video Cameras on School Grounds and Buses

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to promote and foster school safety and ensure a safe and effective learning environment. After having carefully considered and balanced the rights of privacy with the District's duty to promote discipline, health, welfare and safety of staff and students, as well as that of the general public who has occasion to use school facilities, the Board supports the use of surveillance cameras when necessary in its schools, its buses and/or on school grounds. District surveillance cameras will only be utilized in public areas where there is no "reasonable expectation of privacy." Audio recordings shall not be utilized by the School District officials; such prohibition does not preclude the use of audio recordings by law enforcement officials in accordance with their official duties and/or as otherwise authorized by law.



Asbestos Management Plan

Notice is hereby given to all employees, parents, students, PTO, and all other users of the facilities of the Worcester Central School District, that the District's original Asbestos Management Plan was submitted to the New York State Education Department in Albany, New York.

In accordance with EPA's "Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) of 1987 (40 CFR Part 763) and the New York State Right to Know Law, annual notices pertaining to the inspection and availability of management plans have been posted in each building.

All management plan records are available for review during school hours. For further information please contact Mr. Glenn Jaquish, Building Maintenance Mechanic at 607-397-8785, ext. 123.

No Child Left Behind Act

As part of the federal regulations, parents of children attending Worcester Central School may request the school to provide information regarding the qualifications of teachers in the Title I/AIS program.

If you would like this information, please contact William Diamond, Superintendent at 607-397-8785.

View the District's Computer Acceptable Use Policy, Attendance Policy, Code of Conduct, and Title I information on the District Web site at www.worcestercs.org

Pesticide Notifications

NYS Education Law Section 409H effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and non-public elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The Worcester Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list.

If you would like to receive 48-hour notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in the school, please contact Mr. Glenn Jaquish, Building Maintenance Mechanic, at 607-397-8785, ext. 123.

Disclosure to the Military

Federal law requires school districts, upon request, release the name, home address and telephone number of high school students to military recruiters unless the student or the student's parent/guardian have directed the school not to release this information.

If you **DO NOT** want the school district to release this information to military recruiters, you must inform the district of request this in writing. You may make this request by writing a letter to Mrs. Kimberlea Curran, Secondary Principal, or by completing and submitting the form below. Once you have completed this form, you do not need to do so again unless you wish to change your mind.

Request NOT to Release Directory Information to Military Recruiters

Student: _____ Grade: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____
(Must be over 18)

Visitors to School

Although we encourage community involvement in school and school-related activities, please help us to ensure the safety of our children and support quality learning by following the guidelines and requirements for visitations below:

1. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of the school will be considered a visitor.
2. All visitors to the school must report to the main office upon arrival at the school. All visitors must log into the visitor's identification system and will be issued a visitor's identification badge, which must be worn at all times while in the school building and on school grounds. The visitor must also sign out on the visitor's identification system in the main office upon leaving the building.
3. Visitors attending school functions that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organizations meetings or public gatherings, are not required to register.
4. Teachers are not able to take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors. Parents wishing to speak with the teacher should schedule an appointment that does not interfere with the teacher's instructional time.
5. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to an Administrator. Unauthorized persons may be asked to leave.
6. All visitors are expected to abide by the rules for public conduct on school property contained in the code of conduct. Law enforcement may be called if the situation warrants.

Your Rights Under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

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

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

- 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.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the Worcester Central School to amend a record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who performs an institutional service of function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Worcester Central 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

WCS is a Smoke-Free Zone



By law and by policy established by the Board of Education, tobacco products and electronic cigarettes and their use are strictly prohibited on school grounds. This prohibited use includes the use of such products by adults anywhere on school grounds during school events.

Please help to keep the campus clean and safe for students while also setting an example for children.

2017-18 Calendar

IMPORTANT DATES

August 30	Superintendent's Conf. Day
September 4	Labor Day
September 5	Classes Begin
September 12	Early Dismissal at 12:15 PM
September 21	Open House
October 9	Columbus Day
October 20	Superintendent's Conf. Day
October 31	Early Dismissal at 12:15 PM
November 7	Parent-Teacher Conferences
November 10	Veterans Day
November 22-24	Thanksgiving Recess
December 6	Early Dismissal at 12:15 PM
December 22	Early Dismissal at 12:15 PM
Dec. 25 - Jan. 2	Holiday Vacation
January 15	M.L. King Jr. Day
February 19	Presidents' Day
February 19-23	Winter Break
March 9	Early Dismissal at 12:15 PM
March 26-30	Spring Break
May 11	Superintendent's Conf. Day
May 28	Memorial Day
June 11	Last Day of Classes
June 15 & 22	Regents Rating Days
June 24	Graduation

DAYS IN SESSION

SEPTEMBER	20
OCTOBER	21
NOVEMBER	18
DECEMBER	16
JANUARY	20
FEBRUARY	15
MARCH	17
APRIL	21
MAY	22
JUNE	16
TOTAL	186

TESTING DATES

January 22-25	Regents Exams
April 10-17	ELA Tests Grades 3-8
May 1-8	Math Tests Grades 3-8
April 9/May 18	NYSESLAT: Speaking
May 7-18	NYSESLAT: L, R, W
May 23/June 1	Science Performance Grades 4 & 8
June 4	Science Written Test Grades 4 & 8
June 5	Regents Exam Global Studies
June 12-22	Regents Exams

SEPTEMBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
		30	31	1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

OCTOBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

NOVEMBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
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20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
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18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

JANUARY				
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15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

FEBRUARY				
M	T	W	TH	F
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12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28		

MARCH				
M	T	W	TH	F
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12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

APRIL				
M	T	W	TH	F
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16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

MAY				
M	T	W	TH	F
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21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

JUNE				
M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15*
18	19	20	21	22*
25	26	27	28	29

Worcester Central School
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Worcester, NY 12197

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Box Holder

Approaching Events

October

9	No School - Columbus Day	
20	No School	
19	Band Talent Night	7:30 PM in the auditorium
21	Band-On-The-Run 5K Race/Walk Fundraiser	
25	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 PM in the library
31	12:15 PM Dismissal	

November

6	JV & Varsity Basketball Practices Begin	
7	No School - Parent-Teacher Conferences	12:00 PM - 7:00 PM
10	No School - Veterans Day	
15	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 PM in the library
17, 18, 19	WCS Presents: <i>The Adams Family</i>	
22-24	Thanksgiving Break	

December

6	12:15 PM Dismissal	
12	Capital Project Vote	12:00 - 8:00 PM
14	Jr./Sr. Holiday Concert	7:30 PM in the auditorium
20	Elementary Holiday Concert	1:30 PM in the gymnasium
20	Board of Education Meeting	6:30 PM in the library
22	12:15 PM Dismissal	
25-January 3	Holiday Break	