

Dear Parents:

In a few short weeks our children will be returning to school. Some enter our doors for the first time, while others are anticipating graduation. Our goal is to continue to provide the high quality of education that this community has come to expect and that our children deserve. With your help, we can do this!

When students return, they will find *a few familiar faces in different roles*. **Mrs. Legler** is our new Assistant Principal. Last year, she taught our alternative education program. **Mrs. O'Hara** was part-time last year. Beginning September 5, she'll be full time in the Guidance Office, working with students in grades 9-10. **Ms. McCain** will be at the High School a few hours every other day to help teachers incorporate technology into their classroom teaching.

New faces will also greet our students. We welcome **Ms. Fisher** to our Science department. She will teach biology, replacing Mrs. Fetes, who accepted a teaching position in the Webster School District. **Ms. Trombley** will replace Mrs. Legler in our alternative education program. **Ms. Shields** will be our half-time Spanish teacher. **Mrs. Mintz** has accepted the combined position of half-time counselor and half-time psychologist, replacing both Mrs. O'Hara and Mrs. Premich.

Mrs. Fisler will return from maternity leave, to teach half days in English 11. **Mrs. Luke** will teach full time, and both she and Mrs. Fisler will share all 11th grade English classes. **Mrs. Shaw** will return to English 10.

Academic Intervention Services (AIS) are mandated by the Board of Regents to assist any student in NYS who is in danger of not meeting the standards. Last year we used 10th period to provide help. This year, we have incorporated it into the school day, either in a lab setting or through resource support. You will receive a letter in September providing details if your child is involved.

Research identifies several **keys to a student's academic success**. One is **organization**. Students who are better organized achieve greater academic success. Please ask your son or daughter about the daily planner he or she will receive September 5th. These are daily organizers the students are expected to use. You can help by asking your child to demonstrate how he or she is using this book.

Another key to success is **attendance**. A student who is absent is missing the classroom discussion, questions, explanations, and the interaction that is at the heart of the teaching/learning process. I cannot emphasize how important this is. Please discourage your child from the "mental health" day because he or she was up late the night before. The morning "stomach ache" will go away 99% of the time when the student gets into class and begins to focus on something else. There is also a financial connection to the attendance. We receive state aid based on our average attendance. This past year was the first in a decade that our total attendance percentage was less than 95%. You help the district maintain a reasonable budget when you ensure your child is in school.

New graduation requirements and the testing system generated by the Board of Regents have raised the stakes for schools—the students, teachers, and parents. **Your involvement with your child has always been a key to their academic success**. That involvement is even more critical now. We will be increasing the amount of contact that we initiate with you and hope this generates more communication from you as well. When you have a question, please e-mail me at dstarr@wfmil.williamson-central.k12.ny.us or call the school.

About the Code of Conduct...Included in this newsletter is a summary of the recently adopted Code of Conduct. So much of this is common sense and already in place in the High School. **Please note item V, "Student Dress Code."** The full text notes that students will not be allowed to wear clothes that promote the use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or contain sexual innuendo. In addition, **the Board of Education requires that students do not show their underwear. For the girls, this affects tops with "spaghetti straps" and for the boys, it impacts those who wear the elastic of their boxers above the belt line of their pants.**

*Included in this newsletter is a summary
of the **Code of Conduct**.
Please note item V,
"Student Dress Code."*

Students will be asked to cover themselves appropriately, but we ask you to ensure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately. Please note the editorial

from the August 15 issue of the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle. Also, see below an excerpt of Mark Hare's August 18 article.

Regarding **student driving, seniors and juniors** may drive without a parking **permit through September 14, 2001**. Students in grades 9 & 10 are NOT allowed to drive to school. We expect students to be responsible; this means driving safely.

The start of the year is exciting as we all begin anew with a refreshed sense of purpose and renewed energy. Help us celebrate this occasion by attending **Curriculum Night at 6:30 p.m., Monday, September 17**. See you then!

Fashion cops, please

Back-to-school clothes should be inspected by discerning parents.

What will your son or daughter wear on the first day of school? Better check it out.

Attire on the outside may very well influence thinking on the inside. If students are dressed for the beach, will their heads be in the clouds?

Parents need to help their young people express themselves through their fashion choices without selling themselves short. Unfortunately, the list of duds that distract or reveal is long.

Popular for girls is the Britney Spears look--spandex mini-skirt topped with a tight-fitting T-shirt decorated with sequins spelling "Hottie." And for boys? Midriff-revealing, quarter-length T-shirts and baggy pants, preferably with tattered cuffs.

What's wrong with these clothes? They are inappropriate for school.

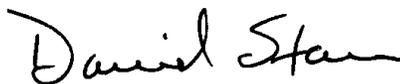
And the cost of back-to-school garments and supplies? Parents will spend an average of \$247 a piece this year for elementary school student, \$241 per middle-school student and \$278 per high-schooler, according to Visa U.S.A.

One reason for the high cost: brand names. If it isn't Old Navy, Abercrombie & Fitch or The Gap, then -- "Ohh, Mom..."

Many schools do have dress codes. However, it's up to parents to be the fashion police—to check what's on the child's body—and in his or her gym bag. A change of clothes, perchance?

If your child is taken with the TV ads for bell-button-revealing jeans, remember the ad featuring kids thanking their parents for being tough.

Sincerely,



Daniel Starr, Ed.D.
High School Principal

MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2002!

Have you had a senior picture taken yet? **A senior portrait and ONE senior baby picture need to be turned in to Mrs. Ferraro or Mrs. Locklear by September 28 to be included in the yearbook.**

A school dress code says 'learning is your job, kids'

"Obviously, too many parents and too many children just don't see that at some basic level, clothes are about respect—for self and others. Of course, fashions change. People wear things just for fun, or to make a statement, or to be different. That's fine in a nightclub or at the beach, but not in school.

Parents and school personnel should help students "develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting, which is the workplace where the student is engaged in the vocation of education."

Well, yeah. Nobody came to school—or work—exposing navels or buttocks 30 years ago. And you would only come to school dressed (or undressed) in this fashion because going to school is—for you—of no more consequence than hanging out at the mall.

I know that exposing one's boxers is hip, but school is

where kids go to learn—along with the science, math, history and literature — self-discipline.

School is where kids learn to take their jobs seriously, to invest themselves in the task at hand.

It's hard to do that when your pants are halfway down your butt, or when you're falling out of a halter top.

Or when you're wearing clothes that contain words that are "vulgar, obscene, libelous, or denigrate others" or that "promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities."

Clothes don't make the person, but they do direct one's attention. A school dress code is a good thing—not because it guarantees higher test scores, but because it reminds kids that school is not the street corner."

*Mark Hare, Rochester D & C
August 19, 2001*

CODE OF CONDUCT SUMMARY

I. Introduction

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive and school personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other school personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

The district has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

The Board of Education recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure that discipline when necessary is administered promptly and fairly.

III. Students Rights and Responsibilities

The district is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal law. Students will also have a set of responsibilities for which they will be accountable. See “Code” pg. 4.

IV. Essential Partners

These include parents, school personnel, teachers, counselors, administration, Superintendent and Board of Education. See “Code” pgs. 5 & 6.

V. Student Dress Code

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other school personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting. See “Code” pg. 7.

VI. Prohibited Student Conduct

The Board of Education expects students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, school personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students’ ability to grow in self-discipline. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the penalties for their conduct. See “Code” pgs. 8-10.

VIII. Disciplinary Procedures and Penalties

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in a way that students view as fair and impartial. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline. See "Code" pgs. 12-20.

X. Discipline Of Students With Disabilities

The Board of Education recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problem behavior. The Board of Education also recognizes that students with disabilities enjoy certain procedural protections whenever school authorities intend to impose discipline upon them. The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations. See "Code" pgs. 22-27.

XII. Student Searches and Interrogations

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring an atmosphere on school property and at school functions that is safe and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the district code of conduct. In addition, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to conduct searches of students and their belongings if the authorized school personnel has reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will result in evidence that the students violated the law or the district code of conduct. See "Code" pgs. 29-31.

XIII. Visitors

The Board of Education encourages parents and other district citizens to visit the district's schools and classrooms to observe the work of students, teachers, and other school personnel. Since schools are a place of work and learning, however, certain limits must be set for such visits. The Building Administrator is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. See "Code" pg. 32.

XIV. Public Conduct on School Property

The district is committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment that is conducive to learning. To create and maintain this kind of an environment, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions. The purpose of this code is to maintain public order and prevent abuse of the rights of others. See "Code" pgs. 33-34.

The full "Code of Conduct" is on file in the main office of each school building, in the library of each school building, in the Public Library, with the Board of Education Policy Manual where it will be available for review by any individual.

Williamson Senior High School
September 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUGUST S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					1
2	3 Labor Day Holiday	4 SUPERINTENDENT'S CONFERENCE DAY (Teachers and Staff Report)	5 A SCHOOL REOPENS	6 B	7 C	8
9	10 D	11 E	12 F Spanish Club meets 10 th period (room 11) Board of Education Meeting - 7:30 p.m.	13 A Used Clothing Drive at Breen's IGA from 4-7 p.m. sponsored by France Trip 2001	14 B	15
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; margin: 0 auto;"> Young Americans Workshop </div>						
16	17 C CURRICULUM NIGHT 6:30 p.m.	18 D	19 E	20 F Class of 2002 group picture <i>by Lifetouch</i> (7:30 a.m.)	21 A	22 Area All-State application deadline
23	24 B	25 C SCHOOL PICTURES (retakes are scheduled for 10/23/01) <i>by Lifetouch</i>	26 D Board of Education Meeting - 7:30 p.m.	27 E	28 F Old English W Awards Assembly (following forum)	29
30						

Curriculum Night/Open House

will be held **Monday, September 17, at 6:30 p.m.**

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USED CLOTHING DRIVE

Sponsored by

THE WILLIAMSON FRANCE TRIP 2001

Have you cleaned your closets or those dressers lately? We need your unwanted clothes, shoes, belts, sneakers, purses, linens, blankets, and drapes. (Please, no rags or fabric scraps. Your donation is **not** cut up or shredded.)

The St. Pauly Mission is to get wearable clothing to people who can use it, here in the U.S. and 3rd World Countries.

Breen's IGA

Thursday, September 13, 2001

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

If possible, please put clothing into plastic bags. Be there RAIN OR SHINE!

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