

Williamson Central School  
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Williamson, NY 14589

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## Focus Group Meetings

The Williamson Central School District recently took the first steps in the development of a multiple year strategic plan. The goal of the plan will be to continually improve the educational experiences provided to the students of the community.

The first step in the process was gathering information from all members of the community to assist in clarifying the District's mission and vision. During the months of December and January, members of the Williamson community attended focus group meetings at the schools. The purpose of the meetings was to gather information from all participants about their feelings and beliefs related to the school district.

Participants were asked to share their feelings about the function of the school, what the role of the school should be in the community, and the most important skills that the children of Williamson should develop as a result of their school experiences. The information gathered suggested that the community believes that students should have strong basic skills when they leave school. Students should be prepared to function independently as contributing members of society. In order to accomplish this, the community believes that it is important for the district to provide opportunities that help children to develop skills in many ways including academic, social/emotional and physical.

The Board of Education members carefully reviewed this information as they worked to refine the District's vision and mission that will be the focal point of the strategic planning process. The vision and mission that were created as the result of their efforts are reflected in the letter from the Superintendent.



Wendy Feeney,  
Director of Curriculum

## LEARNING FAIR

On March 9, 2002 the annual Learning Fair was held at the Williamson Middle School. This event provides an opportunity for students to display their work to the community.

Hundreds of projects were submitted by the students in the District. These ranged from foreign language projects to models of the Earth and dioramas depicting historical times. The projects were evaluated by a panel of judges and many students were awarded ribbons for their hard work.

The day was full of activities for students and their families. There were performances in the auditorium by school and community groups. Storytelling contests were held for elementary and middle school students. Many members of the community brought displays and worked with children sharing information about a variety of topics including cultural diversity, rocks and minerals, computer and science activities, and animals.

Congratulations to the students who participated in the fair and thank you to all the volunteers who made the event possible!!!

Remember, it's never too early to begin to get ready for Learning Fair 2003.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

CITIZENSHIP • CHARACTER • EDUCATION • WISDOM • KNOWLEDGE • SCHOLARSHIP • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

APRIL 2002

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Check us out on the web at:  
[www.williamson-central.k12.ny.us](http://www.williamson-central.k12.ny.us)



Dear Community Residents,

Spring, and a person's fancy turns to...budgeting concerns and restraints? Somehow, that's not how I remember it when I was younger. But that seems to be the truth of the saying these days.

The New York State budget has been promoted as being on time this year. Recent events and an election this fall may be factors in reaching a more timely budget. However, this week, many legislators seem to be backing off the April 1 budget deadline. We, as voters, need to express loudly and clearly our displeasure with a late state budget.

Sometimes that NY State budget seems far removed from our everyday life, but you need to look only as far as your school budget to see the impact. Year after year, the District has had to submit a budget to you, the voters, with only a guess as to what State Aid we will receive. Through the expertise of many of our employees, we have been very close in past years. In fact, we have in the last few years brought in a tax rate at the same or less than that approved at the annual budget vote. Actually, all but the last year has been less.

As a Board, we work hard to provide a quality education. We are concerned about costs and evaluate programs on effectiveness. This year's budget may be the hardest to prepare. Without a firm figure from the state on school aid, we will be hard pressed to prepare a fair and equitable budget. The process has started. We have evaluated programs and looked at costs. We are waiting for revenue figures from the state. These figures are formulated through the state budget. Now more than ever, we need an on-time budget. Please consider contacting Assemblyman Robert Oaks, Senator Michael Nozzolio, and Governor George Pataki. We need your help!

May 21 will be our annual budget vote. This vote will seek approval for our budget for 2002-03 as well as electing two trustees for three year terms. Presently, Deb Larson and Laurie Verbridge hold the two seats up for election. They may seek reelection or not, but others are also encouraged to run for these positions. Petitions are available at the District Office and must be returned by 4:00 p.m., April 22, 2002. The top two vote getters will be elected and sworn into office at our first meeting in July.

In you are interested and/or have any questions, stop by the District Office or call the number listed below. Thank you for your continued support.

The Honorable George Pataki  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

*WCS Board President*

The Honorable Michael Nozzolio  
902 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
Phone: (518) 455-2366  
Fax: (518) 426-6953  
[Nozzolio@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:Nozzolio@senate.state.ny.us)

The Honorable Robert Oaks  
718 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12248  
Phone: (518) 455-5655  
Fax: (518) 455-5407  
[oaksr@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:oaksr@assembly.state.ny.us)

# Message from the Superintendent....

As we move closer to the end of this school year and begin planning for the next, I believe we need to focus on what we have accomplished and what work remains. Throughout this issue you will see evidence of our accomplishments in each building, as well as in the Athletic and Music Departments. Another accomplishment, as a District, has been to meet with all stakeholders to develop our mission and vision statements for the District. An article on the focus groups included in this issue talks about the process we used with these groups to help us in developing the vision and mission statements for Williamson Central Schools. In the next few months we will work on identifying the areas where we will focus our attention over the next 5 years to help us meet the vision and mission statements which we have established. On page 5, you will see a draft copy of the vision and mission statements that have been developed. Please take some time to reflect on these statements and respond to them from your vantage point by returning the response form below the statements.

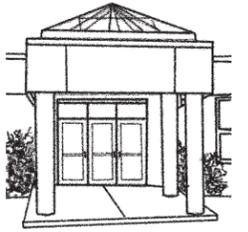
One of the areas where I believe we should consider focusing our attention over the next five years is to develop the assets of our young people. This Fall we surveyed our 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders on a National Assets Survey. This survey measures how many of the 40 developmental assets our students possessed. In the accompanying charts and graphs you will find a listing of these assets as well as a summary of our results. National research shows that there is a correlation between the number of assets young people possess and the amount of risky and thriving behaviors they engage. For example, the goal for all young people is to possess 31-40 assets. Young people who possess this number of assets report engaging in less risky behaviors (e.g. drug & alcohol use, violence) and more thriving behaviors (e.g. school success, good health). At present only 12% of the Williamson young people surveyed reported possessing 31-40 assets. The challenge to increase the number of assets for young people is one for the entire community. If you are interested in more information on this survey or would like to volunteer on a community-based committee to develop our youths' assets, please call 589-9661.

As with any organization, we have much to celebrate and work left undone. My hope is that together as an entire community, we can accomplish developing our most valuable asset - our youth.



Maria Ehresman,  
Superintendent

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Anne Ressler,  
Elementary School Principal

## NADINE CAREY

In a unique presentation, Mrs. Nadine Earl Carey used her special gifts to portray the life story of a great American leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The presentation took place on Friday, January 18 as a tribute to Dr. King's birthday. Mrs. Carey blended together three elements: a clear narrative, which told the story of Dr. King's life and achievements, the African-American folk songs or spirituals which he so loved, and the words of Dr. King himself.



## LIBRARY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Mary Jo TenEyck attended the Library Leadership Academy Conference held on Thursday, January 24, 2002 at the Sodus High School. In addition, she held workshops on the skill of storytelling and the relevance it has in today's world.

## READING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

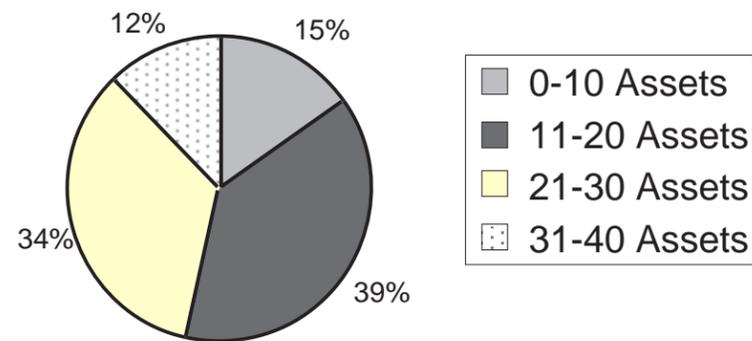


This year's Reading Incentive Program "hooked" our students on reading with a theme that involved fishing.

"Mr. Story" returned to the Elementary School after a three-year absence to read one of his favorite fishing books to the students.



### Our Challenge-Assets Reported by Williamson Students



## CERAMIC ARTIST IN RESIDENCY!

It was with tremendous joy that I anticipated our week with ceramic artist Sharon Locke. She was with us during the end of February, working with grades 1 – 4 through a program called . . . FASCINATION WITH FACES.

FASCINATION WITH FACES demonstrates how the human head can be sculpted (clay) with simple geometric

shapes and a creative touch. Sharon reviewed basic sculpting tools and techniques and invited students to actively engage in the process with her. At the week's end the completed heads were left for display!

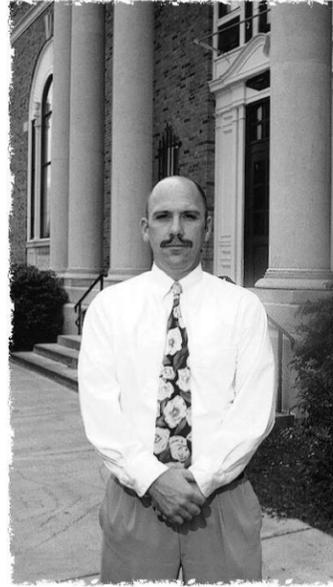
We all felt very fortunate to have had Sharon visit with us!



# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Medieval Fair Day

March 15 was medieval day and what a day it was! The sixth grade participated in a daylong event that allowed the students to taste, feel and live the era. Many thanks to the staff, parents and presenters for a quality hands on learning experience.



Russell Kissinger,  
Middle School Principal



## Fiscal Outlook

As this issue goes to press, Williamson Central School is once again faced with many areas of uncertainty regarding state aid to schools. The Governor's proposal, which indicates no increase in aid, would certainly seem to indicate a lack of support for public education. As in the past, however, we are hearing from the Assembly and Senate that there might be a slight increase in aid over the Governor's proposal. Unfortunately, as also in the past, we will not have the correct information during the budget development process. With appropriations being up only 3.5%, even a cost of living increase in state aid would enable us to present a tax increase in the mid-single digits.

Further compounding the decision-making process this year is the state's decision to force districts to re-amortize their long-term debt. This eventually will cost all districts and taxpayers more money in interest costs than was promised at the time projects were approved. This is analogous to a bank requiring you to pay the minimum on your credit card balance rather than paying the balance off which would be good financial management.

Over the next few months, we will be looking at options on how to deal with this situation to minimize the impact on taxpayers.

Finally, if you feel that late budgets and forgotten promises to school districts is something that you would like to contact public officials about, please feel free to call the District Office at 589-9661 to request information about who to contact.



Mike Stitt,  
Assistant Superintendent

## Technology Project Update

On March 18th work began on the Williamson Technology Project. With this Project all the District's buildings will be wired for computer connections.

This will be beneficial for the whole District's communications, making and keeping of files, e-mail accessibility for staff and neighboring Districts. The students will have the opportunity for web browsing and help with school research projects.

Our Project schedule began in the Middle School with completion in May. The work will be done during school hours with hallways being closed a section at a time. This will ensure the safety of students and staff.

The Elementary School's work will be started in May with completion in June. The work is to take place between the hours of 3:30 - 11:00 PM. This will provide the least amount of distraction and a more secure environment for the young students and staff.

The High School start date is scheduled to begin in July with a completion date sometime in August while student and staff are on summer vacation. The work will take place between the hours of 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Please feel free to direct any questions or concerns to me.

Kevin O'Dell  
Project Manager



## Talent Show

On Friday, March 22nd the students of Williamson Middle School had the opportunity to showcase their talents for friends, families and community members. On that night the 7th and 8th grade Student Association hosted a Talent Show complete with singing, dancing, and comedy acts. Students from grades 5 through 8 auditioned for a chance to perform their talent and be judged by a panel including Wendy Feeney (Curriculum Coordinator for WCS), Paul Leidman (graduate of WHS and community member active in Gates Hall productions) and students Laura Seeley, Veronica Gobeyn and Jeana Ganskop (the originators of the talent show concept in the year 2000). Behind the scenes, Student Association co-advisors Mrs. Diane Osborn and Mrs. Carol McMahon organized the evening with the invaluable assistance of Mrs. Pat Wackenhut, Mrs. Mary Wilkinson and Miss Katie Helmboldt. For three hours the Williamson audience responded enthusiastically as students sang, played and acted for our entertainment. When the evening reached it's end, medals, candy and participation ribbons were awarded to students in seven different talent categories. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the Williamson Town Park project as well as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.



## Spring is Here

Please Follow Rules While On School Property:

- No Smoking on Property
- No Motorized Vehicles (four Wheelers, motorcycles, etc.) on property
- Skateboard and Roller Bladers Must Wear Protective Gear on property
- HELMETS, Knee pads and Elbow pads
- Do NOT use STEPS and RAILS as a Ramp or for Tricks.
- No animals on property
- No flying model airplanes on property
- No golf playing on property
- No drugs or alcohol on property
- No carrying or use of firearms or bow & arrows on property
- No destroying or defacing of property

Everyone can help keep our children Safe!

## DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS

### SUPPORT

1. FAMILY SUPPORT
2. POSITIVE FAMILY COMMUNICATION
3. OTHER ADULT RELATIONSHIPS
4. CARING NEIGHBORHOOD
5. CARING SCHOOL CLIMATE
6. PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLING

### EMPOWERMENT

7. COMMUNITY VALUES YOUTH
8. YOUTH AS RESOURCES
9. SERVICE TO OTHERS
10. SAFETY

### BOUNDARIES & EXPECTATIONS

11. FAMILY BOUNDARIES
12. SCHOOL BOUNDARIES
13. NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES
14. ADULT ROLE MODELS
15. POSITIVE PEER INFLUENCE
16. HIGH EXPECTATIONS

### CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME

17. CREATIVE ACTIVITIES
18. YOUTH PROGRAMS
19. RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY
20. TIME AT HOME

### COMMITMENT TO LEARNING

21. ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION
22. SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT
23. HOMEWORK
24. BONDING TO SCHOOL
25. READING FOR PLEASURE

### POSITIVE VALUES

26. CARING
27. EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
28. INTEGRITY
29. HONESTY
30. RESPONSIBILITY
31. RESTRAINT

### SOCIAL COMPETENCIES

32. PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING
33. INTERPERSONAL COMPETENCE
34. CULTURAL COMPETENCE
35. RESISTANCE SKILLS
36. PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

### POSITIVE IDENTITY

37. PERSONAL POWER
38. SELF-ESTEEM
39. SENSE OF PURPOSE
40. POSITIVE VIEW OF PERSONAL FUTURE

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Jim Newby,  
Athletic Director

## Interscholastic Athletics

By Jim Newby  
Athletic Director

The Williamson Central Schools interscholastic athletic program has been built upon the positive quality of pride, commitment and performance with an emphasis on academics, sportsmanship, chemical awareness, discipline and safety. The expectation is for excellence both on and off the playing fields.

The Marauders have a high participation rate in a well-rounded program of individual and team sports. Our teams and student – athletes have distinguished themselves with winning records and championships in Wayne County, Finger Lakes League, Section five and New York State competitions. Many teams have also been recognized for their team grade point average through the NYSPHSAA Team Scholar – Athletic Program. Williamson student athletes also have the opportunity to be members of the Varsity Club.

The Winter Sports season ended with the Winter Sports Awards on March 7, 2002. Here are some teams and coaches with special recognition.

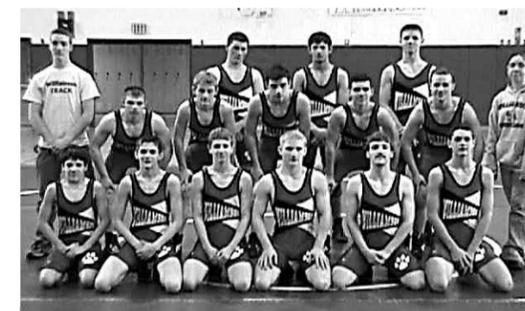
- Boys Indoor Track Team Won Sectional Title
- Girls Indoor Track Team Won Sectional Title
- Cheerleaders Were Co-Wayne County Champion
- Wrestling Team Won The Finger Lakes West Title
- Cheerleader Coach Betsy Cavalarro was named Coach Of The Year in Class CCC
- Wrestling Coach Jim Newby was named Coach Of The Year in the Finger Lakes West



BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM



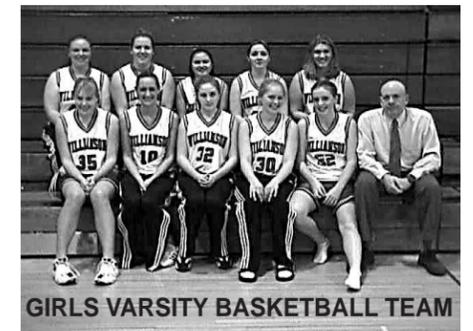
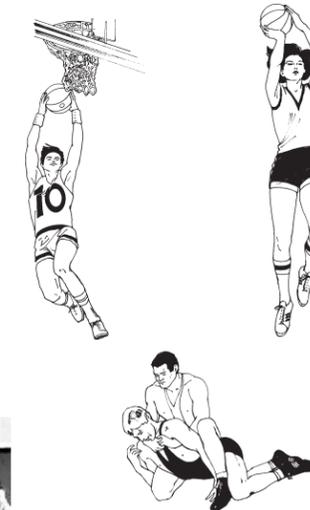
BOYS JV BASKETBALL TEAM



BOYS WRESTLING TEAM

The Marauders Athletic Program  
is certainly where--

“Academic and Athletics  
are Partners for  
Education Excellence!”



GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM



GIRLS JV BASKETBALL TEAM



INDOOR TRACK TEAM

The community is invited to watch our spring athletes compete in softball, baseball, and track. There is no admission fee for any of these events.

# HIGH SCHOOL



## Student Council

Linda Shepard, Advisor

Student Council has organized many activities for the school year. The first was in October. Williamson High School celebrated Homecoming, October 9-13, with a week full of activities. Throughout the week students dressed for various themes. Tuesday was color day. Each class was assigned a specific color and all members of that class were encouraged to wear that color. There were also dress-up day, tie day and on Friday, Red and White day. On Wednesday and Thursday each of the classes decorated the halls with red and white in support of the Williamson teams. Friday morning the halls were judged and the class that had the best decorations won a pizza party. A Pep rally was scheduled for Friday afternoon, where the Homecoming King and Queen were crowned.

In November, Student Council put up the now annual gift tree on the auditorium and decorated it with names of the residents of the Blossomview Nursing Home in Sodus. The student body then had the opportunity to choose a name from the tree and buy a gift for that person. The students purchased over 100 gifts. On December 21, 47 High School students traveled to Sodus to deliver the gifts to the residents. (French and Spanish Clubs were also there to sing Christmas carols.)

Winter Spirit week was in February. Again students dressed in colors and in red and white the day of the Pep Rally. At the Pep Rally winter sports teams were presented, the cheerleaders did their award winning dance routine and the National Honor Society had the Food Gladiators food fight. It was enjoyable for all. Also in February, Student Council, along with the French Club, sponsored a Mardi Gras dance. The gym was decorated in green, purple and gold. Joelsong provided the Music.

For spring, the Student Council will be discussing several activities and school concerns. Among them are having another dance, sponsoring a float for the Apple Blossom Parade, forming a group for the maintenance of the plants in the foyer, organizing Senior study hall, and discussing with Dr. Starr the possibility of using the courtyard as a pass through between class.

## Mission

*Our mission is to provide an effective, high-quality learning experience every day, for every student, with the goal of preparing students to be successful at each level and to be contributing members of society.*

## Vision

### *Active Learning in a Caring and Respectful Environment*

#### **Prepared for future – maximize life choices**

#### **Acceptance – Belonging – Community**

#### **Educational Excellence**

Love Learning

Love Reading

Life-Long Learning

3 R's

Communication Skills

- Reading
- Writing
- Listening
- Speaking

#### **Educate Whole Child**

- Academic
- Social/Emotional
- Physical
- Learning Styles

#### **Safe Environment**

**Entire community knows all children can learn**

#### **Service to Others**

#### **Partnerships Established**

#### **Residents take pride in:**

- Student accomplishment
- Quality of our school
- Shared decision making

In my opinion, the District needs to work on the following issues or areas in order to meet the Vision and Mission statements above:

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Please return to Williamson Central School District, PO Box 900, Williamson, NY 14589, or drop off your response at the District Office.

## Williamson, N Y 2002 Bicentennial Update



Dinosaur BBQ). Sunday will feature children's events and continued birthday celebration.

Sunday in the Park will begin on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. The new Williamson Town Park will be dedicated at 3:00 p.m. An old fashioned Sunday is planned with musical entertainment featuring Hill's Bro.'s, historical story tellers, hay rides, zoo mobile, hot air balloons and old fashion games. This will be a family event that will not only celebrate our history but will celebrate history in the making.

Homecoming weekend, sponsored by the Pultneyville Historical Society annually invites past residents to return and welcomes new visitors to the community. The antique show, local art exhibits, and parade are scheduled to take place as in previous years. The Bicentennial event continues the day's celebration at Forman's Park beginning at 5:00 p.m. with Nik and the Nice Guys as featured entertainment. The Saturday celebration will conclude with Firework's at dusk over Lake Ontario. A special church service in Forman's Park followed by the Irondequoit Band will take place Sunday.

The final event will be a Roast Beef supper sponsored by the East Williamson Fire Department and will conclude with final drawing of the Bicentennial ticket drawing.

A special thank you to Mott's-Cadbury, Breen's, Wildwood Farm's, MacDonald's, Williamson American Legion, Thatcher Company, and all sponsor's for their financial assistance in making the listed events possible.

On February 20, 2002, Williamson officially became 200 years old! A series of events have been planned to celebrate our birthday. We will officially welcome Spring with tulips sponsored by community members and local businesses. Patriotic flags from the American Legion along with patriotic banners will decorate East Williamson, Williamson, and Pultneyville!

The bicentennial kick-off event began with a celebration of the unity and diversity in our community. We also recognized the Dutch heritage and the men who have given their lives while serving our country that we might continue to be free.

Apple Blossom will be our next event to which planners have dedicated much time for a memorable birthday celebration. Thursday evening will be the Kiddie Parade, Friday evening street dancing with Jam-N-Stam and Saturday our Bicentennial Parade will boast bands, floats, and entertainment. Following the parade will be grandstand entertainment along with a street dance featuring the 5 piece Smokehouse Band (famous from the

# NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS

Release of certain student information

Under the No Child Left Behind Act

Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, Williamson Central School District must disclose to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, upon request, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of high school students. The District must also notify parents of their rights and the right of their child to request that the District not release such information without prior consent.

Parents wishing to exercise their option to withhold their consent to the release of the above information to military recruiters and institutions of higher learning must sign and return the form below to the District Office by April 25, 2002.

Reservation of consent for the release of certain student  
Information under the No Child Left Behind Act

Please do not release the name, address and telephone number of  
\_\_\_\_\_ to military recruiters and  
(Name of Student)  
institutions of higher learning.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

Please return to Williamson Central School, District Office,  
PO Box 900, Williamson, New York 14589



## Class of 2005

Chuck Monsees and Cindi Ferraro, Advisors

Summer 2001—class picnic at advisor’s home

Established a banner to be used through all four years. Each time we do something as a class, participants will be asked to sign the banner. At the end of four years we hope to have a pictorial record of our activities. Other activities this year have included the following:

- Class election
- Service project – collected school supplies for distribution to Elementary School
- Participated in the Hall decorating contest
- Ran a Christmas poinsettia sale
- Participated in the Food Gladiator contest
- Will run a spring plant sale

## National Honor Society

Chuck Monsees, Advisor

Conducted Installation ceremony

Old members hosted a spaghetti supper for new members and all parents. Had a representative of the Come-unity Center as a speaker.

Planned and orchestrated the Food Gladiator contest held during our February Pep Rally - Raised food for the needy and had a good time in the process

Number of members volunteered to serve as telephone mentors to Elementary School students.

Ran a book fair for the High School

Participated in running a raffle for the park

Each member has to submit a description of his or her service time for compilation into a NHS service report.

## Yearbook 2002

Cindi Ferraro and Lin Locklear, Advisors

The sections of the yearbook already turned in to the printing company were submitted on time. Dean Ganskop is continuing to be irreplaceable as the computer entry expert and Tish Baxter works almost every day in some capacity. The ads, spring sports and the school play are the parts yet to be done but all should be finished by the March 25<sup>th</sup> deadline. The book sales have been steady and we are all looking forward to seeing the 2002 yearbook in June.

## Spanish Club

Kathy Johnson, Advisor

The Spanish Club has been active this year. The club is open

# HIGH SCHOOL

to all students who are currently enrolled in Spanish classes. We have had nine club meetings so far this year. Jenny DeVille and Claire Williams are co-treasurers. In the fall, we completed a successful fund-raising program with a brochure sale and sales of the Entertainment books. (Over 300 sold)

The activities this year have included Christmas caroling at the Blossom View Nursing Home, a joint venture with French Club and the Student Council. This was our twelfth year to carol at the nursing home. Forty-five students participated in this outing.

Students sang Christmas carols in Spanish, French and English and distributed gifts to all of the residents. Other activities were Spanish games, cooking classes and crafts. In November the students made “Day of the Dead” skulls and puppets to commemorate All Souls Day as it is celebrated in Mexico. Another highlight was the Valentine’s Party in February. Each year, stuffed animals and gifts are purchased at a discount for the next year. In order to “win” a prize, students compete in Spanish language games and a raffle. No one goes home empty handed!!!!

Looking ahead, students will make Tee shirts and learn to play Spanish card games. In the spring, we will enjoy a dinner out at a foreign restaurant. Students enjoy Spanish Club because it allows them to partake in activities that supplement our class learning and that are fun! As a teacher, it is heartening for me to see the older students “teaching” the younger ones verb forms and/or vocabulary words that we use in activities and games. It shows me that they really listen. WOW!

## French Club

Linda Shepard, Advisor

In the fall, French Club had a fund-raiser. They sold flower bulbs, garden supplies and chocolates. The money earned is used for club as well as some class activities.

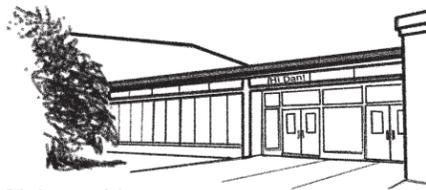
In December, the French Club along with Spanish Club traveled to Blossomview Nursing Home to sing Christmas carols in French, Spanish and English to entertain the residents during the holiday season. Kyla Quinn played piano and David Raillon dressed up as Santa. After singing, they then helped deliver gifts to the residents. This was an interesting experience for some because they had never visited a nursing home before.

In February, French Club members helped to organize the Mardi Gras dance with the Student Council. They decorated the gym, sold glow-in-the-dark necklaces and beads and served refreshments. The dance was well attended.

Also in February, French classes celebrated Mardi Gras in classes. Students made masks and paper jesters, learned about Cajun culture and celebrated by making and eating crêpes in class. These activities were supported by student donations of food and some French Club funds for the food and activity materials.

In June, the French Club plans to go to a restaurant to enjoy a French dinner. Throughout the year, the French club has monthly meetings. At these meetings they have celebrated French holidays, learned French dances, played games and tasted different French food.

# HIGH SCHOOL



## Williamson Parent, Teacher, Student Association



Dan Starr,  
High School Principal

### SADD

Christine B. Stephens, Advisor

After a two-year hiatus, the students have been offered an opportunity to join this group and get the message out about making sound decisions.

The national group is now calling themselves Students Against Destructive Decisions, and has incorporated into their theme the message of resisting drug usage as well as alcohol usage.

Students were supportive during Red Ribbon Week in October and Mike Sheehee from Stop DWI was supportive. His group donated ribbons and buttons. A banner was purchased with SADD funds and students signed this banner as a pledge to not make destructive decisions. The banner was displayed in the front of the building by the office.

Perhaps because this group has not been active for two years, combined with the fact that the middle school group disbanded any attempts to have a cohesive club have been unsuccessful. Random students have asked about sponsoring a basketball night, which had been a tradition for the SADD group but at this point no students have shown a desire to keep a SADD group going.

It is my desire to have this basketball night in late April, with the idea of doing a campaign to solicit students to commit to this group. A sign up table at the activity will be manned. Perhaps, then we can continue with this group.

### Varsity Club Update

Jim Newby, Kate Taylor, Advisors

In order to become a Varsity Club Member they must have 4 Varsity letters and be voted in by existing members.

The following summaries were submitted by the advisors of the various clubs and classes in the High School. This report is dedicated to their efforts to provide many of the fun and memorable experiences that make Williamson a special place.

Their time and energy is appreciated as they provide many of the fun and memorable experiences that make Williamson a special place!

Functions or services that Club provides:

- Sponsors spring athletic dinner –banquet
- Sponsors MVP Awards for athletes at spring sports awards
- Volunteer help with Faculty and Staff
- Annually provides scorekeepers for basketball games in the adult WTYC League.
- Sponsors coaches to attend Wayne County Athletic banquet.
- Volunteers sold tickets to help raise money for Williamson Town Park.

### Class Of 2002

Sue Merriett and Joe Weinschreider, Advisors

The Senior Class started the year off with the annual Magazine and Newspaper Subscription Campaign. This gave students the opportunity to earn more money for their class dues and the senior trip. Students that actively participated were able to substantially reduce their senior year financial obligations.

We are currently tending to the myriad of details involved with taking 61 seniors to Florida in April for their senior trip. Students are anticipating a fun and exciting trip to Disney's MGM Studios and Epcot along with Universal Studios.

In the final months of the senior year, activities will include Class Night and a trip to Darien Lake, all culminating with Graduation in June.

### Class of 2003

Cathy Blakey, Kevin Delehanty, Advisors

Completed:

- ÿ Antique Sale
- ÿ Concessions at Boys Basketball Home Games
- ÿ Pizza Sale
- ÿ Wolfgang Chocolates and Cheesecakes Sale

Yet to come:

- ÿ IGA Supermarket Run
- ÿ Prom

### CLASS OF 2004

Rosanne Barone and Steve Murphy, Advisors

OFFICERS:

President - Tim Dickinson  
Vice-President - Ryan Greaney

Secretary - Lindsay O' Neil  
Treasurer - Serenity Carlyle

FUND-RAISERS:

- November 2001 Harvest Sale--Sold locally grown potatoes and onions
- June 2002 Car Wash

COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

- Easter Egg Hunt for grades K-2 March 23, 2002

What we are about...

A group of parent/teacher/student volunteers working for the betterment of the Williamson School District. We travel that volunteer path together with our children in mind.

Where is the path taking us...

Our local PTSA sponsors a number of activities here in Williamson. For some of these programs, we provide volunteers only, while others get a monetary contribution, and some are run entirely by PTSA. Did you realize that any activities held on school property must have insurance coverage through the organization? PTSA provides insurance coverage for some of these activities.

Below is a list of some of the activities that your PTSA has some involvement in...

- 5/6 Grades and 7/8 Grades Activity Nights
- Arts and Education programs at all 3 buildings
- Hospitality at all 3 buildings
- Roller Skating Parties
- Staff Appreciation in all 3 buildings
- Project Graduation
- School volunteers in the publishing center
- High School Freshmen Orientation
- Open Houses at all 3 buildings
- Book Fairs
- K-12 Learning Fair
- Reading Incentive Program
- Honor Roll Ribbons
- The Dance Program
- 4th Grade Farewell
- 8th Grade Dinner Dance
- Big Pumpkin Day

Some of you may ask...How are the PTSA membership dues utilized on both a local and state/federal level? Local membership dues pay for tax exempt status and liability insurance. PTSA members can vote for the executive board members that represent the school District. When it comes time for a vote on the strategic plan for the District, only paid PTSA members may cast a vote. This gives parents a hand in decision making.

Dues for the state/federal level help pay for state/national awards which may include student scholarships. It also gives our PTSA voting privileges at council meetings. At these meetings, priorities are set for the following year to go to the legislature. Part of our dues also go to the state/federal PTSA to support lobbying necessary for the betterment of our children's education.

What you can do to help us along the path...

1. VOLUNTEER  
We are always looking for volunteers for our activities and programs.
2. Attend a PTSA meeting. Our meetings are open to the public and are held bimonthly at the middle school at 7:00 PM. We would love to invite you to join us.
3. Run for PTSA Executive Board. All positions on the board (President, Executive Vice President, Vice President Elementary School, Vice President Middle School, Vice President High School, Treasurer, Secretary) are up for reelection. Anyone interested in any of the positions can submit: name, address, phone number to Jill Andrews, 589-5047 by April 20, 2002. The election will be held at our regularly scheduled May meeting.
4. For anyone interested in further information regarding your PTSA you may contact...  
President - Darlene Frank, 589-2714  
Executive Vice President - Cathie Abdunnasir, 589-8775

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU....THANK YOU

## From the CSE Office...

by Wanda Miller

### Annual Reviews

It is that time again for Annual Reviews! We encourage you to be an active member of your child's educational planning. We know that children benefit more from their education if their parents are involved and well informed. As a team member, you are encouraged to contact your child's teacher with any questions, concerns and of course improvements, you are seeing.

This process can be complicated. Please feel free to contact us here at CSE if we can be of help or to get more information. We have put together a schedule of the dates for Annual Reviews. If you need more specific information as to when your child's review is scheduled, please don't hesitate to contact us. You will be receiving two letters before your child's meeting to inform you of the date, time and location of your meeting.

Again this year, we are doing some of the annual reviews in subcommittee settings. You will receive a letter informing you of that option if your child's teacher has requested a subcommittee meeting.

Please keep in mind that this schedule is subject to change. There are many different parties that must be accommodated to have these meetings, so dates do change. Please remember that you can call us to reschedule if the date scheduled for your child is of concern. We will do our best to find a date that will work.

### Camp Information

We have been receiving information for various summer camp programs that are available for children with special needs.

The Williamson Rotary Club is one of several Rotary Clubs in this area which support Camp Onseyawa, a two-week summer camp for children with disabilities. The children must be between the ages of nine and sixteen years old. The camp is held at Camp Babcock-Hovey, a Boy Scout camp near Ovid, New York.

A fully qualified staff, including medical personnel, waterfront staff, counselors, dieticians, and recreation leaders take expert care of the campers, providing a respite for parents and families who can be assured that their child is having a wonderful time and is in capable hands.

There is no charge to the campers or their families as the camp is fully supported by the Rotary Clubs.

This year's camp will begin on August 10, 2002, and continue until August 24, 2002. Campers may attend for one week. The first week, with campers in attendance from August 11-15, is a more active camp, and the second week, which cares for campers with great custodial needs and is a slower-paced camp, will have campers in attendance from August 17-23.

Some of the other camps available are:  
Camp Whitman, Dresden, NY

Learning Disabilities Association of the Genesee Valley  
Rochester, NY

For more information on these camps, for an application, please contact our office.



Wanda Miller  
Committee on Special Education, Director



Norlyn Legler,  
Assistant Middle and High  
School Principal

### Middle School 8th Graders Repeat Skills Competition Win!

On Thursday, March 21, 2002 forty-four students from the Williamson Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade class attended the Wayne Technical and Career Center Middle School Skills Competition. Schools from all over Wayne County participate in the competition. This was the second year that students from the Middle School have taken part in this exciting event. Students learn about the types of workshops offered by the Career Center through their grade 8 classes. Interested students are then chosen to attend the workshops on topics such as carpentry, computer drafting/CAD, logo design, criminal investigation, circuit assembly, culinary arts, hair and nail artistry, dog grooming, and Microsoft Publisher applications.

At the Career Center students receive instruction in their particular skill and then are judged, Olympic style, on the performance of the skill. There is a culminating awards ceremony where students receive recognition for scoring in first, second and third places against their peers in the performance tasks. There is a final overall winner determined by a point scoring system. For the second year in a row Williamson Middle School placed first in the overall competition! They have been awarded a plaque to commemorate their win as well as an impressive trophy to display for a year until the next competition. Congratulations are due to all those 8<sup>th</sup> graders who participated in this event with the kind of spirit and enthusiasm which is the hallmark of our fine school.



### The 504 Plan

In education, more often than not, the practical sense of the term 504 is misunderstood. The Williamson Central School District is committed to giving all students an appropriate education. What this means is that all teachers and administrators must provide instructional and environmental accommodations for the 504 plan students, but that the curriculum is the same for all students.

What is a 504 plan? It is a planned program of instructional services to assist students with special needs who are in a regular education setting. A 504 plan is a legal document falling under the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The main goal of a 504 is to ensure that all students classified as disabled under 504 receive a free, appropriate public education (FAPE).

What is the process for placing a student on a 504 plan? There are basically four steps. First, a student is referred by a teacher, support staff, parent/legal guardian, physician, or therapist. Second, a 504 plan meeting is held. Third, a plan is developed for the student. Fourth, a review date is put in place for the 504 plan. Lastly, the Williamson Central School District is responsible to implement the designated accommodations and strategies on the plan to meet the needs of the student.

### What Do We Know About Reading?

We know that the central purpose of reading is to gain meaning from print. For many years there have been different definitions and teaching approaches developed for students who experience difficulties in learning to read. It is essential to develop effective procedures for helping these students learn to read.

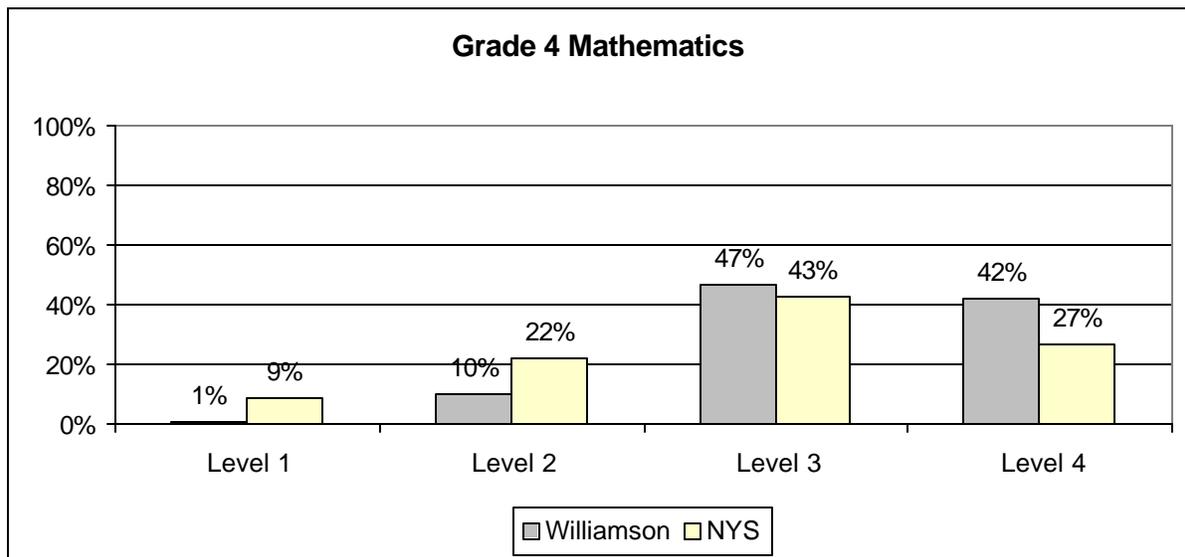
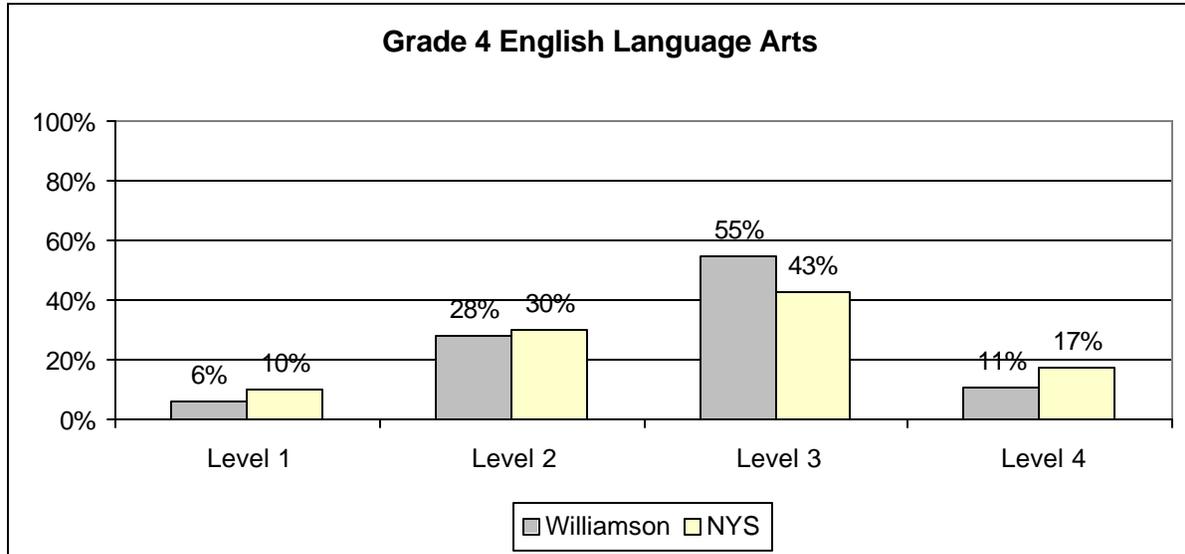
There may be many possible causes for different student's reading difficulties. Good diagnostic teaching provides an excellent pathway for helping teachers, the school and the parents identify and understand difficulties their student may be experiencing. We know that reading is an active process of constructing meaning. With that knowledge, encouragement is given to parents to try several of the following ways to help students.

### How can you help your child in reading?

- Parents can help their child study for tests.
- Have your child read a newspaper article and summarize for you. Guide them by asking who, what, when, where, why, and how.
- Ask your child what they are studying in social studies, science, math, etc. Have them explain what they have learned each week.
- Review the Dolch list of most common sight words with your child occasionally.
- Ask your child to explain to you the new phonics rules that he/she has learned. Together brainstorm a list of words that follow the rule.
- Be patient. This process will take time. The key to success in this program is that all skills are taught to the automatic level before moving on. While it may appear to you and/or your child that progress is slow, remember that this is necessary for success.
- Show your child that you value reading. Show him/her how it is necessary for your daily life at home and at your place of work.
- Encourage your child to read for pleasure. Help him/her find books that he/she is interested in.
- Read to your child. He/she is not too old. Even adults still enjoy being read to.

# WILLIAMSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPORT CARD

This page presents Williamson's results on the New York State exams given to all fourth graders. The results compare Williamson's performance against those of students across New York State.



**Level 4.** These students exceed the standards and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination.

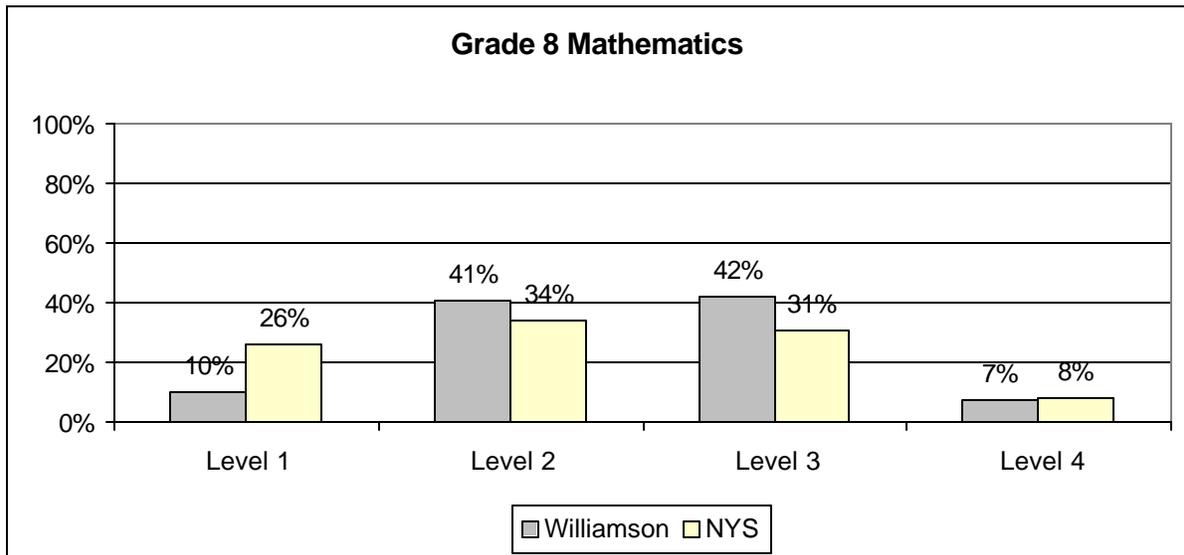
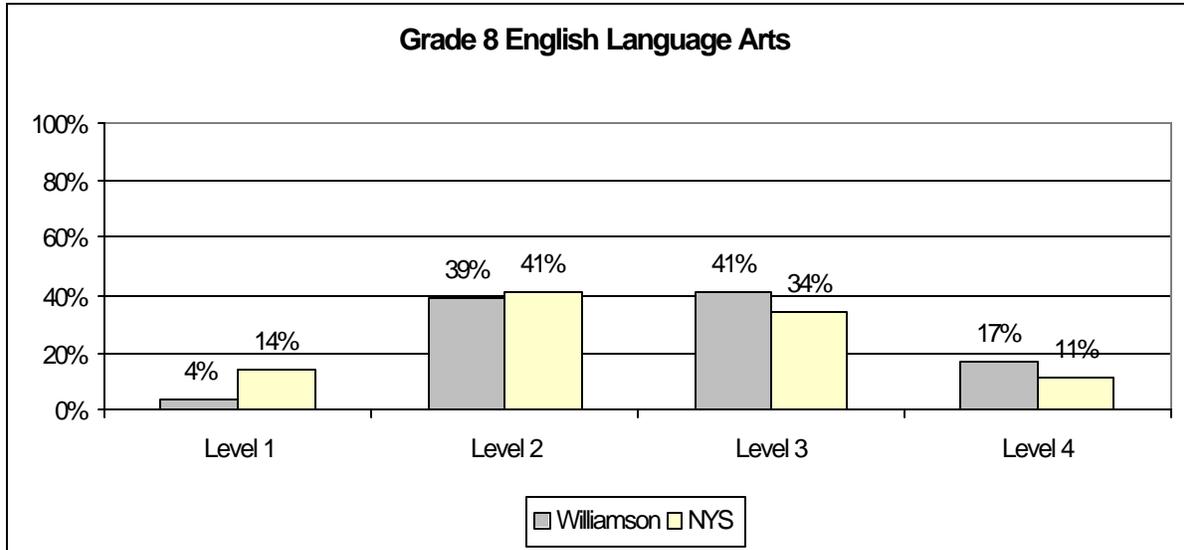
**Level 3.** These students meet the standards and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination.

**Level 2.** These students need extra help to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination.

**Level 1.** These students have serious academic deficiencies.

# WILLIAMSON MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT CARD

This page presents Williamson's results on the New York State exams given to all eighth graders. The results compare Williamson's performance against those of students across New York State.



**Level 4.** These students exceed the standards and are moving toward high performance on the Regents examination.

**Level 3.** These students meet the standards and, with continued steady growth, should pass the Regents examination.

**Level 2.** These students need extra help to meet the standards and pass the Regents examination.

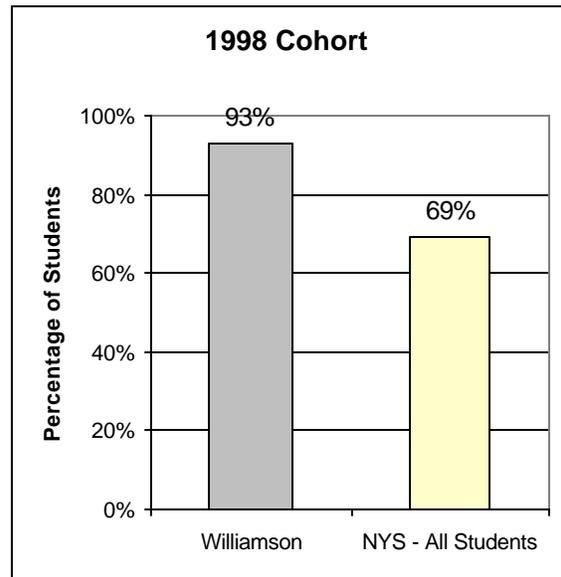
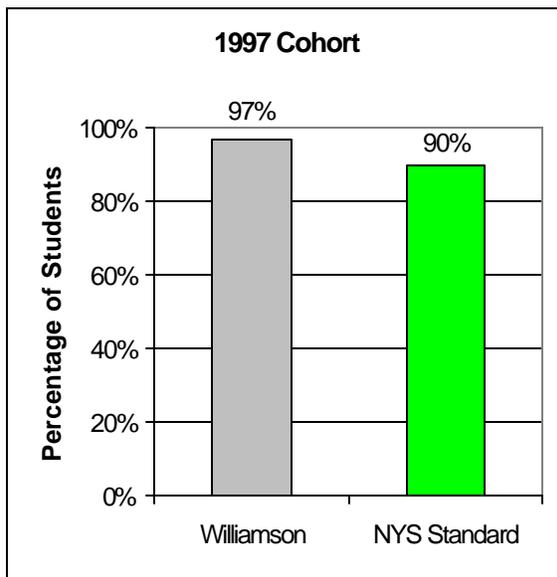
**Level 1.** These students have serious academic deficiencies.

# WILLIAMSON HIGH SCHOOL REPORT CARD

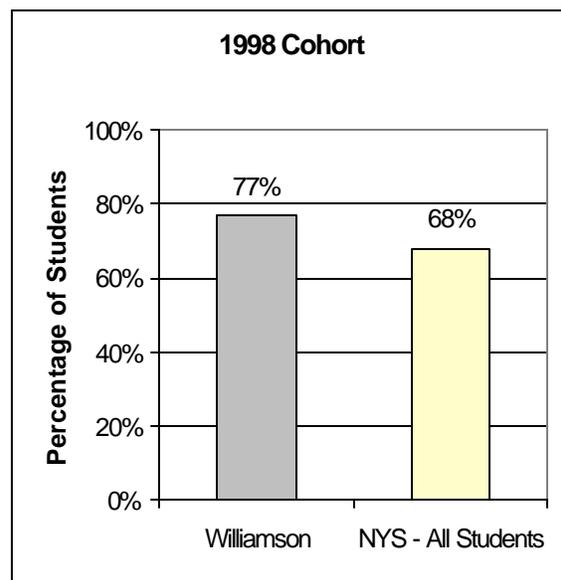
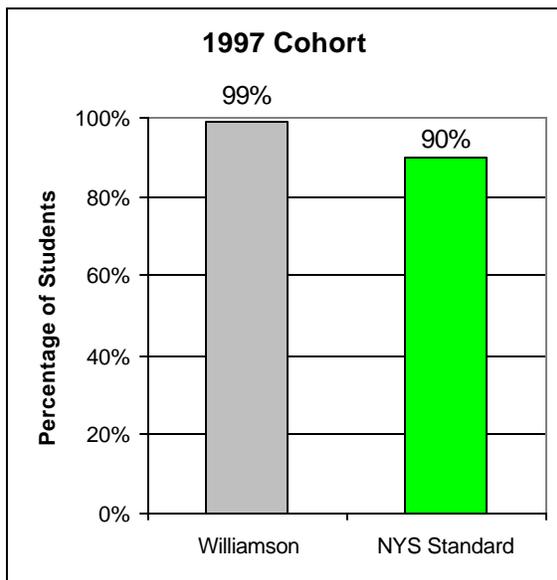
This section presents the success of students on Regents exams required for graduation. The Commissioner's standard is that 90 percent of the cohort meet the graduation requirements for English and Mathematics. Passing is defined as scoring 65 or higher, or earning approved alternative credit. The first graphs below represent success on the comprehensive English Regents and the second represent success on any Regents exam in Math.

The group of students represented as the 1997 Cohort first entered grade 9 in 1997-98. Their performance is compared to the New York State standard established by the Commissioner. The students in Cohort 1998 first entered grade 9 during the 1998-99 school year and are compared to all students in New York State public schools.

## Performance on English Regents



## Performance on Math Regents



# SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

The System of Accountability for Student Success (SASS) was initiated by the New York State Education Department as a way to monitor the success of students at each level toward meeting the State standards. The Performance Index is established by the Commissioner of Education each year.

At the elementary and middle school levels, the SASS is designed to monitor the students' progress toward meeting the standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics. At the high school level, it is targeted at students' progress in passing the required Regents exams.

In the 2000-2001 school year, Williamson students exceeded state standards in all areas measured.

	<b>State Standard</b>	<b>Williamson 2000-2001</b>
<b>Grade 4 ELA</b>	140	165
<b>Grade 4 Math</b>	140	188
<b>Grade 8 ELA</b>	140	159
<b>Grade 8 Math</b>	140	147
<b>English Graduation Requirements</b>	90	97
<b>Mathematics Graduation Requirements</b>	90	99
<b>Drop-Out Rate</b>	5.0%	3.4%

UPCOMING EVENTS

High School Music Notes

Lois Fiegl, Musical Director

The Musical production "Once Upon A Mattress" will be presented at the High School Auditorium on April 5 and 6. For ticket or reservation information contact the High School at 589-9621.

Williamson Senior High School

*Presents...*



nce

Upon A  
... Mattress

Music by MARY RODGERS  
Lyrics by MARSHAL BARER  
Book by JAY THOMPSON, DEAN FULLER, MARSHALL BARER

Friday, April 5, 2002  
Saturday, April 6, 2002  
High School Theatre – 7:30 PM

Tickets on sale March 18  
Available at High School – 589-9621

\$7.00 – reserved seating  
\$5.00 – open seating

UPCOMING EVENTS

Elementary School Music Notes

Christy Bryon, Musical Director

TREASURE ISLAND

a musical adaptation of the Robert Louis Stevenson Classic by Mary Donnelly & George L. O. Strid

Presented by Williamson Elementary School 3rd & 4th Grades Under the direction of Mrs. Christy Byron



Two Performances  
FRIDAY, APRIL 26 @ 7:00 P.M.  
SATURDAY, APRIL 27 @ 7:00 P.M.  
Middle School Auditorium  
(no assigned seating)

Adults – \$2.50

Students/children – \$1.00  
(tickets will be on s

Elementary School Main Office)