Watkins Glen Central School District

Messenger

November 2026

A message from the superintendent

Dear Watkins Glen School Community,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the beauty of another fall season in the Southern Finger Lakes. As we move further into the school year, I continue to be grateful for the support, partnership and pride that define the Watkins Glen Central School District. The commitment of our families, staff, students and community members creates opportunities for success both inside and outside the classroom, and we are fortunate to have such strong support for our schools.

A Great Start to 2026-27

It has been a wonderful start to the school year. Across both buildings, students are engaging in learning, pursuing their interests and making the most of the many opportunities available to them. Their efforts and accomplishments continue to make us proud. We are thankful for the dedicated staff members who support our students each day, as well as the families and community partners whose ongoing support strengthens our schools and helps our students thrive.

Maintaining and Improving Our Facilities

During the past several months, we have shared updates about the importance of maintaining our facilities and planning for the future of our schools. Those conversations have been guided by more than a year of facility assessments, financial analysis, long-range planning and stakeholder engagement. Our schools are among our community's most valuable assets and it is our responsibility to ensure they remain safe, functional and supportive learning environments for generations of students to come.

This December, district residents will have the opportunity to vote on a proposed Capital Improvement Project that addresses a variety of facility needs across the district. The proposal reflects extensive input from administrators, staff, families, community members and local stakeholders who participated in surveys, public meetings and ongoing discussions throughout the planning process. As a result, the project not only addresses important facility needs but also aligns with the priorities and values of the Watkins Glen community.

The proposed project focuses on preserving and enhancing our existing buildings through infrastructure upgrades, improvements to learning spaces, safety enhancements and heating and cooling system improvements. These investments are designed to address current needs while helping position our schools for the future. One aspect of this proposal that we are particularly proud of is that it reflects thoughtful planning and responsible financial stewardship. By taking advantage of state building aid and the district's long-term financial strategy, these improvements can be completed with no additional tax impact on local taxpayers.

A capital project is about more than bricks and mortar. It is about creating environments where students can learn, teachers can teach and our community can continue to take pride in its schools. It is also about honoring the feedback we have received from our stakeholders, protecting the investments made by previous generations and ensuring our facilities remain strong for those who will follow.

In the coming weeks, we will continue sharing information about the proposed project and opportunities for residents to ask questions. We invite community members to join us for a public information session on November 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Watkins Glen High School Auditorium, where we will review the project and answer questions. We also encourage all eligible residents to make their voices heard by participating in the public vote on December 15 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Room at Watkins Glen High School.

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Superintendent's message (cont'd)

Staying Connected

As always, we remain committed to keeping our school community informed and engaged. Please continue to follow district updates through our website, social media platforms and district communications. Staying connected helps ensure that families have the information they need and can participate in the many opportunities available throughout the year.

Gratitude for Our School Community

Thank you for the many ways you support our students, staff and schools throughout the year. The strength of Watkins Glen lies in a community that believes in its schools, celebrates student achievements and works together to create opportunities for every child.

As the winter season approaches, we wish you and your family health, happiness and time to enjoy all that makes this time of year special. We look forward to continuing our work together as we help our students thrive and proudly represent the Lake Hawk spirit.

Warm regards,

Kai D'Alleva

Kai D'Alleva
Superintendent of Schools
Watkins Glen Central School District

School hours

School	Start Time	End Time
Elementary	7:40 a.m.	2:45 p.m.
High School	7:40 a.m.	2:45 p.m.



Please note:

The official length of our district's school day is 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., as set by the Watkins Glen Central School District Board of Education.

Welcome new staff

We are pleased to announce the following staff who have joined the Watkins Glen CSD team:

Bryce Cade, Maintenance Mechanic Helper

Josie Carl, Senior Keyboard Specialist -Special Programs, Administrative Assistant to Jeremy Leroux

Chris Croft, Maintenance Mechanic Helper

Nikki Dominikoski, Grade 3 Teacher

Kendra Shaw, Senior Keyboard Specialist - Elementary Student Services Secretary

Sarah Volino, Kindergarten Teacher

Kapral to lead athletics

As we prepare to say 'see ya later' to Erich Kramer and thank him for his strong commitment and service to our district, we are pleased to share that Nicholas (Nick) Kapral will be joining us as our Substitute Athletic Director as we navigate this leadership transition.



Nick brings a tremendous amount of experience to the role. Throughout his career in the Corning-Painted Post Central School District, he has served as a Physical Education teacher, Athletic Manager, Athletic Director and Assistant Principal at the secondary level. His work in athletics and school leadership has given him a deep understanding of what it takes to support students, coaches, programs and families.

Recently retired, Nick comes to us highly recommended and with a reputation for building strong relationships and putting students first. His background and leadership experience make him an excellent fit for this role, and I am grateful that he has agreed to step in and support our district until further notice.

In addition to his professional experience, Nick has a strong connection to the Watkins Glen community. Both of his parents graduated from Watkins Glen High School, giving him a personal connection to our district and an appreciation for the pride and traditions that make this community so special.

We are fortunate to have someone with his experience joining our team during this transition and are confident he will be a tremendous asset to our student-athletes, coaches and school community.

District contact information

Watkins Glen Central School District prides itself on timely, efficient and effective communication. If you have any questions, suggestions, comments or concerns, please reference the guide below to reach out to the appropriate department and follow the chain of communication. If you prefer to reach out to the WGCSD staff member via email, please access our staff directory on the district website at: *https://www.wgcsd.org/staff*.

WATKINS GLEN
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
EST. 1863
303 12th Street, Watkins Glen NY, 14891 | Phone: 607-535-3219 | Fax: 607-535-4629

2026-2027 Communication Guide

My question is related to:	First Contact	Second Contact	Third Contact	Fourth Contact	Fifth Contact
Transportation & Busing	Transportation Secretary Magen Kingsley (607) 535-3270	Director of Transportation Michelle Clark (607) 535-3270	Superintendent Kai D'Alleva (607) 535-3219		
School & Classroom	Classroom Teacher Elementary: (607) 535-3250 High School: (607) 535-3210	ES Principal Jessica Reger (607) 535-3210	Superintendent: Kai D'Alleva (607) 535-3220 HS Principal: Marcy Brubaker (607) 535-3210		
Special Services	ClassroomTeacher Elementary: (607) 535-3250 High School: (607) 535-3211	Case Manager: ES: (607) 535-3250 HS: (607) 535-3210	CSE Chair: Amy Miller (607) 535-3254	Director of Special Programs Jeremy Leroux (607) 535-3219	Superintendent Kai D'Alleva (607) 535-3220
Counseling	School Counselor: ES PK-2: Christin Bresett ES 3-6: Patrice Theetge (607) 535-3250 HS: Antonella Purpura HS: Traci Hartke (607) 535-3210	ES Staff Social Worker Hannah Stanton (607) 535-3250 DW Staff Social Worker Rose Luce (607) 535-3219	ES Principal: Jessica Reger (607) 535-3250 HS Principal: Marcy Brubaker (607) 535-3210	Superintendent Kai D'Alleva (607) 535-3220	
Health	Health Office ES: Wendy Hatch (607) 535-3250 HS: Jennifer Janowski (607) 535-3212	Heath Office RN Jocelyn Moglia 607-535-3210			
Attendance	Attendance Clerk ES:Kendra Shaw (607)535-3250 HS: Terri Bierline (607) 535-3210	ES Disciplinarian Alicia Learn (607) 535-3250 HS Dean of Students: Rebecca Ross (607) 535-3210	ES Principal: Jessica Reger (607)535-3250 HS Principal: MarcyBrubaker (607) 535-3210		
Athletics	Coach Athletics Office (607) 535-3280	Athletic Director: Nick Kapral (607) 535-3224	Superintendent Kai D'Alleva 607-535-3220		
Food Service	Cooks: ES: Liz Thompson (607) 535-3256 HS: Trina Stansfield (607) 535-3214	Food Service Manager TBD Assistant: Melissa Merrill (607) 535-3214	Superintendent Kai D'Alleva (607) 535-3220		
Technology Student Help Desk	studenthelpdesk@wgcsd.org (607) 535-3203	Technology Office Secretary: Nancy Bradascio (607) 535-3222	Director of Technology Melanie Chandler (607) 535-3222		

School meal information

For the 2026-27 school year, ALL students in the Watkins Glen Central School District will receive free breakfast and lunch through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program.

This program ensures that students are fueled and ready to learn. Every student will receive a well-balanced breakfast and lunch daily that includes whole grains, protein, vegetables, fruit and milk, with all costs covered by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Although meals are free for all students this year, parents are urged to complete the free or reduced-price meal application. The information obtained from that form helps the district secure additional state and federal funding.

Meal Prices

Breakfast: Pre-K through grade 6	FREE
Lunch: Pre-K through grade 6	FREE
Breakfast: grades 7-12	FREE
Lunch: grades 7-12	FREE

Pay for your child's extras online with *SchoolPay*

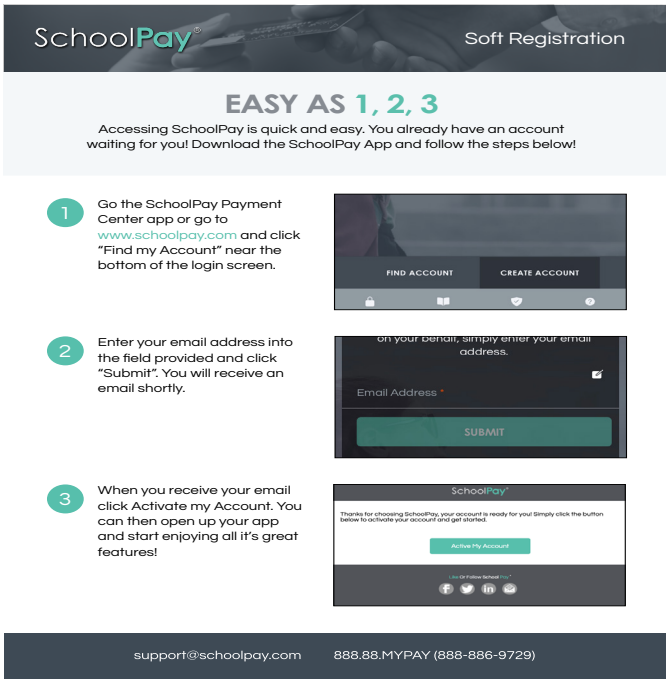
Although meals are free for all students in Pre-K through grade 12, pre-payment is available for extras such as desserts and double lunches to be purchased on student *SchoolPay* accounts.

With *SchoolPay*, you can:

- Create an account specific to you and your students
- Make payments for all of your students at the district, even if they attend different schools
- Make one-time payments to your student's lunch account, review cafeteria purchase history and configure a low balance action to notify you or process an automatic payment when the balance is low
- Store a credit/debit card in your account for later use
- Pay for other school-related items
- View a history of all payments made through your *SchoolPay* account.

If you have not set up a *SchoolPay* account, simply go to *https://www.schoolpay.com* to get started.

Directions on how to activate your account are below. Multiple parents, guardians and grandparents are able to create their own *SchoolPay* accounts for the same student. Payment data and other sensitive account information is never shared across parent/guardian accounts. If you have questions, you may call *SchoolPay* at 888-886-9729 or e-mail support@schoolpay.com.



Making a difference, one mile at a time

Our National Honor Society students have adopted a highway. On October 14, they collected five extra-large bags of garbage in less than two hours.



We're proud of these amazing students for giving their time and energy to help keep our roads clean.

They'll be out at least two more times this year and will share the dates ahead of time.

Please stay alert, slow down, and use extra caution when passing our students as they work along the roadside. Let's help keep them safe while they help keep our community beautiful.



NHS welcomes 12 members

The National Honor Society (NHS) proudly welcomed 12 new members – three seniors and nine juniors – into the National Honor Society on October 26 at the annual induction ceremony.

Current NHS members outdid themselves by planning and setting up the ceremony and writing thoughtful speeches recognizing each inductee and highlighting the four pillars of NHS: Service, Scholarship, Leadership and Character. Their hard work made the evening personal and memorable.

Membership reflects more than academic achievement. To apply, students must earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.7 by their junior or senior year, complete an extensive application outlining their community service and leadership roles, interview with current members and be assessed by five anonymous staff members.

Once inducted, members must maintain a GPA of 3.7 or higher through graduation, complete two community service hours a month on their own, participate in group community service projects, and continue demonstrating good character and leadership.

Thank you to our current members for leading by example and congratulations to the following new inductees:

Kristofer Burke
Kassitie Clugstone
Emma Dean
Paige Ells
Amy Field
Chloe Green
Benjamin Henry
Anjelica Kniazeva
Xuanru Li
Amelia Moskal
Luke Palmer
Ellery Thaete

We are proud of your accomplishments and the positive difference you make in our school and community!



Unity Day 2026

On October 21, we celebrated Unity Day. The halls were filled with students and staff wearing orange to show that bullying is not acceptable and that everyone deserves to feel safe, valued and included. They also left their mark displaying how they make our school and the world a kinder place.

At WGCSD, on Unity Day and every day, "We Stand Together – Walking Towards a Kinder Tomorrow!"



Homecoming 2026



Congratulations to 2026 Homecoming King Caydin Lagramada, Queen Natalie VanSkiver and the Homecoming Court (left to right): Lillian Youmans, Isaac Hendrickson, Josh Powers, Bailey Viehdeffer, Jax Decker and Alannah Klemann.

Board appreciation

School Board Appreciation Week was held October 12-16. This week is an opportunity to highlight the crucial role of board members within the school community and recognize them for their efforts and commitment to education.

Special thank you to our WGCSD Board of Education members: President Keith Caslin, Chad Hendrickson, Tracey VanSkiver, Barbara Schimizzi, Joe Stansfield, Theresa Butler and Astra Titus.

Anti-discrimination policy

The district does not discriminate in employment or in the educational programs and activities which it operates on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, religion, race or disability in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and New York State Human Rights Law.



A copy of the acts and the regulations upon which this notice is based can be found on the school district website at *https://5il.co/1rgjn*. Copies also can be obtained by contacting the school. Kai D'Alleva is the Equality and Title IX coordinator. Please call the Special Services office to get help related to 504s and IDEA compliance. Inquiries concerning the nondiscriminatory policy may be made to: Director, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Digital equity survey

New York State requires all districts to collect information about students' access to devices and the internet at home. Families are asked to complete a brief survey to help identify technology needs and ensure all students have equitable access to digital learning.

District phone numbers

District Office	607-535-3219
High School	607-535-3210
High School Health Office	607-535-3212
Elementary School	607-535-3250
Elementary School Health Office	607-525-3252
Director of Special Programs	607-535-3254
Athletic Office	607-535-3280
Food Services Office	607-535-3214
Transportation	607-535-3270

Sexual harassment policy

It is the policy of the district that all employees and students have a right to work or study in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of gender or sexual orientation, which encompasses freedom from sexual harassment.

The district strongly disapproves of sexual harassment of its employees or students in any form, and states that all employees, as well as students, at all levels of the district must avoid offensive or inappropriate sexual or sexually harassing behavior at school, on school grounds, at school functions and on school transportation, and will be held responsible for ensuring that the workplace or academic environment is free from sexual harassment.

Specifically, the district prohibits the following:

- Unwelcome sexual advances;
- Requests for sexual favors, whether or not accompanied by promises or threats with regard to the student-teacher, student-student or employment relationship;
- Other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature made to any employee or student that may threaten or insinuate either explicitly or implicitly that any person's submission to or rejection of sexual advances will in any way influence any decision regarding that person's employment, evaluation, wages, advancement, assigned duties, shifts, academic performance or any other condition of employment, academic or career development;
- Any verbal or physical conduct that has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a person's ability to perform the individual's duties;
- Any verbal or physical conduct that has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment.

Such conduct may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal or suspension from instruction.

The district will endeavor to investigate all complaints as expeditiously and as professionally as possible. Where investigations confirm the allegations, appropriate corrective action will be taken. There will be no retaliation against employees or students for reporting sexual harassment or assisting the district in the investigation of a complaint.

Coordination of sexual harassment complaints is done through the Title IX Coordinator Kai D'Alleva at kdalleva@wgcsd.org or 607-535-3224.

Protection of pupil rights

The district has adopted a policy entitled "Protection of Pupil Rights Policy" covering student participation in student surveys, parental rights to inspect instructional materials and the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information.

Parents also shall have the ability to opt the student out of any non-emergency invasive physical examination conducted by the school.

Copies of the full text of the policy are available at the district office.

Athletic scheduling: *Aktivate*

WG Athletics uses Aktivate to keep families up to date on all sports season schedules. Live time updates happen as soon as changes are made and are viewable to the community at *https://www.schedulegalaxy.com/schools/179*

We encourage all families to download the free app: Watkins Glen - ScheduleGalaxy to your phone from the android or apple app stores.

District eligibility policy

The district eligibility policy for athletes can be found in the athletic handbook on page 7 and in Appendix A. Parents access and sign-off on this through *FinalForms*. The handbook also is available on the district website.

The eligibility policy is in effect for all students in grades 7-12 who receive an unsatisfactory or incomplete grade in one or more subjects at the end of any marking period. Students are then be required to attend the after-school tutoring program. Students who attend the required after-school tutor program sessions each week for the entire marking period may remain eligible to participate in athletics and attend extracurricular activities.

A student will become ineligible to participate only if they do not follow the procedures meant to support academics and/or remains on the academic support list for two consecutive marking periods.

Updating annual school forms

WG Athletic Department uses *FinalForms* for all interscholastic sports sign-ups. Students will need an up-to-date sports physical and all athletic forms must be signed by caregivers and the student athlete before a student is allowed to participate in practices or in games. Please call 607-525-3280 with all questions regarding FinalForms or athletics.

99th Annual Alumni Banquet

The 99th annual Alumni Banquet was held on June 27 at the Watkins Glen Community Center with 193 dinners served to attendees including alumni and spouses, scholarship recipients and their families and 2026 Distinguished Alumni Chuck Franzese and his family.

Honored as our most esteemed alumni were Junior Specchio, Joyce Mickel Laviola from the class of 1949, Warda Edsall 1951, Sylvia Waite and Ken Depew 1956, and Stephen Hoare, Judy Phillips and Ralph Vedder from the class of 1958. Recognition was given to Linda Knapp McIntyre for our logo, Maggie Field for maintaining our webpage, Patti Schimizzi for maintaining our Facebook, Dennis Morris as scholarship committee chair and individual class contacts for reaching out to classmates with banquet information.

Rachel Vickio, Marcus DeLong, Leland Cole and Owen Moskal were each awarded a $1,500 scholarship. Natalee Oliver received a $2,000 scholarship in memory of Jean Argetsinger donated by her granddaughter Bree Argetsinger. Caleb Bresett was awarded a $2,000 scholarship funded by alumni Steve and Angela Foster Bierline in memory of longtime bus driver Judy Pearce.

Chuck Franzese, 2026 Distinguished Alumni, was recognized in the fields of Engineering and Community Service. His accomplishments with Hunt Engineers began in 1981 and continued until his retirement in 2016. He managed Hunt's municipal engineering practice and was actively involved in the design and project management of public water and wastewater treatment projects, drainage studies and the development of parks and pedestrian ways, consulting for municipalities in NY and PA. Chuck also was involved in numerous projects throughout Schuyler County including the Stone Breakwater protecting Seneca Harbor Park, additions and improvements to the Watkins Glen Central School Campus, the Catherine Valley Trail and numerous bridge replacements.

In addition, Chuck is well known for his efforts on behalf of St. Mary's of the Lake Church and the Watkins Glen Elks Club. Some good natured roasting occurred with his portrayal of Evil Eye Fleagle from the program of the Class of 1966's production of "Lil' Abner picturing him as "five-feet-four of menacing manhood."

Photos and memorabilia from yearbooks and past banquets were shown on the big screen and we welcomed H. Alex Stiles from *allstylesproduction.com* as our event photographer. Photos are available for download on our website.

Special thanks to Bobby Decker and Bleachers for an outstanding meal and to our board of directors for all their work to continue the long-standing tradition of the Watkins Glen High School Alumni Banquet.

President Peggy Scott '70

Upcoming events

November

2	Board of Education Meeting
1-6	ES Fall Book Fair
4	Open Dub G Market, 3-5:30 p.m.
5	Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-7 p.m.
6	No School: Parent/Teacher Conferences
9	Senior Picture Makeup Day
10	Veteran's Day Celebration, 9:30 a.m.
	PTO Hey Day Festival, 5-7 p.m.
11	No School: Veterans Day
14	Coaches CPR/FA Recertification
16	JV/Varsity Winter Sports Begin
16-20	Senior Trip
18	Open Dub G Market, 3-5:30 p.m.
20	Early Dismissal for Students, 11:25 a.m.
	Staff PD Day
	Senor High Area All-State, Bath CSD
25-27	No School: Thanksgiving Recess

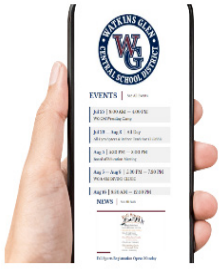
December

2	Open Dub G market, 3-5:30 p.m.
5	Sport Teams Kids' Night Out
7	Board Of Education Meeting
8	HS Winter Concert
9	PTO Meeting, 3 p.m.
11	ES PTO Kids' Night Out
15	Grades 4-6 Winter Concert
16	Open Dub G Market, 3-5:30 p.m.
17	Grades 1-3 Winter Concert
18	PreK Winter Concert
23	Early Dismissal for Students and Staff, 11:25 a.m.
24- 1/1	Winter Recess

Stay up to date

For the latest information and news within our school district, visit our website at: *https://www.wgcsd.org*.

You also can download our NEW official Watkins Glen School District free app. Search "Watkins Glen CSD" on Apple or Android app stores.



Are you connected?

The Watkins Glen Central School District offers the *SchoolTool* Parent Portal to link parents and schools together via the Internet. Parents log in securely to view their child's academic, attendance, immunization and discipline records, can e-mail their child's teacher and keep track of the amount of money in their child's school lunch account.

Parents can access the portal from the district website at *https://www.wgcsd.org/parent resources.cfm*. To take advantage of this link, parents need to be a registered user with an authorized password.

Registration is handled by the registrar. Parents may be asked to provide photo identification, such as a driver's license and a utility bill to verify their address.

If you would like to register, please contact the district office at 607-535-3219, ext. 1790.

WGCSD alerts

To support parents in their efforts to promote good attendance, the district uses WGCSD Alerts. This is an electronic communication tool used to promote school safety, as well as help parents know the current daily attendance status of their child. It automatically informs parents, via phone and/or e-mail, of their child's daily school/classroom absences and tardiness and allows the district to communicate quickly with all parents regarding closings and emergencies.

Emergency school closings

When weather or road conditions cause emergency closings of our schools, parents will be notified through WGCSD Alerts via their phone service. Also, the following radio and TV stations will make an announcement during their regular morning programs: WNKI, WPGI, WNGZ, WENY, WFLR, WGMM, WENY-TV 36, WETM-TV 18 and Spectrum TV News.

Generally, the decision to close schools for emergency reasons will be made prior to 6:30 a.m. If you do not hear a radio announcement of closing, please do not call the school or school officials.

If school is in session, but a parent determines that weather conditions are too hazardous to send his or her child to school, the district will excuse the student's absence.

Watkins Glen Central School District
303 12th Street • Watkins Glen, NY • 14891 607.535.3219
www.wgcsd.org