

Message From the Superintendent



Adam Stoltman
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Alden Families,

As we prepare for another exciting school year, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest students and families. A special welcome goes to the Class of 2039, who will begin their educational journey at Alden Primary School on September 1. Starting kindergarten is a memorable milestone, and we look forward to partnering with our newest families as we help our students learn, grow, and thrive. I would also like to welcome all students and families who are new to the Alden Central School District and our community. We are grateful you have chosen Alden and look forward to getting to know you throughout the school year.

As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, I also want to express my sincere gratitude to our District residents for their overwhelming support of the 2026-2027 school budget and associated propositions. Your continued investment in our schools reflects the strong partnership that exists between our community and the District. Together, we remain committed to providing exceptional educational opportunities while maintaining responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources.

Thanks to your support, we continue to make significant progress on Phase Two of our Foundation for the Future Capital Improvement Project. These improvements will enhance our learning environments for today's students while preparing our facilities to meet the needs of future generations. I encourage you to read the project update on page 3 to learn more about the exciting work taking place across our campus.

This fall also marks the implementation of Attendance Pro, a new Districtwide attendance communication platform designed to improve communication between our schools and families. Attendance Pro will provide a faster, more convenient way for families to report student absences and communicate directly with the school attendance office.

When a student is marked absent, the designated parent or guardian may receive a text message from the District's Attendance Pro assistant. Families can respond directly to the text, ask attendance-related questions, and even submit photos of parent or physician notes when appropriate. This updated system will streamline attendance communication across all Alden schools while improving efficiency for our staff and convenience for our families.

To ensure this system functions effectively, it is essential that we have current and accurate parent and guardian contact information on file. Each school building will be reaching out to families early this fall with instructions for reviewing and updating emergency and contact information in our student management system.

The beginning of a new school year always brings a sense of optimism and excitement. Our faculty, staff, and administrators have spent the summer preparing to welcome students back into classrooms that foster curiosity, creativity, and academic excellence. We remain committed to providing every student with a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment where they can achieve their full potential.

On behalf of the Alden Central School District Board of Education, faculty, staff, and administration, thank you for your continued trust and partnership. We look forward to another outstanding year together and cannot wait to welcome all of our students back to school on September 1.

Have a wonderful remainder of your summer, and Go Bulldogs!

Sincerely,

Adam Stoltman
Superintendent of Schools

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Alden Family Center Update

The Alden Family Center is closed during the summer months and will reopen in Fall 2026. The Center's focus during the 2025 – 2026 school year has been creating opportunities to connect individuals with community resources and to provide beneficial preventative and educational programming. As we look forward to the upcoming year, our intention is to continue responding to the needs of students and their families and to create wellness and learning initiatives that foster development and provide ongoing support. Please contact us for additional information by calling 716-937-9116 x 2158 or emailing mhoward@aldenschools.org

ALDEN FAMILY CENTER

Upcoming 2026-27 Programs - SAVE THE DATES

- ***Supporting Your Child Through Difficult Moments – October 2026***

Looking for some new ideas on how to address your child's difficult moments? Want to try some different learning strategies for responding to your child's challenging behaviors? During this program, you will become familiar with four supportive steps to help your child identify their feelings, learn healthy self-control, and reduce behavior concerns. Look for more information and registration starting in September.

- ***After-School Programming at the Intermediate School – October 2026***

This program is for students who would enjoy some socialization, skill building, and hands-on projects with peers. This will run once a week, after school starting in October. Registration for this program will begin in mid-September.

- ***Kids in the Kitchen – Fall 2026***

The Kids in the Kitchen program is designed to give children a strong foundation in nutrition, explore different food groups through interactive cooking sessions and learn essential kitchen skills. Look for registration for this unique program in the fall.

- ***Considerations and Strategies for Setting Children Up for Success with Dr. Meichenbaum – April 2027***

We are inviting Dr. Meichenbaum from the Summit Center to come next spring to share his experiences and insights on emotional regulation for children, and considerations and strategies for setting them up for success. Look for more information about this presentation later this year.

Family Programming

Be sure to look for the following family programs designed to bring families together for fun, connection, and meaningful experiences.

- ***Cards and Kindness Program – December 2026***
- ***Spring Reading Program – March 2027***
- ***Here Comes Summer Family Fair – May 2027***

Student Artists Recognized



At the June 3, 2026 Board of Education meeting, Alden Central Schools proudly recognized the newest inductees into the Superintendent's Permanent Art Collection. Honorees included Lydia B. (Grade 1), who created a beautiful watercolor seascape; Lucy F. (Grade 4), whose stunning depiction of the northern lights captivated viewers; Vivienne W. (Grade 8), who painted a series of detailed miniature mountain landscapes; Jessica B. (Grade 12), who crafted a delicate and expertly sculpted ceramic piece; and Kaylen J. (Grade 12), who painted a powerful and moving portrait of a veteran. This annual tradition continues to celebrate the exceptional creativity, talent, and dedication of our student artists.

These five outstanding students were selected not only for their remarkable artistic abilities, but also for their commitment to creative growth and the depth of meaning and symbolism evident in their work. Each piece demonstrated a level of sophistication and insight that exceeded expectations. In addition to their artistic achievements, the students were commended by their art teachers for their exemplary character. They consistently demonstrate perseverance, a strong work ethic, artistic curiosity, a willingness to support others, and a positive attitude—qualities that shine both in the art room and beyond. The evening served as a celebration of artistic excellence and a tribute to the personal growth and resilience of these young artists.

The Board of Education and those in attendance expressed sincere appreciation for the students' contributions and the lasting impact their work will have on the school community. Each inductee received a Certificate of Artistic Achievement from Superintendent Mr. Adam Stoltman and the Alden Central Schools Department of Art Education. Their artwork will now become a permanent part of the District's collection, inspiring future generations of Alden artists.

Foundation for the Future Update







Construction has started on Phase 2 of the 2024 Capital Improvements Project. In June, the Community Based Committee reconvened to hear an update on the Capital Project and the District's Long-Term Plan for its facilities.

Late this spring, we opened bids for Phase 2 of the Capital Project and had a great turnout from prospective contractors. We are pleased to announce that bids came in on budget, and we are able to move forward with the entire project as planned. This phase is the largest investment in our facilities in decades and will impact both visible spaces that everyone sees as well as mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems that are behind the scenes. Over the next two years, we will see the implementation of this work under the guidance of our construction management team. Work includes major infrastructure upgrades such as clocks, public address systems, fire alarms, generators, and phones at all of our buildings. Work will also include window replacements at the Intermediate and Middle School, the full renovation of the Intermediate School cafeteria and kitchen and Middle School library, and a new playground at the Primary School.

The first parts and pieces of this massive project will take place this summer, including the Primary School playground and some of the infrastructure work. The remainder of the work will continue during the school year and into next summer. Our administrative teams at each building have been working diligently with the construction team to mitigate any impacts to students and faculty.

As a whole, the project remains on schedule and under budget. Anticipated remaining funds are being added to Phase 3 of the project which is allowing us to complete additional window replacement, more extensive parking lot repairs, and other facilities needs. The plan is for the final phase of this Capital Project to be submitted to the New York State Education Department in November.

Additionally, we have wrapped up some maintenance work at the High School Aquatic Center. The pool was drained after the scholastic swim season this year to allow a deep cleaning of the pool and complete some additional work prior to expiring warranties. Our facilities team has built a maintenance program to keep our pool operational for years to come, which will involve draining and cleaning the pool every few years.

Finally, the New York State mandated Building Conditions Survey will be completed in 2026. These investigations are completed every five years and are used as part of our facilities evaluations and long-term planning process. We are hopeful for a positive report with all the work we have undertaken in the last decade. We look forward to sharing updates with the community as the project moves forward, and excited to have this work completed so that our students can continue to learn in state-of-the-art facilities. As always, we are appreciative of the community's support.

Creating Meaningful Opportunities

Alden's Extended School Year (ESY) program ran six weeks this July and August, providing students with meaningful opportunities to maintain and strengthen the academic, social, and functional skills they developed throughout the school year.

Throughout the summer, students participated in themed weeks featuring topics such as Science, Outer Space, Bugs, the Beach, and Let's Go Buffalo! During the first week, students explored the Wonders of Science through hands-on investigations of scientific phenomena led by teachers from across the District.

Students in the secondary classroom also planned, budgeted, and prepared healthy snacks for the program, building valuable life skills. In addition, they participated in a work-based learning program at the local Tops, where they gained vocational experience while developing independence, responsibility, and workplace skills in a real-world setting.

The ESY program provided a supportive and engaging environment where students continued to learn, build confidence, and prepare for a successful return to school in the fall.



Data Privacy & Security

The Alden Central School District is committed to protecting the privacy and security of student, teacher, and principal data. In accordance with New York Education Law § 2-d, the District wishes to inform the school community that the Parents Bill of Rights for Data Privacy and Security can be found on our website under the Technology Instruction Support Services section or by visiting this direct link: www.aldenschools.org/dataprivacy

ALDEN CSD TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

The Alden CSD Transportation Department uses BusRight to share bus assignments, pick-up and drop-off times, and other important information. All families ***MUST*** download the BusRight App.

WHY BusRight?

- Estimated arrival times
- Less waiting at the bus stop
- Notifications when bus is approaching
- Delay and route notifications

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store



Transportation Update

Our Transportation Department has been busy over the summer, servicing and cleaning the buses for the start of the 2026-27 school year. Our drivers and attendants return in late August for NYSED training.

To ensure the first day of school goes smoothly, please make sure you have submitted your Transportation Bus Request form. If we do not receive a form, your child(ren) will not be routed to a bus. You can find this form under the Transportation tab at the Alden CSD website, www.aldenschools.org. This form provides for an alternate location in the event you request transport to a daycare within the District, before or after school. A new form is required each year by July 20th, for each student.

As we have transitioned to the new BusRight routing software during the 2025-2026 school year, we will no longer send out mailers with your child(ren)'s bus information. Instead, you will see the bus information on your parent app. If your child(ren) are new to Alden this year, you will receive an invitation to the BusRight Parent App in the email that is linked to your child(ren) in our system. Please download this app to see your child(ren)'s bus assignment and bus arrival times.

Please help us make your child(ren)'s bus ride a safe and enjoyable part of their educational day at Alden Central Schools. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Kari Turner, Transportation Supervisor, Mrs. Charlene Ciccarelli, Transportation Clerk, or Ms. Julia Lathrop at 937-9116 ext. 4500.

BusRight Parent App Instructions

1. Download the app.
2. Sign up for an account, you will need to verify your email.
3. Log In to your account using the credentials you created.
4. View your child's routes.

Safe Swimming and Water Safety

New York State Department of Health has launched a public information campaign to keep youth safe when swimming, boating, and near waterways and school districts are being asked to share this important information with families.

Each year, hundreds of New Yorkers drown. It can happen to anyone, anywhere there is water. Drowning can occur quickly and silently. Someone drowning may appear to be splashing or waving when they are struggling to stay afloat. Reduce your risk. Learn basic swimming skills. Consider taking a CPR class. Rescue breathing, first aid, and calling 911 could save a life.

Here are a few important tips from the New York State Department of Health:

- Always swim with someone else and keep an eye on each other.
- Pay extra attention to your children around water.
- Consider your health. Medical conditions like a seizure disorder or heart condition can put people at greater risk of drowning.
- Avoid water that is greater than chest deep if you can't swim.
- Don't use alcohol or drugs if you plan to swim.
- Don't dive into water less than eight feet deep or of unknown depth.
- Pay attention to the weather and never swim during storms or lightning.
- The safest place to swim is at a public beach or at a pool with lifeguards.

Other safety reminders:

- Always keep little ones within arm's reach, even in the shallow end.
- Lifeguards and life jackets don't take the place of close adult supervision.
- Make sure your pool has a secure enclosure that makes it inaccessible to children.
- Germs can spread through water. Avoid getting sick by not swallowing water, and rinsing off before and after you swim. Never swim in cloudy or discolored water. Stay out of the water if you are sick with diarrhea, or if you have open cuts or wounds.
- When boating, always follow safe boating practices and wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved (I-III label) life jacket. Air-filled swimming aids, like water wings and floats, should never be used.

More Information from the New York State Department of Health can be found at: www.health.ny.gov/SwimSafe

Health Update

The nurses at Alden Central School District want to take this opportunity to remind you of important health requirements for the 2026-2027 school year. Please review the information below and reach out to the health office if you have any questions.

Health Exams (physicals) - New York State law requires a health examination for:

- All new entrants and students entering grades Pre-K or K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11;
- Every year for students participating in athletics (sports);
- For working papers as needed; or
- When required by the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE).

Immunizations (shots/vaccines):

- New York State law requires all students entering or attending (including remotely) any New York State school (public, nonpublic, and charter schools) to receive all doses of immunizations required for their grade level in order to attend school. The immunization requirements for each grade level are outlined on NYSDOH Immunization Requirements for School Entrance/Attendance Chart. Please confirm with your pediatrician that your child is up to date on all NYS immunization requirements prior to the start of school.
- A request for a medical exemption to an immunization must be completed annually on this form: Medical Exemption Statement for Children 0-18 Years of Age (ny.gov).

Medications (Prescribed, Over-The-Counter Medications, & Self-carry): While at school, if your child requires medications to be administered by the nurse or is a self-carry of their medication, the school must have the following:

- A written medication order by your child's healthcare provider (written attestation is also required for independent/self-carry students).
- Written parental/guardian consent
- Medications that are to be administered by the nurse must be brought to the school by an adult. The medications must be in their original labeled prescription or over-the-counter bottles/packaging. Any special supplies or equipment for the nurse to administer the medication must also be provided to the school.
- *Medication deemed to be a controlled substance may only be considered for self-carry at school in extremely rare circumstances and with appropriate approvals. Please contact your school nurse.*

Primary School Health office: 716-937-9116 ext. 6137 | Intermediate/Middle School Health office: 716-937-9116 ext. 3118
High School Health office: 716-937-9116 ext. 4196

When to Keep a Child Home with Illness

Sometimes it can be difficult for a parent to decide whether to send children to school when they wake up with complaints that they do not feel well. However, there are some situations in which it is best to plan on keeping your child home.

- Persistent fever greater than 100° under the armpit, 101° orally, or 102° rectally (without fever reducing medication such as Tylenol)
- Vomiting 3 or more times in the previous 24 hours, especially if accompanied by poor appetite, diarrhea, or fever, or if vomiting is in the morning of the same day you intend to send them to school
- Diarrhea or loose stools that cannot be controlled, that are bloody, or that spill out of underpants or diapers, or a diagnosis from a physician of an infectious cause until cleared by the physician to return to school
- Child is too sleepy or ill to stay in class all day or profit from program activities
- Significant cough that makes a child feel uncomfortable or disrupts the class
- Difficulty breathing, persistent crying, or significant irritability
- Sore throat accompanied by fever, rash, and/or feeling ill, that lasts longer than 48 hours, or a physician confirmed diagnosis of strep throat until 24 hours after treatment has started
- Honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth; any wet or weeping sores; or a physician confirmed diagnosis of impetigo until 24 hours after treatment has started
- Rash accompanied by other symptoms of illness such as fever or behavioral changes, until a physician confirms it is not contagious
- Red, runny eyes that are painful, severely itchy, red or swollen eyelids, or distract a child from learning
- Large amount of discolored nasal discharge especially if the child is feeling ill or has a fever
- Severe ear pain or drainage from the ear
- Severe headache, especially if accompanied by fever or rash
- Persistent abdominal pain for more than 2 hours or associated with fever, dehydration, or feeling very ill
- Any condition that you think may be serious, contagious to others, or that would prevent your child from staying in class, participating comfortably in activities, or that may interfere with learning

When your child is diagnosed with any communicable (contagious) disease, please report this to the Health Office as soon as possible. Some of the common communicable diseases among school-age children include: Strep Throat, Scarlet Fever, Pneumonia, Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), Pediculosis Capitis (Head Lice), Impetigo, Ringworm.

Please contact your private provider for specific questions about your child, or the School Nurse for general questions.

Welcome New Staff Members *(Hires as of July 15, 2026)*



Natalie Perl
Special Education Teacher
(Primary School)



Owen Calus
Special Education Teacher
(High School)



Alison O'Neill
High School Assistant Principal



Lea Sugg
Teacher aide
(High School)



Hue Tran
Teacher aide
(Intermediate School)



Caroline Wrest
Elementary Education Teacher
(Primary School)

Little Minds, Big Hearts

In May, Alden Primary School hosted its first-ever wellness event, "Little Minds, Big Hearts." While our K-2 students took part in crafts and games focused on mindfulness and self-regulation, our adult guests learned from our guest speaker, Summit Center psychologist Dr. David Meichenbaum. Dr. Meichenbaum talked with families about several important topics such as managing big feelings, establishing boundaries, and setting healthy limits. To conclude the evening, parents and children reunited to participate in fun and interactive activities centered around healthy habits and self-care, led by volunteers from our school and the Alden community.





Employment Opportunities at ACS

Are you looking for a job, but need the hours to work around your family's schedule? Alden Central School District might be the right opportunity for you! The District currently has openings in the following positions: bus drivers, bus attendants, food service helpers, food service monitors, maintenance mechanics, as well as substitutes in all areas. Applications can be found on the District's website at www.aldenschools.org.

For more information, please contact Barb Rung at 716-937-9116, ext. 4176.

School Closing Information

In the event of a school closing, the following radio and television stations will carry the appropriate announcements:

- WBEN – Radio 930 AM
- WGRZ – Channel 2
- WIVB – Channel 4
- WKBW – Channel 7
- Spectrum News – Channel 9

A text message will also be sent to parents/ guardians who have signed up to receive notifications. Typically, initial announcements will be made by 6 or 6:30 a.m. Absence of an announcement by 7 a.m. generally indicates that Alden Central Schools will be open as usual.

Asbestos Management Plan Update

The Alden Central School District has had its facilities inspected under Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) guidelines to ensure a continued safe environment for our students and employees. AHERA is a federal law enacted in 1987 which requires all school districts to inspect their buildings for asbestos-containing building materials. Also, a six-month periodic surveillance is conducted in each building. The completed management plan is available for your inspection in the Buildings and Grounds Department office. If you have any questions or concerns in this regard, please contact Jim Rozler, Director of Facilities III, at (716) 937-9116, ext. 4503.

Pesticide Notification

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

The Alden Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. If you wish to have your name placed on the 48-hour pesticide notification list, please request a form from the Buildings and Grounds Department. Your submission will be valid for the current academic school year. Only one (1) submission is required for the period July 1 - June 30.

The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- Anti-microbial products;
- Nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper-resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper-resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- Silia gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- Boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- The application of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated biopesticides;
- The application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25;
- The use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps and hornets; or
- When a school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72 hours following an application.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour prior notification list. Please feel free to contact the Director of Facilities III, at (716) 937-9116, ext. 4503 for further information on these requirements.

A Message from Food Services

Dear Parent or Guardian:



We are pleased to announce that ALL students (UPK-12) enrolled at Alden Central School District can receive a free breakfast and lunch meal for the 2026-2027 school year. We strongly encourage all families to take advantage of this opportunity. Our Food Service Department works extremely hard to serve delicious and nutritious meals for our students every day. We pride ourselves on providing a diverse selection of options that the students enjoy, incorporating fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables whenever possible.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) expanded access to the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). CEP allows eligible schools participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs to offer school meals at no charge to all students. In the cafeteria, students will continue to go through the meal lines and provide their name/student ID at checkout, as in the past. Second meals and a la carte items such as snacks, ice cream, and additional food and beverage items must be purchased.

Families may continue to have pre-paid funds on MySchoolBucks meal accounts to allow students to purchase a la carte items. To avoid online processing fees for online payments, students may bring in cash or check to apply to their meal accounts while going through the meal lines while at school.

Although students will automatically be eligible to receive free meals for the 2026-2027 school year, it is important to note that families should complete the Household Income worksheet attached in the newsletter. By completing the worksheet, students may be eligible for additional benefits including reduced college testing and application fees, as well as helping provide essential funding for our District. We are asking all families to complete this worksheet and return it to your child's school in September.

If you have any further questions, please call the Food Service Department at (716) 937-9116 extension 4186.

Sincerely,

Lisa Valentin
Food Service Director

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue
SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or

fax: (202) 690-7442; or
email: Program.Intake@usda.gov
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)/Provision 2 non-base year/Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)
Household Income Eligibility Form

Alden Central School District is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) or Provision 2 in a non-base year. All children in the school will receive meals/milk at no charge regardless of household income or completion of this form. This form is to determine eligibility for additional State and federal program benefits that your child(ren) may qualify for, including Summer Electronics Benefit Program (EBT). Read the instructions on the back, complete **only one** form for your household, sign your name and return it to the school named above. Call Lisa Valentin at 716-937-9116 ext. 4186, if you need help.

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	No Income
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits: If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here, then skip to Part 4.

Name: _____ CASE #_____

3. Household Gross Income: List all people living in your household, how much and how often they are paid (weekly, every other week, twice per month, monthly). Do not leave income blank. If no income, check box. If you have listed a foster child above, you must report their personal income.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions ***Amount / How Often***	Child Support, Alimony ***Amount / How Often***	Pensions, Retirement Payments ***Amount / How Often***	Other Income, Social Security ***Amount / How Often***	No Income
	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	☐
	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	☐
	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	☐
	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	☐
	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	☐
	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	☐
	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	☐
	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	$ _____ / _____	☐

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application.

I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school may receive federal funds. The school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature: _____ Date:_____

Email:_____ Home/Cell #:_____ Work #:_____

Home Address:_____

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application)
Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12

SNAP/TANF/Foster

Income:_____ Total Household Income/How Often:_____ Household Size:_____

Free Eligibility Reduced Eligibility Denied Eligibility

Signature of Reviewing Official: _____

CEP/Provision 2 Non-Base Year Household Income Form INSTRUCTIONS

PART 1	**ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE FORM FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.** (1) Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one form. (2) List their grade and school. (3) Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, and check the box for each child with no income.
PART 2	**HOUSEHOLDS GETTING SNAP, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.** (1) List a current SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household. Do not use the 16-digit number on your benefit card. The case number is provided on your benefit letter. (2) An adult household member must sign the form in PART 4. **SKIP PART 3** - Do not list names of household members or income if you list a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number.
PARTS 3 & 4	**ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE ALL OF PARTS 3 AND 4.** (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are completing the form for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people living in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space. (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. **Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box.** The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should **not** be considered as income for this program.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The Alden Central School District is committed to protecting the privacy and security of student, teacher, and principal data. In accordance with New York Education Law § 2-d, the District wishes to inform the school community that the Parents Bill of Rights for Data Privacy and Security can be found by visiting this direct link: Data Privacy & Security.

UPK Celebrates a Year of Growth and Learning!



Our Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) students wrapped up a wonderful school year with exciting end-of-year activities and a special celebration with their families!

One of the highlights was Bubble Day, where students had the opportunity to play, explore, and experiment with bubbles of all shapes and sizes. Students chased, popped, and created bubbles while enjoying a fun-filled day outdoors.

To celebrate an incredible year of learning and growth, our UPK classes also hosted an end-of-year picnic with a fun bug-themed celebration. Students proudly showcased their creativity by making colorful paper-mâché bug piñatas, which became the centerpiece of the festivities. Families joined in with their students in enjoying the games, delicious food, and the excitement of breaking open the piñatas. The picnic was a wonderful way to recognize all that our students accomplished this year!









Field Day Fun

A little bit of rain could not stop the fun at Alden Primary School as students, staff and families enjoyed this year's Field Day! Despite the wet forecast and some last-minute improvisation, Field Day 2026 was still a tremendous success. Although many of our indoor stations required a little bit of extra creativity, our teachers, staff, and parent volunteers worked very hard to ensure that students were provided with the memorable experience that they deserved!





Start of the School Year

We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Tuesday, September 1! Primary School doors open at 7:40 a.m. each morning and all students should arrive no later than 8:00 a.m. Dismissal for all K-2 students will begin at approximately 2:20 p.m. each afternoon.

School Picture Day



Picture Day at Alden Primary School is planned for Thursday, October 15. Retakes will be held on Tuesday, November 24.

K-2 Open House and Supply Drop-Off



Open House and supply drop-off events for Alden Primary School students will be held during the last week of August. At Open House, students will have an opportunity to meet their teachers, see their new classrooms, and empty their backpacks. During the second half of each event, families will be invited down to the gymnasium to take part in our Curriculum Carnival stations! Dates and times for each grade level are as follows:

- Kindergarten: Tuesday, August 25 – 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
- First Grade: Wednesday, August 26 – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- Second Grade: Wednesday, August 26 – 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Bike Bus Returns



Alden Intermediate's Bulldog Bike Club returned this spring with even greater enthusiasm. Throughout May, students, families, teachers, staff, and community volunteers met before school for organized rides to celebrate National Bike Month. The program continues to promote healthy habits, bicycle safety, and a fun, active start to the school day while strengthening connections between our school and community.

The Bulldog Bike Club saw record participation this year, with more than 100 riders joining many of the weekly rides. The season concluded with a special visit from Kevin O'Neill of WGRZ Channel 2, who highlighted the positive impact the program has had on our school community. We are already looking forward to another great season of riding this fall!



Pick-Up and Drop-Off Planning

Morning Drop-Off

Students may be dropped off between 7:30 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. using the Lyons Loop entrance located at the corner of Crittenden Road and Park Street.

Afternoon Pick-Up

Pick-up following afternoon dismissal at 2:05 p.m. will take place using the parking lot located in front of Alden Middle School. Please provide a note to the classroom teacher if your child will be picked up instead of boarding the school bus.

Important Reminder

For the safety of students, afternoon pick-ups must take place in front of Alden Middle School. Pick-ups on Park Street or Crittenden Road are prohibited.



Field Day Hits the Right Note

Students at Alden Intermediate School closed out another great school year with their annual Field Day celebration at Alden Town Park. The day included relay races, activities, and plenty of water games! At the end of the day, students enjoyed a surprise performance by Buffalo musician Kevin McCarthy.







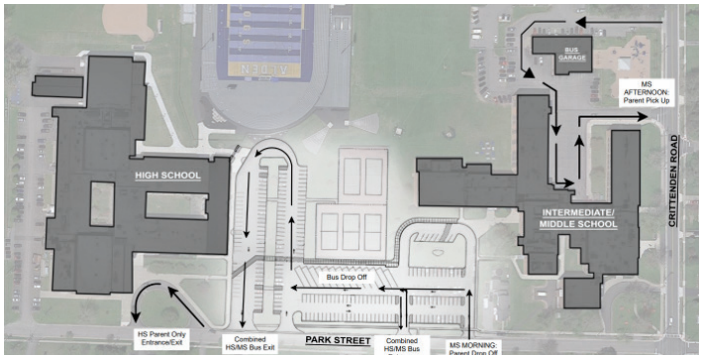
Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures

Morning Arrival (8:20 a.m.-8:50 a.m.)

- For morning drop-off, students should be dropped off in the Middle School loop off Park Street at the front of the school. Students may arrive to school as early as 8:20 a.m. They will enter the building at the main entrance and report directly to the cafeteria until 8:35 a.m.
- To keep traffic moving to avoid congestion with the arrival of buses, morning drop-off will be a drop and go.
- Please have your child(ren) ready to exit the vehicle with their belongings and continue around the loop once they are safely out of the vehicle.
- Please refrain from parking in a space, idling in the loop, or passing other vehicles in the loop during the drop-off time.
- No vehicles will be allowed to go in the Middle School loop for drop-off between 8:30am-8:45 a.m.
- When the buses arrive between 8:35 a.m.– 8:40 a.m. students will exit the buses and enter the building together at the same time.
- Students will travel the sidewalk to enter the Middle School.

Afternoon Dismissal (3:35 p.m.)

- For the MS afternoon pick-up, students getting picked up between 3:35 p.m. and 3:40 p.m. will exit at the loading dock (EE doors) in the back of the building.
- Parents should enter the parking lot at the second driveway off Crittenden Road by the Intermediate School playground. Please enter at "AMS Parent Pick-Up Entrance" sign.
- Please refrain from parking in a parking spot.
- Vehicles can line up along the sidewalk on the Intermediate School and along the Middle School building. This will allow the cars to make a loop around the parking spaces.
- No vehicles will be allowed in the Middle School loop from 3:30 p.m.-3:45 p.m.



Open House and "Walk About"

Our school will be open to parents and students for an Open House and "Walk About" from 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25. The night will allow families to meet teachers, ask questions, and familiarize themselves with the school.

Book Fair

The book fair will take place from September 14 -18 in the Middle School Library.

School Pictures



Middle School pictures are scheduled for October 7. Picture retakes will be held November 18.

Students Inducted into NJHS

A group of 29 eighth grade students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society on May 21. Thank you to all who attended to support these fine young people. They truly loved seeing teachers, BOE members and others there to celebrate their accomplishments.



Middle School Building Schedule 2026-2027

Teacher Day: 8:10 a.m. – 3:40 p.m.

Bus Arrival/Breakfast: 8:35 a.m.

Instructional Day: 8:50 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.

Opening Bell: 8:50 a.m.

Regular Dismissal: 3:35 p.m.

Late Bus Run (T, W, TH): 4:25 p.m.

Kindness Walk Promotes Inclusion





The Friends of Rachel Club proudly hosted its third Annual Kindness Walk this May. More than 100 students came out to show their support for spreading kindness throughout the school and the community. The club is committed to promoting compassion, inclusion, and positive connection by encouraging students to intentionally reach out to others and create a culture where everyone feels valued and supported. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm shown by our students and look forward to continuing meaningful work in the year ahead.

Student Ambassadors Wanted

Have you heard of the Alden Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (ASAPC)? This student-focused organization promotes healthy choices, raises awareness about substance abuse prevention, and provides safe, fun activities for our community throughout the year.

Middle and High School students are invited to become Student Ambassadors and help plan, organize, and run community events while developing leadership and teamwork skills. It's a great opportunity to make a positive impact and meet other students who are passionate about helping their school and community.

Interested in joining? Contact Mrs. Renee Mertz, the school faculty representative, at rmertz@aldenschools.org for more information.

Blood Drive at Alden High School

The Alden High School ConnectLife Club is proud to sponsor a community blood drive on Wednesday, November 25 at Alden High School from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Every donation has the power to save lives, and the need for blood remains constant throughout Western New York. Please contact rmertz@aldenschools.org to schedule your appointment.

High School Walkabout and Open House

Please join us for our annual High School Walkabout and Open House on Tuesday, August 25 from 6-8 p.m. This event will be staggered with the Middle School so families have the opportunity to visit both schools if needed. Teachers will be present and schedules will be available.

We look forward to seeing all of you!

Save the Date!

Our annual Halloween Spooktacular will be held on October 23 and 24. We will need many student and family volunteers to help make this popular community event a success. We hope you will join us!

Welcome Class of 2030

We encourage you to become active and involved in our school community. We have over 30 active clubs and 29 interscholastic sports teams. Whatever your interests, there is something for you. Get involved!

School Website

Alden Central School's website is www.aldenschools.org. Please check our website for our Code of Conduct, school calendars, sporting events, lunch applications, lunch menus, news, cancellations, yearbook information, and much more. Our WACS News YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/wacsnetwork) is also full of daily announcements and stories from across the District.

Athletic Update

Message from the Athletic Director

Reflecting on our 2025-2026 athletics season, it was full of amazing moments and success from our student athletes and coaches. We couldn't be more proud of our athletes' dedication to their teams as they represented Alden. As we move into our next school year, we will continue to educate, embrace, and empower our athletes to succeed both on and off the field.

Our dedicated coaches have already been hard at work preparing for the upcoming sport seasons with some new events this year, including the Bulldog Battle Volleyball tournament and the Alden Basketball Classic. We can't wait to bring the competition to our home court! Please consider working with the Alden Sports Boosters, who make hosting events like this possible.

Alden Athletics continues to be a focal point of our District's success. If your student is interested in participating in athletics, check out our athletic page for everything you need to register. Let's have a great year! Go Bulldogs!

Track & Field
Coached by: Ken Partell (V), Liz Osucha (V), Dan Cornwell (V), Paul Casillo (V), Ashley Bojt (Mod), and Olivia Macdonald (Mod)



The Varsity Girls Track & Field season was defined by growth, dedication, leadership and pride. Led by captains Camryn Speranza, Sienna Scheifla, Jessica Okoniewski and Katherine Erhardt, the Bulldogs competed with determination and represented Alden with excellence throughout the season. With 58 athletes on the roster, the team showcased talent across every event group while continuing to push one another to improve. Katherine Erhardt qualified for the NYSPHSAA State Championships in the Long Jump for the second consecutive year after winning the State Qualifier. Camryn Speranza and Sienna Scheifla were recognized as this year's Letterman Award winners. Strong relay performances, rising young talent, and outstanding team commitment highlighted a successful season.

The Varsity Boys Track & Field had 63 members in 2026. The squad grabbed second place in ECIC Division IV and was steadily led by captains Tyler Brania, Aiden Dollinger, Jon Koch, and the Feider triplets. With so many athletes on the team, mentioning one athlete's name sentences a coach to leaving out many top athletes and essential teammates. But several athletes bear special attention: Evan Feider (1600m, 3200m), Gage Feider (3200m), and Tyler Brania (LJ) qualified for states with their performances. The team awarded Rising Track Star awards to three underclassmen who had extraordinarily promising seasons: Thrower Gavin Uhrich, hurdler Vinny Puccio, and jumper Patrick Serafin.



Boys Tennis
Coached by: Ashley Wagner (V)

The Varsity Boys Tennis team finished in third place in ECIC Division IV with a division record of 8-4 and an overall record of 9-5. Highlights included taking Springville to three third-set tiebreakers and defeating East Aurora in second doubles. Nicholas Schindler moved on to the second round in ECICs to earn a spot in the top 16. He was also voted as a division all-star. Liam McCarthy moved up to the second singles position and carried the best overall record of 11-3, including a comeback victory against Springville. The team hopes to capitalize on opponent graduations and take first place next year.

Flag Football (Akron/Alden)
Coached by: Cindy Magera, Rob Westmiller

This spring, the first Alden Girls Varsity Flag Football team was given the opportunity to join forces with the Akron Girls Varsity Flag Football team to take the field. Being the team's first year on the field together, they had a year of learning the basics of flag football, offensive and defensive positions, and how to pull off a play. Along with learning a new sport, the girls met new teammates and made new friends. Alden seniors Jillian Uhrich, Jessica Bauer, and Bella Hensley all had amazing first seasons!



Continued on next page.



Softball
Coached by: Allison Gibson (V), Liz Mann (JV), Rachel Hiller (Mod), Sandy Gauthier (V), and Cassidy Bauer (Mod)

The Alden Varsity Softball team completed an exceptional 2026 season with an overall record of 17-2. The Bulldogs captured the ECIC Division championship and continued their success through the postseason, winning both the Sectional and Sub-Regional titles. Throughout the season, the team demonstrated outstanding consistency, resilience, and teamwork, excelling in all phases of the game. In addition to their success on the field, the team was recognized by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) as a Scholar-Athlete Team, highlighting their commitment to academic excellence. Their hard work, dedication, and competitive spirit made this one of the most successful seasons in recent program history.

Baseball
Coached by: Justin Luksch (V), Kevin Baumann (JV), Micah Barrett (Mod), and Tom Bednarski (V)

This season saw a lot of younger players making their first appearance for the Varsity Baseball team. With seven juniors and two sophomores, the team relied on this young core to step up and grow to compete in a division with a lot of experience. The team finished their regular season with a 6-7 overall record but saw sparks of what the future has in store. Aleks Chwesik led the team on the mound as a sophomore and built on each performance, and senior Tyler Lucas was able to step in and control the game from behind the plate all season on defense. Offensively, Clifford, Peresan and Chwesik all had home runs during the season, with Clifford leading the team with a .409 batting average. This team fought all year long to end on a high note and looks to take another step forward next season.

Homecoming Weekend Schedule

Homecoming Weekend will begin on Thursday, October 15 with the parade at 6:15 p.m. and the Pep Rally from 7-8:30 p.m. On Friday, October 16, at 5:30 p.m., the Alden Athletics Wall of Fame Ceremony will take place. This will be followed by the Homecoming football game which will start at 7 p.m. The Homecoming dance will be on Saturday, October 17.



Fire Inspection

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for 2026 of all District school buildings of Alden Central Schools for fire hazards which might endanger the lives of students, teachers and employees therein, has been completed and the report is available in the Buildings and Grounds Department office at 13190 Park Street in Alden, NY, for inspection by all interested persons.

Alden Central School
13190 Park Street
Alden, New York 14004

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Turning Student Passion into Purpose

At Alden Middle School, learning extends far beyond the classroom through the Envision Experience, a unique program available to selected eighth grade students who demonstrate curiosity, creativity, and a desire to make a difference. Students apply for the program and, once accepted, embark on a year-long journey guided by the program's motto:

"Envision yourself a leader, an innovator, and a global thinker."

Facilitated by Kathy Santiago and Tara Laraba, the Envision Experience helps students discover their passions while developing valuable life skills such as collaboration, communication, problem-solving, and perseverance. Throughout the program, students learn that meaningful change begins with empathy. Rather than focusing solely on creating a final product, students are challenged to follow the entire design-thinking process—researching a need, building community partnerships, and developing a project that creates a lasting impact rather than being a one-time effort.



For eighth graders Ben G. and Jack R., that passion was construction and woodworking.

After completing the Question Formulation Technique (QFT) process and conducting extensive research, Ben and Jack partnered with Alden Middle School Technology teacher Rich Erhardt, who served as their community mentor. Together, they designed and constructed a handcrafted duck house. Demonstrating remarkable commitment, the students voluntarily arrived at school early on multiple occasions to work alongside Mr. Erhardt, refining their craftsmanship and bringing their vision to life.



Their finished duck house was proudly showcased at both Alden Envision Night and the University at Buffalo Impact Expo, where students from across the region shared projects designed to make a positive impact in their communities.

Following the exhibitions, Ben and Jack donated their duck house to the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in Basom, New York. The duck house was presented to Bill Stewart, Refuge Manager, who accepted the project on behalf of the refuge. The structure will provide habitat for native ducks while supporting the refuge's ongoing conservation and wildlife management efforts. Ben and Jack's project is an outstanding example of the Envision Experience's mission to take a passion from empathy to impact. By combining their interests with research, community partnerships, and a commitment to creating something sustainable, they transformed their love of woodworking into a project that will continue to benefit wildlife and visitors for years to come.

Congratulations to Ben and Jack for representing Alden Middle School with creativity, leadership, craftsmanship, and a genuine commitment to making a difference in their community.