

CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Digital Backpack



November 10, 2023

Dear CES Families,

Thank you to all the veterans and family members who came to our Veteran's Day assembly this morning! We appreciate your service and many sacrifices.

Please see below for important information and upcoming events.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mrs. Lisa Cushing, Principal (lcushing@willingtonct.org)

Attendance Matters from Ms. Nason

We have taken on another initiative here at Center School! We welcome Elizabeth Nyser, Mental Health Specialist, who is working with me to support students to address truancy and attendance issues.

Nationally, an estimated 5-7 million students are chronically absent each year, eroding students' performance as early as kindergarten. By third grade, chronically absent students are less likely to read on grade level (www.attendanceworks.org).

Our attendance committee meets once a month. We have begun sending letters to remind families of the importance of school attendance, including how many days your child has missed. Don't be alarmed if you receive an attendance letter in the mail; we are always looking for ways to improve our school-family partnership. Please let us know if you are having challenges getting your child to school; we can provide strategies, resources and support for barriers such as anxiety, transportation, schedules, and feeling connected at school. Reach out to me directly at enason@willingtonct.org or to our school mental health specialist at enyser@willingtonct.org. Thank you for everything you do!

Emily Nason, School Social Worker and Elizabeth Nyser, Mental Health Specialist

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New Kindergarten Eligibility Entry Date

Children entering kindergarten must turn 5 years old on or before September 1, 2024 to be eligible for kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year. This is a change from the previous kindergarten cutoff date of January 1, 2025. Based on the new Connecticut legislation, if your child's 5th birthday falls on September 2, 2024 through August 31, 2025, your child will enter kindergarten in the 2025-2026 school year.

If your child is eligible for kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year, please contact the Center School office as soon as possible.

860-429-9367 or cesregistration@willingtonct.org

PTA News and Dates to Remember

November

1 - 23 Scripps Fundraiser

December

4 - 8 Holiday Shop at Center

14 PTA Meeting

The PTA's fall gift card fundraiser is underway and will run through Nov 23rd. All gift cards purchased have a percentage which gets sent directly to the PTA for enrichment funds. The PTA is still looking to sponsor a wish list item for each school and any support is appreciated.

Whether you're buying a gift card for your gas or groceries this month or gift cards for your holiday shopping, stop at the **Raise Right Link** to see the hundreds of businesses to purchase from first, and support our Willington Kiddos - [Click Here to Start Your Gift Card Order](#)

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Lost & Found

There are **LOTS** of winter coats in Lost & Found, located in the CES cafeteria. If your child is missing a coat, please stop by to look through the growing collection.

Mark Your Calendar

November

20-21 Parent/Teacher Conferences - Early Dismissal at 1:10
22 Early dismissal at 1:10; CES Spirit Day! (Crazy Hair Day)
23-24 Thanksgiving recess - No School

December

1 Early dismissal at 1:10
8 Pajama Day for Everyone! Wear Pajamas for CCMC Day

Flyers:

CES Scholastic Book Fair
HMS Food Drive
HMS Yearbooks on Sale
HMS 7 & 8 Grade Dance
WPL Holiday Craft Fair
WPRD NYC Trip
WPRD Winter Camp
Pack 82 Info Night
Willington Human Services Food Drive
WPRD Scavenger Hunt
Windham Tech Open House

Food Services Information – Meal Order Link

★ ★ We have some exciting news to share! Starting November 1st, 2023 all meals will be served at no cost to all families for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. Each student may get one breakfast and one lunch at no cost daily. ★

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★ ★ We still encourage families to apply for free or reduced meals. Forms are available on the school website or in the main office at each school. You may also apply online -

<https://linqconnect.com/public/meal-application/new?identifier=QHJ5P> ★ ★

★ ★ Any questions please contact Mrs. Knight, sknight@willingtonct.org ★ ★

★ 🍕 Please complete this form to order your child's lunch. If you have more than one child at the school click "Submit Another Response" after hitting submit for the other child. 🍕 ★

★ This form will be sent out twice a week. Once on Wednesday or Thursday and then you can find the link in the digital backpack every Friday. ★

🍎 This form is only for lunch. Breakfast will be served grab and go in the cafeteria when the children arrive at school. Children can grab their breakfast and head right to their classroom. 🍎

😊 PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM BY 12:00 p.m. ON SUNDAY 11/12. 😊

★ ★ Each child must select at least three of the five components on their tray to make a meal, including a fruit or vegetable. Children MUST select a fruit or a vegetable with their lunch every day. Without a vegetable or fruit, students will be charged the a la carte price instead of the meal price. For instance, a protein choice, a grain choice and a vegetable would make a complete meal. ★ ★

🍎 Our school district will again be encouraging students to try the new foods being offered. 🍎

★ ★ We are also asking for your help. Please explain the program to your child before they arrive at school. Every student needs to be prepared to select at least one fruit or one vegetable with their breakfast and lunch every day. We are planning our menus to include selections we know students like, as well as many different foods they may not have tried before. Please encourage your child to try these new foods. They just might find a new favorite! ★ ★

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🍎🍎 FARM TO SCHOOL UPDATE - Apples and Carrots served this week are locally grown at the Horse Listeners Orchard in Ashford, CT! 🍎🍎

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Knight at sknight@willingtonct.org or [860-487-2107](tel:860-487-2107).

[Link to sign up for lunches for the week of 11/13-11/17](#)

[Link for PM Preschool Students to sign up for lunches for the week of 11/13-11/16](#)