

CENTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Digital Backpack



November 22, 2023

Dear CES Families,

This time of year offers opportunities for gratitude in every form—gratitude for family, friends, and health. I am incredibly grateful to be a part of the Willington community and appreciate the support and collaboration of our families. I hope you enjoy the long holiday weekend and have a very happy Thanksgiving!

With much love and gratitude,

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



Super Bees

Congratulations to our newest Super Bees—Max in second grade and Jaden in third grade! His teacher says Max is one of the kindest students you will ever hope to meet. He is a dedicated worker and never gives up trying to do hard things.

Jaden's teacher says he is always showing integrity in his class! He works extremely hard and always has a positive attitude. Thank you Jaden for being an exemplary role model!

PTA News and Dates to Remember

- Nov 1st-Dec 14th - Raise Right gift cards: 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; any support is appreciated. Whether you're buying a gift card for your gas, groceries, or gift cards for your holiday shopping, stop at the Raise Right link to see

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the hundreds of businesses to purchase from first and support our Willington students - [Click Here to Start Your Gift Card Order](#)

- You can even share with your family and friends so they can order gift cards as well! Just share with them this unique code: [NDYFXHSUF3PU](#) and they can create an account and place their orders to support your kiddos as well!
- Dec 4th-8th - Holiday Shop at Center! All the elves are excited to see students!
- Dec 14th - PTA Meeting - Hope to see you there!

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

Lost & Found

There are **several** winter coats in the CES Lost & Found, located in the cafeteria. Now that the weather is getting colder it is important for students to have warm outerwear for recess. If your child is missing a coat, please stop by to look through Lost & Found.

Mark Your Calendar

November

23-24 Thanksgiving recess - No School

December

1 Early dismissal at 1:10 - Staff PD

8 Pajama Day for Everyone! Wear Pajamas for CCMC Day

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Flyers:

WPS Winter Weather Closing Information

PTA Holiday Shop

HMS 7 & 8 Grade Dance

HMS Yearbooks on Sale

Willington Scholarship Foundation

WPL Holiday Craft Fair

WPL Visit with Santa

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. ★

★ ★ 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=QHNJ5P> ★ ★

★ ★ 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 11/26. 😊

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★ ★ 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! ★ ★

🍎 🍎 FARM TO SCHOOL UPDATE - Apples 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 11/27-12/1](#)

[Link for PM Preschoolers to sign up for lunches for 11/27-11/30](#)