

# ne Webster

Students First. District Proud.

Webster Central School District - Winter 2024-25

## Webster Marching Band New York State Field Band Conference Champions!



The Webster Marching Band competed in the New York State Field Band Conference Championships on October 27 at the JMA Wireless Dome in Syracuse, where they achieved their third title since 1985! Adding to this joyous victory was their score. Their performance of *Death of a Star* received a 92.10, the highest score in the Large School 2 division in more than 20 years!

### District Partners with WHEN for Navigating the Tween Years Series

Webster CSD and Webster Health and Education Network: A Coalition for a Drug Free Community (WHEN:DFCC) have partnered to offer a free series for families of tweens.

*Navigating the Tween Years* is an interactive forum discussing the rise of anxiety and mental health challenges in kids and how parents/guardians, teachers, and other adults can bolster kids' resilience.

The series kicked off on October 16 with an evening of community coffee and conversation on the topic "Social Media and Your Kids". Presenters included: **Joe Montemaro**, Webster CSD Director of Educational Technology and Information/Communications; **Dana Buccieri**, WHEN member and a retired Webster CSD school counselor now in private practice; and **Dustin Bailey**, WHEN member, Webster CSD Unified bowling coach, and Young Life representative. Together, they led dis-

cussions on how technology is changing social development in tweens, including social media, mental health, and protective factors. Resources for the discussions can be found on the WHEN website at <https://www.whendfcc.org/resources>.

Two more sessions are in the works:

- "From Worries to Wellness: Building resilience in a stressful world" on Tuesday, January 21; and
- "Empowering Your Family: Harness the power of protective factors" on Wednesday, April 30.

Both of these take place 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Professional Development Center at Spry Middle School, 119 South Avenue, Webster. You don't need to have attended the first session to attend one or both of the remaining sessions. We hope to see you there!



Superintendent **Brian Neenan** with Webster student volunteers at the Veterans Dinner hosted by Spry Middle School in November.

## From the Superintendent

Dear One Webster Community,

As winter approaches, we reflect on the first few months of the 2024-25 school year. All of us at Webster CSD are grateful for our community and your ongoing support of our exceptional students and staff.

One Webster is more than just a place; it's a place where we connect, learn, grow, and thrive together. By working together, we overcome challenges and celebrate successes while making a positive impact on our community. Our team is committed to serving our community by ensuring we provide the best possible services and programs.

Be sure to check out the exciting accomplishments and activities of our students and staff so far this year in this newsletter. I also hope you'll participate in some of Webster CSD's outstanding community education programs. Take a few minutes to review the enclosed program guide and register for opportunities to continue your learning this winter.

We also hope you'll continue staying connected with our district by visiting our district website and following us on social media (Facebook, @WebsterCentralSchools, and X, @WCSDProud) for information and updates throughout the year. You can also sign up for the Webster CSD News and Information community group to receive periodic communications on important district information through ParentSquare. To sign up, scan the QR code below or go to the news story at [websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org) > More News > "Community Invited to Join News & Information Group".

Again, thank you for all that you do. Your partnership makes me grateful every day.

Have a wonderful holiday season, everyone!

All my best,  
**Brian Neenan**  
Superintendent of Schools



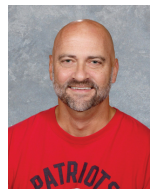
## Names in the News

### Master Teachers

Webster CSD teachers **Melanie Drury** and **Peter DeWitte** have been named New York State Master Teachers! Drury has been teaching science for 12 years and is currently in her 10th year at Webster Thomas High School. DeWitte, a technology teacher at Webster Schroeder High School, has been teaching for 26 years, 24 of which have been in Webster. Master Teachers support students in grades K-12 in the areas of science, technology, computer science, robotics, coding, engineering, math, and integrated STEM. Leaders in their professions, they serve as mentors for students and early-career teachers.



**Melanie Drury**



**Peter DeWitte**

### The Diary of Anne Frank

Webster Thomas presented the drama *The Diary of Anne Frank* this past fall. The play is based on the true story of Anne Frank, a Jewish girl who kept a diary while hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II.

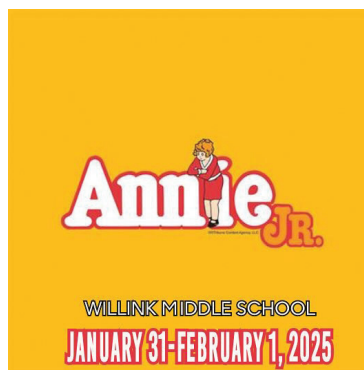
**Evelyn F.** starred as Anne, with **Matteo S.** as her loving father Otto. **Dominick M., Rylie B., Jeremiah F., Ella V., Brook H., Mia F., Abigail M., and Robert L.** co-starred in this powerful and timeless drama.

### PEAK Festival

A group of Klem Road North Elementary School fourth graders and their music teacher enjoyed a day of making music and new friends at the annual Parents, Educators, And Kids (PEAK) Festival on October 26 in Rochester. **Leoncio C., Amelia E., Mackenzie J., Peyton L., Montana M., Riley McKay, Penelope Patterson, Jacob Pfeiffer, and Rosalie S.** participated in sessions on ukule-le, singing/movement, Orff, and African drumming. Also, Klem

North music teacher **Tiffany Polino** was one of four clinicians this year.

## Save the Dates!



## WEBSTER MUSICALS SAVE THE DATE!



## JA Entrepreneurial Youth Summit

Webster Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) attended the Junior Achievement (JA) Entrepreneurial Youth Summit on October 23. **Brayden P.**, a Webster Schroeder senior, led the first place team pitch for his product, AgilaPack. On his team were **Mila S.**, a Webster Thomas sophomore, and two Rochester area students. **Ricky R.**, a Webster Schroeder junior, led the second place team pitch for his product, My Pet. On his team were Webster Thomas freshman **Liam D.** and two Rochester area students.

Webster YEA! transforms students into real, confident entrepreneurs who generate business ideas, conduct market research, and write business plans as they prepare to launch their businesses into the world. Community members, businesses, and organizations serve as mentors, donors, and investors. To learn more, please email program coordinator **Jim McEntee** at [james\\_mcentee@webstercsd.org](mailto:james_mcentee@webstercsd.org).

## Pumpkin Run

Willink and Spry sixth graders ran a one-mile course in pursuit of the coveted Pumpkin Run trophy in October. The annual races, held at each middle school, provide an opportunity for sixth graders to get a taste of cross country running while having fun on a beautiful autumn day! In the Willink Run, **Sean M.** was the first to cross the line, setting a new course record at 5:47! **Julia D.** was the fastest girl at 7:17. In the Spry Run, **Domenico O.** was the first to cross the line, in 5:40.30. He was followed by **Ellie L.**, finishing in second at 6:29.62.

## 1000th Dig

Webster Schroeder celebrated **Ingfah “Maddie” S.** on October 15 as the Warrior recorded her 1000th dig in girls volleyball. She reached this milestone as a junior!

## High Schoolers Step-up for Klem South

When Webster Schroeder technology teacher **TJ Milliman’s** class was asked if they would make some custom step stools to help a student with physical limitations at Klem Road South Elementary School, they stepped up to the task! **Felix C., Ben R., Will B., and Dimitriy Y.** and student aide **Bronson M.** (all pictured below), of Milliman’s Home Skills 101 class, constructed six step stools for their young friend. On September 27, they delivered the finished products to Klem South and, while the stools were created to accommodate a particular student, many of the Penguins quickly found them helpful and couldn’t wait to use them!



## Students to be Dismissed Early December 20

Families of students attending Webster CSD schools, please note that on Friday, December 20, students will be dismissed early as the district conducts an Emergency Preparedness Early Release Drill required by the New York State Education Department to test the district’s plan for the early dismissal of students.

Parents/guardians are notified in advance of the drill so they may be prepared for their students to be dismissed early and arrive home by bus early on December 20. **Please note the times listed below are the bus departure times effective for Friday, December 20, 2024 only. Students will be dismissed 10 minutes prior to departure:** Schroeder, 3:15 p.m. departure; Thomas, 3:15 p.m. departure; Spry, 3:15 p.m. departure; Willink, 3:15 p.m. departure; DeWitt, 2:10 p.m. departure; Klem North, 1:50 p.m. departure; Klem South, 2:00 p.m. departure; Plank North, 1:50 p.m. departure; Plank South, 2:10 p.m. departure; Schlegel, 2:10 p.m. departure; State, 2:10 p.m. departure; OWL Elementary, 1:50 p.m. departure; and OWL Middle & High, 2:50 departure.

Parents/guardians who pick their student(s) up from school, please note that the pick-up window will be different on December 20 only. Consult your school newsletter/notifications for details.

## Deadline Established for Non-public School Transportation

Families residing in Webster CSD who will be sending their child(ren) to private, parochial, or charter schools in the 2024-25 school year must fill out the annual transportation application.

All students must first be registered with Webster CSD to request transportation. To register your child, please go online to [websterschools.org/registration](http://websterschools.org/registration). Any change of address must also be done through Webster CSD Student Registration before transportation can be changed. Residents new to Webster CSD have 30 days from the day they move into the district to fulfill the requirements for transportation.

New York State Education Law requires that transportation be provided to district residents who attend non-public schools within 15 miles of their home, using the shortest, year-round route available to measure this distance. Per NYS Education Law, **forms must be received no later than April 1** of the preceding school year. A separate form must be submitted for each child. Once your child is registered for the school year, go to [websterschools.org/transportation](http://websterschools.org/transportation) > Forms > Private, Parochial, Charter School Transportation to fill out the required transportation form. For further information, please contact Webster CSD Transportation at (585) 265-3840.



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## PreK Lottery Opens February 14

Webster CSD offers a comprehensive prekindergarten program. Families with a child who will be 4 years old on or before December 1, 2025, but who are not eligible for kindergarten, that child is eligible for prekindergarten enrollment for the upcoming school year. Lottery applications for the 2025-26 school year will be available February 14-March 14. Learn more at [websterschools.org/prek](http://websterschools.org/prek).



## Census to Help District Plan for Enrollment

Families of young children residing in Webster CSD are being asked to take a brief survey that will be used to forecast student enrollment for the foreseeable future.

The annual young child census launched on the district website on December 1. Parents/guardians with children residing in their household

who are ages birth to 5 years old, please visit [websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org) to complete this brief census. Don't delay! The census closes January 6, 2025. Families who do not have access to a computer may participate by calling Webster CSD Student Registration at (585) 216-0029.

Completing the census is a young families' first connection with the school district. It enables us to keep in contact with families as their children approach school age.

## Kindergarten Registration Opens January 27

The start of the 2025-26 school year may seem far away, but for families of incoming kindergartners, registration is right around the corner!

Families with a child who will be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2025, that child is eligible for kindergarten enrollment for the upcoming school year. Kindergarten registration will open Monday, January 27, 2025. As the date approaches, please check the district website, [websterschools.org/registration](http://websterschools.org/registration), for complete details.

Please note that prompt registration is important because if a building reaches capacity, families who register during the week of January 27 will be given first priority. Once capacity is met, students will be enrolled in an alternate Webster CSD elementary school.



## Weather Closings

Webster CSD families are reminded that if weather prohibits students from attending school or necessitates closing school early, this information will be communicated as soon as it is available using the district's ParentSquare system. For this reason, parents/guardians need to make sure their contact information is up-to-date with their child(ren)'s school(s). Parents/guardians can do this in one of three ways:

1. Contact the main office of each of their child(ren)'s school(s) and provide the correct information.
2. Go to [websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org), select the Parent & Student Portal button, log in to Infinite Campus and update contact information there.
3. Go to [websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org), select the ParentSquare button, log in and update contact information there.

Closing information is also provided on the district website ([websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org)), on district social media (@WebsterCentralSchools on Facebook and @WCSDProud on X), and to local television and radio stations.

When school is closed due to weather, all aquatics, community education, and evening classes and activities are canceled as well. WonderCare may be an exception; please consult their website ([websterschools.org/wondercare](http://websterschools.org/wondercare)) and social media (Facebook.com/WonderCare and X @wondercarewcsd).