

# Scofield Newsletter - Week of 1/30/2026

With the second grading period having wrapped up last week, we have officially crossed the midpoint of our academic journey this year. This transition is a pivotal moment for our middle schoolers; it's a chance to reflect on the growth achieved during the first semester while hitting the "reset" button for the months ahead. As we enter the third grading period, I encourage students to carry forward their successes and treat any previous challenges as valuable data for improvement. Now is the perfect time to check in on organizational habits, refresh school supplies, and set one or two specific goals for the spring. We are so proud of the resilience our students have shown so far, and we look forward to a focused and productive second half of the year!

Dr. Marinello

## Calendar

- February 6th -- Quarter 2 Grades available in Parent Portal
- February 13 & 16 -- No School
- February 18-20th -- Early Release
- February 25th -- Early Release
- *\*Please note that due to Monday's snow day, the last day of school is now Tuesday, June 16th (Tentative)*

## District News

### From Superintendent:

#### Budget Advocacy

The [Connecticut Association of Urban Superintendents](#) (CAUS) is working to bring greater attention to the need for increased funding of the State's Education Cost Sharing Grant. As we shared during the FY27 budget presentation earlier this month, state grant funding is not keeping up with inflation, which is putting added pressure on local taxpayers. As part of our advocacy efforts, I was interviewed last week along with several other CAUS superintendents for a [story](#) that ran in the CT Examiner. During the upcoming legislative session, my fellow superintendents and I will continue to work with our local delegations to secure fair and appropriate State funding during the upcoming legislative session.

#### BOE Budget Hearing is February 5

The FY27 budget process continues next week with the [BOE Public Budget Hearing](#) on Thursday, February 5 at 7 pm via [Zoom](#). If you are interested in addressing the BOE during the hearing, click [here](#) to sign up.

## School News

### **Scofield Family Centers:**

Family Centers to Open School Based Health Center at Scofield Middle School---Coming soon!  
Family Centers will offer onsite mental health services through its new School Based Health Centers at Scofield Middle School. Our goal is to help your child stay healthy, happy, and thriving in school by providing a safe, judgement-free environment where they feel emotionally supported.

### **Our caring team includes licensed Mental Health Clinicians who provide:**

- Individual and group therapy for students
- Family support for behavioral or emotional concerns
- Access to a psychiatrist when needed
- Wellness and educational groups

While we bill insurance when applicable, our services are provided at no out-of-pocket cost. No student is ever turned away, regardless of insurance coverage.

### **Enroll today!**

School Based Health Centers are open to all – even if you have a community provider. Please take a few minutes to complete our one-time online enrollment at [www.familycenters.org/school-based](http://www.familycenters.org/school-based). Enrollment ensures your child can access services whenever they need them, including medical and dental care available at other Stamford Public Schools SBHC locations.

We're here to help your child feel supported, confident, and ready to succeed!

## Early Pick-Up Procedures Reminder

### **Picking Up Your Child Early?**

Please help us keep our main office running smoothly by following our Early Dismissal protocol.

1. **Please do not call or email:** All requests must be submitted via the **online form**.
2. **Submit by Noon:** Please fill out the form by 12:00 PM on the day of pickup.
3. **No Pickups after 1:30 PM:** Due to dismissal traffic, we cannot accommodate early pickups after 1:30 PM.

**Where to find the form:** Go to [magnetmiddle.org](http://magnetmiddle.org) > **Forms** > **Early Dismissal** [[Click Here for the Direct Form Link](#)]

Once received, we will write a dismissal pass for your student to pick up in the main office.

## Scofield Athletics Department

### **Scofield Girls & Boys Volleyball Team Tryouts**

During the first week of February, tryouts for the Scofield Girls and Boys volleyball teams will take place after school in the gym from 3-4 pm. All students that would like to attend tryouts must have a permission form completed to attend. Girls tryouts are separated by grades. Girls selected for callbacks will have a final tryout on Monday, February 9th.

Boys tryouts will be 6th-8th grade. Please see the schedule below and complete the appropriate permission form for your students' grade level.

#### **Tryout Schedule**

- 8th Grade Girls-Tuesday, February 3rd-[8th grade girls permission form](#)
- 7th & 6th Grade Girls-Thursday, February 5th-[7th & 6th grade girls permission form](#)
- Boys Tryouts, all grades-Monday, **February 9th**-[Boys Volleyball permission form](#)

All tryouts will take place in the gym from 3-4 pm. Students can be picked up by a parent/guardian or take the appropriate late bus to stop near home. Any questions can be sent to Mr. Brienza at [sbrienza@stamfordps.org](mailto:sbrienza@stamfordps.org)

Thank you ,  
Mr. Brienza

### **Basketball Information**

Both the Scofield boys' and girls' basketball teams have qualified for the playoffs!

#### **Playoff Schedule:**

The girls' team will host Strawberry Hill for the playoffs in the Scofield gym on Monday, February 2nd beginning at 3:45pm.

The boys' team will travel to Cloonan for their playoff game on Monday, February 2nd, beginning at 3:15pm.

If the Scofield teams advance, the district championship game will be held on Wednesday, February 4th, at Westhill High School. The middle school girls' district championship game will begin at 4:30pm, and the boys at 6:00pm.

**Any student who would like to stay and watch the games must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Let's go Explorers! We are rooting for you!**

## PTP Corner

**Dear Scofield Families, Students, and Educators,**

We are again writing on behalf of the Scofield Magnet PTP Executive Board with urgent information about the **Stamford Public Schools Superintendent's proposed FY27 budget** and how it would significantly impact Scofield Magnet Middle School.

### **What Is Being Proposed**

The Superintendent's proposed budget includes deep staffing and program cuts due to rising health insurance and contractual costs, growing out-of-district special education expenses, and flat state and federal funding. If approved **as proposed**, Scofield would face:

- Elimination of **7 teaching positions**, including:
  - All **Project Lead The Way (PLTW)** teachers
  - All **Writing** teachers
  - One **Exploratory** teacher
- A shift from a **7-period to a 6-period schedule**
- **Larger class sizes** across all grade levels
- **Reduced 6th-grade enrollment** and fewer lottery spots

These cuts are layered on earlier reductions, such as the loss of a Spanish teacher and the removal of art as a core academic subject. Together, these changes undermine Scofield's STEAM-focused magnet model.

### **Why This Matters**

Programs like PLTW, writing, and electives are *not* extras — they are essential to Scofield's mission and to student success. Research indicates that hands-on STEM programs like PLTW boost graduation rates and career readiness, while strong writing curriculum strengthens communication and critical thinking skills. When these programs are cut, students lose opportunities that fuel curiosity, confidence, and college- and career-ready skills.

### **How the Stamford Public Schools Budget Process Works**

Understanding the timeline can help you act effectively:

1. **December–January:**  
The Superintendent develops and finalizes the proposed budget, reflecting district priorities and instructional needs.
2. **January–February:**  
The Board of Education reviews the proposed budget, holds public hearings, and votes to *adopt a school budget*. Community members can testify and submit written feedback directly to BOE members during this period.

### 3. February–March:

After BOE adoption, the budget moves to the City’s fiscal boards for further review and adjustment before final city-wide approval.

**This means there *is still time* for community voices to influence the budget before it is finalized.** Your outreach now — before the BOE’s final vote — can make a real difference.

## Call to Action — We Need Your Voice

We urge parents, students, and educators to **email each Board of Education member** and respectfully ask them to protect Scofield’s programs, staffing, and schedule as they review the FY27 budget proposal. Personalized messages that share real stories of how these programs affect your child’s education are the most impactful.

Here are the current BOE members and their email addresses:

- **Andy George, BOE President** — [ageorge@stamfordps.org](mailto:ageorge@stamfordps.org)
- **Gabriela Koc, BOE Vice President** — [gkoc@stamfordps.org](mailto:gkoc@stamfordps.org)
- **Antonia Better-Wirz** — [abetterwirz@stamfordps.org](mailto:abetterwirz@stamfordps.org)
- **Prasad Tunga** — [ptunga@stamfordps.org](mailto:ptunga@stamfordps.org)
- **Julienne Foy** — [jfoy@stamfordps.org](mailto:jfoy@stamfordps.org)
- **Rebecca Hamman** — [rhamman@stamfordps.org](mailto:rhamman@stamfordps.org)
- **Kristopher O’Brien** — [kobrien@stamfordps.org](mailto:kobrien@stamfordps.org)
- **Jennifer Werely** — [jwerely@stamfordps.org](mailto:jwerely@stamfordps.org)
- **Adam Vandervoort** — [avandervoort@stamfordps.org](mailto:avandervoort@stamfordps.org)

If you’re unsure of an address, you can also email the entire board at [BOEmembers@stamfordpublicschools.org](mailto:BOEmembers@stamfordpublicschools.org) or reach out to **Board Clerk Jennifer Gonzalez** at [jgonzalez@stamfordpublicschools.org](mailto:jgonzalez@stamfordpublicschools.org) for assistance.

## Tips for Outreach

- **Email each member individually** — not just a group message.
- **Be specific and personal:** mention Scofield programs, projects, or moments that mattered to your child.
- **Encourage students to participate:** letters, short videos, or in-person testimony at BOE meetings are powerful.
- Attend the **Board of Education Public Budget Hearing** and the next BOE meeting — sign-up information is available on the SPS website.

Scofield’s strength has always been its **community**. By showing up and sharing our stories with elected BOE leaders, we can stand up for the high-quality, engaging education our students deserve.

With appreciation,

**Scofield Magnet PTP Executive Board**

[scofieldmagnetptp@gmail.com](mailto:scofieldmagnetptp@gmail.com)

## Skate Night:

Scofield Magnet Middle School PTP will be hosting Skate Night at Terry Conners on March 6th from 6-8pm.

SCOFIELD MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL

# SKATE NIGHT

\$12 online prepay  
OR \$15 at door  
(includes skates)

SCOFIELD-SKATE.CHEDDARUP.COM

FRIDAY, 3/6  
6-8 PM

Terry Conners Rink  
1125 Cove Road

Scofield students ONLY

Treats and drinks will be available for purchase

Adults are invited to stay and socialize with other  
parents in an upstairs heated room!

SPONSORED BY THE SCOFIELD PTP, A MEMBER OF THE PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL OF STAMFORD

Register your student for Skate Night here:

<https://scofield-skate.cheddarup.com> or by using this QR code:



If you would like to donate to our sale of treats and refreshments for the students, please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A45AAAB23AAFA7-61573775-skate#/>

**Scofield Yearbook:**



# Yearbooks!

2025-2026 Yearbooks are on sale for \$30.00

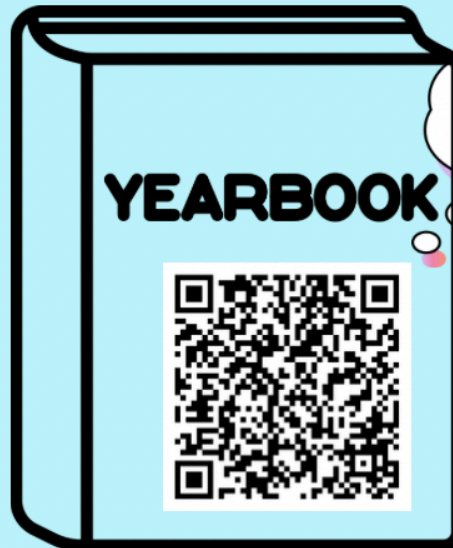
Yearbooks can be ordered at

<https://ybpay.lifetouch.com>

YBPay School Code: 12894426



**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
FAMILIES  
PURCHASE  
& SUBMIT  
AN AD BY  
2/20/26**



Deadline to  
purchase a book  
4/11/26

**Spirit Wear:**

Store: <https://scofield-spiritwear.cheddarup.com>

Contact: [scofieldspiritwear@gmail.com](mailto:scofieldspiritwear@gmail.com)