

Hive Jive

February 6, 2026

Williamston Middle School



Upcoming Events

February 11	Count Day
February 13	K-12 ½ day AM
February 16	No School K-12, Presidents' Day
March 6	K-12 ½ day AM
March 12	K-12 ½ day AM, Conferences (12:30-2:30 pm & 4:00-7:00 pm)
March 27	No School K-12; Begin Spring Break
April 6	Classes Resume

MEDICAL EXCUSES FOR ABSENCES

We understand that many students have been absent due to illness in the past few weeks, and we appreciate that you did not send them to school sick. If you took your child to the doctor, please provide a note (anything official from the doctor's office that includes the date) so that we can keep better attendance records.

WINTER COUNT DAY

Winter count day is **Wednesday, February 11**. Student attendance is critical on count day. If an appointment is necessary, then your child will need a medical note upon their return to school. This would apply to any of the following: doctor, dentist, physical therapist, therapy, urgent care, or orthodontist. **If you must pick up your student early or bring them in late, you will need to come in and sign a form.** If you have any questions, please contact the main office at 655-4668.

KINDNESS WEEK

Next week, we will be celebrating Kindness Week, February 9–13. WMS PALS will be hosting a Spirit Week with fun daily themes to encourage student participation. PALS will also be leading a few kindness-focused activities during the week to help promote a positive and welcoming school environment for both students and



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

WMS spring conferences will take place on **Thursday, March 12, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. and 4:00-7:00 p.m.** Parents will have the choice to attend conferences in person in the WMS cafeteria or virtually via Google Meet (video conference).

WMS will be scheduling parent-teacher conferences online. This enables WMS to honor parent/guardian time as well as to inform teachers to prepare for each conversation. There are designated times for virtual and in-person conferences.

Parents have the option of attending conferences virtually via Google Meet or in person.

March 12

- Virtual conferences 12:30-1:30 p.m., via Google Meet
- In-person conferences 1:36-2:30 p.m., located in the Williamston Middle School Cafeteria
- Virtual conferences 4:00-5:30 p.m., via Google Meet
- In-person conferences 5:36-7:00 p.m., located in the Williamston Middle School Cafeteria

The online conference scheduler will be active on Monday, February 17, at 9:00 AM. Conferences can be scheduled at: <https://www.myconferencetime.com/williamstonms/>. Please only take one time slot per student/household, per teacher/class.

To schedule a virtual appointment with the WMS counselor or social worker, please contact them directly. Miss Mackoul (counselor) can be reached at mackous@gowcs.net and Mr. Gipson (social worker) can be reached at gipsonn@gowcs.net. They are also available on March 12 for drop-in visits.

If you have questions about conferences, please contact the WMS main office at 517-655-4668.

SCHEDULING 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

8th graders (incoming WHS freshmen - class of 2030)

- Feb 12: Scheduling informational screencast and forms emailed to students/families
- Week of Feb 17: Required meeting with counselors and students to review schedule requests
- Feb 23: Schedule requests due (submitted online via Google Form)

Once the student scheduling process is complete, we will spend the next couple of months building the 2025-26 master schedule and creating student schedules. Our goal is to distribute 2026-27 schedules to students a week or two before the end of the school year. We then plan to offer drop/add sessions for all students requesting a class schedule change for the 2026-27 school year on June 3 & 4 following exams (this is the same schedule change request format offered in August before the start of the school year). If you have any questions about the scheduling process, please contact the WHS counseling office at 517-655-2142 Ext 7012.

ELECTRONIC REPORT CARDS

Semester 1 concluded on January 16, and an email has been sent to families notifying them that report cards have been issued inside the PowerSchool Parent portal. Parents must use a web browser to view them. They cannot be viewed in the PowerSchool mobile app. Below is a screenshot of where parents need to navigate to view digital documents for their students.

Instructions on how to view report cards are located on the district website.

Home > Departments > Technology > PowerSchool Parent - View Student Report Cards

Access [PowerSchool Parent - View Student Report Cards](#) for detailed instructions.

The screenshot shows the PowerSchool SIS Document Library interface. At the top, the browser address bar displays the URL: `gowcs.powerschool.com/guardian/docstorage.html?token=wpzDvyHDmsOOw49IS8KhW41yw5nDssKyw4EhwprDvkvCoFzCn09Kwpg5wpYawr9Jw4XDkw%3D%3D&portalSchoolId=gowcs`. The page header includes the PowerSchool SIS logo and a user greeting: "Welcome, [redacted] | Help | Site".

The left sidebar contains a "Navigation" menu with the following items: Grades and Attendance, Attendance History, Email Notification, Document Library, Teacher Comments, Forms, School Bulletin, and Class Registration. A yellow arrow labeled "1" points to the top navigation bar, and another yellow arrow labeled "2" points to the "Document Library" menu item.

The main content area is titled "Document Library" and displays a table of documents for a specific user. The table has the following columns: Type, Title, Description, File Name, View, Date Created, and Date Last Modified. A single document is listed:

Type	Title	Description	File Name	View	Date Created	Date Last Modified
Attendance Report	New Tab.pdf		New Tab.pdf		11/21/2024	11/21/2024

A yellow arrow labeled "3" points to the "View" icon in the table row.



Thinking about School Breakfast?



Just a reminder!
Williamston Community Schools provides breakfast at no cost to every student on every school day.

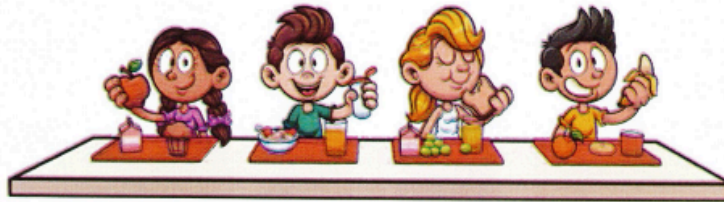
Discovery & Explorer Breakfast: 8:30-9:00
Middle School Breakfast 7:50-8:30
High School Breakfast 8:00- 8:30

All breakfast is served in the cafeteria



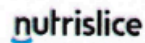
Students must take all required components to be eligible for a no cost meal. Food Service staff will encourage students to take all of the required components. A La Carte and extra portion options are available to purchase.

Find out what's for breakfast on Nutrislice! You will find packaged options, and the daily hot options. Come see what it's all about.



Check out Nutrislice at:
<https://williamston.nutrislice.com/menu>
Breakfast and lunch menus are available.

For questions or concerns about the Food Service Program please feel free to call or email
Wendy Gladhill
Asst. Food Service Director
517-655-2142 ex.7890
gladhiwe@gowcs.net



This Institution is an equal opportunity provider.

ILLNESS PREVENTION

As we continue with cold and flu season, many things can be done to keep our schools, homes, and communities healthy:

- As a general rule, students should stay home when they are feeling ill. It is recommended that individuals with symptoms remain at home until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours **without the use of fever-reducing medications.**
- You can lower the risk of getting and spreading illnesses by:
 - o Washing hands often with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds
 - o Using hand sanitizer if hand washing is not available
 - o Coughing and sneezing into the upper shirt sleeve or elbow
 - o Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
 - o Avoid sharing drinks and eating utensils with others
 - o Clean frequently touched surfaces such as door knobs, desks, countertops, and

- o cell phones
- o Stay up to date on recommended vaccinations
- o Maintain a healthy diet, adequate rest, and proper hydration

Please feel free to contact us if we may provide any additional information. We thank you for working together to keep our school community healthy.

Amanda Gailitis, BSN, RN
District Nurse
Williamston Community Schools

Resources Available

- **Free Community Dinner**
Every Wednesday at 5 p.m., Williamston United Methodist Church (211 S. Putnam St.) hosts a free, homemade dinner open to everyone. No reservations are required. Check the church's Facebook page on Monday or Tuesday for the weekly menu. [See the flyer for more details.](#)
- **Food assistance:**
Williamston Food Bank is available to help families with food needs anytime. [Click here for more information.](#) Please email williamstonmifoodbank@gmail.com or call 517-655-3813 to make arrangements.
- **Direct Assistance:**
Catholic Charities (1717 N. High Street) offers a clothing closet, personal needs pantry, and a baby and diaper pantry. [Click here for more information.](#)
- **Boots and Shoes:**
The Old Newsboys Association of Greater Lansing is now processing applications for footwear for school-age children. Children qualify for free footwear if they receive free or reduced lunch for the 2025-2026 school year. Upon receipt of a completed and approved application, each child in the family will receive a \$50 coupon for footwear at Meijer or Shoe Carnival and a \$10 coupon for socks. Please click the link for the [application form](#). Contact Sophia Mackoul at mackous@gowcs.net or 517-655-4361 ext. 6520 with any questions.

NOT NEW, BUT STILL IMPORTANT

ATTENDANCE

If your student will be absent, please call the Attendance Line at 517-655-4668 (press #1) to report their absence. On the recording, state the student's name, grade, date of absence, and reason for absence, or electronically submit an excuse online through your PowerSchool account. If your child has an unexcused absence, an automated message will be sent to parents/guardians at 9:10 a.m. and again in the evening (if it is still unexcused).

In the event of a medical appointment, parents are encouraged to bring documentation of their child's professional appointments to the school office. This is especially important as parents/guardians may only excuse up to ten absences per semester. Absences due to **documented** medical appointments are not included in the total hours missed from school.

School Messenger Notification System

In addition to our morning notification of unverified absences, we have an automated notification system to keep you updated on your child's attendance status for all of the class periods throughout the day. This system aims to foster better communication and support your child's educational experience.

What You Need to Know:

- **Timely Notifications:** You will receive automated notifications in the evening if your child is marked with an Unverified Absence or Tardy during the day. Unverified absences or tardies are reported per class period. This will provide you with timely information to ensure you are aware of your child's attendance.
- **Encouraging Attendance:** Regular attendance is crucial for academic success. By keeping you informed, we hope to encourage open dialogue about the importance of being present in school and arriving for class on time with the necessary materials. For additional information regarding attendance, see the Student Handbook.

We believe this system strengthens our partnership in supporting your child's education. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the enhancement to the notification system, please do not hesitate to contact the main office at 655-4668.

BELL SCHEDULE AND LUNCH

See the [WMS bell schedule](#) that includes daily schedules and assigned lunch times (based on 4th hour teachers).

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH AT WMS

Free breakfast and lunch are available to all students for the 2025-2026 school year.

A la carte items are also available for purchase. Student ala carte food accounts may be paid for by the week, month, or year. Online payments are made through the [family portal](#), or checks can be written to Williamston Community Schools and delivered to the kitchen in the morning before school starts.

[Monthly lunch menus are available on the website.](#)

BUZZ TICKET REWARD SYSTEM

Buzz tickets are part of our Positive Behavior Incentive System, and students are demonstrating respectful, responsible, safe, and engaging behavior! See the [Buzz Ticket Link](#) to learn more about the system, how to turn in buzz tickets, and redeem prizes.

END-OF-DAY STUDENT PICKUP

The parent pickup line uses the south driveway to follow the lines behind the building. *Please do not use the staff lot or library lot for student pickup, as this forces students to walk between buses, which is not safe. **Please do not drive on the sidewalks or against the one-way signs.*** The side lot (between the middle school and high school) is also available if you need to wait longer (pickup line moves quickly).

FOOD ALLERGIES

Classrooms at Williamston Middle School are designated as peanut and tree-nut-free to ensure the safety of all students. Please be vigilant about checking food labels to ensure that snacks from home are free

from these allergens. For additional information and guidance on how to read food labels, please refer to this resource: [Understanding Food Labels](#). Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school environment safe for all students.

IN-PERSON DROP-OFF/PICK-UP DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If your child needs to be dropped off or picked up during the school day, then please call the main office at 655-4668 upon arrival to verbally sign your child in or out of school.

OLD NEWSBOYS' FOOTWEAR REQUEST FORM

The Old Newsboys Association of Greater Lansing offers free shoes or boots to students in need. To request footwear for your student, please complete [this application](#) and return it to Sophia Mackoul, either in person or by email at mackouls@gowcs.net. Each child can receive up to **\$50** for shoes or boots, plus a **\$10 coupon for socks** redeemable at Meijer or Shoe Carnival.

PARENT/GUARDIAN VOLUNTEERS:

The district [background check form](#) for volunteers can be found on our website. Volunteer background checks expire at the end of the school year and must be annually renewed. Please fill out the form and bring in a printed copy, or scan and email it to fosterr@gowcs.net at the central office. Only one form needs to be submitted for individuals who volunteer at multiple locations.

SCHOOL MESSENGER NOTIFICATION SYSTEM:

Williamston Community Schools utilizes a rapid notification system called School Messenger. This automated system notifies parents/guardians of school closings and other important messages. Messages are sent out based on information in our PowerSchool student information system. Parents/guardians are able to add additional phone numbers and email addresses to this system by logging into their PowerSchool Parent Access account. Instructions can be found on the WCS website under the [Parents/Families link](#).

WEEKEND KIT PROGRAM - 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

WMS is participating in the weekend kit program, which is intended to meet the nutritional needs of children during non-school hours, specifically over weekends or longer breaks.

Weekend Kits are designed to slip discreetly into your child's backpack and are distributed to participating children every other week on Thursdays, and are available at no cost to your family. There are no eligibility requirements to participate in this program.

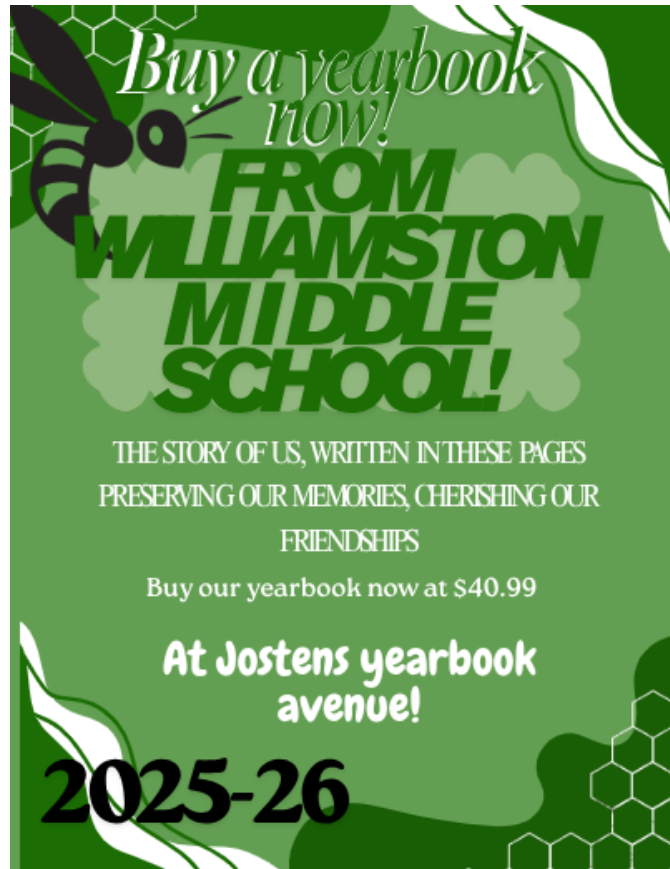
Each Weekend Kit includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack items and contains enough food to last each child two weekends. Foods included are kid-friendly items that are easy for your child to prepare or help prepare.

Participation forms are linked below if you wish to register your child for the Weekend Kit program. For more information, please reach out to Sophia Mackoul at mackous@gowcs.net or email glfb@glfoodbank.org. If you would like more information about additional food assistance resources available to your family, please visit glfoodbank.org.

PARTICIPATION FORM

WMS STUDENT HANDBOOK & CODE OF CONDUCT

[WMS Student Handbook 2025-26](#), which includes the Code of Conduct, is available on the WCS website.



Extracurricular Activities

ADULT SUPERVISION DURING WHS ATHLETIC EVENTS

All students in the 8th grade or younger must be with an adult who remains at the event and actively supervises them the entire time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TENNIS CLUB

Interested in joining the middle school tennis club? [Register here](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING

Schedule:

2/10/26 @ Grand Ledge 4:30 pm

2/13/26 @ Grand Ledge Tournament 4:30 pm

2/17/26 @ Olivet 4:30 pm

2/24/26 @ St. Johns 4:30 pm
3/3/26 Home (HS Aux Gym) 4:30 pm

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

7th & 8th Grade Girls Basketball [Calendar](#)

CADL

January 30th 3:30-4:30pm

Feast Friday: Stop by the Program Room to F.E.A.S.T. (Fun Entertainment and Snack Tasting) after school. Taste test different foods and enjoy some light entertainment! While supplies last.

January 30: Spicy Ramen Challenge

February 27: Chocolate Guessing Game

Ages 10+

February 3rd, 10th 3:30-4:30pm

Junk Journaling: Create a handmade journal from recycled and found materials. Participants will use old books, magazines, ticket stubs, photos, and fabric scraps to craft unique journals for personal expression, memory-keeping, or artistic experimentation. All supplies provided.

February 5th 3:30-4:30pm

Felt Bookmarks

Drop in to create your own felt bookmark! While supplies last. Ages 8-18

February 12th 3:30-4:30pm

Valentine Cookie Decorating

Drop in to the program room to decorate a heart shaped cookie! While supplies last. Ages 8-18

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

3845 Vanneter Rd. Williamston, MI 48895 (517) 655-4668