



WAJ Principal Newsletter

 **Date: September 15, 2025**

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1. What a Great 1st Full Week!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we wrapped up our first week of school, I want to extend my thanks to both our students and families for helping us start the year on such a positive note. The energy and enthusiasm throughout the building this week have been a great reminder of the strong WAJ community we share.

At our opening day assembly, I spoke with students about how each new school year is a blank canvas, a clean slate. Each of us has the chance to set new goals, shift our focus, and even reinvent ourselves. For some students, this may mean making new friends, committing to a greater academic focus, joining a new club or sport, or simply improving daily attendance. The start of the year is the perfect time to build these habits.

Now, as routines begin to take shape, there is no better time for students to develop strong study and homework habits. Families play an important role in this process, and I encourage you to consider the following strategies at home:

- Establish a consistent homework and study schedule.
- Create a quiet space for learning with student supplies.
- Limit distractions during study time (phones, social media, etc.).
- Encourage regular reading at home.
- Check in with your child about their goals and progress.

We also want to make sure parents have access to the same helpful tools and resources we use at school. You can find them on our website at www.wajcs.org. In addition, all of our previous newsletters are archived on the site for your reference.

Thank you again for a wonderful first week. I look forward to a great year ahead for our students and families.

Sincerely,

Anthony Taibi

2. How to Check Student Grades

Parent Resource Spotlight: SchoolTool Parent Portal

One of the most important ways parents can support student success is by regularly monitoring grades, attendance, and homework. Staying on top of these areas allows you to identify strengths, spot challenges early, and partner with teachers to keep your child on track. The **SchoolTool Parent Portal** is an excellent resource for doing just that—it provides up-to-date information at your fingertips. In the *Warrior Guide* that came home with students on the first day of school, Mrs. Thorington included a step-by-step guide to help parents set up their accounts. For your convenience, I have linked that resource [here](#).

Getting Started:

- Go to the WAJ website: www.wajcs.org and click on the **Parents** tab.
- Select the **SchoolTool** button.
- Log in using the username and password provided to you.
- Click on your child's name.
- Use the tabs to view schedule, assignments, attendance, and grades.
- To change your password, click on the **Account** tab on your home page, fill out the fields, and select **Change Password**.

Check the parent portal regularly and talk with your child about what you see. It's a great way to celebrate successes, catch small issues early, and encourage responsibility.

The 1st Quarter Interim ends on 10/3. Encourage your child to stay on top of their grades and communicate with their teachers. For your convenience and reference, I have included our Academic Eligibility summary document [here](#).

3. Personal Electronic Devices

I want to thank Parents and Students for their support as we implement the new state required ban on Personal Electronic Devices. Overall, student compliance with the new policy has been great! Several students have even commented that it is not as bad as they thought it would be to be without their phone during the school day. I can share that the amount of face to face social interaction has increased, which is definitely a positive. For your reference I have kept the links below for the full policy and the one page summary.

[Personal Electronic Device Policy Summary](#)

[Students and Personal Electronic Devices Policy](#)

Full policy details are also available on our website at wajcs.org.



4. Cafeteria - Breakfast and Lunch

WJ really does have the best lunches! I often find myself bragging to my own kids about the meals we get to enjoy here each day. A big thank you to Sean, Sandy, Kathy, and Debra for not only preparing such delicious food but also for caring for our students like they are their own.

Breakfast and Lunch Menus can always be found by accessing our website under the Parent or Student Tab - then click Food Services. For your convenience, I have linked them [here](#).

Second Breakfast meals will be \$1.60 and Second Lunch meals will be \$2.80. Milk will be \$.55.

Quick & Easy Payments for Extras

Families can conveniently add funds for second meals or snacks, as well as view purchase history, through My School Bucks (available on the WAJCS website or directly [here](#)).

5. Bus Notes & Attendance

Transportation Changes/Bus Notes

The start of the school year has gone great with transportation changes and bus notes. I just wanted to provide a few quick reminders. Mrs. Kern is now your point of contact in the Main Office for bus notes and transportation changes. Please email Susan Kern at skern@wajcs.org when you need to make any temporary changes to your transportation arrangements.

- If your child needs to ride a bus other than their regularly assigned one or will be picked up, please send a written note with your child to give to their teacher or the main office. Letting the bus driver know at pick-up is great, but we still need official contact to the Main Office.
- For changes that come up after your child has already arrived at school, please call the office by 11:00 a.m.

This process helps us ensure that all students travel safely, which remains our top priority.

Attendance/Absence Notes

When a student is absent, he/she must bring a written excuse from a parent or guardian for each tardiness or absence from school. The note needs to state the date of the absence or tardiness and the reason. An excused absence, tardiness, or early departure must be on file at the school within five days of the absence. For all absence questions and notifications, please contact our school nurses, Mrs. Selner tselner@wajcs.org and Mrs. Gonzalez ggonzalez@wajcs.org



6. Fall Sports Update

Our Fall Sports teams are in full swing. Our Golf team has already competed in eight matches, compiling a 5-3 record so far this year. Both of our Varsity Soccer teams have home games this week, with our Boys competing against Margaretville on Tuesday and our Girls against Stamford/Jefferson on Thursday. Our Boys Modified Soccer Team has a home game on Wednesday, 9/17 and our Cross-country Team has a home meet on Tuesday, 9/16. The Clay Trap Team has their second match of the season on 9/17. Come out and support our Warriors!

09/16/25	Boys Varsity Soccer	Margaretville	4:15 PM
09/16/25	Cross Country	WAJ, Chatham, Loudonville Christian	4:30 PM
09/17/25	Clay Trap Team	Stony Clove	5:00 PM
09/17/25	Boys Mod. Soccer	Margaretville	4:15 PM
09/18/25	Girls Varsity Soccer	Stamford/Jefferson	4:15 PM



*Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School
and the W.A.J. Parent Teacher Association*

cordially invites you to the

Pre-K-4 Open House

(5:15-5:45 PM - classroom visits)

Gr. 5-12 Open House

(5:45-6:15 PM - bus loop)

&

Back to School Barbecue

W.A.J. front lawn (6:15-7:00 PM)

Friday, September 26, 2025

Let's celebrate our future.....our children!

Demonstrations & Displays:

- Guidance Office resources
- W.A.J. Clubs and Organizations
- School Tool and other online resources



Title 1 Parent Meeting

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Cafetorium

Parents - please feel free to attend the Title 1 Parent Meeting prior to the start of our Open House.



7. Upcoming Events

Open House/Back to School BBQ - September 26th

- 5:00 PM - Title 1 Parent Meeting
- 5:15 - 5:45 PM - PK-4
- 5:45 - 6:15 PM - 5-12
- 6:15 - 7:00 PM - Back to School BBQ

8. School Year Reminders and Resources Section

NEW REMINDERS

School Picture Day is coming up on September 29th. All students, PreK-12 will be photographed. Even if you choose not to purchase pictures, your child's picture will still be taken for yearbook purposes.

OLD REMINDERS

School Supply Lists linked [here](#).

Morning Program - September 17th - 8:15 AM

Our school website — www.wajcs.org — is a great resource for everything WAJ.



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