

February / March 2024 School Newsletter

PUBLIC NOTICES

ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS, EARLY VOTING BALLOT APPLICATIONS AND ABSENTEE MILITARY BALLOT APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE for the BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION ON TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024

- Applications may be obtained from the District Clerk, during school hours beginning April 5, 2024.
- Absentee Ballot Applications and Early Voting Ballot Applications must be received by the District Clerk at least 7 days before the election or by May 14, 2024, if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Applications must be received by the District Clerk the day before the election or by May 20, 2024, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter.
- Absentee Military Ballot Applications must be received by the District Clerk by April 25, 2024.
- The District Clerk must receive the completed absentee ballots no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

ELECTION OFFICIALS FOR BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION ON MAY 21, 2024

The Wyoming Central School District is looking for election officials for the Annual School Budget Vote and Election on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. If interested please contact the District Clerk at 495-6222, ext. 414 by April 22, 2024.

PETITIONS FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

- Interested candidates can obtain a petition from the District Clerk.
- Petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the District Clerk no later than April 22, 2024 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Each petition must be signed by at least 25 qualified voters of the school district.
- The election and vote on the school budget will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the main foyer.

TRANSPORTATION TO NON-PUBLIC

A written, dated and signed request from a parent or legal guardian requesting transportation to a nonpublic school must be received by the Superintendent of Schools on or before April 1, 2024. State Law requires the District transport its resident school aged children to non-public schools up to fifteen miles as measured between the home and the non-public school.



Tuesday, May 21, 2024

www.wyomingcsd.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT...EMILY HERMAN

I hope this message finds you well. As we navigate through the ever-changing landscape of education, I am compelled to bring your attention to a matter of utmost importance that directly impacts our beloved school district.

Recently, Governor Kathy Hochul unveiled her proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. While budgets are often complex and subject to scrutiny, one particular aspect of this proposal has sent ripples of concern throughout our education community: the elimination of the 'hold harmless' provision for school funding.

For those unfamiliar with the term, the 'hold harmless' provision has historically provided a safety net for school districts, ensuring that they do not receive less foundation aid than they did in previous years, even if enrollment numbers decline. This provision has been instrumental in maintaining stability and allowing districts to continue providing quality education despite fluctuations in student population. However, Governor Hochul's proposed budget seeks to remove this safeguard, which has understandably sparked widespread concern among school districts across New York State, including our own.

Upon closer examination of the proposed budget, it has become evident that our district stands to face a significant reduction in foundation aid. In fact, we anticipate a staggering decrease of over 20%, amounting to a loss of \$390,651. Such a substantial cut in funding would undoubtedly have far-reaching implications for our schools, students, teachers, and community as a whole.

As your superintendent, I want to assure you that we are actively engaging with state legislators, advocating tirelessly for the needs of our district and the well-being of our students. I have had several opportunities to meet with assemblymen and senators who represent our region, emphasizing the importance of maintaining adequate funding for education and the devastating impact these proposed cuts would have on our ability to provide quality education to our students.

I promise to continue to advocate against the cuts in our state aid funding and to encourage an on-time

Governor Kathy Hochul

Phone: (518) 474-8390 Email: <u>Governor Contact Form</u> Address: NYS State Capital Bldg, Albany, NY 12224

Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delagdo Phone: (518) 402-2292, Email: <u>Lieutenant Governor</u> Address: NYS State Capital Bldg, Albany, NY 12224

Assembly District #147: ·David DiPietro Phone: (716) 655-0951 Email: <u>DiPietroD@nyassembly.gov</u> Address: 411 Main St, E. Aurora, NY 14052

Senator George Borrello Phone:(716)-664-4603 Email: <u>borrello@nysenate.gov</u> Address: 2-6 E. Second Street, Fenton Building, Ste. 302, Jamestown, NY 14701 budget that prioritizes the needs of our schools. However, I cannot do this alone. I encourage you to join me in reaching out to local representatives, expressing your concerns, and urging them to support our school in this critical time.

Together, we can make our voices heard and ensure that our children continue to receive the quality education they deserve. I will keep you updated on any developments regarding the budget and its potential impact on our district.



Things you should Know and Be Aware Of

By: Joelle Stroud, District Treasurer

Foundation Aid Cuts Proposed by Governor Hochul

In January Governor Kathy Hochul released her 2024-25 executive budget proposal. As you might have read in local newspapers, the proposal was less than favorable for many school districts across the state, especially small, rural schools, including the Wyoming Central School District. According to her proposal Wyoming's foundation aid, the largest source of our state aid, would decrease by \$390,651 (21.5%) for the 2024-25 school year. To put that amount in perspective, a 1% increase in school taxes would only bring in an additional \$21,800 in revenue. The district has been in a good financial position for the past several years, and if the legislative budget does not restore the money proposed to be cut, will be able to strategically use fund balance and certain reserves in 2024-25 to compensate for some of the lost revenue. However, sustained cuts of this magnitude would be a serious detriment to the district, as it is bound by a tax levy cap, and its reserves are finite. Therefore, we encourage district residents, adults and children alike, to contact your local and state government representatives to let them know how important this school is to you, and that cuts of this size, especially without warning are not acceptable. Let them know that children in small population areas still deserve as valuable of an education as those in more densely populated districts.

Is Wyoming still doing a capital project even though the governor is proposing aid cut?

Yes. First, thank you to all district residents who came out to vote on the capital project on December 7th. The referendum passed and since that date the district has been working closely with its architects on the design phase of the project.

You might be wondering how the school can move forward with a capital project when foundation aid is projected to be cut so drastically. The short answer is because this project has been designed to have a zero tax impact. That means that no additional funds are needed from the district's taxpayers to cover the cost of the debt service associated with it. The referendum in December included the request to use \$1,500,000 in capital reserves to offset the cost of the \$5,375,000 project. It is important to understand that capital reserve funds can only legally be used for capital projects. They cannot be used to pay for salaries or other general operational expenses. Using capital reserve funds allows the district to do this project without the need to take on debt for the entire cost. However, New York State will base our aid on the total aidable cost of the project, not just on the portion of the project that is being financed by debt. According to our fiscal advisors, the debt service for the project over the same time period is projected to be \$5,594,352, or \$18,944 more than the debt service. In essence, we are projected to make money on this project.

School finances and aid are very complex and are governed by many laws. The Wyoming Central School District works hard to provide its students with a solid education, while being attentive to the financial concerns of its taxpayers, and working within the applicable legal boundaries. Our residents are encouraged to attend Board of Education meetings to learn more about school finance and to ask questions.

THINGS YOU SHOULD

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THE WONDERFUL PRE-K CLASS BY: MRS. CZWORKA & MS. GONSIOREK

Hooray! We made it to the 100th Day of School. We celebrated by dressing up as if we were 100

years old, ate a 100 snack (pretzel rod and 2 chocolate chip cookies), brought in a 100 collection (with the families help), played with 100 Legos, 100 plastic cups, 100 bears, matched 100 numbers, 100 puzzle pieces (different puzzles), and had some fun with Mrs. Forti and her students. She took pictures and made them look like they were 100 years old.

IN THE CLASSROOMS

Valentine's Day was so much fun to see the students appreciate their valentines by saying Thank You; some students were even giving hugs. We continue to work on the importance of being kind. This special day is a great day to embrace kindness.

The students are practicing good sportsmanship through snowball fights and musical chairs. It is hard to lose and we can't always win; even though we want too. They are becoming gracious losers and support each other.

We have made paper bag turkey and reindeer vests, celebrated holidays, games with shapes, numbers, colors, memory games and lots of fun playing. We even had Friendsgiving Centers in November with our Kindergarten, First, and Second Grades classes. Our themes so far have been family and grocery store. The new theme is restaurant and ours is McDonalds's. The students are having a great time and lots of learning is happening!

KINDERGARTEN NEWS BY: MRS. FORTI, TEACHER

It is hard to believe how fast this year is moving but we have been SO busy in our room that I guess it went unnoticed. January was filled with such excitement as we learned about animals that hibernate and those that adapt to the weather conditions. We also carried on the tradition of identifying different birds and how they are different and similar. We created bird visors and binoculars to go around the school and find the hidden birds. We began February with Groundhogs Day and are so excited about the shadow NOT being seen. Valentine's Day and the hundredth Day were also filled with so much excitement as we did so many hands-on activities and we were even able to pop a hundred balloons. I love how these little learners are soaking up everything. They are starting to put sounds and words together to become readers. We are excited to see what spring brings and incorporate more of nature into learning.



FANTASTIC FIRSTIES BY: MRS. ROMASSER

Time sure flies when you're having fun! Each First Grader in Room 110 has been making SO much positive growth in their academics, behaviors, and their relationships with others. We have been working hard every day, and have made HUGE improvements in our reading, writing, and math facts! It is so exciting to see where each of my students started from in the beginning of First Grade to where they are now.

Our class has done an excellent job working together as a team to achieve our goals. We have recently earned a class pajama and movie day. After researching the best G-rated movies and voting as a class, we have decided to watch The Lion King. We're all really looking forward to lounging around with our friends for the last school day before February break and rocking out to some classic Disney sing-a-long songs together!

We have had many class celebrations this winter, including several birthdays, Christmas, New Year's, 100 day, and Valentine's Day. On February 13, we celebrated being in school for 100 days! This was a fun day where many of us dressed up and acted like we're 100 years old. We took pictures to "oldify" ourselves, and wrote about what we will do someday when we're 100. There were so many clever ideas, including "hang out with my grandkids", "nap and snack all day", or "go to the trampoline park".

Our class has also been very interested in learning about what life was like "long ago". We have learned about many ways that our lives are similar and different than the daily lives of people who lived long ago- through reading various texts, watching videos, and having class discussions. First Graders at Wyoming were surprisingly engaged in learning about historical figures, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Abraham Lincoln. They are like little sponges, and their thirst for knowledge is invigorating!

According to our famous groundhog friend, Punxsutawney Phil, spring is just around the corner! We are all anxiously waiting to spend more time learning and playing with our friends out in the fresh country air.



DYNAMIC SECOND GRADE BY: MS. SANTULLO

Second Grade had a "Gouda" time learning about cheese production during the fun-filled and delicious Agriculture in the Classroom Lesson. Thank you, Miss Stephanie!

Thank you to Mrs. Reinhardt and everyone who attended our Holiday Concert this year! We had a blast singing for you!

'Twas the week before Christmas break in Room 109, and we listened to a story and had a great time! Thank you to our classroom helpers! We loved having you visit and participate in our fun holiday activities!

What an awesome presentation of Beatrix Potter and her amazing world of Peter Rabbit and friends.







THIRD GRADE IS WHERE AWESOME HAPPENS!

Third grade has been busy these last few weeks! We've learned about planets, gravity, force, motion, Motown (yes, that's right!) and sheep soap. No, we didn't make soap out of sheep... exactly. Miss Stephanie from Wyoming County Ag in the Classroom taught us how to make felted wool stretched over a bar of soap. We learned about the texture of sheep's wool and how it is both a natural exfoliant and a moisturizer. The classroom sure smelled great after this activity! The kiddos are working hard to learn their multiplication facts. One thing they haven't had to work hard at is getting along. This group takes good care of each other - they are pretty awesome!

A VIEW FROM THE FOURTH GRADE BY: JOSEPH ALLEN, EMMETT HEINEMAN, KEEGAN PRITCHARD AND STERLING MESSECAR

We can't believe the school year is almost halfway over! We are sad that 2023 came to an end, but we are so happy for the year of 2024. 4th grade has been exciting and full of adventures! Some of the fourth graders started band rehearsals, and we are enjoying playing our instruments. We are so excited to show off our hard work at the spring concert.

We are also looking forward to the assembly with Stokoe farms. We are hoping they bring a variety of animals. We are looking forward to our February break and our field trip with the 3rd grade (TBD)!

In 4th grade we have been practicing long division during our Math class, citing text evidence in ELA, along with practicing for the NYS ELA tests in April. In Science we have been learning about forces of motion. In our music classes, we have been studying different composers of the month and the different notes to each of the instruments. In Art we have been making squishmallows by sewing them together. In our gym class we have been playing volleyball and running a lot!

Our class has also been decorating for Valentine's Day. We are excited that we get to have a class party because all of our classmates' scores went up on our iReady mid-year diagnostics. The class still has to discuss some ideas on what we are going to do for our party.

We are having so much fun in the 4th grade and we are learning so much! However, we are looking forward to warmer weather. Some of us have been making restaurants such as Chick-fil-A, Burger King, Tim Hortons and KFC at our choice time at the end of the day. We move things around the room and pull up the restaurants mentioned menus on our chromebooks.



STH GRADE HAPPENINGS BY: MRS. LAMAR

The fifth graders have been making remarkable progress, as always! We have been delving into a diverse range of topics, from multi-digit division and decimals to the tales of European explorers arriving in America. Our English Language Arts journey has led us to the heartwarming story of winter, the dolphin rescued by the Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Florida after a harrowing encounter with a crab trap. In addition, we have been actively setting goals, writing poetry, and engaging in reflective writing about our reading materials.

A definite highlight of our year was the enriching visit to the Genesee Country Village and Museum in Mumford, NY, where we immersed ourselves in the trades and lifestyles of 1800's New York alongside our fourth grade peers.

Looking ahead, we are brimming with excitement for our upcoming trip to Boston with our sixth grade classmates and Alexander's fifth and six graders. The anticipation is mounting, and we cannot wait to embark on this educational adventure together!

SCIENCE DISCOVERIES

BY: MRS WELCH

Living Environment

Living Environment students have been examining the development and growth of cells. We have looked at the differences between Mitosis and Meiosis. Mitosis is the way our body cells reproduce and grow. Students have examined the phases of Mitosis under the microscope, using an onion root tip. We next venture into the world of genetics. We discussed Gregor Mendel's (Father of Genetics) study of pea plants to learn about how traits are passed from parent to offspring. Students were able to carry out a virtual examination of karyotyping. This gave students a feel for what a geneticist would be looking at when carrying out their work. Our next step was into the area of DNA and RNA. Students did a tasty activity to make a model of the DNA structure. We then examined protein synthesis to see how our bodies make the necessary instructions to carry out various processes. Our current unit of study is Genetic Engineering. We have taken our knowledge of the structure of DNA and RNA, as well as the protein synthesis to examine how scientists can use this knowledge. We looked at the tools of Genetic Engineering, restriction enzymes, cell transformation and electrophoresis.

Grade 8 Science

Grade 8 Students this year are completing the four new required state investigations. The first investigation, It's Alive, involved the investigation of cells and their structure. Students review the structure of both plant and animal cells through a hands-on investigation. The next topic that was examined was Matter. Students learned about the structure of matter, solid, liquid and gasses and how to measure each phase. Students then performed the next state required investigation, "All Mixed Up." Students had a container containing three unknowns and they had to develop an experiment to separate out the three different matter types and identify them. Our current study was Energy and Thermal Energy. Students learned about the different types of energies and their transformations. We are just finishing up the next state investigation "Cool It", in which students are measuring how mass affects mass on heat transfer. We hope to finish this up before February break. After break we will be examining the structure of Atoms and Chemical Reactions.

Grade 7 Science

Seventh grade students started the year off with cells and their structures. We then did the naked egg experiment in which students were able to create a cell membrane using a chicken egg. Students were then able to experiment with different environmental concentrations and solutions to see how the membrane would react. The class then went on to study other processes that cells carry out, photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Currently we are undertaking the process of cell division. Students are learning about the phases of mitosis. We are wrapping up that study by examining the onion root tip under the microscope to check out what the phases of mitosis look like. Our next area of study is Genetics and the question of why do we look like our parents.

Grade 6 Science

Sixth grade geologists are studying the layers of the Earth. We discussed the theory of plate tectonics and some of the evidences used to support to support this theory. Students are looking into Earthquakes and what causes them; how they affect the Earth's surface as well as our buildings. We will be checking out boundary types; types of stresses and the types of faults. We will take a closer look at how earthquakes are measured and where they occur the most.

M.S. SPANISH BY: MR. PURSEL

Seventh and Eighth Graders are focused on learning Spanish vocabulary related to daily

events and routines. Some highlights include nomenclature for classroom objects, transportation modes, and ordering food. The students should already be able to use Spanish for daily obligations, telling time, expressing preferences, and describing places/people.

Students will be able to use Spanish adverbs to express frequency of occurrence. They will be able to express ownership of objects using "de" as well as possessive adjectives. They will continue to practice conjugating regular "ar", "er" and "ir" verbs and will learn additional irregular verbs, which need to be memorized as they do not follow set patterns.

They will also study Spanish culture by comparing and contrasting other people's traditions with their own. Some cultural customs, such as Posadas and the Quinceanera, have been highlighted in the current curriculum.

As a reminder, students need to use the Spanish language to read, write, speak and listen effectively in order to be successful. It is essential that students review notes and memorize vocabulary for 20-25 minutes on a daily basis.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your student's progress.



M.S. MATH BY: MR. HAYES

In math classes students have been focusing on learning from mistakes this year. There has been a concerted effort to get the middle school students to recognize where they are going wrong and fix their misunderstanding on their own. The students have become far more independent in the process. We have also been focused on critical thinking and asking questions. It is great to see the students finally grasp the theories and equations - you can literally see when they connect the dots!





WCS Ski Club @ Swain Ski Resort

SPOTLIGHT ON MRS. BAKER'S ROOM

It is hard to believe that the school year is halfway over! I have had such a warm and welcoming experience from the students and staff here at Wyoming Central. It has been such an exciting opportunity to work with students in grades 2nd -5th focusing on reading, writing, and math. I am so proud of all the hard work and dedication from each and every one of the students, and it is truly wonderful to see all of the progress they are making. All of their hard work and determination is paying off! I am so excited to see what the rest of the school year brings to these learners!

Keep up the hard work and anything is possible!

THANK YOU PTO!!

A huge THANK YOU to the PTO for providing the school an assembly from Stokoe Farms. We were able to see and touch a baby kangaroo, tortoises, armadillos, hedgehog, and rabbit.

What a great time and we learned so much!

Nurse's Office

We are looking forward to better weather here at

school, as I'm sure you are too. Getting the kids outside and opening the windows in the classrooms will be helpful to get those viruses and illnesses to disappear. Lately we have seen the stomach bug, coughs, colds and strep throat appear. Luckily we are able to all work together to do our best to combat these illnesses at our school.

As a reminder, below is some routine information for you to review.

If your child has a fever, it is not a good idea to give them medicine like Tylenol or Advil and send them to school because as soon as the medicine wears off, the fever may return and you will be called to come and pick up your child.

Please keep children home for 24 hours after the fever ends or they have completed 24 hours of medication if prescribed by your healthcare provider.

For any absence from school, New York State Education law requires that the school have on file an excuse by the parent or guardian when a student misses a scheduled day of school. The excuse is kept on file for a period of five years.

You can now utilize out new ParentSquare system to send in those excuses or any other information that we need to know. Please call the school if you have not signed up for this new program.

Please remind your children to throw away used tissues, cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze, keep their hands away from their face, and to wash hands often with soap and warm water will help keep everyone healthier.

Please feel free to call or email if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Maria Herman RN, School Nurse 585-495-6222 ext. 106 mherman@wyomingcsd.org



Please keep your child home and/or contact your child's doctor for:

- 📝 Fever greater than 100.4 (taken by mouth)
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Severe sore throat along with fever and feeling ill for more than 48 hours, or after exposure to Strep Throat infection
- Honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth or rash on other body parts
- Large amounts of mucous (liquid) from their nose, with face pain or headache
- Severe ear pain or fluid coming from the ear
- Severe headache, especially with fever

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SPECIAL DITION



The girls' basketball program was started back up this year. The team was small, but was the perfect team to drive future excitement in the program. They went 8-5 and finished the year with +59 point differential. Next year they will have 4 returning 8th graders and a vast majority of their scoring so they should be well positioned to have a great season.

The boys' basketball team has had a far bumpier ride. They are 3-6 with one game remaining. The team has been riddled with injuries and illnesses making the season sporadic and difficult to get in to a groove. With that said, next year will feature a wave of new 7th grade boys to replace the 8th grade boys that are leaving.

The 2023-24 Wyoming Ski Club is led by Mrs. Romasser and Mrs. May. We have been lucky to have many parents and family members join us to encourage our skiers and boarders. The Wyoming Ski Club is open to students in grades 3-8. We take six trips to Swain Ski Resort where members take lessons and then explore the mountain with their friends. The evenings are a mix of hard work, fun, and community building.

SKI

RY:

CLUB

MRS. MA

Currently, we have 12 ski club members. Our beginners have been exploring the green circle trails and getting used to the lifts. They will all be able to be on the blue trails by the end of the season. Our experienced members have tried all the hills and have been able to experience black diamonds and the terrain 📬 parks.



MATH TEAM BY: MR. HAYES

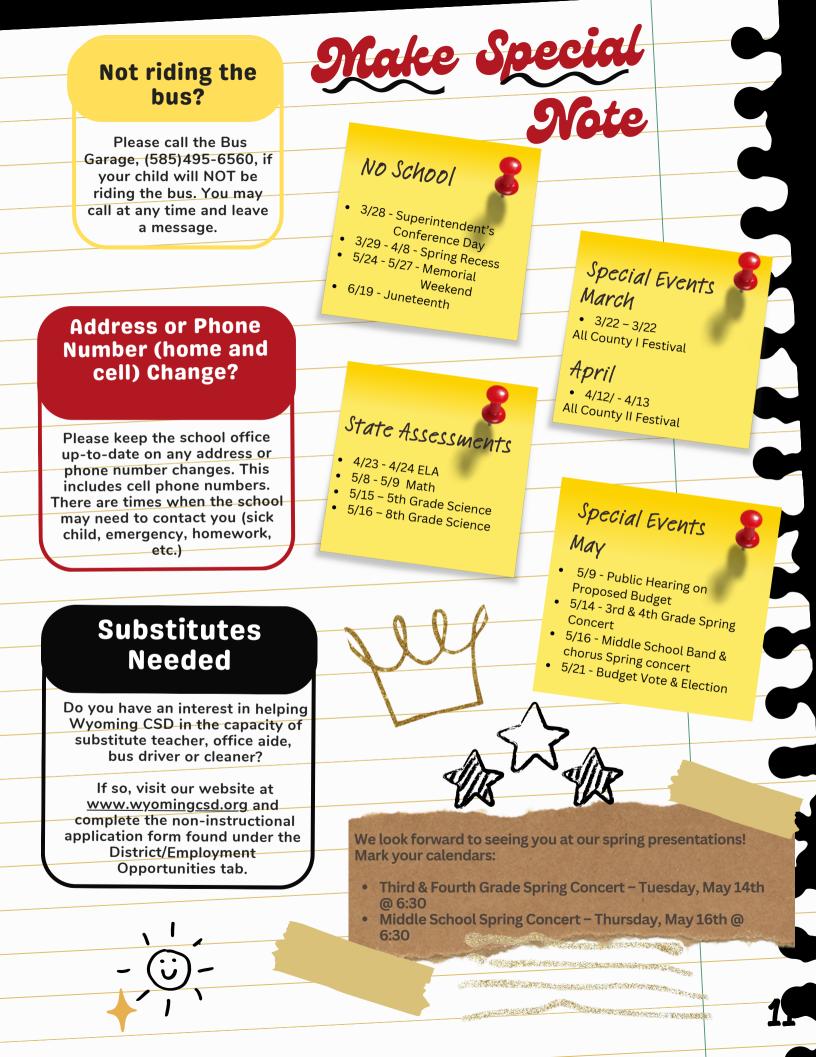
Some 7th and 8th graders have also been participating in Math Team competitions as well. Although this year has not been the best, next year we will have a strong group of 8th graders paired with a fresh group of 7th graders. The goal will be set at placing in the top 5 against schools that have up to ten times the student population to pick from

PAGETURNERS Pageturners is a literaturebased competition for students in grades 6-8 who attend school in the Genesee Valley BOCES district. During the year-long season, students are exposed to over 20 selections of all genres. The competition allows our scholars to share their strengths in reading and leadership with students from 18 other schools.

This enrichment activity is an outstanding way for scholars to show off their academic skills as they read contemporary middle school novels. Currently, our 6 members are ranked first place in our division. Our next competition will be in early March. If we continue to be ranked first, we will then move on to finals in April.



MRS MAY



Wyoming Central School District 1225 Route 19 PO Box 244 Wyoming, NY 14591-0244

Board of Education

- Ben Chamberlain, President
- Barry True, Vice President
- Kaitlyn Bush
- Jessica Merrill
- Haley Tygart
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Superintendent of School

• Emily Herman

- District Treasurer
- Joelle Stroud
- www.wyomingcsd.org



PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Universal Pre-Kindergarten is presently taking enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year. If your child turns 4 on or before December 1, 2024 and you are interested in having your child attend a full day program, please go to the school web site or call the school. (Wyomingcsd.org-parents-registering your child or 495-6222 with questions.)

Kindergarten is presently taking enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year. If your child turns 5 on or before December 1, 2024 and you are interested in having your child attend, please go to the school web site or call the school.

(Wyomingcsd.org—parents—registering your child or 495-6222 with questions.) If your child is presently in the Universal Pre-K Program you do not need to enroll your child.

Screening for both will take place at a later date.