

Wynantskill

Union Free School District

Superintendent Lee Bordick



Gardner-Dickinson School

Principal Mary Yodis

2014-2015 CALENDAR

www.wynantskillufsd.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of our community-based school is to create a safe, compassionate, progressive learning environment that recognizes individual needs and encourages all students to strive for personal and educational excellence.

As a small, suburban school district, rich with pride, we believe that by working together we can: create a dynamic program based on character, tolerance and diversity; provide opportunities for all to reach their fullest potential; empower all to achieve personal excellence; and encourage a life-long love of learning.



Wynantskill

Union Free School District

School District Website

Community members are encouraged to visit www.wynantskillufsd.org for the most up-to-date information about the school district. The website is updated regularly and includes resources such as an online calendar and contact information as well as stories about what students are learning.

eNews

Parents and community members can receive news about the district through eNews, an e-mail notification system. Emails are sent out every two weeks, alerting our community about upcoming events. Emails are also sent in the event of emergencies, such as closing early due to a storm. eNewsletters are also offered, providing stories and photos of what students are learning. Visit www.wynantskillufsd.org to sign up for this free service.

School Bus Safety

To ensure the safety of students, it is important that parents review the following bus safety rules with their children.

- Students must sit in seats at all times while riding the bus.
- Eating and drinking are not allowed while riding the bus.
- Talking loudly or making noise that could distract the bus driver should be avoided.
- All rules described in the district's Code of Conduct should be followed.

If these rules are violated repeatedly, a student may be suspended from school transportation. Parents would then be responsible for transporting their child to and from school each day, per New York State Education Law.

DAILY INSTRUCTIONAL SCHEDULE

	Kindergarten – Grade 5	Grades 6-8
Arrival	7:55 to 8:15 a.m.	7:55 to 8:15 a.m.
Breakfast	8:00 to 8:15 a.m.	8:00 to 8:26 a.m.
School Day	8:15 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.	8:26 a.m. to 3:17 p.m.
Dismissal	2:25 to 2:30 p.m.	3:17 to 3:22 p.m.
Half-Day Dismissal	Noon	11:15 a.m.

When students arrive at school, they should report directly to the cafeteria where Gardner-Dickinson staff will supervise them until they are sent to classrooms at 8:15 a.m. If your K-5 child arrives later than 8:15 a.m. or your grade 6-8 child arrives later than 8:26 a.m., they will need a late entry pass from the Main Office.



Dropping Off Students

If you drop off your child in the morning, please be sure to use the designated drop off zone. Children should be let out of the vehicle at the sign “Student Drop Off and Pick Up Area” in front of the crosswalk. If there is a line of cars, please wait in the line until you are able to pull up to the drop off spot. This will prevent children from walking between cars where a driver may not be able to see them.

A teacher aide will stand at the crosswalk and outside the building door each day from 7:45 to 8:25 a.m. to greet and assist your child. After 8:25 a.m. they will enter the building and lock the doors by the library.

Please **DO NOT** drive your car into the bus loop in front of the building to drop off your child **between 7:45 – 8:25 a.m.** Only buses are allowed in the loop during this time.

If you arrive after 8:25 a.m. you may pull up to the main entrance to drop off your child once buses and children have been cleared. Your child must enter through the main entrance after 8:25 a.m.

Parking and Pick Up Restrictions in Bus Loop

Please **DO NOT** park your vehicle in the bus loop for any length of time. For the safety of everyone in the school, it is imperative this area be kept clear at all times for emergency vehicles.

Between 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 - 3:30 p.m., please **DO NOT** pull into the bus loop to pick up students. Only buses are allowed in the loop during this time.

Early Release Requests

Students who need to be excused early from school for illness or medical appointments must provide a written parental request. Written requests must be submitted to the Main Office before the start of school. Parents are required to pick students up at the Main Office and sign them out for early dismissal.

Changes in Transportation

If a change in transportation is necessary, a signed note must be sent in the morning with your child. It should contain: your child’s name, grade level, date, address they will be going to, and/or name of individual picking up your child. Calls to the Main Office during the day to change transportation arrangements are for emergencies only. These calls should be made before noon to allow time to coordinate with a child’s teacher and the transportation department.

Breakfast and Lunch Program

Gardner-Dickinson School serves breakfast and lunch daily while school is in session. The price for lunch is \$2.50. Breakfast is \$1.25. Pre-pay plans are available through www.myschoolbucks.com. Visit www.wynantskillufsd.org for more information.

Free or Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Program Guidelines

Children from households that meet federal income guidelines are eligible for free or reduced meals. Parents whose children are eligible are encouraged to participate. Participation is completely confidential. Information and application forms are mailed home to parents and are also available at www.wynantskillufsd.org.

Visitors to the School

To ensure the safety of our students, faculty and staff, all visitors to the school must report to the Main Office. Visitors must sign in, state the reason for the visit and obtain a visitor’s pass, which must be displayed at all times.

Conduct on School Property

Anyone on school property must abide to the District’s Code of Conduct at all times. Signs are posted on school property as a reminder of proper conduct.



HEALTH SERVICES

School Attendance and Reporting of Absences

New York State Education Law requires every minor to regularly attend school full time until he or she becomes 17-years-old or graduates. A student's absence, or anticipated lateness, must be reported to the Health Office by 8:30 a.m. by calling 283-4600 ext. 18. This number may be called at any time, day or night. If we do not hear from you, you can expect to hear from us to be sure your child is safe and accounted for. Please send in a note with the date and reason for your child's absence when your child returns to school.

If Your Child Is Sick

If your child is sick, they should be fever-free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school. The same rule applies to vomiting. If your child has vomited within the last 24 hours, they should stay at home. Please help us keep everyone healthy!

Student Emergency Contact Forms

Each year, a Student Emergency Contact form is sent to parents and guardians for updating. It is critical that parents take the time to update this information for all their children so the school can contact parents or guardians in case of an emergency.

The information provided is used for our automated emergency calling system, which is used to contact parents during an emergency. The information on this form also stipulates where your child will be dropped off in the event of an emergency closing. Pick up at school during emergencies will not be available as our goal is to evacuate students as quickly as possible.

Any changes throughout the school year must be sent in writing to your child's teacher.

Medication Administration in School

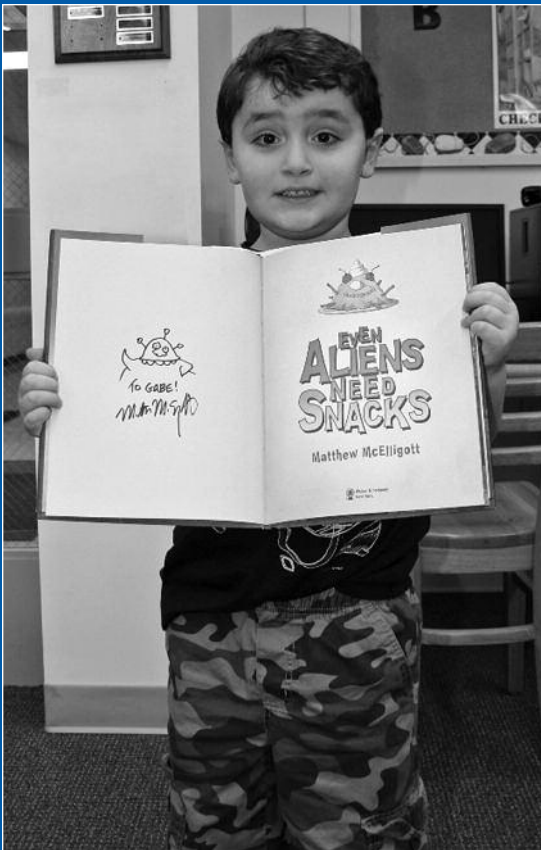
Please be reminded that students are not to transport or carry medications with them in school. This includes both prescription and non-prescription medications (such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc.).

All medications must be brought to school by a parent/guardian, or another adult they designate. The medication will then be kept secure in the Health Office.

A doctor's order and written permission from a parent are required for medication administration in school. Please call the health office for the recommended form. A doctor and parent may write their own.

The exception may be an inhaler, or Epipen which the doctor feels the student needs to carry. In that case, the doctor and the parent need to provide written documentation that this is necessary. The student must be capable to carry the responsibility of caring for, and self-administering the medication. A doctor's order and parent permission are still required.

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Union Free School District



HEALTH SERVICES

Student Athletes

All students need to be approved/cleared to play school sports by the school medical director prior to tryouts. Paperwork for student athletes must be handed in by the first day of try outs/practices. Physicals must be dated within one year of that date, and Health Histories are required within 30 days of the start of each sport season. New Health Histories are required for each sport. These forms are available at www.wynantskillufsd.org or the Health Office.

Concussion Information

Any student athlete who is believed to have sustained a concussion must be immediately removed from all athletic activities. They cannot participate in athletic activity until they have been symptom free for 24 hours and have been evaluated by a licensed physician. For more information, including parent resources, about concussions, visit the Health Office webpage on the district website.

Mandated Health Screenings

The State of New York mandates that health related screening be completed in our schools each year. The requirements are as follows:

- Vision and hearing screening: all new entrants
- Vision Screening: (Distance Acuity) in Kindergarten and Grades 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 10
- Hearing Screening: Completed in Kindergarten and Grades 1, 3, 5, 7 and 10
- Scoliosis: Completed in Grades 5 – 9

If there are any usual findings, or cause for concern, the school nurse will contact you. In the event that additional evaluation is needed, a referral form will be sent home for you to take to your private healthcare provider.

Physicals

New York State Law requires that mandatory physicals be completed BEFORE students enter kindergarten and grades 2, 4 and 7. Physicals must also be completed for all new students to the district. In order to remain in school, any student who does not have a completed physical when entering these grades will be scheduled for a school physical.

Many parents prefer to have their own physician do the exam. A private physician provides the extra benefit of not only consulting with the parent on the child's growth and development, but can also provide the needed immunizations and follow-up care. Reports of physical exams done by private physicians must be dated within 1 year previous to the start of the school year, and no later than 30 days after entering school.

The school district also provides this service by our School Health Provider during the school year. Students who do not have a physical exam on file in the Health Office will be scheduled for the exam in school.

Sports physicals must be reviewed and signed by the school physician before a student is cleared for sports. This will be done when the school doctor is scheduled to come in prior to each season. It is very important that physicals be done by that time. The signing of these physicals will be handled through the Health Office.

Also, before entering grade 6, students must have verification from a doctor of either having had chicken pox or receiving the varicella vaccine.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board of Education consists of five district residents, elected to three-year unpaid terms of service. The Board is charged with establishing written district policies that govern the education of all children attending the district, approving the annual budget and spending priorities, and ensuring district adherence to state and federal laws and regulations.

Public Board meetings are held at least monthly in order to conduct the legally required business of the school district. Interested community members are encouraged to attend. A schedule of meetings is available on the district website, www.wynantskillufsd.org.

2014-15 Board of Education

Ann Marsh, *President*

Andrew Lanese, *Vice President*

Katrina Dinan

Patricia Gray

Andrea Paone



Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

The Wynantskill PTO is a very active partner in our educational program. Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month and new members are always welcome. Information about meetings and the work conducted by the PTO can be found at www.wynantskillufsd.org.

Community Use of School Facilities

Non-profit groups can apply to use district facilities for approved uses when facilities are not in use by the district. Written "Facility Request Forms" must be filed with the District Office well in advance of the event(s) to allow the Board of Education to review and approve. All forms must be completely filled out and submitted, along with a written proof of insurance from the group's insurance carrier. Forms can be found at www.wynantskillufsd.org. Call Sharon Hillis at 283-4600 ext. 14 for more information.

Emergency Closings

If the district needs to close school because of an emergency or inclement weather, an announcement will be made on our district website as well as local radio and television stations.

If the district needs to close school early, an automated phone call will be made to all designated student emergency contacts. Please ensure your Emergency Contact Information is up-to-date to ensure you receive these phone calls.

Title IX Mrs. Amy Murphy and 504 Compliance Mrs. Mary Yodis

The Wynantskill UFSD hereby advises students, parents, employees and the general public that it offers employment and educational opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, creed or marital status.

District Asbestos Management Plan

The Wynantskill Union Free School District Asbestos Management Plan for school year 2014-2015 has been updated and is in compliance with the EPA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act.

This memo is intended to fulfill annual notification, stating that the Asbestos Management Plan for the school building is available in the Buildings and Grounds Department.

Integrated Pest Management

Wynantskill UFSD uses Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management. IPM relies on a combination of common sense practices such as sanitation, good housekeeping, engineering controls and current information on the life cycles of pests and their interactions with the environment to manage pest damage by the most cost-effective means but with the least hazard to person, property and the environment. IPM programs take advantage of pest management options, including non-chemical alternatives and discreet use of pesticides. A database for notice of planned pesticide use is maintained by the Buildings and Grounds Department. Please contact Director of Buildings and Grounds Neal Benassi at 283-4600 ext. 24 for more information.

Questions or Concerns

Questions or concerns regarding your child's educational experience should be directed first to your child's classroom teacher. If, after discussions with the classroom teacher, you are not satisfied, you should contact Principal Mary Yodis. If you feel that the problem has not been adequately resolved, then you should contact Superintendent Lee Bordick. The final level of contact is the Board of Education.

SEPTEMBER 2014

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FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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8	9	10 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	11	12 Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY
15	16 PRESIDENTS' DAY DISTRICT CLOSED	17	18 ASH WEDNESDAY	19	20	21
MID-WINTER RECESS — NO SCHOOL						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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MARCH 2015

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8	9 Gr. 6-8 Progress Reports Mailed	10 PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	11	12	13 Superintendent's Conference Day – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS	14																																																																																												
15	16	17	18 Music in Our Schools Concert, 7 p.m.	19 Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.	20 Gr. 3-5 Builder's Club Fun Festival, 6-8 p.m.	21 NYSSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival at Hackett MS																																																																																												
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MOTHER'S DAY		PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Budget Hearing/Meet the Candidates Night, 7 p.m.	Gr. 5-8 Band and Gr. 6-8 Chorus Spring Concert, 7 p.m.		Gr. 6-8 Progress Reports Mailed Builder's Club Spring Fling, 7-9 p.m.																																																																																					
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	Gr. 1-5 Spring Concert, 7 p.m.	BUDGET VOTE, NOON-9 P.M. Fine Arts Festival Gr. 8 BBQ Fundraiser	Gr. 8 Science Performance Test	Gr. 4 Science Performance Test Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.	Memorial Day Extender – NO SCHOOL																																																																																					
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JUNE 2015

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	1 Gr. 4 & 8 NYS Science Written Exam	2	3 Modified Sports Banquet, 6 p.m.	4	5	6																																																																																																														
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JULY 2015

Sunday

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

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AUGUST 2015

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JULY							2015						
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WHERE TO GET YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Superintendent.....	Lee Bordick.....	283-4600 ext. 14
Superintendent's Secretary/District Clerk	Sharon Hillis.....	283-4600 ext. 14
Principal	Mary Yodis	283-4600 ext. 10
Principal's Secretary.....	Kathy Fazioli.....	283-4600 ext. 10
School Business Consultant	Gail Lathrop	283-4600 ext. 41
Nurse	Tricia Gibbs.....	283-4600 ext. 18
Transportation Director	Bonnie Cole.....	283-4600 ext. 25
Food Services Director	Lori Audi	283-4600 ext. 22
Buildings and Grounds Director	Neal Benassi	283-4600 ext. 24
Athletic Director	Laurie Albright.....	283-4600 ext. 32
New Student Registration.....	Kathy Fazioli	283-4600 ext. 10
Accounts Payable/Receiver of Taxes	Denise Fitzgerald	283-4600 ext. 13
District Treasurer	Mary Ellen Angrisano	283-4600 ext. 30
Committee on Special Education Chairperson	Jean Marie Steffek.....	283-4600 ext. 16
Committee on Special Education Secretary.....	Kathy Vale	283-4600 ext. 15
Guidance Counselor	Amy Murphy.....	283-4600 ext. 27
School Psychologist.....	Kimberly Herzl-Betz	283-4600 ext. 33
Curriculum Coordinator	Elizabeth Bissell	283-4600 ext. 31

Please visit www.wynantskillufsd.org for teacher phone extensions and email addresses, or call 283-4600 ext. 10.

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

September 2	Superintendent's Conference Day – No School
September 3	First Day of School
October 10.....	Superintendent's Conference Day – No School
October 13.....	Columbus Day – No School
November 4.....	Parent-Teacher Conferences – Noon to 7 p.m. (No School for Students)
November 7.....	Emergency Early Release Drill – 15 Minute Early Dismissal
November 11.....	Veterans Day – No School
November 26 – 28	Thanksgiving Recess – No School
December 24 – January 2	Holiday Recess – No School
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School
February 16 – 20.....	Mid-Winter Recess – No School
March 13	Superintendent's Conference Day – No School
April 3	Good Friday – No School
April 6 – 10	Spring Recess – No School
May 19.....	School Budget Vote – Noon to 9 p.m.
May 22 – 25.....	Memorial Day Recess – No School
June 24.....	Last Day of Classes
June 24.....	8th Grade Graduation – 7 p.m.



Wynantskill

Union Free School District



www.wynantskillufsd.org