

The

# Chalkboard

**A Report from the Wattsburg Area Schools**

2009/2010 School Year

September 2009

<http://www.wattsburg.org>

## **Vice President Joe Biden Visits Seneca High School**



*Board President, Joe Walko with Vice President Joe Biden*

**August 31, 2009**

**First Day of School**

**Starting & Dismissal Times**

WAEC 8:50 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

WAMS 7:35 a.m. - 2:27 p.m.

SHS 7:38 a.m. - 2:33 p.m.

The Wattsburg Area School District was privileged to host Vice President Joe Biden on July 1st as he launched a tour of rural America by announcing the availability of \$4 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act loans and grants to help bring broadband service to un-served or underserved communities across America. This is the first round of Recovery Act funding designed to expand broadband access to help bridge the technological divide and create jobs by building out the Internet structure.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, and Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper joined Biden on stage at Seneca High School as he spoke about the benefits that broadband could bring to rural communities.

“Today’s announcement is the first step towards realizing President Obama’s vision of a nationwide 21<sup>st</sup> century communications infrastructure - one that encourages economic growth, enhances America’s global competitiveness, and helps address some of America’s most pressing challenges,” said Vice President Biden.

“Access to high-speed Internet is no longer a luxury, but an essential tool to compete in this 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. The availability of technology is critical to attracting the business and development that will create good paying jobs that stay in the United States, said Congresswoman Dahlkemper. “I’m so pleased that Vice President Biden and the administration chose Western Pennsylvania to announce this critical broadband initiative.”

Applications for funding broadband will be accepted beginning July 14<sup>th</sup> through 5:00 p.m. on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The complete details of the Notice of funding Availability are available at [www.broadband.usa.gov](http://www.broadband.usa.gov).

# WASD Welcomes New Faculty and Staff



*Mrs. Audrey Coletta  
WAEC Principal*

**Mrs. Audrey Coletta** returns to Wattsburg Area Elementary Center as the elementary principal. Mrs. Coletta has five years of experience as an administrator. She was co-principal at Wattsburg Area Elementary Center for one year and was principal of Klein Elementary School in the Harbor Creek School District for four years. Prior to working as an administrator, she taught first grade in the School District of the City of Erie. Mrs. Coletta holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Early Childhood/Elementary Education and a Master of Education Degree in Special Education from Mercyhurst College. She also holds a Reading Specialist Certification, a K-12 Principal Certification, and Superintendent's Certificate from Gannon University. She and her husband, Vincent, operate a grape farm in North East and are the parents of five children.



*Mrs. Linda Lorei  
WAMS Principal*

**Mrs. Linda Lorei** joins the district as the new Wattsburg Area Middle School Principal. Mrs. Lorei hails from Howland (near Warren), Ohio. She attended Youngstown State University where she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree and Gannon University for her Master of Education Degree and Administrative Certificate. She also holds a Reading Specialist Certificate. Mrs. Lorei taught in Warrenton, Virginia and in Warren, Ohio before moving to Erie 16 years ago. She was employed by the School District of the City of Erie for the past seven years. Mrs. Lorei has served on a number of curriculum committees and was fortunate to work with national researchers from the American Institute of Research group from Washington, D.C., and the National Staff Development Council. Mrs. Lorei's family includes her three daughters, her husband, Mark, his two daughters and two sons, a St. Bernard and two cats! In her "spare time", she enjoys reading, writing, researching, cooking/baking, gardening, knitting, and exercising. "I feel a very strong purpose in my life to serve and lead in education through creativity and optimism," stated Mrs. Lorei.



*Mr. Christopher Paris  
WAMS Asst. Principal*

**Mr. Christopher Paris**, WAMS new Assistant Principal, was raised in the Wattsburg community and graduated from Seneca High School in 1991. He said, "I am very excited to return to the community and work with the students and athletes of the Wattsburg School District." Mr. Paris earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Secondary Education from Edinboro University with a certification in Earth and Space Science and his Master of Education in Middle and Secondary Instruction from Edinboro University. For the past nine years, Mr. Paris was employed by the School District of the City of Erie. He spent one year teaching Earth and Space Science at Strong Vincent and the next seven years at Central Tech in the same capacity. This past school year, Mr. Paris worked as an education specialist handling discipline and attendance issues for the ninth and tenth grade male students. During his tenure with the Erie School District, he assisted the district's science curriculum committee to rewrite the Earth and Space Science curriculum. Mr. Paris lives in Erie with his wife, Julie, and three children: Madison, Ethan, and Alexander. He has also been a PIAA basketball official since 1999.



*Ms. Sarah Beham  
WAMS Librarian*



*Ms. Pam Carson  
WAEC Special Education  
Teacher*



*Ms. Bethany Krowsoski  
WAMS Title I Teacher*



*Ms. Bethany Lawrence  
Elementary Health &  
Physical Education Teacher*

**Ms. Sarah Beham**, a local resident, joins the middle school team as librarian. She is a 2008 graduate of Clarion University where she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Library Science. Ms. Beham has many interests including reading (surprise!), writing, movies, and photography. She also enjoyed volunteering for Reach Workcamps during her middle and high school years and Habitat for Humanity. Her pet project is the re-cataloging of the Erie Maritime Museum Library which is near completion after three years. Sarah is excited to join the Wattsburg School District faculty and looks forward to working with all of the students.

**Ms. Pam Carson** will be the new Emotional Support teacher at WAEC. She grew up in Millcreek Township and attended Edinboro University where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice. While at Edinboro, Pam served as Vice President of the Criminal Justice Club for a year and a half. After graduation, she worked at Perseus House Inc. as a counselor for delinquent and dependent adolescents. She also worked as a Behavior Specialist in The Erie County Alternative Education Program for one year. Ms. Carson then attended Mercyhurst College and earned her Master of Science Degree in Special Education, and her teacher certification in Elementary Education/Special Education. Pam enjoys spending time with her son, cooking, gardening, outdoor activities and reading.

**Ms. Bethany Krowsoski** joins the district as the middle school Title I teacher. Bethany is a recent graduate of the Mercyhurst College Special Education Graduate Program. While completing her studies, she focused on studying emotional disorders and modes of healing. One of the modes of healing was art therapy and she spent much of the past year working with Stairways Arts and Humanities Program writing their art therapy curriculum. Bethany also went to undergraduate school at Mercyhurst where she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Art Education with a minor in religious studies. She has created many paintings for commission and in use for promotion by the college. Bethany has been involved in theatre, both acting and in design, for over 10 years, and takes a lot of interest in cultivating orchids as subjects of paintings. She always likes to learn new things and take on challenges. Ms. Krowsoski is very excited to begin this next step in her life at Wattsburg by joining their educational team.

**Ms. Bethany Lawrence** will fill the position Health and Physical Education teacher at Wattsburg Area Elementary Center. She is a graduate of Fort LeBoeuf High School in her hometown of Waterford, PA. Ms. Lawrence received her Bachelor's Degree from Edinboro University in the field of Health and Physical Education, grades K-12. She was a substitute teacher for the Wattsburg Area School District during the 2008-2009 school year and couldn't be more pleased to join such a dynamic team. Bethany stated, "An interesting fact about me is that I have six siblings in my family and we're all very close. I'm very family oriented and I believe it contributes to the passion I possess as a teacher. I can't wait to get started and meet all the wonderful children in the district! Mr. Gibbons and I are planning a lot of fun and exciting programs and anticipate a successful year."

**Mrs. Julie O'Donnell**, a proud 2004 Seneca graduate, is excited to return to the District as a member of the faculty. Julie earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics at Penn State



*Mr. Anthony Downor  
Housekeeping*



*Ms. Felicia Kerecman  
HR/Payroll Secretary*



*Ms. Susan Michels  
Cafeteria*

*Continued on page 4*



*Mrs. Julie O'Donnell  
SHS Math Teacher*



*Ms. Kelli Pittner  
WAMS Health & Physical  
Education Teacher*



*Mrs. Kristina Shelley  
Elementary Teacher*



*Ms. Ashley Wassel  
School Psychologist Intern*

## New Staff

*Continued from page 3*

Erie, The Behrend College. From there, she completed her teaching certification through Mercyhurst College. This year, Julie will be teaching full time in the high school math department after having worked as a substitute teacher for Trigonometry at Seneca last spring. She also hopes to continue working in the theatre department choreographing the spring musical production, something she has enjoyed doing since her days as a Seneca student. She is looking forward to this new school year and knows that it will be a successful one! Julie is married to Seneca's World Cultures teacher, Steven O'Donnell. The two are expecting their first child mid-September.

**Ms. Kelli Pittner** joins the Wattsburg family as the new middle school Health and Physical Education teacher. She is a 2004 graduate of Linesville High School. She attended Lock Haven University, majoring in Health and Physical Education. Kelli also played basketball on a scholarship for a year at Lock Haven. After transferring to Slippery Rock University, Ms. Pittner graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Health and Physical Education in 2008. She coached softball at Cochran Jr./Sr. High School for three years and basketball at Linesville High School this past year. In her spare time, Kelli enjoys planning her dream wedding, being with her family and friends, playing sports of all kinds and spending time with her German Shepherd, Ruger.

Wattsburg Area Elementary Center welcomes back **Mrs. Kristina Shelley** as their newest fourth grade teacher. Mrs. Shelley formerly was a first grade teacher at the elementary center who took time off from teaching to care for her children full-time after the birth of her third child. Kris's other teaching experiences include teaching preschool in China, serving as the Distance Learning Coordinator for Intermediate Unit 5, team-teaching in an inclusive fourth grade classroom in New York, and working for the Head Start program in Erie. She received her Master of Education and Bachelor of Science Degrees in Elementary Education from Edinboro University. She is a member of Phi Delta Kappa, National Council for Teachers of Mathematics, the National Science Teachers Association, and is very technologically literate. When she's not thinking about her students, Kris enjoys traveling, camping, and biking around the peninsula with her two boys, Max and Sam, her daughter, Kate, and husband, Dan. We look forward to working with Mrs. Shelley again.

**Ms. Ashley Wassel** grew up in Erie, PA with an older brother and sister. Throughout her childhood, she played ice hockey, soccer, and softball. She continued to play hockey and soccer throughout high school. Ashley earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Penn State Behrend. After graduating from Behrend, she decided to pursue a Master's Degree at Edinboro University. She recently received a Master of Education Degree in Educational Psychology. Ms. Wassel is

currently working towards certification as a School Psychologist. After completing her internship at Wattsburg Area Elementary Center this year, she will be eligible to become a Nationally Certified School Psychologist. In her free time, Ashley enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and boyfriend.

**Mr. Anthony Downor** joined the Wattsburg District in April, 2009 as a housekeeper. Mr. Downor is a 2007 Seneca graduate. He had worked for the district during the summer while he was still in school in the maintenance and housekeeping departments. Anthony's passion is his 9 month old daughter, Addison. He also enjoys 4-wheelers and amusement parks.

**Ms. Felicia Kerecman** filled the position of Human Resources/Payroll Secretary in April, 2009. Ms. Kerecman is a 2003 graduate of Seneca High School and a lifetime resident of the Wattsburg Area School District. She is currently taking evening and on-line classes at Gannon University to complete her degree in Business Administration and Human Resources Management. In her spare time, Felicia has teamed up with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training. She will participate in the Nike Women's Marathon set for October, 2009. She also enjoys spending time with her six nieces and three nephews.

**Mrs. Susan Michels** has been employed by the Wattsburg School District since April, 2009. She is a member of the Cafeteria Department, currently working at the middle school. Mrs. Michels resides in Greene Township with her husband of 19 years, James, and her two sons, Jacob age 14, and Avery 10. Camping and spending time with her family tops Susan's list of things she likes to do.

## 2009-2010 Lunch Prices

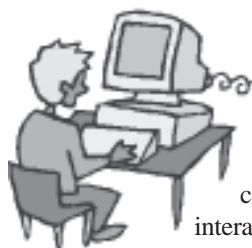
	Reduced Price	Full Price
<b>Elementary Center</b>		
Breakfast	.30	.80
Lunch	.40	1.50
Milk	.45	.45
<b>Middle and High School</b>		
Breakfast	.30	.80
Lunch	.40	1.65
Milk	.45	.45

### SHS Bobcat Bullet

Seneca High School was chosen as the District 10 2008-2009 Sportsmanship Award winner for the positive, competitive attitudes, and respectful nature of our student athletes.



# Tech Talk



Change! Over the past year we have initiated a number of changes including upgrading computer operating systems and productivity suites, the installation of more than 250 replacement and new computers, the addition of several interactive whiteboards, the expansion of

WiFi access, and much more. We are constantly challenged to keep pace with our ever changing environment. Change is best handled by being proactive instead of reactive and while last year proved challenging for our Information Technology staff, we're on the right path to improvement.

In June 2009, the school board approved a revised policy, Network/Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) #5128. Students and/or parents will be required to sign a new AUP agreement form. A copy of the policy and agreement form will be sent home with students on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Please return the completed agreement form by **Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>**.

Last year, the district delivered school closings and other important messages via our mass communication system Alert Now. Parents had a number of questions last year. Below are a few frequently asked questions.

- I have moved or changed phone numbers. How do I update the number you are calling?  
*Contact the appropriate school building to have the child(ren)'s student record updated with the correct telephone number.*

- I have cancelled home phone service and only use a cell phone. What do I do?  
*Contact the appropriate school building to have the child(ren)'s student record updated. Be sure to inform the office staff that you no longer have home telephone service and wish to use your cell phone as a home phone.*
- My employer has been receiving calls from the school district regarding school closings. How can I remove my employer's telephone number?  
*Work numbers listed on the student emergency form are recorded in our student record system. Because our mass messaging system is linked together, we are unable to restrict calls from going to work numbers listed on the student record.*
- At what hours can I expect to be called?  
*The district has established blackout hours. The earliest you could receive a call is 5:30 a.m. The latest you could receive a call is 11:00 p.m.*
- What time should I expect to hear about weather or other early morning school closings or delay?  
*The decision to close or delay school is made by our district Superintendent, Mrs. Sadaly. Usually calls are delivered between 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.*



## Whom To Call

If you have a question, a concern, or would like more information about a school program, please contact the appropriate school representative at 824-3400, extensions listed below, or visit our website at [www.wattsburg.org](http://www.wattsburg.org). You may also contact us by e-mail at [wasd@wattsburg.org](mailto:wasd@wattsburg.org).

To discuss issues involving a particular school or program within a school, please contact the building principal.

Busing concerns should be directed to Ms. Barbara Schock, Transportation Supervisor, by calling 825-7996.

Questions regarding district policy or other areas may be answered by calling Mrs. Nancy Sadaly, Superintendent.

### Wattsburg Area School District 824-3400

Mrs. Nancy Sadaly, Superintendent .....	Ext. 4515
Mr. Thomas Rinke, Assistant Superintendent .....	Ext. 4532
Mr. Keith Miller, SHS Principal .....	Ext. 4510
Mrs. Linda Lorei, WAMS Principal .....	Ext. 4523
Mrs. Audrey Coletta, WAEC Principal .....	Ext. 4503
Ms. Barbara Schock, Transportation Supervisor .....	825-7996

# The Keystone Technology Integrator Award Experience

by Mr. Mike Ellicott

My first interest in technology as a young lad was playing on my Atari computer. Since then, technology has made substantial advances. I feel technology has a valuable place in today's schools and I am always eager to try new technologies that will enhance my students' education.

Last year I was honored to be nominated for a Keystone Technology Integrators Award. The Keystone Technology Award is awarded to Pennsylvania teachers who display excellence in the area of technology in their school districts. I received recognition in the area of technology based on several web tools I used in my classroom last year. Some of these tools include wikispaces, edmodo, animoto, and podcasts. A wikispaces is a web based tool that allows its users to publish and share information on the Internet. Wikispaces are a flexible form of website that allows multiple users to edit and add to the wikispaces. I used wikispaces in my classroom to notify students and parents of what material we have covered during science class, to provide extra resources to students, and to showcase student work through podcasts and videos. Edmodo is a web based networking/blogging tool that is 'school friendly.' Edmodo was used by last year's 7th graders to collaborate on projects, share ideas and research topics in science class. Animoto is a program that allows you to construct simple music videos from digital photographs you have uploaded. This was a popular program among my students. Students were able to upload pictures from labs and add music to present their findings in an exciting form of media. Podcasts are Internet based videos that allow you to showcase students work and document activity in your classroom. Students used flipcams to record labs and demonstrations that were performed in my science class.

Part of the nomination process was to write an essay and produce a presentation. I used examples of students' work from the tools mentioned above and tied it into my essay which described technology in the 21st century classroom. Not only was I honored to win this award, but I was also selected to attend the Keystone Technology Integrators summit at Bucknell University in Lewistown, PA. The KTI summit is an experience like no other in the world of education. From the moment I got there to the moment I left, I was treated like royalty. The KTI team is made up of previous winners and members of the Department of Education's technology department. When I arrived at Bucknell, I was immediately greeted at my car by a team member. The team member carried my luggage, took me through registration and escorted me to my accommodation. The week was an intense experience of new technology, new educational practices and a lot of fun. Each day classes ran from 8:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. It was truly exhausting. We were

presented with a menu of classes each day. From those you could pick and choose which class interested you the most. It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss ideas, strategies and varying pieces of technology with fellow educators. At every class we were given tickets that we could use to win prizes at lunch and dinner. I did not win anything until the final day of the summit! I won a document camera that I can use in my science lab. The final night was banquet night. After our banquet meal we were participating in a live web conference with some software creators. At the end of the conference, the Keystone team ran in to the banquet room carrying a huge pile of boxes! Each KTI received a box. These boxes contained a MOBI, which is a wireless tablet that allows information that is written on it to be displayed on a projected screen. The following morning we had one last class which was followed by the closing ceremony where we all graduated as Keystone Technology Integrators.

The overall experience of the KTI program has been incredible. The journey of becoming a KTI for me has just begun. I have made friendships and connections with educators across the state. I am returning to school with ideas and projects to implement during the upcoming school year. I now have a new wealth of knowledge that will serve me for many years to come.

Wattsburg Area School District is fortunate to have several KTI recipients over the past four years:

2006 - Mary Beth Hengelbrok, recipient and summit attendee.

2007 - Nicole Drabic, recipient

2008 - Rob Hart, recipient and summit attendee.

2008 - Cheryl Krider, recipient.

2009 - Mike Ellicott, recipient and summit attendee.

2009 - Lisa Wagner, recipient.

Who knows? You could be next.... If you are interested in learning more about how to become a KTI or the whole experience, my extension at the middle school is 3131 and my email address is [mellicott@wasd.iu5.org](mailto:mellicott@wasd.iu5.org).



# 2009-2010 Building Goals

Each year, goals are established for each Wattsburg Area School District school building. The 2009-2010 goals are as follows:

## Wattsburg Area Elementary Center

1. Implement revised curriculum in reader's workshop, writer's workshop, word study, mathematics, science, and social studies in kindergarten through fourth grades.
2. Use expanded mathematics resources, including the Harcourt mathematics program, in kindergarten, first, and second grades and the Otter Creek math fact acquisition program in first through fourth grades.
3. Use student assessment data to tailor instruction to meet children's individual needs and to help all third and fourth grade students perform at proficient and advanced levels on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment, (PSSA).
4. Support the wellness of students, families, and staff through active participation in district and school wellness committees and wellness activities throughout the school year.

## Wattsburg Area Middle School

1. Utilize data to guide instructional methods and provide differentiation in a standards-based curriculum for all students to show academic growth.
2. Continue implementation of the Olweus Bullying Program and provide a nurturing, supportive environment where students feel safe to learn and positive behavior is rewarded.
3. Strengthen positive relationships among all stakeholders through various avenues of communication.

4. Continue the inclusion model with common planning time between regular and learning support teachers to best serve the academic needs of students.
5. Provide learning experiences in connection with research findings in Brain-Based Learning to improve retention and meaning of learning for students.

## Seneca High School

1. Involve students more closely in the daily workings of the school by allowing student organizations appropriate input regarding activities that directly involve the student body. We also would like to offer more student centered and student run activities, events, and clubs. By allowing the students to have a voice, we will be affording them the opportunity to become more invested in their educational experience. This, in turn, will create a more positive school atmosphere, improve the academic climate, and allow students to maximize their educational potential.
2. Continue to be at the forefront in Erie County in the field of technology through continual education of our staff in current trends, methods, and software. We will integrate this knowledge into our instructional practices in order to better engage today's students in the learning process.
3. Continue efforts aimed at increasing the rigor and relevance of our coursework at Seneca through the funding support of various grants and the state of Pennsylvania. We will enable all of our students to realize their potential and to help them adapt to the demands of a changing world by providing excellence in educational opportunities that include curricular upgrades as well as extracurricular educational opportunities and experiences

### WAMS Bobcat Bollet

2009-2010 Theme... I M A G I N E

Invigorate a  
Marvelous  
Attitude.  
Grow  
Invite and  
Nurture  
Excellence!

"Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



## Band Booster News

The Seneca Marching Band will be hosting their Marching Band Show on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The number of bands involved and the exact starting time have not yet been determined, but it promises to be a spectacular event. The event will take place on the football field and the concession stand will be open with great tasting food along with bake sale items, Chinese auctions, and many other fundraisers for the band program.



# Legal Notices

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974

Under the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974* (FERPA), educational agencies such as a school districts must annually notify parents of students or eligible students (i.e., students who are 18 years of age or are attending a post-secondary educational institution) of their rights under FERPA, 20 U.S.C.S. §1232g, and the corresponding regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 99.

The federal regulations to FERPA set forth what this notice must contain and informs parents or eligible students that they have the right to:

1. inspect and review the student's education records;
2. seek amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights;
3. consent to disclosures of "personally identifiable information" contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA and the regulations authorize disclosure without consent;
4. file with the Department of Education a complaint concerning alleged failures by the educational agency to comply with the requirements of FERPA and the regulations.

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

### Notice for Directory Information

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that school districts, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Districts may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Wattsburg Area School District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor Roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) to provide military recruiters directory information, upon request—unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without prior written consent.<sup>1</sup>

If you do not want the Wattsburg Area School District to disclose

directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by October 1 of each school year. The Wattsburg Area School District has designated the following information as directory information.

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended

## Tobacco Free Campus

### Spectators and Visitors — Public Events

Notices are posted to inform spectators and visitors of the tobacco free schools policy. In addition, announcement of the policy is made via the Public Address System at all events.

Spectators or visitors who use tobacco on school property shall be reminded by the principal, supervisor, or his/her designee of the tobacco free school policy.

If someone refuses to stop using tobacco, he/she will be asked by the principal, supervisor, or his/her designee to leave the property. Violators may be referred to the Police or Fire Department.

## Gifted Annual Notice

The Wattsburg Area School District has established these procedures regarding identification of gifted children. The focus of the law, called Chapter 16, is to ensure that students are not identified as mentally gifted based on a single test score.

The district conducts ongoing screening activities to nominate potential candidates. Children may be referred by parents or teachers. Parents who feel strongly that their child may be gifted should contact the school guidance counselor to initiate gifted screening on behalf of their son or daughter. The gifted screening process will include a review of the student's record, past test scores, report card grades, and input from those familiar with the student's learning strengths and needs.

Identification of a student eligible for gifted services is based on:

1. Full scale or composite IQ score of 130 or higher on an individually administered IQ test.  
*or any combination of the following criteria:*
2. A year or more above grade achievement level for the normal age group in one or more subjects as measured by nationally

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These laws are: Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. 7908), as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (P.L. 107-110), the education bill, and 10 U.S.C. 503, as amended by section 544, the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002* (P.L. 107-107), the legislation that provides funding for the Nation's armed forces.

# Legal Notices

normed and validated achievement tests able to accurately reflect gifted performance. Subject results shall yield academic instruction levels in all academic subject areas.

3. As observed or measured rate of acquisition/retention of new academic content or skills that reflect gifted ability.
4. Demonstrated achievement, performance or expertise in one or more academic areas as evidenced by excellence of products, portfolio or research, as well as criterion-referenced team judgment.
5. Early and measured use of high level thinking skills, academic creativity, leadership skills, intense academic interest areas, communication skills, foreign language aptitude or technology expertise.
6. Documented, observed, validated or assessed evidence that intervening factors such as English as a Second Language, disabilities defined in 34 CFR 300.8 (relating to child with a disability), gender or race bias, or socio/cultural deprivation are masking gifted abilities.

Wattsburg Area School District offers a variety of programs to meet the needs of students who are identified as gifted. Gifted programming at Wattsburg Area Elementary Center and Middle School includes enrichment activities within and outside of the regular education classroom and a Discovery program coordinated by the gifted teacher. Gifted programming at Seneca High School includes the opportunity for students to enroll in advanced placement courses, cyber courses, and to earn college credits through participation in the Regional Choice Initiative (dual enrollment).

Wattsburg Area School District will provide the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) with all required gifted information and/or reports related to students, personnel, and program elements.

## Locker Notice

All 7th through 12th grade students are assigned a locker. All school lockers are and remain the property of the school district. As such, students have no expectation of privacy in their lockers.

The Board reserves the right to authorize its employees to inspect a student's locker at any time for the purpose of determining whether the locker is improperly used for the storage of contraband, a substance or object the possession of which is illegal, or any material that poses a hazard to the safety and good order of the schools.

Students shall be notified annually, or more often if deemed appropriate, by the administration concerning the contents of this policy.

Locks will be provided by the school at no cost for use by all 7th through 12th grade students. These locks must be used by the students and kept on their lockers at all times. They are the property of the school district, and must be turned in at the end of the school year. If you have already purchased a lock, it can be used on the student's gym locker. Students in grades 5 and 6 will continue to use their cubbies which are located in their homerooms.

## Special Education Services

The Wattsburg Area School District hereby notifies parents and guardians of special education services available to eligible students ages 3 to 21. If you suspect that your child may have a learning problem requiring special education services, there is help through the school district.

There are a variety of services available. Some services are in the district and some are in neighboring districts, depending on the individual needs of the student. All services are at no cost to the parents. The types of support include:

1. Early Intervention for children 3-5 years of age with development delays or disabilities.
2. Learning Support for students with learning problems in academic areas associated with learning disabilities or mild mental retardation.
3. Emotional Support for students with emotional and behavioral mental health problems.
4. Speech/Language Support for students with speech and language communication problems affecting their learning.
5. Life Skills Support for students who require instruction in daily living skills and readiness for basic skills associated with moderate to severe mental retardation.
6. Sensory Support for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind or have visual impairments.
7. Autistic Support for students with autism or a pervasive developmental disorder.
8. Physical Support for students with physical problems such as cerebral palsy.
9. Gifted Support for students who are mentally gifted and need enrichment/advancement to their curricula.
10. Multi-handicapped Support for students who have a combination of disabilities such as mental retardation and a physical disability.

Students with disabilities who do not require special education services but who need some accommodations, can receive support through Protected Handicapped service agreements.

The district participates in proactive screening activities to help identify students who may be experiencing difficulties. The screening activities include the following:

- Level I: Screening of group-based data such as cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, report cards and group achievement tests. This is done when a student enrolls in the school district and after group testing is completed each spring in Grades 1-9 and Grade 11.
- Level II: Screening of sensory areas which include motor, hearing, vision and speech and language skills. This is done when a problem is suspected and/or as required by the Pennsylvania School Code.

*Continued on page 10*

# Legal Notices

*Continued from page 9*

Level III: Screening by the Instructional Support Team (Grades K-6) which include the parent/guardian in determining strengths and needs of the student. The team determines strategies to use to help the student to be successful in school.

To refer your child for screening/evaluation, contact one of the following places:

**Preschool to school age** (Ages 3-5): Contact the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5 at 252 Waterford Street, Edinboro, PA 16412, or phone 734-5610 or 1-800-677-5610 and ask for the Early Intervention Project.

**Elementary School** (Grades K-4): Wattsburg Area Elementary Center, 10780 Wattsburg Road, Erie, PA 16509, or phone 824-3400, ext. 4500.

**Middle School** (Grades 5-8): Wattsburg Area Middle School, 10774 Wattsburg Road, Erie, PA 16509, or phone 824-3400, ext. 4544.

**High School** (Grades 9-12): Seneca High School, 10770 Wattsburg Road, Erie, PA 16509, or phone 824-3400, ext. 4507.

Notice is also given to parents/guardians regarding confidentiality requirements for students who are referred for special education services. These requirements are found in both federal and state regulations. Records generated by the identification, evaluation and programming process are confidential and cannot be released outside the school district or intermediate unit without written parent consent. A copy of the Confidential Plan for collection, disseminating and destroying of records can be seen at each district building, including the District Administration Office upon request.

## Civil Rights Policy

The Wattsburg Area School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, age, gender or disability in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

For more information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact the Assistant Superintendent, Wattsburg Area School District Administration Office, 10782 Wattsburg Road, Erie, PA 16509 (824-3400).

## Integrated Pest Management Notification

The Wattsburg Area School District uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for managing insects, rodents, and weeds. Our goal is to protect every student from pesticide exposure by using an IPM approach to pest management. Our IPM approach focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable habitat for these pests by removing food and water sources and eliminating their hiding and breeding places. We accomplish this through routine cleaning and maintenance. We routinely monitor the school buildings and grounds to detect any pests that are present. The pest monitoring team consists of our building maintenance, housekeeping, office, and teaching staff and includes our students. Pest sightings are reported to our IPM coordinator who evaluates the "pest problem" and determines the appropriate pest management

techniques to address the problem. The techniques can include increased sanitation, modifying storage practices, sealing entry points, physically removing pests, etc.

From time to time, it may be necessary to use chemicals to manage a pest problem. Chemicals will only be used when necessary, and will not be routinely applied. When chemicals are used, the school will try to use the least toxic products when possible. Pesticide applications will be made at a time when only authorized persons have access to the areas being treated. Notices will be posted in these areas 72 hours prior to application and for two days following the application. Our regularly scheduled inspections and applications as necessary are scheduled after 11:00 p.m. on the first Friday of each month.

Parents or guardians of students enrolled in the schools may request prior notification of specific applications made at the school. To receive notification, you must be placed on the school's notification registry. If you would like to be placed on this registry, please notify the district in writing. Please include your e-mail address if you would like to be notified electronically.

If chemical application must be made to control an emergency pest problem, notice will be provided by telephone to any parent or guardian who has requested such notification in writing, and whose name is placed on the notification requesting. Exemptions to this notification include disinfectants and antimicrobial products, self-containerized baits placed in areas not accessible to students, and gel type baits placed in cracks, crevices or voids.

Each year the district will prepare a new notification registry.

If you have any questions, please contact Wattsburg Area School District at 814-824-3400.

## Notification of Rights Under PPRA

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment gives parents and students who are 18 or older or emancipated minors ("eligible students") certain rights regarding the school district's conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and conduct of certain physical exams. These include the right to:

1. **Consent to federally funded surveys concerning "protected information."** If the U.S. Department of Education funds a survey in whole or in part, a student's parents or an eligible student must consent in writing before the student may provide information relating to the following categories:
  - Political affiliations;
  - Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
  - Sexual behavior or attitudes;
  - Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  - Critical appraisals of student's family members;
  - Privileged or similar relationships recognized by law, such as with attorneys, doctors, and ministers;
  - Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parents; or
  - Income other than that required by law to determine program eligibility.

## Legal Notices

*Continued from page 10*

A survey that concerns any of these points is called a “protected information survey.”

2. **Opt out of certain surveys and exams.** Parents and eligible students will receive notice of any of the following activities and will have the right to opt out of them by requesting so in writing.
  - Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for purposes of marketing or selling or otherwise distributing the information to others;
  - Any protected information survey, regardless of funding; and
  - Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent and scheduled by the school, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student or of another student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law.
3. **Inspect certain material:** Surveys may typically be administered in the fall or early spring of the school year. Parents and eligible students have the right to inspect the following, upon request, at the appropriate school building, before the district administers or uses them:
  - Protected information surveys of students (including any instructional materials used in connection with the survey);
  - Documents used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  - Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.
4. **Receive notification of district policy.** The school district has developed a policy, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, and has made arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. This Student Rights/Survey Policy is No. 5121.1, and may be reviewed in any school building upon request.
5. **Report violations.** Parents and eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Dept. of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-4605

## Medication Policy



This is a reminder that a district-wide policy is in place for the administration of all medication at school. If your child requires any type of medication while at school, the medication must be dispensed by the school nurse. For the safety of all students, please do not put the medication in your child's lunch box.

All medication, including over-the-counter medications, should be sent in the original box or bottle, with a note from the parent or guardian stating what the medication is for, the dosage, and the time it is to be given. Prescription medication must also be accompanied by a doctor's orders.

## Athletic/Activity Fees

All students participating in organized school activities, including athletics, are required to pay an activity fee to help defray the cost of supervision for the activity. The cost for Seneca High School students is \$30.00, and the cost for Wattsburg Area Middle School students is \$20.00. The fee covers all activities and/or teams in which a student participates for the entire school year. There is a maximum of \$90.00 total for activity fees for one year per family.

After school hours, students are only allowed to remain on the school grounds if they are participating in a school-sponsored activity.

### Game Prices:

Athletic contest admission fees for the 2009-2010 school year are again set at \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students. A ten-event pass may be purchased for \$15.00 for adults or \$5.00 for students. Grandparents of Seneca students may obtain a free one-year pass, renewable each year. This pass may be obtained at the Seneca High School office.





## Day-to-day substitute school nurses needed for the 2009-2010 school year.

- Applicants must have a Registered Nurse license.
- The rate of pay is \$80.00 per day.
- For more information, please contact Betty Jones at 824-4145.

## PTO News

The WAEC Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a very active organization that supports our elementary students. Meetings are held once per month from September through May, and all parents and teachers are welcome to join. Please consider being a part of this wonderful group of volunteers. For more information, please call Kristie Hartman at 796-6175.

### WAEC Bobcat Bullet

WAEC Open House will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2009, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. For ease of parking, please consider arriving between 6:00-7:00 if your child's last name begins with A-M, and consider arriving between 7:00-8:00 if your child's last name begins with N-Z. We look forward to starting a new school year with you and your family.



## Transportation News

Our first priority in the Wattsburg Area School District is the safety of our children. With that in mind, we offer the following reminders regarding the transportation of student to and from school.

- \* The first day of school for students is **Monday, August 31, 2009.**
- \* Non-public school busing begins **August 26, 2009.**
- \* If students are to be picked up or dropped off at a babysitter's home on a daily basis, a parent must call the bus garage at 824-7996 to make the necessary arrangements. This call should be made preferably before the beginning of the school year.
- \* On **Fridays only**, students may be dropped off at houses other than their originally designated stops. A bus pass, signed by both families should then be submitted to the office on that Friday morning.
- \* Kindergarten students will not be dropped off unless there is a parent, guardian, or sibling visible. The child will be returned to the bus garage and the parent/guardian must show identification when claiming their child.



## Early Dismissal Reminder

Occasionally, the weather, or an unforeseen circumstance, dictates that students be released from school earlier than their usual dismissal times. In these instances, the following procedures will be implemented.

1. The news media (TV, radio) will be contacted to announce early dismissal.
2. An Alert Now message will notify all households of an early dismissal.
3. An early dismissal notice will be posted on the WASD website.
4. Middle school and high school students will be dismissed first.
5. Calls will be made to emergency phone numbers of elementary school students.
6. Elementary school students will be dismissed.
7. Elementary school students whose parents, guardians, or older siblings are not at home will be returned to the bus garage for parent pickup.

**Note: Parents, please make sure that emergency phone numbers are kept current.**

# WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2009-2010 FIRST SEMESTER CALENDAR

### Wattsburg Area Elementary Center

<b>August</b>	
31	First Student Day
31	Kdg. Split Session
<b>September</b>	
1	Kdg. Split Session
2	Kdg. Regular Session Begins
7	Labor Day - No School
10	Open House, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
15	PTO Meet & Greet, 6:30 p.m.
24	PTO Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
25	Act 80 Day - No School for Students
<b>October</b>	
8	School Picture Day
8	PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
9	Act 80 Day - No School for Students
12	Act 80 Day - No School for Students
30	Fall Celebration, 2:15 - 3:00 p.m.
<b>November</b>	
2	End of First Quarter
12	PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
12	Parent Teacher Conferences 1/2 Day for Students
13	Parent Teacher Conferences No School for Students
19	School Picture Make-up Day
25-30	Thanksgiving Vacation
<b>December</b>	
10	PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
22	Winter Celebration, 2:15 - 3:00 p.m.
23	Christmas Vacation Begins
<b>January</b>	
4	Classes Resume
14	PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
18	Martin Luther King Day - No School
21	End of First Semester
22	Teacher Work Day - No School for Students

### Wattsburg Area Middle School

<b>August</b>	
31	First Student Day
<b>September</b>	
2	WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
7	Labor Day - No School
24	Open House, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
25	Act 80 Day - No School for Students
<b>October</b>	
7	WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
8	School Pictures
9	Act 80 Day - No School for Students
12	Act 80 Day - No School for Students
<b>November</b>	
2	End of First Quarter
4	WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
12	School Picture Retakes
25-30	Thanksgiving Vacation
<b>December</b>	
2	WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
23	Christmas Vacation Begins
<b>January</b>	
4	Classes Resume
6	WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
18	Martin Luther King Day - No School
21	End of First Semester
22	Teacher Work Day - No School for Students

### Seneca High School

<b>August</b>	
31	First Student Day
<b>September</b>	
7	Labor Day - No School
8	Music Boosters Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
9	Sports Boosters Mtg., 7:30 p.m.
15	School Pictures
25	Act 80 Day - No School for Students
<b>October</b>	
3	SHS Marching Band Show
6	Music Boosters Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
9	Act 80 Day - No School for Students
12	Act 80 Day - No School for Students
14	Sports Boosters Mtg., 7:30 p.m.
16	Homecoming Weekend
27	Picture Retakes
<b>November</b>	
2	End of First Quarter
3	Music Boosters Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
11	Sports Boosters Mtg., 7:30 p.m.
13-14	Fall Dinner Theater
25-30	Thanksgiving Vacation
<b>December</b>	
1	Music Boosters Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
9	Sports Boosters Mtg., 7:30 p.m.
15	Choral Concert, 7:00 p.m.
17	Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.
23	Christmas Vacation Begins
<b>January</b>	
4	Classes Resume
5	Music Boosters Mtg., 5:30 p.m.
13	Sports Boosters Mtg., 7:30 p.m.
18	Martin Luther King Day - No School
21	End of First Semester
22	Teacher Work Day - No School for Students

# The Chalkboard

A Publication of  
Wattsburg Area School District

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Mr. Stephen Maksimuk, Board Secretary  
Mrs. Betty Jones, Recording Secretary  
Mrs. Nancy Sadaly, Superintendent  
Mr. Thomas Rinke, Asst. Superintendent

## BOX HOLDER OR CURRENT RESIDENT

### ATTENTION - PARENTS & GUARDIANS

**FOR ATTENDANCE IN ALL GRADES IN 2010/2011, CHILDREN WILL NEED THE FOLLOWING:**

- 4 doses of Tetanus\* (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday)
- 4 doses of Diphtheria\* (1 dose on or after the 4th birthday)
- 3 doses of Polio
- 2 doses of Measles\*\*
- 2 doses of Mumps \*\*
- 1 dose of Rubella (German Measles)\*\*
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- 2 doses of Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine or history of disease.

\* Usually given as DTP or DTaP or DT or Td

\*\* Usually given as MMR

**Children ATTENDING 7th grade in 2010/2011 need the following:**

- 1 dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)  
(if 5 years has elapsed since last tetanus immunization)
- 1 dose of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV)

These requirements allow for medical reasons and religious beliefs. If your child is exempt from immunizations, he/she may be removed from school during an outbreak. Pennsylvania's school immunization requirements can be found in 28 PA CODE CH 23 (School Immunization) Contact your health care provider or 1-877 PA HEALTH for more information