

The

Chalkboard

A Report from the Wattsburg Area Schools

2007/2008 School Year

August 2007

<http://www.wattsburg.org>

Superintendent Frank Bova Retires



Mr. Frank Bova

Mr. Frank Bova, Superintendent of the Wattsburg Area School District since 1998, has retired effective July 31, 2007. In addition to serving as Superintendent, Mr. Bova served for four years as the Wattsburg Area School District's Assistant Superintendent.

After a two year stint of active duty in the U.S. Navy, Mr. Bova returned to the area to begin his career in education as a secondary math teacher in Perry, Ohio. From there, he moved to the Iroquois School District where he worked at Lawrence Park; first as a secondary math teacher, then as Jr. High Principal, Assistant High School Principal and Elementary School Principal.

During Mr. Bova's tenure as Superintendent, the Wattsburg Area School District has attained the reputation of being a quality school. Student achievement has soared with the district constantly meeting and exceeding the Adequate Yearly Progress standard. Under Mr. Bova's tutelage, the School to Careers program has expanded to include unique preparation programs such as the Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies Program (FORD-PAS) as well as the Your Employability Skills Program (YES).

Believing that "teachers are the key to the success of students," Mr. Bova continued the district's commitment to staff development and instituted an employee recognition program to highlight employee achievement. Thanks to Mr. Bova's efforts, the Wattsburg Area School District has grown to become an outstanding district whose students leave the district well prepared to pursue their careers of choice.

Mr. Bova and his wife, JoAnn, have two children and two grandchildren. Suzanne is an I.U. Psychologist working for the Corry School District and John is the owner and CEO of Great Lakes Merchant Solutions. John and his wife, Heather, are the parents of the Bovas' grandchildren, Jacob, age 6 and Hannah, age 5.

We thank Mr. Bova for his dedication to the district and wish him well in his retirement.

August 29, 2007

**First Day of School
Starting & Dismissal Times**

WAEC 8:50 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
WAMS 7:25 a.m. - 2:27 p.m.
SHS 7:30 a.m. - 2:33 p.m.

Inside This Edition...

WASD Welcomes New Staff	2-3
Safe & Drug Free Schools	3
2007-08 Building Goals	4
Lunch Prices	4
We've Got Spirit!	5
Bobcat Booster Club	5
Athletic/Activity Fees	5
Music Booster News	6
Tech Talk	6
WAEC PTO	6
WAEC Open House	6
Because We Care	7
Early Dismissal Notes	8
Transportation News	8
Immunization Requirements	8
Medication Policy	8
Legal Notices	9-12
2007-08 1st Semester Calendar	13
Whom to Call	14

WASD Welcomes New Staff



Mrs. Cindy Cass

Mrs. Cindy Cass joins the Information Technology Services Department here at Wattsburg as a Client Technology Specialist. Mrs. Cass is a graduate of Seneca High School and has a Bachelor's Degree in Management of Information Systems from Penn State Behrend. She lives in the Wattsburg Area School District with her husband, Jeff, and their two daughters, Brooke and Jessica. She enjoys scrapbooking projects in her free time.

We welcome Mrs. Theresa Himes as a new first grade teacher at WAEC. For the past few months, Mrs. Himes has been substitute teaching in a kindergarten classroom in Erie. Prior to that long-term substitute position, she taught preschool in a neighboring county school. It was during her preschool experience that Mrs. Himes was trained in balanced literacy through Ohio State's Literacy Collaborative. Mrs. Himes graduated from Gannon University with a major in Spanish. She then attended Edinboro University of PA where she became certified in Elementary Education with a minor in Early Childhood Education. Recently, Mrs. Himes obtained her Master of Education from Edinboro University of PA. It is a pleasure to have Mrs. Theresa Himes as part of our Elementary Center team.



Mrs. Theresa Himes

Mrs. Rebecca Johnson will be a wonderful asset to our third grade staff this year. Mrs. Johnson has worked as a home school teacher to children in Ecuador and she comes to us having completed her student teaching in the Grove City area. Mrs. Johnson received her B.S. in Elementary Education from Grove City College. Recently married, Mrs. Johnson enjoys art, reading, running, playing Frisbee and traveling with her husband. We look forward to working with Mrs. Rebecca Johnson at the Elementary Center.

Ms. Madelyn Simmons will make a positive contribution to our fourth grade staff and to our school district. Over the past few years, Ms. Simmons has taught at Perseus House Charter School. She also has experience working with preschool children and kindergarteners. Ms. Simmons graduated from Edinboro University with a B.S. in Education. She received her Masters in Special Education from Mercyhurst College. She enjoys working with children at school and watching her friends' children outside of school. She plays piano, gives piano lessons, and loves to quilt.

Mr. Timothy Schweitzer, a 1990 Seneca High School graduate, will be teaching Science at the Middle School. He earned his B.S. degree in Biology at Penn State Behrend, and a B.S. in Science Education at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Schweitzer has taught Biology and General Science for the past nine years at Ledgemont School District in Thompson, Ohio. While at Ledgemont, he coached baseball for one year and softball for seven years. Mr. Schweitzer enjoys hunting, landscaping/gardening, woodworking and construction, snowmobiling and sports. He is a great fan of the Steelers, Pirates and Penn State!



Mrs. Rebecca Johnson



Ms. Madelyn Simmons

Continued on page 3

WASD Welcomes New Staff

Continued from page 2

First Sergeant Steven M. Pascuzzi joins the AFJROTC program as Senior Aerospace Education Instructor at Seneca High School this year. Sgt. Pascuzzi recently retired after 20 years of service with the United States Air Force where he was a Training Superintendent/First Sergeant for Cadet Group 4 at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Some of his previous Air Force assignments include Avionics Technician, Combat Airlift Specialist, USAF Recruiter, and Admissions Counselor for the USAF Academy.

First Sergeant Pascuzzi is originally from Rochester, New York. He and his wife, Monica, have been married for 19 years and have two children, Spencer, 15 and Olivia, 10, and a dog named Duncan (he's their other son). Some of his hobbies include physical fitness, landscaping, fishing, and Jeeps.

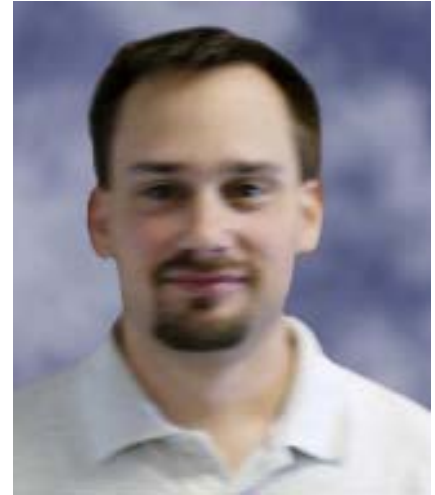
Mr. Tate Warren joins the SHS team this year as a full-time teacher in the Health/Physical Education Department. Mr. Warren attended school in the Wattsburg Area School District from kindergarten through 12th grade and graduated from Seneca High School in 2002. After graduating, he moved on to Edinboro University where he majored in Health and Physical Education, earning his degree in December of 2006. He has worked for the district for the past 3 years as the intramural football coach, and is also currently the strength and conditioning coach and helps to coach the offensive and defensive lines.

In his spare time, Mr. Warren enjoys going to the gym to lift weights. He also loves to golf, camp, fish, as well as other outdoor activities.



Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities

Seneca High School has received a federal grant for the upcoming 2007-2008 school year entitled "Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities." The funding for this grant will be used to augment our efforts to prevent violence and the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. After examining the needs of the school, based on the previous year's data and performance, an advisory board identified how best to implement the various aspects of the program. Goals were set and will be tracked throughout the course of the year. This year's goal is to reduce the incidence of violence and drug, alcohol, and tobacco use by 2% from the 2006-2007 school year. As with any effort to curb activity which detracts from the learning environment, it is hoped that our efforts in the school will be supported and encouraged in the home. Any parent or community member wishing to serve on this advisory council should contact the high school.



Mr. Timothy Schweitzer



Sgt. Steven Pascuzzi



Mr. Tate Warren

2007-08 Building Goals

Each year, goals are established for each WASD school building. The 2007-08 goals are as follows:

Seneca High School

Seneca High School has three major goals for the coming year. The first two are related to the PSSA. The new strategic plan requires Seneca to have 78% of eleventh graders proficient or better on the PSSA in mathematics and 81% of eleventh graders proficient or better on the reading assessment. These two goals will be the primary focus for Seneca teachers and administrators. Teachers will receive professional development to allow them to incorporate reading and math anchors into their daily curriculum. Students in math classes will participate in 4-Sight testing on a regular basis to hone their math skills in preparation for the next round of PSSAs. The district will also purchase math and reading software which will support the efforts of teachers and students in their math and reading classes. The third goal will be to prepare teachers and the Seneca building for a Classrooms of the Future grant which Wattsburg will receive in 2008. Governor Ed Rendell has promised laptop computers in every core subject classroom across the state by the end of the 2008-2009 school year. A lot of work needs to be done to prepare for this change, including purchasing additional hardware and software to support these changes. Teachers will also need to be inserviced on applications they will use in their classrooms.

Wattsburg Area Middle School

1. All students will increase their scaled scores on the 4-Sight assessment in math and reading throughout the school year. Teachers and students will utilize the 4-Sight assessment and work on increasing deficiency areas on the assessment in order to obtain academic growth from assessment-to-assessment.
2. The staff will successfully implement Study Island in math and reading for all students. All students will be

assigned usernames and passwords which will enable them to supplement their math and reading classroom lessons. Students will work on the program in their areas of weakness and/or assigned by their classroom teacher outside the school day as well.

3. The staff will incorporate physical activities into the school day and recess (outside of P.E. classes). This idea goes along with the whole notion of student wellness and will increase the amount of time students are involved in structured activities during the school day.
4. Teachers will develop and implement Adopt-an-Anchor. Teachers will work to incorporate PA standards in reading and math into their lessons to ensure adequate instruction of these vital concepts.
5. Students and staff will work to improve School Climate.

Wattsburg Area Elementary Center

2007-2008 goals for the Wattsburg Area Elementary Center are as follows:

- To provide assessment data to all staff and to educate staff about types and use of data to improve instruction.
- To implement Progress Book at WAEC to allow parents real time access to students' attendance information and grades.
- To collaborate with the YMCA to align the pre-school and kindergarten curricula.
- To provide software to support differentiated instruction.
- To research and purchase math materials to support curriculum and to utilize math skills checklists to identify student weaknesses to plan instruction.
- To provide information to staff in order to support inclusion by adapting/modifying instruction, recognizing characteristics of special needs learners, and providing information on the supports available

2007-08 Lunch Prices

Elementary Center

Breakfast/Reduced Price	\$.30
Breakfast/Full Price	.80
Lunch/Reduced Price	.40
Lunch/Full Price	1.50
Milk	.45

Middle & High School

Breakfast/Reduced Price	\$.30
Breakfast/Full Price	.80
Lunch/Reduced Price	.40
Lunch/Full Price	1.65
Milk	.45

Bobcat Bullet

For 2007, WASD made
AYP in all areas
of the PSSA!



We've Got Spirit!

The Seneca High School Cheerleaders attended the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) cheerleading camp at Slippery Rock University July 25th-28th. While at camp, the girls learned many new cheers, sidelines and dances, as well as lots of new stunts. The girls were judged on a selected cheer and dance and received the highest award. They also received a trophy for the most improved squad. Tiffany Cowser was selected as a UCA Allstar and will be traveling to London, England over Christmas break to cheer in the London New Years Day Parade.

Seniors Nicole Fenno and Sarah Michalski were invited to cheer in this years Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. We are looking forward to another great year! Good Luck to all SHS sports teams. Go Bobcats!



*Bottom left to right- Charli Miller, Corinne Zimmerly, Jessica Wittman
Second row, kneeling- Tiffany Cowser, Olivia Kimmy Top left to right-
Misty Dempsey, Courtney Dempsey, Brittany Ruppert, Nicole Fenno,
Sarah Michalski, Kayla Bootes, Donielle Betcher, Megan Shreve.*

Athletic/Activity Fees

Athletic 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 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.

Game Prices:

Athletic contest admission per game fees for the 2007-08 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.

Bobcat Booster Club

The Bobcat Booster Club supports all Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) athletes at Seneca High School. Through concession stand earnings, selling of sports programs, 50/50 tickets, clothing apparel, and other fundraisers, the nonprofit organization provides additional resources for the Bobcat athletes, including the following:

- Awards trophies to the male and female Athlete of the Year
- Two \$500 educational scholarships at the Spring Sports Awards Ceremony. (All senior athletes participating in any PIAA sport during the school year are eligible to apply for the stewardship award).
- An allowance of \$30 is given to each sports team member for clothing apparel such as hoodies, tees, sweatpants, etc.
- Hosts three Sports Awards Ceremonies: Fall, Winter, and Spring

Officers of the SHS Bobcat Booster Club are:

President Diane White
Vice President Cindy Widdowson
Secretary Tish Wells
Treasurer Gordie Gibbens
Sergeant at Arms Calie Lambing

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Seneca High School Cafeteria.

SENECA BOOSTERS NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

If you are interested in helping with our Club,
please call Diane White at 739-2140

Music Booster News

The Seneca Music Boosters would like to invite all marching band parents to their monthly meetings that are held in the Seneca High School auditorium at 6:30 p.m. They will be meeting on September 11, October 9 and November 6. Mr. Caspar, Seneca Marching Band Director, says that the band season is off to a great start. Band camp started on August 6 and runs through August 24th. This year, Seneca's band has increased in members and has moved from a Class A band to a Class AA band. Our show this year is "Little Shop of Horrors." We expect to have a challenging but fun-filled year.

Also, the Seneca High School Home Show will be held on Saturday, September 29th at approximately 5:00 p.m. Many bands will be participating for your enjoyment. There will also be concessions, a bake sale, a Chinese auction and many other events. For more information, please call the Seneca High School at 824-3400, ext. 4508.

WAEC PTO

The Wattsburg Area Elementary PTO will hold its first meeting on September 11, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Elementary Center cafeteria. Meetings are held during the school year on the second Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Volunteers are needed for the many committees that the PTO organizes. Attending the PTO meetings is a great opportunity to meet parents, teachers, and administrators. It also allows participants to become informed about the different activities that the PTO plans throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you on the 11th at 7:00 p.m. Your participation is appreciated!

**WAEC
Open House
will be held on
Thursday, September 6th
from 6:00-8:00**

For ease of parking, please consider arriving between 6:00-7:00 if your last name begins with A-M and between 7:00-8:00 if your last name begins with N-Z.

We look forward to starting a new school year with you and your family!

Tech Talk

At the Middle School, students in the science classrooms can now share their work digitally using Palm Pilots. These pieces of technology were acquired by a grant from our new Bluetooth classroom network. Also, our middle school Accelerated Reading and Star Reading software titles have been upgraded to web based versions providing improved alignment to library resources. An additional computer lab at the middle school will be opened in September. This will allow our students much needed lab time to complete teacher projects and utilize the expanded Study Island program.

Seneca High School now offers expanded Wi-Fi network access. Coverage includes places such as our library, auditorium, and lunch room. This year begins our second year as a Certiport Testing Center for IC3 and Microsoft Office Specialist certifications.

District-wide, we have several projects approaching completion this school year. Later this month, the district will unveil a new website to the public. We hope it will be eye catching and easy to navigate. The website address, www.wattsburg.org, will stay the same. The district will also begin using a new district-wide grading and attendance reporting system called ProgressBook. We expect parent and student access to our new ProgressBook portal to be available by the end of September. If you have any questions regarding the new system, please email itmanager@wasd.iu5.org.

Because We Care...



(L-R) Cadet Brent Pierce (not shown), Lt. Steve DeSanzo, Cadet Mike Foster, Lt. Miranda Berhard, Cadet Paul McMahon, Lt. Chris Szymanski, and Lt. Colonel Perry Rearick speak to students about being good citizens.

The United States Army came to WAMS on Friday, May 25! Why were they here? These soldiers visited our school to help create Care Packages for the soldiers who are serving overseas in Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel Rearick spoke to students in Mrs. Szymanski's class and thanked the entire school for participating in the Penny Wars. Money collected from the Penny Wars was donated to both the Red Cross and used to purchase supplies for these Care Packages.

Students, helped by the soldiers, filled the packages with treats such as Pringles potato chips, Chef Boyardee spaghetti, cotton socks, and beef jerky.

Lt. DeSanzo just finished a tour in Afghanistan and said these were some of the things he and his fellow soldiers missed most.

After all the packages were filled, Lt. Col. Rearick presented each child in Mrs. Szymanski's class with a Good Citizenship Award.

Lt. Col. Rearick is also a professor of Military Science at Edinboro University. He encouraged all of the boys and girls to continue to help others as they grow up.



Lt. Szymanski helps Sam Black fill a package



Lt. Col. Perry Rearick presents a Good Citizenship Award to Jordan Fenno.

WAMS Bobcat Bullet...

Let's Travel Through this School Year Together!

- T**ry a new school sport or activity
- R**espect everyone's differences
- A**pply your knowledge successfully
- V**olunteer to help others
- E**xpand your skills and talents
- L**ive healthy

2007-2008
Make it GREAT!



Early Dismissal Notes

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 early dismissal notice will be posted on the WASD website.
3. Middle school and high school students will be dismissed first.
4. Calls will be made to emergency phone numbers of elementary school students.
5. Elementary school students will be dismissed.
6. Elementary school students whose parents, guardians, or older siblings are not at home will be returned to the Elementary Center for parent pickup.

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

Transportation News

For the safety of our children, here are a few reminders regarding Wattsburg Area School District transportation.



- The first day of school for WASD students is August 29, 2007.
- Non-public school busing starts August 22, 2007.
- If students are to be picked up or dropped off at babysitters, parents must call the bus garage to make arrangements.
- On **Fridays only**, students may be dropped off at houses other than their original designated stops. A bus pass, (available at school offices), signed by the student's parent and submitted two days in advance is required.
- Kindergarten students will not be dropped off if a parent, guardian or sibling is not visible. The student will be returned to school and the parents must pick the child up there.

Immunization Requirements

Varicella and **Hepatitis B** are the most recent immunizations required for school children by the state of Pennsylvania.

Kindergarten, first grade registrants, or students entering 7th grade must have the following immunizations before attending school:

- 4 doses of DTP
- 3 doses of Polio
- 2 doses of MMR
- 3 doses of Hepatitis B
- 1 dose of Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccine or history of disease

For more information, please call Mrs. Lisa Zarger, School Nurse, at 824-3400, ext 4121.

Medication Policy

This is a reminder that a district-wide policy is in place for the administration of all medications 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.

WAEC Bobcat Bullet

visitors and volunteers are always welcome at WAEC. Please join us for Storybook Café, become a classroom volunteer, and join our PTO.



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.¹

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.

¹ 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

Chapter 16: Gifted Education

To be in compliance with Pennsylvania state law, the Wattsburg Area School District has established 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.

The following multiple criteria are considered in the identification process:

- strong teacher recommendation
- group achievement test scores at the 95th percentile or higher in total reading or total math on a nationally-normed standardized test.
- a full scale (or composite) IQ score of 130 or higher or an individually administered intelligence test. (This test will be given by the school psychologist.)

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

Continued on page 11

Legal Notices

Special Education Services

Continued from page 10

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.

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 email 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.

Continued on page 12

Legal Notices

Integrated Pest Management Notification

Continued from page 11

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.

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

WATTSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2007-08 FIRST SEMESTER CALENDAR

Elementary Center	
August	29 First Student Day 29 Kindergarten Split Session 30 Kindergarten Split Session 31 Kdg. Regular Session Begins
September	3 Labor Day - Holiday 6 Open House, 6:00-8:00 p.m. 11 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m. 13 Jr. Bobcat Store 27 Volunteer Training 9:30-10:30 a.m. 28 School Picture Day
October	8 Regional Inservice Day No School for Students 9 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m. 26 Fall Celebration & Parade 2:00-3:00 p.m.
November	8 Jr. Bobcat Store 9 School Picture Retakes 9-15 Book Fair 13 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m. 22-26 Thanksgiving Vacation
December	3 End of 1st Grading Period 11 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m. 11-13 Santa's Secret Shop 19 Winter Celebration 2:15-3:00 p.m. 24-31 Christmas Vacation
January	1 New Year's Day - Holiday 2 Classes Resume 8 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m. 17 End of First Semester 18 Teacher Work Day No School for Students

Middle School	
August	29 First Student Day
September	3 Labor Day - Holiday 5 WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m. 17-21 Book Fair 19 Open House & Book Fair 6:00-8:00 p.m.
October	2 WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m. 4 School Pictures 5 7th/ 8th Grade Dance, 6:30 p.m. 8 Regional Inservice Day No School for Students 11 End of First Grading Period 12 7th/ 8th Grade Dance, 6:30 p.m.
November	6 WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m. 15 School Picture Retakes 22-26 Thanksgiving Vacation 27 End of Second Grading Period
December	4 WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.. 14 7th/ 8th Grade Dance, 6:30 p.m. 24-31 Christmas Vacation
January	1 New Year's Day - Holiday 2 Classes Resume 2 WAMSAG Meeting, 7:00 p.m. 17 End of First Semester & Third Grading Period 18 Teacher Work Day No School for Students 21 Snow Make-Up Day

High School	
August	29 First Student Day
September	3 Labor Day - Holiday 11 Music Boosters Meeting, 6:30 p.m. 12 Sports Boosters Meeting, 7:30 p.m. 18 School Pictures 29 Band Show
October	8 Regional Inservice Day No School for Students 9 Music Boosters Meeting, 6:30 p.m. 10 Sports Boosters Meeting, 7:30 p.m. 13 Homecoming Weekend 30 School Picture Retakes
November	6 Sports Boosters Meeting, 7:30 p.m. 14 Music Boosters Meeting, 6:30 p.m. 8-9 Fall Dinner Theater 14 Blood Drive 22-26 Thanksgiving Vacation
December	TBA Band Concert 4 Music Boosters Meeting, 6:30 p.m. 12 Sports Boosters Meeting, 7:30 p.m. TBA Chorus Concert 24-31 Christmas Vacation
January	1 New Year's Day - Holiday 02 Classes Resume 8 Music Boosters Meeting, 6:30 p.m. 9 Sports Boosters Meeting, 7:30 p.m. 17 End of First Semester & Third Grading Period 18 Teacher Work Day No School for Students 21 Snow Make-Up Day

The Chalkboard

A Publication of
Wattsburg Area School District
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- Ms. Cheryl Nye, Board Secretary
- Dr. Rosalie Constantine, Acting Superintendent
- Mrs. Marty Dean, Chalkboard Editor

BOX HOLDER OR
CURRENT RESIDENT

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. You may also contact us by email at wasd@wasd.iu5.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 Coordinator, by calling 825-7996.

Questions regarding district policy or other areas may be answered by calling Dr. Lee Constantine, Acting Superintendent.

Wattsburg Area School District
824-3400

- Dr. Lee Constantine, Acting Superintendent Ext. 4532
- Mr. Thomas Rinke, SHS Principal Ext. 4510
- Mr. Douglas McGarvey, WAMS Principal Ext. 4523
- Mr. Chad Porter, WAEC Co-Principal Ext. 4503
- Ms. Gina Rullo, WAEC Co-Principal Ext. 4502
- Ms. Barbara Schock, Trans. Coordinator 825-7996