

2021 Calendar for
February and March



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February

- 5 Report Cards will be mailed home
- 9 BOE Meeting (AUD) 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Presidents Day – **NO SCHOOL**
- 15-19 Mid-Winter Recess – **NO SCHOOL**



March

- 5 Progress Reports Mailed
- 9 BOE Meeting (AUD) 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Superintendent Conference Day - **NO SCHOOL**



WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL
374 Lake Street / P.O. Box 648
Wilson, New York 14172
(716) 751-9341, Ext. 124
WWW.WILSONCSD.ORG

January 2021

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians.

I hope each of you are enjoying a restful and meaningful time with your family during the Christmas Recess. Before school resumes, here are some general reminders along with additional information to review. I wish you a Happy New Year!

DAILY COVID-19 CHECKLIST

I would like to thank all parents & students for your diligence in filling out the daily COVID Checklist. This must be filled out online everyday, for each student that will be on campus. Our staff members also complete the screening each day before entering the building. Please complete the form prior to your student getting on the bus or arriving at school each morning.

REVIEW OF PREVENTIVE SAFETY MEASURES

Students are required to complete an at-home wellness check survey each morning prior to leaving for school.

Visitors will be restricted to ensure that exposure risks are minimized

Face masks must be worn by all individuals on campus in settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. When in the classroom students may be given mask breaks at the discretion of the teacher. If a student is directed to put on their mask, they are expected to do so. Students who fail to adhere to these expectations will not be permitted in the building.

Hygiene guidelines: Handwashing, sanitizer stations and frequent cleaning of campus spaces are critical components of school remaining open.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Students are not permitted to enter the building until 7:30 AM. Students arriving at that time must report to Cafeteria B. Students being dropped off must be dropped off in the Zipp Parking lot and enter door L.

Parents picking up their child at the end of the school day must pick them up in the Zipp gym parking lot near door L.

PE lockers will not be assigned, therefore students will not be changing for PE. Students should wear clothes appropriate for physical activity on days they have PE. Sneakers are required as well.

CODE OF CONDUCT/ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Please take time to review the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct (please click link to review) which can be found in the 2020-2021 WCS District Calendar that you received in the mail prior to the start of the school year. Additionally, it is important that students review the Acceptable Use Policy (please click link to review) as it will apply whether you are on or off campus. Students are expected to behave in a respectful and responsible manner at all times. However, if problems occur, students must report the incident to a staff member in order for the problem to be addressed.

JANUARY CALENDAR CHANGE

Please mark your calendars - January 29, 2021 was originally scheduled as a Superintendent's day at the MS/HS. Due to the cancellation of January Regents exams January 29, 2021 is a day of instruction. Cohort B students are to report to school. Cohort A and D students are to attend remotely.

CHROMEBOOKS

School issued Chromebooks must be brought to school fully charged every day. All students are required to complete their school work using their school issued Chromebook, even if working remotely from home.

HEALTH

We are looking forward to continued health and wellness at school. As winter is upon us and students inevitably get colds, etc., we are hopeful that our mask wearing and frequent hand washing and sanitizing will minimize our cold season. There have been many questions regarding what to do when your child is sick. If you have any questions regarding student illness or return to school procedures, please contact Mrs. Suzanne Dean, Nurse - 751-9341 ext. 125 (sdean@wilsoncsd.org).

2nd QUARTER

The 2nd quarter ends Friday, January 22 - (15 school days as of January 4th). 2nd Quarter Report Cards will be mailed on Friday, February 5th. There are plenty of opportunities to bring up unsatisfactory grades during the 2nd quarter and beyond. Our dedicated teachers are here to help all our students. Please encourage your student to contact their teacher(s) for help if they are struggling. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers, guidance counselor or Principal Benton.

REMOTE LEARNING

It is extremely important that students attend all of their classes when remote learning, as well as attending school on their scheduled in-person days. A parent/guardian should contact the Attendance Office if their child is unable to attend in-person on the day(s) they are scheduled to do so. Students should not be self selecting when they are remote. Class includes instruction and

activities with teachers as well as assigned learning that students complete on their own. Students should have their cameras on for the entire remote class unless the teacher or teacher aide has given them permission to turn it off. When cameras are on this helps your child's teacher know if your child is engaged in learning and understanding what is being taught. It is expected that parents shall, to the maximum extent possible, ensure that their child participates in remote learning.

ATTENDANCE

Your child needs to log into their google classroom for homeroom every morning, in order to be marked present for the day. Students in Cohort A and Cohort B are expected to be here in person on their assigned days. If your child will not be in school on a day they should be, please contact the attendance office.

Wednesdays: Your child also needs to complete and submit all of his/her assignments by the deadline given by the teacher. This will ensure that your child is marked present for that class period. If they fail to do so, they will be marked absent.

It is extremely important that your child signs in to all of their classes on days that they are remote, not only Wednesday, but all remote days.

Tips: Here are some helpful tips to help make Wednesday remote instruction easier for all: Log in as if it were any other remote day for homeroom and work through your schedule. Use your agenda to write down assignments. Contact your teachers if you have questions or require assistance.

EXTRA HELP

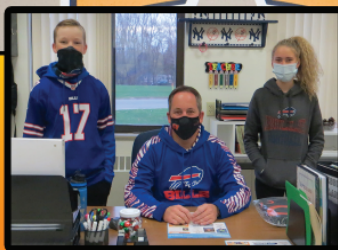
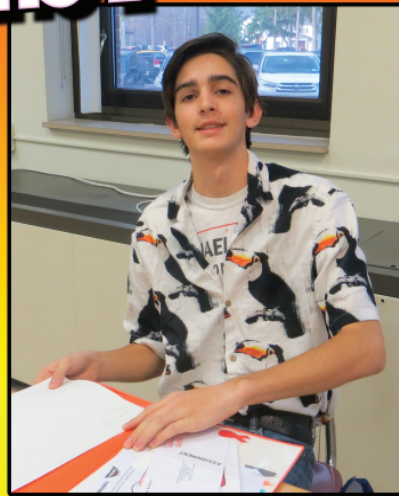
Teachers are available for extra help on Monday - Thursday during 12th period. If your child requires extra help and is not physically present in school on one of those days, please have your child contact their teacher to make arrangements to receive help via email or Google Meet.

Be Better Today Than Yesterday.

Take care,

Scott Benton, Principal
Wilson Middle School

SPIRIT WEEKS!



The **Middle School Student Council** would like to thank all the students who recently participated in our New Day Coffee fundraiser.

MS coffee sales participants:

6th graders:

Max Harmon
Megan Seider
Ben Meyers
Connor Woodward
Paige Thrush
Benton Moshier
Gwen Letts
Bella Muck
Savanna Jones
Stella Cooper

7th graders:

Morgan Coulter
Brock Lepsch
Mackenzie Hardy
Isabella Thrush
Donna Clark
Lauren Vanderlinder
Brayden Sidebottom
Nathan Hurtgam

8th graders:

Austin Woodward
Stephanie Atlas
Eli Rahelich
Ben Vanderlinden
Artie Lawson
Rayn Cooper
Madelynn Jowdy
Sean Kropp
Mariah Boyce
Madison Boyce
Karina Farnham
Madison Edwards
Tyler Goff-Brown



Thanks to these 32 dedicated students, we had the BEST coffee sale in nearly a decade. They helped raise almost \$1,000 for the Middle school student council fund. The money raised will be used to pay for busing to Darien Lake in June for the honor roll field trip for those students who meet the qualifying criteria. Our Top seller was 8th Tyler Goff-Brown who sold 43 bags of coffee. This is a new all-time record. Congratulations and Thank you Tyler! All students who sold 3 bags of coffee will be invited to a pizza party in mid January. Look for the invite slip from your homeroom teacher. Thanks again for all your help.

Mr. and Mrs, Harvey – MSSC club advisors



Performing Concerts in 2020... Where there's a will, there's a way!

Hats off to the students and teachers in the Performing Arts Department. They have certainly proven that "*where there is a will, there is a way*". Through some incredible teamwork, collaboration and hours of hard work, the department was able to produce both instrumental and choral concerts for the holidays.

For the Middle School Band concert, **Mr. Adam Brignone** used a program called **SmartMusic**, which allowed his students to record their performances in the same format, on the music, as their fellow band-mates. Students did most of their recordings at home, but some percussionists needed to record in school, using equipment they did not own. Students rehearsed for almost 3 months, and then submitted their recordings by December 1st. From there, Mr. Brignone downloaded all the individual recordings (between 90-100) and used a program named **GarageBand** to combine them. It took over 60 hours for him to record students, listen to submissions, line up all of the recordings, edit them, and adjust the differing volumes for proper balance. After the songs were pieced together and fine-tuned, Mr. Brignone exported them to iTunes, and completed the full band concert using iMovie.

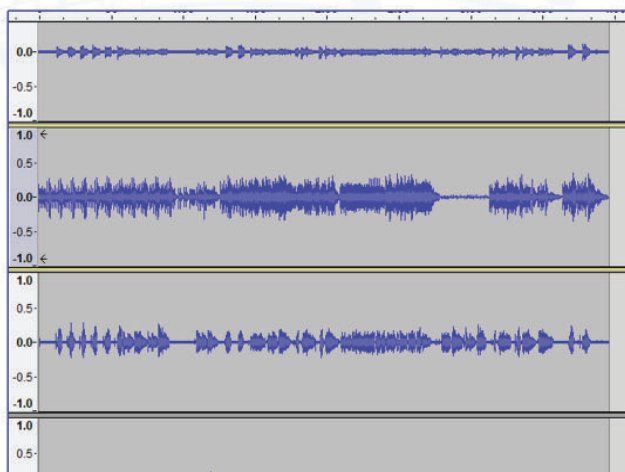
Mr. Brignone and Mrs. Andres offer special thanks to Technology Coordinator **Mrs. Bonnie Simpson** and



Middle School Principal **Mr. Scott Benton** for their assistance. Mrs. Simpson helped upload all of the concerts to YouTube and the district website, while Mr. Benton allowed for extra time and flexibility, which meant that the teachers and their students could complete the concerts in time for Christmas break.

Mrs. Claudia Andres taught herself all sorts of new technology and techniques, in order to produce the December choral concert. During on-site rehearsals, students stood 12 feet apart, singing lightly with a mask on. To create a full concert, students practiced independently and then recorded themselves, singing to an accompaniment track using headphones, so that only their voices came through. Mrs. Andres also used the SmartMusic software for some recordings. Other segments were made by recording an accompaniment track on one device, while singing into another. After students shared their individual recordings with her, Mrs. Andres used a program called **Audacity** to piece them all together. She estimates that it took her well over 40-50 hours to line up all the individual clips and balance the sound to produce fully realized songs. On some pieces she had to organize up to fifty individual voices. Mrs. Andres wishes to thank **Ms. Mahar** for her help.

Below: Three individual voice recordings (in blue) are lined up on top of one another, using the Audacity software.



All of the Middle School concerts are on the District's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBBdXQ9DZHvtokomfvJQQLg>. Additionally, the High School Jazz Band recorded a live performance, spaced 12 feet apart in the auditorium, on the last day before break. That performance is also available on the district website. Enjoy!

WILSON WINNERS

SEPTEMBER 2020

6th Grade: Max Harmon, Ben Meyers
7th Grade: Braden Seeley, Madelyn Tokarski
8th Grade: Marisa Schultz, Stephanie Atlas



Wilson Winners for September 2020

Each month, two students from grades 6-8 are nominated by their teachers as Wilson Winners. Students may be nominated for any number of reasons, and this spring, all 54 students will attend a field trip to celebrate their achievements. Congratulations to the Wilson Winners for September 2020.

6th Graders:

Ben Meyers was nominated by Mrs. Reagan and Mrs. Forsyth. Mrs. Reagan nominated Ben because he asks questions, completes all of his assignments on time, and does his best on all tasks. He is also hard-working and is supportive of his peers. Mrs. Forsyth nominated Ben because he is diligent and aims to please. Ben is an enthusiastic learner who strives to do his best.

Max Harmon was nominated by Mrs. Forsyth and Mrs. Reagan. Mrs. Forsyth nominated Max because he is an excellent student who is determined to do his best. He is so polite and always willing to help her. Mrs. Reagan nominated Max because he is an outstanding student. Max is hardworking, diligent, and a good role model for his peers.

7th Graders:

Braden Seeley was nominated by Mrs. Salvatore and Mr. Baker. Mrs. Salvatore nominated him because Brady is a model student and is very helpful in class. He was also nominated by Mr. Baker because Brady's strong work ethic has guided him to a great start to the school year. He is very creative and excels in art.

Madelyn Tokarski was nominated by Mrs. Seeley and Mr. Sippel. Mrs. Seeley nominated her because she brightens up the day with her effervescent attitude in the classroom. She works very hard and enjoys academic competition. Mr. Sippel nominated her because she is a polite and hard working student. She brings a positive attitude to class each day and always strives to do her best.

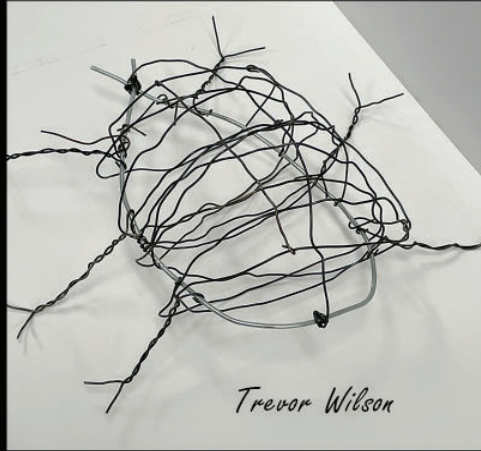
8th Graders:

Marisa Schultz was nominated by Mr. Baker and Mrs. Aloisio. Mr. Baker nominated her because Marisa is kind, compassionate and very helpful to others. She works hard and is off to a great start so far! Mrs. Aloisio nominated Marisa because she has displayed kindness to everyone that surrounds her. She is constantly sharing a kind word with everyone and offers empathy in countless ways. Additionally, the work ethic she has shown for her academics is magnificent.

Stephanie Atlas was nominated by Mrs. McCarthy. Stephanie is the kind of student that comes around only once in a great while. She is an all-around great student, hard-working and conscientious, yet she maintains grace and a sense of humor. She actively participates in class discussions and shows enthusiasm towards the class and kindness towards her classmates.



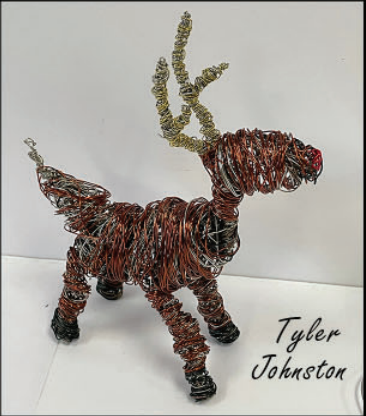
Ben
Vanderlinden



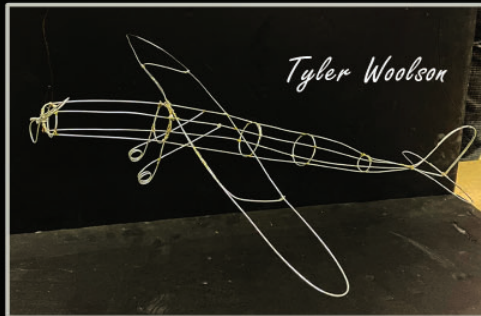
Trevor Wilson



Jessica Sparatorico



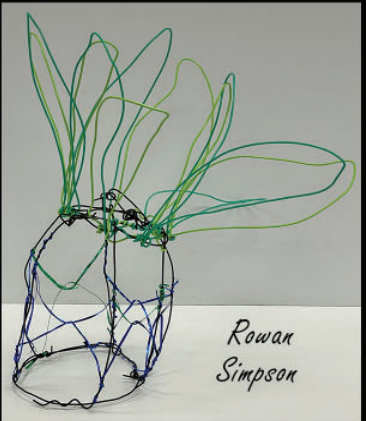
Tyler
Johnston



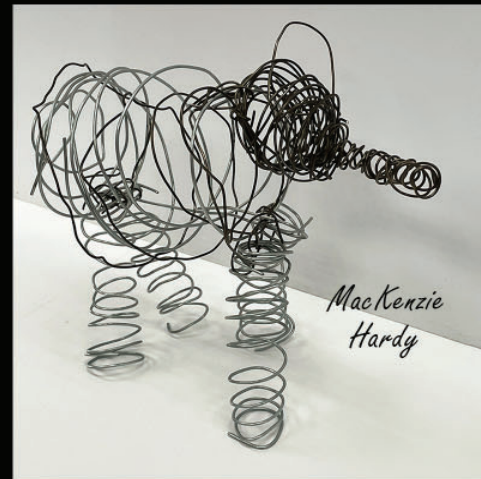
Tyler Woolson



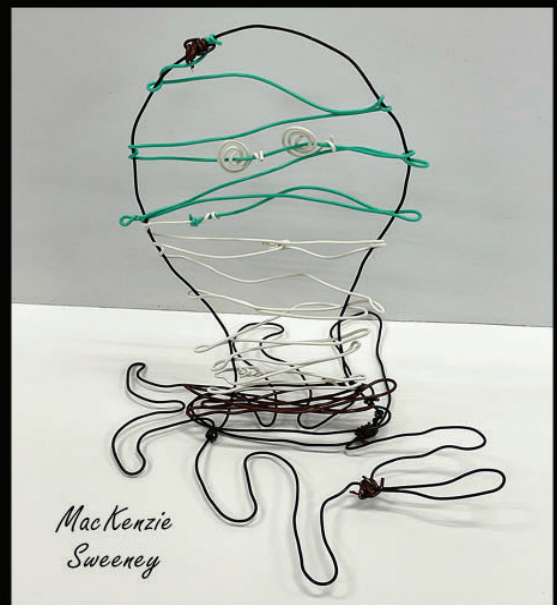
Hamza Merrick



Rowan
Simpson



MacKenzie
Hardy



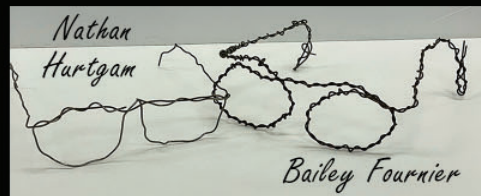
MacKenzie
Sweeney



Haleigh
Kopp



Shamus George



Nathan
Hurtgam

Bailey Fournier

Wire Sculptures

This was the first year for wire sculptures in Middle School Art. Mr. Baker wanted to give students a medium that they could take home with them, and easily manipulate. He loves the way they turned out, and said that students took a very creative approach to the project.



Wilson Winners for October 2020

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6th Graders:

Joseph Dispenza was nominated by Mrs. Wass and Mrs. Reagan. Mrs. Wass nominated Joe, because he has recently had some major challenges to overcome, and he did so without skipping a beat. He is a courageous and determined student who always strives to do his best. Mrs. Reagan nominated Joe because he is a wonderful young man, who serves as a great role model for others. Joey is responsible and a pleasure to work with.

Mason Schultz was nominated by Ms. Mahar and Mrs. Reagan. Ms. Mahar nominated Mason for being an upbeat and energetic student, who arrives first thing in the morning with a positive attitude. He is quick to participate during class discussions, and can always be counted on to contribute in a helpful way. Mrs. Reagan nominated him because Mason is a smart and very capable young man. He participates often in discussions and has a lot to offer. Mason's work is always outstanding.

7th Graders:

Matthew Bracco was nominated by Mr. Sippel, Miss Zeller and Mrs. Seeley. Mr. Sippel nominated him because Matt has a wonderful work ethic. Whether he is in school or working from home, he is always trying to do his best. Matt has been successful this year due to his attitude and effort. Mrs. Seeley and Miss Zeller both nominated Matthew because he has shown a genuine interest in the Greek Mythology and poetry units. He is an active participant in classroom discussions and completes his assignments with care.

Rowan Simpson was nominated by Mr. Baker because her positive energy and amazing personality makes it so enjoyable to have her in art class. She is very creative and has great skills.

8th Graders:

Madelynne Jowdy was nominated by Mr. Alderman because she's a great kid, very polite, and a hard worker.

Sean Kropp was nominated by Mrs. Harvey and Mrs. Palmer. Sean was nominated by Mrs. Harvey because he puts forth 110% on all he does. He is a role model and leader to his peers and is very conscientious. He is a kind, helpful student to his teachers and always has a smile on his face. Mrs. Palmer nominated Sean because he is polite and a hard worker who strives to always do his best. He is a terrific young man and a pleasure to have in class.





Group Collage - Pastel Drawings

8th grade students in Mr. Baker's Art Class worked together in groups last spring to create three vibrant pastel collages. Mr. Baker was contacted by WCS alumni Jeff Dinse and his son Emmett, who were looking for some artwork to use as part of a landscape installation in the annual Plantasia Garden Show. The show was scheduled to be held in Buffalo last March but was unfortunately cancelled. The pieces were returned to the school and Mr. Baker is happy that people are able to see and enjoy the finished products.

Food Pantry Flash Food Drive Results

The Wilson Community Food Pantry had the opportunity to receive a \$500 grant, if it could collect 500 food items during the last week in October. When Foreign Language teacher **Mrs. Corey McCarthy** heard about the grant opportunity, she quickly organized a 'Flash Food Drive' in the Middle School. Students and staff members answered the call, collecting nearly 180 items in just four days. **Mr. Tom Baia's** homeroom kids collected the most items (23 items), and received a bag of candy for their efforts. The following homerooms also did a great job with their collections:

- **Mrs. Wass:** 22 items
- **Mr. Sippel:** 20 items
- **Mrs. Seeley:** 19 items
- **Mr. Lucinski:** 17 items

Mrs. McCarthy will hold another food drive in 2021, to benefit the Care-n-Share Food Pantry in Ransomville.



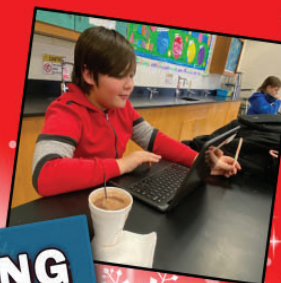
The Seventh Grade Team of teachers coordinated a Hat, Scarf and Glove Drive during the month of December, to benefit the YWCA. There are two women's shelters in Lockport and Niagara Falls that rely on the YWCA for donations, and everything collected at the Middle School Drive was forwarded to the shelters in time for Christmas. Thanks to the generosity of Wilson students and their families, over 100 items were collected.

Special thanks to **Mrs. Corey McCarthy** and **Mr. Brian Baker** for putting the drive together.



'Twas the Night Before Christmas

On the last afternoon before Christmas break, all of the students in the Middle School were treated to a special reading of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. Students accessed the eBook version of the classic holiday story on their Chromebooks, while Mr. Benton read the book out loud, using the PA system. It was a great way to bring all the middle school students and staff together at the same moment, to celebrate overcoming the odds for four months, and getting in the holiday spirit!



CHRISTMAS READ-A-LONG
with Mr. Benton as your narrator
Connect at 2 PM on Tuesday
through your English Google Classroom



UGLY *Sweater Contest*

WINNERS

Bryce Avery



Gwen Letts



Aurora Chase



Brock Lepsch



Rayn Coper (middle)



Parker Selbert

