

DeWitt PTA News

Mini Edition for June 2019

DeWitt Middle School • 560 Warren Road, Ithaca NY 14850 • 607-257-3222

DeWitt Middle School Hours:
8:55am – 3:21pm
(Doors open at 8:00 am)

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Thank You Out-Going PTA Board!

Thank you Eglantina, Suzanne and Empar,
Your hard work and dedication to our children, their teachers and school is so valued and is an inspiration to us all! You will be missed.



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DeWitt PTA, Dewitt Middle School,
560 Warren Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

New 2019/20 PTA Board

The PTA elected a new board at the June 11th PTA meeting. Penny Boynton (ore School Family Liaison) will serve as president. Anne, Schneider will serve as secretary, and Kelly Boyko will serve as treasurer.

Our New Board Needs Your Help!

There are many openings at DeWitt PTA as long-time members move on as their children transition to the high school.

Our community has expressed the need for better communication from the school. A great way to stay informed is to be an active member of the PTA. Our new president, Penny Boynton, has some ideas to help improve communication and welcomes your ideas.

Openings include the newsletter and the website editors along with several event managers. If you can help please contact Penny Boynton.



8th Grade End-of-Year Events

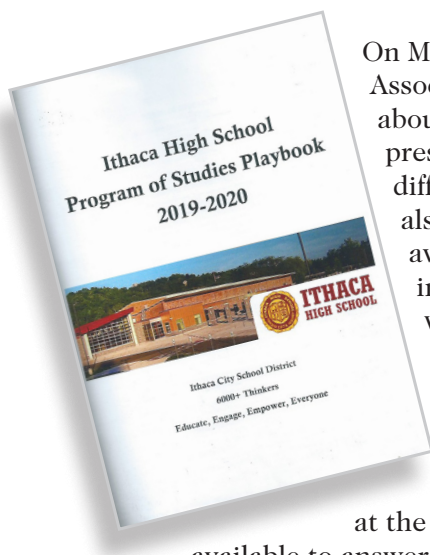
The 8th Grade Graduation Party is Friday, June 21, 7–9:00 pm at DeWitt Middle School.

Please consider donating food for the party to make this event a success. You can sign up to donate here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4aa8a729aafe3-8thgrade>. Parent Volunteer Party Coordinator — Lisa Biskup (ldb5@cornell.edu)

The 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony is Monday, June 24, 7–8:30pm in Ithaca High School's Kulp Auditorium

The 8th Grade Committee will be looking for volunteers to bring cupcakes to the event. If you can help contact 8th Grade Committee Coordinator — Karen Gorsky (karengorsky@gmail.com)

High School Curriculum Presentation



On May 6, the PTA welcomed Carlan Gray, Associate Principal at Ithaca High School, to talk about the high school curriculum. Ms. Gray presented graduation requirements and the different diploma designations offered. She also discussed the many exciting offerings available to students at the high school including different ways to earn college credit while still in high school. Details can be found in the *Program of Studies Playbook*. (Most eighth graders received a copy from their guidance counsellors. There is a limited number available in the DeWitt Main office. Additional copies can be found at the high school's main office.) Ms. Gray was available to answer parent's questions after her presentation.

Mark Your Calendar for Fall Modified Sports Registration.

Fall 2019 7/8th Modified Sports Registration opens on August 5. Please register online through Family ID. You can find a link to FamilyID on the ICSD website, on the Athletics page (<https://www.ithacacityschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1336>). If you have any questions please contact the Athletic Office (607) 274-2155.

Modified Fall Sports Include:

- Football
- Girls Volleyball
- Boys and Girls Soccer
- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Girls Tennis

Check the ICSD website's Athletic pages for more information including start dates.

Community Notice!

The Large Athletic Field Next to Northeast Elementary School will be Closed all Summer for Maintenance!

Ithaca City School District will be improving this athletic field over the summer, therefore the field will be closed. If you know of an organization that uses that field during the summer, please let them know they will need to make other arrangements. If you have questions, please contact Samantha Little at the ICSD Athletic Office. slittle@icsd.k12.ny.us, (607) 274-2155

Music Department Borrowing Closet

Check out our new PTA concert dress borrowing closet!

The closet has some concert-ready clothes for students to borrow. If your child needs to borrow some clothes, please let his/her teacher know, or contact Loredana (LL775@cornell.edu).

If your child has outgrown last year's concert clothes, please consider donating them to our closet. **We especially need black shoes.** If you'd like to make a donation, please contact Loredana (LL775@cornell.edu). Thank you!



Concert Dress Code Items

- Black dress shirts (for orchestra only)
- White dress tops (for band and choir)
- Black dress pants
- Black shoes
- Black socks
- Solid black dresses (must fall below the knees when sitting down)
- Black skirts (must fall below the knees when sitting down)

If you have any concerns about the dress code, please contact your teacher.

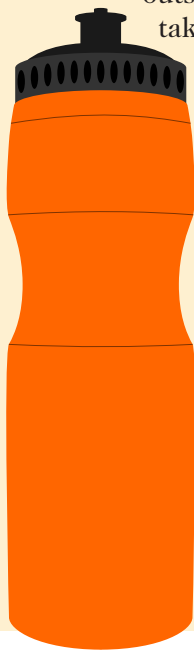
Free School Supply Closet With Its Pass-It-On Point Of View

At one time or another, nearly everyone has found themselves lacking a pencil, ruler, notebook, or other important item for school—whether through forgetfulness, carelessness, or an inability to acquire the item in the first place. If any of the above describes you—or a student you know—take note of the School Supply Closet, a free-to-students service run by Penny Boynton, DeWitt's Family Liaison.

The closet runs on a “pass-it-on” gift philosophy. If any student, for any reason, needs a school supply, that student can stop by Penny's office (or browse the auxiliary supply cart located just outside her office—her door opens into the cafeteria) and take whatever supplies are needed. The pass-it-on part is

this: students who have the means—whether now or at any time in the future—are asked to give back to the closet. So, a student could take a pencil one day, but give back with a three-ring binder a day later, a year later, or still later as an adult. The most popular items in the closet at the start of the school year are index cards, colored pencils, markers, and loose-leaf notebook paper. Other perennially popular supplies include spiral notebooks, three-ring binders, pocket folders, and binder dividers. **This year we have a desperate need for water bottles.** Backpacks are also a desired item in the closet, and students can trade backpacks in, if their tastes or needs change.

Students' families are encouraged to donate extra supplies to ensure that the closet is always stocked. Thank you for your help!

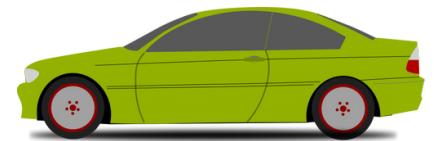


Student Drop-Off And Pick-Up

When dropping off or picking up your child at DeWitt, please make use of the drop-off/pick-up area at the North exit (parking lot exit).

Please follow the one-way direction of cars to create a smooth flow of traffic, and be patient during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. In order to keep the flow of traffic moving, it is important that drivers pull up as far as possible in the drop-off area.

It is critical to pay attention to cars moving in all directions and, more importantly, check for pedestrians crossing the lanes. Thank you for your consideration.



Parking Reminder

For the safety of everyone in the DeWitt school community, please do not park in the Fire Lane area. Even if you are picking up your child, you must park in a parking spot, not the Fire Lane. Thank you for your cooperation.

Join The DeWitt PTA Listserv!

Sign-up on the DeWitt Listserv to receive important information regarding school events, choir/band, PTA events, and community announcements! Sign-up at dewittpta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with “Join Listserv” in the subject line.



Thank You Volunteers!

Thank you to our many volunteers who helped support programs at DeWitt Middle School this year. Your generosity helped enrich our children's experience at middle school.



Take Charge of Your Transportation

Supporting student success means making sure all students can get to activities they're interested in, and families have the transportation they need to stay involved. Students and families who participate do better!

PENNY BOYNTON, YOUR SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION LIAISON!

As your School Transportation Liaison, I can share information on existing transportation services and resources, and/or help problem-solve transportation challenges. I can be reached at pboynton@icsd.k12.ny.us or 266-3554.

CARS ARE FOR DRIVING FULL:

Find or offer a ride, and help make the whole community successful! For help setting up carpooling or shared rides, contact your Transportation Liaison (see above) or call Sophie at Way2Go at (607) 272-2292 x184. Or talk directly with other parents/caregivers, your child's coach, drama director, afterschool program teacher, or other activity leader, to offer or look for a ride.

HELP WITH RIDESHARING:

Way2Go also offers a guide to ridesharing that can help you support parents and caregivers like yourself who want to do more ridesharing! To get the guide and/or volunteer to help out, contact your School Liaison, your child's activity leader, or Way2Go, as shown above.

TCAT BUS PASSES

Are available for students who can use a TCAT bus route for transportation to or from school-based (or related) activities. Contact your school transportation liaison or Way2Go.

INSTANT HELP USING TCAT BUS ROUTES:

Download a free app from iTunes called Ride 14850 for instant bus info based on where you want to go. The app is not affiliated with TCAT, but is based on TCAT's route maps.

RED

School Rides offers rides to school meetings and events by volunteer drivers, when possible. Contact RED at least a week ahead by emailing redschoolrides@gmail.com. If you call at the last minute, they will try but it's harder to find a ride. If you have a car, consider volunteering to help families get to meetings. You decide which and how many rides to offer—even just one ride makes a difference!

VIDEOS!

See Way2Go's videos on using the bus, carsharing and ridesharing at way2go.org.

ITHACA CARSHARE DISCOUNT:

For self-serve, by-the-hour access to Ithaca Carshare cars—plus a truck and a minivan—check out the Easy Access plan for low-income families! Call Ithaca Carshare at 607-277-3210.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call 2-1-1 (or 877-211-8667) for information on current transportation services, contact your school Transportation Liaison, or see www.way2goinfo.org or call Way2Go at 272-2292.

CONTACT:

Dawn Montanye, Way2Go Educator
607-272-2292

DeWitt At A Glance

A Reference Guide to Help Families Find What They Need

Who Do I Call?

Absent/Tardy Excuses	Attendance
Academic Concerns	Guidance Counselor
AIS	Support Teacher
Athletic/ Sports.	Main Office
Attendance	Attendance
Bulletin Board Approval.	Principal
DeWitt Website.	Coordinator
District Enrollment	274-2201
Early Dismissal.	Superintendent
ENL.	Guidance
Extracurricular Activities.	Family Liaison
Field Trips	Principal
Homework Requests.	Guidance
Illness	Attendance/Nurse
Lockers.	Attendance
Lost & Found	Family Liaison
Lunch Charges	Cafeteria
Personal Problems	Guidance/Nurse/Principal Social Worker/Psychologist
Program of Studies	Guidance
Registration/Withdrawal.	Guidance
Self-Discipline	Associate Principal
Scheduling	Guidance
School Calendar	Main Office
School Policies	Principal
Testing Information	Guidance
Transportation	274-2128
Visitations.	Attendance
Working Papers.	Nurse

Phone Numbers/Who's Who

Principal	Mac Knight 257-3222
Associate Principal	Donna Lucy-Lender 257-3881
Attendance	Patty Potter 257-3881
AIS/Reading	Caitlin Redfield 257-0734
Cafeteria	Nancy Smith 257-3884
CSE Chair.	Dawn Thurmond
Guidance	Kathy Troy 257-3445
Counselors	Eric Jackson Leann Young
ENL.	Carol Hoffman 257-3222
Family Liaison	Penny Boynton 266-3554
Head Custodian	Carleen Corey 257-3885
Library	Jezra Spisak 882-9858
Nurse	Mary Gessini (until June 25, 2019) 266-3510
Main Office Staff.	Patty Potter Deborah Reniff 257-3222
School Social Worker	Mary Baker 257-3269
School Psychologist	Carin Trabou 257-3406
Special Ed Office	Helen English 257-3444
PTA.	Eglantina Lucio-Belbase eluciob@gmail.com (Out-going) Penny Boynton 266-3554 (In-coming)

