

Winter 2019-2020



DEWITT MIDDLE SCHOOL

DeWitt PTA News

President's Message

By Penny Boynton

DeWitt's Family Liaison
and your PTA President

My function as the DeWitt Middle School Liaison is to assist with the flow of information and resources around our student's circle of learning.

I do this by connecting students, families, school staff and community agencies to address their needs.

I am happy to encourage any one of our communities to start clubs, create events, supply school materials, share information, find and share resources and provide service-learning opportunities.

I am so happy to be able to find connections, turning students' ideas into

reality. My goal is to continue connecting with the greater community and our DeWitt community through being: part of the A team, the Building Safety Team, DeWitt Newsletter (PLC), DeWitt PTA President, creating community forums, clubs and events.

Contact me with more ideas or questions:

Office: 266-3554
pboynton@icsdk12.ny.us
Home: 539-6345

Thanks!

PTA Contacts

2019 – 2020

President: Penny Boynton
pboynton@icsdk12.ny.us

Treasurer: Kelly Boyko
kboyko@gmail.com

Secretary: Anne Schneider
aschneider34@gmail.com

Membership: Kim Tilsen
ktilsen@gmail.com

List Serv: BJ Kim
bjwkim@gmail.com

T-shirt sales: Laura Dolch
laurawdolch@gmail.com

Newsletter: Tonya Bittner and Vida Maralani
bean.bittner@gmail.com
vida.maralani@gmail.com

Open House: Anne Burns-Thomas

Website: Shami Chatterjee
shami.chatterjee@gmail.com

Past President and Site-Based Council Rep:
Eglantina Lucio-Belbase
eluciob@gmail.com

Vehicle Reminders!

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 check for pedestrians crossing the

lanes.

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!

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Ways we communicate:

- DeWitt PTA website: dewittpta.org
- Facebook group: search DeWitt PTA
- Email Listserv: dewittpta-subscribe@yahoo.com with "Join Listserv" in the subject line
- You do not need to do anything with "MemberHub," which is used to enter paid memberships into the statewide PTA database. It is not used for communication.

Clubs at DeWitt Middle School

Most clubs are happening because students shared their ideas about what they would like to do and one or more teachers supported them. Some activities and academic support are offered by local agencies. Contact Ms. Boynton with any questions you or your child might have about these activities.

Club Name	Day of the Week	Time	Staff	Meeting place
After-school Clubs				
Homework Club	M, T, Th	3:20-4:30	Ms. Boynton	Library
Jazz Improv Club	M	3:20-4:30	Mr. Treat	Band Room
Chess Club	M	3:20-4:30	Mr. Weinberg/Ms. Boynton	C205
TSA	T-F	3:30-6:00	Mr. Buchner	Tech South
Writers Guild	T	3:20-4:30	Mr. Arm	B204
Guitar club	T	3:20-4:30	Mr. North	B206
Bass Club	T	3:20-4:43	Mr. Buck/Ms. Moss	E204
Yearbook Club	Th	3:20-4:30	Ms. Smith	Lib. computer Lab
Ping Pong Club	Th	3:20-4:30	Ms. Hoffman	A205
Math Club	F	3:20-4:30	Mr. Cao	C204
Morning Clubs				
Aquarium club	F	8:00-8:45	Mr. Gottlieb	D205
NJHS	Th	8:00-8:45	Ms. Quadrozzi	Library
Agencies @ DeWitt:				
Cooperative Extension				
Magic the Gathering	T	3:20-5:30	Beth Bannister	Art Room
Dungeons & Dragons	T	3:20-5:30	Beth Bannister	Art Room
Art & Soul	W	3:20-5:30	Beth Bannister	Art Room
Tutoring Programs:				
Go Tutors	T, Th	3:20-4:30	Caitlin Redfield	Library
STEP Cornell	T	3:20-4:30	Ray Hage	A201
IYB College Discovery	M, Th	3:20-4:30	Ithaca Youth Bureau	D110

Concert Attire Borrowing Closet

The PTA closet has concert-ready clothes for students to borrow. If your child needs to borrow some clothes, please let his/her music teacher know, or contact **Ms. Boynton**.

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 Ms. Boynton.

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 questions about the dress code, please contact your child's music teacher.

Calendar

Date	Event	Time	Place	Date	Event	Time	Place
December				April			
12	Frozen Jr. Musical	7 PM	DeWitt Aud.	2	Harlem Renaissance	7 PM	DeWitt MS
13	Frozen Jr. Musical	7 PM	DeWitt Aud.	6-10	No School – Spring Recess		
14	Frozen Jr. Musical	2 PM and 7 PM	DeWitt Aud.	21	5 th grade Open House & Ice Cream Social	5:30 PM and 7 PM	DeWitt MS
15	Frozen Jr. Musical	2 PM and 7 PM	DeWitt Aud.	May			
23-31	No School – Winter Recess			8-10	Drama Production	TBA	DeWitt Aud.
January				12	Grades 6/7/8 Band Concert	7 PM	Kulp Aud., IHS
1-3	No School – Winter Recess			15-16	Music in the Parks Festival trip for Choir & Band		Hershey Park, PA
9	Grades 7/8 Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra Concert	7 PM	Kulp Aud., IHS	20	End-of-Year State of DeWitt Meeting	6:30 PM	DeWitt Cafeteria
11	Community Ping-Pong	2-4 PM	DeWitt Cafeteria	22	School is in session		
15	Grade 6 Concert: vocal, orchestra, and band	7 PM	Kulp Aud., IHS				
20	No School – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Recess			25	No School – Memorial Day Recess		
21*	Mid-Year State of DeWitt Q&A*	6:30 PM	DeWitt Cafeteria	June			
28	Grades 7/8 Choir Concert	7 PM	Kulp Aud., IHS	4	Grades 6/7/8 Choir Concert	7 PM	Kulp Aud., IHS
February				8	PTA Meeting: Business meeting	6:30 PM	DeWitt Cafeteria
10	PTA Meeting: Restorative Practices	6:30 PM	DeWitt Cafeteria	11	Grades 6/7/8 Orchestra concert	7 PM	Kulp Aud., IHS
12	DeWitt Variety Talent Show	7 PM	DeWitt Aud.	19	8 th Grade Party	7 PM	DeWitt MS
13	DeWitt Variety Talent Show	7 PM	DeWitt Aud.	22	DeWitt Moving UP Ceremony	7 PM	Kulp Aud., IHS
17-21	No School – Mid-Winter Recess			25	Last Day of School		
March							
20	No School – District PLC Conference Day						

* Please see special request on page 8

DeWitt Middle School at a Glance

In the main office our Administrative Assistants are Mrs. Potter, Assistant to Ms. Lucy-Lender, and Ms. Reniff, Assistant to Mr. Knight. Their roles are reception, attendance, locker assignments, personnel and student support, etc.

The Guidance office is where you'll find Ms. Young, counselor for students last name A-L, and Mr. Jackson, counselor for students last name M-Z. Guidance counselors' general responsibilities include scheduling, student registration, and counseling.

Ms. Troy is our Administrative Assistant to guidance and student records, and handles student registration (after 400 lake Street), progress reports, report cards, and testing.

Ms. English is our Administrative Assistant for CSE or Master Ed. of Inclusion, she handles Special Education scheduling.

Principal	Mac Knight	257-3222
Associate Principal	Donna Lucy-Lender	257-3881
Attendance	Patty Potter	257-3881
AIS/Reading	Caitlin Redfield	257-0734
District Athletics Office		274-2155
Cafeteria	Nancy Smith	257-3884
CSE Chair	Dawn Johnson	
Guidance	Kathy Troy	257-3445
Counselors	Eric Jackson, Leann Young	257-3445
ENL (English as a New Language)	Carol Hoffman	257-3222
Family Liaison	Penny Boynton	266-3554
Head Custodian	Carleen Corey	257-3885
Library	Jezra Spisak	882-9858
Nurses	Robin Atkins, Michelle Sanito	266-3510
Main Office Staff	Patty Potter, Deborah Reniff	257-3222
School Social Worker	Mary Baker	257-3269
School Psychologist	Carin Trabout	257-3406
Special Ed Office	Helen English	257-3444
PTA President	Penny Boynton	266-3554
District Enrollment	Jeff Dubert	274-2201
Master Educator for Inclusion	Tara Caiza	274-2101
District Transportation	Elizabeth Berner	274-2128



Don't Miss it!



December 12, 13, 14 at 7:00pm and December 14 and 15 at 2:00pm
DeWitt Middle School Theatre at 560 Warren Rd, Ithaca NY 14850

Tickets are \$8 for students/seniors under 18yrs/over 65yrs and \$10 for adults
Tickets are available for purchase at lunchtime during the week of the show or through a ticket form
Tickets can also be purchased, if available, at the door, or secured in advance
by e-mailing jwoodrid@icsd.k12.ny.us

Free School Supply Closet

At one time or another, nearly everyone has found themselves lacking a pencil, ruler, notebook, or other important item for school. The School Supply Closet comes to the rescue! This free-to-students service is run by Penny Boynton, DeWitt's Family Liaison, and supported by trade and donations.

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.

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

Parent Volunteers Needed

We can always use more parent support! A few of the areas where we could use help include:

- Organizing the concert wear closet
- Organizing end-of-school celebrations (dance and promotion ceremony) for 8th graders
- Help with after-school clubs, including leadership of a new Art Club
- International & Immigration Night has been postponed to the spring (date TBD); help organizing, decorating, and cooking
- Help with fundraising ideas and implementation
- Staff appreciation events
- Creating fun new social events for the school, to build community
- Help with the fall welcome picnic and open house
- Help with gardening (contact Mr. Gottlieb)

Stay in the loop with the PTA listserv

Join the PTA listserv at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DeWittpta/join>. This is an excellent way to get news and information about things happening at DeWitt. The listserv is free and you don't have to be a PTA member to join. All DeWitt families are welcome! See <http://dewittpta.org> for more information.

Become a PTA member

The PTA is a great way to connect with DeWitt and form a supportive school community!

Join online at: <https://dewitt-middle-school-pta-membership.cheddarup.com>

Or you can fill out the info below and return to Penny Boynton at DeWitt (pboynton@icsd.k12.ny.us or 607-266-3554)

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
Child(ren)'s Name: _____ Grade: _____
Individual Membership _____ \$7 (we keep \$3)
Staff Membership _____ \$7 (we keep \$3)
Additional Membership _____ \$5 (we keep \$1)
Additional Donation \$ _____ (we keep 100% see below)
Total: _____ (cash or check payable to DeWitt PTA)

Help us raise money for DeWitt

This year, we very much hope to raise enough money to support **our amazing DeWitt teachers by helping to fund grants for special projects in their classrooms**. We haven't been able to do that in recent years, but with your help, we hope we can do it this year.

With your contribution, the PTA funds:

- ◆ Teachers and staff appreciation events
- ◆ School-wide events such as the open house and international/immigration night
- ◆ Scholarships and support for the 6th, 7th and 8th grade field trips
- ◆ Support for the 8th grade graduation
- ◆ A lending closet for school musicians

Ways to give:

- Donate online: <https://dewitt-middle-school-pta-membership.cheddarup.com>
- fill out the info below and return to school with your middle schooler
- fill out the info below and mail to:
DeWitt Middle School,
Attention: PTA Direct Appeal
560 Warren Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850



DeWitt PTA Direct Appeal 2019-20:

Your Name: _____
Address (if you would like to receive a thank you/acknowledgment): _____

I would like to contribute \$ _____. Enclosed please find my check payable to "DeWitt PTA".
For more information, please contact Anne Schneider at aschneider34@gmail.com

Questions about the PTA?

Contact Penny Boynton at pboynton@icsd.k12.ny.us or 607-266-3554

These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of the Ithaca City School District, the superintendent, or this school.

Winter Sports: Basketball and Wrestling

Come support our student athletes and have fun watching our games and events! Winter sports are boys' and girls' basketball and boys' wrestling. The table at right shows the regular-season home games of all Ithaca 7/8th basketball teams. Home games are played in the gymnasium of **Boynton Middle School** and all times are PM. Generally the games take place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and sometimes Fridays.

There is only one wrestling meet in Ithaca this season. It will be on Monday, Jan. 27th at 5 PM in the Bliss Gym of Ithaca High School. Most of the meets are away and many are on Saturdays.

You can find out more about 7/8th athletics on the District Website:

ithacacityschools.org/athletics

Click on Modified Sports or Athletic Events Schedule on the left sidebar.



Dec9	Boys	Gold	v.	Maine-Endwell	4:30
Dec9	Boys	Cardinal	v.	Maine-Endwell	6:00
Dec11	Girls	Gold	v.	Union-Endicott	4:30
Dec14	Girls	Cardinal	v.	Union-Endicott	6:00
Dec16	Boys	Gold	v.	Elmira	5:00
Dec16	Boys	Cardinal	v.	Elmira	6:00
Dec18	Girls	Gold	v.	Corning-PaintedPost	5:00
Dec18	Girls	Cardinal	v.	Corning-PaintedPost	6:15
Jan6	Boys	Gold	v.	Vestal	4:30
Jan6	Boys	Cardinal	v.	Vestal	6:00
Jan8	Girls	Cardinal	v.	Owego/Apalachin	4:30
Jan13	Girls	Gold	v.	Maine-Endwell	4:30
Jan13	Girls	Cardinal	v.	Maine-Endwell	6:00
Jan15	Boys	Gold	v.	Union-Endicott	4:30
Jan15	Boys	Cardinal	v.	Union-Endicott	6:00
Jan17	Boys	Gold	v.	Horseheads	5:00
Jan17	Boys	Cardinal	v.	Horseheads	6:15
Jan24	Girls	Gold	v.	Elmira	5:00
Jan24	Girls	Cardinal	v.	Elmira	6:00
Jan27	Boys	Gold	v.	Corning-PaintedPost	5:00
Jan27	Boys	Cardinal	v.	Corning-PaintedPost	6:15
Jan29	Girls	Gold	v.	Vestal	4:30
Jan29	Girls	Cardinal	v.	Vestal	6:00
Feb3	Boys	Gold	v.	Owego/Apalachin	4:30
Feb3	Boys	Cardinal	v.	Owego/Apalachin	6:00
Feb5	Girls	Gold	v.	Horseheads	5:00
Feb5	Girls	Cardinal	v.	Horseheads	6:15

The Student Voice Council

Representatives from each HOMEbase have formed a Student Voice Council to work together to foster community at DeWitt. Over 40 students strong, they have been brainstorming ideas for making DeWitt a more welcoming environment, as well as identifying things they really like and value about DeWitt. On the plus side, they love that DeWitt is diverse and welcoming, and really enjoy their HOMEbase slides in the mornings. They also started a list of potential ideas for things that might be improved. Their



widely accessible, and having working clocks that are on time! On the more aspirational end of the spectrum, they also suggested adding a pool and water

list of ideas included more time to change after gym, making information about clubs and signing up for clubs more

slide. In the coming weeks, members of the Student Voice Council will write columns in our newsletters filling us in on their discussions and work. They also hope to establish ways for all DeWitt students to share their concerns, ideas, and questions with the Council. Stay tuned for more!

The Council is supported by all HOMEbase teachers, Ms. Boynton, and Mr. North.



DeWitt Middle School
560 Warren Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

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

A request from your PTA President, Penny Boynton

In my role as PTA President I have two requests for your input. First, our Principle, Mr. Knight, will be retiring at the end of this school year. The District leadership needs your feedback about the qualities you would like to see in DeWitt's next principal. Please send your thoughts to me and I will compile them and send them on to Ms. Talcott and Dr. Brown. There is no deadline but the sooner you respond the better, to inform decisions.

There is a Mid-Year State of DeWitt Forum coming up on 1/21/20 (at 6:30, see Calendar on pg. 3). My second request is that you tell me things you would like to hear about DeWitt. The main idea is to share what has been happening so far this year in school. I'd also like to know who of the DeWitt staff (other than our Administrators, Mr. Knight and Ms. Lucy-Lender) you would like in attendance. The meeting will run from 6:30-7:30 in either the music room or the cafeteria depending on the number of attendees.

You can contact me at: 607-266-3554, or pboynton@icsd.k12.ny.us
Thank you!

Snow Day and Two-hour Delay Procedures

In the event of an emergency closing or delay, the Ithaca City School District may communicate with caregivers via an automated telephone, email, or text message. Please confirm that your contact information in SchoolTool is accurate and up-to-date. Contact your child's school secretary if your information needs to be corrected or updated.

Additionally, school closings and delays will be posted on our district website, as well as our Twitter and Facebook feeds. The following local radio and television stations will also have information on closings:

WHCU (870 AM, 97.7 FM)
WYXL-FM / Lite Rock (97.3 FM)
WYXL-HD2 / 96.7 The Vine (96.7 FM)
WYXL-HD/3 / The Buzzer (96.3 FM)
WQNY-FM / Q Country (103.7 FM)
WQNY-HD3 / Alt 95.9 (95.9 FM)
WNYY AM/FM / Pure Oldies (1470 AM / 94.1 FM)
WIII-FM / I100 Iconic Rock (99.9/100.3 FM)

WFIZ-FM / Z95.5 (95.5 FM)
WFIZ-HD2 / Rewind (107.7 FM)
WVBR-FM (93.5 FM)
WICB-FM (91.7 FM)
WWLZ (820 AM – Elmira-Corning)
WBNG-TV / 12 News
WENY-TV / ABC 36 (Elmira)
WSYR-TV / News Channel 9
CNY Central / NBC 3 & CW6

In the event that a two-hour delay is activated, the following procedures will be followed:

- If conditions do not improve within two hours, classes may be cancelled for the entire day and the same methods of notification will be made.
- All bus routes will be delayed by exactly two hours (i.e. If your bus stop is normally at 8:37 a.m., it will be at 10:37 a.m. on delayed start days).

- All schools will start exactly two hours later than normal. Elementary students should arrive at school between 9:40 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- Secondary school doors will open at 10:30 a.m. Students will follow a condensed bell schedule of all scheduled classes. There will be no zero period at Ithaca High School on two-hour delay days.
- Pre-K classes will NOT be held if a two-hour delay occurs on a Friday. This does not apply to Pre-K 12:45 dismissal classes.
- Simple breakfasts will be available to students when schools open and regular lunches will be served at modified times.
- Schools will be dismissed at their normal times at the end of the school day.