



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

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December -

**Dewitt PTA News is published** 3 times a year in September, December, and April by the DeWitt PTA, **Dewitt Middle School,** 560 Warren Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

If you would like to submit an article, please send it to Carol Barry at cmbarry@icloud.com.

The deadline for the Spring edition is March 1st, 2018

# Message From The Principal

#### **Dear Parents/Caregiver and Families,**

Thank you for your enthusiastic support, engagement and feedback to a wonderful start of the 2017-18 school year. Your involvement has been a tremendous help to improving our work as educators. As we fast approach the Holiday season and the coming of the year 2018, we wish every family the best of cheers, celebrations and family fun.

This year we have begun to embark on a change of values that best represent the direction that we moving. As a building of collective thoughts and collaborative energy we found it necessary to



Mac M. Knight, Principal

one that reflected, HOME at DeWitt. The HOME is an acronym for Habits of Mindful Excellence. We want all our students to feel and be HOME at DeWitt and strive everyday for mindful excellence. By now, you may have heard some of your children talking about the change as part of our reinstatement of Homebase or Advisory.

change from a school that endorsed the Circle of Courage principles to

The values that we decided to best align with this identity are ALL students must strive to have or to be

Integrity: I am respectful and reliable with myself, others,

and in my work.

Independence: I think and speak for myself and ask for help when

I need it.

Resilience: I stick with it when it gets tough and celebrate

my success.

Reflection: I am always looking to improve myself and work

Collaboration: I actively listen to others and contribute in my

own way toward a shared purpose.

**Continued on Page 2** 

# A message from the Principal Continued from Page 1

As stated, these values are discussed and emphasized during our Homebase meeting time. The Homebase is a thirteen minute period beginning at 9:00 - 9:13 am to start the day. Each Homebase receives activities to discuss character education, team building, and to set goals and reflect each week. The activities are grade appropriate using Lions Quest and Second Steps character education program as a framework and guide.

Since we changed from the Circle of Courage principles, our student empowerment and advocacy program is now called the Student Voice Council. If you recall, this replaced our former and traditional Student Council as a forum for student voice. The Student Voice is comprised of a student representative from each Homebase (approximately 48) that meet in two sessions twice a month to discuss issues, raise concerns, and give feedback to help improve school climate and changes that support and benefit students.

Lastly, we are still working to improve communication between DeWitt and our families. We would like to provide monthly news of what's happening in our HOME at DeWitt. We are working on the DeWitt Observer, a monthly newsletter with dates, reminders, department news and highlights for families. Stay tuned. The other means of communication that we used are the Google classroom in which you can view assignments and the parent portal in which you can view grades, schedule, assignments, attendance, etc. Please call Kathy Troy, administrative assistant for the Guidance Office to set up your parent portal connection.

This has been a very good start to the school year and we owe you as parents/guardians most of the credit. We encourage continued communication, family involvement and collaboration to create a learning environment of excellence.

As the Winter months approaches, make sure students are dressed appropriately. Also, be careful, mindful and attentive in the drop off and pick up zone during inclement weather.

PTA Meeting
Monday, February 13
7:00 pm
In the Choir Room.

# Two-Hour Delay Procedure:

On these days, parents are encouraged to develop a plan so their children can safely stay home for an additional two hours.

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

- Local news and radio stations will be contacted to report the delayed start, notices will be posted on the District website, Twitter and Facebook pages and emails will be sent to families using the SchoolMessenger system. Caregivers are encouraged to update their contact information in SchoolTool by contacting their school secretary.
- 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.

# **DeWitt Cafeteria Prices**

The meal prices are: \$1.75 breakfast, \$2.85 lunch

The ICSD Child Nutrition Program incorporates farm-to-school practices by purchasing fresh produce from local farmers. For information on the Program and online account payment, go to: <a href="http://www.ithacacityschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=231.">http://www.ithacacityschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=231.</a>

DeWitt Middle School Drama Club Proudly Presents



Thursday, December 7th at 7pm
Friday, December 8th at 7pm
Saturday, December 9th at 2pm
Saturday, December 9th at 7pm
Sunday, December 10th at 2pm

Students, \$8, Adults \$10

Buy tickets from Mr. Woodridge or buy tickets at the door.

# SHREK Jr.

TICKETS

Thursday, December 7, 7:00 p.m. Friday, December 8, 7:00 p.m. Saturday, December 9, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 10, 2:00 p.m.

All performances take place at DeWitt Middle School

Dear Families of our DeWitt Music Students, Drama Students and Supporters of All Things Creative,

The DeWitt Middle School Drama Club presents <u>SHREK Jr.</u> We strongly recommend using this form to purchase tickets <u>in advance</u>; if any tickets remain, they will be available at the door prior to the show. Seating is not assigned and is general admission. The house opens 15 minutes before the start time of each show. Orders will be expedited on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets will be distributed to students by no later than December 1. After that date, tickets may be held at the door under the purchaser's name. Please email any questions or comments to jwoodrid@icsd.k12.ny.us.

There are no exchanges or refunds on pre-purchased tickets.

Student tickets are for ages 17 and under only.	Thursday, December 7, 7:00 p.m.
Adult tickets are for ages 18 and above.	# of student tickets x \$8/ticket = \$ # of adult tickets x \$10/ticket = \$
Payment may be made via CASH or CHECK.	Friday, December 8, 7:00 p.m.
Please make checks out to <u>DeWitt Student</u> Activities and write "Drama Club" in the	# of student tickets x \$8/ticket = \$ # of adult tickets x \$10/ticket = \$
memo section.	Saturday, December 9, 2:00 p.m. (matinee)
Unfortunately, we cannot accept online payments at this time.	# of student tickets x \$8/ticket = \$ # of adult tickets x \$10/ticket = \$
Return this form to:  Mr. James Woodridge DeWitt Middle School 560 Warren Road Ithaca, NY 14850	Saturday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.         # of student tickets x \$8/ticket = \$         # of adult tickets x \$10/ticket = \$         Sunday, December 10, 2:00 p.m. (matinee)         # of student tickets x \$8/ticket = \$         # of adult tickets x \$10/ticket = \$
	t in cash or check: Total \$
LEASE PRINT LEGIBLY!  Your DeWitt child's name(s)	
LEASE PRINT LEGIBLY!	

TICKETS

SHREK Jr.

**TICKETS** 

### **Dear DeWitt Parents -**

The DeWitt PTA is once again conducting a Direct Appeal as our sole fundraising activity for the year. No bake sales, no selling (or buying!) magazine subscriptions or candy – simply make a tax deductible donation, where 100% of what you give goes directly to help the school community. We believe this approach offers families the easiest way to contribute to the activities and programs the PTA supports.

DeWitt PTA provides funding for school programs and events such as the Back to School Picnic, International Night, student supply cabinet, books for the library, Staff Appreciation luncheon, newsletters, and so much more.

To fund all of our planned programs for the current academic year, we need to raise \$2,500. This goal is higher than last year because this year's PTA membership (and funding from membership dues) is significantly lower than last year. Please consider a gift to help ensure the PTA has the necessary funds to meet our commitments. Any amount of donation is appreciated and makes a difference.

Please make checks payable to "DeWitt PTA" and return to the Main Office (drop off or mail to the school) by Friday, December 15. Include your name and return address if you would like a receipt. Questions? Contact Michelle Landers, DeWitt PTA Volunteer, at *mi.landers@gmail.com* or 607-592-0794.

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, carelesness, 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 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. Backpacks are also a desired item in the closet, and students can trade backpacks in, if their tastes or needs change.

The PTA provides the closet with funding for some items, but students' families are encouraged to donate extra supplies to ensure that the closet is always stocked. Thank you for your help!

# DeWitt Middle School PTA is on Facebook!



This is a closed and moderated group page. You can request to join the group by going to

https://www.facebook.com/groups/126299168133810/



# **Shared Decision- Making Team:**

Your Chance to Have a Voice at DeWitt Open to all DeWitt Parents and Caregivers

The DeWitt learning community is fortunate to have students and parents who are interested in making decisions that influence our continued success. As a result, we have provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to be active participants and have a voice in the future planning and growth of DeWitt. Topics discussed might include: hiring, budget issues, school safety, grounds and facilities improvements.

Please take advantage of this opportunity and join our collaborative team. Everyone is welcome. Get involved and support our mission for excellence! Watch for messages on the listserv for the dates and time for our next Shared Decision Making Team meeting. Meetings are held in the Main Office Conference Room.

-Mac Knight

# Winter and Spring Modified Sports for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

Don't forget to fill out your forms!

The winter modified sports season has begun and includes Boys and Girls Basketball and Wrestling.

Spring sports offered this year are Baseball, Softball, Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Boys and Girls Track and Boys Tennis.

This year's deadline for spring sports student forms has not yet been announced. (Last year's forms were accepted from the second week in February through the first week in March.) Please check the ISCD website in January for 2018 spring dates (http://www.ithacacityschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1058).

New forms are needed for each sport season, check with the athletic office (607-274-2155) for any questions. Filling out the paperwork may involve taking your child for a physical. You can find links to Sports Sign Up Forms on the ICSD website (http://www. ithacacityschools.org/districtpage. cfm?pageid=205) or ask the school nurse for paper copies. Students must have an updated physical on file in the medical office before they can participate. Forms should be handed in to the DeWitt Middle School nurse. For more information call the athletic office 607-274-2155.

All spring Modified sports will begin on Monday, March 12. Check with the athletic office for practice times and locations.

# **Afterschool Film Club**

Open to 6th and 7th graders Wednesdays and Fridays after school (3:30-5:00 pm) Program runs late February through early May

Guided by Cornell students, teams of DeWitt students will write, film, and edit original short movies. You can see a sample movie from our "studio" by visiting the online registration form below.

A snack will be provided, and any student who needs a late bus home will have one available.

Students can participate only if they commit to the whole program; dropping in occasionally is not allowed. Spots are limited.

To apply, please complete the registration form here: http://tinyurl.com/Spring18FilmClub

Questions? Please contact Bryan Duff at (607) 255-8663 or Penny Boynton at the school.



#### **TECHNOLOGY STUDENT ASSOCIATION** ® the competition season. We

The DeWitt TSA team is up and running again for the new school year. We have had two meetings, elected this years officers and are ready to start the competition season. We still have room for new

members. If interested please contact Mr. Buchner for more information at: *dbuchner@icsd.k12.ny.us*.

Our DeWitt Middle School chapter team has participating at the national conference since 1997. We originally started in 1985 under former Technology Engineering teacher Mr. Walters who has since retired. Mr. Walters was replaced by Nathan Taylor, who is eager to get TSA started and continue the proud tradition of TSA at DeWitt.

TSA stands for Technology Student Association. We are more then just competitions. We are a problem solving, team building, technology oriented organization that specializes in allowing students to find their place in developing their expertise in areas of study such as: CAD, robotics, electronics, welding, fashion design and many, other technologies. Our two areas of study that are the most popular among DeWitt TSA members are manufacturing and construction. We also have a on-going transportation problem solving activity which always promises to keep everyone interested and excited. Our current transportation activity is to redesign a gasoline go-kart and convert it to an electric go-kart!

Last year's TSA team applied and was awarded a IPEI grant for \$500.00 for parts and supplies towards the go-kart. The completed go-kart along with our veggie powered diesel go-kart will continue to delight and inspire students and bystanders at the annual Ithaca Festival parade. This year's parade will be our tenth time celebrating DeWitt TSA and the Ithaca Festival Parade.

# **Clubs at DeWitt**

Registration forms are available on Penny's table. Late buses are available.

Club Name	Day	Time	Staff	Meeting Place		
Homework Club	M,T,Th,	3:20-4:30	Penny Boynton	Cafeteria /Classrooms		
TSA	Tues Thurs.	3:30-6:00	Mr. Walters	Tech South		
Jazz Improv Club	Mon.	3:20-4:30	Mr. Treat	Band Room		
Sewing/Knitting	Mon.	3:25-4:30	Ms. Ewards-Parker	E 219 A		
Chess Club	Mon.	3:20-4:30	Robert Weinberg/Penny	C205		
Writers Guild	Mon.	3:20-4:30	Mr. Arm	B204		
Open Art	Mon.	3:20-4:43	Ms. Quadrozzi	Art room		
Girls Empowered	Tues.	3:20-4:30	Ms. Smith	Library Lab Room		
Guitar club	Tues.	3:20-4:30	Mr. North	D205		
Library Squad	Tues.	3:20-4:30	Ms. Church	Library		
Anime /Manga	Thurs.	3:20-4:30	Regina De Mauro TCPL	Library Lab Room		
YearBook Club	Thurs.	3:20-4:30	Ms. Smith	ТВА		
Ping Pong Club	Thurs.	3:20-4:30	Ms. Hoffman	A205		
Math Club	Fri.	3:20-4:45	Mr. Cao	C204		
Morning Clubs						
Aquarium club	Fri.	8:00-8:45	Mr. Gottlieb	D205		
NJHS	Thurs.	8:00-8:45	Quadrozzi	Library		
Agency sponsored clubs						
Cooperative Extension						
Dungeon&Dragons	Tues.	3:20-5:30	Beth Bannister	Art Room		
ТВА	Thurs.	3:20-5:30	Beth Bannister	Art Room		
Tutoring Program:						
Go Tutors	Tues. Thurs.	3:20-4:30	Robin Rosoff/K Harrell	Library		
STEP Cornell	Tues. Thurs.	3:20-4:30	Eric Pritz	C102		
IYB College Discovery	Mon. Wed.	3:20-4:30	Ithaca Youth Bureau	Library		
Cornell Film Makers	Wed.& Fri.	3:20-5:00	CU Dr. Duff	B102 B103 B104		

# **Music at DeWitt**

### **DeWitt Choir**

- "7/8 Choir and 6th grade chorus will have combined rehearsals and sectionals for our winter concert, in school, starting the week of December 4th. These are posted on Google Classroom and emailed to all staff. This combines sections via: all sopranos, all altos, and all tenor/baritone; and then by grade (all 8th only, all 7th only) and then 7/8 combined once or twice. The 6th grade combined rehearsals will be communicated to the students and staff in school.
- The choir concert is December 20, 7:00pm, at Kulp Auditorium, Ithaca High School. Check the ICSD website if winter weather looms. The 6th grade students are to wear white dress shirt and black bottoms. No ties, no smelly fragrances, belts if needed and commfortable foot attire. This was communicated to parents and students already.
- 7/8 Choir members are expected to be at Kulp by 6:00pm. Mr. William Leichty, our student teacher, will conduct the piece he has taught the students! 6th grade chorus students are to be at Kulp at 5:45pm. Contact Mr. Woodridge at jwoodrid@icsd.k12. ny.us if needed.
- All-County Choir for 7/8 members will be in January. The application/selection process is under way. Please email jkivisil@icsd. k12.ny.us with any questions!
- Thank you! Ms. Kivisild and Mr. Woodridge





# **DeWitt Orchestra**

The orchestra concerts are January 17, 2018 and June 14th, 2018. Both are at Kulp Auditorium, Ithaca High School. Both concerts start at 7:00pm. Mr. Buck will let the students know what time to arrive at the auditorium. Guardians are responsible for transporting their child to and from the event. Timely planning is encouraged if there is transportation issues.

The Concert Dress Code is all black. Black shirts, pants and shoes. Girls may wear black dresses that fall below the knee when sitting down.

You can contact Mr. Buck at abuck@icsd.k12.ny.us.

# **DeWitt Band**

The band concerts are December 6, 2017, March 7th and May 15th, 2018. All concerts are at Kulp Auditorium, Ithaca High School and will begin at 7:00pm. Mr. Treat will let students know when to arrive at the auditorium. Guardians are responsible for transporting their child to and from the event. Timely planning is encouraged if there is transportation issues.

The Concert Dress Code is simple: All white on top and black on the bottom with black shoes. Skirts must fall below the knee when sitting down.

You can contact Mr. Treat at michael.treat@icsd.k12.nv.us.

# **Important Dates** from the Music Department

- December 6th at 7:00pm DeWitt Winter 6-8 Band Concert at Kulp
- December 20th at 7:00pm DeWitt Winter 6-8 Choral Concert at Kulp
- January All-County Chorus
- January 17th at 7:00pm DeWitt Winter 6-8 Orchestra/Chamber Concert at Kulp
- March 7th at 7:00pm Music in Our Schools Moth Combined Band Concert at Kulp
- May 15th at 7:00pm DeWitt Spring 6-8 Band Concert at Kulp
- May/June (TBA) DeWitt Spring 6-8 Choral Concert at Kulp
- June 14th at 7:00pm DeWitt Spring 6-8 Orchestra/Chamber Concert at Kulp

### Parent/Teacher Conferences at DeWitt

If your student attended elementary school in the Ithaca City School District, you've probably already been to a few parent-teacher conferences and you know that parent-teacher conference days are marked on the official ICSD calendar. However, once a student moves up to middle school, these conferences don't occur automatically.

If you would like to arrange a meeting with your child's teachers, contact their Guidance Counselor: Leann Young (leann.young@icsd.k12.ny.us) for last names from A-K; Alan Miller (alan.miller@icsd.k12.ny.us) for last names L-Z.

Another way to stay informed with your child's progress is by signing up for the School Tool Parent Portal. (https://ithaca.schooltool.cnyric.org/schooltoolweb/) You can access the Parent Portal Request Form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ouyodBC-SMLtig9ObUbukNG-ipKxtX6LpSlGDfb150U/viewform.





### **Dances at DeWitt**

The School Dance schedule will be announced. All dances are held on Friday evenings from 7 to 9pm. During ski season, dances are on Saturdays. Dances are held in the gymnasium with half the gym

dedicated to the dance, and the other half open for basketball or other similar activities. A live DJ plays music on the dance area of gym. Music is reviewed for middle school by our DJ who is a staff member at DeWitt.

- A DJ plays music throughout the dance.
- Tickets are \$4 and can be purchased during lunch on the Thursday and Friday prior to the dance, and at the door before the dance.
- Dress code is the same as the school day. Soft-soled shoes help preserve the gym floor.
- Food and drinks are sold at the dance. Prices vary from 25¢ to \$1.
- Friends of middle school age from other schools are welcome to attend with a DeWitt student. However, you must sign them up during lunch no later than Thursday before the dance, otherwise they will not be able to attend.
- Once students arrive they cannot leave and come back unless a parent is with them.
- Dances are chaperoned by staff members and parent volunteers. Parent chaperones are always needed. Please let the Main Office know if you can help.

If your organization is sponsoring a dance, send the information to Carol Barry (embarry@icloud.com) and she will put the dance on the calendar and post the date and time on the website.



# 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 ears 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.







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 <code>redschoolrides@gmail.</code> 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:**

Sophie Somerfeldt, Way2Go Educator 607-272-2292 ext. 184; chrisophia@cornell.edu

### Join The PTA!

Our DeWitt PTA is an amazing group. Each year we support and partially fund three mailed newsletters; an e-mail list for parents and staff; a Welcome Back to School Picnic; a Student Directory; parent education programs; coordination of volunteers; participation in PTA Council; staff appreciation luncheon; and the 8th grade promotion party.

Your help is needed for the continuation of these programs. We know that parent involvement in school decreases as children become teens. However, studies have shown that parent involvement is critical to student success in middle school and high school. Your participation also gives you the opportunity to get to know other parents (something that is tough to do at the middle school level).

Please complete the membership form below to join our PTA. \$7 of your membership fee is shared with the national and state organizations to support their work as advocates for children, families, and schools. The rest of your fee stays at DeWitt and goes directly to funding the programs listed above. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Rachlinski at mrachlinski@gmail.com.

# **DeWitt PTA Board and Chairpersons**

#### Our group of dedicated volunteer board members for 2017-2018 includes:

Co-President	Melissa Rachlinski	mrachlinski@gmail.com
Co-President	VACANT	Please consider volunteering
Treasurer	Empar Sicroff	esicroff@gmail.com
Secretary	VACANT	Please consider volunteering
PTA Council Rep	Lauren Loiacano	
Site Based Council Rep	Wendy Wilcox, Mark Le	ewis, Chuck Lyons
Newsletter Editor	Carol Barry	cmbarry@icloud.com
Website Manager	Carol Barry	cmbarry@icloud.com
Newsletter Ads	Clara Wang	
Membership Chair	VACANT	Please consider volunteering
Direct Appeal	Michelle Landers	mi.landers@gmail.com
Listserv Moderator	BJ Kim	bjwkim@gmail.com
Back-To-School-Picnic (September)	VACANT	Please consider volunteering
Open House (September)	Anne Thomas	aburnsthomas@yahoo.com
International Night (November)	Tal Cohen	talorco@gmail.com
Staff Appreciation Luncheon (May)	Chelan Mazza	chelanmazza@gmail.com

**VACANT** 

Name	Email	
Address		
	Telephone	
Student name(s)	Grade(s)	
Student name (s)	Grade(s)	
Membership (\$7 individual; \$5 additional family members	, \$4 teacher)	<b>\$</b>
Additional tax-deductible contribution to DeWitt PTA		<b>\$</b>
TOTAL (check payable to DeWitt PTA)		<b>\$</b>
Mail form and dues to DeWitt PTA, attention: Membership, 560 Warren or put in an envelope labeled "DeWitt PTA" and send in with your child See the PTA Volunteer Opportunities form on the next page.  Thank you for your support!		

8th Grade Promotion

(June)

Please consider volunteering

# Get Involved At DeWitt!

## PTA VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

DeWitt Middle School encourages parents to become involved at the school. If you are able to volunteer some of your time for school programs and activities, please complete this form and return to the DeWitt school office (attention: DeWitt PTA). Please email Melissa Rachlinski at *mrachlinski@gmail*. with any questions or for more information. Thanks!

Par	ent/Guardian/Caregiver Name(s)
Pre	ferred Contact Information)
	Phone
	Email
	Volunteer Opportunities:
	PTA Board
	☐ Co-President (work together with Co-President to: set agenda for year, run triennial PTA meetings, volunteer at PTA events and write message from PTA for triennial newsletter)
	☐ Newsletter Ads - (Solicit advertising for triennial PTA Newsletter)
	☐ Welcome Picnic Chair (work with the PTA board as point person for Back-to-School Picnic Event held in September)
	☐ Staff Appreciation Luncheon Chair (work with the PTA board as point person for Staff Appreciation Luncheon Event held in May)
	Site-Based Council Rep
	PTA Fall Events (donate money, food or time!)
	☐ Back-to-School Picnic (September 15, 6 PM at DeWitt Middle School)
	Bring Your Family to School Night (October 5, 6 PM)
_	☐ International Night (November 2, 6 PM)
	DeWitt Communications (Create a Dewitt Facebook/Twitter page and update as needed)
	Library (assisting with and supporting library programmingi.e., checking books in/out, shelving books, dusting, processing new/discarded books, setting up topical book displays, bulletin board displays or student book club/lunch bunch)
	Field Trips ☐ 6th ☐ 7th ☐ 8th
	School Dance Chaperone

Please consider volunteering for any of our open positions. We are an open, welcoming group.

Email mrachlinski@gmail.com for more information.

# Ithaca SEPT

#### **JOIN TODAY!**

The New York State PTA online membership portal is now online! To join SEPTA, please go to: https:// goo.gl/Myr3JJ

You can pay your membership dues in one of three ways:

- 1. Pay online using the NYS Membership portal, above.
- 2. Bring a check to the first SEPTA meeting. (You can do this even if you join online using the portal.
- 3. Send your check to SEPTA, c/o Caroline Elementary School, 2439 Slaterville Road, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881

We look forward to continuing the important discussions about ICSD's inclusion efforts, which will benefit ALL students. Please join us to discuss how ICSD can continue to build upon its efforts to Engage, Educate, and Empower EVERYONE!

## **2017-2018 MEETING DATES**

\* October 30, 2017 All meetings take place in the

\* January 29, 2018

Administrative **Building Board** 

\* April 30, 2018

Room at 400 Lake Street from

\* June 11, 2018

6:00-7:30 p.m.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website: www.ithacasepta.org

Email: ithacasepta@gmail.com



facebook.com/ithacasepta.org



@ithaca\_septa

December 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					8th Grade 1 Careere Day	2
3	4	5	Winter Band Concert Kulp Auditorium 7:00 pm	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	Winter 20 Choir/Chorus Concert Kulp Auditorium 7:00 pm	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Winter Break —	No School				
31						

January 20	018					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Winter Break —	No School					
7	8	9 Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm	10	11	12	13
14	Martin Luther King Day — No School	16	Winter Orchestra Concert Kulp Auditorium 7:00 pm	18	19	20
21	22 Regents Exams	Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm	24	25	26	27
	, and the second					
28	29	30	31			

February 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	PTA Meeting-7 PM	Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm	14	DeWitt Celebration of Learning (7th Gr. Sea Turtles)	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		February Break	— No School			
25	26	27 Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm	28			

March 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Dance 7:00 pm	3
4	5	6	Music In Our 7 Schools Month Combined Band Concert	8	9	10
11	Spring Modified Sports Begin	Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	Spring Modified Sports Picture Day
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Spring Break	- No School			
		Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm				

ITHACA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT DeWitt Middle School 560 Warren Road Ithaca, NY 14850 Non-Profit Organization US Postage Paid Ithaca, New York Permit No. 361

#### **CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

The PTA newsletter, DeWitt PTA News, keeps families and staff up to date with what is happening at school. It is published three times a year: September, December and March, mailed to every family and posted on the DeWitt PTA website (*dewittpta.org*).

If you would like to submit an article, please send it to Carol Barry at *cmbarry@icloud.com* 

The deadlines are: December 2017: November 3rd, 2017 / April 2018: March 1st, 2018

