



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

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### Dewitt PTA News, Vol. 1, No. 3, April / May / June 2018

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](mailto:cmbarry@icloud.com).

**The deadline for the Fall edition is  
July 20, 2018**

## Message From The Principal

### Dear Parents/Guardians and Families of the DeWitt Learning Community,

I can't believe it's Spring Break already for the 2017-18 school year. Where has the time gone? I guess the old adage "time flies when you are having fun" best describes this school year.

I want to begin by thanking each and everyone of you who has participated and/or supported us (students and staff) this school year. We know given the busy lives we leave, it's not always easy to squeeze in a few moments to share the educational experience of your child, whether it's academic, athletic, fine and performing arts, or just a conference to stay connected. Your involvement and family engagement is the key to our success at DeWitt, and we thank you.

As we prepare for the final phase of the school year, I want to pause and say how proud I am of the students and parents support for expressing their perspective in the March 14 National School Walkout. While we recognize that there are multiple perspective and this event does not reflect all of our students; however, it does reflect our young people exercise of their free speech. In addition, taking a stand and action in something you believe in is the beginning of participatory democracy. Ithaca City School District is focusing more on how we provide choice and voice to our students in our learning spaces. DeWitt is striving on a daily basis to create opportunities in the teaching and learning process for these experiences.

In addition, we have had conversations about school safety during our HOMEbase time. We surveyed students to get feedback on how safe they feel at DeWitt as well as the staff. We are taking the results to improve our safety procedures and create scenarios during our drills to reassure our students and staff on what to do and how to respond. ICSD is reviewing the entrances to each building, installing phones in each classroom, and using Navigate Preparedness program to support any emergency in each building. The program has a picture of every room, hallway, accountable for students and staff and initiate alarm if needed. This system will provide real time information to building leaders and first responders in the event of a lock-down or other emergency situation.



*Mac M. Knight, Principal*

**Continued on Page 2**

Most of you know the biggest influence and/or impact in educational practice occurs this time of year. Yes, the New York State 3-8 ELA/Math testing will be in April and May of this year respectively. However, the test has been reduced from three days to two days as part of a statewide effort to improve overall State assessments. In addition, New York State proposal for ESSA (Every Student Succeed Act) was approved by the Department of Education last year to initiate testing changes and other Statewide initiatives. One of the proposed goal is that each District must have 95% participation rate in the NYS assessments. All to say, if your child takes the NYS Assessments, help us to be supportive in preparation and planning to make sure each student is physically, emotionally, and mentally ready on the day of the test.

Other things to consider as we bring closure to the year are Spring concerts and athletic contests, school trips, and grade 8 promotion. Make sure you check the calendars for these important dates to continue your involvement and support of our students to the very end.

In closing, on behalf of the staff and students, we welcome and value your feedback. It is very important to us as we continue to improve our instructional delivery and creating a relevant, positive, engaging, nurturing learning environment for ALL of our students. Teamwork makes the dream works!

*Be in peace.....*  
*mac*



## **PTA Meeting**


**Tuesday, June 12**

**7:00 pm**

**In the Choir Room.**

**Come help  
us plan for  
next year!**

## **Message from the DeWitt PTA President**



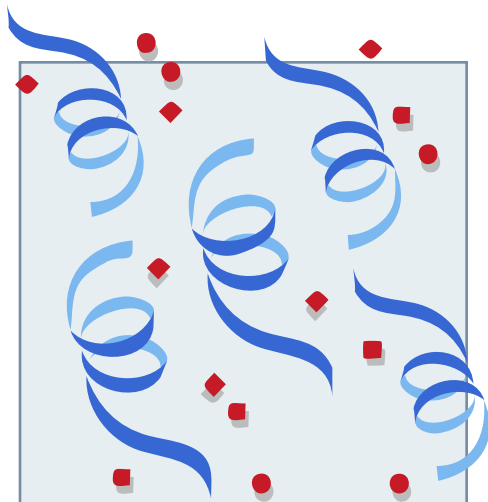
Welcome Spring! At least Spring sports. We have a busy Spring coming up starting with the 5th grade ice cream social and open house (April 17th).

We will be celebrating our great teachers and staff on May 16th with a luncheon. In June we will have our last PTA meeting of the year, the 8th grade dance, and 8th grade promotion (12th, 15th, and 18th of June respectively).

As you begin to plan your volunteer commitments for next year, please consider joining the PTA as a member of the board, a committee chairperson, or a representative position. There are many roles available. We are looking for a president, or co-presidents, secretary, membership chair, back to school picnic chair, open house chair, international night chair, staff appreciation luncheon chair and an 8th grade promotion chair. Any amount of time you can spare would be greatly appreciated.

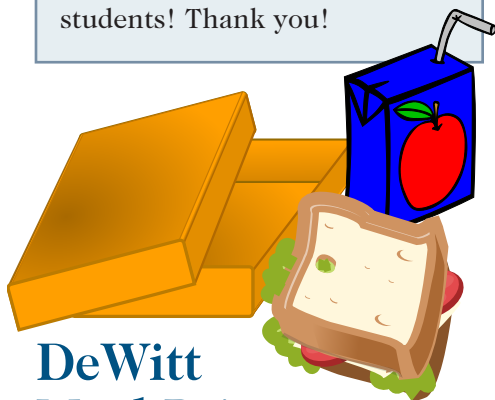
Please contact me with any question, comments, ideas or events you would like the PTA to consider. Thank you for your generous support and commitment to the Dewitt students and the PTA.

— *Melissa Rachlinski (mrachlinski@gmail.com)*



## Calling all 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Families!

Volunteers are needed to work with the school on 8th grade promotion festivities at the end of the school year. This includes organizing the reception after the promotion ceremony (June 18), and helping with the 8th grade dance (June 15). Please contact Patricia Sipple at [psipple@twcny.rr.com](mailto:psipple@twcny.rr.com) or 279-7094 if you can help. Let's come together to create a special celebration for our students! Thank you!



## DeWitt Meal 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: <http://www.ithacacityschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=231>.

# DeWitt PTA Direct Appeal

Many thanks to all who contributed to the 2017-18 Direct Appeal fundraiser! Thanks to your generosity, we have raised over \$1,900 toward our \$2,500 goal. Thank you!

If you have not yet made a donation, you may still do. Checks should be made payable to DeWitt PTA and directed to the Dewitt Main office (include email address if you desire a receipt), or you can now make your gift online at <https://dewitt-middle-school-direct-appeal.cheddarup.com>.

As a reminder, 100% of your tax-deductible donation will go directly to the PTA to help fund programs and activities for DeWitt students and staff. Any amount is welcome and makes a difference!

### Examples of programs the PTA has made possible include the following:

- Funding for communications such as the Student Directory, a tri-annual newsletter and listserv management
- Providing new books for the school library, new student supplies for the supply cabinet and current maps for classrooms
- Providing funds for the Yearbooks, Welcome Back Picnic, Bring your Family to School Night and 8th Grade Promotion
- Providing support for student clubs and activities, such as educational field trips
- Providing funds for International Night, the Staff Appreciation Luncheon and much more

For questions regarding the PTA Direct Appeal, please contact Michelle Landers at [mi.landerson@gmail.com](mailto:mi.landerson@gmail.com) or 597-0794.

—Thank you for your support!



## DeWitt PTA Direct Appeal 2017-2018

Parent/Caregiver Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if you want a receipt sent): \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Enclosed please find my check payable to "DeWitt PTA".

I would like to volunteer. Please contact me at \_\_\_\_\_

## Stay Informed! Join the Listserv.

Get up to date information about DeWitt Middle School. Join the PTA Listser. To join, go to [dewittpta.org](http://dewittpta.org) and click on the link to join the listserv.

## 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

## Our Our School Supply Closet is in Need of Supplies!



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 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. Please help us meet the needs of all of our students!

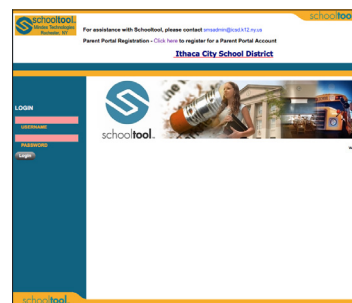
## Parent/Teacher Conferences at DeWitt

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](mailto:leann.young@icsd.k12.ny.us)) for last names from A-K; Alan Miller ([alan.miller@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:alan.miller@icsd.k12.ny.us)) for last names L-Z.

### Keep Track of Your Child's Progress with the Parent Portal

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/>)





# DeWitt TSA

Hello, I am Nathan Taylor the new Technology and Engineering Teacher at DeWitt. This is my first year teaching after graduating from SUNY Oswego and advising TSA. So What is DeWitt TSA up too?

The DeWitt TSA has been working together since October to prepare for the upcoming Connecticut State competition that is April 28th and the National Competition in Atlanta, Georgia on June 21st-26th. The students have been working hard on their individual and team events in school, after school, Tuesdays till 5:30 pm, and Thursdays till 8pm. The events that the students have been working on are website design, programming, animation, structural design, CO2 cars, and VEX robotics to name a few. There are over 30 events and DeWitt is participating in 95% of them. The DeWitt team has 22 members with 15 boys and 7 girls.

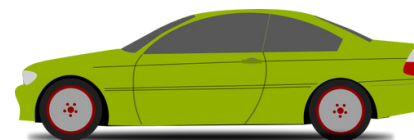


## Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

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.



## 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 (cbarry@icloud.com) and she will put the dance on the calendar and post the date and time on the website.



## National Junior Honor Society

National Junior Honor Society is an organization that fosters and promotes the growth of student scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship and character. Incoming 8th graders with a cumulative average of 3.5 or above will be invited to apply for membership to NJHS. Qualifying students will be notified in writing that they are eligible to apply. However, students who are invited to apply to NJHS are not guaranteed entry. Selection is based on a student's demonstration of initiative, leadership, good character and citizenship.

Students who participate in NJHS are required to complete 5 hours of community service before the start of 8th grade. During the school year, students are required to complete 2.5 hours of community service each quarter, as well as attend bi-weekly meetings. Students are also expected to participate in NJHS activities, fund-raisers and initiatives throughout the year. Applications for National Junior Honor Society will be available in the guidance office starting April 18th, and are due back to the guidance office by May 4th. Applications must be complete and signed by both the student and the parent/guardian. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

Questions? Contact *elizabeth.quadrozzi@icsd.k12.ny.us* or *aaron.arm@icsd.k12.ny.us*

## Fall Modified Sports

**7/8 Football Will Begin August 13. Fall Modified Sports will Begin August 20.**

Ithaca Athletics now offers the convenience of online registration through FamilyID ([www.familyid.com](http://www.familyid.com)). FamilyID is a secure registration platform that provides families with an easy, user-friendly way to register for our athletic programs, is more environmentally responsible. When families register through FamilyID, the system keeps track of your information in your FamilyID profile. A link for Family ID Instructions can be found on the Athletic page of the Ithaca City School District's website (<http://www.ithacacityschools.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=205>).

Although your profile will stay the same, you are required to fill out the health history form and submit sport forms for Fall, Winter and Spring sport seasons in the Family ID registration system.

Be sure to check the Athletic Page of ICSD's website over the summer for sign-up deadlines and to confirm start dates. For students moving into the high school, Fall JV and Varsity sports will begin August 13. If you have any questions, please contact Samantha Little ([slittle@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:slittle@icsd.k12.ny.us)), Director of Athletics & Wellness, (607) 274-2155 office.

## Family Liaison at DeWitt

**Penny Boynton, DeWitt's Family Liaison**

My function as the DeWitt Middle School Liaison is to assist with the flow of information and resources around your child's and our student's circle of learning. I do this by connecting students, families, school staff and community agencies to address their needs. This is done by embracing the values of the Circle of Courage: Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity.

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

This year we have approximately 24 different clubs happening at DeWitt so far this Spring (students should stop by my table in the cafeteria for a complete list). This does not include Home Work Club, TSA, NJHS or the other agencies doing activities here. Most all these clubs are happening because students shared their ideas about what they would like to do after school. I am so happy to be able to find connections, turning their ideas into reality. Thanks!

Contact me with more ideas or questions: 266-3554-office  
[pboynton@icsdk12.ny.us](mailto:pboynton@icsdk12.ny.us) home-539-6345

## Immunization Requirements

All 7th and 8th graders must have the Meningitis Vaccine to return to school in the fall. This could be listed on your student's immunization record as Menactra or Menevo Vaccine. All incoming sixth graders must have the Tdap vaccine to enter. It is different from the DTPs they have already received. They will be excluded from school if they do not have it. If you have questions please call the school nurse. 607-266-3510.

*Thank you, —Mary Gessini, RN, School Nurse, DeWitt Middle School*



Fun for all the DeWitt Students  
& their Families

Tuesday April 17, 2018

7:00 – 8:00  
in our cafeteria

Ice Cream served throughout the evening

Jazz Band

6th Grade Choir

DeWitt's String Quartet performing in Art Room

Tech North & South rooms on going mini industrial process  
ending with your product: a key chain tag

**FREE FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

## **The 5th Grade Open House**

**6:00**

6th grade teachers will greet 5th grade families in front foyer

**6:10 – 7:00**

Experience 6th grade projects with 6th grade Teachers  
Teachers will walk 5th grade families downstairs to displays.  
6th grade projects throughout the 6th grade wing & Library

**7:00 – 8:00**

Join in the ice cream eating & fun in the cafeteria after your visit until 8:00

**ASK QUESTIONS, SHARE IDEAS**



# Music at DeWitt

## DeWitt Band

The spring band concert is May 15th, 2018 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.

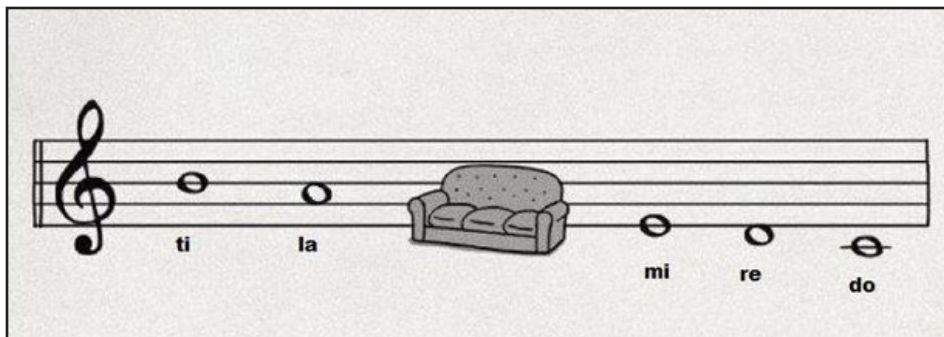
You can contact Mr. Treat at [michael.treat@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:michael.treat@icsd.k12.ny.us).

## DeWitt Orchestra

The spring orchestra concert is June 14th, 2018. Both are at Kulp Auditorium, Ithaca High School. The concert will 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.

DeWitt 7th/8th Grade Trip to NYC is June 1-3. For more information, contact Mr. Buck at [abuck@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:abuck@icsd.k12.ny.us).



## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Choir

- The NYSSMA Festival is May 4th and 5th. Make sure you have secured an original, official copy of the music.
- May 18th and 19th is the Hershey Park trip with the 7/8 band. Total cost: \$200, plus \$10 if the ensemble member needs a required shirt.
- May 31st: the DeWitt 6-7-8 Choral Concert at Kulp.\*
- 7/8 Choir will perform at the Eighth Grade Promotion this year in June.\*
- Our second annual Krispy Kreme fundraiser will occur this Spring! Date TBA.

- June is post-concert solfege/music theory/sight-reading reinforcement month for us!

- Reminder, black and white dressy performance clothes! Color ties, scarves ok!

*\* required performances*

**For the following events: dates/schedule will be posted on Google Classroom, emailed, and paper copy reminders distributed.**

- Starting in mid-April, 7/8 Choir students attending Hershey will need to attend four after school combined rehearsals for the competition.
- Starting in April, NYSSMA students will be able to sign up for sight-reading workshops and rehearsals for the solo festival... after school with some lunch time options.
- All 7/8 students will have the in-school sectionals and rehearsals starting in May to combine our seven choir classes for the concert.
- The NYC trip is scheduled for June 9th, Saturday- a day trip to see Wicked.

Email Ms. Kivisild with questions. Text ok as well, email preferred---unless urgent/trips (where text is best): [jkivisil@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:jkivisil@icsd.k12.ny.us) 631-987-8612

— Thank you! Ms. Kivisild



## SOUND OF MUSIC





# Kid Fit Training

**BOYNTON MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**MONDAY & WEDNESDAY**  
**3:30-4:30**  
**RECREATION ROOM**

**APRIL 9 –MAY 30**

**DEWITT MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**TUESDAY & THURSDAY**  
**3:30-4:30**  
**RECREATION ROOM**

**APRIL 10 – MAY 31**



The **Common Strength and Conditioning Mentor Program** aims to use strength and conditioning exercises to give students both the inner and outer strength to overcome obstacles. The program establishes the habit of meeting personal goals through building the mental and physical stamina to achieve exceptional work through exercise.

**Common Strength** promotes the physical and mental health of people through fitness programs, educational services and personal training. Furaha Shululu founded Common Strength in the 2012 and trains individuals, groups and teams. He has decades of experience in bodybuilding, strength and conditioning and team personal training. Furaha is nationally certified through the International Sports Sciences Association (ISSA) and CPR/AED certified. Furaha currently trains a client base of 20 plus people and the Men's Cornell Tennis Team.

REGISTER YOUR CHILD WITH FURAHA SHULULU/ e-mail: [furaha@commonstrength.org](mailto:furaha@commonstrength.org)  
[www.commonstrength.com](http://www.commonstrength.com)  
Pre-registration required, thank you

**607-342-8764**



**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](mailto:pboynton@icsd.k12.ny.us) or 266-3554.

— Penny Boynton

#### **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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.way2goinfo.org) or call Way2Go at 272-2292.

#### **CONTACT:**

Sophie Somerfeldt, Way2Go Educator  
607-272-2292 ext. 184; [christophia@cornell.edu](mailto:christophia@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](mailto:mrachlinski@gmail.com).

## DeWitt PTA Board and Chairpersons

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

Co-President	Melissa Rachlinski	<a href="mailto:mrachlinski@gmail.com">mrachlinski@gmail.com</a>
Co-President	VACANT	<a href="#">Please consider volunteering</a>
Treasurer	Empar Sicroff	<a href="mailto:esicroff@gmail.com">esicroff@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	VACANT	<a href="#">Please consider volunteering</a>
PTA Council Rep	Lauren Loiacano	
Site Based Council Rep	Wendy Wilcox, Mark Lewis, Chuck Lyons	
Newsletter Editor	Carol Barry	<a href="mailto:cmbarry@icloud.com">cmbarry@icloud.com</a>
Website Manager	Carol Barry	<a href="mailto:cmbarry@icloud.com">cmbarry@icloud.com</a>
Newsletter Ads	Clara Wang	
Membership Chair	VACANT	<a href="#">Please consider volunteering</a>
Direct Appeal	Michelle Landers	<a href="mailto:mi.landerson@gmail.com">mi.landerson@gmail.com</a>
Listserv Moderator	BJ Kim	<a href="mailto:bjwkim@gmail.com">bjwkim@gmail.com</a>
Back-To-School-Picnic (September)	VACANT	<a href="#">Please consider volunteering</a>
Open House (September)	Anne Thomas	<a href="mailto:aburnsthoras@yahoo.com">aburnsthoras@yahoo.com</a>
International Night (November)	Tal Cohen	<a href="mailto:talorco@gmail.com">talorco@gmail.com</a>
Staff Appreciation Luncheon (May)	Chelan Mazza	<a href="mailto:chelanmazza@gmail.com">chelanmazza@gmail.com</a>
8th Grade Promotion (June)	VACANT	<a href="#">Please consider volunteering</a>

## 2017-2018 DEWITT PTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Student name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Student name (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership (\$7 individual; \$5 additional family members, \$4 teacher) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional tax-deductible contribution to DeWitt PTA \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL (check payable to DeWitt PTA) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and dues to DeWitt PTA, attention: Membership, 560 Warren Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850, or put in an envelope labeled "DeWitt PTA" and send in with your child to school.

See the PTA Volunteer Opportunities form on the next page.

Thank you for your support!

# 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.com](mailto:mrachlinski@gmail.com) with any questions or for more information. Thanks!

**Parent/Guardian/Caregiver Name(s)**

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**Preferred 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 (Collect information, layout, deliver to printer, mail )
  - ☐ 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 programming--i.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](mailto:mrachlinski@gmail.com) for more information.**



# Ithaca SEPTA



## **JOIN TODAY!**

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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**

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- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| * October 30, 2017 | All meetings take place in the              |
| * January 29, 2018 | Administrative                              |
| * April 30, 2018   | Building Board                              |
| * June 11, 2018    | Room at 400 Lake Street from 6:00-7:30 p.m. |

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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Website: [www.ithacasepta.org](http://www.ithacasepta.org)

Email: [ithacasepta@gmail.com](mailto:ithacasepta@gmail.com)



[facebook.com/ithacasepta.org](https://facebook.com/ithacasepta.org)



[@ithaca\\_septa](https://twitter.com/ithaca_septa)

April 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Ping Pong 2:00 pm
			ELA State Tests			
15	16	17 5th Grade Open House 6:00 pm  Ice Cream Social 7:00 pm	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Board of Education Meeting 6:00 pm	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Math State Tests	9	10	11	12 Ping Pong 2:00 pm
		Board of Education Meeting 6:00pm				
13	14	15 Spring Band Concert Kulp Auditorium 7:00 pm	16 Teachers and Staff Appreciation Day	17	18 Band & Chior Trip	19 Band & Chior Trip
20	21	22 Board of Education Meeting 6:00 pm	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day — No School	29	30	31 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Choral Concert Kulp Auditorium 7:00 pm		

June 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Orchestra Trip <b>1</b>	Orchestra Trip <b>2</b>
Orchestra Trip <b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Science State Tests 8th Grade	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	7th Grade Trip <b>8</b>	Chior Trip to NYC <b>9</b>  Ping Pong 2:00 pm
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	Board of Education Meeting 6:00 pm PTA Meeting-7 pm <b>12</b> Regents Exams	<b>13</b>	Spring Orchestra Concert Kulp Auditorium 7:00 pm <b>14</b>	8th Grade Dance <b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	8th Grade Promotion Ceremony <b>18</b>  Regents Exams	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	Last Day of School for Students <b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	Board of Education Meeting 6:00 pm <b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

# How Safe is Your Home?

**Concerned about the safety of your home and how it is impacting your family's health?**

The Healthy Neighborhoods Program (HNP) of the Tompkins County Health Department is a grant through the NYS Department of Health. The program provides free home safety products and information to residents of Tompkins County. The products distributed include green cleaning supplies, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, baby safety supplies, and much more. Other services offered through the program

are radon testing and lead paint testing. HNP staff will come directly to your home and help identify potential safety issues and environmental health risks in your home. For problems or potential hazards identified during the visit, HNP staff will provide products, education and referrals to help you improve the safety of your home. There is no income or age restriction to participate in the program; all residents of Tompkins County are eligible.



***If you are interested in learning more about the Healthy Neighborhoods Program, please call (607) 274-6688.***

**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](http://dewittpta.org)).

If you would like to submit an article, please send it to Carol Barry at [cmbarry@icloud.com](mailto:cmbarry@icloud.com)

**The deadlines are: Fall: July 20th, Winter 2018: November 1st, 2018, Spring: March 1st, 2019**

