



# NEW WINDSOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2026

## PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear Families, Students, and Staff,

### Enhancing Our School Community: A Daily Reminder!

As we advance through the school year, it's time to celebrate and reinforce the PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) expectations that define our vibrant learning community. Whether your child is in the classroom, on the playground, or riding the school bus, we expect them to embody our four core values consistently:

- Be Responsible: Own your actions and take care of your belongings.
- Be Respectful: Show kindness toward peers and staff.
- Be Ready: Arrive prepared and eager to learn.
- Be Safe: Follow rules that protect you and others.

### The Power of Practice

Consistency leads to remarkable success! To support your child's growth, maintain the powerful habit of reading together for 10 to 15 minutes daily. Whether your child reads to you or you read to them, this time is invaluable for building literacy and confidence.

For our aspiring musicians, ensure that instruments, music books, and other materials are transported between home and school. Remember, "Practice makes perfect!" Regular at-home practice will help them excel during rehearsals.

### Attendance Matters

Every minute matters! Daily attendance and punctuality are essential to your child's academic and social success. This commitment reflects their dedication and ensures they won't miss critical instruction.

### Winter Continues in Full Force!

Please ensure our students know how to tie their shoelaces, button or zip their coats, dress in layers, and have all the winter attire they need to stay warm. If you need assistance, please contact our school psychologist, Ms. Caci, who has access to a wide range of children's clothing in different sizes and styles!

### Communication is Key

We encourage open communication! If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact our teachers through the Main Office. We are fully committed to supporting you and your child's success! Stay warm, keep smiling, and know we wish you all the very best!

**Newburgh**



With New Windsor School Pride,



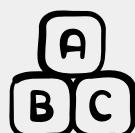
*Mr. Cant*  
Principal

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### 5TH GRADE MATH MEET

02-11-2026



### SCHOOL LEVEL SPELLING BEE

02-13-2026 (GRADES 1&2)



02-24-2026 (GRADES 3&4)



02-26-2026 (GRADE 5)



### LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

02-26-2026



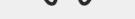
### 4TH ANNUAL COLLEGE & CAREER DAY

02-27-2026



### READ ACROSS AMERICA DR. SEUSS NIGHT

03-06-2026



### COLGATE VAN VISIT

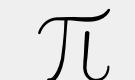
03-09-2026

[PLEASE CLICK FOR PERMISSION SLIPS](#)



### K & 1 TRIP TO BARDOVAN

03-11-2026



### 5TH GRADE MATH MEET

03-11-2026



### NWS PTO POCKETBOOK BINGO

03-20-2026



### JANE AUSTEN SOCIAL JUSTICE CELEBRATION

T-B-D

Mark Your Calendars!  
So you don't miss any events!

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**2026 NYS Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Fine Arts and Essay Exhibition Participant Letter**



KERLYTH ROSALES



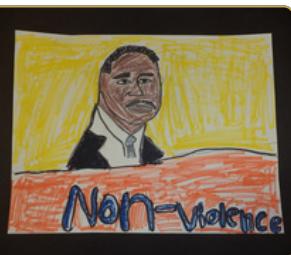
MARTINE SURFIN



TYREN WEST



HARLEE FRAMPTON



TELISE STEWART



ISABELLA TRINH



NAYALI SOSA



SOPHIA MORAN



ESTEBAN LOPEZ



MADDALYN ALVAREZ

Dear NWS Parent/Guardian,

Congratulations! Your child's artwork has been submitted for inclusion in 2026 NYS Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Fine Arts and Essay Exhibition. The selected pieces will be displayed and celebrated on New York State website, <https://tinyurl.com/5a9h8fk3>. Pieces are chosen by the school art educator based on the quality of execution and the creativity demonstrated by the student in response to instruction.

Thank you for your continued support of arts education with the Newburgh Enlarged City School District.



*Ms. DeForest*

Art Teacher, New Windsor School  
Fine and Performing Arts Department  
Newburgh Enlarged City School District

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**NEW WINDSOR SCHOOL  
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**RECENT EVENTS**



**NWS: 5TH GRADE MOCK INTERVIEWS!  
02-05-2026**

[Link to Album](#)



**NWS: CHARACTER AMBASSADOR ASSEMBLY  
02-03 & 05-2026**

[Link to Album](#)



**NWS: WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**01-22-2026**

[Link to Album](#)



**NWS: PBIS REFRESHER ASSEMBLY**

**01-15-22-2026**

[Link to Album](#)

**NEWBURGH  
ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL PLEASE VISIT [NEWBURGHSCHOOLS.ORG](http://NEWBURGHSCHOOLS.ORG)



## 5th Grade Mock Interviews



On February 5, 2026, our fifth grade students participated in an engaging and highly impactful Mock Interview experience designed to replicate real-world professional scenarios. Led by Mr. Michalek and supported by his dedicated team—Mrs. Caci, Mrs. Sepulveda, Ms. DeForest, Mrs. Newlin, and Mrs. Bien-Aime Fuentes—students were guided through the full interview process with intentional structure and purpose.

Students prepared resumes, practiced professional greetings, maintained eye contact, and responded thoughtfully to interview questions that encouraged reflection on their strengths, goals, and character. The experience provided authentic exposure to career-readiness skills, reinforcing confidence, communication, and critical thinking.

This hands-on opportunity not only strengthened public speaking and interpersonal skills, but also empowered students to see themselves as capable, future-ready individuals prepared to take on new challenges with professionalism and poise.



## OUR MISSION

*As the Goldback community, we will educate and empower our students to build their futures and support their community.*

## OUR VISION

*Creating voice, choice, and opportunity for impacting the future of all Goldbacks.*

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# NEW WINDSOR SCHOOL Newsletter February 2026

## RECENT EVENTS



### NWS: MATH MEET TEAM! ONGOING-2025-2026

[Link to Album](#)



### NWS: ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE WINNERS ONGOING-2025-2026

[Link to Album](#)



### NWS: PBIS Expectations!

Be Responsible,  
Be Respectful,  
Be Ready, and  
Be Safe!



### NWS: Attendance Pledge

I pledge to go to school every day, be on time, and be ready to learn.

**Newburgh**



## School Psychologist's Corner!

### Winter Fun at Home: Making the Most of Indoor Family Time ❄️

When the weather turns cold and outdoor play is limited, winter offers a wonderful opportunity for families to slow down, connect, and create meaningful memories together. A little creativity can turn cozy indoor time into fun, laughter-filled experiences that support learning, social skills, and emotional well-being.

Here are some easy, low-prep ways to enjoy the winter months indoors:

#### 🎨 Get Creative

**Art stations:** Set out paper, markers, recycled materials, and let kids create freely.

**Family craft nights:** Make winter decorations, greeting cards, or DIY gifts.

**Paint-and-sip (kid version):** Follow simple drawing tutorials together with music playing.

#### 📘 Cozy Up With Books

**Family reading time:** Read aloud chapter books or take turns sharing favorite stories.

**Create a reading nook:** Blankets, pillows, and flashlights make reading extra fun.

**Act it out:** Turn stories into short plays or puppet shows.

#### 🎲 Play Together

**Board games and puzzles:** Great for teamwork, problem-solving, and laughter.

**Card games:** Go Fish, Uno, or Crazy Eights work for all ages.

**Family game night:** Let kids take turns choosing the game and snacks.

#### 🍪 Cook and Bake as a Family

**Bake treats together:** Cookies, muffins, or homemade pizza build life skills.

**Try a theme night:** Breakfast-for-dinner, taco night, or international foods.

**Recipe math:** Let kids measure and mix to build confidence and independence.

#### 🏃 Move and Play Indoors

**Dance parties:** Turn on music and get moving.

**Indoor obstacle courses:** Use pillows, chairs, and tape for hopping paths.

**Yoga or mindfulness time:** Short movement or breathing activities help kids regulate emotions.

#### 🎥 Create Family Traditions

**Movie nights:** Let kids vote, make popcorn, and cozy up.

**Talent shows:** Sing, dance, tell jokes, or perform skits.

**Gratitude jars:** Write something positive each day and read them together at week's end.

#### ⌚ Balance Screen Time

While screens can be part of family fun, winter is a great time to explore hands-on activities that build connection and creativity. Try designating daily “device-free” family time — even 20 minutes can make a big difference.

Winter doesn't have to feel long or boring — it can be cozy, playful, and full of connection.

These small moments spent together help children feel supported, confident, and loved — and often become the memories they treasure most. ❤️

Stay warm and have fun this winter!



Mrs. Caci  
School Psychologist

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# NEW WINDSOR SCHOOL Newsletter February 2026

## BLAST FROM THE PAST



NWS: DR. SEUSS' STEAM NIGHT  
02-28-2019  
[Link to Album](#)



NWS: VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE  
02-08-2019  
[Link to Album](#)



NWS: CHINESE NEW YEARS  
02-08-2019  
[Link to Album](#)



NWS: WINTER CONCERT  
01-09-2019  
[Link to Album](#)



## The School Counselor's Corner!

So we've covered three zones: Blue (Sad, tired), Green (Happy, in control of my words and actions), and Yellow (Extra energy keeping me from being focused). This month let's explore the final Red Zone. When I introduce this zone to classes, I call it the "Energy Overload" zone. It's reserved for (mostly) uncomfortable high energy feelings like rage, terror, extreme sadness, etc. What's important about the red zone is understanding that we all find ourselves there at some point in our lives, and with it being unavoidable, we have to be prepared with a plan about what to do when we find ourselves there. The hallmark of the red zone is that feeling of loss of self control. So often life throws us into the red zone, with or without warning, and we act or speak without thinking things through, often making that situation worse. If you think about it, when we're feeling overwhelming emotions, our first impulse is often one of those out of control reactions: throwing things, slamming things, yelling hurtful words, hitting, kicking, etc. But if we take 5, 10, even 15 seconds to stop that reaction and turn it into a response that's thought through, at the very least it might not worsen that situation, and it might actually defuse the situation.

Sometimes, however, to do all that might mean walking away from what put us in the red zone to begin with, which can be hard to do, but gets easier with practice.

Sincerely,



*Mr. Michalek*

School Counselor



## The Red Zone

"Energy Overload Zone"

**Out of Control Feelings!**

Rage & Anger!  
Extreme Sadness!  
Fear & Panic!

**STOP & THINK!**  
Pause for 5...10...15 Seconds!  
TAKE A DEEP BREATH

**Make a Smart Choice!**

Calm Down  
Walk Away  
Ask for Help

**Take Control Before You Lose Control!**

[CLICK LINK!](#)

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## NWS FAMILY TIPS

### Why is Elementary Math more important than High School or College Level Math?

Elementary math is more important than high school or college math—not because it is more complex, but because it builds the foundation for all mathematical thinking.

First, elementary math develops number sense. Students learn how numbers work, how quantities relate, and why operations make sense. Concepts such as place value, fractions, and multiplication are not just skills; they shape how students reason. Later math can often be memorized, but number sense cannot be easily repaired once missed.

Second, these skills are learned during a critical developmental window. In the elementary years, children's brains are especially receptive to building logical reasoning, pattern recognition, and problem-solving habits. This is when students learn how to think mathematically, not just what procedures to follow.

Third, math is cumulative, and small gaps grow quickly. Weak understanding of elementary concepts leads to persistent difficulty in algebra, geometry, and beyond. Many students who struggle in high school are not failing advanced math—they are carrying unresolved elementary misconceptions.

Fourth, elementary math has the greatest real-world application. Adults rely daily on estimation, fractions, percentages, measurement, and basic data interpretation. These skills support financial literacy, decision-making, and problem-solving far more than advanced formulas.

Finally, elementary math shapes math identity and confidence. Early success builds resilience and curiosity, while early frustration often leads to math anxiety and avoidance that can last for years. In short, advanced math extends learning, but elementary math determines access. When the foundation is strong, higher-level math is attainable. When it is weak, even the most rigorous instruction later cannot fully compensate.

### Why Elementary Math Is More Important

**Builds Number Sense**  
Understanding place value, fractions, and operations.

**Critical Developmental Window**  
Peak years for learning to think logically.

**Gaps Grow Quickly**  
Small gaps in early math multiply later.

**Real-World Skills**  
Used daily in money, time, and measurement.

**Math Confidence & Identity**  
Early success or struggle shapes attitudes.

**Weak Foundation**  
A foundation built on quicksand.

**Strong Foundation**  
A foundation built on rock.

**Strong Foundations Lead to Higher Math Success!**

[CLICK LINK!](#)