



2023-2024

*Calendar*

**DRYDEN**

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*#LionPride*

# A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Families,

We are excited to welcome everyone to the 2023-2024 school year! As a Dryden community member, we invite you to join us for a school year that is bound to have joys, challenges, and be full of #LionPride! We have been planning for the school year since the end of last winter with great intention as we have centered our work around two priorities, focusing on well-being and literacy that are anchored and aligned to our mission, vision, and core beliefs.

Our **Mission Statement** sets the tone for our work and clearly communicates to all of our stakeholders why we exist. The Dryden Central School District exists **to educate and empower each learner to achieve excellence and build a better world**. The term 'learner' does not apply only to students, but to all of our staff members in all of our schools at all levels. We all are learning how to better serve our students in an effort to ensure they have access to their education so that they can achieve excellence and build a better world doing something they are not only good at, but passionate about.

Our **Vision Statement** communicates to our stakeholders what as a District we aspire to be. The Vision Statement is the District's hopes and dreams for the future. The Dryden Central School District **aspires to be the school district others strive to become**. We want to be so good at what we do, other districts look to us for **the** answer, support, or guidance.

Finally our **Core Beliefs** in conjunction with our Mission and Vision Statements are our absolutes. The idea is that if we consistently align our decisions as a District to our Core Beliefs then we will always be fulfilling our Mission as well as making progress towards our Vision. Our Core Beliefs are the following:

- Students come first.
- Everyone can learn.
- We have high expectations for all.
- A safe, joyful and nurturing environment promotes learning and growth.
- We encourage creativity, problem solving and innovation.
- We act with integrity and accountability.
- We cultivate resilience and build strength of character.
- We value diversity and treat everyone with respect, compassion, and dignity.
- Positive relationships and partnerships are essential.

We are excited to live out our Core Beliefs and our Mission during the 2023-2024 school year. You can see the District do this by following the District on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming school year, please do not hesitate to call your child's school at 607.844.8694 and follow the voice prompts to the specific school. Thank you for all that you do to support the Dryden Central School District.

#LionPride,



Joshua I. Bacigalupi  
Superintendent of Schools

# Board of Education

**Heather Williams**, President  
McLean, NY 13102  
2023–2026  
(607) 592-9849

**Justin St. Juliana**, Vice Pres.  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
2021–2024  
(607) 319-2744

**Beverly Dodici**  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
2022–2025  
(607) 280-8108

**Bridget Flanigan**  
Freeville, NY 13068  
2021–2024  
(303) 704-0246

**Andréa Lamb**  
Dryden, NY 13053  
2022–2025  
(607) 280-7355

**Daniel Mulligan**  
Dryden, NY 13053  
2023–2026  
(802) 399-1042

**David Peck**  
Dryden, NY 13053  
2023–2026  
(607) 279-2716

**Ronald Szymanski**  
Freeville, NY 13068  
2021–2024  
(607) 279-0762

The Board of Education meeting schedule can be found on our website. At each regular business meeting there are two designated times for public comment to address the Board. You may contact the Board of Education via email at [boe@dryden.k12.ny.us](mailto:boe@dryden.k12.ny.us)

# SEPTEMBER

# 2023

*Sunday*

*Monday*

*Tuesday*

*Wednesday*

*Thursday*

*Friday*

*Saturday*

### Calendar Note

Please be aware that dates and events are subject to change throughout the school year. Watch for additional events, changes and updates in school newsletters, the Dryden website and in various newspapers. All dates are accurate as of our August press time. For more school district information, please visit [www.dryden.k12.ny.us](http://www.dryden.k12.ny.us).

3

4

Labor Day

10

11

12

Superintendent's  
Conference Day

13

Superintendent's  
Conference Day

14

First Day of School  
Grades PK-12

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## Grievance Procedure for Non-Discrimination Policy

The compliance officer for Section 504 and other grievances related to student activities and all employee related activities is the Director of Student Services, Katie Volpicelli, telephone 607-844-8694 ext. 1459. The compliance officer can be contacted at the Dryden Elementary School, 36 Union Street, Dryden, New York 13053. The compliance officer, upon request, will provide a copy of the District's grievance procedure to any employee, student or other covered person. A copy of each of the Acts and Regulations upon which this notice is based will be made available, upon written request to the District compliance officer.

## Non-Discrimination Policy

The Dryden Central School District (District) in accordance with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Title VI of The Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act, or the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, political affiliation, sex, age, marital or veteran status, or disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The District recognizes its responsibility to provide an environment free from discrimination, harassment and intimidation in the career, technical or educational programs and activities it operates.

We do not permit discrimination by employees, school volunteers, students and non-employees such as contractors and vendors, as well as any third parties participating in, observing or otherwise engaged in activities subject to the supervision of the District. This includes recruitment and employment practices, pay and benefits, counseling services for students, access by students to career, technical or other educational programs, courses and activities. The Board also prohibits harassment based upon an individual's opposition to the discrimination or participation in a related investigation or complaint proceeding under the anti-discrimination statutes.

This policy of non-discrimination and anti-harassment will be enforced on school district premises, in school buildings and at all school sponsored events, programs and activities including those that take place off school premises. Inquiries or complaints should be forwarded to the Superintendent.



# OCTOBER

# 2023

|    | <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i>   | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i>  | <i>Saturday</i> |
|----|---------------|---|----------------|------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| 1  |               | 2   | 3              | 4                | 5               | 6  | 7               |
| 8  |               | 9   | 10             | 11               | 12              | 13   | 14              |
| 15 |               | 16<br>Indigenous People's Day<br>(Columbus Day)<br>Student Vacation Day | 17             | 18               | 19              | 20<br>Superintendent's<br>Conference Day<br>No school for PK-8,<br>9-12 report | 21              |
| 22 |               | 23  | 24             | 25               | 26              | 27   | 28              |
| 29 |               | 30  | 31             | 1                | 2               | 3  | 4               |

# Dignity Act Coordinators

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) in each building is expected to:

- Handle human relations in the areas of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression), and sex.
- Receive training to handle human relations.
- Assist in the planning and training of staff and students to create and maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex, which will strengthen students' self-concept and promote confidence to learn.
- In collaboration with the Principal, follow up on any incidents of discrimination and harassment that are witnessed or otherwise brought to the DAC.
- Maintain and encourage a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender/gender identity, or sex, with an understanding of appropriate appearance, language, and behavior in a school setting, which will strengthen students' self-image and promote confidence to learn.
- Report incidents of discrimination and harassment that are witnessed or otherwise brought to a DAC's attention to the building administrator.

## DAC Middle/High School

Ellen Stelick  
Mary Hicks

## DAC Elementary Schools

Elizabeth Howe  
Allison Peyus



# NOVEMBER

# 2023

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i>   | <i>Thursday</i>  | <i>Friday</i>   | <i>Saturday</i> |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|--|--|---|-----------------|
| 29            | 30            | 31             | 1  | 2  | 3   | 4               |
| 5             | 6             | 7              | 8  | 9  | 10<br><b>Veterans' Day<br/>Observance</b><br>Student Vacation Day | 11              |
| 12            | 13            | 14             | 15   | 16   | 17  | 18              |
| 19            | 20            | 21             | 22   | 23   | 24  | 25              |
| 26            | 27            | 28             | 29<br><b>Thanksgiving Recess</b><br>Student Vacation Day | 30<br><b>Thanksgiving Recess</b><br>Student Vacation Day | <b>Thanksgiving Recess</b><br>Student Vacation Day                |                 |

### Calendar Note

Please be aware that dates and events are subject to change throughout the school year. Watch for additional events, changes and updates in school newsletters, the Dryden website and in various newspapers. All dates are accurate as of our August press time. For more school district information, please visit [www.dryden.k12.ny.us](http://www.dryden.k12.ny.us).

# Emergency Notification System

The Dryden Central School District uses SchoolMessenger as our emergency notification system. The contact information in SchoolMessenger is pulled from our student information system, schooltool. Therefore, if you would like changes made to your SchoolMessenger contact information, please contact the following people:

- Cassavant Elementary ..... Alexis Allen
- Dryden Elementary ..... Mallory Pudney
- Freerville Elementary ..... Cynthia Dickinson
- Middle School .....Melissa Scotti
- High School..... Edith Alo

# School Closing Announcements

School closing announcements will be made through SchoolMessenger on mornings during the year when poor weather, road conditions or any other emergency exists. Whenever possible, this information will be released by 6:00 a.m.

Please go to our school website for afternoon cancellations. Students and parents are urged to listen to these announcements and not telephone school offices or school officials for verification. Officials are busy at that time and incoming calls only serve to delay closing procedures.

In the event that an emergency (e.g. winter storm) makes it essential to close schools prior to regular dismissal time, an announcement will be made via SchoolMessenger. Parents are requested to notify their children where to report in such circumstances. Due to the inconveniences such a closing usually creates for parents, this procedure will be used only when absolutely necessary.

When school is closed for the day due to weather conditions or an emergency, all evening activities are also canceled.







## *Pesticide Notification*

New York State Education Law Section 409-H and Commissioner of Education Regulation 155-24, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and nonpublic elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the year. If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school or building or would like to receive additional information on this requirement, please contact Jeff Montesano, School Pesticide Representative of the Dryden Central School District. He may be reached by phone at 607-844-8694 x9241 or email [jmontes1@dryden.k12.ny.us](mailto:jmontes1@dryden.k12.ny.us).

## *Notification of Availability of Asbestos Documents*

In accordance with the EPA "Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act" of 1986 (AHERA), notification is being given of the availability of the Asbestos Management Plan and Inspection Reports for Dryden Central School District. The management plan, inspection reports, and other related documents are available in the Office of Buildings and Grounds. For further information please contact Jeff Montesano, by phone at 607-844-8694 x9241 or by email at [jmontes1@dryden.k12.ny.us](mailto:jmontes1@dryden.k12.ny.us).

## *Use of Tobacco*

In compliance with both federal and state laws, smoking or use of tobacco, in any form, is prohibited on school grounds, in school vehicles, in school facilities, or within 100 feet of school property. Please follow these laws by not smoking on school grounds at any time.



# JANUARY

# 2024

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i>  | <i>Tuesday</i>                              | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i>  | <i>Saturday</i> |
|---------------|--|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 31            | 1<br>New Year Holiday/<br>Holiday Recess<br>Student Vacation Day | 2<br>Holiday Recess<br>Student Vacation Day | 3                | 4               | 5              | 6               |
| 7             | 8  | 9   | 10               | 11              | 12             | 13              |
| 14            | 15   | 16  | 17               | 18              | 19             | 20              |
| 21            | 22<br>Martin Luther King Jr. Day<br>Student Vacation Day         | 23  | 24               | 25              | 26             | 27              |
| 28            | 29   | 30  | 31               | 1               | HS Regents Day | HS Regents Day  |

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# Attendance

The Dryden Central School has adopted a policy for course credit that will encourage and promote regular school attendance. The Board of Education believes that regular participation by students in classroom activities planned by the teacher are essential elements in the learning process. This requires regular student attendance, involvement, and effort. There is a strong correlation between regular student attendance and success in school. Attendance in class shall be determined as follows:

**Definition:** Attendance in class means physical presence in class or working under the direction of a teacher in another supervised area for a defined period of time.

**Definition:** Absence means non-attendance in any class for any reason, whether excused or unexcused.

Lateness to school and absences from school which are not accompanied by a written excuse are determined by Education Law to be unexcused absences. Legal absences include legal obligations, death in the family, or medical appointments.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for the full policy details.

# Written Excuses for Absences

In the event of an extended illness (3 days or more) it is recommended the parent or guardian call the attendance office and advise us of the reason for the absence as well as following up with a written excuse.

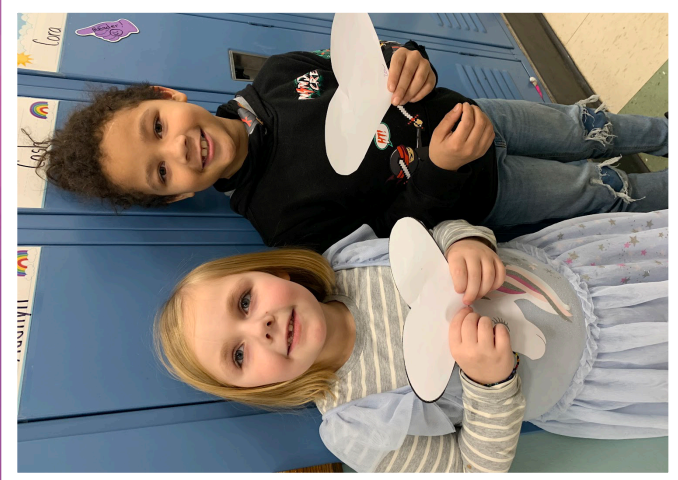
## Attendance Office

MS/HS: 607-844-8694 x5281

Dryden Elementary: 607-844-8694 x1449

Cassavant Elementary: 607-844-8694 x6319

Freeville Elementary: 607-844-8694 x7318



# FEBRUARY

# 2024

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i>   | <i>Tuesday</i>                              | <i>Wednesday</i>                            | <i>Thursday</i>                             | <i>Friday</i>                               | <i>Saturday</i>                             |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28            | 29  | 30  | 31  | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 4             | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 11            | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| 18            | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25            | 26<br>President's Day/<br>Winter Recess<br>Student Vacation Day | 27<br>Winter Recess<br>Student Vacation Day | 28<br>Winter Recess<br>Student Vacation Day | 29<br>Winter Recess<br>Student Vacation Day | 30<br>Winter Recess<br>Student Vacation Day | 31<br>Winter Recess<br>Student Vacation Day |

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## *Dangerous Weapons in School*

No student shall have in his or her possession upon school premises any rifle, shotgun, pistol, revolver, other firearm, knives, dangerous chemicals, explosives or any object, which is not necessary for school activities and which could be used as a weapon. A weapon is any instrument capable of firing a projectile, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, firearm muffler or silencer, any explosive device, or any other instrument capable of inflicting bodily harm (e.g., Swiss Army knives). Federal law requires at least a one-year suspension from school for any student who is found to have brought a firearm to school.

## *Visitors to our Schools*

All buildings are locked during student hours. To enter a building, visitors need to go to the main entrance and press a button to be allowed into the building. Upon pushing the button, you may be asked to identify yourself and your reason for coming into the building. Students are not allowed to bring visitors from other schools. Your cooperation on this important matter helps us keep our schools safe.

## *Parent Portal*

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to keep track of their student's performance by utilizing Parent Portal. To access the Guide, go to the Dryden Central School website and click on the parent/student links under the resources tab. Follow directions to register and to access such information as: schedule; attendance; discipline; grades; assignments.







## Eligibility for Attendance of After-School Activities

In-School Suspension (I.S.S.): Athletes assigned I.S.S. by an administrator for more than 4 class periods, are ineligible to practice or play on those days that they are in I.S.S. and can result in disciplinary action by the coach/advisor and/or Director of Athletics. Out-of-School Suspension (O.S.S.): Students assigned O.S.S. are ineligible to practice, perform, attend, or play in an athletic game/activity until they return to school.

An excerpt from policy #7410, not to be limited to:

"To be eligible for any extracurricular activity, a student must attend school for the whole school day in order to participate in a practice, game, event, rehearsal, or performance later that same day. The exception is to be legally excused for reasons other than illness. Students absent from school wishing to practice or participate in activities must report to the building principal or director for permission subject to the Code of Conduct. Students assigned OSS, are ineligible to practice, perform, attend or play in a game/activity until they return to school. They will also serve a minimum of a one game/performance suspension. A second offense within the season or duration of the activity will result in removal from the team/musical."

## School/Parent Relations

Dryden Central School District encourages parental participation at all grade levels. At the elementary level, each building PTA/PTO provides opportunity for participation. Watch school newsletters and the District bulletins for announcements about monthly meetings. Being involved in your child's education is important and our PTAs/PTOs help foster a positive school/home relationship. Please support these fine organizations.





# APRIL

# 2024

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i>                             | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|---------------|---|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 31            | 1<br>Spring Break<br>Student Vacation Day | 2              | 3                | 4               | 5             | 6               |
| 7             | 8   | 9              | 10               | 11              | 12            | 13              |
| 14            | 15  | 16             | 17               | 18              | 19            | 20              |
| 21            | 22  | 23             | 24               | 25              | 26            | 27              |
| 28            | 29  | 30             | 1                | 2               | 3             | 4               |

## Notification of Section 504 Compliance

It is the policy of the Dryden Central School District not to discriminate against any otherwise qualified individual with a disability, solely by reason of his/her disability, in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, any program or activity sponsored by this school district. Inquiries regarding compliance with this policy should be directed to the Director of Student Services, Section 504 Coordinator, Dryden Central School District, P.O. Box 88, Dryden, NY 13053, or by phone at 607-844-8694 x1459 or to the Superintendent of Schools.

## Student Registration

When registering your child for school, it is important to remember to bring the following information with you:

- Proof of Residency
- Proof of Birth
- Proof of Immunization

For questions regarding registration, please contact Kati Coon, District Registrar, at 607-844-8694 ext. 2608 or via email, [kcoon1@dryden.k12.ny.us](mailto:kcoon1@dryden.k12.ny.us) (Complaints concerning enrollment and registration can be submitted to the Office of the Attorney General via email, [civil.rights@ag.ny.gov](mailto:civil.rights@ag.ny.gov))



# MAY

# 2024

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i>                               | <i>Tuesday</i>           | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|---------------|---|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 28            | 29  | 30                       | 1                | 2               | 3             | 4               |
| 5             | 6   | 7                        | 8                | 9               | 10            | 11              |
| 12            | 13  | 14                       | 15               | 16              | 17            | 18              |
| 19            | 20  | 21                       | 22               | 23              | 24            | 25              |
| 26            | 27  | Annual Budget Vote<br>28 | 29               | 30              | 31            | 1               |
|               | <b>Memorial Day</b><br>Student Vacation Day |                          |                  |                 |               |                 |



## *School Bus Stops*

A dangerous time for students is at the bus stop for the pick-up and drop-off. Conditions cause this to be exaggerated or reduced. Bad weather like rain, snow and fog are conditions that make the bus stop more dangerous.

Student behavior also directly affects conditions at the bus stop. Snow banks block visibility, therefore causing students to venture into the roadway to see if the bus is coming. Snow and ice conditions are also fun to play on and doing this close to the road is extremely dangerous.

Rain and fog reduce visibility. The students and the adults responsible for their safety must monitor student behavior at the bus stop. When the bus arrives and the students start their boarding procedure, the driver and school then assume responsibility. Actions like fighting, pushing, playing and all others that distract from being attentive and alert to the dangers that are always present must be avoided.

Parents and students, your assistance is requested in reducing the dangers at the bus stop. Make the bus stop as safe as it can possibly be. Thank you for your assistance in keeping all of our students safe!



# JUNE

# 2024

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i>                                   | <i>Tuesday</i>  | <i>Wednesday</i>  | <i>Thursday</i>                        | <i>Friday</i>                                   | <i>Saturday</i>                                 |
|---------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| 26            | 27  | 28  | 29  | 29                                     | 29  | 1   |
| 2             | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6                                      | 7   | 8   |
| 9             | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13                                     | 14  | 15  |
| 16            | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20                                     | 21  | 22  |
|               | HS Regent Day<br>(9-12 students only for tests) | HS Regent Day<br>(9-12 students only for tests)   | Juneteenth Holiday<br>(Student Vacation Day)                          | Last Day of Classes<br>for HS Students | HS Regent Day<br>(9-12 students only for tests) | HS Regent Day<br>(9-12 students only for tests) |
| 23            | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27                                     | 28  | 29  |
|               | HS Regent Day<br>(9-12 students only for tests) | Last Day of Classes<br>for Elementary Students<br>Last Day of Classes<br>for MS Students<br>HS Regent Day<br>(9-12 students only for tests) | Graduation<br><br>Last Staff Day/Rating Day<br>No School for Students |  |   |   |
|               | 30  |   |   |  |   |   |

# School Tax Information

School tax bills will be mailed at the end of August for payment beginning on September 1, 2023. Tax bill information is also available online at [www.TaxLookup.net](http://www.TaxLookup.net) beginning September 1, 2023.

Penalty Free Period ..... 9/1/23 - 10/1/23  
 2% Penalty Added ..... 10/2/23 - 11/1/23

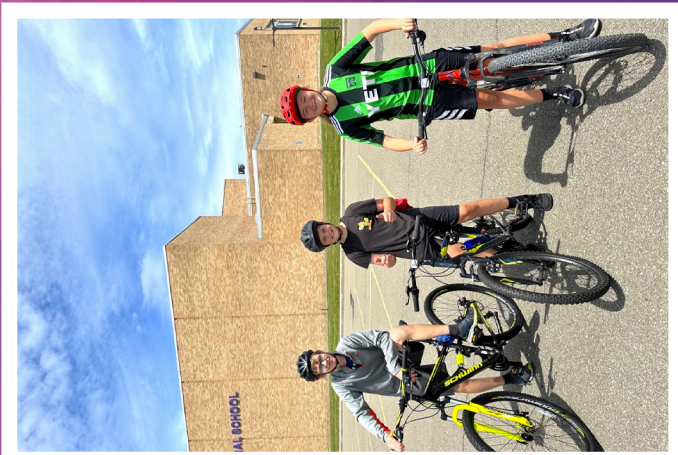
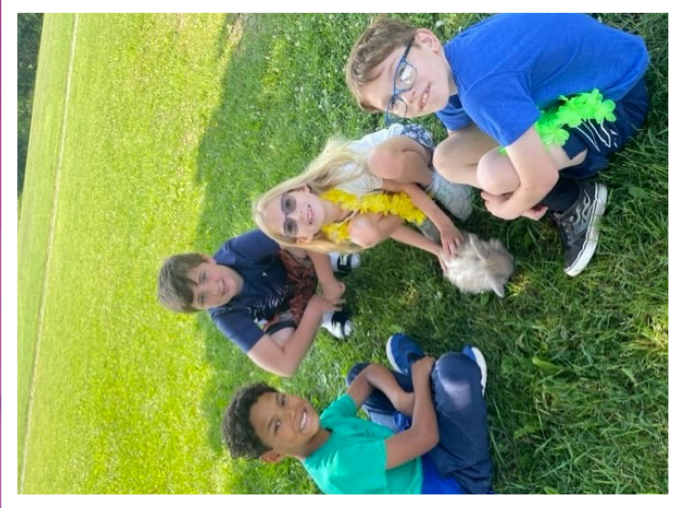
**Checks Payable To:** Dryden Central School District

**Walk-In Payments:** First National Bank of Dryden

**Mail Payments:** Dryden Central School District  
 c/o TST BOCES Tax Collection  
 555 Warren Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

# Alcohol, Drugs, and Other Substances

The Board of Education recognizes that the misuse of drugs and/or alcohol is a serious problem with legal, physical, emotional, and social implications for the entire community. Therefore, the consumption, sharing and/or selling, use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, counterfeit and designer drugs, controlled substances, or paraphernalia for the use of such drugs is prohibited at any school-sponsored event or on any school property at all times. This prohibition extends to other intoxicating substances being actively used. Employees who are authorized to enforce an individual being removed from school district property include: Superintendent, any administrator, a coach actively engaged in coaching, a building supervisor, person(s) responsible for community sponsored events, or any law enforcement officer with jurisdiction over district property.



# JULY

2024

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 30            | 1             | 2              | 3                | 4               | 5             | 6               |
| 7             | 8             | 9              | 10               | 11              | 12            | 13              |
| 14            | 15            | 16             | 17               | 18              | 19            | 20              |
| 21            | 22            | 23             | 24               | 25              | 26            | 27              |
| 28            | 29            | 30             | 31               | 1               | 2             | 3               |

# AUGUST

2024

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

# Transportation Policies and Procedures

## Rules for All Students Riding the Bus

Rules to regulate student conduct on school buses are established as follows:

1. The bus driver is in charge of the bus. The driver's instructions are to be obeyed promptly by all passengers.
2. Upon boarding the bus, students will select a seat and remain seated for the duration of the trip. Drivers may, at any time, assign seats when deemed necessary. Bus routes are established, in part, on the basis of three riders to a seat.
3. No student shall board the bus with any object that cannot be held on his/her lap or between his/her knees. Students shall not bring objects on the bus that are potentially dangerous or distracting to other students or the driver. Prohibited objects include, but are not limited to the following:
  - Radios, tape recorders, and electronic games not related to instruction;
  - Glass objects;
  - Weapons such as knives or guns;
  - Explosive or flammable devices;
  - Live animals;
  - Over-sized musical instruments, athletic equipment, etc. (objects that cannot be held on the student's lap or between their legs)
4. Students are to be at their bus stop 5 minutes prior to the bus arrival. After suitable warning, students who are not on time will be left behind.
5. Student actions which have the effect of distracting the driver or otherwise interfering with the driver's ability to operate the vehicle in a safe manner are prohibited. Such actions may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Throwing objects within or out of the bus;
  - Harassing or fighting with other passengers;
  - Extending head, hands, arms, or legs out of the bus window;
  - Eating, drinking, smoking and using drugs or alcohol;
  - Creating excessive noise, including verbal abuse of fellow passengers and the use of profanity;
  - Causing damage to the vehicle (students responsible for damages will be billed for repair costs);
  - Tampering with the vehicles operating or safety controls;
  - Obstructing the driver's vision;
  - Threatening, verbally abusing, attacking, or swearing at the driver.
6. Upon leaving the bus, students who must reach the opposite side of the road are to cross 10 feet in front of the bus and cross the road upon signal from the bus driver.
  7. Upon approaching a bus from the opposite side of the road, students are to cross 10 feet in front of the bus upon signal from the bus driver.
  8. Students must not attempt to board or leave a bus while it is in motion.
  9. Students are to be courteous and observe rules of proper etiquette at all times.
  10. Students planning to attend a field trip during the school day or outside regular school hours must submit a field trip permission form, signed by the parent, to the building Principal.



# Bus Advisory Procedure

Due to extreme inclement weather, the Superintendent of the Dryden Central School District may declare a "Bus Advisory." The notification of a bus advisory will be transmitted to parents and students in the same format as emergency closing/delay announcements via TV and Radio, as well as posting on the Dryden Central School District website and notification through SchoolMessenger.

During a bus advisory, school bus drivers will not expect students to be waiting at the pick-up point upon arrival. Students who normally walk to a school will be offered busing to their school. The bus assigned to a pick-up point will make a complete stop at the designated location. If visibility permits, it is expected that students will exit their residence in time to meet the bus. There will be a full and complete expectation that students picked up at a stop will promptly exit their residence to demonstrate a presence and that the distance to the bus will be covered as quickly as it can be safely accomplished.

It should be expected that the bus, as it progresses through its scheduled route, would start arriving later than usual. This may, near the end of the route, become upward of 10 minutes. To maintain a basic schedule during a bus advisory, it will not be possible for bus drivers to wait for extended periods of time for students to walk up to .5 miles or for door-to-door pick-up. Therefore, if the designated pick-up point is not at a residence but at a point separated from a residence (at an intersection for example) it is our sincere hope that some type of protective measures will be taken by the parents/students to ensure the safety and welfare of the students.

If you have any questions regarding your child's transportation, please call the Transportation Department at 607-844-4221 between 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily. You may also email questions to Lora Cavanagh, Transportation Supervisor [lcavana1@dryden.k12.ny.us](mailto:lcavana1@dryden.k12.ny.us)



# Notes from the Nurses

## New York State Public Health Law, 2164

Kindergartners in the fall must have all the vaccines required for school. MMR-2 doses; Varicella-2 doses; HepB -3 doses; DTap-5 or 4 doses if the 4th dose was received at age 4; Polio-4 doses or 3 doses if the 3rd dose was received at age 4. Children without the required vaccines will not be able to attend school.

- All students entering 6th grade must have Varicella (chicken pox)-2 doses, or have documentation of physician diagnosed varicella disease. Parental statement of having varicella disease or vaccination will not be accepted. Grade 6 students must also have 1 dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) at age 11.
- All students entering 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade must have 1 dose of meningitis.
- All students entering 12th grade must have 2 doses of meningitis unless they received 1 dose at age 16 or older.
- Education Law Article 19 and regulations of the Commissioner of Education require health examinations of public school students:

- **Entering the school district for the first time, and in grades Pre-K or K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11** and at any grade level determined by school administration, at their discretion to promote the educational interests of the student (Commissioner's regulation § 136.3[b]); • to participate in strenuous activity (athletics) [Commissioner's regulation § 135.4(c)(7)(i)(e) and 136.3(a)(8)]; • upon student's request for an employment certificate (working papers) (Education Law §3217); and • when conducting an initial evaluation or reevaluation of a student suspected of having a disability or a student with a disability (Commissioner's regulation §200.4[b]).
- Contact your family health care provider or contact the Tompkins County Health Department at 607-274-6600 or the Cortland County Health Department at 607-753-5036 for clinic information.

## Medication in School

In accordance with school law, medication will be administered to students in school only if the following procedure is followed:

- A parent authorization form is signed by the parent.
- A written order from the physician in which he/she indicates the frequency of administration and dosage of the prescribed medication.
- The medication must be brought in by an adult in its original container.

The state mandated health requirements for all public school students in New York State include:

- The student must provide a physical exam dated within 1 year of date of entrance to the new school.
- Vision and hearing screening will be completed during the first months of school for grades Pre-K or K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th.
- A back examination for scoliosis will be done sometime during the school year.
- Medical records will be re-checked to assure up-to-date immunization.

Parents are encouraged to call the health offices with any concerns or questions they might have regarding the procedures, or other health related issues.

## We're on Call for You

- **School Buildings:** 607-844-8694
- **Cassavant Elementary Nurse:** Ext. 6228
- **Dryden Elementary Nurse:** Ext. 1454
- **Freeville Elementary Nurse:** Ext. 7236
- **Middle School Nurse:** Ext. 4233
- **High School Nurse:** Ext. 5262

# HIV/AIDS Education

In compliance with the regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the District will provide classroom instruction concerning Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) as part of sequential and comprehensive health program for all students, K-12. The school provides age-appropriate instruction, which must include the following information:

1. The nature of the disease.
2. Methods of transmission of the disease; and
3. Methods of prevention of the disease (stressing abstinence as the most effective and appropriate protection against AIDS).

No student shall be required to receive instruction concerning the methods of prevention of AIDS if the parent or legal guardian has filed with the Principal a written request that the student not participate in such instruction, with an assurance that the student will receive this instruction at home.

AIDS instruction in the elementary grades shall be taught by the regular classroom teachers, while such instruction in the middle and high school grades shall be a part of the required health education curriculum.

**Questions or concerns? Please contact your building principal.**

## Building Principals

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Sarah Powell</b><br>High School Principal<br>spowell1@dryden.k12.ny.us<br>607-844-8694 x5236     | <b>Justin Wood</b><br>DES 3-5 Principal<br>jwood1@dryden.k12.ny.us<br>607-844-8694 x1435       |
| <b>Lora Champlain</b><br>Middle School Principal<br>lchampl1@dryden.k12.ny.us<br>607-844-8694 x4201 | <b>Audrey Ryan</b><br>Principal, CES/FES<br>aryan1@dryden.k12.ny.us<br>607-844-8694 x6319/7318 |
| <b>Katie Willson</b><br>DES PK-2 Principal<br>kwillso1@dryden.k12.ny.us<br>607-844-8694 x1432       |  |

# Notification of Rights under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the Dryden Central Schools ("School") receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students who wish to inspect their child's or their education records should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request an amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend their child's or their education record should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the School discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. The criteria for determining who constitutes a

school official and what constitutes a legitimate educational interest must be set forth in the School's annual notification for FERPA rights. A school official typically includes a person employed by the school or school district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school or school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Dryden Central School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA can be found below:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202



# Directory Information

The following categories of information have been designated as "Directory Information" with respect to each student attending the Dryden Schools.

- a. Name
- b. Major field of study
- c. Grade level
- d. Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- e. Weight and height (if members of athletic teams)
- f. Dates of attendance
- g. Awards and honors received
- h. Name of the most recent educational agency or institution previously attended by the student

Notice is hereby given to all parents and guardians (and non-custodial parents, whose rights are not limited by court order or formal agreement), of a student under 18, or students 18 years of age and older that all student records are deemed confidential. Such records shall be made available to third parties only upon written authorization of the parent or guardian or students 18 years of age and older.

"Directory Information" will not be treated as confidential information and such information will be made available for publication through school district news releases.

Parents or guardians of Dryden students and students 18 years of age and older who desire such "Directory Information" not be released for publication shall notify the appropriate principal in writing by the fourth Monday in September.

Please refer to the District website for a complete FERPA notice with a list of allowable disclosures.

## Contact Information

### Superintendent

Joshua Bacigalupi  
607-844-5361 x1  
jbaciga1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Supt. Sec./District Clerk

Carrie Merriman  
607-844-5361 x1  
cmerrim1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Business Manager

Jennifer Case  
607-844-5361 x2  
jcase2@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Human Resource Specialist

Jordan Kashuba  
607-844-5361 x7  
jkashub1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Athletic Director/Asst. Principal

Todd Kwiatkowski  
607-844-8694 x5201  
tkwaitk1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Cheryl Covell  
607-844-8694 x2611  
ccovell1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Director of Facilities and Security

Jeff Montesano  
607-844-8694 x9241  
jmontes1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Director of Information Tech. Services

Patti MacCheyne  
607-844-8694 x4266  
pmacche1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Director of Student Services

Katie Volpicelli  
607-844-8694 x1459  
kvolpic1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Principal, Cassavant/Freeville

Audrey Ryan  
607-844-8694 x6319/7318  
aryan1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Principal, Dryden Elementary PK-2

Katie Willson  
607-844-8694 x1432  
kwillso1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Principal, Dryden Elementary 3-5

Justin Wood  
607-844-8694 x1435  
jwood1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Asst. Principal, Dryden Elementary

Tia Dickson  
607-844-8694 x1451  
tdickso1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Principal, Middle School

Lora Champlain  
607-844-8694 x4201  
lchampl1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Asst. Principal, Middle School

Greg Harris  
607-844-8694 x4211  
gharris1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Principal, High School

Sarah Powell  
607-844-8694 x5236  
spowell1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Asst. Principal, High School

Dale Sweet  
607-844-8694 x 5227  
dsweet1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### School Lunch Specialist

Megan Munson  
607-844-8694 x4206  
mmunson1@dryden.k12.ny.us

### Transportation Supervisor

Lora Cavanagh  
607-844-8684 x9240  
lcavana1@dryden.k12.ny.us

## General Contact Information

School Buildings ..... 607-844-8694  
School Office Directory ..... Press "1"  
Dryden Elementary School ..... Ext. 1  
District Office ..... Ext. 2  
Special Education Office ..... Ext. 3  
Middle School ..... Ext. 4  
High School ..... Ext. 5  
Cassavant School ..... Ext. 6  
Freeville School ..... Ext. 7  
Athletic Office ..... Ext. 5201  
Transportation ..... Ext. 9240  
Maintenance ..... Ext. 9241  
Cafeteria ..... Ext. 4205/4206  
Cassavant Elementary Nurse ..... Ext. 6228  
Dryden Elementary Nurse ..... Ext. 1454  
Freeville Elementary Nurse ..... Ext. 7236  
Middle School Nurse ..... Ext. 4233  
High School Nurse ..... Ext. 5262

## Mission Statement

**Educate and empower each  
learner to achieve excellence  
and build a better world.**



## **ALMA MATER**

By Raymond Rockefeller

Up among the towering pine trees,  
with their shades of green.

Stands the school of which we're singing,  
glorious its scene.

On the field and on the diamond  
we will fight to win.

For the school we love so dearly  
never give we in.

Chorus:

Lift the chorus, speed it onward,  
loud our voices ring.

Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,  
for to thee we sing!

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