

Culture of Music Growing at Willsboro

There seems to be less and less time nowadays that students can spend working on their music talents individually.

This makes the time spent in Mrs. Jennifer Moore's music classroom that much more important.

"I just try and make the most of every second I have with these kids," Mrs. Moore said. "Since I have been here, I have not noticed a mindset that has a lot of students practicing music on their own. That's why I love to have our students come together in the classroom."

LOVE FOR MUSIC

Willsboro Central School's music program is constantly evolving, hoping to offer as many opportunities as possible to our students. Whether it's classes during the day or clubs after school, there's a growing music community.

Students spend time with Mrs. Moore focusing on a bit of everything; choral music, band, and percussion are just a few of the main things.

"One part that makes us unique is there is an opportunity to welcome in artists from every discipline so the kids have a really broad experience with a lot of different forms of music," Mrs. Moore said.

Music benefits our students in countless ways — lowering stress levels, improving general health, bringing students together, promoting exercise, enhancing memory, and boosting academic capabilities.

WCS strives to make all these incentives a reality.

PERSONAL CONNECTION

With the energetic spirit she



Mrs. Jennifer Moore plays the piano as she works with students in her music classroom.

brings to the job, Mrs. Moore has inspired students to follow their passion of music.

Senior Mallory Arnold is a perfect example.

Arnold, who specializes in piano and singing, has spent countless hours in Mrs. Moore's classroom, expanding upon her musical knowledge and growing her love of the arts.

"She has inspired me to become what I want to be in life," Arnold said. "She is so much more than a teacher. I can talk with her about anything. She has been such a good mentor to me."

With small student-to-teacher ratios, Willsboro offers the unique opportunity to have personalized educational experiences in music and all its subjects.

GREAT TEACHER

Mrs. Moore spent time in England studying music, and when she came back to Willsboro, one thought constantly kept creeping into her head.

"I wondered how in the world am I going to bring such specialized training back to the Adirondacks?" Mrs. Moore asked herself.

Well, she has taken an energized approach to address her question.

"I work very hard to have these kids believe in themselves," Mrs. Moore said. "It's hard sometimes to allow the kids to have the mindset that they have talent. When we get on the stage, though, for a play or concert and the kids realize they are good, they are locked in. The audience is locked in and paying attention. Those are the moments we work toward."

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Welcome to Our Student Advocate: Mrs. Kori McCauliffe

Student support means everything to Willsboro Central School.

Adding Mrs. Kori McCauliffe to our faculty this school year as our Student Advocate boosted this mindset.

“I am very grateful for this opportunity and thankful to everyone at Willsboro,” Mrs. McCauliffe said. “Everyone has welcomed me, and I can already tell in the short time I have been here that everyone here is amazing to work with.”

A student advocate ensures students receive the help and resources they need to engage in a positive and constructive learning experience.

Mrs. McCauliffe is a SUNY Potsdam alumna with a degree in sociology.

She possesses nearly 20 years of experience in her field and has worked with a wide range of clients ranging from newborns to the elderly.

“I have had a lot of background working with children and counselling, and I have always looked for an opportunity to work in a school district,” Mrs. McCauliffe said. “This was the perfect opportunity for me because I enjoy working with kids.”

Whether it’s helping students with their personal or educational needs, Mrs. McCauliffe is ready to provide support. She’s a welcomed addition to our school community, and we



Mrs. Kori McCauliffe, our student advocate, is here to offer additional support to our Willsboro students.

look forward to her leadership for years to come.

“I am trying to work on taking a proactive approach so we can get to know and work with the kids when they are in a good and healthy mindset,” Mrs. McCauliffe said. “That allows us to help them more in many ways when it comes to dealing with their needs and potential crisis scenarios.”

As she moves forward with this job, Mrs. McCauliffe has one specific priority always at the forefront.

“I want to see all our students succeed and create educational pathways for themselves to better their futures because that’s why we are all here,” Mrs. McCauliffe said.

“It’s important to make sure they are in a good place with their mindset and have a positive approach to everything they are doing when they are in school and even when they are not.”

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ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

Mrs. Moore and WCS’s music program do the best they can to offer students musical perspectives not just centered on classroom work.

Whether it’s field trips to Broadway, having guest speakers come to class, or working together in various musical clubs, Mrs. Moore is determined to create endless opportunities.

“I know I have the musical skills because of years of lessons and great teachers to perform in a bigger environment,” Arnold said. “Willsboro may be a small school, but that does not take away from the opportunities we get to set ourselves up for in our futures, and I am ready for college.”

Arnold’s mindset is exactly what Willsboro wants for all its students and certainly what Mrs. Moore wants

everyone to know about her music program and the extracurricular opportunities offered.

“There is a lot of support here in terms of exploring music,” Mrs. Moore said. “The most important thing I have been told is if it benefits the kids and their education, the answer is yes. The answer is always yes when it comes to promoting educational opportunities for our students.”

STRATEGIC PLAN



We are proud to share our Strategic Plan (2022-2027) that will shape the work of our school community for years to come. Thank you to our committee members for the countless hours spent to shape this plan that aligns with the WCS mission, vision, and values to life. Scan the QR code or visit <https://www.willsborocsd.org/district/strategic-plan/> to view our plan.

Learning from Afar: Willsboro Students Embrace Distance Learning Opportunities

Willsboro Central School wants to offer as many educational opportunities as possible to its students, and those learning avenues keep expanding.

Thanks to our strategic planning efforts last school year, students are already reaping the benefits with alternative distance learning classes.

Whether it's Native American History, Contemporary Issues in Science, or Library Skills, Willsboro students are taking advantage of these classes from afar this fall.

HOW IT HAPPENED AND WORKS

“One theme that emerged from strategic planning discussions with students, parents, community members and staff was asking how do we as a smaller school give our students the same opportunities larger schools may offer,” Willsboro Superintendent of Schools Justin Gardner said.

These distance learning opportunities were one solution offered, and it's been an exciting addition to the Willsboro curriculum.

From our school, Willsboro students participate electronically in classes taking place in Duanesburg (Contemporary Issues in Science), St. Regis Falls (Native American History)



From left to right, Willsboro students Mallory Arnold, Bella Harrison and Lexi Nolette type on their computers as they participate remotely in their Contemporary Issues in Science class offered through Duanesburg.

and Green Island Central School (Library Skills).

NERIC facilitates all classes offered and supports and coordinates all technology needs to make this concept a reality between various school districts.

“Through this, we are now able to give our students access to advanced course work that we were not able to offer here because of staffing, scheduling constraints or lack of students enrolled in a class,” Mr. Gardner said.

AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

There's certainly a new level of appreciation from students who are taking these classes. Students are embracing the opportunity to try something new, and simultaneously, they are receiving college credits.



Students are able to participate in distance learning classes in a Willsboro classroom.

“The teachers make you feel included in the class even though you are not physically in the classroom,” Willsboro senior Lexi Nolette said. “I really like the classes. It's an opportunity other students should be interested in moving forward.

It's an adjustment in the sense that we participate electronically, but other than that, everything feels the same in terms of the learning experience.”

Nolette is participating in Native American History

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Deputy John Pollock Back at WCS

A familiar face has returned to Willsboro, and he's happy to be back.

Deputy John Pollock from the Essex County Sheriff's Department is Willsboro Central School's new School Resource Officer.

Pollock is a 2011 graduate of WCS, and the former Warrior returned to school for his new role this September.

"I was very excited for this opportunity," Pollock said. "This year is super special to me because my son Mason is starting Pre-K. It's pretty cool to be here with him because it's like we both have gone back to school together."

The Willsboro community means a lot to Pollock. He has lived here his whole life and found opportunities for himself and family to stay here.

He graduated from SUNY Canton after majoring in Criminal Justice and Homeland Security. A year prior to graduating, Pollock was offered his first job opportunity as a Corrections Officer within the Essex County Sheriff's Department.

Prior to the pandemic, WCS had an SRO, but the

position went away when schools shifted to remote learning during the spring of 2020.

Now as school settings return to normalcy, Pollock appreciates the opportunity to fill this role. He's quickly settled into the position and formed a nice routine.

"I start every day out by greeting parents and students as they come into the school," Pollock said.

He does routine safety checks throughout the day and makes sure all exterior entrances and exits are secure.

"I also love interacting with students," Pollock said. "They are getting to know me a little more, and it's fun to just pop in on a class from time to time. I love being in this school."

Pollock is a member of the WCS District Safety Team and helps to review the district safety plans and procedures.

And in addition to being in the school, it's the community that Pollock loves the most.

"Everyone is very close-knit," Pollock said. "It's such a small town and a small school. Everyone looks out for each other, and we have a great family here."



Deputy John Pollock is our new School Resource Officer for the 2022-2023 school year.

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and Contemporary Issues in Science. She encouraged fellow Willsboro Senior Bella Harrison to take the science course with her.

"I actually was not planning on taking the class, but then Lexi told me about it, and I was signed up the next day," Harrison said. "I was already thinking about it, but it's a different opportunity. I was a little hesitant, but I am glad Lexi told me how she was enjoying it."

RESULTS FROM STRATEGIC PLANNING

As WCS continues to implement various components of its strategic plan, seeing some immediate results has been positive encouragement.

"We wanted strategic planning to make a real difference in our school and make a real difference for our students," Mr. Gardner said. "There are some things that will take more time, but

seeing some immediate results with this distance learning opportunity is excellent."

In the future, Willsboro students will have the chance to take a psychology class via distance learning, and WCS plans to even host distance learning classes of its own for other schools.

"I would definitely like to see more of these classes offered in the future because it's a really cool concept, and it's a change of pace for us as students," Nolette said.

The change of pace is

also welcomed by Harrison who believes distance learning is a great tool for college preparation.

"In terms of stepping out of our comfort zone, it's a great way for us to get ready for college," Harrison said. "Being in a small school, I think it's cool to have new opportunities to take advantage of. We are getting college credits, and at the same time, we are learning how to embrace different learning opportunity."