

Positivity Project Arrives at Willsboro Central School

There's plenty of positivity at Willsboro Central School.

And it's not just from the good energy and spirit brought by students, faculty and staff each day.

Beginning this year, WCS is now a partner school of The Positivity Project, which means faculty will have resources to 32 weeks of grade-level presentations for daily 15-minute digital lessons and much more.

"We are very excited to bring this to Willsboro and involve our entire school in this initiative,"

Willsboro Principal Sarah Paquette said. "Our entire building is invested in The Positivity Project, and the planning process has been great with plenty of collaboration."

Willsboro initially planned to begin the project during the 2024-2025 school year, however, those plans were expedited to better support students.

So with a plan to begin in November, there's plenty of excitement for all involved.

Through the project, students in Pre-K through 12th grade learn about 24 different character strengths throughout the school year.

Each week, WCS teachers will focus on one specific character strength and

incorporate it into their curriculum and lessons for the day and/or week.

"The whole entire goal of this is to try and help students learn how to build positive relationships," Paquette said. "That is the premise behind The Positivity Project. Helping kids see beyond themselves and seeing how their relationships impact other people is great."

The character strengths taught stem from courage, wisdom, humanity, transcendence, temperance and justice.

Learning these character

strengths aim to help children establish a foundation for genuine self-confidence in self-awareness and emphasizes the importance of working together.

Paquette is working with a 10-teacher committee to bring the realities of The Positivity Project to life.

"Seeing that we are a small school and have our students all in one building, we have the unique opportunity to bring elements of this project into our school and make it our own."

The new mantra at WCS is "One Building. One School."

On early release days, Willsboro has plans in place to partner older students

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THE POSITIVITY PROJECT

School Mascot Update

Willsboro CSD Community,

All school stakeholder groups (students, parents, staff, alumni, and community members) are invited to participate in the selection of the new Willsboro Central School mascot.

The final round of voting begins on November 6 and concludes on November 17. Make sure to cast your vote.

For more information on how to vote, please scan the QR code below or visit: <https://www.willsborocsd.org/mascot/>

Anyone without internet access will be able to vote in person in the District Office.



School Communication with ParentSquare

Willsboro CSD utilizes ParentSquare as a tool to help the district easily communicate and collaborate with parents. Additionally, ParentSquare has a feature that allows non-parents members of our school community to receive updates from the school.

Parents Encouraged to Download Free Mobile App

If you haven't already downloaded the ParentSquare app, we would recommend doing so to stay connected with our school. The free app is available on Google Play, Apple, or wherever you download your apps.

A few of the things you can do on the app:

View Posts: news and happenings in the class, grade, school, or groups

Events: look at the school calendar and save events on your phone

Photos: easily view and download class and school photos

Participate: volunteer for events, sign-up to bring an item, or fill out a form

Communicate: message with staff or your classroom teacher

ParentSquare Updates Available to Community

As a member of the Willsboro CSD community, we welcome and encourage you to join our community updates group on ParentSquare. This group will be used to provide information and updates to members of our school community who are not already enrolled in ParentSquare as students, parents, guardians or staff members. If you already have a ParentSquare account as a parent or staff member, you do not need to sign up for this group. Topics of information that will be sent out include updates on things happening on campus, budget information, board meeting agendas and school event information.

Signing Up for ParentSquare Community Updates

Signing up for community updates is quick and easy. Use the following link or QR Code to get started: bit.ly/WCScommunityupdates



SCAN
HERE TO
SIGN UP FOR
COMMUNITY
UPDATES

FREE LUNCH FORM



Don't forget to complete the free lunch form here! We rely on this information to assure we receive proper grant funding and can continue to provide free, healthy and nutritious meals for our students every day. Scan the QR code here to complete this form.



Willsboro Alumna Returns to Teach Math

Karen Manning is back at home. The Willsboro alumna has returned to her roots to teach math to middle and high school students.

When the opportunity to come back to a place she is all too familiar with arose, she jumped at the opportunity.

“I was really excited when I saw this chance to come back to the place I went to school at,” Manning said. “I figured this would be a great opportunity to make a difference at the school I grew up in myself.”

Manning replaced longtime WCS math teacher Charmaine Flynn who retired last year.

Prior to her return, Manning was teaching in CV-TEC’s Adult Education program helping students obtain their GED.

While shifting from adult education back to the traditional school setting is certainly a shift in environment, it’s one she welcomes.

“This is where I grew up,” Manning said. “I am just getting to know kids whose parents I went to school with. I am really happy to be here, and the staff is really supportive of each other.”



To make things even better, there is another Manning in the building.

Her son, Erik Manning, is the Technology and Shop Teacher.

“This is a perfect way for me to enjoy the latter part of my career,” she said. “I am back at home, and I am here in the same building teaching with my son. I even asked him before I took the job if this would be weird for him, and he did not have a problem with it at all. I say that jokingly, but it’s just a fantastic scenario to be in.”

Karen is already channeling her past as well.

For Spirit Day this year, she dug out her old basketball jacket to wear to school.

“I brought back that corduroy,” she said. “You just know I had to do that.”

With the nostalgia combined with a supportive staff around her, Karen knows this is the right place and opportunity for her.

“I can’t stress enough how great the staff is here,” she said. “It’s really nice to be back with kids again. Some of the things they say are just so funny, and they are great to be around.”



New Teacher Brings Personal Experiences

A new face can be seen teaching at Willsboro CSD this year. Andra Hogle was welcomed as a middle school social studies teacher. She has more than 10 years of experience working with students across all age ranges.

Hogle is taking over for longtime WCS social studies teacher Jack Daly.

She was drawn to Willsboro for the small school environment, where she could connect with her colleagues and students. Hogle liked the smaller school to build better relationships and for the tight-knit community.

“The students are great, and the staff is very supportive, friendly and welcoming,” Hogle said. “I like the challenge of teaching for different grade levels, so as a newcomer, it can be overwhelming at first. But it helps me grow and helps me do a better job.”

Hogle taught as a teaching assistant, long-term substitute and a Learning Center tutor. She worked with students from Pre-K through high school. She and her husband have lived in the area for more than 20 years, and she has worked in local school districts.

Now as a social studies teacher, Hogle brings a unique



experience to the classroom. Hogle is from Estonia, a small country in Northern Europe that borders Russia, and received her history degree in Europe. She is also fluent in five languages: German, English, Russian, French and Norwegian.

“I try to expose my students to different things, like my experiences,” Hogle said. “Whenever I do background knowledge, I like to expose students to my experiences when it ties to the curriculum, which broadens their overall view of the world and Europe.”

Hogle wants to engage her students with history by using different teaching styles to capitalize on their

interests while broadening their knowledge. Hogle also has a nutrition degree, so she likes to incorporate food geography and food history lessons.

“I get to know my students’ strengths and weaknesses. I get to know their likes, dislikes and hobbies, and that helps me with lesson planning. I can try to incorporate those things in, like sports or language,” Hogle said. “I try to tie those interests into the lesson so that it engages them and helps students understand them as individuals.”

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and their classes with younger students for what will be considered “One Building. One School.” time.

“With the entire school centered on The Positivity Project, we have the chance to have all our students — no matter their age — collaborating and working together,” Paquette said. “We are excited to have this tool help bring our school together even more.”

The togetherness and teamwork — one of the 24 character strengths taught — will certainly be prominent aspects of what all hope The Positivity Project creates.

“The feedback we have received from our staff for this has been very positive,” Paquette said. “We have a lot of people steering in the same direction and motivated to use this tool to the best of our ability. We can’t wait to see how this positively impacts our students and school.”

