

Center School Digital Backpack

August 28, 2015

[Click here-----CES Flyers-----Click here](#)

If this link does not work, go to

<http://www.centerelementary.ct.wde.schoolinsites.com/>

Summer Challenge

We issued the students a challenge to complete five tasks at home this summer and send us pictures completing the different challenges below. All pictures should be emailed to kstevens@willingtonct.org and we will create a slideshow to share with students. The challenge items are listed below.

1. Read: take a photo of you reading alone, with someone, or to someone
2. Math: take a photo of you completing some math activity
3. Play outside: take a photo of you playing outside
4. Write: take a photo of you writing or send Mr. Stevens a letter
5. Community Service: take a photo of you doing something to help our community

Meet and Greet

Thank you to all the families that attended the Meet and Greet. I think it was our largest crowd ever!

First Days of School Successful

We had a fantastic transition back to school thanks to the hard work of all the members of our Center School community. We look forward to a great school year!

Handbook

Our Center School handbook is online at <http://www.centerelementary.ct.wde.schoolinsites.com>. We have our [handbook](#) online to save 3800 copies! Families need to review the handbook and return the sign-off page (last page) by Tuesday, September 8th. We are sending home a hard copy of the sign-off page in backpacks on Monday. I will also send home an email on Monday with an online version for families that would like to complete the sign-off page digitally! Please contact the office if you are unable to view the handbook online.

Attendance Rewards

We have teamed up with Horace Mann to reward students for outstanding attendance. At the end of the first trimester, students with perfect attendance (no absences) will receive a prize. Prizes will also be awarded for the 2nd and 3rd trimester. Please avoid taking your child out of school unless they are sick. We appreciate your support in helping us provide your child a quality education.

Want a meeting with a teacher?

I encourage all teachers to be accessible to parents whether it is through email, phone or a personal meeting. If you would like to meet with a teacher in person, please schedule an appointment with them so they can prepare any materials necessary for the meeting. Drop-in appointments are not recommended, as teachers need time to prepare materials and attend meetings. If you call the teacher and they are in class, we will gladly put you into the teacher's voicemail. If you have an emergency, please contact the office.

Student Expectations

During the first two days of school, Center School staff taught lessons to all the students about appropriate behavior in school. Expectations were shared with students in the natural setting (hallway, bathroom, bus, cafeteria, assembly and recess). All the expectations were shared in a positive manner to let students know

what they should do (see bus expectations example below). If your child comes home with a blue sticker that says they made a good choice at school, please ask them about it! The blue stickers are directly related to our school expectations.

Bus Expectations

Caring for others

- Keep aisle clear
- Keep hands, body and backpack in your space.
- Stay in your seat.

Responsible for self

- Sit on your bottom, feet on floor
- Walk to bus
- Face forward
- Talk with a quiet voice
- Listen to the driver

Respect for property

- Take care of seats and floor.

Student Contact Forms

Student contact forms will be coming today with your individual information on it. Please update the information and send it back to school with your child by Wednesday, September 16th. Please send the form back signed and dated whether you have changes or not. Please neatly print all information! Thank you!

Cafeteria Reward

Students that earn a blue good choice sticker in the cafeteria are entered into a raffle for special Friday seating in the cafeteria. Mrs. Nichols, head cook, helped decorate the tables with festive plates, real silverware, fancy cups and placemats. Special seating will be open for students in first through fourth grade, and kindergarten students will eventually join the fun as well.

Extra Clothes

It is a great idea to leave a change of clothes in a bag in the bottom of your child's backpack. You never know when a child will have an accident or spill their drink! The nurse has very limited items to loan to students, and children always feel more comfortable in their own clothes! Pack a plastic bag with a full change of clothes and store it in the bottom of their backpack.

PowerSchool Passwords

PowerSchool is our student operating system that allows parents the ability to review their child's attendance, grades and lunch balance. Usernames and passwords will be sent home with new students and kindergarten students in their backpack next week. Parents of returning students can use the same username and password from last year. If you have lost your username and/or password, please contact Joan Cordier in the office for help.

Mark Your Calendar

September

- 7 Labor Day, no school
- 14-25 STAR Testing Window (gr. 2, 3 & 4)
- 15 PTA meeting, 6:30
- 16 SEPTO Meeting, 6:30

- 18 Center Stage
- 24 CES Photos
- 25 Recess Games Day & Safety Day (tentative)

October

- 1 CES Curriculum Night (tentative)
- 2 National Custodial Worker Day
- 6 Flu Clinic 3:00-5:00PM
- 9 Staff Development, Minimum Day
- 12 Columbus Day, no school
- 12-16 National School Lunch Week
- 13 Staff Development Day, no school
- 16 Center Stage
- 17 SEPTO Parent Advocacy Workshop
- 19-23 National School Bus Safety week
- 20 PTA meeting, 6:30
- 21 SEPTO Meeting, 6:30
- 24 SEPTO Parent Advocacy Workshop

Flyers Attached

- CES Math at Home
- CES SEPTO thank you letter
- CES lunch menu
- SEPTO membership form
- SEPTO program: Building Successful Partnerships
- SEPTO program: Parent Advocacy Boot Camp
- Willington Parks and Recreation: Foil Fencing
- Willington Parks and Recreation: Zumba
- YMCA After School Program

Previous Digital Backpack Items

Welcome to the Center School 2015-2016 Digital Backpack!

I hope that you had a wonderful summer! I'm looking forward to an amazing school year with our wonderful students and staff. We will continue to use the Digital Backpack every Friday as a method for communicating with parents and community members. The Center School Digital Backpack is intended to provide parents with up-to-date school information. The Digital Backpack will be emailed to help reduce the amount of paper we send home each week. Field trip permission forms, parent sign-off forms, and class specific items will still go home through backpacks, but school-wide announcements including handouts and informational items will be distributed through our Digital Backpack. Community members can sign up for the Digital Backpack by emailing jcordier@willingtonct.org and writing subscribe or unsubscribe to the Center School Digital Backpack. The Digital Backpack will also be posted on our website every Friday.

<http://www.ces.willingtonpublicschools.org/>

First Day of School and Meet and Greet

The **first day of school** is Wednesday, August 26, 2015. **We will host a *Meet and Greet* on Tuesday, August 25 from 9:00-10:00am.** Students and families should meet on the field behind the school at 9:00am with their classroom teacher. We will parade around the school shortly after 9:00am and each class will march into their

own classroom. Following the classroom visit, students will be able to participate in a scavenger hunt within the building. The *Meet and Greet* will conclude with a parade out of the school onto the blacktop where we will take a photo of our entire Center School community. If we have a rainy day, the parade and photo will be canceled and students will go directly to their classroom. We hope you can join us to celebrate the opening of the 2015-2016 school year. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Bus Routes

The bus routes and times are attached! Slight changes may occur.

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