

# Center School Digital Backpack

September 4, 2015

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

If this link does not work, go to

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

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus

All fourth grade students received a letter in their backpack regarding chorus. Please review the letter and contract with your child and return the signed portion to school if they are interested in joining. Today was the first rehearsal, but it is not too late to sign up!

## Welcome Our New Staff

Welcome to our new staff that we will be sharing with Hall School; Ms. Pantaleo is teaching Spanish and Mrs. Daigle is teaching art. Please welcome them into our Center School community!

## 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 8<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## 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](mailto: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

## Student Contact Forms

Student contact forms came home with your individual information on it. Please update the information and send it back to school with your child by Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Please send the form back signed and dated whether you have changes or not. Please neatly print all information! Thank you!

## 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 Substitute Search  
CES SEPTO thank you letter  
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  
WYFSS Yoga  
Willington Pack 82 Scouts  
YMCA After School Program

## **Previous Digital Backpack Items**

### **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!

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## **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.

The Center School Digital Backpack is intended to provide parents with up-to-date school information. The Digital Backpack will be emailed to help us 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*. Help us conserve paper by signing up for the *Digital Backpack*. Parents and community members can sign up for the Digital Backpack by emailing [jcordier@willingtonct.org](mailto:jcordier@willingtonct.org) and writing subscribe (or unsubscribe) to Center School Digital Backpack.