



Madrid – Waddington Central School

**District Newsletter
December 2024**

Board of Education

- Robert Smith- President
- Amber Sullivan - Vice President
- Wyatt Boswell
- Bruce Durant
- Charles Grant
- Ryan Hayes
- Katheryn Logan
- Christopher Pryce
- Michael Ruddy

Members

All meetings are at 6:30 PM in the high school library unless otherwise noted.

- Tuesday, December 10- Regular Meeting
- Tuesday, January 21- Regular Meeting
- Tuesday, February 11- Regular Meeting
- Tuesday, March 25- Regular Meeting
- Tuesday, April 8- Special Budget Meeting (Optional)
- Tuesday, April 29- Regular Meeting, BOCES Budget Vote
- Tuesday, May 13- Public Budget Hearing at 5:00 PM
- Tuesday, May 20- Budget & Board Member Vote, Bus Referendum
- Tuesday, June 10- Regular Meeting

Meeting Dates

District Contact Information

Phone: 315-322-5746

Elementary Main Office.....Ext. 35201	Fax #: 315-322-0030
High School Main Office.....Ext. 35200	Fax #: 315-322-4462
Guidance Office.....Ext. 35218	Fax #: 315-322-5769
CSE OfficeExt. 35217	Fax #: 315-322-5861
School Lunch Manager.....Ext. 35230	Fax #: 315-322-4462
Bus Garage.....Ext. 35401	
Superintendent's Office.....Ext. 35221	Fax #: 315-322-4462

Happy
Holidays

From the Desk of **Mr. Burke** *Superintendent*

As the last traces of warm weather are giving way to the unpredictable cold and snow of a North Country winter our staff and students are prepared to carry on the momentum of a tremendous opening semester. Our halls have been bustling with energy as students engage in countless activities, from academic challenges to athletic events and creative performances. The dedication and enthusiasm they've shown this semester are truly inspiring, reflecting the vibrant spirit of our school community.

This success would not be possible without the unwavering commitment of our staff, who go above and beyond to provide enriching opportunities for our students. From after-school programs that nurture curiosity and creativity to partnerships with local colleges offering dual enrollment courses, our educators ensure that every student has access to experiences that prepare them for bright futures. These initiatives deliver exceptional academic value, reflecting the strong return on the community's investment in our district.

This sense of collaboration and forward momentum extends beyond the classroom, as we are excited to share updates on the initial phases of the voter approved capital project. We anticipate work on the bus garage heating system to begin in the next few weeks and are working on our temporary meal service plan in preparation for the high school kitchen renovations to commence after April break. The bus garage heating system was an immediate need so that part of the project was separated and submitted for approval as an initial phase which helped expedite the process. The remainder of the project scope has recently been approved by NY State and we are preparing to take this out for bid in the near future. The voter approved improvements will enhance learning spaces, modernize facilities, and create even more opportunities for students and the community alike. Thank you for your continued support as we bring these exciting plans to life.

As we enter the heart of winter, we're also mindful of the importance of staying healthy during cold and flu season. We encourage families to reinforce habits like frequent handwashing, covering coughs, and keeping students home when they're unwell. Our nursing staff is always available to assist with questions about symptoms or illnesses and can provide helpful guidance to ensure students stay on the path to wellness.

During this time of year, we're also pleased to offer our community members opportunities to stay active and connected. Our fitness center, ski trails, and indoor walking areas remain open to the public, providing ways to embrace the season. Groomed ski trails and free Saturday ski loans—weather permitting—offer a great opportunity for outdoor fun and exercise.

As we look ahead to the new year, we're filled with gratitude for the incredible support and collaboration that define the Madrid-Waddington community. Thank you for all you do to help us succeed, and we wish you a happy, healthy, and joyful holiday season!

From the Desk of **Mr. Binion** *Middle/High School*



SEASONS GREETINGS M-W FRIENDS AND FAMILY

I wanted to remind everyone of our upcoming Winter Concert Dates. We hope to see you there. When attending any of the concerts, we ask if everyone could please help us out and be courteous to our neighbors on Brady Road by not parking on their lawn? Thank you for your support and understanding.

Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 7:00 pm:

Winter Concert- 6th Grade Chorus, 6th Grade Band, MS Chorus, MS Band, MS Select

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 7:00 pm:

Winter Concert- High School Chorus, High School Band, Stardust, Stage Band

Christmas Spirit Week Themes:

Monday 12/16- Holiday Icon- Dress up as your favorite Holiday Character!

Tuesday 12/17 - Festive Frosty- dress as a snowman or wear White- White Out!!!

Wednesday 12/18 - Twin Day

Thursday 12/19- Christmas PJs

Friday 12/20- Ugly Sweater Day

This year Holiday Break will take place December 23rd - January 1st.

Students will return to school on Thursday January 2nd.

The week of January 20th-24th, Regents Exams will be administered for students in grades 9-12. Not all students will be taking an exam, so please remind your child(ren) to check with their teachers.

As we celebrate this season of hope, gratitude, and generosity, I encourage you to join me in expressing our heartfelt thanks to our incredible staff. We are truly fortunate to have such an outstanding team here at Madrid-Waddington.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!

Sincerely,
Joe Binion

From the Desk of **Ms. Weakfall** *Elementary School*



GREETINGS ELEMENTARY FAMILIES,

It's hard to believe we're already preparing to celebrate the holidays and are well into the second quarter of the school year. This year's Parent-Teacher conferences were very well attended and it was wonderful to see so many families partnering with teachers to encourage the success of our students.

Our students have been working hard in all areas of their learning. From mastering new math concepts to exploring narrative writing, their enthusiasm and determination are truly inspiring. As we get December in full swing, we have lots of fun planned for students and their families! Elementary students are invited to join our staff on special Spirit Fridays throughout the month. If your child would like to participate, here are the themes for each day:

December 6 - Grinch vs. Santa - Wear green or red!

December 13 - Cozy Flannel/Mad About Plaid

December 20 - Ugly Sweater Day

Families and community members are invited to join us for our Holiday Concerts which will be taking place on Wednesday and Thursday, December 11th and 12th. We have SUCH a supportive community that we have to break the show up into sections to allow enough room in the auditorium to accommodate our guests!

The schedule for the concerts is as follows:

December 11th at 6:00 PM - Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grade (approx 30 minutes)

December 12th at 6:00 PM - 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Band/Chorus (approx 45 minutes)

***When visiting the school, we ask that you are courteous to our neighbors on the Brady Road and do not park on their lawns.**

As the weather continues to change, please be sure to send your child to school with winter clothing that is suitable for outdoor recess. We will be going outside for recess each day the "feels like" temperature is at least 20 degrees. If you are having difficulty getting winter clothing for your child, please reach out for support.

I WISH YOU ALL A SAFE, HAPPY, AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!!!

Sincerely,
Nicole



MWCS Athletic Hall of Fame

The Madrid-Waddington Central School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee has been working diligently to catch up on our inductions after a twelve year hiatus. This past summer, our group reached that goal. We are now gathering information on former student-athletes for the next induction ceremony. Our next induction ceremony will be homecoming weekend in August 2026. We encourage people to continue to nominate someone deserving of such recognition.

Criteria for nomination are as follows:

An athlete must have been out of school a minimum of 10 years and have played in at least 2 sports and obtained a minimum of 3 All Northern Awards (not all in the same sport).

Coaches must have coached a minimum of 10 years in a sport for which they are nominated, and must be out of coaching a minimum of 5 years.

A community member can be nominated at any time.

Those athletes who were previously nominated, but not selected, will remain under consideration for up to 5 years.

If you would like to nominate a deserving individual, coach, community member, or an administrator, forms can be obtained on the Madrid-Waddington Athletic website or attached in the school newsletter.

All nomination forms and required material are to be submitted by **February 7th, 2025**.

Please send the information to Justin Richards, MWCS PO Box 67 Madrid, NY 13660.

As per last year, donations will be very appreciated.

Please send your donations to Marsha Watson at PO Box 53 Madrid, NY 13660.



Guidance Department **Ms. Pribek** **Mrs. Siddon**

FAFSA and TAP Application Guide

FAFSA is Now Open!

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now open! It's highly recommended that all students, even those not planning to attend college, complete the FAFSA. There are numerous unclaimed funds available for alternative educational paths such as trade schools and training programs.

Getting Started with FAFSA

1. **Visit the Federal Student Aid website:** <https://studentaid.gov>
 - Create a student account to begin your FAFSA application.
2. **Apply for your FSA ID:**
 - This is crucial as it allows you to electronically sign your FAFSA.
 - **One parent** will also need an FSA ID.
 - If a sibling has already completed a FAFSA with your parent's information, no new FSA ID is needed for your parent.
3. **Timing:**
 - Obtaining your FSA ID can take a few days. Start this process **at least one week** before you plan to begin your FAFSA.
 - Set aside **one uninterrupted hour** to complete the FAFSA.

TAP for NYS Residents

For New York State residents attending a NYS college, the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) application opens on **December 1, 2024**. Here are some key points:

- **Complete the FAFSA first**, then proceed with the TAP application.
- Ensure **all identifying information matches** between your TAP and FAFSA applications.
- You can only enter **one college** for TAP initially, but changing schools later is simple.

Need Assistance?

- **Contact your School Counselor** for help throughout this process.
- **Attend the Complete Your FAFSA Workshop:**
 - **Date:** Saturday, January 11, 2025
 - **Time:** 10 AM – Noon
 - **Location:** HS Library, Madrid Waddington Central School.
 - **Hosted by:** SUNY Potsdam's Financial Aid Office.
 - **Requirements:** Students and one parent must have received their FSA ID numbers prior to the workshop. Bring all necessary documents and questions.
 - **Extras:** Secured Chromebooks will be available, and coffee will be served.

Contact the Guidance Office at 315-322-5746, Ext. 35214 for more details or if you have any questions.

Career Resource Information and Websites

Occupational Outlook Handbook: www.bls.gov/ooh

Prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, this website is updated annually with information on occupations that include nature of the work, working conditions, qualifications and training needed, employment, job outlook, earnings, related occupations and sources of additional information.

Career Info Net: www.careeronestop.org

Prepared by the Department of Labor, this site is actually composed of 4 sites in one, so in addition to CareerInfoNet, you will find and be able to directly link to the Career One Stop, the Job Bank and the Service Locator. Though all the sites are job search oriented, the Career Info Net has industry and occupation information, and it is categorized as well by state. There is a Career Tools section that includes a resume tutorial among other exceptional resources, and the entire site is very easily navigable and user friendly.

Guidance Direct: Career Connections www.guidancedirect.com

This program is available to all students attending Madrid-Waddington. Many of our students utilized the program last spring and were able to complete an interest inventory and/or a resume. College and scholarship information is also available to students. To access Madrid-Waddington's Guidance Direct information, use the following Student Login ID and password:

MWCS School ID: 4692095

MWCS School Password: TkjKHhHa6N

For students who have already set up an account, you can retrieve information and sign onto your account to access additional information. If you have forgotten your login information, please check with the Guidance Office. For students who would like to set up an account, simply click on "Student Login" and follow the steps. Guidance Direct can be accessed from any computer with Internet capabilities.

GPS for Success: mygpsforsuccess.com

GPS For Success is a multi-platform website where students and adults can watch, read and learn about career opportunities, income potential and education/training requirements in 16 career clusters outlined nationally as experiencing a shortage of skilled workers entering the workforce. GPS For Success was recently awarded a Certificate of Excellence by the New York State Economic Development Council in multi-media marketing.

CareerZone: www.careerzone.ny.gov

CareerZone is an innovative online career exploration and planning system designed especially for today's high-tech youth in New York State. CareerZone presents current and relevant occupational and labor market information in a clear and interesting way, making career exploration and planning fun and easy. CareerZone leverages the power of the web to provide: information on 800 occupations from the national Occupational Information Network (O*NET) Database; the latest labor market information from the state Department of Labor; and interactive middle and high school career portfolios aligned with the NYS Education Department Career Plan initiative. Links to college exploration and planning resources help youth begin their life/work journey. Over 450 career videos provide a visual of the workplace and bring careers to life. Up-to-date job postings provide a glimpse into the local labor market and an ability to apply for positions. The expanded resume builder helps youth prepare one of the most important tools needed for a successful job search.

Youth in grades 6-12 most often use CareerZone to start their career exploration journey by beginning with the Interest, Work Values and Skill assessment tools to explore potential careers. A middle school and high school career portfolio are available to help youth create a meaningful plan for their future education and career choices.

**CEEB Code used
for financial aid or
for use on college
applications:
332970**

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE
<http://cssprofile.collegeboard.org>
*This financial aid form is only used
by some colleges & scholarship
programs
*A list of those programs who use
the PROFILE is available on the
website
*The PROFILE is a fully web-based
application system & there is an
application fee for this form



**DON'T
MISS OUT!**

College Application Deadlines

Each individual college has their own deadline for applications.

Seniors should pay special attention to these deadlines. The Guidance Department recommends that seniors have their applications complete and sent in to the college by December 1. This allows time for transcripts and other important information regarding the application process to be gathered. More importantly, seniors should hear back from the college by early Spring if they have their applications in early, making their remaining months of high school less stressful.

Career and Technical Education



The Guidance Office hosts a field trip in collaboration with Northwest Technical Center in Ogdensburg for all students in grade 10.

This trip helps students experience a variety of the programs that are available to them in their junior and senior years.

This year we are scheduled to visit the Tech Center on

Wednesday, February 25, 2025

Gateways to Careers @ SUNY Canton ~ March 12, 2025 ~

Juniors enrolled in English 11 and all seniors who attend a Career and Technical Educational program will participate in this program. Gateways to Careers is a college and career readiness workshop, which annually provides more than 1,200 students from component school districts, the opportunity to learn critical job seeking skills as well as the knowledge of how a well-developed resume, solid communication skills, and a positive attitude can impact their future success.

Winter Break

December 21 - January 1

Mid-Winter Break

February 17 - 21, 2025

School Breaks



Spring Break

April 18 - April 25, 2025

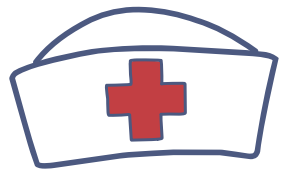


Scholarships for Seniors – Class of 2025



If you have considered sponsoring a scholarship or award for a graduating Senior, but not sure how to go about it, here is some information for you. Scholarships will be announced at our June 2024 graduation ceremony. Scholarships may be donated by individuals, families, organizations and corporations. Donations are made for varied reasons: In memory of a loved one, in recognition of a well-deserved accomplishment, or to help a student that is continuing in a certain trade or continuing on to college.

Recipients are chosen in several different ways: by the MWCS Scholarship Committee, by the donor, or by committees organized within the donating business or charity. Our Madrid-Waddington Central School graduates always appreciate the recognition and monetary support. It's never too early to consider donating a scholarship or award for a member of this year's graduating Class of 2025. In fact, in late January, informational letters will be mailed out to past donors outlining the timeline for scholarship donations. If you would like to receive this information, please email Sabrina Pribek at spribek@mwcsk12.org or call 315-322-5746, Ext. 35215.



Injuries and School Accident Insurance

Please report all injuries immediately! We cannot stress enough the importance of prompt reporting to the School Nurse when your child is injured in a school activity. If a Student Accident Claim form is not completed on your child within 72 hours of the injury, our supplemental insurance plan (Student Accident Insurance administered by Philadelphia Insurance Company) may not be able to make payment.

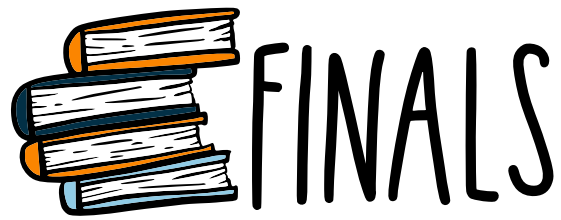
Coverage is only for school-sponsored, teacher supervised activities which are a part of the regular school program.

This is an excess coverage, your primary insurance comes first. Benefits are available only after all other insurance has been utilized. Please submit to your own insurance(s) first before submitting any balances to the school Philadelphia Insurance Company will require itemized bills from all dates of services, as well as the EOB (Explanation of Benefits) from your insurance company. Submit claims as promptly as possible as there is a one year deadline for all claims. The claim must be mailed within one year from the date of injury. The Plan has a schedule of benefits, and pays according to that schedule. Please do not expect the plan to pay all of the excess medical charges.

If your medical bills are in excess of the scheduled plan payments, the difference is the responsibility of the parents. Under this policy, the school may not be held legally responsible for the remaining unpaid balance.

Your child is covered by this insurance program once he or she gets on a school bus on the way to school and until he or she gets off the bus on the way home. Students who: walk to school, drive cars, or ride bicycles are not covered until they enter the school building.

Please contact the School Nurse and Philadelphia Insurance Company with all accident/injury related questions. The Student Accident Claim form is available from the School Nurse.



EXAMINATION SCHEDULE: JANUARY 2025

Students must verify with their schools the exact times that they are to report for their State examinations.

JANUARY 21 TUESDAY	JANUARY 22 WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 23 THURSDAY	JANUARY 24 FRIDAY
9:15 a.m.	9:15 a.m.	9:15 a.m.	9:15 a.m.
English Language Arts	Geometry U.S. History & Government	Global History & Geography II	Living Environment
1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.	<u>Uniform Admission Deadlines</u> Morning Examinations – 10:00 a.m. Afternoon Examinations – 2:00 p.m.
Physical Setting/Earth Science Physical Setting/Chemistry	Algebra I Physical Setting/Physics*	Algebra II	

* Available in Restricted Form only. Each copy of a restricted test is numbered and sealed in its own envelope and must be returned, whether used or unused, to the Department at the end of the examination period.



Upcoming Exams

Digital SAT

* Students must pre-register at www.collegeboard.com
Test Fee information available online at www.collegeboard.com

Test Dates	Deadline for Registration, Changes, Cancellation
March 8, 2025	February 25, 2025
May 3, 2025	April 18, 2025
June 7, 2025	May 22, 2025

ACT

Upcoming Test Dates (National)

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
February 8, 2025	January 3	January 20
April 5, 2025	February 28	March 16
June 12, 2025	May 9	May 26
July 12, 2025*	June 6	June 20

*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the July test date.



Paperless Progress Reports and Report Cards

Due to the success of schooltool's online access for parents/guardians we will continue to send electronic progress reports and report cards that help expedite the process for parents/guardians to monitor their children's progress.



E-mail and facebook notifications will be sent when progress reports and report cards are ready for viewing. You can simply log-in to your schooltool account to view.

Parents/guardians who do not have internet access may still submit a written request to our Guidance Department for progress reports and report cards to be mailed home.

If you are not yet registered in schooltool, you may access the schooltool Parent Portal by completing the registration form located on the District website under the Parent Information Page.

Specific instructions for viewing these reports will be e-mailed when reports are ready to view.



Madrid-Waddington Fitness Center

Public Hours

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Monday-Friday

Closed Holidays & Emergency School Closings

District residents may access the Fitness Center during the hours listed above.



The MWCS District utilizes mass communication (text messages/email) for District emergency closings, delay or updates. Please be sure to include the parent cell & email address(es) on the Student/Parent Contact Information sheet that will be coming home to you. Parents/Guardians of Grade 6-12 students will receive this form in a late summer mailing. Parents/Guardians of Elementary students will receive this form in early September—it will come home with your student.

The District newsletter can be obtained electronically by emailing your request to pbogart@mwcsk12.org



State Assessments

3-8 ELA, Math & Science

Testing window April 7 – May 16.

District Calendar

SCHOOL CALENDAR MADRID-WADDINGTON CENTRAL SCHOOL 2024-2025

JULY 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	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			

July 4 - Independence Day

AUGUST 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				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

SEPTEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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					

Sept. 2 - Labor Day

Sept. 3 & 4 - Staff Development Days

Sept. 5 - First Day of Classes

OCTOBER 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		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		

Oct. 14 - Columbus Day

NOVEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					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

Nov. 8 - Staff Development Day

Nov. 11 - Veterans Day - Observed

Nov. 27-29 - Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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				

Dec. 21-31 - Holiday Break

JANUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			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	

Jan. 1 - Holiday Break

Jan. 20 - Martin Luther King Day

Jan. 29 - Lunar New Year

Jan. 21-24 - Regents Exams

FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						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	

Feb. 17-21 - Mid-Winter Break

MARCH 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						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					

March 21 - Staff Development Day

APRIL 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		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			

April 18-25 - Spring Break

April 7-May 16 - ELA 3-8, Science 5 & 8, & Math 3-8 Testing - CBT

April 29 - May 1 - ELA 3 & 7 Testing - paper

MAY 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				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

April 7-May 16 - ELA 3-8, Science 5 & 8, & Math 3-8 Testing - CBT

April 29-May 1 - ELA 3 & 7 Testing - paper

May 7 - May 9 - Math 3 & 7 Testing - paper

May 26 - Memorial Day

JUNE 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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					

June 4 - Life Science, Biology and Earth & Space Sciences Regents

June 10 - Geometry Regents

June 17-25 - Regents Exams

June 19 - Juneteenth Day

June 26-27 - Rating Days

School Day Tally

Total Number of Days

186

August	0	February	15
September	20	March	21
October	22	April	16
November	17	May	21
December	15	June	19
January	20		92
	94		

NOTE: Good Friday is 4/18

Madrid-Waddington Central School

**Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Madrid, NY 13660
Permit #1**

**P.O. Box 67
2582 State Highway 345
Madrid, New York, 13660
<http://www.mwcsk12.org>**



POSTAL PATRON