



# Cheektowaga Central Middle School



## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



### Message from the Principal

As we wrap up another month, we would like to take a moment to express our gratitude for all of our students, staff, and families for their continued hard work and dedication. It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the holiday season! We hope this time of year brings peace and joy to your homes.

#### Character Trait of the Month: Helpful

This month, we are focusing on the character trait of **Helpful**. Being helpful goes beyond simply offering assistance — it's about fostering a spirit of kindness and community. Whether it's helping a classmate with a difficult assignment, offering a hand at home, or even supporting a neighbor, we encourage our students to think about how their actions can positively impact others. This is a great time to discuss with your child how they can be more helpful at school and in their community.

#### Support from Administration and Faculty

We understand that school life can sometimes feel overwhelming, and we want to remind all families that we are here for you. Our administration and faculty are committed to ensuring that each student has the support they need to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. If you have any concerns or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out. Whether it's academic support, emotional well-being, or navigating any challenges, we are here to collaborate with you and ensure that your child thrives.

#### Wishing You a Wonderful Holiday Season

As we approach the winter break, I want to extend my best wishes to all of our families for a joyful and restful holiday season. This is a time to reflect, recharge, and spend quality time with loved ones. May your holidays be filled with warmth, happiness, and laughter.

Lastly, please be sure to refer to the **December Festive Calendar** for important dates and events happening throughout the month. There's much to look forward to!

Thank you for your continued partnership in making CCMS a supportive, caring, and thriving community.



# Important Information

## Upcoming Dates

<b>December 6</b>	MS Musical 7pm
<b>December 7</b>	MS Musical 2pm & 7pm
<b>December 11</b>	7 & 8 Grade Winter Concert 7pm
<b>December 13</b>	15 eek progress reports available
<b>December 19</b>	5 & 6 Grade Winter Concert 7pm
<b>December 23 - 1</b>	Winter Recess - No School

## CCSD Student Code of Conduct 2024-2025



**SCAN ME!**



CHEEKTOWAGA  
**CHARGERS**

## School Contact Information

Main Office	716.686.3660
Student Services	716.686.3649
Principal: Dr. Salinas	716.686.3662
Asst. Principal: Dr. Daniels	716.686.3663

## Stay Updated!



## School Hours:

**Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri**  
7:45am - 2:37pm

**Wednesday**  
7:45am - 1:37pm

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and Twitter!

<https://www.facebook.com/CheektowagaMiddleSchool/>  
<https://twitter.com/cheektowagaMS>

# 5TH GRADE



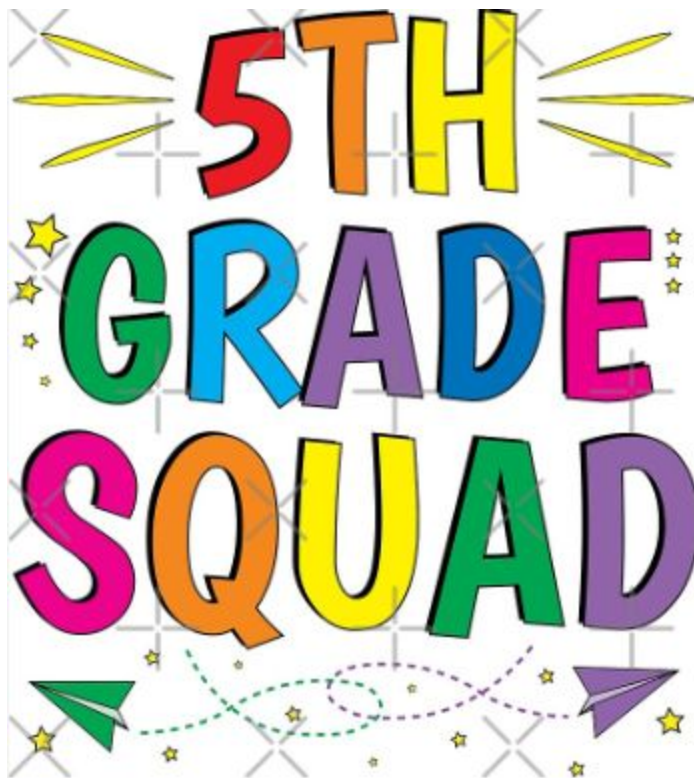
## 5th Grade Update

**Math:** Fifth grade math classes are deep into fractions. Students have been multiplying fractions with whole numbers and mixed numbers. We have been drawing diagrams to visually represent what is happening to build a deeper understanding of the process. Multiplication fact fluency is vitally important for success.

**ELA:** Half of the classes are continuing the Read Stop Write program partnered with the University of Buffalo. Students are learning skills to dissect non fiction texts. The rest of the fifth grade team is reading Holes and Shiloh and will be starting the Read Stop Write program in January.

**Science:** Classes are completing the Earth Systems unit and have learned about how all Earth systems interact. Students had the opportunity to isolate chemical reactions to produce a given outcome.

**Social Studies:** Classes are wrapping up their study of ancient civilizations of North and South America. They enjoyed learning about the Mayan, Inca and Aztecs. They will be beginning the unit on the Age of Exploration which will teach how a desire for simple goods like spices, helped to gain a better understanding of the entire world.





# 6TH GRADE

## ELA

This month, our 6th graders are focusing on **reading comprehension**, with an emphasis on identifying **themes** and analyzing **text details**. These skills are crucial for understanding not just what a text says, but what it *means* and how the author conveys that meaning.

Identifying Themes: Students learn to determine the central message or lesson of a text by examining its main ideas and supporting details.

Text Analysis: We're encouraging students to dig deeper by analyzing how specific words, phrases, or events contribute to the overall meaning.

## Social Studies

In our current unit, students are immersing themselves in the wonders of ancient Egypt. From the mighty Nile River to the iconic Pyramids of Giza, we are uncovering the mysteries of this captivating civilization.

Students are engaged in a variety of activities, including:

- Exploring the geography of Egypt and understanding the significance of the Nile River.
- Investigating the daily life of ancient Egyptians, from farming practices to social structures.
- Discovering the architectural marvels of the Pyramids and the Sphinx.
- Learning about the role of pharaohs and the fascinating process of mummification.



We encourage students to share their insights and discoveries with you. Consider asking your child about their favorite aspect of ancient Egypt or the most surprising fact they've learned so far.

## Science

In their role as student thermal scientists, students work with the principal of Riverdale School, a fictional school, in order to help choose a new heater system. The principal is considering two proposed systems, both of which would use water to heat the school.

These systems differ in important ways. How these two systems work serves as the anchor phenomenon for this unit and the explanations students make allow them to make a recommendation to the principal. To understand heating and cooling, students will go beyond intuition to discover that observed temperature changes can be explained by the movement of molecules, which facilitates the transfer of kinetic energy from one place to another. Students will use the Thermal Energy simulation to understand the connection between molecule movement and temperature. Students will also understand how energy is transferred from one object to another. All of the knowledge gained in this unit will help the student to determine their recommendation for which heating system is best for Riverdale School.

## Math

This month we started our unit on ratio relationships. We kicked off our exploration by building a solid foundation of what ratios are and how they work. Students grasped the concept of expressing relationships between quantities and gained a deeper understanding ratio tables and equivalence. One of the more interesting aspects of learning ratios is realizing their prevalence in our daily lives. From sharing snacks with friends to dividing ingredients in recipes, students discovered that ratios are all around us. At home, recipes are a great way to review ratio relationships in real life situations. Doubling, tripling and even halving recipes bring the concept of equivalent ratios to life!



# 7TH GRADE



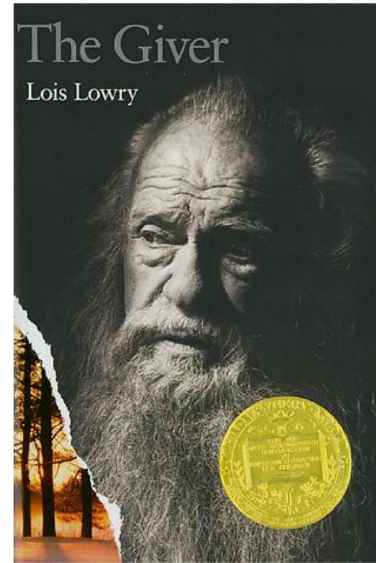
## Social Studies:

Students will start Unit 2: The Age of Exploration and 13 Colonies. They will be Finishing Unit 2: Age of Exploration and 13 Colonies and Begin Unit 3: The American Revolution, learning about how the Colonists won their freedom from the English.



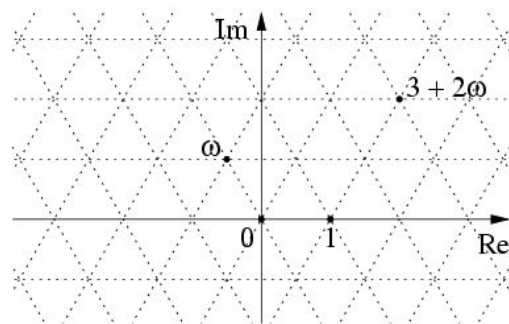
## English:

Students are finishing up the class novel The Giver and rewrite their own ending to the novel to represent the theme.



**Math 7** students are working integers.

**Math 7 Honors** are working on linear equations.



	$m < 0$	$m = 0$	$m > 0$
$c > 0$			
$c = 0$			
$c < 0$			

## Science:

Students are learning about rock transformations on earth.





# 8TH GRADE

**Dear Families,**

As we approach the holiday season, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and partnership. It has been a remarkable journey so far, and your involvement truly makes a difference in our school community.

## **Important Announcements**

Here are some key updates from our classes as we near the holiday break:

- **Social Studies:** We will soon finish our unit on Westward Expansion and transition into our study of immigration in the United States.
- **Math 8:** Students will conclude their exploration of the Pythagorean Theorem and begin learning about slope. Additionally, we will be taking our 4th benchmark assessment before the break.
- **Algebra:** The focus will be on functions, specifically discussing range, domain, absolute value functions, and piecewise functions. We will also take our 4th benchmark assessment soon.
- **Spanish:** Our lessons will revolve around clothing and accessories, including how to describe what we are wearing. Students will also get creative by designing their own ugly sweaters!
- **General 8th Grade Science:** We are completing the New York State investigation "It's Alive," which compares characteristics of living and non-living things. Following this, we will begin a new unit on genetics and reproduction.
- **Biology:** We will kick off our unit titled "Humans vs. Bacteria," focusing on the effects of microscopic organisms on the human body.
- **ELA:** Students will participate in Read, Stop, Write, and read the World War II novel *Unbroken*. Our continued emphasis will be on reading comprehension and test preparation.

## **Celebrations from the Week**

I would also like to highlight the wonderful moments we've shared this week. Our students have shown exceptional effort in their studies, and their enthusiasm in class discussions has been truly inspiring. As we celebrate the upcoming holiday season, I want to wish you all Happy Holidays! May this time be filled with joy and togetherness.

## **Additional Information**

Please remember that if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers. We are grateful for your ongoing support in fostering a positive learning environment.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to our school community. Together, we are making a difference in our students' lives. We look forward to all the exciting learning adventures ahead!

Warm regards,

Team 8A and 8B





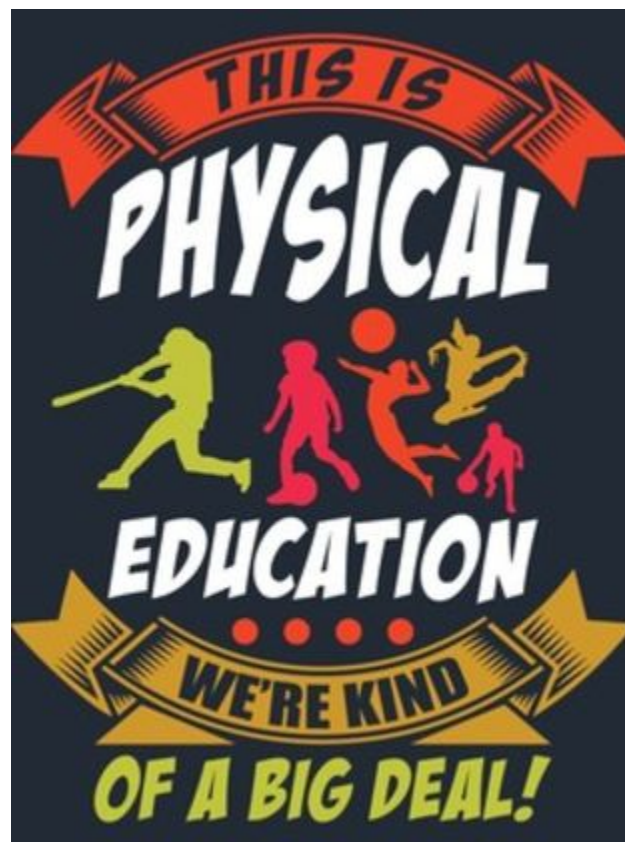
# SPECIALS UPDATES



## Eric Rawls Shines as a Team Player in PE Class

During our Team Handball unit, 5th grader Eric Rawls demonstrated exceptional teamwork and leadership by helping his classmate, Fowzia Tansia, master the art of pivoting. Eric patiently explained the movement, breaking it down step by step, and showed Fowzia how to maintain balance while keeping control of the ball.

Eric's willingness to assist his peers highlights his strong character and his dedication to ensuring everyone feels included and successful. His efforts not only helped Fowzia improve her skills but also strengthened the sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship within the class. Keep up the great work, Eric!





# National Junior Honor Society



The National Junior Honor Society (N.J.H.S.) is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle school students. More than just an honor roll, N.J.H.S. serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character and Citizenship. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1929. The purpose of N.J.H.S. is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, to develop character, and to encourage citizenship. The Cheektowaga Central Middle School Chapter of the N.J.H.S. is administered by Mrs. Lynnae Kwilas, the induction process is demanding and the selection process is extremely difficult.

## How do you become a member?

- ⌘ At Cheektowaga students are considered for membership when they are 2<sup>nd</sup> semester 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- ⌘ Students must have a semester cumulative grade point average of 93% (This includes 6<sup>th</sup> grade).
- ⌘ Students must demonstrate excellence in character, scholarship, leadership, service, and citizenship.

## What are the membership expectations?:

- ⌘ Maintain a minimum grade point average of 93%
- ⌘ Demonstrate character, leadership, citizenship, and service
- ⌘ Attend all meetings and participate in group service projects
- ⌘ Complete 3 hours of community service monthly

## What is the selection process?:

Step 1: If students qualify academically for the N.J.H.S., they are notified in February. To be considered for membership, students must fill out the information sheet, and write an essay.

Step 2: The teachers and staff at Cheektowaga provide feedback about students who are seeking membership. They are asked to comment on the students' strengths and weaknesses in the areas of character, leadership, service, and citizenship.

Step 3: A Faculty Council is assembled to review the information sheets, essays, and staff recommendations. When reviewing candidates, the Faculty Council will not have the names of the candidates while making the decision for membership. The actual selection of new members must be made by a **majority vote of the five appointed members of the Faculty Council**. With the vote on each candidate, those candidates receiving a **majority vote of the faculty council** should be invited for induction into the chapter.

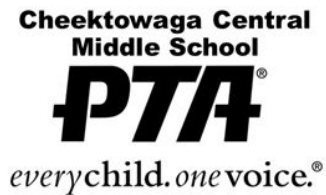
Step 4: Formal notification of all selected and non-selected candidates and their parents will be done with a letter by the chapter advisor to inform them about selection and the timing of the induction ceremony.

**The N.J.H.S. The Selection Process as outlined above conforms to the national guidelines, is applied fairly and consistently to ALL candidates, and provides a meaningful recognition of deserving students. Please be on the lookout this February for more information.**





# PTA UPDATES



## DANCE -A-THON GENERATIONS

Thank you to all the parents and students who joined us for the Dance-a-Thon Generations! Your energy, enthusiasm, and respect for one another made the evening truly memorable. We're thrilled everything went smoothly, and we appreciate your support in creating a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. Here's to more amazing events together!

## DONATE YOUR BOTTLES AND CANS

Support our PTA by dropping off your cans and bottles to  
**Any Fast Cash Redemption Locations – 3 local locations are**  
**2377 Harlem Road Cheektowaga** (Corner of Walden Ave).  
**1350 Harlem Avenue** (Corner of Parker)  
**10 Hyland Avenue Depew** (Corner of George Urban)

Make sure you ask for the funds to go to the “**Cheektowaga Middle School PTA**”.

## NIGHT OUT BOOKS

Night Out Books are still on sale through Christmas Break. You can purchase them using the link below. Just fill out the information and we can arrange a pickup time or I can send them home with your child. Thanks!

<https://ccmswarriors.givebacks.com/store/items/1126439>

## JOIN OUR PTA

No commitment necessary to be a member! Meetings are optional. There are volunteer opportunities for in-school events such as dances, our fall event, book fair, and the Honor/Merit Roll Breakfasts. Any help is appreciated and your membership helps our cause.

*\*\*To become a member just join via the link or QR Code\*\**

<https://ccmswarriors.givebacks.com/store>

*If you have any questions, feel free to contact our  
President, Angela Scholl at*

[cheektowagamiddlepta@gmail.com](mailto:cheektowagamiddlepta@gmail.com)



# REMEDIAL SCHEDULE

## Grade 5: After School Support

### Mondays:

- **Subjects:** ELA/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Hoeltke/McKeever/Zilliox/MacVittie/Gandy

### Tuesdays:

- **Subjects:** Math/Science/ELA/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Lewis/Wasner/Skierczynski/Richter

### Thursdays:

- **Subjects:** Math/Science
- **Teachers:** McKinney

## Grade 6: After School Support

### Mondays:

- **Subjects:** Math/ELA/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Braddock/Kwilas/Petre/Panikowski

### Tuesdays:

- **Subjects:** Science/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Niederhauser/Granat/Christopher

### Thursdays:

- **Subjects:** Math
- **Teachers:** Lambert

### Fridays:

- **Subjects:** S.S./Science
- **Teachers:** Zajdel/Carroll

**\*\*\*Teacher invite is required. After school buses leave at 3:35PM.\*\*\***

## Grade 7: After School Support

### Mondays:

- **Subjects:** Math/S.S.
- **Teachers:** Torrillo/McGill/Gozzo/Buscaglia

### Tuesdays:

- **Subjects:** ELA
- **Teachers:** Lewandowski/Scheffler

### Thursdays:

- **Subjects:** LOTE
- **Teachers:** Casper/Clare/Schneegold

### Fridays:

- **Subjects:** Science
- **Teachers:** Al Qaysi/Hess

## Grade 8: After School Support

### Mondays:

- **Subjects:** S.S./ELA/Spanish
- **Teachers:** Shehadi/Maloney/Duval/Todaro

### Tuesdays:

- **Subjects:** Science/ELA/Math
- **Teachers:** Stonebraker/Orlowski/Baker/Burnett/Campbell

### Thursdays:

- **Subjects:** S.S./Science
- **Teachers:** Accurso/Huber/Silliman

### Fridays:

- **Subjects:** Math
- **Teachers:** Garrison



# MS CLUB WEEKLY SCHEDULE



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p><b>GSA</b> - Every other week (starting September 23rd) <a href="#">GSA Schedule</a> <a href="mailto:jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net">jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:hmaloney@ccsd-k12.net">hmaloney@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Midway TV</b> - Every week <a href="mailto:abaker@ccsd-k12.net">abaker@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>STEM</b> - Meets every other week (*only 3 Tuesday dates 10/15, 11/12 &amp; 1/21) <a href="#">STEM Schedule</a> <a href="mailto:jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net">jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:pstonebraker@ccsd-k12.net">pstonebraker@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>International Club</b> - Meets 3 times each month on Mondays <a href="#">International Club Dates</a> <a href="mailto:wwasner@ccsd-k12.net">wwasner@ccsd-k12.net</a></p>	<p><b>Junior Unified</b> - Every other week (starting October 8th) <a href="#">Unified schedule</a> <a href="mailto:lkwilas@ccsd-k12.net">lkwilas@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>NJHS</b> - (starting September 24th) <a href="#">NJHS Schedule</a> <a href="mailto:kwilas@ccsd-k12.net">kwilas@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>STEM</b> - (*only 3 Tuesday dates 10/15, 11/12 &amp; 1/21) <a href="#">STEM Schedule</a> <a href="mailto:jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net">jmcgill1@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:pstonebraker@ccsd-k12.net">pstonebraker@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Junior Challenge</b> - (every other week <i>mostly</i>) <a href="#">Junior Challenge Dates</a> <a href="mailto:jorlowski@ccsd-k12.net">jorlowski@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:kbarbati@ccsd-k12.net">kbarbati@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Student Council</b> - Third Tuesday of every month <a href="#">Student council</a> <a href="mailto:mgoc@ccsd-k12.net">mgoc@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:bpanikowski@ccsd-k12.net">bpanikowski@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:kmacvittie@ccsd-k12.net">kmacvittie@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Jazz Band</b> - Every week ***Until the musical is over it will be a 5th-8th grade group*** <a href="mailto:kdolan@ccsd-k12.net">kdolan@ccsd-k12.net</a></p>	<p>NO AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES</p>	<p><b>Literature Club</b> - Starting September 24th (Grades 5 &amp; 6 alternate with Grades 7 &amp; 8 each week) <a href="#">Lit club calendar</a> <a href="mailto:sscheffler@ccsd-k12.net">sscheffler@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:hmaloney@ccsd-k12.net">hmaloney@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Math Club</b> - Meets the first two weeks of each month (9/27 - the only friday date) <a href="#">Math Club Dates</a> <a href="mailto:jlewis@ccsd-k12.net">jlewis@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Student Ambassadors</b> - Meets the last Thursday of every month with exceptions to holidays <a href="#">Student Ambassadors</a> <a href="mailto:mzilliox@ccsd-k12.net">mzilliox@ccsd-k12.net</a> <a href="mailto:vhoeltke@ccsd-k12.net">vhoeltke@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Art Club</b> - Meets every other Thursday starting 10/3 <a href="#">Art club dates</a> (only Monday meeting is 11/25) <a href="mailto:jhallmark@ccsd-k12.net">jhallmark@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Science Club</b> - Meets every week on Thursdays <a href="#">Science Club Dates</a> <a href="mailto:wwasner@ccsd-k12.net">wwasner@ccsd-k12.net</a></p> <p><b>Chess Club</b> - Every Thursday</p>





# Important Information



## Grade Level Leaders

The following staff are delegated grade level leaders for each grade. To contact them, you can email them with their first initial, last name and @ccsd-k12.net (ex: [csalinas@ccsd-k12.net](mailto:csalinas@ccsd-k12.net))

<b>5th Grade</b> Mr. M. Skierczynski	<b>6th Grade</b> Ms. L. Braddock
<b>7th Grade</b> Mr. M. Buscaglia	<b>8th Grade</b> Mr. L. Silliman

## CCMS Student Handbook 2024-2025



Scan Me!

## School Counselors

Our school counselors and school social worker are:

- Mrs. Goc
- Mrs. Dudas
- Mrs. Schu
- Mrs. Kean (Social Worker)



Please note the assignments to learn of your son or daughter's school counselor:

5th Grade	
School Counselor:	Teacher:
<b>Mrs. Goc</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wasner</li><li>• Richter</li><li>• MacVittie</li><li>• McKinney</li></ul>
<b>Mrs. Schu</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Skierczynski</li><li>• Zilliox</li></ul>
<b>Mrs. Dudas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gandy</li><li>• Lewis</li></ul>

Grades 6-8	
<b>Mrs. Goc</b>	6th Grade
<b>Mrs. Dudas</b>	7th Grade
<b>Mrs. Schu</b>	8th Grade



# YEARBOOKS



## Order Your **YEARBOOK** **TODAY!**

[inter-state.com/order](https://inter-state.com/order)

Use Order Code: 91687T

**SCAN THE QR CODE**  
FOR EASY ORDERING!



**Online Orders Due By:**  
**Friday, March 14, 2025**

**\$30.00**