William Tennent High School



Student Handbook 2025 - 2026

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mission, Vision, Beliefs, Values, Strategies, and Goals

MISSION

The Centennial School District will build intellect, forge partnerships, and engage students to be Future Ready by implementing a coordinated and articulated academic, athletic, and arts program that provides instruction aligned with Pennsylvania Academic Standards.

VISION

The Centennial School District will ensure students are prepared for post-secondary education, career, and life readiness.

BELIEF STATEMENT

We believe all students and staff have the capacity to grow as thoughtful, creative, and responsible learners and citizens.

SHARED VALUES

In accordance with our beliefs, we, the Centennial School District, value:

- Service to the CSD learning community
- Mutual respect and empathy towards others
- Equitable access to learning experiences & resources Educational Equity Policy
- Safety, well-being, and a sense of belonging for all

STRATEGIES

- High-performing schools with varied demographic conditions have shown they share common characteristics. In addition, these Nine Characteristics are strongly correlated to consistently high performing schools.
- CSD will continue using 9 Characteristics of High Performing Schools to guide our work.

SMART GOALS

CSD Smart Goals are centered on Academic Performance, Student Progress, College and Career Readiness, and Equity and Family Engagement.

- All schools will annually meet or exceed the statewide average(s) or growth expectations outlined in the <u>PA Future Ready Index</u>.
- By 2030, all schools will meet or exceed the PA statewide goals outlined in the <u>PA Future Ready</u> Index.
- The district will demonstrate annual progress in the board-approved Excellence Through Equity Quality Review conducted by the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education.



ABOUT WILLIAM TENNENT HIGH SCHOOL

Why do we do what we do?

We have an intrinsic motivation to empower children to believe a brighter future is possible, and to provide them with the requisite skills to succeed.

How do we do what we do?

- Forging positive relationships between staff, students, parents, community members, and alumni
- Providing each student the opportunity to develop intellectually, emotionally, physically, and socially in a safe and orderly environment
- Utilizing data to inform decision-making processes
- Engaging in opportunities for professional growth
- Being reflective in our practices

What do we do?

- Teach students what to do when they don't know what to do
- Enable all to achieve their personal best and to be respectful, thoughtful, and independent learners
- Produce globally competitive, college and career ready citizens who are prepared for life in the 21st century

THE HISTORY OF WILLIAM TENNENT

William Tennent, a Scottish-Irish immigrant, is credited with training young men for Gospel ministry. His work began in Northampton Township, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania in 1726, when Tennent, a Presbyterian minister, settled in this community. His name is synonymous with public education, progressive thought and exposing students to challenging curriculum for the benefit of improving quality of life for one's self and society as a whole. Initially, he began educating his sons and about twenty other students at "Log College," which was the first seminary founded in the colonies.

During this time, if you were in pursuit of becoming a Presbyterian minister, the only way to accomplish this goal was to graduate from either Harvard or Yale. To address this inequity, there was a movement that led to charter new colleges to provide more opportunities for those seeking higher education. From this movement, emerged the College of New Jersey, which later became Princeton University. Mr. Tennent's legacy is deeply rooted in educational enlightenment and because of his contributions to public education, our high school is named in his honor.



A WELCOME NOTE TO WTHS STUDENTS

William Tennent is your school—take pride in it.

Above all, take advantage of the many opportunities it offers.

In the Centennial School District, we are united in our belief that every student deserves the support they need to succeed. The Board of School Directors, Administration, Faculty, and Staff are committed to ensuring that all students—regardless of race, socio-economic status, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, linguistic diversity, religion, or learning differences—are provided with meaningful and engaging learning experiences that allow them to thrive. We believe that educational outcomes should never be determined by a student's background or identity.

You are the primary author of your own success.

Lean into every opportunity.

Participate fully.

Prepare to take your rightful place in the world.

ABOUT THE WTHS STUDENT HANDBOOK

The William Tennent Student Handbook is your guide to understanding the expectations, procedures, and opportunities available at our school. It contains the important information every student needs to be a positive, contributing member of our community.

All students are expected to read the handbook carefully and become familiar with its contents. We strongly encourage parents and guardians to do the same. Knowing and following the rules outlined in this handbook is essential for your success and the smooth operation of our school.



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WTHS CONTACT GUIDE

William Tennent High School (215) 441-6181			
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	PHONE EXT.	
Principal	Dr. Joseph Carracappa	12001	
9th Grade House Principal	Mrs. Kylene Wood	12004	
10th Grade House Principal	Dr. Sara Calabrese	12005	
11th Grade House Principal	Mr. Jeremy Wright	12003	
12th Grade House Principal	Mr. Ryan Mulford	12002	
Athletic Director	Mr. John Creighton	12501	
Supervisor of Special Education	Mrs. Geana Germana	12076	
School counselors are assigned by student last name	CONTACT	PHONE EXT.	
A G 0 GGGG A G 1	36.36 u.m. 1	10005	
A-C & CSSCA Students	Mr. Matt Tomlinson	12035	
D-H	Mr. Thomas Gilroy	12031	
I-Mn	Mrs. Stacey Buterbaugh	12030	
Mo-Sc	Mrs. Shayna Kudgis	12033	
Se-Z	Mrs. Allison Vrieling	12032	
College and Career, EL, Gifted	Dr. Sarah Babins	12036	
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS	CONTACT	PHONE EXT.	
Administrative Assistant to the Principal	Mrs. Jennifer Cresina	12011	
9th Grade House & Attendance	Mrs. Diane Mueller	12015	
10th Grade House & Working Papers	Mrs. Lisa Dupre	12017	
11th Grade House	Mrs. Joanne Mancini	12014	
12th Grade House	Mrs. Mindy Golden	12012	
Athletics	Mrs. Kim Slaninko	12503	
Transportation	Jennifer James	11060	
School Nurse	Mrs. Sarah Hobensack	12025	
Counseling Suite	Ms. Heather Malloy	12040	

WTHS BELL SCHEDULE

Regular Schedule 7:30 AM - 2:20 PM				
Tir	ne	Length	Black Days	White Days
7:30 AM	9:05 AM	BWTV - 5 minutes 90 minute class	Period 1	Period 1
9:10 AM	10:40 AM	90 minute class	Period 2	Period 2
10:45 AM	11:15 AM	30 minute lunch	1st lunch	1st lunch
11:15 AM	12:45 PM	90 minute class	Period 3	Period 3
10:45 AM	11:30 AM	45 minute class	Period 3 part 1	Period 3 part 1
11:30 AM	12:00 PM	30 minute lunch	2nd lunch	2nd lunch
12:00 PM	12:45 PM	45 minute class	Period 3, part 2	Period 3, part 2
10:45 AM	12:15 PM	90 minute class	Period 3	Period 3
12:15 PM	12:45 PM	30 minute lunch	3rd lunch	3rd lunch
12:50 PM	2:20 PM	90 minute class	Period 4	Period 4

Early Dismissal Schedule 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM				
Ti	me	Length Black Days		White Days
7:30 AM	9:00 AM	BWTV - 5 minutes 85 minute class	Period 1	Period 1
9:00 AM	10:30 AM	85 minute class	Period 2	Period 2
10:30) AM	Dismissal		
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	Lunch for PM MBIT Students		
11:00 AM		Transportation		

2 Hour Delay 9:30 AM - 2:20 PM				
Tir	ne	Length	Black Days	White Days
9:30 AM	10:35 AM	65 minute class	Period 1	Period 1
10:40 AM	11:40 AM	60 minute class	Period 2	Period 2
11:40 AM	12:15 PM	30 minute lunch	1st lunch	1st lunch
12:15 PM	1:15 PM	60 minute class	Period 3	Period 3
11:45 AM	12:15 PM	30 minute class	Period 3 part 1	Period 3 part 1
12:15 PM	12:45 PM	30 minute lunch	2nd lunch	2nd lunch
12:45 PM	1:15 PM	30 minute class	Period 3, part 2	Period 3, part 2
11:45 AM	12:45 PM	60 minute class	Period 3	Period 3
12:45 PM	1:15 PM	30 minute lunch	3rd lunch	3rd lunch
1:20 PM	2:20 PM	60 minute class	Period 4	Period 4

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

ARRIVAL EXPECTATIONS

Please plan ahead for potential delays. More than 2,000 people arrive at William Tennent High School between 7:00–7:30 AM, and traffic congestion is common. Traffic delays—including time spent in the WTHS car line—will not be accepted as an excuse for tardiness.

Daily Morning Schedule:

- 6:45 AM Doors open to students
 - From 6:45–7:00 AM, students may only access the cafeteria
- 7:25 AM Students should be in the building
- 7:30 AM Students must report to homeroom

TRANSPORTATION EXPECTATIONS

The Centennial School District Transportation Department is committed to ensuring safe and reliable transportation for all students.

All district and school policies apply while on the bus. Violations of these rules may result in disciplinary action, including the temporary or permanent loss of bus-riding privileges. The bus driver is a school official and is authorized to take appropriate action when student behavior poses a risk to the health and safety of others.

Walking to School

Walking to WTHS is prohibited. There are no designated sidewalks along Centennial Road, and student safety is our top priority.

Assigned Buses

Students must ride their assigned bus, which is designated to transport them to and from the stop closest to their home. Students may not ride alternate buses for any reason, including visiting friends, going to work, or traveling to a different location.

Bus Departures

- Daily Dismissal 2:27 PM | Main Bus Platform
 - All students not involved in a teacher- or coach- supervised activity must leave the building at dismissal.

MBIT Departures

- "A" Session
 - 7:20 AM WTHS to MBIT
 - 10:25 AM MBIT to WTHS

- "B" Session
 - 11:05 AM WTHS to MBIT
 - 2:45 PM MBIT to WTHS

Late Bus

4:00 PM | Main Bus Platform (Monday–Friday) | Students who stay after school for academic support, sports, detentions, or extracurricular activities

STUDENT ATTENDANCE CSD BOARD POLICY

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE

Consistent school attendance is critical for academic success and future opportunities. Students are expected to attend school every day and arrive on time. Frequent absences often lead to lower grades and gaps in learning.

Attendance is carefully documented and reported on both report cards and permanent academic records from the time a student enters school through graduation.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

In accordance with PA State Code, excuse notes must be submitted within three (3) school days of the student's return in order for the absence to be marked excused.

- Notes may be emailed to: wtattendance@centennialsd.org
- Handwritten notes must be placed in the box outside the 9th Grade House Office between 7:00 AM and 7:25 AM

UNLAWFUL & UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

School attendance is a legal requirement. Non-attendance without a lawful excuse is a violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- All absences are initially recorded as unlawful until a written excuse is received.
- Notes must be submitted within 3 school days of returning to school.
- Failure to submit an excuse note on time will result in the absence being permanently recorded as unlawful.

STUDENT ABSENCE ALLOTMENT

- Up to 10 days may be excused, with a parent note, per school year.
- Beginning with the 11th absence, a doctor's note is required, regardless of how the first 10 absences were documented.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW

- After three (3) unlawful/unexcused absences:
 - A Student Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP) will be developed.
- After five (5) unlawful/unexcused absences:
 - The student may be referred to the district magistrate and subject to a court citation.

MISSED WORK

Students are responsible for making up any missed work due to absences.

- Contact teachers directly via email or consult Canvas for assignments.
- Work must be completed as soon as possible, within the timeframe provided by the teacher.
- For extended absences (several days or more), prior arrangements should be made with teachers.
- If additional support is needed, students should reach out to their school counselor.
 - Counselors require at least 24 hours' notice to assist in gathering assignments.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE <u>CSD BOARD POLICY</u>

MORNING TARDINESS

Students arriving after 7:30 AM must report to the first floor security desk for a late pass before going to class. Tardiness is recorded by the School Safety Officer.

Tardiness may be excused if a parent/guardian:

- 1. Accompanies the student to the desk, or
- 2. Provides a written note on the day of tardiness.

EARLY DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

- If a student needs to leave school early for a valid reason (e.g., medical appointment, family emergency), a signed note from a parent/guardian must be submitted to the 9th Grade House Office between 7:00–7:25 AM on the day of the dismissal.
- If a student becomes ill or needs to leave unexpectedly during the school day, they must report to the nurse or an administrator—not contact a parent directly. The nurse or administrator will arrange dismissal. Cell phones may not be used to request early dismissal.
- Students will receive a dismissal pass with their designated time. If the student is driving, the attendance secretary will contact a parent/guardian to confirm permission.
- Students must attend at least half of the school day in order to attend or participate in after school events and activities.

LATENESS TO CLASS

Students must report to each class on time. Repeated lateness will result in disciplinary action by the teacher or administration.

ATTENDANCE IN CLASS

- Students present in school are expected to attend all scheduled classes and activities unless given permission by a staff member.
- If students are excused for another activity, they must make up any missed work within the timeframe set by the teacher.

LEAVING SCHOOL WITHOUT PERMISSION

- William Tennent High School is a closed campus. Once on school grounds, students may not leave before dismissal without:
 - Administrator or nurse approval, and
 - Parent/guardian permission.
- Unauthorized departures will be reported to the Warminster Police Department per our Memorandum of Understanding.
- Students needing to leave unexpectedly must speak with their House Principal, who will coordinate arrangements.
- For safety reasons, students may not prop open exterior doors or allow unauthorized entry for any reason. All visitors and students must enter through the main entrance.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE CSD BOARD POLICY

FAMILY TRIPS & VACATIONS

Students may be excused for up to five (5) days per school year for family trips, with prior approval.

- To request approval: Complete the <u>Family Trip Request Form</u> (available at the Attendance Office or online).
 - The form must be completed by a parent/guardian and submitted at least three (3) school days before the trip.
 - Do not finalize travel plans until the trip is approved.
- Approved trips will be marked excused. Students are responsible for making up work and tests within three (3) days of returning.
- Unapproved trips will be marked unexcused and subject to the Student Attendance Policy (CSD Board Policy). Missed work must still be completed within five (5) days.

COLLEGE VISITS

Students who wish to visit a college or university may use the days allotted for family trips and vacation. Prior approval is not necessary, but the student must provide documentation of the visit to the college or university.

Placement Examinations: If the college or university requires that the student be absent for the purpose of completing a placement examination, then the absence will be excused as soon as the student provides documentation from the college or university that attendance was required and could not be scheduled for another time.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Students who have demonstrated a medical, including psychiatric, condition that prohibits their attendance at school, qualify for homebound instruction. The request for homebound instruction must be initiated by the parent/guardian. Requests shall be made to your child's school counselor or our school nurse.

STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

Parents wishing to withdraw their students from school, for any reason, must contact the school and fill out a withdrawal form. The withdrawal procedure includes obtaining the signature of all of the student's teachers and returning all books, materials, supplies, and equipment that belong to the school. School records will not be released until all obligations and debts are fulfilled. For more information, please see the <u>Student Indebtedness Policy</u>.

RESIDENCY, ENROLLMENT, & NON-RESIDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY <u>CSD BOARD POLICY</u>

STUDENT RESIDENCY AND ENROLLMENT AT WTHS

Centennial School District schools are operated for students who reside within the district boundaries. If a student moves out of the district at any time during the school year, the following guidelines apply:

Withdrawal Required for Non-Residents

- If a student moves out of the district, they must withdraw from WTHS immediately.
- Failure to do so will result in a tuition assessment for each day the student attends while in nonresident status.

Exceptions Regarding Non-Resident Students

The following exceptions may apply:

- Students moving from CSD within the fourth marking period
- Seniors on track to graduate who attended William Tennent in grades 9, 10, and 11 may request to complete their senior year as a non-resident.

Requests must:

- Be submitted in writing by the parent/guardian to the Assistant Superintendent
- Be approved before the student may continue attending school
- Be evaluated based on the student's academic and citizenship record

If approved, the parent/guardian is responsible for transportation, and no tuition will be charged under these provisions.

THE MCKINNEY-VENTO ACT

In compliance with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the Centennial School District attempts to identify any children within the district that may be experiencing homelessness. Please contact the Social Worker assigned to your neighborhood school if you believe that you may qualify for under the McKinney-Vento Act. Additional information regarding this act can be found on the District's website under the Student Services department.

COURSE OF STUDY

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

The <u>Program of Studies</u> describes the school's curriculum, guides a student through the course selection process, and offers advice and assistance, in conjunction with support from a student's guidance counselor.

- All students are required to register for 8 credits per year from WTHS Programs
- We have an alternating schedule of Black Days and White Days.
 - Full credit classes meet every day of the school year
 - Half credit classes meet every other day
- Graduation Requirements and Act 158 Pathways can be reviewed on the District Website.

FINAL GRADE GUIDELINES

WTHS operates on a numeric grading system. All students must take a comprehensive midterm and final examination in each subject. Final exams may consist of a performance exam, research paper, or written exam. Departments will administer the same exam in the same course.

A high school student's final grade will reflect the following guidelines:

- Full Credit Courses:
 - 20% of the grade for each marking period + 10% of the midterm exam grade + 10% of the final exam grade
- Half Credit Course that meets for One (1) Semester:
 - 40% of the grade for each marking period + 10% of the midterm exam grade + 10% of the final exam grade

ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

All subjects are included in determining the level of academic distinction. Grade point average determines the level of academic distinction. Advanced Placement, Honors and Dual Enrollment courses carry a weighted factor. Graduating students shall be honored by having the following distinctions announced and indicated during the Commencement Ceremony:

Summa Cum Laude: 4.0+Magna Cum Laude: 3.6+

• Cum Laude: 3.3+

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Keystone exams will be offered as end-of-course exams in Algebra I, Biology, & 10th grade Literature.

Advanced Placement (AP) examinations are available for qualified students to earn advanced standing in college courses.

The PSAT and SATs are administered at WTHS. The fall PSAT is provided during school hours to all 10th grade students, at no cost to families. Please contact your child's counselor for dates and further information.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

PLAGIARISM

- Plagiarism is the taking of ideas from another, copying copyrighted material, and/or material from the Internet, and passing them off as one's own. The William Tennent High School faculty expects that all course work submitted by students is original work. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind will result in a grade of "zero" for that assignment.
- A National Honor Society member who engages in plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be recommended for dismissal from the NHS, pending a hearing in front of the NHS Council. If a student is unsure as to what constitutes plagiarism, he/she/they should speak with a teacher, librarian, counselor, or administration.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

CSD recognizes the potential that artificial intelligence (AI), particularly generative AI, offers in enhancing educational opportunities, streamlining operations, and preparing students for a future that demands adaptability, critical thinking, and digital literacy.

This <u>document</u> guides our students, staff, and school communities on the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI), particularly generative AI tools, in classroom instruction, school management, and systemwide operations.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

It is the responsibility of the students to review and abide by <u>the policy</u>, and to contact the Technology Department for questions or clarifications.

DEPARTMENTS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

MIDDLE BUCKS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

<u>Middle Bucks Institute of Technology</u> (MBIT) offers special training programs in the trades and technical areas. Students admitted to this program will attend classes at William Tennent for one-half of the school day and at MBIT for the other half. The courses at MBIT satisfy graduation requirements at William Tennent. Please see a counselor for additional details.

CENTENNIAL SATELLITE SCHOOL & CYBER ACADEMY

<u>Centennial Satellite School & Cyber Academy (CSSCA)</u> offers a combination of traditional and cyber courses that feature a digital curriculum through Educere. For more information please contact Mr. Ryan Mulford at 215-441-6181 x12002 or at <u>mulfry@centennialsd.org</u>

CENTENNIAL VIRTUAL LEARNING ACADEMY

<u>Centennial Virtual Learning Academy (CVLA)</u> offers opportunities for your child's academic, emotional, and social development. Students residing in the Centennial School District, who are currently enrolled in a charter school, may enroll in the program on a full-time basis at the high school level. This opportunity means that your child may enroll in the Centennial School District and receive a high-quality, online education with all of the benefits and opportunities enjoyed by students enrolled in the school district, including the awarding of a William Tennent High School Diploma. Students enrolled in CVLA will receive their course work through VLN Partners.

Parents and guardians who are interested in exploring this opportunity should contact Kristin Herman, Assistant Director for Teaching and Learning at 215-441-6181 x11024 or hermkr@centennialsd.org

SENIOR EXPERIENCE

The goal of the <u>WTHS Senior Experience</u> is to provide 12th Grade Students with the opportunity to explore a career interest in-depth during a field-based experience.

To qualify for this opportunity, students must be in good standing at WTHS as demonstrated by:

- 1. Academic Achievement: Final grades of C or higher in all classes
- 2. Attendance: No more than 20 combined latenesses and absences, excused and unexcused
- 3. Discipline: No discipline consequences, beyond an administrative detention

Applications: The application window opens at the beginning of the second semester of a student's Senior Year. Student applications will be reviewed by school administrators, prior to approval.

Placements:

- Students will arrange a placement for themselves, to be approved by the principal, at the end of the fourth (4th) marking period, in-lieu-of attending their daily school schedule.
- Students should shadow the daily and direct operations of a professional in the field of their choice for a three (3) week period.

Final Examinations:

Students who participate in Senior Experience will be exempt from final exams and required to:

- Complete a weekly journal
- Deliver a presentation to his/her faculty advisor at the end of the experience.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Throughout the year, announcements are made soliciting applications for many special scholarships and awards which are available to our students. Students are encouraged to apply for those for which they may be eligible.

SENIOR AWARDS

At the end of the school year, we conduct a Senior Awards Program to honor our graduating seniors for their achievements. The students who receive the awards are selected by the award sponsors. Each department of our school presents awards to the outstanding students in their area of study. Many civic and community organizations grant awards for achievement in specific areas of study, service, leadership and attendance.

ACTIVITY & ATHLETIC AWARDS

Awards are given to students who participate in school activities and athletics and meet the standards and requirements for the awards vary and are identified by activity sponsor or coach.

Varsity Athletic Award Recipients Must:

- Play a certain number of contests, or play a specific number of quarters, halves, or innings, as defined by the head coach of the particular sport.
- Remain active and eligible to complete the entire sport's season, unless excused by the coach or school administration.
- Return all supplies and equipment issued
- Abide by the rules and regulations of the team as established by the coach and the school.
- Be a good citizen of the school and represent the school positively

HONOR ROLL

Honor Roll recognizes those students who have distinguished themselves academically. Grades are not 'rounded up' when factoring in honors. To achieve Honor Roll status, a student must be enrolled in 8 credits and meet the following criteria:

Distinguished Honors	A numerical GPA of at least 95%, with no more than one numerical grade less than 90%
First Honors	A numerical GPA of at least 90%, with no numerical grade less than 80%
Second Honors A numerical GPA of 85%, with no grade less than 75%	

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Membership in the National Honor Society or any subject specific Honor Society is based on meeting a strict criteria for selection and admission. Students who apply for acceptance into one of these prestigious societies must meet certain requirements that include academic excellence, course rigor, service, leadership, character and dedication to the pursuit of knowledge and learning.

Membership in any of the societies is one of the highest honors and distinctions that can be earned by a student during their tenure at William Tennent High School. Please see below for a complete listing of active Honor Society chapters:

- The National Honor Society
- National Art Honor Society
- National Business Honor Society
- National English Honor Society Literati
- National Math Honor Society- Mu Alpha Theta
- National Science Honor Society
- Social Studies Honor Society- CIVITAS

Each Honor Society has a <u>dedicated page</u> on the Clubs/Activities part of the WTHS website that provides information on the society, the application, deadlines and contact information.

Honor Society Induction

Those students who are invited to join any of the above mentioned Honor Societies are inducted at a special ceremony held after school or in the evening.

STUDENT MONITORING PROCESS & STUDENT SUPPORT SYSTEMS

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

The Centennial School Board recognizes the need to provide students and parents with information regarding the progress of students. For more information, please click <u>here</u>.

CONFERENCES

- Conferences may include face-to-face meetings, virtual meetings, or telephone conversations.
- A parent-teacher conference shall be scheduled at a mutually convenient time.
- If anyone other than the parent/guardian and the teacher is to take part in a conference, both the parent/guardian and the teacher shall be advised prior to the conference.
- Types of Conferences:
 - Parent Request: Parent/guardian or teacher may request a conference at any time.
 - Scheduled Conference Days: The conference calendar for all grades and schools is determined by the Administration and approved by the School Board. These dates are shared on the District Calendar.
 - Academic Difficulties: If a student is having academic and/or behavior difficulties, the teacher shall schedule a conference. The teacher shall confirm the conference request in writing with a copy to the student's house principal.

REPORT CARDS

The calendar for report card periods and publication dates shall be established by the Superintendent and approved by the School Board. Report cards shall be issued four times per year via the student portal.

CLASS PREPARATION

Students are expected to be prepared for class. Preparation includes having a charged Chromebook, writing instrument and note paper, a textbook when required, and completed homework.

HOMEWORK

The <u>Centennial School Board</u> believes that homework is an important and integral part of the learning process.

AFTER-SCHOOL HELP

Office Hours:

WTHS is committed to supporting all students in meeting the PA Core Standards. Faculty members are available during office hours on *Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 PM to 3:00 PM*. During this time, students may schedule appointments with teachers to receive academic support, work on projects, or make up missed assignments and assessments. Students may also choose to visit the Library or meet with their school counselors during this time.

Peer Tutoring:

Peer tutoring is provided by selected Honor Societies. Please contact your school counselor for additional information.

STUDENT SERVICES

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

WTHS is proud to have six dedicated secondary school counselors who work in alignment with Centennial School District's mission to support a diverse community of learners. Counselors are committed to helping every student thrive in academics, athletics, and the arts while preparing for life beyond high school.

School counselors serve as leaders, advocates, and collaborators, working closely with students, families, faculty, and the broader school community. They provide personalized support through individual and group meetings and offer services in the following areas:

- Academic Advising
- Social/Emotional Support
- College & Career Planning and Advising
- Career Exploration
- School and Community Resource Referrals

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The <u>Student Assistance Program</u> is designed to help students. The Team consists of trained school personnel and community agency staff who can provide information and services to students and parents. Anyone can refer a student to the SAP Team. Some students are referred by teachers, other school personnel, a friend or a family member. School counselors can assist in referrals. The goal of SAP is to help students succeed in school.

Behaviors of concern include: depression, sudden drop in grades, acting aggressively, experimenting with drugs or alcohol, lying, needing money without an explanation, defying authority at home and at school, talking about suicide, unexplained physical injuries, changing friends, or withdrawing from family, friends and/or school.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The Centennial School District believes that all students can and must have an opportunity to reach their full potential. To this end, the District will provide free, appropriate public education to children with disabilities who need special education and related services and will identify, locate and evaluate all students with suspected disabilities for such special services using all applicable laws. If at any time, parents or guardians think that their child may be eligible for special education and related services they may request that the District conduct a multi-disciplinary evaluation. Such a request should be made in writing to the Executive Director of Student Services, Centennial School District, 248 Swan Way, Warminster, PA18974. All such requests will be addressed within 10 days of receipt from the parent or legal guardian.

MILITARY RECRUITERS - ACT 10

As part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, schools are required to provide military recruiters access to a directory of secondary school students' names, addresses and telephone listings. Students have the right to respond within 21 calendar days of notification to ask to be excluded from disclosure. These requests should be sent to the *College and Career Center Secretary* by the first day of the academic year of graduation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WORKING PAPERS

Students under 18 must obtain an employment certificate (working papers) before beginning a job.

Applications are available in the 10th Grade House Office during the following times:

- School Year: 7:00–7:30 AM & 2:20–3:00 PM
- Summer: Monday–Thursday, 8:00 AM–12:00 PM

LIBRARY

The Library, located in the Main Lobby, is open for study, reading, and research.

Students must:

- Get teacher permission to visit during the school day.
- Obtain a pass (available at lunch) to visit during lunch periods.
- Sign in when visiting without a teacher.

Checkout Policy

Materials must be checked out at the circulation desk using your student ID number. Due dates:

- Books: 2 weeks
- Magazines/Pamphlets: 1 week
- Reference Books: Overnight

The Library has a security system to prevent unauthorized removal of materials. Students are responsible for returning borrowed items on time.

PHOTOCOPY SERVICES

A photocopier is available for student use at 10¢ per copy. Ask Library staff for assistance.

ANIMAL DISSECTION

Section 1552 of the school code states that "Public or nonpublic school pupils from kindergarten through grade twelve may refuse to dissect, vivisect, incubate, capture or otherwise harm or destroy animals, or any parts thereof, as part of their course or instruction."

Parents of students who choose to refrain from participation in or observation of dissection of chordate animals must notify the teacher in writing in advance of the project. In such cases, the teacher will provide the student with an alternate project and evaluation that may be completed online

GENERAL INFORMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Broadcast during the first period every morning and are posted to the WTHS homepage.
- Appear on television in the cafeteria and on televisions placed throughout the building.
- Teachers may read and post other announcements.
- Sent via eAlert to parents/guardians, and to students through Canvas.

BULLETIN BOARDS

The bulletin boards in the corridors and classrooms are for use of the school and for school events only. Students may not post any materials on the bulletin boards without prior approval from an administrator.

1:1 DEVICE INFORMATION

William Tennent High School offers a 1:1 device program. Each student is issued a Chromebook to better engage with the content being taught, to create and produce evidence of mastery of content and skills taught in class, and to collaborate with other students, teachers, or even experts in the field beyond the walls of the classroom. The technology is extremely powerful and presents incredible potential for student growth and learning. Please reference the above hyperlink for detailed information and <u>help desk support</u> should you require further assistance.

CELL PHONES

Student cell phone use is allowed during non-classroom time, such as lunch, hallway transition, etc., unless the high school staff directs otherwise. Students should use their Chromebooks for instructional purposes during classroom instruction. Cell phone use during instructional time is not appropriate or allowed unless approved by the teacher or school administration. Students will not have and should not access district-provided Wi-Fi for personal use. Those who use their personal devices will accept responsibility for any charges incurred. Please see the Code of Conduct for the consequences of inappropriate use of cell phones or devices.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Visitors and other guests in our building will be required to identify themselves by providing current, state-issued photo identification and to wear a visitor's badge. In the interest of student safety, the administration of William Tennent High School reserves the right to refuse access to our building. Any volunteer providing more than ten hours of school-related service is required to be tested for tuberculosis.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Emergency drills are essential practice for real-life situations. Students must follow staff instructions quickly, calmly, and seriously. Misbehavior during a drill or actual emergency will lead to disciplinary action.

WEATHER AND EMERGENCIES

School closings due to weather or emergencies will be announced via:

- The District Website
- eAlerts sent to registered families

SCHOOL NURSE: ILLNESS, INJURY, AND MEDICATION

- Students must have a pass from a teacher to visit the nurse (except in emergencies).
- The nurse will contact families if early dismissal is necessary.
- All medications (prescription or over-the-counter) must be kept with the nurse.
- A signed permission form from a parent/guardian is required for any medication to be administered.

Medical Excuses for Activity Restrictions

If a student cannot participate in activities (e.g., Physical Education) for medical reasons, they must provide a doctor's note to the nurse. This note must include:

- The reason for the restriction
- Specific limitations
- Start and end dates of the restriction

STUDENT PROPERTY, PRIVACY, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

LOCKERS

Lockers are the property of the school district and may be inspected at any time. Students should not expect privacy when using school lockers.

Key guidelines:

- Use only your assigned locker and do not share combinations.
- Report damaged or difficult-to-open lockers to the 9th Grade House Office secretary.
- The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, damaged, or defaced items stored in lockers.
- Always keep lockers locked, especially during Physical Education or after-school sports.
- Locker combinations are accessible via Skyward.

ITEMS OF PERSONAL VALUE

Students are strongly discouraged from bringing valuable personal items (e.g., expensive clothing, jewelry, or large sums of money) to school.

The School District is not liable for any personal items that are lost, stolen, or damaged.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost items should be turned in to the Main Office, where a designated Lost and Found area is maintained. If you've lost something, check with office personnel. For high-value items, notify your House Principal immediately to file a police report if necessary.

PERSONAL INFORMATION REPORTING

Please inform the House Office immediately if there are any changes to: (1) your legal name; (2) the address where you reside; (3) the telephone number where you reside; (4) the name of the parent/guardian with whom you reside.

STUDENT DEBTS

The Centennial School District recognizes that students may, at times, incur financial obligations to the District. All outstanding debts must be resolved by the student and/or their parent(s)/guardian(s). For additional information, click here.

Examples of Student Indebtedness include:

- Loss of or damage to instructional materials (e.g., textbooks, library books, A/V materials)
- Damage to school property, facilities, or equipment
- Loss of or damage to extracurricular uniforms, equipment, or supplies
- Failure to return or pay for fundraising items voluntarily accepted
- Any other reason approved by the building principal

Consequences of Nonpayment:

Parents/guardians will be notified by mail if a debt is owed. Consequences may include:

- Exclusion from extracurricular events (e.g., dances, prom, graduation)
- Revocation of additional privileges as determined by administration

SCHOOL SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Every student is welcome and is entitled to a safe and supportive school environment, regardless of race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, gender identity or sexual orientation. The best school environment is a safe and respectful school community. Every student has a responsibility to be a part of making our school safe. Students should strive at all times to be cooperative, communicative, and accepting.

Anger and Conflict

If a student is feeling upset, angry, or overwhelmed and needs a brief moment to de-escalate and reflect in order to prevent further conflict or potential disciplinary consequences, they may request a pass from a teacher to visit the House Principal or School Counselor. These offices serve as safe spaces where students are encouraged to pause, reflect, and process emotions in a supportive environment. The goal is to allow students an opportunity to stop, think, act, and make informed decisions before re-engaging with the school day.

Physical Altercations

The school promotes a culture of nonviolence and mutual respect. Physical altercations and verbal harassment toward others are strictly prohibited. Students who engage in such behavior—whether on school grounds, in school vehicles, during school-sponsored activities, or while traveling to or from school—will be subject to disciplinary consequences, which may include notification of law enforcement.

All members of the school community share the responsibility to avoid physical confrontations and to de-escalate conflicts. Students who feel threatened, harassed, or unsafe should promptly report the situation to their School Counselor or House Principal for immediate support and intervention.

Unlawful Harassment

Each student should feel safe and secure at WTHS. However, one cannot have fairness and respect when there is unlawful harassment. Anyone of any age, male or female, can harass others or be a target of harassment. Students who engage in harassing behavior or actions in school, on school grounds, on school vehicles, during school activities, or when traveling to or from school, will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include police involvement.

For more information, please look here.

Restorative Practices

WTHS has implemented many of the concepts of Restorative Practices. The Restorative Practices concept has its roots in "restorative justice," a new way of looking at conflict resolution that focuses on repairing the harm done to people and relationships, rather than simply punishing offenders. These practices do not preclude other disciplinary actions.

To assist in students' efforts to resolve conflicts peaceably, WTHS offers several avenues for conflict resolution: school counselors, house principals, and restorative programs. A student who is experiencing an interpersonal conflict that is likely to escalate into fighting or other inappropriate behavior, is expected to seek assistance from these sources.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Every student has the right to safety and security in an environment that offers engaging academic, artistic and athletic opportunities. Every student has the responsibility to act in a way that upholds the safety and security of others and maintains their access to engaging academic, artistic and athletic opportunities. Please review <u>Board Policy 219</u> and <u>Board Policy 235</u> to review responsibilities, discipline and student complaint reporting.

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to show good taste and common sense in dress when in school. <u>Appropriate dress</u> reflects pride in your school and yourself. It is inappropriate to wear anything that distracts and/or disrupts the learning environment, or interferes with the educational process. Attire that might be acceptable for home, leisure or other situations might be considered unacceptable school attire. If a student's dress is inappropriate for school, the student may be removed from the school population until the situation is corrected. Parents/guardians may be asked to provide a change of clothes, or more suitable clothing may be provided if available.

SMART Pass

SMARTpass is the digital hall pass system used at WTHS. Students must request and use a SMARTpass to leave class for the bathroom, nurse, guidance, or other locations. Passes are created and approved by staff through the SMARTpass website or app. All students are expected to use SMARTpass responsibly, limit time out of class, and follow all school rules while in the hallways. Misuse of passes may result in disciplinary action or restricted pass access.

SEARCHES

<u>CSD Board Policy</u>: School officials have the authority to lawfully search students or their belongings, including lockers, automobiles, District owned electronic devices, purses, backpacks, clothing, and other possessions, without a warrant, when in school, on school grounds or when otherwise under school supervision, if there is a reasonable suspicion that the place or object to be searched contains prohibited contraband, material that would pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the school population, or evidence that there has been a violation of the law, Board policy, or school rules. The scope and extent of searches must be reasonable in relation to the nature of the suspected evidence, contraband or dangerous material and to the grounds for suspecting that it may be found in the place or object being searched.

STUDENT DRIVING AND PARKING PRIVILEGES

The Centennial School District recognizes that there is a need for some students to drive to school. Students who drive must comply with the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code and local ordinances. For more information, please read <u>here</u>.

STUDENT PARKING PERMITS

Parking a motor vehicle on school property is a privilege and on campus parking privileges are NOT guaranteed. Parking passes are reserved for 11th and 12th grade students. Students in grades 9 and 10 will not be granted parking permits.

Request a Parking Pass:

• Fill out the 25-26 Parking Permit Google Form

Student Parking Passes:

- Parking permits must always be visible.
 - Tags should be hanging from the rearview mirror with the number facing outwards.
 - No student may park any motor vehicle on the property of WTHS without the proper permit.
- Any discipline referral, unsatisfied school obligation, or repeated unexcused lateness, may result in the loss of your parking privilege.
 - Refunds will NOT be given out if your parking permit gets revoked.

Expectations and Safety:

While driving on school property, all Pennsylvania motor vehicle laws must be obeyed.

- The speed limit is 15 mph.
- Violations are subjected to a fine of \$5.00.
- Should a student (who is registered to park) drive an unregistered vehicle to school, the student must register that vehicle to the security office located in the Main Office, prior to the start of the day.
- Parking passes are non-transferable. The pass is only to be used by the student assigned to that pass.
 - Lost of stolen permits should be reported immediately to the security office.
 - If a specific issue arises that would violate this rule, please contact the security office.
- Only MBIT students with approval from WTHS and MBIT may drive to MBIT. Transporting passengers to MBIT is NOT PERMITTED.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

A positive educational environment requires the cooperation of students, parents, teachers and administration. Each student is responsible for his/her/their own behavior. The emphasis is on developing self-discipline. The expectation is that students will behave in an orderly and respectful manner. Disruptions and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated at any time.

Rules for appropriate behavior apply from the time you leave your home in the morning, the bus stop, on the bus to and from school, hallways, cafeteria, athletic fields, as well as the classroom, until you reach your home in the afternoon. This also includes all school-related activities, both on and off-site.

Consequences vary depending on the offense, and may include teacher detention, administrative detention, Saturday detention, or suspension.

A quick reference chart of disciplinary infractions and related actions appears on the following page. It is meant as a guide and it does not include every possible situation that may arise.

More information can be found in the relevant Board policies:

- Bullying
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Hazing
- Terroristic Threats
- Vaping and Tobacco Products
- Weapons
- Social Media

Smoking, Vaping, and Zero-Nicotine Vapes

The use, possession, or distribution of any vaping devices, including those labeled as zero-nicotine or nicotine-free, is strictly prohibited on school property, at school-sponsored events, and on school transportation. This applies regardless of the device's content or labeling.

Recent trends have shown that zero-nicotine vapes are often marketed as a safer alternative; however, the use of these devices is inconsistent with our commitment to promoting a safe and healthy learning environment. As such, zero-nicotine vapes are treated the same as all smoking and vaping devices.

Important: The determination of nicotine content is irrelevant to the enforcement of this policy. Any device intended for inhalation, whether labeled as zero-nicotine, nicotine-free, or otherwise, falls under this regulation. Additionally, students who fail to comply with the vaping cessation program requirements may face additional disciplinary measures.

QUICK REFERENCE STUDENT DISCIPLINE CHART

	Offense	Teacher Consequences: The following consequences may be applied by any teacher.	Administrative Consequences: The following consequences may be applied by the Administration.
Level 1:	Cafeteria Infractions Dress Code Violations Computer Violations Disrespect, disruption or defiance Inappropriate language Lateness to school/class Unauthorized Use of cell phones/electronic devices in the classroom Food/drink outside of cafeteria	Confiscation of item Loss of privileges Parental contact Student conference Referral to administration Reprimand Detention	Confiscation of item Loss of privileges Parental contact Student conference Reprimand Behavior modification contract Administrative detention
Level 2:	Repeated Level 1 Offenses Bus Infractions Bullying Chronic lateness to school/class Computer violations Cutting class Damage of school property Horseplay Insubordination Leaving school grounds Petty theft Physical altercations Throwing objects Verbal harassment Chronic dress code violations	Any Level 1 Consequences and/or: Referral to administration	Any Level 1 consequences, and/or: Saturday School Restitution Removal from Co-curricular activity Community service Referral to Child Study/SAP Team Out-of-School Suspension Police Contact
Smokii	ng/Vaping Violations	Referral to administration	Each offense: \$50.00 fine Student Assistance Program Referral Vaping Cessation Module
Parking/Driving Violations		Referral to administration	Each offense: \$5.00 fine Suspension/Revocation of parking privileges
Level 3:	Repeated Level 2 Offenses Computer Violations (Severe) Bullying Fighting Sexual Harassment Possession of Weapon (regardless of intent) Possession, use, sale, or distribution of controlled substances or look like during school or a school activity	Referral to administration	Any Level 1 or 2 Consequences and/or: Student Assistance Program Referral required Out of School Suspension Police contact Informal hearing

STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS

William Tennent High School offers its students a wide variety of athletic and non-athletic activities to enhance and enrich their education.

CLUBS

Clubs are organized by students and sponsored by a faculty member when there is a common interest to be served. Students interested in forming a club must first seek the permission of a school administrator. For a list of active clubs or information to start a new club please click <u>here</u>.

All students are eligible to participate in the non-athletic clubs and activities. There are no specific eligibility requirements for these activities. However, the principal may suspend or terminate students from an activity if (1) participation in the activity is negatively affecting their regular school program or other students in the activity, (2) they are not participating in the activity, (3) they are suspended from school, (4) they commit a flagrant violation of the activity's rules or procedures, and/or (5) their conduct brings discredit to the activity and the school.

DANCES

WTHS periodically sponsors dances for students and their approved guests. All attendees must follow the guidelines below:

- Tickets will be sold in school and must be purchased in advance. No tickets are sold at the door.
- Guests who are not WTHS students must be registered at the time of ticket purchase and submit a completed guest permission form, available on the school website.
 - Guests who have graduated, or are no longer enrolled in high school, must be under 21 years of age and are subject to administrative review and approval.
 - Guests who are 21 years of age or older are not permitted to attend any WTHS dance.

Dance Arrival and Departure:

- Students will not be admitted more than 30 minutes after the posted start time of the dance.
- Early departures are not permitted, unless approved by an administrator.
- All students must vacate school grounds within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the event, unless actively participating in clean-up under faculty supervision.

Eligibility and Expectations:

- Students with poor disciplinary records, or who did not attend at least half of the school day, may be denied the privilege of attending dances, at the discretion of the administration.
- All student conduct guidelines outlined in this handbook apply during school dances, whether
 on or off school property.
- Random breathalyzer testing may be administered to ensure the safety and well-being of all attendees.

ATHLETICS

The interscholastic athletic teams are an important part of our co-curricular program, designed to enhance and enrich the educational experience. The opportunity to try out for the athletic teams is open to all students, if they meet applicable PA Interscholastic Association requirements. Eligibility to play on a team is governed by the <u>PIAA Eligibility Standards</u> and those of WTHS. Expectations for student athletes are high. There are additional academic, behavioral, and team specific rules that govern all students' participation in our sports programs. Please visit William Tennent's <u>athletic website</u> for additional information and to review the Athletic Handbook.

SENIOR TRIP

WTHS Senior Class Details

To be eligible for participation in the Senior Class Trip, students must maintain good standing throughout the school year. The high school administration reserves the right to deny a student's participation. Refunds will be determined based on the timing of the student's removal; however, in some cases, a refund may not be possible.

The following criteria will be considered:

1. Disciplinary Infractions

• Repeated or serious violations of the student code of conduct, including but not limited to suspensions, fighting, or insubordination.

2. Police-Involved Incidents

• Any involvement with law enforcement, on or off school grounds, that reflects poorly on the student's behavior or judgment.

3. Truancy

• Excessive unexcused absences, lateness, or cutting of classes.

4. Academic Standing

• Failing grades in required courses necessary for graduation at the time of the trip.

5. Financial Obligations

• Failure to pay school-related debts (e.g., trip balance, lost books, activity fees, etc.) by the time the trip is scheduled to leave.

6. Attendance at Mandatory Meetings

• Missing required pre-trip meetings or deadlines related to forms, payments, or travel policies without prior approval.

7. Behavioral Probation

• Any student placed on disciplinary or behavioral probation during the school year may forfeit the right to attend the trip.

8. Vandalism or Damage

• Any involvement in damaging school or district property during the senior year may disqualify a student from participation.

9. Insubordination Toward School Expectations

 Failure to comply with school or district expectations related to class events throughout the Senior year.

CSD FOOD SERVICES

The CSD Food Service Department is committed to supplying healthy meals to our students and making sure that no child goes hungry. You can learn more about <u>CSD Food Services</u> on the website.

- Breakfast begins at 6:45 am
 - Each student is entitled to one free lunch each day
- Lunch:
 - A wide variety of lunch options are available and students can purchase complete meals or a la carte items.
 - Menus are published monthly and posted in the cafeteria and online.
 - WTHS Pricing
- Lunch Accounts:
 - Students may use cash or can set up a pre-paid lunch account through Schoolcafe.
 - For more information, please click <u>here</u>.

CAFETERIA ETIQUETTE

- Students should clean up their tables, properly dispose of all trash, return used trays to the kitchen area, and push chairs back in when leaving the cafeteria.
- Students are expected to report to the cafeteria in the same manner that they are expected to report to any other scheduled class on their roster.
- Glass bottles or glass containers are not permitted.
- Food and drink should not be taken out of the cafete