

Geneseo Elementary School



Student and Parent Handbook

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Welcome to Geneseo Elementary School

The faculty and staff of Geneseo Elementary welcome you to our school! Our goal is to make education a rewarding and exciting venture for you and your child. We value parent and community involvement, and encourage you to partner with us in supporting your child's development as a learner. We look forward to getting to know your family and to working cooperatively toward these goals!

Please feel free to call the elementary office at extension 3018 with any questions or concerns. You can also visit the district website at www.geneseocsd.org and access this document on the elementary homepage .

Important Phone Numbers:

Geneseo Central Schools: (585) 243-3450
Geneseo Elementary Office...ext 3018

Kelly Sattora	Elem. Principal	Ext 3418
Tara Button	Elem. Main Office	Ext 3018
Carol Schrader	Elem. Nurse	Ext 3002
Beki Kaye	Elem. School Counselor	Ext 3045
Theresa McDonald	Elem. School Psychologist	Ext 3046
Tim Hayes	GCS Superintendent	Ext 2214
Transportation	Bus Garage	(585) 243-3050
Attendance	elementaryattendance@geneseocsd.org	(585) 243-3451

District Expectations

❑ Code of Conduct

Please see the district website for a full manual.

<https://www.geneseocsd.org/cms/lib/NY02214398/Centricity/Domain/8/Codes%20of%20Conduct%20Manual.pdf>

As educators we fully understand the social development of students, and behavioral expectations are tailored to the age and background of each student.

All elementary students have the responsibility to contribute to maintaining a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning. Students are expected to respect faculty, staff, visitors, and fellow students at all times.

Disciplinary measures will be taken when required, serious or recurrent issues will often require parental involvement. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations.

❑ District Calendar

Please see the district website for up to date events happening at GCS.

<https://www.geneseocsd.org/Page/10#calendar2192/20190102/month>

❑ Safety & Security

Your child(ren)'s safety is one of our highest priorities at GCS. The school district has one point of entry. During the hours of 7:30am - 2:30pm, all visitors and students must be buzzed through the main lobby doors and then sign in. Visitor stickers must be worn at all times while in the building. Once your visit is done, please sign out at the main lobby upon exiting the building. For the safety and security of your child(ren) in our district, it is imperative we know who is in the building at all times. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

The school district has a full time school resource officer on premises during regular school hours. To report an anonymous safety concern, please call the district anonymous tip line directly at (585) 243-1183 or fill out a tip report from the district website:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdgK0LcV_GJ276xiVIhLUngX6Mv-WRl6gx_z30su4aJkCO0tA/viewform. Please be advised, this is not an emergency safety line - for an

immediate threat or if you are in danger, call 911.

❑ **Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)**

New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (The Dignity Act) seeks to provide the state's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function.

The Dignity Act was signed into law on September 13, 2010, and took effect on July 1, 2012. Amendments to the act are effective as of July 1, 2013.

The original legislation amended State Education Law by creating a new Article 2 – Dignity for All Students. The Dignity Act also amended Section 801-a of New York State Education Law regarding instruction in civility, citizenship, and character education by expanding the concepts of tolerance, respect for others, and dignity to include: an awareness and sensitivity in the relations of people, including but not limited to, different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, gender identity, and sexes. The Dignity Act further amended Section 2801 of the Education Law by requiring Boards of Education to include language addressing The Dignity Act in their codes of conduct.

Additionally, under the Dignity Act, schools will be responsible for collecting and reporting data regarding material incidents of discrimination, harassment, and bullying.

To report an incident to Geneseo Central School, please see the district website.

https://docs.google.com/a/geneseocsd.org/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeONkMxP9IwvWMpkMjYVGHuC9qv__hDgfuF9F0dShqEgG92Yg/viewform

- Mr. Craig Veley/Assistant Principal/Director of Health & Athletics - DASA Coordinator for the MSHS
- Mrs. Kelly Sattora/Elementary Principal - DASA Coordinator for the Elementary Building

Technology

❑ **Student Numbers**

Every student enrolled at GCS is issued a student number. This number is attached to the student's school records, library privileges, computer use and cafeteria purchases.

❑ **Policies**

Please see our policies for technology usage on the district webpage.

<https://www.geneseocsd.org/domain/66>

❑ **Elementary Personal Electronic Device**

We recognize that cell phones and other personal electronic devices (including but not limited to, cell phones, iPods, MP3 Players, iPads, tablets and laptops) have become common tools for communication and learning. However, they can also become a major distraction to the learning environment and are vulnerable to theft. We ask that if you do allow your child to carry a cell phone or personal electronic device, you sign and acknowledge that you (and your child) understand the rules and regulations for personal electronic devices in school. An acknowledgement will be sent out at the beginning of every school year for all grades K-5.

❑ **Communication from the GCS Elementary Staff:**

- District Website: <https://www.geneseocsd.org/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/kellysattora12>
- District Facebook: "Official Geneseo Central"
<https://www.facebook.com/Official-Geneseo-Central-218425314837262/>
- SeeSaw - this is teacher dependent, but be sure to ask your child's teacher if they will be communicating through SeeSaw
- Blackboard - emails and text messages will be sent to parents from the principal through Blackboard.
- Email - all email addresses for staff can be found on the district website

Transportation Department

Every child in the Geneseo Central School District is eligible to be bussed to and from school. Unless otherwise indicated, we assume students are transported to and from school from their primary residence, or another **consistent** location within the district as directed by parents. Bus schedule forms will be mailed out over the summer, listing your child(ren)'s bus number and estimated pick up and drop off times. If your child(ren) will not be taking the bus to and/or from school, you should fill out a new transportation form, or contact the GCS Transportation Department.

Bus drop offs **MUST** be met by an adult for all K-5 students. Bus drivers will not drop elementary students off without an authorized adult to get them off the bus. An exception can be made with written permission to either the elementary office or transportation department for students in grades 3-5 **ONLY**.

Parents may request a transportation change for a single day by completing a Single Day Transportation Change Form. **This form must be submitted before 2:00 pm on the day of the change.** Single day bus change requests are accepted for emergencies only. Birthday parties, sleep overs, non-babysitting changes, etc. will not be accomodated. This policy ensures consistent drop-off times for all students on the bus route.

All students that have permission to stay after school during an staff supervised activity have the option to be bussed home. All extracurricular activities dismiss at 3:25pm. The "late bus" run departs the school campus at 3:30pm. The student's destination will be their home address unless a note has been sent in with a different destination.

Any transportation questions, please contact our Director of Transportation, Jay Ballard at 243-3450 ext. 4900 or email at jayballard@geneseocsd.org

Health Office

Carol Schrader - Nurse, ext.3002
carolschrader@geneseocsd.org

Fax: (585) 243-8087

Attendance Reporting: elementaryattendance@geneseocsd.org or (585) 243-3451

☐ **Allergies**

Please notify the health office by dropping off and/or have your child's physician fax proper documentation of any life threatening allergies.

Student's EpiPens/allergy medications are to be dropped off at the health office at the beginning of each school year by a **parent/guardian**, accompanied by a **physician's order**.

Medications and EpiPens **MUST** be picked up at the end of the school year by a **parent/guardian**. Reminders will be mailed out towards the end of the year. Medication that is not picked up will be properly disposed of by the school nurse.

☐ **Attendance/Absence Procedure**

Please notify the health office at (585) 243-3451 or send an email to elementaryattendance@geneseocsd.org before 8:00am when your child will be tardy or absent.

After 8:10am, you will receive an automated call/email informing you that your child is absent and inquiring as to the reason. Please note that this is done for the safety of your child, as well as being a NYS law. You will still receive a robo-call if you have informed the school of your child's absence. This is an added precaution that the school has implemented.

The following reasons are considered **excusable** student absences:

- Personal illness
- Illness or death in the family
- Unsafe travel due to weather
- Religious observation
- Approved school-sponsored trip
- Required court appearance

Written verification of the reason for the absence is required on the day that the student returns to school. A convenient form is available at the elementary office, although any note specifying the student's information, date of absence(s), and reason for absence will be accepted with a parent/guardian signature.

All students must be signed in/out of the school at the elementary office between 8:00am - 2:30pm.

Immunizations

Please refer to <https://health.ny.gov/publications/2370.pdf> and have your physician fax records to the health office.

Illness

Please keep your child at home if in the past 24 hours he/she has had a fever of 100 or greater, has been vomiting, having diarrhea, and/or has a persistent cough that needs to be controlled with medication.

Also keep your child home if he/she suffers from *discolored nasal discharge* accompanied with facial pain, *strep infection/impetigo* (honey crusted sores around nose/mouth), rash, *scabies*, *pink eye*, and/or *fungal infection*.

If placed on an antibiotic for bacterial infections - your child must have completed a 24 hour course before returning to school.

Lice

Please keep your child home if you discover he/she has nits and/or lice, and be proactive in checking his/her hair.

If lice is found at school - the parent/guardian will be notified, and pick up arrangements will need to be made.

The nurse will check the hair of the students in that particular homeroom, and letters will be sent home with students informing parents.

The student must be treated before returning to school, and will be checked by the school nurse at the beginning of the day.

The student will be reassessed for the next couple of weeks to ensure there is no recurrence.

❑ Medications

All medications ,including OTC (over the counter) meds, must be dropped off by a **parent/guardian** to the health office in a properly labeled container accompanied by a **physician's order**.

Parents will receive a reminder call throughout the year when medication is running low.

Orders must be renewed each school year and medication is to be picked up by a **parent/guardian** at the end of the school year - again, reminder letters will be mailed home.

Medication that is left beyond the end of the school year will be properly disposed of by the school nurse.

❑ Physicals

New entrants, K, 2nd, and 4th grade students are required by NYS to have physicals. Please have your own physicians conduct a physical and request that forms be faxed, or drop them off the health office.

Vision screenings are required by NYS for all new entrants, K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th grade students.

Hearing screenings are required for all new entrants, K, 1st, 3rd, and 5th grade students.

Scoliosis screening is required for all 5th grade students.

You may choose to either have your own physician complete screenings (have results faxed to the health office) OR you may have them completed by the school nurse. Parents will be notified of abnormal results, and recommendations will be made to have further assessment by a specialist.

Food Services

Robert Flynn - ext. 2386
robertflynn@geneseocsd.org

Marilyn Torres - ext. 2286
marilyntorres@geneseocsd.org

Each purchase a student makes is associated with the student's ID number. When a purchase is made, the computer driven cash register will show a display identified with his/her student number. The visual display will include a picture, grade and teacher, any allergies or special diets, and the balance of any money on the account. Not shown in the display is information about the child's eligibility for free or reduced priced meals, or a history of purchases. The cashier uses a touch screen to enter the child's choices, and a total of money due will appear. If the child receives free meals, the total will be zero. If money has been deposited in the child's account, the purchases will automatically be subtracted from the total amount on deposit.

Students will be issued an ID card which has a UPC code of their student number. They can use the ID card with a scanner to call up their account at the cafeteria register, or enter their student number by PIN pad.

Students that buy breakfast/lunch may bring in money or upload funds to www.myschoolbucks.com. This site will allow you to view account balances and meals that have been purchased. You can also set up automatic payments or make payments anytime, anywhere from a mobile app. My School Bucks is safe, convenient, efficient, and flexible. Money deposited will arrive at school by the next morning. You can set low balance alerts as well.

If a student brings in money/check, please put in an envelope labeled to the cafeteria with your student's name. If there are multiple students, please provide a breakdown as to how to distribute funds per student. ***Please make checks payable to: GCS Cafeteria.*** Parents can call the Food Service office and request a printout of the child's expenditures at any time.

We encourage parents to pre-pay student accounts. It creates a great "safety-net" for young students, even if your child often brings lunch from home, you'll know that the money is there in case their packed lunch is lost or forgotten. And on days when we serve your child's favorite lunches, the money is already there to buy a meal.

❑ **Breakfast**

Breakfast is delivered to your child's homeroom for grades K-5. This is a great way for your child to start their busy day. Little instructional time is lost, as breakfast only takes 10-15 minutes for students to eat. Many teachers use this time to take attendance, collect homework, deliver announcements, or read to the class. Many teachers feel this is a valuable use of time and that their classes are more productive when students enjoy a healthy breakfast.

Breakfast costs \$1.50, and can be deducted from the student's account. If you wish to have your child not receive breakfast, please call or email the food service department to have restrictions placed on your child's account.

❑ **Additional Cafeteria Information**

There are no microwaves provided to students, please plan your child's lunch accordingly.

Breakfast and lunch menus will be emailed home. They can also be found on the school website.

<https://ny02214398.schoolwires.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=259>

Free or Reduced Meals forms can be found on the school website, or by calling the food service office.

<https://ny02214398.schoolwires.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=259>

School Procedures

❑ **Arrival**

Morning arrival time for students is between 7:45am and 8:00am. There is no supervision prior to 7:45am. If you have to drop your student off earlier than 7:45am, students may enter the building through the main entrance no earlier than 7:30am, and may wait in the hallway outside the elementary office entrance. Since there is no supervision, we ask that a parent/guardian wait with the student until the doors are open at 7:45am. If a student is being dropped off during normal drop off times (7:45-8:00am), students are expected to say goodbye to parents outside of the building and walk to their classrooms independently. We have hallway monitors to help assist students if the need arises.

Students are expected to be in their homerooms by 7:55am. A student will be marked absent at 8:00am, and parents will then receive a robo-call regarding the student's absence. ***It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to notify the office on the morning of the absence through the absence line: (585) 243-3451 or by emailing: elementaryattendance@geneseocsd.org***. (Please see Health Office for more information.) If a student arrives after 8:00am, the student will be marked tardy. If your child is tardy, New York State mandates you provide a note indicating why your child was tardy.

If students arrive after 8:00a.m., parents are expected to enter through the main lobby entrance, sign in, and then walk their K-5 children into the elementary office to be signed in. (The main lobby does not sign in students for the elementary building!)

❑ **Dismissal**

Student dismissal begins at 2:40p.m. If you are picking your child up before this time, you must sign them out of school in the elementary office. Please send in a signed note with your child's name, reason for early pick up, and the time of pick up. If another person is picking your child up, we will also need the name and phone number of the person authorized to sign your student out. Early dismissal students will need to be signed out of the elementary office.

If you are picking your student up at regular dismissal time, you may enter through the garden entrance, which is to the right of the elementary entrance and down the steps, and the doors will be unlocked from 2:30-2:45p.m. A table will be set up just inside the door for parents/guardians to sign their child(ren) out. Please wait for your student behind the table and do not walk down to your student's classroom during dismissal. When your student is dismissed to you, please exit through the garden doors.

❑ **Visitor Procedures**

All visitors must enter and exit through the main doors to the District, where you will be required to sign in and out. Parents who wish to visit their child's classroom **MUST** arrange the visit in advance with the child's teacher or principal. More information about visitors to the school can be found in the district's Code of Conduct. You will need to have a picture ID to get a visitors badge, or some other form of identification.

❑ **Enrollment/Withdrawal**

All new student enrollment or current student transfer questions may be directed to our district registrar. If you are a former student of GCS, you can also request transcript records through this office.

Please visit the registrar's webpage at <https://www.geneseocsd.org/domain/255> for more information.

Emergency Procedures

If the need to close school for emergency purposes arises, all phone numbers on file will receive a robo-call stating that campus will be closing, and for what purpose. Notification of school closings will also be sent through email, updated on the district website, and posted on our social media pages, Facebook and Twitter.

❑ **Drills** (Fire, Relocation, Lockdown, etc.)

There are several types of drills that the district performs throughout the school year. Fire drills, relocation drills, and lockdowns are just a few of these that are mandated by New York State. In the beginning of the year, drills are announced so that teachers can help students know what to expect and how to perform/act in certain situations.

Special Areas

☐ Physical Education

Physical education is a state mandated class. Everyone in K-5 is expected under state law to participate in physical education. This means if your child needs to sit out of a class for any reason, a doctor's note must be brought into the nurse. In order to have a successful physical education class in the gymnasium, K-4 students must bring sneakers, and 5th graders must have a change of clothes, as well as sneakers. During the students' swim unit, all students K-5 must bring a bathing suit and towel.

☐ Art Class

Art class meets for a 45-minute session once every four days, and students are required to wear a smock to every art class unless informed ahead of time they will not need one. This smock can just be an adult's old shirt that the student keeps in his/her backpack. All students are represented in at least one art show during the school year, generally coinciding with the annual budget vote. Students do not have homework in art until 5th grade, when they will be provided a free sketchbook for regular homework assignments. Sketchbook homework averages are equal to a unit average at the end of each marking period. Information will be sent home regarding field trips and other special events.

☐ Library Skills Class

Library skills class is attended on a regular basis. An emphasis is placed on finding books that would be enjoyable for independent reading and developing the skills necessary for lifelong learning. In addition to scheduled library classes, students may visit the library on a daily basis to borrow new library books. Please visit the library webpage at:

<https://www.geneseocsd.org/Page/1642>

☐ Music

Music in K-5 meets once every four days. Typically, students are not required to supply materials of any kind. All students in K-2 and 3-5 perform in our school concerts in winter and spring. Those concert dates can be found on the district calendar. Specific information regarding the concerts is sent home in advance.

☐ Enrichment Class

Enrichment classes in K-5 also meets on a regular basis. There are both whole group and small group enrichment opportunities for students in grades K-5. Please visit the enrichment webpage at: <https://www.geneseocsd.org/Page/513>

Student Related Services

❑ Academic Intervention Services

AIS is designed to help students achieve the learning standards in English language arts and mathematics. These services include two components: additional instruction that supplements the general curriculum (regular classroom instruction), and/or student support services needed to address improving student academic performance.

❑ Assessments

Assessments are given throughout the school year. Assessments given in the elementary school are:

- Aimsweb - 3x's per year
- NYS ELA and Mathematics exams for grades 3-5
- NYS Science exam for 4th Grade
- Local & District Level assessments throughout the year
- Report Cards go home in November, February & June

❑ Counseling

The elementary counseling program includes:

- Individual and small group counseling
- Class lessons on social skills, character traits, conflict resolution and career development
- Consultation with parents and teachers
- Collaboration with and referrals to outside agencies

Contact information for the elementary school counselor can be found on the district website:

<https://ny02214398.schoolwires.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=1789>

❑ English as a New Language (ENL)

ENL is a program that enhances a student's language, literacy, and cultural knowledge. Students for whom English is a second language, either because they are from another country or because their home language is not English, attend ENL classes as part of their academic curriculum.

ENL students are identified by a Home Language Inventory Form, and their continuance in ENL classes is dependent on two assessments: the LAB-R, given upon entrance to the school, and the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), which is given annually in the spring.

Related Services

As a district we provide additional services for our students if required through a student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or through various screenings that indicate a child may need support in some targeted areas. Our related services are the following:

- ❑ **Occupational Therapy (OT)** - Jill Olsen full-time OT
- ❑ **Physical Therapy (PT)** - Dawn Mattle full-time PT
- ❑ **Speech and Language Services** - Theresa Miskell & Ashley Kurtz full-time & Katie Shoup .5

Extracurricular Clubs/Activities

❑ **Art Club**

Art Club is offered to all 5th graders and has limited space each session. Students will learn about art/making projects that are not offered in regular art class. Meetings include such projects as paper making, automata, face mugs, outer space painting, and more!

❑ **Chess Club**

Chess Club is for any interested students in grades 3-5. Depending on numbers, each group meets roughly twice a month after school to learn the basic gameplay, as well as some basic strategy. Students may be invited to participate in Saturday competitions during the months of December, January, February, and March (one competition per month). Any and all students are welcome to join regardless of skill level. The goal of this club is to try and get as many students as possible interested in a great game!

❑ **Chorus: 4th & 5th Grades**

Chorus is a vocal performance group for 4th and 5th grade students. Through a variety of choral pieces, members of our chorus will use their vocal instrument to apply musical skills learned in general music. Additionally, participation in chorus will provide an experience in creativity and expression through vocal performance. Chorus rehearsals are during the students' last period of the day, with additional rehearsals after school closer to the concerts (performed twice a year).

❑ **Show Choir: 5th Grade**

Show choir is a performing ensemble for 5th graders who have a growing interest in musical theater, who like both singing and movement, or who simply have a general love of performing. Rehearsals for show choir take place on Tuesdays beginning in January. Students perform in a spring concert.

❑ **Geneseo Reads**

Geneseo Reads is a reading club for students in grades 3-5. Students participate in reading some great books, and in doing some fun follow-up activities. During meetings, the adults will read aloud, the students will read aloud, and the students will have fun learning about books and sharing ideas. Students will work on fluency through oral reading, on making inferences, and on building comprehension, helping to instill in them a love for reading.

❑ Math Club

Math Club is open to students in grades 3-5. Each grade meets once a month from October to April. Students apply math concepts while participating in solving puzzles, creating visual projects, and playing math related games.

❑ Quest

Quest is a program developed to provide children and their parents an opportunity to spend time together and socialize with others on Saturday mornings. This program is held on six Saturday mornings throughout the school year, and all students in K-5 are welcome. Students can pick two activities (gym, computers, swimming, or crafts), and they participate in each activity for an hour. Permission slips are sent home the week before each Quest day, and must be returned in order for students to participate.

❑ Ski & Snowboarding Club

Ski/Snowboarding Club is open to 3-5 grade students. Any level or ability of skier/snowboarder is welcome to join. This club travels to Swain four (4) times a year on Friday nights, leaving GCS around 3:00pm and returning around 9:00pm. Students who plan on joining the club must purchase a four session pass from Swain Ski Mountain, or have a season pass to Swain.

❑ Marching Band

Marching band is optional for all students in grades 4 & 5 who are currently enrolled in band. Students will learn to memorize music, as well as the basics of marching in a parade block. The goal is to perform in the Geneseo Memorial Day Parade in May. Students will be required to purchase or borrow a uniform shirt with the GCS Band logo. If a student does not feel ready to memorize music and march successfully, but would still like to participate in the parade, there are many options for them, which include carrying the front banner, or marching with a small American Flag. Color Guard is also offered at the Elementary and Middle School levels.

❑ Color Guard

Color guard is an option for any interested 4th and 5th grade students. It typically meets on Mondays starting in January. Students learn a routine that goes with the marching band music. Color guard marches in the Geneseo Memorial Day parade.

❑ Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind is an international academic and creativity competition committed to creativity and independent thinking for any interested Geneseo K-5 students. For more information about Odyssey of the Mind see www.odysseyofthemind.com For information about

NYS Odyssey of the Mind see www.NYSOMA.org and for GCS Odyssey information please like our Facebook page [GCS Journey to World Finals - Geneseo Odyssey of the Mind](#).

❑ **Student Advisory**

The Elementary Student Advisory Committee consists of two elected representatives from each classroom in grades 3-5. This group meets to discuss school wide concerns, needs, initiatives and to then make a plan for correction and/or implementation. Members are involved in several service projects, and will plan several spirit weeks. Students that are elected need to be responsible and able to work independently on the projects assigned. Meetings will take place one to two times per month AFTER school.

❑ **Girls on the Run**

Girl on the Run meets over a 12 week period. Girls in grades 3-5 participate in an after-school program like no other. Designed to allow every girl to recognize her inner strength, the Girls on the Run curriculum inspires girls to define their lives on their own terms. Throughout the season, the girls make new friends, build their confidence, and celebrate all that makes them unique. For more information go to: <https://sites.google.com/a/geneseocsd.org/geneseogotr/>

Instrumental Music Department

❑ **Band**

The elementary band program is available to students beginning in 4th grade. The band is an ensemble comprised of 4th and 5th graders. During the recruiting period (end of 3rd grade), students receive a brief introduction to the band instruments and have a chance to try three instruments of their choosing. Students may choose from all woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. Band students participate in a weekly in-school small group lesson beginning in September. These lessons range from 30 to 45 minutes, and are on a rotating schedule so that the same class is not missed more than once every few weeks.

Students enrolled in group lessons are expected to attend weekly large group rehearsals, beginning in September for grade 5 students, and in December for grade 4 students. These rehearsals are currently held on Tuesdays (grade 4) and Wednesdays (grade 5) during the last period of the day, 2:15-2:45p.m. As concert season approaches, after school rehearsals may be scheduled.

Performance opportunities for elementary band students include three concerts -winter (grades 5-12), beginner concert (grade 4), and spring (all bands). Others include spring marching band (grades 4-8), solo festivals, and all-county band (grade 5).

❑ **Orchestra**

The Elementary Orchestra program is available to students beginning in third grade. All students receive a brief introduction to string instruments, and have the chance to try them. Students may choose to study violin, viola, or cello. Students present a winter and a spring concert, featuring the beginning, elementary, and MS/HS orchestras.

Group lessons are provided during school hours, ranging from 30-45 minutes. They are on a rotating schedule so that the same class is not missed more than once every few weeks. In the month and a half prior to concert dates, we add rehearsals after school on Fridays. There will be several rehearsals during the school day for the entire ensemble in the 3-4 weeks prior to the concert.

❑ **Instrumental Department Policies**

Parents need to rent instruments and purchase the initial lesson book. Large instruments such as a tuba, baritone and french horn may be borrowed on loan from the school. You may rent or purchase an instrument from any supplier. For your convenience, the school works with two music rental vendors: Mobile Music (585-394-0296) and The Music Store (585-728-5470). They each deliver instruments directly to our school, visit regularly, and are highly recommended.

Yearly rentals range from about \$120-220, depending on the size of the instrument. Vendors also offer a very affordable insurance/maintenance add-on, which protects families from high replacement costs for damaged instruments and covers nearly all repairs.

As with any musical instrument, students are expected to practice regularly at home for about 15-20 minutes daily. Most elementary students will need parental and family support to establish regular practice time, remember their instruments and music on lesson days, etc. It is also asked that students to commit to lessons and band or orchestra for, at the very least, the full school year, and for them to stick with their original instrument of choice. The good news is that these practice habits translate to other schoolwork WHILE having the fun of learning to play music together!

Family Opportunities

❑ Math/Science/Technology Fair (MST Fair)

The Math Science Technology Fair is a PTSA sponsored event. Planning usually begins in December for the spring event. Students in grades K-8 are invited to prepare an experiment or project that will be judged and then put on display for the public. Students drop off their projects the night before the fair day. Judging takes place during the school day, and then families are invited to come and view the displays in the evening. All projects go home that evening. The planning committee consists of parents and teachers. Parents are welcome to join the planning committee, assist with judging, or volunteer during the fair.

❑ Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)

The Geneseo PTSA welcomes parents and students to join the group to help coordinate and plan events for our students, families and staff. Each fall, the PTSA has a membership campaign during which parents, students and teachers are invited to join for the year. Meetings are held throughout the year in the evenings. More information can be found at: <https://ny02214398.schoolwires.net/domain/54> or like us on Facebook at “Geneseo Central School PTSA”.

❑ Parent Volunteers

Teachers enlist parents to help in various ways throughout the year. Please check with your child’s teacher to see how you might assist in the classroom.

❑ Traditions at GES

Throughout the year there are many traditions and special celebrations that parents can support or assist with. These might include joining classes on field trips, sending in special treats for events, etc. Watch the mail that your child brings home to know when these special events are occurring. Some of our GES traditions are as follows:

- *5th Grade Whale Watch* - All students have the option to attend a special field trip at the end of their 5th grade year before they leave the elementary school.
<https://sites.google.com/geneseocsd.org/whalewatch/home>
- *Halloween Student Parade*: Students are allowed to bring their costumes from home to participate in a Halloween parade at the end of the day.

Students will weave in and out of each classroom to “show off” their costumes to their fellow students. This is a quick parade, so please just send in the main costumes with no accessories.

- *Veterans Day Ceremony*: Each year, several veterans from our local VFW post will participate and interact with our students in a flag raising ceremony. Family members that are veterans are welcome to join us at the ceremony. Please ask your child’s teacher for more information.
- *Holiday Sing-Along*:

Home/School Connections

❑ Before & After School Care

School-age care is provided by the Genesee YMCA. Please contact them for availability and pricing. More information can be found on their website:

<http://www.glowymca.org/Home/tabid/37/ctl/Privacy/Default.aspx>

❑ Classroom Placement

Student placement in grades K-4 for the following year will begin in the spring. A “Parent Input Form” will be sent out to parents in April to gather any additional information that parents would like to share with the principal. Our goal as a staff will be to finalize placements before the end of the school year in order for teachers to state on the last report card who your child’s teacher will be the following year. Teachers’ supply lists will then be sent out before the end of July.

❑ Contact Hierarchy Chart

We always encourage you to direct any questions or concerns to your child’s teacher first. If you feel you need additional assistance/support, you may then reach out to the elementary principal, then the superintendent, and lastly, the district’s board of education.

❑ Student/Parent/Guardian Information

If there is any contact information that needs to be shared with the school (new address, phone number, new adult that can pick up) please contact the district’s registrar (ext. 1028) to update the information on your child’s account. Up-to-date information is imperative to have in case of emergencies.

❑ Early Dismissals

Geneseo Elementary has approximately 8-9 early dismissal days throughout the school year. These “half-days” will consist of an 11:15 a.m. dismissal time. The MS/HS does not participate in scheduled early dismissals, so please take that into consideration for bus routes/drop-off times. Dates will be communicated through your child’s teacher, as well as through emails/text messages from the elementary principal.

❑ Homework Philosophy

Please see the webpage for more information: <https://www.geneseocsd.org/domain/291>

❑ **Lost and Found**

There is a lost and found area with hooks located between the library and the student lavatories. If your student has lost any clothing, jackets, lunch bags, etc., please have them look there. We also have a small lost and found in the elementary office for trinkets/small items.

❑ **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

There are two set conference times in place for parents to meet with their child's teachers and talk about their child's progress. These will be scheduled through your child's teacher, one in November and one in March. Report cards will also be sent home with your child before each of your parent/teacher conference dates. The final report card will be mailed home the week after the last day of school. Teachers and parents are encouraged to communicate regularly in support of each child's needs.

❑ **Staff Directory**

A list of staff members can be located on the district website:

<https://www.geneseocsd.org/Page/1613>

❑ **Yearbook**

All students in K-5 will receive a yearbook at the end of the year at little to no cost. Extracurricular activities will have their club pictures taken in early spring in order for them to be included in the yearbook. Yearbooks will be passed out the last week of school.

❑ **Important Dates**

There are several important dates throughout the school year. Our District Calendar is a great source for planning and knowing what events are happening at the elementary school level. Printed district calendars are available as an insert to the Pennysaver a few weeks before school. If you would like to be put on a mailing list for a printed calendar, please contact the superintendent's secretary at ext. 2214. The calendar can also be found on the district website: <https://www.geneseocsd.org/Page/10#calendar2192/20190107/month>

❑ **Pre-Kindergarten**

Geneseo Central does have a Pre-K program that is on the Pride & Joy campus. The Pre-K program teacher and staff work closely with our principal to ensure that there is a strong curricular alignment and communication with our families. Please go to the Pride& Joy website for more information at <https://www.pj-childcare.com/>

Community Connections (Resources)

❑ Art

- Artsmart: <https://www.facebook.com/ArtSmart-Studio-LLC-109512259380150/>

❑ Dance

- Valley School of Dance: <http://www.danceandyoga.com/>

❑ Geneseo Community Players: <http://www.geneseocommunityplayers.org/>

❑ Wadsworth Public Library: <https://wadslib.com/>

❑ Girls Scouts: <https://www.gswny.org/>

❑ Boy Scouts: <https://www.scouting.org/>

- ❑ **Summer Rec** is open to all students in the GCS district who have completed Kindergarten through approximately 10th Grade. It is held at Highland Park in the village of Geneseo, and the hours of operation are from 9:00am to 1:00pm. We typically begin the 1st week of July and run for 6 weeks. Activities include crafts, small group games, whole group games, field trips and more! Find a registration packet here: <http://www.glowymca.org/Programs/SummerRecPrograms/GeneseoRec/tabid/284/Default.aspx>

