



WALT DISNEY
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Family Handbook
2023-24

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Welcome from Disney's Lead Learners!

Dear Walt Disney Elementary School Families,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year at Walt Disney Elementary School! The **Family Handbook** is a go-to resource for information pertaining to our school. The handbook is also available on our school's website, gateschili.org/wds.

Walt Disney Elementary School is a diverse, friendly, and close-knit community that embraces our rich traditions and history. We are committed to fostering a welcoming and affirming environment for our students while preparing them for success in the 21st century. We invite you to join us in our efforts to create an exciting and engaging environment for our students to learn about their community, their world, and themselves.

Our staff is committed to creating a welcoming and affirming environment for all school stakeholders. There are many ways we can work together to **teach** and **inspire** our students to achieve **individual excellence**.

Here are a few ideas for you to consider as we work together to establish a strong home-school partnership focused on each individual student's success at Walt Disney Elementary (further details of each can be found within this handbook):

- ✓ Check your child's take-home folder daily
- ✓ For intermediate students, check your child's agenda daily
- ✓ Attend Walt Disney Elementary School events found on the district calendar (www.gateschili.org).
- ✓ Find out the best way to communicate with your child's teacher
- ✓ Attend our Walt Disney Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (WDPTO) meetings.
- ✓ Sign-up to be a volunteer at gateschili.org/Volunteer

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us by calling the main office (585-247-3151), or by sending us an email.

On behalf of the Staff of Walt Disney Elementary School, thank you very much for entrusting your student into our care.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel Zdanowski
Principal
dtzdanowski@gateschili.org

Costa Tavelaris
Assistant Principal
cxtavelaris@gateschili.org



The History of Walt Disney Elementary School

In the mid-1960s, following extensive enrollment studies that were completed to evaluate the needs of the District, Gates Chili Superintendent William C. Hagenlocher made the recommendation to the Board of Education to construct two new elementary school buildings. One would be a site on Paul Road, and the other would be constructed on Coldwater Road. The Board of Education accepted the recommendation of the superintendent and began planning the construction of our school building.

The design of the Coldwater Road School was unique for its time. This innovative design featured no load-supporting walls. Due to this unique project, construction workers and contractors could actively work both inside and outside the building during the construction period. This allowed for the most efficient use of time and talent for all of the workers on site. Coldwater Road School was dedicated in 1968 with a cornerstone marker. A time capsule was put together by the students and staff and was placed behind the cornerstone before being sealed up. There are no records, of which we are aware, that list what was put in the time capsule.

In the early 1970s, the Gates Chili Central School District sponsored a school naming contest in which elementary students were provided the opportunity to name their school. The students at the Coldwater Road School proposed, and overwhelmingly supported, changing the name of their school to Walt Disney Elementary School. The district skillfully navigated the legalities associated with this particular name change in the years that followed and eventually received written permission and naming rights from the sitting Walt Disney CEO.



Two major renovation projects have occurred since our school was built. The first was in 1994, when construction began on a new, fourth, wing at Walt Disney Elementary School. This wing added eight classrooms, a new computer lab, and enlarged the existing cafeteria. The second renovation occurred in 2020. An entire wing of classrooms, the school's main hallway, the nurse's office, and the main office were renovated while our teachers and students engaged in hybrid and remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The history of the school is difficult to summarize in just a few short paragraphs, but it is certainly more than just its bricks and walls. The rich culture of our building can be felt when our community walks into Walt Disney Elementary School. It is the warmth, the friendliness, the professionalism, the relationships, and most importantly- our students that make Walt Disney Elementary a special place to work and learn.

We look forward to the future. We know that our students today are the future of our community, and our world. It is a great responsibility, but we are eager for the challenge and excited for the opportunity!

District Information

Address Gates Chili Central School District
3 Spartan Way, Rochester, NY 14624

Website www.gateschili.org

Administration	Mr. Christopher Dailey	Superintendent of Schools
	Dr. Mitchell Ball	Asst. Superintendent for Business
	Mr. Jason deJong	Asst. Superintendent for Student Support Services
	Mr. Troy Olin	Asst. Superintendent for Instruction
	Ms. Michaela Perrotto	Asst. Superintendent for Human Resources and Labor Relations

Frequently Called Numbers	Switchboard / Administration Building	(585) 247-5050
	Hours: Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.	

Transportation Department	(585) 247-4774
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School Nutrition Department	(585) 247-7213
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The Gates Chili Central School District seeks to teach and inspire excellence for all learners through excellent academic programs, extensive co-curricular activities, family involvement, community partnerships and a commitment to providing the knowledge, skills, and resources to prepare students for success.

Gates Chili CSD serves nearly 3,700 students in four elementary schools for grades UPK-5, one grades 6-8 middle school, and one grades 9-12 high school. Our diverse population, comprised of students from more than 20 different countries who speak more than 20 home languages, fosters an accepting and positive school culture.

The district offers a robust variety of learning opportunities from our youngest learners in Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) to our high school scholars and transition-aged students. Along with rigorous curriculum and highly-qualified staff, Gates Chili CSD offers instructional technology integral in educating the 21st century student. One-to-one computers, stationary and mobile computer labs and online learning opportunities are some of the technology resources available to students and staff. The district also places an increased focus on social-emotional learning and development.

GCCSD features state-of-the-art learning opportunities and facilities, with additional investments being made to students' futures with the current Capital Improvement Plan underway. Gates Chili High School has top-notch facilities including a national award-winning, state-of-the-art science wing; an art and graphic arts wing; a 9,000-squarefoot library; and a 22,000-square-foot field house that serves students and the community at large.



School Information and Staff Directory

Address Walt Disney Elementary School
175 Coldwater Road, Rochester, NY 14624

Website www.gateschili.org/WDS

Frequently Called Numbers

Main Office	(585) 247-3151
Attendance Line	(585) 340-5560
Health Office	(585) 247-4660
Fax Number	(585) 340-5577

School Hours 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Main Office Staff

Dr. Daniel Zdanowski	Principal
Mr. Costa Tavelaris	Assistant Principal
Ms. Laurie Miller	Building Secretary
Ms. Ashley Sanza	Attendance Aide

Health Office Staff

Ms. Madalyn Zulauf	School Nurse Teacher
Ms. Marybeth Hart	Health Aide

Grade-Level and Content Area Staff

Kindergarten	Mrs. Elizabeth Bunk Mrs. Katherine Ferrara Mrs. Sarah Powers Mrs. Katie Reinhardt	Grade 1	Ms. Debi Dunlap Ms. Diane Kunkel Mr. Jordan Manetta Mrs. Regina Maxey
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Primary Teacher Assistant Mrs. Michele Donnelly

Grade 2	Mrs. Sarah Klinczar Mrs. Christina Scarpulla Ms. Kara Snyder	Grade 3	Mrs. Margaret Gerwitz Ms. Rebecca Schneider Mrs. Kelsey St. Denis- Science Content Leader Ms. Kennedy Wittenrich
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Grade 4	Ms. Jessica Federico Mrs. Michelle McCumber Mrs. Janelle Messerino Mrs. Lisa Smith	Grade 5	Mrs. Sandra Austin Mrs. Yolanda Conger Mrs. Margaret Drzewiecki
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6:1:1 Teachers

Primary-Level Mrs. Cynthia Wilson
Mrs. Keri Martin

Late Primary-Level Mr. Maxwell Eckerson
Intermediate-Level Ms. Amy General

English as a Second Language (ESOL)

Mrs. Sara Ray-Meza	ESOL Content Leader
Ms. Danielle Gurrant	
TBD	

Academic Intervention Service Providers (AIS)

Mr. Peter Sacheli	Building Math Teacher
Mrs. Bonnie DiGiacomo	Math AIS
Ms. Sierra Dix	Math AIS
Mrs. Kayleen Halpin	Co-Building Reading Teacher
Mrs. Lauren Henderberg	Co-Building Reading Teacher
Mrs. Chris Smith-Campbell	Reading, AIS & Social Studies Content Leader
Ms. Suzette Martin	Reading AIS
Mrs. Suzanne (Clara) Smith	Reading AIS

Art	Mrs. Kelly Hanning	K-12 Art Content Leader
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Music	Mrs. Juliet Holman	Vocal Music
	Mr. Ryan Vane	Instrumental

Library	Ms. Elizabeth Larter, Librarian
	Mrs. Roxanne Connelly, Library Aide

Physical Education	Mr. Vincent Candileri
	Mrs. Marcy Wing

Related Services	Mrs. Lori Cypressi	School Caseworker
	Mrs. Nancy DiPonzio	Social Worker
	Mr. Adam Mattice	Behavioral Consultant
	Ms. Katherine Picha	School Counselor and Counseling Content Leader
	Mrs. Michele Salphine	School Psychologist
	Mrs. Alecia Steeves	Occupational Therapist
	TBD	Occupational Therapist
	Dr. Katherine Taylor	Physical Therapist
	Ms. Maria Brondon	Speech Pathologist
	Ms. Megan Stevens	Speech Pathologist
Ms. Jasmine Torres	Speech Pathologist	

Teacher Aides	Ms. Ashely Braaten	Ms. Lisa Graves	Mrs. Fatima Guerrouaz
	Mrs. Rochelle Ecija	Ms. Colisha Hazelwood	Ms. Melissa Holahan
	Ms. Kristy Keech	Mrs. Colleen Kelly	Mrs. Michelle Knapp
	Mrs. Rachel Martinez	Ms. Vanessa Mitrano	Mrs. Tabitha Piatek
	Mrs. Lynn Reap	Ms. Marissa Salonen-Roperti	
	Mrs. Alice VanZile		

Computer Micro Technician	Orlando Vargas
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Kitchen Staff

Mrs. Martha Fantauzzo
Ms. Kim Carlin
Mrs. Cigdem Kazan

Cook Manager
Mrs. Sue Cummings
Mrs. Jeanette Sarkis

Cafeteria Monitors

Mrs. Jamie Hardy
Mrs. Angela Place
Mrs. Joanna Tribotte

Custodial Staff

Mr. Dominic Pendino
Mr. John Gilbert
Mr. Bill Piddington
Mr. Teddy Wester

Head Custodian
Cleaner
Cleaner
Cleaner

Daily Procedures

School Operational Times

Main office hours	8:05 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Breakfast available for students	8:50-9:05 a.m.
Academic day begins	9:05 a.m.
Dismissal for car-riders begins	3:20 p.m.
Dismissal for bus-riders begins	3:30 p.m.



Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Arrival

- Arrival will begin at 8:50 a.m. Please pull into the main parking lot and drive up to Door #6 on the side of our building, just past the main entrance. We ask that families remain in their vehicle during arrival to keep the line of cars in our parking lot moving. Please make sure that students have everything they need for their school day (book bag, water bottle, gym shoes, etc.) and are ready to exit the vehicle when staff approaches. Students can adjust their bookbags after they get out of the vehicle if needed, and then staff will assist them into the building.
- Arrival ends at 9:05 a.m. Students arriving after 9:05 a.m. should report to Door #1 accompanied by an adult to sign-in for the day. Students arriving after 9:05 a.m. without an appointment note will be marked tardy for the day.
- If you know your student will be arriving late, please send in a note the day before the event or call the Attendance Office at (585) 340-5560.

Early Dismissal

- All visitors must use the main entrance, Door #1.
- Please send in a note the day before if possible or call the main office so that our staff can ensure your student is ready to be picked up.
- It is necessary for you to come to the Main Office and sign your child in or out. Please enter the vestibule at Door #1. You can then go to the window to speak with someone in the Main Office.
- If you are picking your child up or have asked someone else to pick up your child for you, you **MUST** notify the Main Office. We will not release your student to someone that is not listed in our system for approved pick-up.
- The latest time to pick your student up early from school is 2:45 p.m., with exceptions made for emergencies. After 2:45 p.m., parents/guardians will be asked to join the pickup line for the 3:20 p.m. dismissal. This will help ensure an orderly end to our school day.

Dismissal

- Dismissal for students being picked up by car will begin at 3:20 p.m.
- Families picking their student(s) up by car will pull into the bus loop entrance (if coming from Buffalo Rd., it is the first entrance to the school). GC Security will often times be present to help direct traffic. Cars will be lined up along Door #6 and overflow car lanes will form in the bus loop. Please be sure to follow the directions of the GC Security and Staff.
- To help keep the car line moving, we ask families to stay in their vehicles throughout our dismissal process.
- Bus dismissal will begin at 3:30 p.m.
- The last bus will leave our bus loop by 3:45 p.m. daily. If buses are running considerably late a text message will be sent to families to notify them.
- Please note, if a car rider student has not been picked up, the student will go home on their scheduled bus.

Absentee Information

We encourage good habits concerning school attendance. Our School District Code of Conduct and Code of Character states our belief that there is a positive correlation between student attendance patterns and academic achievement. Excessive absences, tardiness, and early departures could undermine and jeopardize a student's academic success. Many educational experiences take place during the school day that cannot be "made up."

If your student is absent from school, please call the attendance line by 9 a.m. If we have not heard from a parent or guardian by then, an automated message will contact you at your provided contact numbers prompting you to call the school. When your student returns to school, a written excuse is needed to verify all excused absences.

Our school attendance team monitors our building's attendance data throughout the year. The team meets every other week and may contact families to touch base and offer support if we notice concerning trends with student attendance.

School Nutrition

The school lunch menu is available at gateschili.org/menus. Meal and a la carte pricing, along with any "school nutrition news" can be found at gateschili.org/SchoolNutrition.

Free and Reduced-Price Meal Applications

You can find the application at gateschili.org/FreeReducedApp. You may fill out an online application that will be processed immediately or submit a paper application and turn it into the School Nutrition Office located at Gates Chili Middle School.

Cafeteria Schedule

Breakfast:

All Students: 8:50-9:05 a.m.

Lunch:

Kindergarten	12:30-1:05
Grade 1	12:50-1:25
Grades K 6:1:1	11:40-12:15
Grade K-1, 6:1:1	12:40-1:15
Grade 2	10:50-11:25
Grades 1-2, 6:1:1	11:55-12:30
Grade 3	11:15-11:50
Grade 4	12:05-12:40
Grade 5	1:20-1:55
Grade 5 6:1:1	1:25- 2:00



The cafeteria is the *dining* area for students: a place to enjoy and relax while eating with friends and classmates. We continue to recognize individual classes for demonstrating the Spartan Way while eating in the cafeteria with our monthly Silver Spoon award. The Spartan Way consists of: Respect, Responsibility, Compassion and Hard Work. Students are expected to use their manners, be courteous, chat in a reasonable conversational tone, and to pick up after themselves. Walt Disney Elementary School employs staff to monitor and assist students in the cafeteria.

Visiting at Mealtimes

Parents and Guardians are welcome to eat lunch with their children. Cafeteria guests must make an appointment at least 24 hours in advance and must sign in at the Main Office upon arriving at our school. This is in accordance with the district policy. If a student is assigned a silent lunch by the principal, lunch guests will be asked to delay the visit to another day. We kindly ask that families leave five (5) minutes prior to the end of the lunchtime. This assists our cafeteria staff as they work to transition students back to their classroom teachers in a safe and timely manner.

Outside food may not be brought into the cafeteria to be shared with other students. Parents/guardians are encouraged to purchase school lunches when visiting. Thank you for your help in creating a healthy, clean, and fun dining experience for your child.

Birthday Celebrations

Please be advised that we do not celebrate birthdays with food items, per our district's policy. Please consider alternative ways to acknowledge our students on their birthdays such as pencils, erasers, stickers, coloring pages/other crafts, requesting their favorite book be read aloud in class, and more.



Security & Safety

Visitor information

For the safety and welfare of our students, the school building is locked during the school day. All Gates Chili Schools require visitors to sign in at the Main Office using our electronic management system. All visitors will be required to have their identification scanned on their first visit. Please note that proper government-issued identification is required each time a visit is made to school, even if staff in the Main Office recognize you. You will receive a badge that must be worn visibly for the duration of the visit. At the end of the visit, please return the badge to the Main Office before signing out of our visitors' log.

All visits, including mealtime visits, require at least 24-hour notice and approval by the building Principal or their designee. All visitors are expected to model the Spartan Way as outlined in our district's Code of Conduct and Character while on campus. Please see Board of Education Policy 3210 for more information about visiting our schools.



Code of Conduct and Character

The Code of Conduct exists to promote the social, emotional, and physical well-being for all of our students. Students are taught the Code of Conduct throughout the school year, beginning on the first day of school. Instruction pertaining to the Code of Conduct is grounded in the values of the **Spartan Way** and introduced in a developmentally appropriate way to students. **The Spartan Way values are Respect, Responsibility, Compassion, and Hard Work.**

The Code of Conduct describes the expectations for maintaining a safe and respectful school environment. The Code of Conduct applies to all members of our school community, including students, staff, parents, and visitors. The complete Code of Conduct and Character can be accessed on our district website at gateschili.org/codeofconduct.

Please note these important updates relevant to the elementary-level Code of Conduct:

- The Code of Conduct and Character has been renamed to reflect our district's commitment to proper conduct as well as our role in developing student character.
- The Code and its provisions have been aligned with "The Dignity for All Students Act" (DASA)
- Bullying behaviors are specifically referenced.
- Outside food may not be brought into the cafeteria to be shared with other students.
- Parents are encouraged to purchase school lunches when visiting our schools.
- Since attendance correlates so significantly with academic performance, the Student Attendance section has been extensively expanded to reflect Gates Chili Central School District's philosophy, objectives, strategies, methods, excused vs. unexcused absences, parental notification, disciplinary sanctions, and community awareness information.
- Appropriate dress has been clarified relative to both general guidelines and specifically prohibited attire.

DASA: The Dignity for All Students Act

New York State passed the Dignity for All Students Act in 2010. This piece of legislature states that:

“No student shall be subjected to harassment by employees or students on school property or at a school function; nor shall any student be subjected to discrimination based on a person’s actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity or expression), or sex by school employees or students on school property or at a school function.”

Questions regarding our school’s DASA coordinator can be forwarded to Dr. Zdanowski, our school’s principal by calling (585) 247-3151 or emailing dtzdanowski@gateschili.org



Transportation

Bus Passes

Bus Passes are written for students to be dropped off at any location other than their official designated location for childcare purposes only. The Transportation Department will not honor any bus passes for play dates. Bus changes must be made prior to 2:00 p.m. on the day of the request. The pass must be signed by the Building Principal and presented to the Bus Driver.

Transportation Issues

Please contact the Transportation Office at (585) 247-4774 if you have questions or concerns regarding:

- Student Pick-Up/ Drop-Off Times
- Bus Routes
- Bus Drivers
- Bus Rules and Policies

If you have questions or concerns regarding student behavior on the bus, we encourage you to work with transportation. If such behavior continues, please contact building administration by calling 585-247-3151.

Bus Conduct Reports

The school bus is an extension of school grounds. The Code of Conduct applies to students on the school bus. Students are expected to follow all rules and policies associated with the bus. Bus Drivers, like classroom teachers, work with students to solve problems that may arise on the bus. If students do not respond to reminders or redirection, the Bus Driver will fill out a Bus Conduct Report. The report will be sent to the Building Principal. The Building Principal will review the report with the student and follow the procedures as stated in the Code of Conduct. If student behaviors are significant or frequent enough, they may lose the privilege of riding the bus to and from school. It then becomes the responsibility of the parent or guardian to transport their child to and from school.

School Health Services

The Walt Disney Elementary Health Office is staffed by Mrs. Madalyn Zulauf (our School-Nurse Teacher), and Ms. Marybeth Hart (our school Health Aide). Mrs. Zulauf is the point of contact for all questions pertaining to our health curriculum. All student health records are maintained in the Health Office. The Health Office conducts annual screenings for students' weight, height, vision, and hearing.

Medication

If your child needs to take medicine during the school day, please contact our School Nurse directly. A written prescription from a Medical Doctor (MD) is required, as well as a written permission slip from the parent/guardian giving permission for the school to administer the medication during the school day at the prescribed times.

Students are not allowed to carry or transport medication to or from school. This includes not only prescription medications, but also over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, Tylenol, cough syrup, antacids, etc. There are NO exceptions to this rule. Any questions regarding this policy, please contact Mrs. Zulauf or Dr. Zdanowski.

Physical Examinations

New York State Educational Law requires students to have a physical examination when they:

- Enter a school district for the first time
- Are in kindergarten, second, and fourth grades
- Are referred to the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or are scheduled for a triennial review
- Require an appraisal deemed necessary by school authorities to determine an appropriate educational program

It is recommended that these examinations be conducted by the student's primary care physician. However, our school physician will complete any required physical screening free of cost if needed.



Immunization

In accordance with New York State Public Health regulations, **no student** will be allowed to attend school without a complete and up-to-date immunization record on file with the district.

Any student with an incomplete immunization record will be required to receive further immunizations before attendance at school will be permitted. **Documentation of your student's immunizations must be on file with the district before the first day of classes or your child will be excluded from school until this is received.**

Vision/Hearing Screening

Annual hearing and vision screenings are completed in the early part of the school year on each student. If a child fails either of these screenings, their parent will be notified. If at any time a parent feels as though a vision or hearing screening is needed for their child, a request can be submitted to our Health Office. All children are evaluated for color vision upon entering school.

When do I keep my student home from school?

- A fever of 100 degrees or higher
- A rash not diagnosed by a physician
- Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), until treatment has begun
- Head Lice, scabies, pinworm, and ringworm until treatment has begun
- Stomach aches that bring diarrhea and/or vomiting
- Strep throat, until 24 hours after starting antibiotics
- Chickenpox until scabs heal (about a week)

If you would like to request make-up work for your child, please contact your child's teacher via email or call the Main Office (585-247-3151) before 11:00 a.m.



Family Involvement

Walt Disney Parent Teacher Organization

All parents/guardians are invited to be a part of our Walt Disney Parent Teacher Organization. This is a wonderful way to **become involved** with the school. The PTO meets monthly and provides families and teachers with a forum to share ideas with each other and collaborate on planning larger school/community events. There are committee opportunities for everyone, and it is a great way to get to know what is going on at our school! The WDPTO helps to organize family events. The many efforts of the WDPTO are focused on supporting our school's programming through financial support of field trips and school equipment. The WDPTO is also focused on building strong relationships between the home and school.

Monthly PTO meetings will take place at 5:00 p.m. in the Disney Library on the following dates in the 2023-24 school year:

Sept. 20
Oct. 18
Nov. 15

Jan. 17
Feb. 28
March 20

April 17
May 15
June 12

Volunteer Opportunities

Walt Disney Elementary School offers a variety of opportunities for individuals to dedicate their time as a school volunteer. Volunteers can offer their time in classrooms by assisting with small groups, material management, classroom projects, and even field trips. Parents/guardians can even dedicate their time to serve on a building committee. More information regarding volunteering can be found at gateschili.org/volunteer.

There you will find the volunteer application that must be completed for board approval prior to being able to volunteer in our school. Interested in volunteering? Please contact Dr. Zdanowski by calling 585-247-3151 or emailing dtzdanowski@gateschili.org.

Home-to-School Communication

Walt Disney Elementary School takes pride in the communication we have with our Disney families and the local community. Throughout the year we send out emails, newsletters, and post on various social media platforms. Our school webpage, www.gateschili.org/wds offers information on upcoming events, parent information, and more. You can also follow our school on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter (@GCWaltDisney).

It is important to find out the best way to communicate with your child's classroom teacher. Many teachers have communication systems setup, including various apps that are accessible by mobile devices.



School Improvement and Equity Team

The purpose of the School Improvement and Equity Team (SIET) is to design, implement, and monitor our building's annual School Improvement Plan. The SIET will engage all school stakeholders by:

- Communicating our building's goals and progress throughout the year
- Designing and facilitating targeted professional learning
- Planning and implementing events to raise awareness, and build the capacity, of our school community in identified areas
- Collecting and analyzing data to measure the progress made towards achieving our established goals throughout the year

Our SIET will host five (5) virtual meetings throughout the year to update our family and community partners on our school's progress. The link to attend the virtual meetings will be sent by Dr. Zdanowski prior to the meeting. All virtual meetings will be hosted on Microsoft TEAMS and will start at 5:00 p.m. Video recordings of all virtual meetings will be linked on [our school website](#) for stakeholders to access at any time. The dates of our virtual meetings for the 2023-2024 school year are:

Oct. 17 (Building Goals)

Nov. 28 (Title 1 Updates)

Jan. 23 (Mid-Year Updates)

March 26 (Data Review)

May 28 (Professional Learning Review)

Title 1 Parental Involvement - School Level Plan

Walt Disney Elementary School recognizes that parents and guardians play an integral role in helping their children achieve high academic standards. When parents and guardians participate in school activities and decision-making pertaining to their children's education, students achieve at higher levels. We encourage parents and guardians to be actively involved in their child's education and to become full partners in school educational planning and operations. Consistent with the parent involvement goals of Title 1, Part A of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB):

1. The Building Principal and appropriate staff shall convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to inform parents of the school's participation in Title 1 funded programs, and to explain Title 2 requirements and the right of the parents to be involved. All parents of children participating in a Title 1 program will be invited to the meeting.
2. The school staff shall offer parents additional opportunities to meet and otherwise participate in their child's education. These meetings shall be held at flexible times (e.g., morning or evening) so that as many parents as possible are able to attend.
3. The school will provide parents with timely information about Title 1 funded programs including Academic Intervention Services. School staff will also describe and explain the curriculum in use at the school, the types of academic assessment that will be used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels the students are expected to meet. Parents may also request regular meetings with school staff to make suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child. The school will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practical.
4. The school staff shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title 1 funded programs, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parental involvement plan and the expenditure of funds available to parental involvement activities.

Student Academic Achievement School-Parent Compact

To help our students achieve, we agree to abide by the following:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment;
- Hold parent-teacher conferences during these conferences, this compact will be discussed as it relates to your student's academic achievement;
- Provide parents/guardians with frequent reports on their student's progress;
- Provide parents/guardians reasonable access to staff; and
- Provide parents/guardians with opportunities to volunteer and participate in their student's class and to observe classroom activities.

Additional Information

SchoolTool Parent Portal

The Gates Chili Central School District uses SchoolTool as our student management system that maintains all student information. The student and parent portal are components of SchoolTool and provide access to the following information:

- Contact Information
- Class schedule
- Attendance Records
- Grades
- Assessment Scores



The student portal is accessible from virtually any device that can access the Internet using a modern web browser.

Primary contacts are automatically granted access to the Parent Portal. The username is the current email address that you have provided the district. If you do not remember or did not receive an email with your password, send a request to support@gateschili.org. Your request will be reviewed, and you will receive an email once your account is reactivated. If you are not the primary contact, you will not have automatic access to the parent portal. If you would like to request access, please email support@gateschili.org. Please contact support@gateschili.org for any questions regarding your account.

To access the Parent Portal or for more information, visit gateschili.org/ParentPortalAccess.

Emergency School Closing

Severe weather or other types of emergencies may result in the closing of school. You will receive an automated phone call, text message and email from the district in the event of school closings or other emergencies. This information will also be shared with local TV and radio stations.

Occasionally it may be necessary for school to close early. Therefore, parents should arrange alternative care for students when no one is home during the day. It is recommended that someone on the student's regular bus stop be chosen.

Parents/guardians who send their student(s) to Gates Activity Program (GAP) are asked to communicate their emergency preferences to GAP. When School is closed early, a GAP representative will call parents, asking if their child will be picked up early or take the bus home. A GAP representative will then call the school to communicate the decision.

Gates Activity Program (GAP)

The Town of Gates Recreation and Parks Department offers a before-and-after school childcare program for students called GAP. If you are interested in information regarding the cost and other details of this program, you can contact the department at (585) 247-6100.

Field Trips

We strive to provide field trip experiences for every student. Field trip experiences enhance students' learning. **For each field trip a student takes, a permission slip must be signed and returned to school.** Classroom teachers will notify parents of field trips ahead of time, including information about chaperone opportunities if applicable. Children without signed permission cannot attend field trips.

Homework Policy

The Gates Chili School District has established a policy for homework. The basic guidelines are as follows (Board of Education Policy #8410):

Grade 1 - 10 minutes / Grade 2 - 20 minutes

Homework at first- and second-grade levels may require families to work with their children on school related activities such as: reading with children, reviewing math facts, practicing spelling words, and reviewing reading word lists. The amount of time spent on these activities would be approximately 15 minutes.

Grade 3 - 30 minutes

At the third-grade level, there is a transition to more independent work on the part of the student. At this grade level, homework should take approximately 30 minutes. This time may vary depending on the type of activity and rate at which a student works.

Grade 4 - 40 minutes / Grade 5 - 50 minutes

At these grade levels, homework may be given for approximately 30-60 minutes. This time may vary depending on the type of activity, grade level, and rate at which a student works.

Kindly note, as a general rule, homework will not be given on weekends.

In addition to the Gates Chili Central School District's homework policy, the following expectations are required for students at Walt Disney:

GRADES K-2 Students are asked to read (or listen to someone read if appropriate reading materials are not available) ten minutes each night. Please check your child's take-home folder each night for assignments and unfinished class work.

GRADES 3-5 Homework is often begun at school and completed at home. Missed or incomplete assignments must be made up.

i-Ready Assessments

Students in grades 1-5 participate in i-Ready assessments three times a year (fall, winter, and spring). The purpose of the assessment is to monitor students' progress through our academic programming and to identify areas where students could benefit from additional academic support at school. The i-Ready assessments focus on student growth in the areas of ELA and math. Our school will send individual student score reports home after each assessment.



New York State Assessments

Students in grades 3-5 participate in New York State Assessments each spring. Students in grades 3 and 4 participate in English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math. Students in grade 5 participate in ELA, Math and Science. More information about state assessments will be sent to families of students in grades 3-5 in early spring.

Clubs

At Walt Disney Elementary School, we believe that high levels of student engagement contribute to students' academic success. Clubs enhance our students' school experience while fostering a sense of belonging amongst students and staff. We strive to offer a wide range of opportunities for our students as we work to create a welcoming and affirming environment for all school stakeholders.

Club Sessions

Three clubs meet monthly throughout the year while working on larger projects for our school community. Other clubs run during specified club sessions. Table 1 below describes the club sessions and meeting schedule at Walt Disney Elementary School.

Session	Clubs	Number of Meetings	Date Range
Throughout the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Council• Yearbook• Student Newsletter	9 (1x monthly)	September through June
Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 5 clubs based on faculty proposals	8 (1x weekly)	September through November
Winter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 5 clubs based on faculty proposals	8 (1x weekly)	January through March
Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to 5 clubs based on faculty proposals	8 (1x weekly)	April through June

Club Enrollment

Student club interest forms will be sent home three times a year. On these forms students will be made aware of the clubs offered in the upcoming session while having an opportunity to indicate their first, second, and third preference for club participation.

Clubs will be offered to students in grades 2-5. Some clubs will be available to students in grades 2-3 while other clubs will be available to students in grades 4-5. Student participation in the clubs that are offered throughout the year will be limited to students in grades 4-5. The main office will monitor student participation in clubs and may recruit specific students to participate throughout the year to establish stronger connections between our students and our school.

Club Attendance

The main office will collect student interest forms and roster students in clubs. Club attendance will be monitored weekly by faculty advisors using the attendance tracking sheet available in our handbook. Students are expected to attend all club meetings if they are rostered for a session. Students may be removed from a club if they have two consecutive absences to accommodate other interested students who may be on a waiting list for a club.