



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RECEIVE 2025 SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

Ten Westhill High School art & photography students received awards in the 2025 Scholastic Art Awards competition. In this competition, artwork is evaluated on originality, technical skill and personal vision. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards were launched in 1923 to encourage and recognize student achievement in the creative arts. The Scholastic Awards attract over 350,000 entries in 28 categories of writing and the visual arts.

The artwork will be on display for public viewing in the Whitney Building at OCC from January 14th through February 28th.

 <p>Angelyna Geiger Gold Key <i>Lavender Flow</i></p>	 <p>Emmett McMahon Gold Key <i>Battle</i></p>	 <p>Eva Soule Gold Key <i>Pink Bouquet</i></p>	 <p>Emma Marshall Silver Key <i>Glimpse of Perception</i></p>
 <p>Eva Soule Silver Key <i>Kaleidoscope Nature</i></p>	<p>2025 Scholastic Art Award Winners Westhill High School</p>		 <p>Mary Kinney Honorable Mention <i>Inside the Artist's Sister</i></p>
 <p>Emmett McMahon Honorable Mention <i>Knights</i></p>	 <p>Annabelle Scheel Honorable Mention <i>Flora</i></p>	 <p>Madelyn Soule Honorable Mention <i>Embrace</i></p>	 <p>Ashton Wallace Honorable Mention <i>Untitled</i></p>

Walberta Park & Cherry Road Schools

Author Mylisa Larsen Visits Walberta Park & Cherry Road

In November, Walberta Park and Cherry Road Schools hosted a visit from author, Mylisa Larsen. WPS students were excited for the visit after reading her picture books, *If I Were a Kangaroo* and *All Those Babies*. During her presentation Mylisa described how to choose a book that is just right for you. Students in 2nd grade also learned about how different books offer us different things and how we might choose the best book for us. 3rd and 4th graders played a variety of word games to spark ideas for their writing. We were delighted to have Mylisa return to Westhill for the Walberta Park book fair, where she talked with individual students and signed copies of her books. This visit was organized by elementary librarians, Aneisa Linton and Karin Backus, made possible with the generous support of the Westhill Educational Foundation. A big thank you to the community for supporting the WPS fall book fair-over \$500 will go to the WEST parent group from the book fair proceeds!



Syracuse Stage Visits Walberta Park

Syracuse Stage brought the play *Pandora's Suitcase* to life for WPS students. Students were treated to a production with a large set, special effects and professional actors. The character of Pandora was very curious and very worried about all kinds of things. During the play she and the students watching learned ways to cope with worry, including how to ask for help when needed. It was a very fun event for all!

Cherry Road School

Mrs. Dusart's Class Set Goals

Second grade students in Mrs. Dusart's class used the tools they have learned, from the PBIS model that Cherry Road Elementary school implemented this year building wide and worked collaboratively to earn a Grinch party in the month of December. The students set a goal to earn 100 tallies by receiving positive compliments in the areas of social emotional practices, learning and behavior. It comes as no surprise, that the students exceeded their 100 point goal!



Cherry Road School

Mrs. D'Amico's Class is the Recipient of Adopt-a-Class Program

Mrs. D'Amico's 4th grade class received donations for school supplies after being nominated through the Adopt-a-Class Program in conjunction with JB Hunt Transport. Besides the donation, they received shirts, hats and got to hop into the front seat of the JB Hunt truck. Thank you to Abdou Hirry for nominating our class!



Students Learn About Honey Making

Students in Ms. Appel's class learn about the honey-making process from CRS teacher Sunny McDermott. Students enjoyed learning about the process to collect raw honey and prepare it to be consumed at home. Thanks to Mrs. McDermott for sharing her honey-making hobby with our classes.



Onondaga Hill Middle School

Students of the Month

Twelve OHMS students were recognized as Students of the Month for the first quarter. Students were nominated by adults in the building for their dedication to their academics, hard work, perseverance, kindness, and positive attitudes. Each student received a Westhill beanie as a token of appreciation for all their hard work. Winners are pictured below (L to R): Annabelle Casazza (8th), Caleb Abreu (8th), Trey Tjaden (8th), Oliver Marceau (7th), Gian Herron (7th), Claire Connell (6th), Gehrig Satalin (7th), Ellen Obernesser (6th), Sam Stroman (6th), Matthew Rose (5th), Evan Fuller (5th), Ryan Geiss (5th).



Onondaga Hill Middle School

Harmonizers Share Sweet Sounds of the Season

For the second year singers in the OHMS select choir, Harmonizers, shared music with residents on Parsons Drive and close to Cherry Road Elementary School. The group braved the cold to travel door to door sharing festive songs as many of their family members also walked with the group. The festivities concluded with an exciting Cookie and Cocoa reception organized by Harmonizer parents in front of Cherry Road. The Harmonizers loved being able to share their excitement, time and talent with the community and next year are looking to be able to reach more homes in the area!



Onondaga Hill Middle School

8th Grade Carolers

Eighth grade chorus students brought some festive spirit by performing at Walberta Park School and Cherry Road School. The younger students were thrilled by the visit, while the eighth graders cherished the opportunity to reconnect with their elementary schools and, most importantly, their former teachers! It was a delightful morning for everyone involved!



Onondaga Hill Middle School

Outsiders Day

After reading S.E. Hinton's Classic Novel "The Outsiders," seventh graders stepped back into the 1960s for Outsiders Day! Students were encouraged to come dressed as a tough, slicked-back Greaser or a cool, calm, collected Soc while we watched the movie. After the movie, they wrote reviews of the classic film. There was a lot of creativity and only a few tears when they heard the line, "Stay gold, Ponyboy."



Onondaga Hill Middle School

School of Life Event

School of Life hosts COSMO CLUB event! Tuesday through Thursday December 10th - 12th, OHMS students were given a chance to learn about hair styling through a cosmetology event during IA. Professional hair stylist Fran Williams discussed techniques and demonstrated strategies for curling and straightening hair. Mrs. Williams gave away products and students practiced their new techniques on each other! School of Life will sponsor another Cosmo Club event in the future where students will learn makeup, especially for the upcoming school musical. A big thank you to Ms. Angie Pierce, Ms. Melissa Mooney and Ms. Tiffany Arcscott for joining us!



Westhill High School

November Warriors of the Month

9th Grade: Jackson Pratt nominated by Mr. Stogsdill

Jackson is a super positive presence in first period woodworking class. He is very supportive and helpful to students that have a tough time with certain aspects of the class. He thinks nothing of delaying his own work to help and encourage others.

10th Grade: Jamil Garcia

Jamil is a student that every teacher is lucky to have in class because of how diligently he works, even if something is difficult. He asks great, thought provoking questions in class and shows a real interest in what we are learning. Jamil is friendly, has a good sense of humor, gets along with everyone around him and is willing to help anybody out at any time.

11th Grade Johnnie Bruzdinski

Johnnie is an incredibly enthusiastic and dedicated student. His passion for learning is contagious, and he consistently pushes himself to reach his full potential. He is always eager to participate in class discussions and activities, and his positive attitude makes learning more enjoyable for those around him. He is not afraid of challenges and seems to constantly look for ways to improve himself.

12th Chloe Cole nominated by Mr. Caputo and Mr. Kiggins

Chloe has been a tremendous leader and role model to the underclassmen in our physical education class. She has helped the students learn rules and strategies for each activity throughout the year. Chloe is genuinely kind to all students, regardless of their ability. Her classmates look up to her and she makes every class more enjoyable with her humor and her upbeat personality.



Westhill High School

High School Student Recognized for Receiving U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Award



Westhill senior, Oluwafeyisike Ajagbe, is 1 of 25 New York State high school seniors nominated by the State Education Department for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

Presidential Scholar recognition is among the nation's highest honors for high school students who represent excellence in education and the promise of greatness in young people. Students are selected annually based on their academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations, and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership, and demonstrated commitment to high ideals.

Oluwafeyisike is a well rounded student who is involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities at Westhill that include: National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, HOSA, Interfaith Dialogue, Student Senate, WCSD Strategic Planning Core Committee, Academic Decathlon, DECA, Character Education, E.C.O.S., French Club, Future Teacher Club, Math Team, Stage Crew, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Tri-M National Honor Society and Varsity tennis. In addition to her involvement at school, she works part-time and volunteers at several different agencies in our community.

Congratulations, Sike!

Athletics

Fall Athletic Accomplishments

This fall, Westhill student athletes showed incredible talent and resilience leading to many successes on the fields, courts, and courses. This fall the Warriors earned two Onondaga High School League Championships in boys' soccer and girls' volleyball. Those league championships lead to two Section III Titles in boys' soccer and girls' volleyball. Boys' soccer and girls' volleyball both ended their extraordinary seasons, as New York State Regional Champions, and played until the very last contest of the postseason.

Individually, Teddy Popp placed 6th in the Section III Cross Country Championships which qualified him to run in the NYS Championship meet. Teddy placed 38th at the NYS Championships in Queensbury. On the golf course Dan Young, Trevor Young and Jack Carruth qualified to participate in the state tournament which is held in the spring.

From thrilling finishes to record-breaking performances, this fall showcased the best of high school sports, reminding us of the power of teamwork, dedication and community pride. Congratulations to all the teams and athletes who made the fall 2024 season unforgettable.



NYSPHSAA CLASS B REGIONAL CHAMPIONS - BOYS' SOCCER



Athletics & District News

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**The Westhill Central School District
has an immediate need for the
following positions:**

**Custodian I & II
Custodial Worker I
Custodial substitutes
Groundskeeper
Bus Drivers
Substitute Bus Drivers
Substitute Food Service**

**Applications can be found on our
website, www.westhillschools.org,
under the District Tab.**

**Please submit applications to:
Personnel Office
Westhill Central School District
400 Walberta Road
Syracuse, NY 13219**

Thank You for Your Generosity and Support!

A big thank you for the generosity and support of our Westhill Community for the Annual Holiday Sharing program, which connects families in need of assistance with groceries and gifts for the Holiday Break. Special thanks to the following groups:

- Westhill Staff and Families for their generous monetary donations
- WEST Parent Organization for their year-round support of the Community Fund, which allows Social Workers to assist families with various needs.
- St. Charles Food Pantry (Marie Cullen and volunteers) for their tireless efforts to provide food assistance to families in the Westhill and surrounding communities.
- Girl Scout Cadette Troop 10247 led by Jean Albanese, for supplying stocking stuffers and hygiene items for children and teens annually.
- Robinson Elmwood Church for their annual collection of grocery store gift cards, which supplement the Holiday program and help families throughout the school year.
- The High School's National Honor Society and Staff Coordinator for their donation of Gift Cards
- The High School's DECA student group and Staff Coordinators for their Thanksgiving Turkey Packages.

We couldn't do it without you!
Your Westhill Social Work Team



Teddy Popp placed 6th in the Section III
Cross Country Championships



Westhill Educational Foundation

The Westhill Educational Foundation would like to announce the recipients from the fall 2024 grant cycle. Grants were awarded to support programming throughout all schools in the district, impacting students in grades K-12. We are pleased to continue to be able to fund teachers and staff striving to bring innovation and to enhance the educational experiences of our Westhill students. Thank you to our community for continuing to support the Foundation and congratulations to all of our recipients! Winners for fall 2024 are:

Voter Registration Event, Jessica Regitano

This drive took place at WHS this September and aimed to highlight the importance of voting and to actively engage students throughout the school. The event featured activities for juniors and seniors in the auditorium, including a voter registration slideshow and a discussion with Onondaga County Board of Elections Commissioners (both Democrat and Republican), followed by an opportunity to complete voter registration forms for those old enough to vote. Freshmen and sophomores participated in voter trivia and raffles in the cafeteria during their lunch periods. The initiative was also supported by a complimentary Democracy in a Box, provided by The Civics Center.

Mylisa Larsen Author Visit, Aneisa Linton

This grant supported a visit by children's book author Mylisa Larsen. During her visit, she presented to all students at both Walberta Park and Cherry Road schools and talked about the process of writing books and being a reader. She also attended the book fair at Walberta Park School to meet with students and sign books.

Insights and Inspirations with Angie Thomas, Penny Feeney and Jessica Regitano

In April 2025, award-winning author Angie Thomas will be visiting Syracuse to speak as part of the Friends of the Central Library (FOCL) author series. This grant will allow 45 students from grades 8-12 to see Ms. Thomas speak in person. In addition, all of the participating students will receive a copy of the book, *The Hate U Give*, and will participate in a three-part book club leading up to the authors visit.

Trivia Tuesdays, Jessica Regitano

This grant supports a new initiative at WHS. Trivia Tuesdays is an 8-part monthly trivia series taking place after school. Teams include a WHS staff member and up to four students who compete to earn monthly prizes. Trivia Tuesdays provides a way for teachers and students to engage in team building and create a sense of camaraderie and school spirit. The team with the most points at the end of the year will win a grand prize!

Pandora's Suitcase, Jen Stanton

With support from this grant, all students at Walberta Park School were able to see a performance of Pandora's Suitcase, put on by Syracuse Stage. The play covers topics such as anxiety and teaches children how to ask for help and be confident in themselves.

Insights and Inspirations with Varian Johnson, Penny Feeney

This grant will support a visit to OHMS from award-winning author, Varian Johnson. Prior to this visit students will have the opportunity to engage with the author's books in various ways, such as a reading to all of the 6th graders and the very popular Spin it to Win it trivia game. On the day of the visit, there will be a breakfast and lunch that students will have the opportunity to be chosen to attend to get to interact with the author. This grant provides an immersive opportunity for students and encourages them to become actively engaged readers.

4th Grade Field Trip to Zoo, Melissa Prior

All 4th grade students at Cherry Road school were able to visit the Rosamond Gifford Zoo to extend their ELA and Science lessons. Children paid special attention to find animal defense mechanisms which animals use to protect themselves from predators. ,

Hatching Chicks, Jen Stanton

In March 2025 all first grade classrooms at Walberta Park school will have the opportunity to care for eggs and experience the beginning of a chicken's lifecycle. This grant will provide funding for all necessary items (eggs, incubators, aquariums etc) for students to be able to participate in this educational and memorable experience.

1,000,000 Trees, Aneisa Linton

This grant will support bringing author/artist/speaker Kristen Balouch to speak to students at Walberta Park and Cherry Road schools. The author will visit in April, the month of Earth Day and Arbor Day, to share her true story of planting 1,000,000 trees with her family to reforest an island in the Pacific Northwest that had been clear cut through logging. She will share her writing process and provide inspiration to students for writing and creating books.

District News

Transportation to Nonpublic Schools

Following the guidelines of Section 3635 of New York State Education Law, the Westhill Central School District is advising the parents of students seeking transportation to a nonpublic school that a written request must be submitted to the Westhill Board of Education by April 1st of the preceding year. New residents may submit their request after the April 1st deadline, but must do so within thirty days after establishing residence in the district and must also submit a residency affidavit. The school board may refuse to grant a late transportation request where additional expenses and new transportation arrangements would be necessary. A formal transportation request form may be received directly from the nonpublic school at the time of enrollment and must be completed and received at the Westhill Central School District prior to April 1, 2024. The transportation request form and residency affidavit may be found on the Westhill CSD website under Transportation.

On days in which public schools are scheduled to be closed, in accordance with the Westhill School District calendar, the district is not obligated to transport to the nonpublic schools. Under no circumstances may transportation be provided on legal holidays or Saturdays.

Notice of Annual Inspections

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for 2024-2025 of the school buildings, concession stand, and bus garage of the Westhill Central School District for fire hazards, which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, employees therein, has been completed and the report thereof is available at the Westhill CSD Building and Grounds Office during office hours from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. For more information, please contact the following individual: Steven Smith, L.E.A. Asbestos Designee, 315-426-3000 for inspection by all interested persons.

Notice of Availability of Asbestos Management Plan

As provided under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, (AHERA-EPS 40 CFR 763), Westhill Central School District hereby makes known the steps it has undertaken to comply with AHERA and the availability of asbestos management plans.

1. Beginning in 1989, all district owned facilities were inspected for asbestos and management plans were developed for each building according to the requirements of AHERA. Triennial reinspections are conducted every three years. Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES of Syracuse, NY completed the 2004 AHERA Triennial inspection and update to the asbestos management plans.
2. Periodic Surveillance of asbestos containing building materials is conducted every six months.
3. All custodial and maintenance staff have undergone 2-hour Asbestos Awareness Training.
4. All response actions taken are within federal and state guidelines.

Management Plans may be viewed at the Westhill CSD Building and Grounds Office during office hours from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. For more information, please contact the following individual: Steven Smith, L.E.A. Asbestos Designee, 315-426-3000.



WINTER BREAK

**Monday, February 17 -
Friday, February 21**



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Westhill Central School District
400 Walberta Road
Syracuse, New York 13219-2214

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 3523
Syracuse, New York

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Lisa M. O'Reilly, President
Andrew Starowicz, Vice President
Andrew Hunter
Christopher Haigney
Kelly Ristoff

The Westhill Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, creed, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, sex or race in its employment practices or educational programs.

Universal Pre-K - 2025-2026 School Year

The Westhill Central School District is pleased to once again offer a 4-year-old UPK program for the 2025-2026 school year.

To be eligible, a child must:

- Have a birthdate between December 2, 2020 and December 1, 2021.
- Reside in the Westhill Central School District.
- Agree to attend the program 6 hours a day for 5 days per week.

Instruction is consistent with the New York State Pre-Kindergarten Standards, which focuses on a child's social/emotional, cognitive and physical development.

Those who submit an interest form online and complete the registration process between January 20 and March 31 will be considered for the lottery selection process to be held in early April. If there are more students interested than seats available, a random, computerized lottery will be held. All families will be contacted to be updated on their child's status of accepted or waitlisted. Registration packets will be mailed to accepted families after the lottery is conducted.

It is important to note the UPK Program is not housed in Westhill Central School District school buildings. Instead, as in the past, the district has partnered with the YMCA (OCC campus location) and Bellevue Heights Nursery School. Transportation to and from the program is the responsibility of parents/guardians. Students must attend the program five days a week to maintain their seat.
