

Harmonizers Sing Through the Summer

In early August, many of our OHMS Select Choir students (Harmonizers) attended a special summer camp. At Harmonizer camp, students played games focusing on listening & team building, worked on music and choreography they will be presenting throughout the year, and focused on voice part independence. At the end of camp, friends and family enjoyed a brief performance where Harmonizers performed "Spiderman" and signed and sang the National Anthem. Families enjoyed a post performance celebration with treats from the Exhale Bake Shop food truck!

Harmonizers most recently ventured to the Syracuse Mets Stadium to sing and sign the National Anthem. Students took the initiative to learn how to sign the National Anthem in ASL which they shared on September 9th at the beginning of the Syracuse Mets game. Bravo, Harmonizers!



Walberta Park & Cherry Road Schools

Bucket Fillers

Kindergartners rocked the first week of school! They are working hard to be good listeners and learning all of the rules of their new school. They are working on being bucket fillers by being kind and helping others.



Book Bonanza

Our summer Book Bonanza was a fun night for families! Elementary librarians, Aneisa Linton and Karin Backus, set up the event at Santaro Park. Families could browse through a tent filled with books, and each child was able to choose one to take home. There was a comfortable seating section so that friends could sit and share their books. The night ended with a raffle drawing for a basket of books and sweet treats for all. Special thanks to WEST for providing the treats, and thanks to all the families who attended the event. We'll see you next year!



Third Grade Science

Third graders in Mrs. Neumire's class spent some time observing roly polys in science. They will be building a variety of habitats for the roly polys to determine which type of food, water and shelter they like best.



CRS Artists

Second grade students are settling in nicely at Cherry Road. Our newest artists are showing off their creativity!



Onondaga Hill Middle & Westhill High Schools

OHMS & WHS Art Students Win Big

Students who had their works accepted for the NYS Fair Art Show were Sophia Bova, Kaleigha Spinner, Emily Straub, Scott Martin, Jade Eldred, William Tyszka, Mary Kinney, Shahid Almamari. The following students won ribbons:

Redd Donegan - 1st Place Sculpture
Angelina Centore - 2nd Place Sculpture
Skylar Buckman - 3rd Place Sculpture
Arianna Hemingway - 2nd Place Mixed Media
Winnie Zheng - 3rd Place Mixed Media
Skylar Buckman - 1st Place Painting
Skylar Buckman - Honorable Mention Photo
Sophia DeFabbio - Honorable Mention Mixed Media
Julia Tjaden - Honorable Mention Sculpture
Anna Vashchishin - 1st Place Ceramics

Important Announcement

**Annual Emergency
Release Drill
Early Dismissal
Tuesday, November 21st**

K-12 students will be released from school fifteen minutes prior to the normal dismissal time.

Le Club Français: Great Opportunities!

Bonjour tout le monde! The high school French Club is gearing up for some fantastique activities this year. In addition to our monthly Ciné Club, Top Chef Français competition, bake sale and crepe sale, cheese tasting and restaurant outing, here are our next plans.

First, we will be welcoming our Belgian friends from Liège for the third time in ten years! Forty Belgian students will arrive in late April and we will be hosting them for two days and three nights at our homes. The French Club stayed with Belgian families in February of 2020 and we will be returning their hospitality. Please let your local French teacher know if you would like to host a Belgian student and participate in a unique cultural opportunity.

Then, we will be going to France and Monaco in February of 2025! All current Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors are welcome to join us on our nine-day tour through Paris, the Loire Valley, Provence and Monaco. This fall, we will have an informational meeting, so stay tuned.

Skaneateles Festival

This past summer, students from Westhill High School's Audio Production and Engineering Club (APEC), advised by Mr. Riley, were hired to work on the crew for the world-renowned Skaneateles Music Festival. At the Festival, Westhill APEC students had the opportunity to work firsthand with artists Bela Fleck and My Bluegrass Heart, Broadway star Kelli O'Hara, and Jazz tenor saxophone legend Joshua Redman. The students worked on a crew that was responsible for general set-up of the festival grounds, assisted as stage hands, helped work with backline and sound reinforcement tasks, assisted with lighting for the shows, and interacted and learned from artists and crew members traveling with the groups. Recent WHS graduate, Kosta Georgiadis, Class of '23, served as the assistant technical director the festival's technical director: Mr. Riley.



Westhill High School

Summer Band and Jazz Camps

During the first week in August, 116 camper-musicians, 51 counselors, and 3 music educators from Westhill, Baldwinsville, Cazenovia, Central Square, Christian Brothers Academy, Fabius-Pompey, Lyncourt, Fayetteville-Manlius, Jamesville-DeWitt, Liverpool, Oneida City, Onondaga Central, Phoenix, Syracuse City, Tully, Homer, Syracuse University, SUNY Potsdam, Nazareth College, University at Buffalo, University of Hartford, Hofstra University, and the University of Rochester, rehearsed and performed together in the Westhill Summer Band Camp and Jazz Camp at Westhill High School. The camps were hosted by Westhill Instrumental Music Department teachers, Ms. Elizabeth Buell, Ms. Erin Althen, and Mr. Corey Riley.

From July 31 - August 4, the Westhill Band Camp student-musicians joined together for a week-long concert band program and culminated their week of rehearsals with a band concert for friends and family, conducted by Ms. Buell and Ms. Althen, and assisted by the Westhill Camp Counselors. 6th-9th grade students rehearsed in two separate ensembles for five evenings on a fun and challenging variety of concert band pieces. The Summer Band Camp also featured a jazz band component: Mr. Riley led the Westhill Band Camp 8th-10th grade Jazz Ensemble through performances of works by Chicago, Neal Hefti, Chuck Mangione, and the Huntertunes; he was supported by high school and college-age jazz counselors.

We would like to thank the Westhill Booster Club for sponsoring this camp, Empire Winds for sponsoring our shirts, the Westhill Custodial Staff for their hard work and assistance throughout the week, the Westhill Board of Education and Administration for supporting this educational and musical endeavor, and the campers' families for encouraging their children to make music a year-round part of their life. A special thank you to our high school and college volunteers who gave so freely of their time, talent, leadership, and enthusiasm throughout the week while working side-by-side with the campers!



District News

How to Stay Connected at Westhill

District Website

The district website is updated with information about district and building activities, including quick links to important resources.

Check it out:

www.westhillschools.org

School Calendar

Up-to-date event information about district and school events can be found on a comprehensive, online calendar at www.westhillschools.org.

Because you are able to select the calendar settings, if you have children in multiple schools, you can view events in each building on one calendar.

ParentSquare

ParentSquare allows the district, buildings, teachers and coaches to send messages via an app, text and/or email to notify families and staff of upcoming events, emergency situations, closings and delays, general information, etc. Attendance notices K-12 are pushed out through ParentSquare each day.

Social Media

Get up-to-date district news, view photos and videos of school events and receive the latest about district, building, student and staff achievements and activities through our various social media platforms.



Follow us on Twitter

[@WesthillCSD](https://twitter.com/WesthillCSD) - Westhill CSD

[@WCSDAthletics](https://twitter.com/WCSDAthletics) - Westhill Athletics

[@WCSDSpecialEd](https://twitter.com/WCSDSpecialEd) - Westhill Special Education

[@SdunhamWesthill](https://twitter.com/SdunhamWesthill) - Superintendent

[@rceducation20](https://twitter.com/rceducation20) - Asst. Superintendent

[@WCSDHighSchool](https://twitter.com/WCSDHighSchool) - Westhill High School

[@OnondagaM](https://twitter.com/OnondagaM) - Onondaga Hill Middle School

[@Cherry_Rdschool](https://twitter.com/Cherry_Rdschool) - Cherry Road School

PowerSchool

The district's parent portal is a password protected, secure website that offers parents and students online access to personalized information about a student's academic program and progress. Student report cards, interim reports and academic schedules are posted for students in grades 6-12. Assignments and grades for students in grades 6-12 can also be viewed through the parent portal.

Sharing With Us

If a matter is urgent, please contact the main office of your child's school or the Westhill District Office:

Westhill District Office
315-426-3272

Westhill High School
315-426-3100

Onondaga Hill Middle School
315-426-3400

Cherry Road Elementary School
315-426-3300

Walberta Park Elementary School
315-426-3200

Thanksgiving Recess

Wednesday, November 22nd - Friday, November 24th

Welcome New Staff Members



Colleen Adams
WHS
School Social Worker



Amanda Booth
WPS
Special Education



Lauren Connors
WHS
Spanish



Patricia Dobrovech
WHS
School Secretary



Zachary Fanning
OHMS
Teaching Assistant



Abby Feyerabend
OHMS
AIS/Grade 6
Long-Term Substitute



Rashaad Graham
WHS
Teaching Assistant



Colleen Hall
OHMS
Teacher Aide



Ashlyn Haynes
WPS
Teaching Assistant

Welcome New Staff Members



Susan Hoffman
WPS
Teaching Assistant



Brianna Holtsbery
WPS
Teaching Assistant



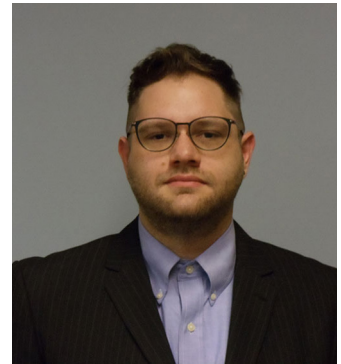
Kelly Jackson
CRS
Typist 1



Molly Kalpaktchiev
OHMS/WHS
School Psychologist



Karen Khammar
WPS
Teaching Assistant



Hector Laureano
WHS
Library Aide



Gloria Li
WPS
Teaching Assistant



Kristin Linden
WPS
Kindergarten



Laura Lust
WPS
School Nurse

Welcome New Staff Members



Jessica Mackessy
WHS
Food Service Helper I



Erin Macko
CRS
Teaching Assistant



Katie Madonia
OHMS
Teaching Assistant



Stephanie Malicky
WPS
Kindergarten



Marnie Medeiros
CRS
School Secretary



David Minney
OHMS
School Social Worker



Andrea Molloy
WPS
Speech Pathologist



Adrianna Orbino
CRS
Food Service Helper I



Sherlyn Pallasino
OHMS
Special Education
Long-Term Substitute

Welcome New Staff Members



Kyla Pecora
CRS
Special Education



Melissa Pickett
CRS
Grade 2
Long-Term Substitute



Derek Prosser
CRS
Grade 2



Jessica Regitano
WHS
Library Media Specialist



Harrison Rosenburgh
WHS
Math



Meghan Snell
WHS
Assistant Principal



Angela Sutton
OHMS
School Nurse



Alissa Wirth
ITINERANT
Special Education

District News

Upcoming Westhill Class Reunions and Events

The Class of '68 and Class of '93 will be doing breakfast and school tours on September 30th

The Class of '73 will have breakfast and school tours on October 22nd

For additional information on any of these events please contact westhillfoundation@gmail.com

We invite our alumni to join the Class of '93 and the Class of '68 for the Homecoming Game at Westhill High School against Homer. Support our school and the booster club by purchasing tickets and coming out to the Homecoming Game to cheer on the home team! Email westhillfoundation@gmail.com for more details or to RSVP. RSVPs due by 9/22.

Chain of Command: Whom to Contact with Questions

By following this chain of command, parents/guardians, students and residents can have questions or concerns addressed quickly and efficiently. If you are unable to reach the first contact or your issue is not resolved, please move on to the second contact and so on until your concern has been addressed.

Contact information for individuals below can be found by using the "Contact" link on the district Website.

Athletics

Step 1: Coach

Step 2: Jennie Smarrelli, Director of PE, Health & Athletics

Step 3: Steve Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

Attendance

Step 1: School Main Office or Nurse

Step 2: Building Principal

Step 3: Steve Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

Budget

Step 1: Steve Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration

Step 2: Steve Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

Classroom Concern (curriculum, instruction, technology or issue tied to an individual student)

Step 1: Classroom Teacher

Step 2: Building Principal

Step 3: Rick Chapman, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Step 4: Steve Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

Food Services

Step 1: Rich Gunther, Food Services Director

Step 2: Steve Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration

Step 3: Steve Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

Medical Concerns

Step 1: School Nurse

Step 2: Building Principal

Step 3: Steve Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

Scheduling

Step 1: Building Principal or School Counselor (if student is at the middle school or high school)

Step 2: Rick Chapman, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

Step 3: Steve Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

School Activities & Clubs

Step 1: Activity or Club Advisor

Step 2: Building Principal

Step 3: Steve Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration

Step 4: Steve Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

School Policy

Step 1: Building Principal

Step 2: Steve Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

Special Education

Step 1: Case Manager

Step 2: Building Principal

Step 3: Marietta Lachenauer, Director of Special Education

Step 4: Steve Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

Transportation

Step 1: Building Principal

Step 2: Michele Rether, Transportation Director

Step 3: Steve Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration

Step 4: Steve Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

Registration/Residency

Step 1: Cathy Madigan, Registrar

Step 2: Rick Chapman, Assistant Superintendent

District News

I. Introduction

Providing an orderly plan for dealing with an emergency is part of the responsibility of Westhill Central School District officials. Emergency situations range from man-made problems such as power outages, fires, and bomb threats, to nature-made situations like windstorms, ice/snow storms, and floods. Emergencies range from highly dangerous, life-threatening situations to problems that are mere inconveniences. Schools and parents need to have general plans for dealing with a wide range of emergencies. The following information is intended to familiarize you with our general procedures for school emergencies.

II. Possible Response Actions

The nature of the emergency will determine the type of response action. If possible and timely, an emergency response team will convene at a command site to implement response actions. If possible and appropriate, the assistance of the fire department, ambulance, and police will be sought. The primary consideration in determining response actions will be the health and safety of students and staff.

- A) Cancellation of School - School officials may determine that school will not be in session for one or more days due to an emergency.
- B) Evacuation - Evacuation is necessary for situations ranging from routine fire drills to conditions where it is no longer safe or appropriate to have students in the school building. Evacuation requires all building occupants to exit the building and wait a safe distance from the building until the danger has passed. In some circumstances, however, the nature of the emergency may deem that the students be transported and held temporarily at another location.
- C) Early Dismissal - An early dismissal is announced in the event of a system failure such as loss of heat or other utility in the building, or in response to inclement weather. In inclement weather, due to the time it takes to coordinate early dismissal, many times it is better to wait until dismissal time to send students home. Road crews normally schedule their time to coincide with the dismissal time of schools.
- D) Sheltering in Building - School officials may decide to keep students in school in an emergency until the situation returns to normal or until dismissal or evacuation can be arranged, if it is determined that it is not safe to send them home. A lock down drill is a type of sheltering situation where students remain in their classrooms and windows and doors are locked.

III. Communication Systems

Internal: Communication inside the building will be via the public address system if possible. Otherwise, messengers will be used to relay warnings. Administrators have access to cell phones/radios to assist them with emergency communications.

External: In the event of an emergency, we will notify the following television stations: 3 - NBC, 5 - CBS, 9 - ABC and 10 - YNN.

Westhill CSD uses ParentSquare to keep in touch with you via text message, email or through the app regarding important events, closings, and alerts. Please ensure that your information is up to date in PowerSchool. If you are not currently receiving communication via ParentSquare, please contact the main office at your student's school building.

IV. Emergency Planning Committee

- Steven Smith Emergency Management Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent for Business Administration
- Edward Wittkowski 1st Alternate Coordinator
- Richard Chapman 2nd Alternate Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
- Stephen Dunham Superintendent of Schools
- Daniel Dolan Westhill High School Principal
- Meghan Snell Westhill High School Assistant Principal
- Mark Bednarski Onondaga Hill Middle School Principal
- Kathryn Ta Onondaga Hill Middle School Assistant Principal
- Jeremie Auge Cherry Road School Principal
- Beth Kramer Walberta Park School Principal
- Marietta Lachenauer Director of Special Education
- Richard Gunther Food Service Director
- Michele Rether School Transportation Supervisor
- Beth Nagraj Coordinator of Health Services
- Jennie Smarrelli Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics
- Katie Harmon Director of Instructional Technology

We hope we will never have to implement our plans, but we will strive to be prepared just in case. It is very important for every family to have a contingency plan explained to students should an unplanned early dismissal occur. Calls directly to or from parents would not be practical in a true emergency. We urge families to plan ahead for possible school related emergencies, especially early dismissal.

V. Communication Liaison for the District: Stephen Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

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

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Syracuse, New York

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Lisa M. O'Reilly, President
Roseanne Scrimale, Vice President
Andrew Starowicz
Patrick Cassidy
Andrew Hunter

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.

School Board Recognition Week *October 16 - October 20, 2023*



*In appreciation of your dedicated service to our
students, families, staff and community!*
