



Capital Project Update

On May 21, 2019, voters approved the next Capital Project (Phases 2 and 3) for the Westhill Central School District. The project continues with the renovations of the 1st and 2nd floors of the high school. The previous Capital Project (Phase 1) renovated and transformed the 3rd floor high school academic wing, the first renovation since the school was built in 1962.

Additional components of the Capital Project are slated for Walberta Park, Cherry Road and Onondaga Hill Middle Schools as necessary to meet the future-ready learning needs of all students, the safety and security for all students and staff and the facility needs for long-term building operation and maintenance.

The project is being divided into two phases to accommodate proper planning, development and approval as required by the New York State Education Department.

Current Estimated Project Schedule:

Phase 2 Design: June 2019 – December 2019

Phase 2 State Education Department Review/Approval: January 2020 – December 2020

Phase 2 Construction: March 2021 – September 2022

Phase 3 Design: September 2019 – September 2020

Phase 3 State Educational Department Review/Approval: January 2021 – December 2021

Phase 3 Construction: March 2022 – December 2023

REMINDER

Athletic fields, track, tennis courts and playgrounds are closed to the public during regular school hours when school is in session.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in order to keep children safe and provide student access to these sites during school hours.

Important Announcement

**Annual Emergency Release Drill
Early Dismissal
Tuesday, November 26, 2019**

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



Please mark your calendar!

Westhill High School

National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist

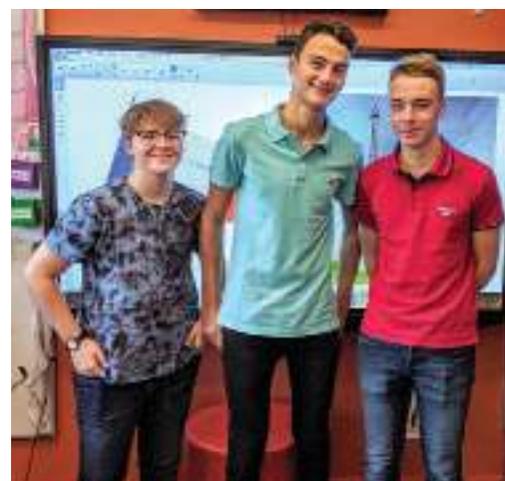
Congratulations to WHS senior, Thomas Stamey, who has been named as a semifinalist in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. With this designation, Thomas has the opportunity to apply for finalist recognition and eventually be eligible for scholarships through the National Merit Scholarship Program. Of the 16,000 semifinalists named nationwide, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the finalist level. Thomas has excelled both in academics and in extracurricular activities. He is a member of the National Honor Society and French National Honor Society, president of the French Club, member of the Math Team, and has participated in the annual Shakespeare Competition. He also is active in the music department as a member of the select choirs and accompanist for the choir. Thomas hopes to pursue a medical career with the goal of becoming a cardiologist.



French Students Join the Westhill Family

By: Rylee Barcza

Clement Lafitte and Vincent Martin M are both 14 year old boys from France. They are in America for 11 weeks to improve their English and have new experiences here. Clement and Vincent live in completely different areas in France. Clement lives in Lyon, the Southeast of France. Vincent lives in Normandy, the north. They never met prior to the exchange. The boys are living with me, Rylee Barcza, and my family for the 11 weeks. During the exchange, Clement, Vincent and I have become extremely close friends. The boys have become part of my family seamlessly, it's like they have always been here. They are such a great addition to my family. If anyone is thinking of hosting a French student, or two, I highly recommend it. This exchange gives great opportunities to the students, families, and the community. This has been such an amazing experience, I wish Clement and Vincent could stay at my house for forever. Now, I see them as my best friends and brothers even. Please say hello or "bonjour" to them if you see them!



Westhill Faculty Perform in Texas

How do your Westhill Instrumental Music Department Band Directors spend their summer vacation? Performing, collaborating, attending Professional Development sessions, serving the profession, and traveling to Texas for the Texas Bandmasters Association Convention! Congratulations to Central Winds: Music Educators' Wind Ensemble Musicians Mrs. Elizabeth Buell (bari sax), Mrs. Erin Tapia (piccolo and flute), Mr. Tony Mastrobattisto (alto and soprano saxophone, retired), and Mr. Corey Riley (trombone), for all of their successes this summer in Texas while representing Westhill at the TBA Convention! The 55 musicians of the Central Winds (all CNY Music Educators, active and retired!) traveled to San Antonio, Texas, and performed a concert in front of more than 2000 enthusiastic conference and student leadership academy attendees on the beautiful Lila Cockrell Theatre stage. The Central Winds also served as the rehearsal ensemble for a clinic titled "Rehearsal Techniques (Both the Trees and the Forest)" presented by the Convention's Featured Clinician: University of Texas at Austin Professor Jerry Junkin. While in San Antonio, our faculty performed to great acclaim; learned so much by attending clinic sessions, exhibits, and other concerts; and took in the sights, history, and sounds of Texas. Congratulations, again, Mrs. Buell, Mrs. Tapia, Mr. Mastrobattisto, and Mr. Riley!

Westhill High & Onondaga Hill Middle Schools

Summer Band Happenings

Over two weeks in July and August, eighty camper-musicians, fifty counselors and six music educators from Westhill, Baldwinsville, Christian Brothers Academy, Fayetteville-Manlius, Bishop Ludden, Marcellus, Chittenango, Phoenix, St. John Fisher, St. Rose, Nazareth, St. Joseph's, Syracuse City, Syracuse Diocese and Syracuse University performed together in the Westhill Summer Band Camp, Jazz Camp and Masterclass Workshops at Westhill High School. The camps were hosted by Westhill Instrumental Music Department teachers, Mrs. Elizabeth Buell, Mr. Corey Riley and Mrs. Erin Tapia.

The Westhill Band Masterclass Workshop took place from July 30-August 1 and is an outgrowth of the Westhill Master Artist Series sponsored by the Westhill Educational Foundation in 2016. The concept for both programs was to create a personalized and targeted instructional experience held in small like-instrument classes taught by exceptional educators specializing on that instrument. The three day summer workshop culminated in a final performance featuring flute, clarinet, saxophone, brass and percussion performances in a variety of configurations as well as performances throughout the camp by our amazing masterclass band teachers and coordinators: Mrs. Buell (camp coordinator & saxophones), Mr. Riley (brass) and Mrs. Tapia (flute) from Westhill; Ms. Grethel (clarinet) from Phoenix; and Mr. and Mrs. Lutters (percussion) from Fayetteville-Manlius.

From August 5-9, the Westhill Band Camp student-musicians joined together for a weeklong concert band program and culminated their week of rehearsals with a band concert for friends and family, conducted by Mrs. Buell and Mrs. Tapia, 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. For the first time, the Summer Band Camp also featured a jazz component: Mr. Riley led the Westhill Band Camp 8-10th grade Jazz Combo through performances of works by Duke Ellington, Al Jackson and Thomas "Fats" Waller; he was supported by high school and college-age jazz counselors.

We would like to thank the Westhill Booster Club for sponsoring this camp, 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.

Westhill Band Masterclass Workshop

Flute Ensemble: Emma Gorman, River Greenfield, Allie MacDerment, Emily Rienhardt; Clarinet Ensemble: Addison Buell, Georgia Hange, Ella Roerden, Emmie Sisack; Brass Ensemble: Gordon Flood, Cameron Lopez, Owen Mulholland, Samantha Burkett, Jack Campanella, Teddy Popp; Percussion Ensemble: Maximillian Leyhane, Laney Siple, Connor Knohl, Garrett MacDerment, Michael Glover



Westhill Summer Band Camp Concert Band

Flute: Emma Gorman, River Greenfield, Carrie Kaczor, Allie MacDerment, Abby Penfield, Emily Rienhardt, Mackenzie Schmidt, Mary Snyder; Clarinet: Ava Baty, Bella Cecile, Georgia Hange, McKenna Kelly, Emmie Sisack; Bass Clarinet: Madeline Keleher, Emma Paetow; Saxophone: Zane Eldred, Nathan MacLachlan, Jonathan Murphy, Keegan Sexton, Taylor Spencer; French Horn: Sydney MacBain, Drew O'Reilly; Trumpet: Sike Ajagbe, Sore Ajagbe, Vince Amorese, Sophia DiGennaro, Gordon Flood, Grady Pens; Euphonium: Jack Campanella; Tuba: Connor Keyes, Teddy Popp; Percussion: Anthony Cardoso, Alden Carroll, Sophia Finnegan, Connor Knohl, Jackson Kudarauskas, Maximillian Leyhane, Laney Siple



Westhill High & Onondaga Hill Middle Schools

Summer Band Happenings Continued

Westhill High School/Alumni Counselors and Guests

Abby Adams (Bass) Westhill, Sayo Ajagbe (Trumpet) Westhill, Madison Bealer (Clarinet) Westhill, Sofia Benderski (Oboe) Westhill, Jackson Bradley (Trombone) Westhill, Travis Burkett (Tuba) Westhill, Brian Buttner (Saxophone) Bishop Ludden, Isa Cardoso (Clarinet) Westhill, Angelo Carr (Trombone) Westhill, Carmela Carr (Oboe) St. Rose, Ryan Clancy (Percussion) Westhill, Nick Colella (Trumpet) St. Joseph's University, Rachel Colucci (Trumpet) Westhill, Geoff Cundall (Bari Saxophone) Westhill, Raeann Curley (Clarinet) Westhill, Will Davis (Trombone) Westhill, Cassie Dorfman (Bari Saxophone) Westhill, Jill Eckert (Flute) Westhill, Mike Ferrara (Euphonium) Westhill, Jacob Fricano (Alto Saxophone) Westhill, Nathan Fricano (Trumpet) Westhill, Chris Grabda (Trumpet) Westhill, Will Hunter (Percussion) Westhill, Nate Juman (Trumpet) Westhill, Brian Kenny (Percussion) Westhill, Allison Lyons (Clarinet) Westhill, Lauren Lyons (Alto Saxophone) Westhill, Natalie Lyons (Trumpet) Nazareth, Zach MacCollum (Percussion) Westhill, Emily Madigan (French Horn) Westhill, Josiah Miggiani (Tenor Saxophone) Westhill, Trevor O'Hearn (Trombone) Westhill, Kate O'Leary (Flute) Marcellus, Emily O'Reilly (French Horn) Westhill, Quinn Pens (Flute) Westhill, Lenora Rienhardt (Flute) Westhill, Sophia Rubino (Flute) Westhill, Christian Rubino (Trumpet) Westhill, Sarah Schwartz (Oboe) Westhill, Brianna Sexton (Flute) Westhill, John Stanton (Alto Saxophone) Westhill, Mya Thomas (Bari Saxophone) Westhill, Colin Thompson (Euphonium) Westhill, Bridget Thornton (Bassoon) Westhill, Sydney Turner (French Horn) Westhill, Colin Walker (Bassoon) Westhill

Student-Musicians Perform at NYSSSA

Congratulations to Westhill High School student-musicians, senior Grace Lesselroth (flute and piccolo) and sophomore Will Bradley (trumpet), for their selection to the 2019 New York State Summer School for the Arts (NYSSSA) School of Orchestral Studies. Grace and Will were among ninety of the finest New York State public and private high school musicians selected via audition to study in residence with the world-class musicians of the Philadelphia Orchestra. They made music for four weeks as members of the NYSSSA School of Orchestral Studies Orchestra and Wind Ensemble; worked side by side with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra; performed at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC) and Skidmore College's Ladd Concert Hall; and were featured as the gala concert ensemble of the NYSSMA Summer Music Conference. Selection to the NYSSSA Summer Orchestra is one of the most prestigious and sought-after honors for NYS student-musicians; congratulations Grace and Will!



OHMS Clubs and Activities are Underway

We have something for everyone at OHMS. Below are some of our student clubs and activities for our students to get involved in. Please have some conversations with your children about joining a club, making new friends and having fun! Most of the activities take place during IA.

Maker Club, 5-8
Good News Crew, 5-8
Newspaper Club, 5-8
Literary Club, 5-8

Robotics, 7-8
Book Club, 5-8
Harmonizers, 7-8
Jazz Band, 7-8

Math Team, 7-8
Science Olympiad, 7-8
French Club, 5-8

Build 'em and Bust 'em, 7-8
Rocket Team Challenge, 7-8
Student Council, 7-8

Onondaga Hill Middle School

NYS Fair Art

We have an amazing group of artists at OHMS! There were over 30 pieces of art works on display during the NYS Fair at the Art and Home Center. The variety of artwork submitted was phenomenal. There were paintings, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics and drawings on exhibit. Many students attended the art reception the day before the fair opened and saw ribbons on their artwork. Congratulations to our talented artists.



Row 1: Emily Balduzzi, Ella Herrera, Nina Cognato;
Row 2: Gianna Spaseveski, Tyler Campanella, Anthony Cardoso, Ava Antoine, Owen Maines (2nd place), Angie Geiger, Molly Dorfman (2nd place), Reagan Wright, Caroline Knoll; Row 3: Kemery Sanborn (3rd place), Caitlyn Knohl, Peyton Deno, Kate Sainsbury, Laney Siple, Sydney McBain, Eva Tarolli, Hannah Tjaden (3rd place), Lauren Formica (3rd), Hadley Goode (3rd place), Molly Thompson; Not in photo: Za'mear Harley (1st place), Nora Fitzgerald

Positivity Project

We started off our Positivity Project this year by assigning each homeroom one of the 24 character traits. We also viewed the parable, "The Tale of Two Wolves", as a building. Each homeroom creatively developed an idea of how to share their character trait with the entire school at our kickoff assembly on Friday, September 13. Some homerooms made posters and others did skits and even poems. Each homeroom teacher also selected two students that went above and beyond helping the class through this project. They were awarded P2 shirts at the assembly.



Onondaga Hill Middle School

Students of the Month

May

5th Grade: Hunter McKeon always walks into the classroom with a smile on his face and a positive attitude that brightens the classroom. He is always kind, polite and caring to teachers and classmates. Hunter has demonstrated perseverance among many other P2 character traits, and has worked very hard during his 5th grade school year!

6th Grade: Julian Metzgar is a hard-working dedicated student. He is always willing to help others out and works well with anyone in the class. He always tries his best in school and demonstrates many of the P2 traits on a daily basis.

7th Grade: Regan Robbins is always so happy and friendly. She is always cooperative in class and is always willing to work with anyone. She is always helpful to her peers and has a positive attitude.

8th Grade: Lucas Stiner is a hardworking and conscientious student. He works well with his peers and has a positive attitude. Lucas always puts forth his best effort!



June

5th Grade: Jackson Goodness is a super kid. He is very nice to everyone, especially students who may need a friend.

6th Grade: Laney Siple is extremely hard working and diligent in everything she does. She is always motivated to do her best work and finds ways to challenge herself. Laney participates well in class and is a kind and helpful peer. She has been an absolute pleasure to work with this year.

7th Grade: Bryce Burdick is a great kid. He is very conscientious about those around him and always willing to help. He raises everyone's spirits with his witty sense of humor.

8th Grade: Alexis Bergett is a creative student who quietly gives her best effort in everything she does. She has a great sense of humor and is a team player who cheers on others and helps them succeed.



Moving Up Night Readers

Each year, 8th grade students are given the opportunity to write an essay about their experiences at OHMS over the previous four years. Our ELA teachers then choose two students that they feel represent the spirit of OHMS and the students read their essays at Moving Up Night. This year, Finn Heagerty and Bradyn Taber were chosen. Congratulations!



Onondaga Hill Middle School

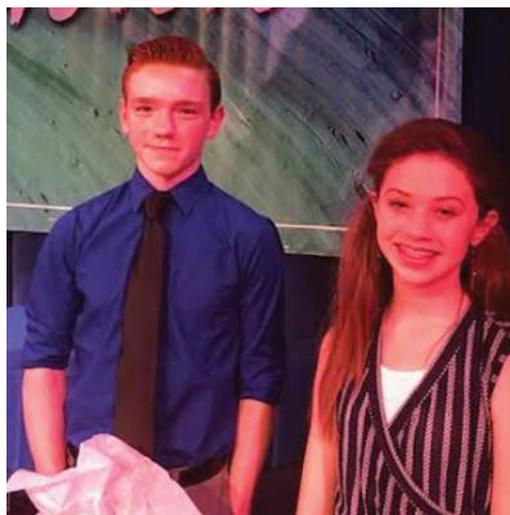
Doug Hutson Leadership Award

The Doug Hutson Leadership Award was established in 2012 to honor Mr. Hutson for his dedication of nearly 20 years as Onondaga Hill Middle School's principal. The winners, who are chosen by the faculty, represent the values Mr. Hutson tried to instill in his students; making good choices, being respectful and showing character to name a few. This year's winners were presented with their award on Moving Up Night. Congratulations to Nicole LoFaro and Sean Rogers!



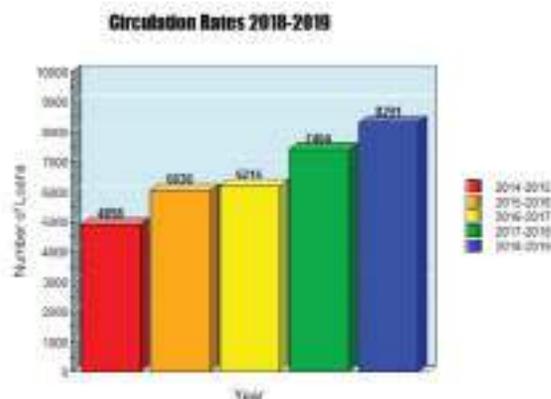
Tara McMahon Award

The OHMS Parent Council established the Tara McMahon award in memory of Tara, a beloved OHMS student, who passed away. The school and Parent Council wanted to remember the characteristics of Tara with two annual winners from the 8th grade class. The faculty selected two students who exemplify her passion for music, display a caring attitude and include their peers in school activities. Congratulations to Sean Stephenson and Domenica Klamm!



OHMS Library Grows Readers

Students and staff at OHMS checked out a record high total of 7,404 books during the 2017-2018 school year. The goal for the 2018-2019 school year was to circulate 8,000 books. We weren't sure we would make it as the beginning of the school year our numbers were on par. We're happy to report that as the school year progressed, so did our circulation rates. We shattered the previous year's record by circulating 8,291 books! Ms. Smith's class broke the record, and each student received a Frisbee to celebrate. We are very proud of our circulation growth, and hope we continue to grow it next year. Keep reading OHMS staff and students!



Cherry Road & Walberta Park Schools

CRS Award Winners

Each year, Cherry Road School recognizes outstanding fourth graders with two awards. This year, the Ron Hill School Spirit award, named for the former CRS principal, was awarded to Kiera Edlund, Reagan Rogers, and Tyler Gehm. The Marion Parsons award, named for the first principal of CRS, was given to Dan Young and Lucy DeMore. Teachers nominate and vote for students based on established criteria modeled after the characteristics of the former principals. Congratulations to this year's winners!



Weather Expo

Students in Mrs. York and Mrs. Hoag's classes shared weather stories that they wrote. During the weather expo celebration, they were able to present their stories to each other. The two classes also sang songs together from the Weather Wonders EL Module.



First Grade Engineers

First grade students have been investigating sound during their Smithsonian science unit. They learned about kazoos and even experimented with materials to make their own!



Free and Reduced Meal Program

The Westhill Food Service Department would like to bring attention to our Free and Reduced Meal Program by making parents aware that any student who qualifies for free or reduced lunch also qualifies for free or reduced breakfast.

National studies have found that a healthy breakfast is an important key to learning. Every morning our cafeterias offer a variety of whole grain products, fresh fruit and low fat milk. When children eat a well-balanced breakfast, they enjoy the benefits of improved attentiveness and have more energy. Let us help your child start the morning right!

If you have any questions about the school breakfast program or how to take advantage of the Free and Reduced Meal Program, please feel free to call Rich or Mark at 426-3153.

Welcome New Staff Members



Megan Allen
OHMS
School Nurse



Fatin Ayesh
WPS
Health/Cafeteria Aide



Kelli Carsten
WHS
Speech



Conner Catone
Districtwide
School Psychologist Intern



Mark Chambers
OHMS
Math



Claire Conroy
WHS
School Nurse



Katie Conway
WPS
Teaching Assistant



Jennifer Flynn
WPS
Teaching Assistant



Katie Harmon
Districtwide
Director of Educational
Technology



Lindsay Kaley
OHMS
Grade 6 Long-Term Sub



Brett King
CRS
Principal



Gretchen Krzykowski
WPS
Kindergarten

Welcome New Staff Members



Kaley McHale
WHS
Art



Alexandra Milhaven
CRS
Grade 4 Long-Term Sub



Anne Navaroli
WPS
School Nurse



Oksana Ososkalo
OHMS
Teaching Assistant



Meghan Platt
CRS
Teaching Assistant



Jennifer Raven
CRS
Teaching Assistant



Isabella Sterly
OHMS
Special Education



Gregory Streeter
OHMS
Teaching Assistant



Eric Toyama
OHMS
Music



Dominic Venditte
District Office
Account Clerk II



Rick Vogt
OHMS
Health/PE



Taylor White
Districtwide
School Psychologist Intern

District News



Edward Zajac
WHS
Custodial Worker I

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. School 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 SchoolMessenger to keep in touch with you via text message regarding important events, closings, and alerts. Please ensure that your information is up to date in PowerSchool. If you aren't receiving texts and would like to, you can sign up by texting "Y" or "Yes" to the number 67587.

IV. Emergency Planning Committee

Steven Smith..... Emergency Management Coordinator
Edward Wittkowski..... 1st Alternate Coordinator
Sarah VanLiew..... 2nd Alternate Coordinator
Casey Barduhn..... Superintendent of Schools
Lee Roscoe..... Westhill High School Principal
Daniel Dolan..... Westhill High School Assistant Principal
Mark Bednarski..... Onondaga Hill Middle School Principal
Jennie Smarrelli..... Onondaga Hill Middle School Assistant Principal
Brett King..... Cherry Road School Principal
Beth Kramer..... Walberta Park School Principal
Marietta Lachenauer..... Director of Special Education
Richard Gunther..... Food Service Director
Jeri Burke..... School Transportation Supervisor
Beth Nagraj..... Coordinator of Health Services

V. Communication Liaison for the District: Casey Barduhn, Superintendent of Schools

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.

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

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Roseanne Scrimale, Vice President
James K. Wickersham
Andrew Starowicz
Patrick Cassidy

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.

DISTRICT NEWS

School Board Recognition Week
October 21 - October 25, 2019

*It's Board of Education
Appreciation Week!*

*many
thanks!*

**Thank you to the Board of Education
for your many hours of dedicated service!**
