



## Scholastic Art Recognition

Eleven Westhill High School photography received awards in the 2023 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. Now celebrating their 100th Anniversary, 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 11 through March 3.

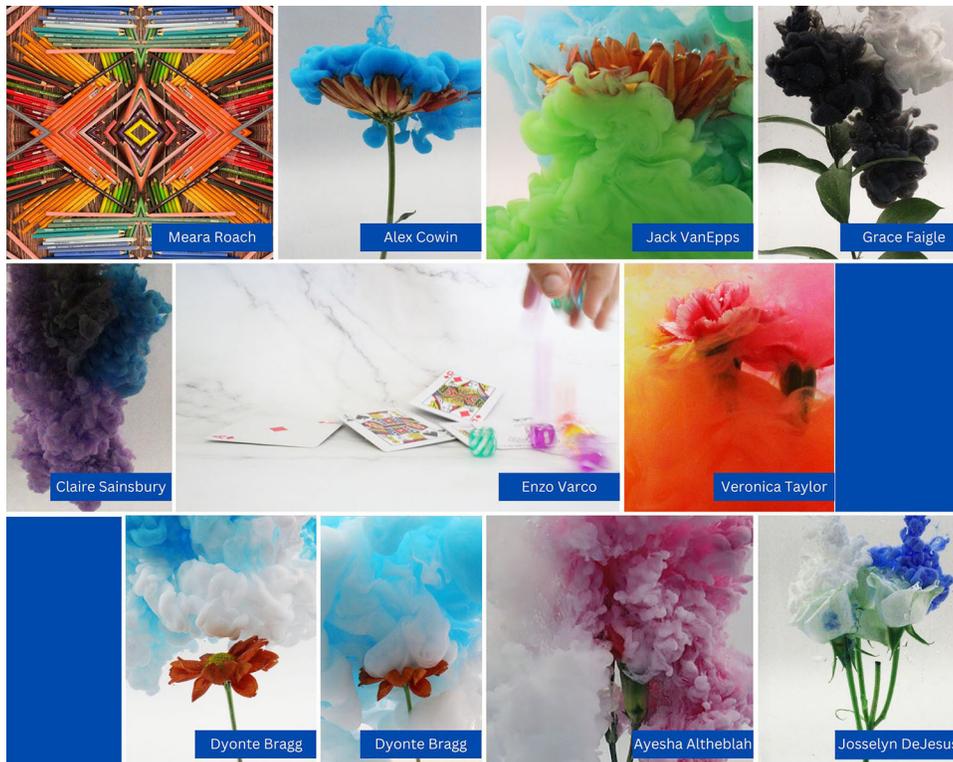
### Gold Key Winners:

Dyonte Bragg, Grade 9, Photography - Overwhelmed  
Dyonte Bragg, Grade 9, Photography - Descension  
Josselyn DeJesus, Grade 9, Photography - Untitled Flower  
Grace Faigle, Grade 9, Photography - Engulf  
Meara Roach, Grade 9, Photography - Colored Pencil Kaleidoscope

Alex Cowin, Grade 12, Photography - Weighed Down  
Enzo Varco, Grade 12, Photography - Take A Chance

### Honorable Mention Winners:

Claire Sainsbury, Grade 9, Photography - Inky  
Ayesha Altheblah, Grade 11, Photography - Impact  
Jack VanEpps, Grade 11, Photography - Stifle  
Veronica Taylor, Grade 11, Photography - Neon Florals



# Walberta Park School

## Learning About Sound

First grade scientists have learned about how a message can be sent using sound. The lessons and investigations included learning about what is needed to make sound, how music is made, making kazoos, how our ears hear sounds and culminated with making a banjo and having it send a message.



## Gymnastics Classes

The Site-Based Team at Walberta Park is pleased to have West Side Gymnastics School teach classes before school to our students. The children are learning tumbling, balance, flips, cartwheels, handstands and using a springboard. What a healthy way to start our winter Fridays!



## Holiday Sing-a-Long

Students enjoyed holiday festivities at WPS! Several holiday favorites were sung by students. Pictured below are kindergarten students moving along to the music.



## Holiday Giving

During the holiday season, students collected change to donate to a local charity. Some students even did chores around the house to earn money to donate! All in all, students donated over \$300 to the Ronald McDonald House. Pictured below are Amalia Mannion, Finnegan Costello, Molly Kratz and Principal, Dr. Kramer.



# Walberta Park and Cherry Road Schools

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## John Farrell Visits WPS

In early December, singer and songwriter, John Farrell, visited WPS. Children loved his familiar songs and learned a bit of sign language during his show.

## Exploring the MOST

In December, Mrs. Tacea's class and crew had such a wonderful time at The MOST exploring the museum. We would like to thank WEST for sponsoring the field trip for us.



## Weather Systems

Students in Mrs. Neumire's third grade class collaborated to explore the impact weather systems have on different kinds of building roofs. Using straw, wood and clay, they simulated different kinds of precipitation to investigate the function of each material.



## Basketball Club

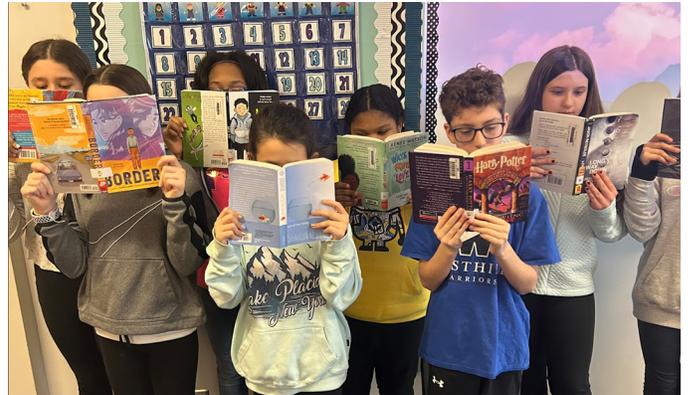
Mr. Connelly worked with 4th graders for a before school basketball program. The students worked on skills and had fun playing basketball one day a week before school!



# Onondaga Hill Middle School

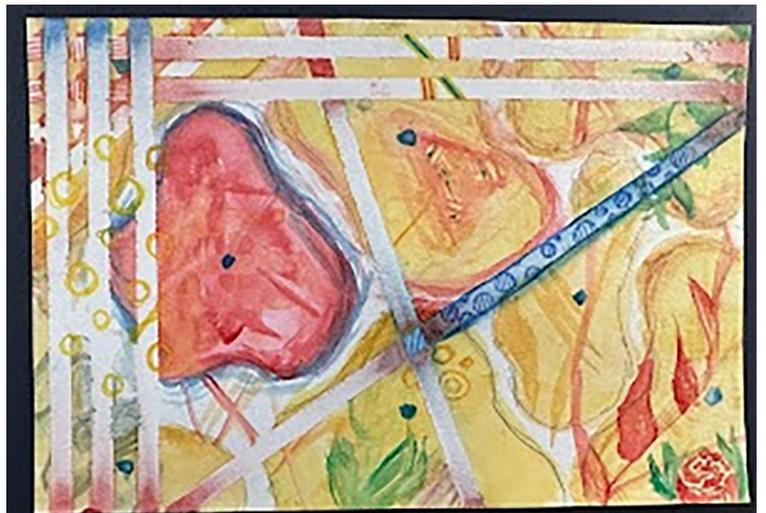
## Record Number of Readers

With the incredible selection of updated, relevant and diverse novels in our OHMS library, thanks to Mrs. Feeney, 6th graders in Mrs. Prince's classes are taking advantage of reading about diverse characters and engaging in book talks to learn about cultures and diverse characters' experiences through literature. Coming soon to a school and public library near you are QR code book reviews created by your very own OHMS 6th graders!



## aMazing Artist

OHMS student, Maze Peryea, is an aMazing artist. Maze recently participated in the Syracuse University Art Workshops for Young People. This semester-long program provides SU art education majors the opportunity to work with students of all ages. Each week, the art education students present different art media activities to the participants. At the conclusion of the semester, they have a "Big Show" displaying all the artwork created throughout the program. It was an awesome experience getting to see all of Maze's hard work and talent in one place. We can't wait to see what the future holds for this young artist!



## Art Awards

Congratulations to Claire Kelly for receiving an honorable mention at this year's Scholastic Art Awards. Claire's artwork will be on display in the Whitney Building at OCC from January 11 through March 3.



# Onondaga Hill Middle School

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## Students of the Month

### November

5th Grade: Judah Brooks is an enthusiastic learner, and is always willing to participate and contribute in the classroom. He truly cares about his learning and works hard every day. Judah also demonstrates the “Other People Mindset”. He celebrates the successes of others and offers a kind helping hand without hesitation.

6th Grade: Michael Scanlon consistently leads by example inside our learning community. He has an exemplary understanding of kindness, acceptance and respect, and he shows those traits to anyone who has the pleasure of interacting with him. Michael is a model example of the P2 trait humility. He consistently puts forth his best effort, is extremely patient and respectful, collaborates well with his peers and always leads by example.

7th Grade: Grace Stroman always comes to iStaff with a smile ready to do whatever tasks are planned for the day. She is a bright and caring student. In the classroom, she works hard and puts so much effort into everything she does.

8th Grade: Sam Chandler is responsible enough that she creates a pace that works for her in class and takes time to lend a hand to others as well. She is one of the first to raise a hand and volunteer, and her insights are mature and original.

### December

5th Grade: Jenna Thabet comes to school every day with a positive attitude and ready to learn. She always participates in class, is caring towards others and is always willing to help.

6th Grade: Lyric Johnson comes to school every day with a positive attitude, and always puts her best effort into her work. She is a kind and supportive friend and classmate. She goes above and beyond to make everyone that she is around feel welcome and included. Lyric shows kindness, empathy, compassion and understanding to everyone she interacts with. She uses these P2 traits to be a model citizen, constantly leading by example.

7th Grade: Jack Carruth has a great attitude even when things are difficult. If someone is struggling, he steps up without being asked, and he’s got a smile for everyone.

8th Grade: Owen Gray is enthusiastic about everything in class. He is a great addition to any group activity and always has something to share in class. He has a great sense of humor, but most of all, he is kind and helps others without hesitation.



# Westhill High School

## Service with a Smile

This winter, Character Ed. members spent time serving food at the Rescue Mission and writing heart felt cards for the elderly of Loretto Nursing home and active members of the US military.



## Helping the Syracuse Community

On Friday, December 2, Westhill DECA traveled to St. Lucy's to assist in setting up their Holiday Gift Giving Program. Students organized gifts to help prepare for the gift program on the following day. Nice job, DECA students!



## DECA Move on to State Competition

On Tuesday, December 20, 40 students competed in the NYS DECA competition against 10 other schools in the Central New York area. As a result of our hard work, 22 students will be competing in the State level of competition in Rochester on March 8-9.



## DECA Travels to NYC

On Friday, December 9, 48 DECA members traveled to New York City. They toured CBS/Paramount+ as well as experienced other NYC tourist attractions at the holidays.



# Westhill High School

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## Fall Teams Earn NYSPHSAA Academic Honors

At the end of each sports season, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) honors those teams and individuals that excel in the classroom. Those student-athletes, teams and schools work very hard throughout the year and deserve to be recognized for their academic success. To receive Scholar-Athlete team recognition the team's average GPA for 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90%. If a team does not meet the Scholar-Athlete Team Criteria, the individuals on that team with a 90% or above GPA are considered individual Scholar-Athletes.

This fall, Westhill had seven out of our eight varsity teams earning the team honor. Scholar Athlete teams include girls' tennis, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, girls' cross country, boys' cross country, girls' volleyball, boys' golf. We had 159 varsity athletes participating in the fall sports program. Out of this 159, 116 earned a 90% or greater average for the 1st quarter. Congratulations, student athletes!

## Naval Horizons

Naval Horizons introduces students to cutting-edge Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) topics that impact the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. They invited students to learn about Naval STEM challenges and our scientists and engineers through this video series. Students wrote an essay explaining how our research and our people inspire them. This contest challenged students to picture themselves in a STEM career by designing the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps of the future.



The Honor Chemistry students of Westhill High school entered this contest, and we are excited to announce that four of our students; Ava Antoine, Julian Metzgar, Oluwafeyisike Ajagbe and Helena Siple, won the contest from the US Navy and received a cash prize as well. In addition, Oluwafeyisike Ajagbe received high honors. Congratulations to all.

## Staff Appreciation Night

On January 9, the JV and Varsity girls basketball teams honored staff members throughout the district. Each athlete chose one member of the Westhill staff that has had a positive impact on them. The program would like to thank all of the faculty and staff for their hard-work and dedication toward our students!



# Westhill High School

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## Warriors of the Month

### November

9th Grade: Sophia Hoffman's kindness shines through every day. She is warm, friendly and always sees positivity even on tougher days. She is friendly towards everyone she encounters. She is quick to help others in class and participates daily. She always brings up class topics in connection to her own personal interests and relates it to books she reads outside of class. She is a true Warrior!

10th Grade: Nora Fitzgerald greets everyone with a smile and a hello at the start of each physical education class and a thank you at the end. Her positive energy is contagious to every student. She encourages her classmates with applause and loud cheers when they are successful and picks them up after losing a point or a game. She leads by example with effort and the way she treats others. In one of the largest classes, she is always comfortable being herself, constantly laughing and having fun with the amazing group of young women she surrounds herself with. Nora never hesitates to pair up with someone new to help make those students feel comfortable and supported too. Day 2/period 2 physical education class is a phenomenal group of young people and their energy starts with Nora's zest and kindness.

11th Grade: Logan Curley is one of the kindest and considerate people. He can be seen picking up materials at the conclusion of class, asking if there is anything that he can do or helping his peers. He demonstrates self-control and shows integrity every day, even when put in difficult situations. Logan has been a strong leader amongst his peers during his time here at Westhill.

12th Grade: Addy Lowery is like a beam of shining light, illuminating every room. Her laugh is infectious and can cheer anyone up. She is the first person to invite someone into her group and make them feel like part of the team. She is not afraid to put herself out there and try something new even if it means she won't be the best. She is humble and is constantly showing gratitude to everyone.

## Virtual Reality

Thanks to a grant from the Westhill Educational Foundation, students can visit the high school library and borrow a Meta Quest 2 Virtual Reality Headset. The VR headsets provide immersive experiences which extend classroom learning and bring the outside world in. Teachers can use VR headsets in the classroom to explore subjects that range from art to astronomy, show 360-degree videos or take students on visits to cultural locations around the world. Social and emotional learning is supported through experiences such as virtually touring the Anne Frank House or seeing daily life through the eyes of a refugee. Students can also use the VR headsets independently for experiences such as playing virtual chess, practicing public speaking or taking virtual college tours. For more information on virtual reality, visit the library website: <https://sites.google.com/westhillschools.org/westhillvr/home>



# District News

## Save the Date

**THE WESTHILL EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION  
CHIP IN FOR EDUCATION PRESENTS:**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023  
6:00PM - 11:00PM**

**ST. ANN'S  
4471 ONONDAGA BLVD.  
SYRACUSE, NY**

**WESTHILL'S  
60-ISH  
ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION**

**ADVANCE SALE TICKETS: \$30 EACH OR 2 FOR \$50  
EVENT DAY TICKETS: \$40 PER TICKET  
WWW.WESTHILLFOUNDATION.COM**

**ENTERTAINMENT BY THE MERE MORTALS,  
SILENT AUCTION, RAFFLES, FOOD TRUCKS & CASH BAR**



### WINTER BREAK

Monday, February 20 -  
Friday, February 24



# District News

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## 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**

Step 1: Cathy Madigan, Registrar  
Step 2: Steve Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

## Community-Wide Survey

In early February, the district will be sending out a community-wide survey through ParentSquare and our website to elicit feedback and input from all of our stakeholders to help us identify some priority focus areas as we implement our first ever Strategic Plan. Check out the website in early February to access the survey. Thank you for your continued support of our students and staff.

# District News

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## 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, 2022. 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 2022-2023 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: Edward Wittkowski, Director of Facilities, L.E.A. Asbestos Designee, 315-426-3396 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: Edward Wittkowski, Director of Facilities, L.E.A. Asbestos Designee, 315-426-3396.

## Town of Geddes Police and Westhill CSD Partnership

In December, the Westhill CSD officially began a new phase, partnering with the Town of Geddes Police Department to provide School Resource Officers in the district. The effort and commitment to this partnership shown by Town Supervisor Jerry Albrigo, Chief of Police John Fall and the Geddes Town Board, along with the Westhill Board of Education speaks to how important school safety and our community partnership are to both organizations. Three School Resource Officers have been assigned with a fourth SRO joining the district soon.

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

Non-profit Organization  
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Syracuse, New York

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Lisa M. O'Reilly, President  
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.

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## Universal Pre-K - 2023-2024 School Year

The Westhill Central School District is pleased to once again offer a 4-year-old UPK program for the 2023-2024 school year.

To be eligible, a child must:

- Have a birthdate between December 2, 2018 and December 1, 2019.
- 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 9 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, the district partners with the YMCA (OCC campus location). 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.

## Capital Project and Safety Updates

Westhill High School has been in different phases of remodeling and construction since the 2017-2018 school year. As we start the new year, the high school is in the home stretch of Phase 3 of the Capital Project which will end with the completed transformation of all three floors of the academic wing. A brand new Library-Media Center, an outdoor classroom and gathering spaces in the courtyard as well as completely renovated classrooms will be completed and ready to kick-off the 2023-2024 school year.

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