

July 2025- Issue 1

# Graduation Honors

### Valedictorian



With a cumulative academic weighted average of 103.889, Oluwafeyisike Ajagbe is the Westhill High School Class of 2025 Valedictorian. Sike has maintained an extremely rigorous course schedule throughout her high school career. Sike is a member of National Honor Society as Vice President, President of French National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society, Vice President of Membership. She is the Senior Class President, Character Education President and Health Occupational Students of America President. Sike is a member of Academic Decathlon, Student Senate, Music Leadership Academy, French Club and DECA. She also plays on the tennis team. Sike has been an active member in the Westhill Educational Foundation. She is a four-time recipient of the Old English W award, as well as winning the American Citizenship Award two years in a row, Outstanding French Award, Outstanding French Senior Award, Excellence in Living Environment, AP Biology and Physics. Additionally, she has won the CNY Best and Brightest award. Sike was a National Merit Scholarship Commended Scholar and a Presidential Scholarship Nominee. Sike plays the euphonium in the Wind Ensemble, of which she is the President. Sike plans to attend Cornell University in the fall, majoring in Biology. Sike's message to Westhill is summed up in her favorite quote "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." by Maya Angelou. Congratulations to Sike Ajagbe for becoming the Westhill High School Class of 2025 Valedictorian!

### Salutatorian

With a cumulative academic weighted average of 103.00, Helena Sipley is the Class of 2025 Salutatorian. Laney has challenged and excelled in the most difficult courses offered at Westhill High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, serving as Secretary. She also is the Vice President of Service for Tri-M Music Honor Society and Treasurer of the Spanish National Honor Society. She is the Vice President of Health Occupations Students of America, President of Spanish Club, as well as being a member of Character Education, Academic Decathlon, DECA, Student Senate and Music Leadership Academy. Laney is a talented athlete, participating in Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor track, of which she is the Treasurer. Laney is the section leader in Wind Ensemble, playing percussion. She also participated in the Syracuse Youth Wind Symphony. Laney has been awarded the Excellence in Living Environment, AP Biology and Physics Award and the American History Book Award. She is a three-time recipient of the Old English W and is a National Merit Commended Scholar. She has additionally been awarded the CNY Best and Brightest award. Laney will attend Colgate University in the fall majoring in Biology. Laney leaves the quote "Promise me you'll always remember: You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." by A. A. Milne as a message to the Westhill community. Congratulations to Laney Sipley for becoming the Westhill High School Class of 2025 Salutatorian!



### **Most Outstanding Senior**

The Most Outstanding Senior Award is a tradition established by the founders of the Westhill Central School District. Students who are named Most Outstanding Senior receive such honors because they have been identified as representing the entire Westhill High School program. They not only achieve academically, but are involved in a variety of school activities and give service to the school. A committee of teachers, administrators, and students choose the Most Outstanding Senior.

Owen Mulholland was selected as the Class of 2025 Most Outstanding Senior. Owen graduated with an academic GPA of 97.863 and will attend Le Moyne College in the fall, majoring in Business Analytics Economics. Owen completed Honors level, OCC, and AP course work during his high school career. Owen is a member of a National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society. Owen has won the Camillus-Solvay-Geddes Club Award, Section III Scholar Athlete Award and Instrumentalist Director's Award. Owen has spent time helping better his community through the Church of St. Michael & St. Peter. He has volunteered at the Syracuse men's shelter, serving food to those in need and working with the youth in the church. He has also volunteered in the Westside band camp, mentoring younger students.

Outside of the classroom, Owen is a talented athlete and musician. He runs Indoor and Outdoor track and has qualified for the State Meet. Owen plays the trombone in the Wind Ensemble and performed in the Pit for all the musicals during his high school career. In his free time, Owen enjoys photography and has won awards for his work. A message Owen would like to leave to the Westhill community is a quote from his grandmother, Ann Mulholland, "When all else fails, pray". Congratulations to Owen Mulholland for being selected as a 2025 Westhill High School Most Outstanding Senior!



### Old English "W" Recipients

The Old English "W" is a traditional Westhill award bestowed on the individual students who have earned the highest academic grade point average for their respective grade levels for the current school year. The Old English "W" is one of Westhill's most honored traditions. Listed below are this year's recipients and their academic GPA for this school year.

9th grade Sabine Napolitano Sophia DeFabbio	102.1 102.05	11th grade Kayleigh King Hadley Goode	104.125 103.2	(3rd year in a row)
<b>10th grade</b> Samantha Colangelo Austin Choe	102.64 (2nd year in a row) 102.04 (2nd year in a row)	, , ,	104.08 103	(4th year in a row)

### Senior Scholar Athletes



On Monday, June 9th, at The SRC Arena at Onondaga Community College, Section III recognized two of Westhill's finest student athletes. Surrounded by their families and coaches, Westhill seniors Owen Mulholland and Avery Starowicz were honored by Section III as Senior Scholar Athletes. This event is an opportunity for Section III to honor selected scholar athletes for their accomplishments in academics and athletics. Owen is a three-sport varsity athlete participating in cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field. At the event Owen was awarded the Cathleen M. Infanti Memorial Award. Owen will be furthering his academic career at Le Moyne College where he will continue with his academic and running career. Avery is also a three-sport letter winner. Avery is a member of the Westhill soccer, indoor track and field and lacrosse teams. Avery will be continuing her education at Salisbury University where she will continue her academic and lacrosse career. We would like to congratulate Owen and Avery for their exceptional achievements throughout their high school careers and wish them much success in the future.

# Onondaga Hill Middle School

### Doug Hutson Leadership Award

The Doug Hutson Student Leadership Award, established in honor of the former OHMS principal, was awarded to Aiden Schilling and Jaylan Hill. These students were chosen by their teachers for their ability to stand up for others even when it's difficult, make good choices, treat others with respect and compassion and do the right thing even when they think no one is looking.



### Tara McMahon Award

AJ Hagan and Annie Horning received the Tara McMahon Award in memory of a former OHMS student. AJ and Annie were recognized for having a passion for music, being caring and compassionate toward others, serving as positive role models, showing respect towards peers and adults, always helping others and including all peers.



### Kathy Tompkins Positive Spirit Award

Carmella Colangelo and Charlie Soule were awarded the Kathy Tompkins Positive Spirit Award. These two students embody the spirit of the former music teacher by viewing each day with a positive attitude, motivating those around them with spirit and enthusiasm, encouraging others to be more confident and to believe in themselves and showing an interest in and appreciation for music and the arts, especially theater.



# Onondaga Hill Middle School

### Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students for being selected as Students of the Month at Onondaga Hill Middle School. These students were nominated by staff members for their leadership, hard work, growth and perseverance among other positive character traits. We are very proud of them! 8th graders Jackie Battista and Tyler Fowler; 7th graders Max Mathews and Seamus Root; 6th graders Kendra Bandel and Evelyn Dixon; 5th graders Ja'Dayah Coleman and Hartley Gehm. (Starting upper left in a clockwise direction.)









# Onondaga Hill Middle School

### Uniting Through Diversity: IDEAS Club Celebration!

Parents & Student leaders came together to recognize the incredible success of the IDEAS Club's year-long initiative to celebrate diversity and bring inclusiveness to Onondaga Hill Middle School. Fifth grade students and proud parents gathered to honor the rich diversity that enriches our school community, culminating in an afternoon of inspiring speeches and heartfelt gratitude. Each student gave a speech on how they would change the world. Their speeches served as a powerful reminder of the impact that student leadership can have in shaping a more inclusive future. We've learned so much from each other, celebrated our unique backgrounds and built stronger connections. This isn't just about what we accomplished this year; it's about building a foundation for a future where diversity is celebrated and every voice is heard.

"IDEAS is about recognizing that our differences are not just something to tolerate, but something to actively celebrate when we open ourselves to learning about other cultures."

"Peace is what we say all the time using a tiny hand gesture. When you put up these two fingers it means you want peace, so you have to work towards it. If no one does it for you, you have to do it for yourself. Work towards peace and make peace normal. If no one listens, try again. No one will just do what you tell them to. So keep trying, because peace is the only answer to a better world".

- Aiden Weinsztok, 5th Grader





# WHS Quarter 4 Honor Roll 2024-2025

#### **Grade 12 Honor**

Aboushanab, Abdelmeguid Ajagbe, Oluwafeyisike Allen, Tate Alt. Maille Antoine, Ava Balduzzi, Emily Baty, Ava Bender, Alice Bergett, Grace Burkett, Samantha Burns, Phoebe Cardoso, Anthony Colangelo, Anabelle Detor, Claire

Ferrer-Menendez, Emma

Fitzgerald, Nora Gedney, Ellianna Geiger, Angelyna Goldman, Adyson

Donegan, Sophia

Dorfman, Molly

Eldred, Zane

Goral, Mya Gregory, Chyla Hamam, Israa Heise, Morgan Henesey, Luke Holowinski, Aubrey

letter, Siena Joyce, Camaryn Juman, Eli Kelly, Caleigh Kimball, Lauren Kodoe, Godwin Loomis, Christian Loveless, Lillian MacBain, Sydney Macko, Jacob McGann, Julie Medeiros, Sydney Merrick, Thomas Metzgar, Julian

Olesh, Anita Pease, Jack Popp, Edward Ramsing, Cadence Rienhardt, Emily Rodriguez, Olivia Rose, Conor Rosenberger, Kara

Mulholland, Owen

Murphy, Emma

Sampo, Anthony Scanlon, William Sheridan, Riley Sipley, Helena

Rouse, Owen

Sisack, Emlyn

Stanton, Laura Sullivan, Grace Tarolli, Evangelina

Taylor, Emily Uwase, Sadia Valenti, Claire Valenti, Roman Valenti, Sophia

**Grade 11 Honor** Amidon, Aiden Amorese, Gabriel Anderson, Elizabeth Bruzdzinski III. Iohn Buell, Addison

Burke, Kiley Clark, Riley Cognato, John Colon, Aaliyah Cordova, Vincent

Cowin, Maxwell

Curtis, Fenris Czaplicki, Benjamin D'Agostino, Elizabeth DeJesus, Josselyn

Downs, Blake

Drumm-O'Brien, Emma

Eckert, Anna Faigle, Grace Franco, Mason Ganley, Caroline Goode, Delaney Goode, Hadley Goodwin, Zachary Gorman, Grace Hayes, John Hayes, Selina Hill, Jael

Hoffman, Sophia Holleran, Liam Holstein, Eric Hunt, Thomas Jackson, Anna Kaczor, Stella Kenny, Ronan Kenny, Tiernan Kincaid, Cormac King, Kayleigh

Kohanski, Adriana Langham, Allison Lopez, Collin Maines, Aiden Militi, Eva Mondo, Andrew

Napolitano, Stella Ortiz, Leila Parry, Eleanor Pens, Kellen Perry, Alexa

Mullen, Eileen

Petrone, Calvin Pope, Sienna Poston, Aryanna Prince, Elias

Ramos, Carlos Reilley, Olivia Rice, Lorenzo Richardson, Carter

Roach, Meara Rudiger, Abigail Ryan, Molly Sadowski, Andrew Sainsbury, Claire Sainsbury, Ryan

Satalin, Erin

Scarfino, Dominic Schmitz, Lily Shephard, Madicine Shepherd, Ellis

Sierotnik Jr., Christopher

Sisson, Kevin Snyder, Amie Snyder, Meghan Soule, Madelyn Sparks, Olivia Speer, Trinity Stotler, Adam Talucci, Gage Turner, Braelyn Tyszka, Alexander

Valerino, Angelina Vaughan, Margaret Wilbur, Jena Wilson, Carter Wright, Reagan Young, Katherine

Grade 10 Honor Abdallah, Sadeen Alberts, Adeline Allen, Brooke Allen, Max

Altheblah, Brahim

Bagnell, Tatum Bruzdzinski, Lottie Cardoso, Nicolas Chandler, Samantha

Choe, Austin

Colangelo, Samantha Conley, Colleen Conroy, Mackenzie Crawford, Lane D'Agostino, Claire DeLine, Lucas DeMore, Lucy

Destito, Isabella DeTomaso, Giana Domick, Isabella Ellis, Christine

Enright, Aaliyah

Finnerty, Ryan Frasier, Jackson Gallardo, Isabella Garcia, Jamil

Gehm, Tyler Gray, Owen Headd, John-Paul Henesey, Matthew

Herne, Louis Hodkinson, Anna Horning, Grace Ide, Caitlin Isimbi, Rabia

Jackson, Jake Johnson, Sophia Johnston, Liam Judge, Charles Kelly, Claire

Kelly, Teagan Kimball, Samantha Kinney, Mary Kodoe, Andrea-Ann

Krenrich, Kaitlin Lasher, Sophia MacLachlan, Thomas

McGann, Sean McGee, Felicity McNeilly, Haze McRae, Ayanah

Mersfelder, Tyler Montalto, Adelina Moore, James Mulligan, Ava Murphy, Kaylin

Murphy, Lucy Nagraj, Mariana Pawelczyk, Allison Pease, Logan

Pendergast, Cooper Petrone, Madeleine Piel, Alexander Primiano, Eulalia

Roberts-DuMont, Cadeanne

Rogers, Reagan Rouse, Brielle Ruski, Serenity Ryan, Elliette Sanavonxay, Jazly Sauer, Parker Scanlon, Charles Shephard, Mathew Sobotka, Mariusz

Soule, Eva Spasevski, Ivana Taylor, Addison Vashchishin, Samuel Veasley, Ah'Nari

# WHS Quarter 4 Honor Roll 2024-2025

Walker, Eli Wallace, Ashton West, Emma Wilmot, Owen Young, Daniel Young, Trevor Zhdan, Vitalii Zuckerman, Zoe **Grade 9 Honor** Al Mamari, Shahd Asim, Umamah Athanas, Andrew Auge, Emmerson Auringer, Schuvler Beal, JreShawn Belcore, Rosella Bova, Sophia Buckman, Skylar Burke, Jameson Carroll, Daniel Carruth, John Cassalia, Patrick Centore, Angelina Chaddock, Evan Cognato, Averie Coleman, Reilly

Collacchi, Emma Colon, Elijah Columbus, Hannah Cordova, Christian Culligan, Brea DeFabbio, Sophia DelRio, Stef'Fonie Dillard Jr., Brandon Dixon, Reagan Donegan, Redd Dowd, Cameron Dunbar, Teagan Eldred, Jade Flegel, Julia Francisco, Dean Franco, Maxwell Gaines, Lyla Ganley, Daniel Gerasimovich, Isabella Glover, Charles Glover, Henry Gridley, Dylan Grosso, Eva Hamam, Aiham

Hange, Brooke

Harrison, Serani

Ibrahim, Ahmad laquint, Stone Kelly, Quinn Ketchum, Hayden Lin, Cayla MacMaster, Kaylie Maestri, David Marceau, Adrien Marinelli, Joseph Martini, Marah McMahon, Emmett Mondo, Melissa Morales, Willa Morse, Shealyn Mota, Alexis Napolitano, Sabine Parry, Evangeline Pichoske, Nicholas Pizarro Fuentes, Edriel Platt, Hayden Pluff, Katherine Powless, Shaniya Pratt, Jackson Presley, Alexandra Rewakowski, Andrew Rewakowski, Jacob

Ritz, Leo Root, Addison Ross, Caleb Satalin, David Savelesky, Sofia Scarfino, Stella Scheel, Annabelle Schug, McKenzie Scott, Khloe Scozzari, Samuel Seitz, Noah Shqair, Mohammed Spinner, Kaleigha Starowicz, Fiona Straub, Emily Stroman, Grace Tarolli, Thomas Tjaden, Julia Tremblay, Addyson Tyszka, William Viscome, Cailin Wilbur, Corinne Wilson, Blake Wilson, Jayden Zheng, Winnie Ziober, Beckham

# OHMS Quarter 4 Honor Roll 2024-2025

**Grade 8 High Honor** Anderson, Eliana Barcak, Natalie Brown, Juliana Canavan, Luna Canavan, Virginia Cobb, Logan Colangelo, Carmella Coleman, Reagan Collett, Reagan Cook, Jack Czaplicki, Kate DeLine, James Destito, Amelia Dhamoon, Gurtej Dimovski, Luka Durant, Clark Ellis, Nicholas Engle, Isabella Etoll, Keira Gallardo, Sophie

Green, Dylan

Greenfield, Gavin Horning, Anne Jackson, Griffin Konkol, Khaya LaSalle, Amelia Mahoney, Audrey Morgan, Ella Olesh, Sofia Orbino, Isabella Paparo, Morgan Pluff, Shanley Pratt, Tyler Primiano, Adelina Quattrocci, Bryan Ramos, Cielo Rogers, Brian Schermerhorn, Kiley Schilling, Aedan Sisack, Brynna Soule, Charles Sprouse, Eamon Walsh, Reagan

Walsh, Riley Zuckerman, Alexander

Grade 8 Honor Abdelfatah, Sela Altheblah, Yusuf Auringer, Giada Battista, Jacqueline Buckingham, Rilee Burns, Madigan Campanella, Luke Carroll, Elliott Casazza, Annabelle Condon, Madigan Detor, Bridget Flegel, Jackson Fraser, Brady Giannino, Arianna Hagan, Albert Headd, Matthew Hill, Jaylan Hubler, Audrey

Johnson, Lyric Johnson, Owen Judge, Antonia LeFever, Alaina Manning, Kierra Marshall, Spencer McGann, Reese Montalto, Eliana O'Sullivan, Olivia Peck, Cameron Pendergast, Tanner Preville, Nicholas Rashid, Teffero Reynolds, Abigail Robinson, Cassius Rowley, Mya Sales, Simone Scanlon, Michael Scheirer, Gianna Sierotnik, Lillian Sova, Jeremy Stoddard, Franklin

# OHMS Quarter 4 Honor Roll 2024-2025

Storinge, Harry Terek, Addison Thabet, Alyaa Tjaden, Trey Valenti, Michael West, William White, Layla Zhdan, Yuliia

**Grade 7 High Honor** 

Aiduk, Mya

Aladwar, Malik Almamari, Ahd Auge, Cooper Baracco, Isla Carlyle, Kathryn Carruth, William Carruthers, Jasper Cass, Joseph Cenajko, Elliot Chang, Samantha Collins, Joseph Connelly, Quinn D'Agostino, Hailey Dixon, Maura Eischen, Jane Faigle, Ellie Francisco, Juliana

Gridley, Luke Grome, Macie Henderson, Aiden Hennigan, Evelyn Herron, Gian Herron, Giavana Holowinski, Lucas Holt, Shiloh Ibrahim, Janelle Kalinowski, Elliott

Kelly, Quest Kinney, Caroline Konkol, Tobi LaRosa, Olivia Maestri, Emilia

Maguire, Kendall Mamorella, Isabel Marceau, Oliver Mathews, Max Nugent, Jackson ONeil, Molly Past, Lily Pautz, Peyton

Platt, Jayden Presley, Clare Primiano, Alana Redmond, Julia Root, Seamus

Satalin, Gehrig Satalin, Kathleen Savelesky, Aurora Scozzari, Alexandra

Seitz, Eden

Seymour, Lyla Sisson, Charles Stash, Ella Thabet, Jenna Walts, Belle Weinsztok, Noah Woodring, Emma Worden, Nora Zheng, Suri

**Grade 7 Honor** 

Abedrabbah, Muhammad Abraham, Nina Agley, Logan Amidon, Alexander Armani, Joviana Bagnell, Clive Carroll, Kathryn Cassidy IV, Charles Clark, Avery Clyne, Landon

Connell, Taylor Couse, Vincent Donegan, Ella Esposito, Jocelyn Fogarty, Connor Freund, Ethan Gehm, Julia Goodwin, Kelly Grobosky, Rowen Herne, Charles Hicks, Blin Ireland, Madilyn

Jackson, Colin lackson, Owen Jaquint, Atticus Killoran, Kellan Kimball, Julia Kimball, Michael Kincaid, Megan Klamm, Dilynn

Loucks, Gabriel Maldonado-Royer, Madeline

McNeilly, Harrison Montague, Benjamin Morse, Malachy Mosleh, Maysa Nicholson, Shaniy O'Brien, Helena Omar, Asha Padula, Ana Parr, Kendall Pillari, Patrick Pope, Deja Richardson, Jillian Romano, Jack Rotella, Lyla

Scanlon, Henry Stokes, Lucas Streiff, Chiara Thomas, Zahle

Tyszka, Benjamin Viavattine, Francesca

Wells, Ava Wells, Karah Whipple, Mason Wilmot, Lily

Grade 6 High Honor

Abdallah, Qusai Altheblah, Somayah Bidnyi, Matthew Cassalia, Broderick Christopher, Avery Coleman, Griffin Collacchi, Connor Collett, Mary Kate Craver, Olive Dacko, Katarina DiMarco, Lillian Dixon, Evelyn Dowd, Tanner Evans, Avery Fowler, Eliana Franco, Morgan Gallardo, Caleb Gibson, Kayla Green, Hayden Greenfield, Nolan

Grosso, Nicholas Henderson, Briana Henesey, Alice Hope, Laura Ide, Brandon Iwachiw, Cora Kurro, Emelia

Lora Gonzalez, Arminda MacLachlan, Margaret Madonia, Sasha Massett, Jonathan Mitchell, Edan Montalto, Massimo Mulligan, Mackenzie Nelson, Rihanna Obernesser, Ellen

ONeill, Lux Osterman, Annabelle Pease, Quinn Perski, Brooklyn Platt, Griffin Price, Seamus Prince, Eva Ritz, Eliza Rudiger, Connor Russo, Anelia Samhammer, John Sisson, Emmy Straub, Jocelyn

Stroman, Samuel Summa, Anthony Tacea, Ilias Thabet, Rana

Vidas, Evelyn Widrick, Joseph Winchell, Noah Zuckerman, Lucas

**Grade 6 Honor** 

Ayesh, Eliana Baker, Madelyn Bandel, Kendra Barfield, Henry Byrd, Kemiyah Chalker, Mia Cheston, Mia Ciambriello, Rosalia Colangelo, Luke Connell, Claire DeFabbio, Matthew

Earl, Eliza

Edmond, Brooklyn Galvin, Benjamin Gersbacher, Danielle Hamilton, Danielle Hares, Kenzie Headd, Catherine Herne, Grace Hoffman, Josephine Holleran, Ella Irving, Violet Ketchum, Caleb Krawczyk, Liam LeFever, McKenzie

McGlynn, Ryan Mollie, Ilithyia Morgan, Evan Moro, Vincent Panighetti, Olive Parry III, Thomas Pease, Matthew Pratt, Alana Preville, Chase Ramage, Keti Ramsing, Jameson Rotolo, Mason Ryan, Beckett Schilling, Declan

Linden, Hudson

Martin, Todd

Shelmidine, Wesley Steenrod, Lelan Stoddard, Arianna Tacea, Isidora Thabet, Ismael Thabet, Mayar Vidas, Dylan Wallace, Brielle Ward, Ella Waters, Gracelyn Wheeler, Tobias

Ziober, Upton

Seymour, Kaleah

# **Cherry Road School**

### Marion Parsons Achievement Award

The Marion Parsons Achievement Award is awarded to two students in the fourth grade class that exemplify the qualities Mrs. Parsons held most dear to her; having a high moral character, being a well-developed citizen, achieving scholastically across the year and having a set of diversified interests all make students eligible for this award. The award recipients are determined through a collaboration between the second, third and fourth grade teachers, along with the specials teachers, teaching assistants and the administrator at Cherry Road School. This year's winners are Taylor Pautz, Carson Latone, and Charles O'Neil.



### **IDEAS Club**

The last month of IDEAS Club was a time for reflection and closure. On a piece of paper, students were asked to write positive thoughts in washable marker and negative thoughts in permanent marker, then soaked the paper in water. While the positive thoughts faded or disappeared altogether, the negative thoughts remained clear, reminding us all to keep the negative thoughts out of our heads because they can become "permanent". For a final activity, the Leaders in Training each decorated a puzzle piece with things they had learned from their time in IDEAS Club and then put the puzzle together to see how everyone "fits". While we were sad to end our time together, there was a lot of excitement about continuing next year in middle school! Until then, have a wonderful summer!

### Ron Hill School Spirit Award

The Ronald Hill School Spirit Award is awarded to two fourth grade students that demonstrate exemplary character traits that Mr. Hill exemplified while principal at Cherry Road School. Some of these traits include kindness, patience, empathy, a sensitivity towards fairness, a willingness to help others and being able to persevere when presented with challenges as well as demonstrating a good sense of humor. The award recipients are also determined through a collaboration between all fourth grade teachers, specials teachers, teaching assistants and the administrator at Cherry Road School. The 2024-2025 school year winners for the Ronald Hill School Spirit Award are Clare Stanton and Logan Hope.







# Walberta Park School

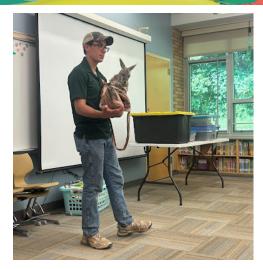
# Students have fun during June Fun Days!

Walberta Park Kindergarteners had a blast during our June Fun Days! Some of the events included Field Days, Day of Play, Flag Day, a visit from Buffalo Bills player and Westhill alum Casey Rogers, and a visit from The Wild! They were also able to go to the Gifford Family Theater at LeMoyne College to see the play Dragons Love Tacos!













#### March Warriors of the Month:

#### 9th Jayden Wilson - Nominated by Mr. Zimmerman:

All year, Jayden has been an excellent student and has proven himself a leader in the classroom. He is always willing to help others and is a positive influence on other students in class. He has a real thirst for knowledge, going above and beyond on subjects that we are covering in class as well as concepts that we have not yet tackled. He has a great sense of humor and always is willing to participate in class.

#### 10th Mat Shepard-Nominated by Mr. Buchmann:

Matthew is an amazing student and person. He is always positive, kind and willing to push himself to be better at everything he does. In the musical he was always punctual, prepared and engaged in every rehearsal. You would see him off on the sides of the stage practicing his dances and lines for the musical when the group had a break. He was always making sure he was accurate and precise. He learned that he was good at performing, dancing and even a German accent for his character. He was even featured in several of the dance numbers of the show. His curiosity and willingness to pursue new and different things in class and co-curriculars while being kind and respectful make him a wonderful candidate for the Warrior of the month. His perseverance, talent and positive leadership make him an example for everyone!

#### 11th Amie Snyder:

Amie is a true warrior! In class Amie is not afraid of challenges and puts in the extra hours to be excellent at the content of the course. Amie does excellent work and is respected by her peers as an outstanding learner and person. Amie works well with others and is not afraid to share her knowledge and skills.

#### 12th T.J. Pichoske:

He is a consistently positive and dependable presence in the classroom. He works exceptionally well with others, always contributing thoughtfully in group settings and helping to create a supportive, respectful learning environment. His friendly and approachable demeanor allows him to connect easily with both peers and teachers, and he consistently demonstrates kindness and a strong sense of integrity. He sets a great example through his cooperation, inclusiveness, and willingness to help others succeed.



### April Warriors of the Month

#### 9th: Sam Scozzari:

Sam is a wonderful role model. He comes to class with a positive attitude daily and is always willing to be helpful towards his peers and teachers. He is often the first to participate in class discussion. He has a deep desire to learn, explore, and understand. He has been a risk taker and tries to develop innovative ways to solve problems. His love of learning is fueled by curiosity.

#### 10th: Owen Gray:

Owen is very kind and patient with his classmates. I have seen Owen on numerous occasions help a student complete his work. When a student doesn't understand the questions, Owen takes the time to simplify the question and explain it to his classmate in a way he understands. Owen shows leadership by helping this student whenever needed, without being asked. I have seen Owen mature a lot over the last two years and he is an asset to our classroom and always willing to help.

#### 11th: Hunter McKeon:

Hunter has gone above and beyond to make our school a more welcoming and inclusive place. He goes out of his way to include others, making sure everyone feels seen, valued, and part of the community. His kindness, leadership, and willingness to help have made a lasting impact on both students and staff.

#### 12th: Abdel Aboushanab:

If you've met Abdel, you know he's the kind of student who instantly brightens your day. He always has a smile on his face and a kind word for everyone. He goes out of his way to ask how you're doing and genuinely wants to get to know you. His positive energy is contagious, and he's a friend to all. Simply put, he's one of the greatest kids you'll ever meet.



### AP US History Students Visit the Women's Rights National Historical Park

In late April, AP U.S. History and AP Government students visited the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls. This significant site marks the location of the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848, a pivotal event in the fight for women's equality. Students toured the Wesleyan Chapel, where the convention began, and participated in ranger-led stations exploring key figures and the passage of the 19th Amendment. The trip served as a powerful reminder of the importance of civic engagement and the ongoing pursuit of equality.



## **Getting Community Members Connected**

In an effort to extend communication to the entire community and keep people in the District informed, we have added "Community Groups" to our ParentSquare communication system. By joining "Community Groups", residents that do not have children in the District can sign-up to receive relevant updates from the District either through email or app notification.

To join, scan the QR code below or enter the address <a href="https://shorturl.at/yBG5Y">https://shorturl.at/yBG5Y</a>. From there, enter your name and email address, and select Westhill CSD Community Connection.

This will allow you to receive things like newsletters, athletic and fine arts updates, and communication from the Superintendent. If you have any questions please call the District Office at 315-426-3272.



# Westhill Educational Foundation

The Westhill Educational Foundation would like to announce the recipients from the spring 2025 grant cycle. Thanks to the continued support of the Westhill community, grants were awarded to support a variety of initiatives throughout all of the schools in the district, impacting students grades K-12. Congratulations to all of our grant winners! We are pleased to announce the following recipients for the spring:

#### **Second Grade Theater Trip, Maria Geiss**

Second graders at Cherry Road School read the book Dragons Love Tacos in their classes. With support from this grant, they were then able to take a trip to the Gifford Family Theater at Le Moyne College to see a performance of this book brought to life. Students and teachers returned to the classroom to compare and contrast the book and show.

#### **Dinosaur Excavation Kits, Kristie Kisselburgh**

With this grant, teachers at Cherry Road School were able to purchase fossil kits for students learning about fossilization and paleontology. After learning about the process of fossilization and learning about several paleontologists, students wrote a personal narrative about discovering a fossil. Then they used the fossil kits to dig out their own fossil to see how challenging it really is!

#### PS I Love You Day, Tracy Derrenbacher

Students at OHMS participated in activities centered around the theme, "A Brighter Future Begins Today". This grant helped to fund a motivational presentation from Casey Rogers, Westhill graduate and NFL football player. Other activities for the day were coordinated with the Westhill Diversity Team to give students a full day of events promoting equity, inclusion, team building and mental wellness.

#### Kindness Wall, Jen Stanton

This grant funded a community kindness e-wall at Walberta Park school. Staff can post highlights of students doing acts of kindness, as well as accolades of students, parents and other staff members. The community at WPS can also add positive accolades and pictures. The pictures and words of kindness are placed on monitors throughout the school to build positivity and community throughout the building.

#### Day of Jazz, Liz Buell

This grant helped to bring the upNorth Jazz Collective to Westhill for a day full of jazz instruction and performances. During the morning of April 9th musicians held two performances, one for OHMS students and one for WHS students. In the afternoon, jazz students grades 7-12 met for instruction with members of the band. This fun day ended with a community performance from all of our Westhill jazz students and the upNorth Jazz Collective.

#### Erie Canal Museum Field Trip, Melissa Prior

This trip served as the culminating lesson/experience to end the 4th grade Social Studies unit on the history of the Erie Canal and its impact on NYS. This grant provided funding for all fourth grade students at Cherry Road School to travel to the Erie Canal Museum to expand upon their knowledge with museum artifacts and exhibits.

#### **HOSA**, Lindsay Johnson

This grant provided funding for members of HOSA, a new club at Westhill High Schol focusing on medical related topics, to participate in the HOSA New York 2025 Spring Leadership Conference. Students prepared for months for competitions taking place at the conference, including CPR/ First Aid, Health Career Presentation, Biomedical Debate and Physical Therapy. Students were also able to participate in workshops coordinated by local colleges and professionals in different medical fields.

#### Crazy Daisies Field Trip, Kristie Kisselburgh

To support the second grade Plants and Pollinators module, this grant helped students travel to Crazy Daisies to learn about plants, why they are important, how to care for different types of plants and what types of plants are in the community. They had the opportunity to rotate through different stations: sensory (seeing/smelling/feeling different textures), edible flowers/herbs, and a planting station where they received their own plant to pot, bring home and care for.

#### Westhill Chess Open, Erik Samhammer

This grant helped to fund the first annual Westhill Scholastic Chess Open, in partnership with Central NY Chess, Inc., a local non-profit. Students within and outside of Westhill came together to play at Westhill High School. Chess is a game that can teach children important and impactful life skills, like logic, reason, critical thinking, developing a plan and thinking through your actions. Central NY Chess donated 100% of the proceeds from the tournament to be used to fund in-school chess programs that will help to develop those skills in Westhill students.

# Westhill Educational Foundation & District News

#### **Butterflies and Pollination, Kristie Kisselburgh**

This grant supported Cherry Road second graders during their Plants and Pollinators Module. Students were able to watch the process of caterpillars as they turned into butterflies. They discussed life cycle and the butterflies' role as pollinators to help the plant life cycle. The butterflies were then shown to families during spring open house which provided a chance for students to talk to their families about what they learned.

#### Sixth Grade Extinction Capstone, Tracy Derrenbacher

As part of the 8th Grade Capstone Project, "The Sixth Extinction," this grant helped students participate in a field trip to the Museum of the Earth and Taughannock Falls. In addition to exploring the museum, this experience gave students direct observation and hands-on learning about Earth's geological history and major extinction events.

#### Beaver Lake: Pollinators, Kristie Kisselburgh

The grant helped to support Cherry Rd second graders with their Plants and Pollination unit. Students learned about different animals, habitats and ways to help save pollinators. By traveling to Beaver Lake they were able to learn about the different types of plants/animals that are within the Beaver Lake habitat.

#### Wild Visit, Jill West

This grant brought staff from The Wild, as well as several selected ambassadors (Blue tongued Skink, African Bullfrog, tarantula, various snakes, hedgehog, kangaroo, etc.) to Walberta Park School. The professional Zoologists from The Wild gave students an in-depth presentation regarding the animals' habitats, behaviors, and information about animal preservation in a unique, up-close hands-on experience!

### Registration Procedures for New Students (K-12)

All students who are new to the Westhill Central School District must be registered by their parents or legal guardians. The Registration Office is located at Walberta Park School; at 400 Walberta Park Road; Syracuse, NY 13219. Registrations are by appointment only.

There are Registration forms available on the Westhill website at https://www.westhillschools.org/teacherpage.cfm?teacher=1258. Please review the forms on the right side of the page.

#### Other required documents include:

- Original Birth Certificate or Passport
- Up to date immunization records from the Student's Doctor (must include Doctor's signature)
- 2 Proofs of Residency (1 Primary and 1 Secondary

#### Primary Proof of Residency:

- Residential mortgage statement/deed; lease/rental agreement (signed by both parties)
- If you just purchased a home, copy of signed purchase agreement for residential real
  estate property within the district (copy of signed contract if you just purchased house)

#### **Secondary Proof of Residency:**

- Pay stub with address
- Homeowner's insurance or Renter's insurance; or Car insurance
- Social Security Correspondence
- Credit Card Bill
- Government issued mail; (Example; Medicare or Medicaid)

#### Parent/Legal Guardian Photo Identification

#### The following additional documents may be required:

- Court Issued Custody Papers (if applicable)
- Form DSS 2999 for foster children
- Copy of child's IEP (if child is receiving Special Education Services)
- Copy of child's 504 Plan (if the child is receiving 504 accommodations)

Please contact the Registration Office at 315-426-3440 or email at registrar@westhillschools.org with any questions regarding the registration process.

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

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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.

# Congratulations, Retirees!



From left to right: Michelle Lamson, Patrick Ferrick, John Pierce, Monica Willsey Not pictured: Annette Casper