



A Publication of the Westhill Central School District

September 2025- Issue 2

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## WESTHILL WELCOMES STUDENTS to the 2025-2026 School Year

In what feels like the blink of an eye, we transitioned from long summer days to just about a month into the new school year. If we were using the analogy of an airplane flight, we have taxied down the runway and are now wheels up taking off on the adventure of the 2025-2026 school year. It's going to be an awesome trip!

There is a special energy and anticipation that comes with the start of a school year and new beginnings. The school year brings the return to routines and excitement around all of the new opportunities that await us in our classrooms, on the courts and fields, and on the stage. If you are entirely new to the District or just starting the educational journey at Westhill in Kindergarten, we are glad that you are here. This is a special community and we welcome you.

From academic triumphs to personal growth, our collective efforts have created a positive and successful learning environment for our students. We will continue to build on our strong foundation of success, focusing on fostering a culture of curiosity, collaboration, and resilience, while continuing to strengthen partnerships with families and the community to create a comprehensive support system for student achievement.

At Westhill, each of us plays a key part in preparing our students for their future. The school-home partnership has never been more important as we strive to empower, engage, and elevate all of our learners in an ever changing global society. If we each commit to working together, supporting each other and focusing on solutions to the challenges that come our way, there isn't anything that we can't accomplish.

Continued success,

Stephen R. Dunham  
Superintendent of Schools



# Walberta Park School

## Kindergarten Students Have Fun with Skill Building

Kindergarten students start the school year out with some initial skill-building lessons with the help of our speech pathologist, Andrea Molloy, and our occupational therapist, Lindsay Timmons. Mrs. Molloy introduces the Voice Volume Scale, as well as a lesson called “Tad Too Close” about personal space. Mrs. Timmons teaches a Crabby Fingers lesson about the correct way to hold our writing utensils. Kindergarten students benefit greatly from these lessons in the first weeks of school. Thank you, Mrs. Molloy and Mrs. Timmons!!



## Important Announcement

### **Annual Emergency Release Drill Early Dismissal Tuesday, November 25 , 2025**

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

Please mark your calendar!



## Staff Needed

**2nd Shift Custodial Worker  
Substitute Custodial  
Substitute Bus Attendants  
Substitute Bus Drivers  
Substitute Teachers  
Substitute Teaching Assistants**

Applications can be found on our website, [www.westhillschools.org](http://www.westhillschools.org), under the District Tab.

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

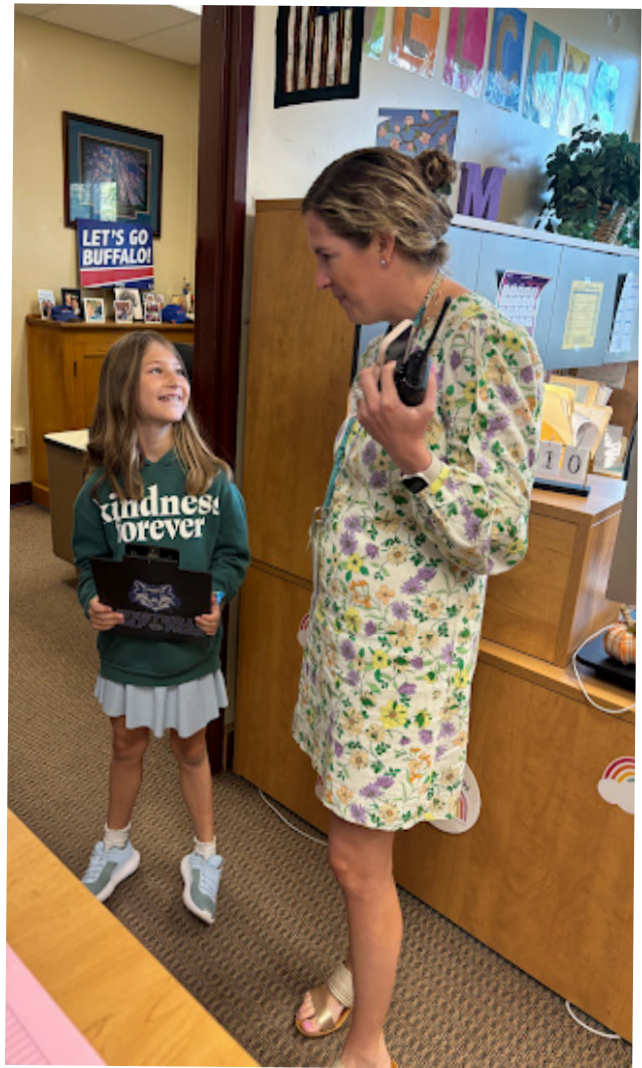


# Cherry Road School

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## CHERRY ROAD WELCOMES A NEW PRINCIPAL

We would like to welcome Mrs. Stanton back to Cherry Road. She comes to us from the middle school where she was the assistant principal. She is settling in nicely and enjoying meeting all of our students. In her free time, she enjoys running and spending time with her family.





# Cherry Road School

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## Teamwork in Third Grade

Mrs. Lootens' third grade class did a team building game with rubber bands trying to work together to build a tower of cups. It took everyone working together to successfully build the tower and take it down. The class also got to know each other better by playing games. They read questions; and if they had the same answer, they wrote that answer on a card. When they had enough cards, they started working in pairs to build a structure. Great job to Mrs. Looten's class!



## PBIS at Cherry Road School

Cherry Road School is continuing to promote positive student behavior with the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework. The goal is to create a safe, respectful, and responsible learning environment for everyone. Throughout the first weeks of school, students participated in lessons that focus on these three core principles, and they're learning what these expectations look like in places like the hallways, the playground, and in the cafeteria. By clearly defining and teaching expectations, students know exactly what is expected of them, which helps to reduce misbehavior and create a more positive atmosphere. This approach also gives staff a consistent way to recognize and reward students who are making good choices. We look forward to seeing our students thrive as they build these positive habits, both in school and in the community.





# District News

## Westhill Summer Band Camp and Jazz Camp!

During the last week of July, 115 camper-musicians, 45 counselors, and five music educators from Westhill, Bishop Ludden, Cazenovia, Central Square, CBA, East Syracuse-Minoa, Elmwood Franklin in Buffalo, Fayetteville-Manlius, Jamesville-DeWitt, Liverpool, Lyncourt, Marcellus, Onondaga Central, Syracuse City, West Genesee, Syracuse University, Adelphi, SUNY Potsdam, University at Buffalo, 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, and they were joined for the Jazz Camp by Syracuse University music educator Dr. John Coggiola.

From July 28 - August 1, 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 and Dr. Coggiola led the Westhill Band Camp 8-10th grade Jazz Ensemble through performances of works including the music of Chuck Mangione, Gregory Yasinilsky, Victor Lopez and song Gimme Some Lovin' from the Blues Brothers Movie; they were 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!



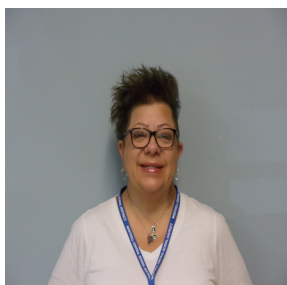
L-R, Top to Bottom: 6th Grade Band, Counselors, Jazz Band and 7-9th Grade Band

# Welcome New Staff Members

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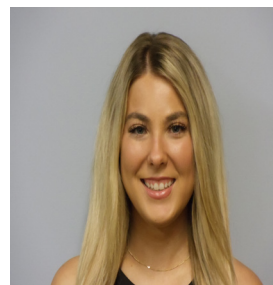
Sha-Asia Armstrong  
WPS  
Teaching Assistant



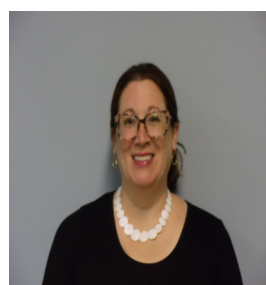
Christa Bennett  
WPS  
Teaching Assistant



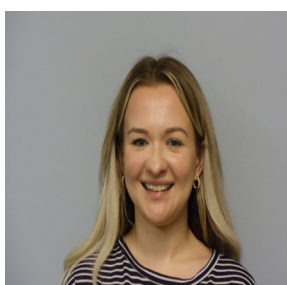
Kelly Calkins  
OHMS  
English



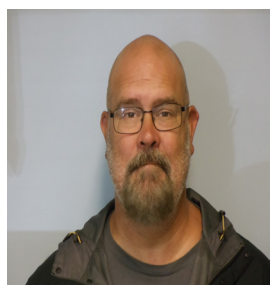
Tiffany Crimi  
WPS  
Teaching Assistant



Amy DeLlne  
OHMS  
Main Office



Rachel Dems  
OHMS  
Special Education



Mark Eischen  
OHMS  
Teaching Assistant



Eric Francisco  
District  
Director of Facilities



Amber Goldthwaite  
CRS  
Teaching Assisatnt



Karissa Graham  
OHMS  
Assistant Principal



Claire Lindberg  
OHMS  
Special Education



Pauline Mabie  
WHS  
Special Education



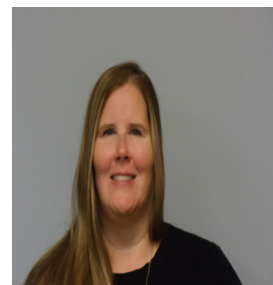
Jason Mallore  
Transportation  
Transportaton Supervisor



Stefanie Mangovski  
CRS  
Special Education



Mallory Meagher  
CRS  
Teaching Assistant



Kayce Olney  
WPS  
Special Education



# Welcome New Staff Members

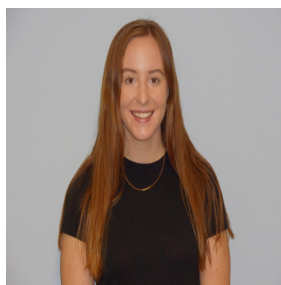
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Adrianna Orbino  
OHMS  
Food Service



Mary Paetow  
WPS  
Teaching Assistant



Sarah Peer  
CRS  
Elementary



Jennifer Ray  
WPS  
Speech Language Pathologist



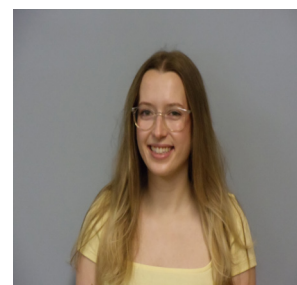
Efrin Salas  
WHS  
Custodian



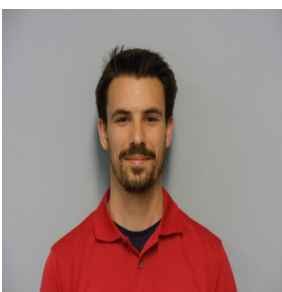
Erik Samhammer  
OHMS  
Teaching Assistant



Logan Sather  
WHS/OHMS  
Technology



Miranda Smith  
OHMS/WHS  
Art



Dakota (Cody) Wagner  
WHS  
Science



Jaida Welch  
CRS  
Teaching Assistant



Courtney West  
CRS  
Teaching Assistant



Debra Wild  
CRS  
Teaching Assistant



Hilary Wilson-Clyne  
CRS  
Teaching Assistant



# 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: Jeremie Auge, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
- Step 4: Steve Dunham, Superintendent of Schools

### **Food Services**

- Step 1: Kyle Rogers, 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: Jeremie Auge, 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: Jason Mallore, 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: Jeremie Auge, Assistant Superintendent



# District News

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## 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](http://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](http://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.

### SchoolTool

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 26th - Friday, November 28th

Westhill Educational Foundation

# *Gala*

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 6PM**  
**BELLEVUE COUNTRY CLUB**

Scan the QR code  
to purchase tickets:





# 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 SchoolTool. 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
Eric Francisco .....	1st Alternate Coordinator
Jeremie Auge .....	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
Kathryn Ta .....	Onondaga Hill Middle School Principal
Karissa Graham .....	Onondaga Hill Middle School Assistant Principal
Meaghan Stanton .....	Cherry Road School Principal
Beth Kramer .....	Walberta Park School Principal
Marietta Lachenauer .....	Director of Special Education
Kyle Rogers .....	Food Service Director
Jason Mallore .....	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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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 13 - October 17, 2025



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