

WHITESBORO

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSPIRE | CULTIVATE | EMPOWER



DISTRICT RECOGNIZED AS
BEST IN THE MOHAWK VALLEY

The Whitesboro CSD was chosen as “Best Public School” in the Best of Mohawk Valley Community’s Choice Awards. The awards celebrate the best businesses and organizations in the area, voted on by the local community.

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NOVEMBER 2023

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Dear Parents, Guardians and School Community Members:

We have had a very busy and productive beginning to our school year. As you can see in this issue, we have so much taking place in our schools including academic and athletic achievements by our students; the continued development and implementation of our Five-Year Plan and the forging of new partnerships to assist and support students and families academically, socially and emotionally with strategies and programs that help ensure they can be fully engaged with our District.

As announced previously, we are extremely proud that the Whitesboro Central School District was selected as the Best Public School in the 2023 Mohawk Valley Choice Awards. On behalf of our District, I share our immense gratitude with our entire school community; we greatly appreciate the fact that so many of you supported us for this prestigious award -- it is truly an honor and a privilege to be a part of such an outstanding community.

We continue to make excellent progress on our Capital Improvement Project work throughout the District. Our 2020 Capital Project is coming to a close; a few highlights of completed work include slate roof replacement at the Parkway school, athletic locker replacements at the high school, audio/visual upgrades to the middle school auditorium, facade work at Hart's Hill Elementary and the completion of the Wadas Field House at the high school.

Capital improvements are an essential investment that ensures we can continue to provide a safe, secure learning environment and the best opportunities for our students. Our District and Board of Education are committed to continued and ongoing improvements that address all facets of our facilities. Thanks to the continued support of our community, we are beginning our next Capital Project to continue to update and improve our facilities to meet the evolving needs of all learners. Approved by our voters in February 2023, this project includes scope items such as new fire alarm systems, boiler replacements, kitchen ventilation systems, improvements to several instructional spaces, digital marquee signs for all our elementary and Parkway buildings, high school auditorium AV systems and improvements to our gyms and baseball/softball fields. As was the case with the 2020 project, we are utilizing capital reserves to offset any potential impact to the taxpayers; all work will be completely funded via the reserves and state building aid. Additional information on all of our Capital Improvement Projects can be found on the District website at www.wboro.org.

With the holiday season nearly upon us, I would like to thank each of you for your continued commitment to our District and programs. Working together, we provide the best educational opportunities for our students. I wish you a wonderful holiday season and look forward to our continued collaboration in the new year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian K. Bellair

Superintendent of Schools



BEST IN THE
MOHAWK VALLEY

Continued from cover

The Whitesboro CSD was recognized and celebrated at an awards gala held on August 9, where attendees were given a platform to celebrate their achievements as well as receive their awards. More recently, to honor and thank all staff members for helping our District win this prestigious award, each building and department was personally thanked with cupcakes, cider and a celebratory presentation from Superintendent Dr. Brian K. Bellair.

A special thank you to our insurance carrier, Gilroy Kernan & Gilroy, who donated funds which allowed us to purchase the cupcakes and cider for each location. Staff members were very appreciative of this recognition and award.






WHITESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT EMERGENCY RESPONSES


Below is a description of the New York State standardized terminology that the District is using during emergencies. Depending on the nature of the incident, the school will implement one of the following protective actions:

- S** **SHELTER-IN-PLACE**
Used to shelter students and staff inside the building in the event it is safer inside the building than outside. For example, this response might be implemented in the event of severe weather.
- H** **HOLD-IN-PLACE**
Used to limit movement of students and staff while dealing with short-term emergencies, such as maintenance issues or medical emergencies.
- E** **EVACUATE**
Used to evacuate students and staff from the building. When an evacuation is necessary, students can be moved outside on school grounds or to a predetermined shelter site depending on the situation, such as in the event of a fire.
- L** **LOCKOUT**
Used to secure school buildings & grounds during incidents that pose an imminent concern outside of the school.
- L** **LOCKDOWN**
Used to secure school buildings & grounds during incidents that pose an immediate threat of violence in or around the school.



BLUE LIGHTS

External and internal blue lights are used to inform students, staff, and visitors that the building is in Lockdown. The Lockdown may be a drill or in response to an actual emergency. Prominently posted signs regarding our blue emergency lights are located at each main building entrance. These signs advise all visitors to leave the campus if the lights are on. (call the main office to confirm it is safe to return to the building in the event it was just a drill).



EMERGENCY AWARENESS FOR PARENTS

PREPARATION FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:

1. Make sure emergency contact information is correct: mailing address, phone numbers, and pick-up information. Your child will only be released to parents and persons identified on the emergency contact list.
2. Keep medical information and medications up to date with the school nurse.
3. Review the emergency response information with your child. Remind them to listen to their teacher/staff for instructions and to remain calm. Explain to them that they may be moved to a different location in the event of an emergency. Talking with your child ahead of time can help to ease anxiety and fear if an emergency occurs.
4. Keep alert. Report any suspicious behaviors or activities to school administration or law enforcement.
5. "See Something, Say Something!"

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY AT SCHOOL:

1. If an emergency occurs, student safety is the first priority.
2. **DO NOT RESPOND TO THE SCHOOL UNTIL NOTIFIED TO DO SO.** Listen for further instruction. Monitor the District's school messenger system and the District's website for official information. Be accessible through the emergency phone numbers you provided to the school.
3. **Students will be held in school custody until the emergency has been declared safe.** If your child will be dismissed directly to your custody or the custody of persons identified on the emergency contact list, they must be signed out.
4. When picking up your child, ensure that you have proper identification with you. During an emergency, pickup procedures may be different and ID may be required to release your child.

DISTRICT INFORMATION

DISTRICT OFFICE
315.266.3303
315.266.3306

DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY
315.266.3410

HIGH SCHOOL
315.266.3200

HART'S HILL ELEMENTARY
315.266.3430

PARKWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL
315.266.3175

MARCY ELEMENTARY
315.266.3420

MIDDLE SCHOOL
315.266.3100

WESTMORELAND ROAD ELEMENTARY
315.266.3440

COMMUNITY/LOCAL RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

INFO - REFERRAL SERVICES

MVCAA/Runaway and Homeless Youth Program
315.624.9930

Neighborhood Center
315.272.2630

Oneida County Dept. of Social Services
315.798.5804

FOOD - CLOTHING - SHELTER

Food Bank of Central New York
315.437.1899 or visit www.foodbankcny.com

Connected Community Schools
Located in each school

Evelyn's House
Serves pregnant/parenting women ages 16-24
315.733.0236

Housing Info & Referral Center
315.735.5246

It Takes a Village Diaper Bank
315.841.8512

**Oneida and Herkimer County
Department of Social Services**
HEAP, SNAP, medical assistance, rental assistance
315.798.5700 or 315.867.1291

***Rescue Mission**
Serves males 18+, 212 Rutger St.
315.735.1645

WHERE TO GET A MEAL

***Hope House**
*112 South St., Mon.-Sat.: 10-11 a.m.,
12-1 p.m. & 4-5 p.m.; Sun.: 12-1 p.m. & 4-5 p.m.*
315.793.3723

***Rescue Mission of Greater Utica**
*201 Rutger St., Mon.-Fri.: 7-7:30 a.m.,
12-12:30 p.m. & 4-4:25 p.m.; Weekend: 8-8:30 a.m.,
12-12:30 p.m. & 4-4:25 p.m.*
315.735.1645

COVID-19

COVID-19 Therapeutic Locator
1.800.232.0233

**Oneida County Health Dept.
COVID-19 Hotline**
315.798.5431

**COVID-19 Hotline for Individuals
Without Insurance**
888.873.2869

SUPPORT SERVICES

ACR Health: LGBTQ Support Group
315.475.2430

Catholic Charities
315.724.2158

Empowered Pathways
315.724.1718

Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York
315.793.7000

On-Point for College
315.790.5588

The Salvation Army (Utica)
315.724.8736

Underground Teen Center
315.733.7768

Working Solutions
315.793.2229

HEALTH: ADDICTION, COUNSELING & WELL-BEING

Addiction Stabilization Center
315.735.1645

Alcoholics Anonymous
315.732.6880

Beacon Center
315.366.4100

Behavioral Services
315.798.8868

Center for Family Life & Recovery
315.733.1709

Central New York Health Home Network
315.624.9670

Clinton Therapy and Testing Center
315.859.1973

Health Friends
315.724.0988

**Integrated Community Alternatives
Network (ICAN)**
315.792.9039

Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center
315.738.3800

Maria Horan and Associates
315.724.5344

New Hartford Associates
315.765.0121

Oneida County Dept. of Mental Health
315.768.3659

Planned Parenthood
315.724.6146

**Resource Center for Independent
Living RCIL**
315.797.4642

Samaritan Counseling Center
315.724.5173

Utica Community Health Center
315.793.7600

CHILDCARE

The Neighborhood Center
315.272.2600

OTHER SERVICES

Affordable Connectivity Program
(\$30 savings per month through Spectrum)
<https://www.fcc.gov/acp>

Government Phone Program
www.assurancewireless.com

Initial Response Team (IRT)
*Located at the middle and high school
(attendance issues/truancy)*

**Mobile Crisis Assessment
Team (MCAT)**
315.732.6228 or 1.844.732.6228

**Oneida County Child
Advocacy Center**
315.732.3990

**Oneida County Child
Protective Services**
315.798.5364

PINS and Pre-PINS
*(Persons in Need of Supervision) for
incorrigible and/or truant youth*

**For more information,
visit www.211midyork.org**

HOTLINES

American Pregnancy Hotline
1.866.672.2296

Child Abuse Hotline
1.800.342.3720
text "START" to 88788

LGBTQ National Hotline
1.888.843.4564

**MVCAA Runaway and
Homeless Youth 24hr Hotline**
315.624.9930

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
988

National Runaway Safeline
1.800.RUNAWAY

NYS Domestic Violence 24hr Hotline
1.800.942.6906 or text 1.844.997.2121

Teen Line
1.800.852.8336 or text "TEEN" to 839863

**YWCA Confidential 24hr
Crisis Hotline
(Domestic Violence)**
315.797.7740

In an Emergency - Dial 911

Welcome NEW STAFF



The Whitesboro Central School District held a two-day orientation for new teachers on August 22 and 23 at the District Administration Building.

At the orientation, led by kindergarten and second grade Marcy Elementary School teachers Kelly Smith and Dawn Zielenski, the new teachers were introduced to district administrators, district policies and procedures and basic expectations. Specific topics included district technology, teacher evaluation procedures, special education, fire inspection and safety information, union membership and Whitesboro Teacher Center offerings. New teachers also had the opportunity to work with other teachers in their subject area.

The Whitesboro Central School District welcomes all of its new instructional and school-related staff members and wishes everyone a great 2023-24 school year!

The collective mission of the Whitesboro Central School District is "To inspire, cultivate and empower all learners to maximize their potential."

OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS AWARDED

The District is proud to inform you that the following Whitesboro staff members were selected by the Genesis Group as Outstanding Educators for the 17th Annual Celebration of Education.

BARBARA JO BUTKA
Middle School Science Teacher

JENNIFER HUGHES
Marcy Elementary Social Worker

A dinner and award presentation will take place on Thursday, November 16 at 5:30 p.m. at Hart's Hill Inn. Congratulations to our award winners on this outstanding accomplishment!



CURRICULUM NIGHT

On September 25, Whitesboro High School hosted a curriculum night for students and their parents/guardians. Families were able to walk through all nine periods of their students' schedules, enjoying a tour of the high school along with the opportunity to meet and speak with teachers.

In the "pit," students set up and hosted informational tables outlining the different clubs and extracurricular activities available at the high school. Families had the opportunity to browse and ask questions throughout the evening.



On October 20, the Red Cross Club held a blood drive for students and staff. We had many first-time donors. The promise to help save lives is truly valued and makes a difference in the lives of individuals in need. We truly hope everyone had a great donation experience and will donate again when eligible. The next blood drive will be held on March 27, 2024 at the high school.

CHAMBER CHOIR PERFORMS AT STOP-DWI NEW YORK CONFERENCE



On October 19, the High School Chamber Choir performed the Star-Spangled Banner for the opening ceremony of the 2023 STOP-DWI (Special Traffic Options Program-Driving While Impaired) New York Conference, held at the Delta Hotels Marriott Utica. STOP-DWI is an annual conference with impaired driving professionals from local, state, federal and private agencies with an aim to promote DWI prevention. This conference is hosted by cities around the state, and this year the Utica area was honored to host the event.

The students of the Chamber Choir performed with poise and professionalism, honoring our country with their voices to open the conference. Students stayed for the opening ceremony and heard a moving testimony by Mrs. Jawanda Richardson, whose husband was tragically killed by an impaired driver on his way to work. We were honored to provide a public service to this organization and its mission.

Students were also presented with a certificate of appreciation from Oneida County Sheriff Curtis Morgan for their performance.

CREEK WEEK

On October 2 and 3, seventh grade science classes participated in Creek Week. The students spent two days outside, collecting water data and specimens found in the Sauquoit Creek. Following the collection of specimens, the students spent an additional two days in the lab, cataloging the live macroinvertebrates and analyzing the data. The purpose of this data collection and analysis was to determine the health of the local ecosystem.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPIRIT WEEK



NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

INDUCTION CEREMONY

On October 19, 78 eighth grade students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. These students must maintain a high academic average and demonstrate both leadership qualities and service in the community. Congratulations!



HART'S HILL CELEBRATES NATIONAL

BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

On October 2, "World Day of Bullying Prevention," Hart's Hill held its annual bullying prevention walk at the elementary school to kick off National Bullying Prevention Month. Students, faculty and staff walked together wearing blue or "kindness" shirts to show unity. Signs were displayed along the trail with facts about bullying and prevention strategies. Fifth grade students walked with their kindergarten buddies to help them read the signs and enjoy the walk together. It was a beautiful day to walk for a cause as an entire school!

Classes made signs with messages about bullying prevention, as well as positive messages about friendship and kindness. Most classes hung their signs outside of their classrooms, however, Mrs. Leogrande and her kindergarten class brought their sign outside for the walk, and it read, "Bee a Buddy, Not a Bully."

Each day during the month of October, students from each grade level participated in announcements to bring awareness to bullying and ways to become part of the change to end it. Throughout the month, other various activities were organized relating to bullying prevention.

Thank you students, teachers, parents and Mrs. Putnam for creating awareness of bullying prevention and helping to be a part of the change!



"BE A BUDDY, NOT A BULLY!" "BE AN UPSTANDER!" "SEE SOMETHING... SAY SOMETHING!"



Throughout the fall, local firefighters visited Whitesboro elementary schools to educate students on fire prevention and safety.

On October 12, the Marcy Elementary School welcomed members of the Marcy Fire Department for an interactive learning experience. The fire department educated children on the dangers of fire and how to prevent it in addition to escaping a fire, should they encounter one.

The fire department had four stations set up: a window for students to practice jumping through, a fire engine in which students could sit in and observe, additional emergency vehicles and an inflatable structure that resembled a house that students could "stop, drop and roll" in, to practice exiting a burning building.

On October 13, firefighters from the Whitesboro, Yorkville and New York Mills Fire Departments came to Hart's Hill Elementary School. Firefighters from each of the departments spent several hours preparing for the interactive presentations. Students in the K-2 grade

levels participated in an interactive show in which the firefighters familiarized the students with their uniforms, "stop, drop and roll" and "stay low and go." Students in grades 3-5 visited the emergency response personnel and had the opportunity to view the apparatus from each department.

A special thank you to Mr. Brian McQueen, school board member and member of the Whitesboro Fire Department, for many years of making this event happen for our students!

The firefighters from the Deerfield Fire Department put on an outstanding fire safety program for the students at Deerfield Elementary School. They even brought along the department's mascot, Sparky! The students learned how to "stop, drop and roll," as well as some fire safety rules for the kitchen. The yearly visit from the Deerfield firefighters is always enjoyable and educational!

Thank you, firefighters, for keeping us safe.





On October 18, students at Westmoreland Road Elementary School celebrated Unity Day. The goal of Unity Day is to bring together children and adults across the nation to emphasize the message that bullying is not acceptable, and that all students deserve to be safe in school and online. Students of all grade levels spent time understanding the importance of unity in school and in our community. The halls were flooded with staff and students wearing orange, a color that signifies safety, sending a message that we are working together to promote kindness, acceptance and inclusion in helping to prevent bullying.

MARCY PTO

Fall Fest

September 21 was a perfect evening for the Marcy PTO Family Fall Festival. The playground was filled with students and their families enjoying the great weather, food and all the fun activities. Students loved hanging out on the playground equipment with their friends, as well as participating in the fall scavenger hunt, pumpkin races, candy corn games and snagging candy from the candy chute.

Food and drink was provided by The Grapevine, Oh Crepe & Waffles and Squeezers Lemonade food trucks. Thank you to the Marcy staff and parents who helped to make this event happen and the families who brought all the laughter and smiles!



MASTROVITO HYUNDAI BOOKMOBILE



Over the summer, several Westmoreland Road faculty and staff members nominated Westmoreland Road to receive a visit from the Mastrovito Hyundai Bookmobile. On September 27, the Bookmobile brought each student in grades kindergarten through five a book to take home. Three hundred and thirty-six books were distributed to the students!

Thank you to Mastrovito Hyundai for your generosity and to the faculty and staff members who completed the nomination for the students at Westmoreland Road Elementary School!





DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY'S PARTY ON THE PLAYGROUND



On September 14, Deerfield Elementary hosted its annual Party on the Playground to kick off the 2023-24 school year. The Deerfield PTO generously provided hot dogs and chips for students and their families to enjoy as they spent the evening playing together outside. Students enjoyed spending this extra time with their classmates, while their families appreciated getting to meet many faculty and staff members. Everyone had a fantastic time, and this event set the tone for a fun-filled year ahead!

FOURTH GRADERS CREATE

SALT DOUGH MAPS

Miss Sutliff, Mrs. Madia and Mrs. Emerson's fourth grade students at Marcy Elementary School spent the beginning of the school year learning about the geography of New York State and creating a travel brochure about it.

As a culminating activity, they created salt dough maps and labeled the important areas of the state. This gooey, hands-on project helped to create a better understanding of where the students live and learn.

Everyone loved getting messy while learning more about their state!



HALLOWEEN SAFETY AT HART'S HILL & WEST. RD.



The students in grades K-5 at Hart's Hill and Westmoreland Road Elementary Schools were visited by Officer Barrone and Officer Humphries on October 25. The officers presented some tips for being safe on Halloween. They provided handouts with safety tips and a fun Halloween activity page. Students asked some great questions and were grateful for the visit from the officers.

VARSITY CHEERLEADING TEAM TAKES
FIRST PLACE
 AT SECTION III CHAMPIONSHIPS



On October 28, the Whitesboro varsity cheerleading team took first place at the Section III Championships held at General Brown High School. Captain Ella Lorraine was presented with a Section III Scholarship. Teammates Jessica Madison and Karena Piayai were named Section III All-Stars. The varsity cheer team advanced to the NYSPHSAA Championship competition on November 5 at the Visions Veterans Memorial Arena in Binghamton.



BLUE & WHITE PARADE

On October 13, the Whitesboro Jr./Sr. High School held their annual Blue & White Parade. During the parade, the participants included students, staff, administration and family members who happily celebrated the school's colors and spirit. The parade started in front of St. Paul's church and ended at the Whitesboro Middle School. Following the parade, participants engaged in a fun night consisting of the football and cheerleading teams' senior night and the homecoming football game.

WHITESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSPIRE | CULTIVATE | EMPOWER

65 Oriskany Boulevard, Whitesboro, New York 13492

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Whitesboro, New York
Permit No. 18

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Brian K. Bellair

BOARD OF EDUCATION, 2023-2024

Mr. Michael Head, *President*

Mr. Brian McQueen, *Vice President*

Mr. Steven Farr

Dr. Jonathan Henderson

Mrs. Cheryl LaValley

Mr. Thomas Schoen, Jr.

Dr. Steven Szatko

Postal Patron Local

The Whitesboro Central School District Board of Education meets at 7:00 p.m., unless noted otherwise. Meetings are held at the Administration Building at 65 Oriskany Blvd. in Whitesboro, or at one of the school buildings in the District. Visit www.wboro.org/boemeeting for the complete meeting schedule.



ALL STUDENTS

EAT
FOR
FREE

DURING THE
2023-24 - 2027-28
SCHOOL YEARS

All students enrolled at the Whitesboro Central School District will be able to receive free breakfast and lunch meals at school beginning on November 1, 2023. This has been made possible by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) expanding access to the Federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Meal Program.