



WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

School and Community Working Together

VOLUME 30, No. 1

JULY 2023

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023



GRADUATION CONTINUES ON PAGE 3.

SUMMER CALENDAR

Date	Event
July 5 - August 1	West Valley Summer Recreation Program
July 6	Audit Committee Meeting (5:30 p.m.)
July 6	Public Hearing Code of Conduct / Safety Plan (5:45 p.m.)
July 6	BOE Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
August 21	First Day of Fall Sports Practices
August 29	Seventh Grade Orientation (5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.)
August 30	Technology Distribution Day Grades 8-12 (6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.)



WEST VALLEY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION - LEANNA PFEFFER

Ms Pfeffer, Vice President of the WVTA, was recognized for her work this year at the WNY Annual Leadership Awards Dinner. She was selected by her colleagues as the outstanding member of the WVTA for her work on behalf of her colleagues, our district, and most importantly on behalf of our students!



7TH GRADE ORIENTATION

On Tuesday, August 29, 2023, from 5:30 to 7:00pm West Valley Central School will be hosting a middle school orientation for all incoming seventh grade students and their parents. Orientation will allow students and parents time to:

- Become familiar with the middle-high school building.
- Discuss expectations.
- Meet teachers.
- Participate in team building activities.
- Set up lockers and drop off supplies.

Additional information, including individual invitations to the event, are forthcoming. Please direct any questions about middle school orientation to Mr. Amodeo or Mrs. Behringer.



GRADUATION NIGHT



TOP 5 SENIORS

#1



Ben Fisher

Ben Fisher, son of Kristine and Adam Fisher, is the Valedictorian for 2023 with a weighted average of 98.03%. Ben has taken multiple college courses throughout high school, including Pre-Calc, Calculus, Personal Finance, Biology, American History, Spanish, Exploration of Literature, Writing Liberal Arts, Chemistry, Statistics, Algebra and Trigonometry, and Animation. Ben has been a member of the National Honor Society for 3 years and is currently the President. He has participated in several blood drives with the American Red Cross, food drives, and other volunteer opportunities. He has also served as treasurer for Student Council and for his class for multiple years. Other extracurriculars he has participated in include yearbook club, varsity track, varsity bowling, academic challenge, eSports club, and ski club. Ben has been involved with scouting for much of his life, and achieved his Eagle Scout, the highest achievable rank in scouting, this year, which included completing a community service project to benefit the Ashford Historical Society. After graduation, Ben plans to attend SUNY New Paltz in the fall to major in Computer Science.

#2



Kasper Heitman

Kasper Heitman, son of Carla and Clifford Heitman, is the Salutatorian for the Class of 2023 with a weighted average of 97.77%. While attending WVCS, Kasper has taken numerous college credit courses, such as Houghton English, Hilbert Spanish, SUNY American History, Biology, and Economics, and JCC Pre-Calc, Calculus, Chemistry, Elementary Statistics, and Algebra/Trigonometry. Beyond the classroom, Kasper has participated in the WVCS Band for 7 years, soccer since 1st grade, Academic Challenge and SADD for 2 years, Cub/Boy Scouts for 7 years, and is the class treasurer. After high school, Kasper is expected to attend SUNY Polytechnic for Mechanical Engineering Technology.

#3



Nolan Spencer

Nolan Spencer, son of Jessica and Ben Spencer, is third in his class with a weighted average of 96.82%. Throughout high school, he has taken several college courses from Houghton University, JCC, Hilbert, and Syracuse University. Nolan has been a member of National Honor Society for three years, being President the second and Treasurer the third. Nolan has also been a member of the Student Council for two years, being president the second. Actively participating in sports, Nolan was on the Track and Field team his sophomore and Junior year, taking position of Team Captain during the latter. Nolan has also been a member of the Chess and eSports club. Starting in the fall, Nolan will attend University at Buffalo majoring in Psychology.

#4



Zachary Westfall

Zachary Westfall, son of Travis Westfall and Diane Westfall ranked 4th in his class with a weighted average of 93.43%. He took classes through Houghton, GCC, JCC, Syracuse, and Hilbert. Zachary has been a member of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor society throughout his time in high school. He participated in extracurricular activities like the yearbook club, student council, and SADD. Zachary participated in Varsity Bowling, Varsity Track, and Modified Basketball during his time at West Valley. Along with several other NHS members, Zachary volunteered at several American Red Cross Blood Drives and completed many volunteer hours. After graduation, Zachary will attend Geneseo college to major in Business.

#5



Athens Leckey

Athens Leckey, daughter of Jennifer Leckey, finished 5th in the senior class of 2023 with a weighted average of 90.88. She has participated in Houghton English and Houghton Writing for college classes. She also participated in extracurricular activities, such as Basketball, Softball, and a few after school clubs like SADD. After graduation Athens will attend Penn West Edinboro university in the fall majoring in Biology.



SENIOR CLASS 2023



Nicole Blackwell



Jacob Coluci



Kayla Dorman



Tristan Ehnes



Benjamin Fisher



Lauren Frascella



Janay Ghani



Zion Harris



Kasper Heitman



Samantha Herbst



Gabrielle Hickey



Colleen Keller



Samantha Kowolski



Athens Leckey



Olympia Leckey



Kai (Kelly) Quinn



Zander Smith



Nolan Spencer



Austin Trimm



Zachary Westfall

AWARD WINNERS

Valedictorian	Ben Fisher
Salutatorian	Kasper Heitman
Academic Excellence	Ben Fisher, Nolan Spencer
Bette Aldrow Medical Award	Nikki Blackwell
Alfred University Scholar Awards	RyAnn Turner
Alumni Association Award	Nolan Spencer
Irwin Ahrens Memorial	Ben Fisher
Alfred University Scholar Awards	RyAnn Turner
American Red Cross Scholarship	Ben Fisher (11)
Louis Armstrong Award	Kasper Heitman
Business First Comm. All Star	Ben Fisher (12), Olympia Leckey (12), Zach Westfall (12)
CANY Scholastic Recognition	Ben Fisher (12), Nick Peters
CCB Academic Scholarship	Zach Westfall
Catt. Co. Youth Citizenship	Ben Fisher, Olympia Leckey
Clarkson Leadership & Achievement	Ben Fisher, Nolan Spencer
Community Service Award	Ben Fisher
Doug Ford Memorial	Ben Fisher
English	Nolan Spencer
Excellence in Chemistry Award	Jordan Manaher (2022) Nolan Spencer (2021)
God and Country	Zach Westfall
Heart and Hustle	Janay Ghani (2020), Kasper Heitman (2020), Nolan Spencer (2021)
Theron Hotaling Memorial	Nikki Blackwell
JBC Academic Progress Award	Jacob Coluci (11), Gabby Hickey (11), Mara Swan, Jordan Manaher
JBC Scholar of Excellence Award	Tristan Ehnes (12)
JCC College Connections Student	Ben Fisher(11), Kasper Heitman (12)
Keuka College George H. Ball Award	Lauren Frascella, Gabby Hickey, Nolan Spencer, Kasper Heitman, Zach Westfall, Ben Fisher, Jacob Coluci
Barb Nagel Memorial	Nikki Blackwell
NHS Outstanding Member	Nolan Spencer (11), Zach Westfall
NHS Schoastic Excellence	Ben Fisher
Outstanding Vo-Tech Student	Gabby Hickey
Rensselaer Medal	Ben Fisher, Nick Peters
RIT Math & Science Award	Nick Peters
RIT Computing Medal	Ben Fisher
RIT Innovation and Creativity	Kasper Heitman
Russell Sage College Award	Gabby Hickey, Nolan Spencer, Kasper Heitman, Zach Westfall, Jacob Coluci, Ben Fisher
Pete Scherer Memorial	Jacob Coluci
Anna Schroeder Memorial	Kayla Dorman
John Phillip Sousa	Olympia Leckey
St. Bonaventure Bonnie Award	Nolan Spencer, Ben Fisher, Kasper Heitman, RyAnn Turner, Nick Peters
St. Bonaventure Reilly Award	Lauren Frascella, Jacob Coluci, Gabby Hickey, Zach Westfall
State of NY Comptroller	Nolan Spencer, Kasper Heitman, Ben Fisher, Zach Westfall
Supt Award for Attendance	Zander Smith
Triple C Awards	Ben Fisher, Nick Peters
U or R. Bausch & Lomb Science	Kasper Heitman, Jordan Manaher
U or R. Fred Douglas/Susan B. Anthony	Zach Westfall, RyAnn Turner
U or R. George Eastman Young Leader	Nolan Spencer, Nick Peters
U or R Xerox Award for Innovation	Ben Fisher, Mara Swan
US Air Force Math & Science Award	Kasper Heitman, Ben Fisher
US Air Force Scholar/Athlete Award	Kasper Heitman, Gabby Hickey
Wells College 21st Century Leadership	Ben Fisher, Nolan Spencer, Nick Peters, RyAnn Turner
Liz Wiley Memorial	Gabby Hickey
Keith Young Memorial	Kasper Heitman

SCHOLARSHIPS

Leo Bernhoft Memorial	Zander Smith
Elisa B. Hughey Arts	Gabby Hickey
Janda Lee Hunt Memorial	Tristan Ehnes
Jack Nuthall Memorial	Jacob Coluci
Delmont K. Pfeffer Memorial	Ben Fisher, Nolan Spencer
Gilbert Snyder Memorial	Athens Leckey
WVTA Scholarships	Nolan Spencer
CH2Mhill WXT West Valley, LLC Science	Benjamin Fisher, Kasper Heitman, Olympia Leckey, Nicole Blackwell, Athens Leckey



SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM 2023

Program runs July 5 - August 11

At West Valley Central School

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays are swim days at the Town of Machias Park

Lots of fun things planned for this summer. We hope to see you there!

Please contact Amanda Lawrence with questions at amandalawrence6@yahoo.com

On Remind <https://www.remind.com/join/hbf928b> | SummerRec23

Town of Ashford Summer Recreation Program Registration Form

An individual form must be completed for each child attending the summer youth recreation program before they can participate.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of birth: _____ Phone: _____

Parents/Guardian: _____

Emergency contact/relation: _____ Phone: _____

Please list any other person or persons that are authorized by you to pick up your child at the conclusion of the program each day: _____

My child is allowed to walk home by his/herself: yes/no <-----please circle one

My child will participate in: Summer Rec Program only Swimming only Both

Lunches **DO NOT** comply with dietary restrictions. Check here if you wish to opt-out of the lunch program.

Medical information: please list any allergies or medical conditions staff should be aware of: (* this information is not pertaining to the lunch program.) _____

Does the Town Of Ashford Youth Recreation Program have permission to seek medical treatment if unable to reach parent/guardian? Yes/No

Please take note and discuss with your child that we are following and abiding with all of the school rules. All rules apply to the building, equipment, bus and grounds that are still accessible. Please remind your child of these rules in the school handbook. If your child consistently violates the rules, he or she may be asked to leave the program. I agree to not hold the Town Of Ashford Summer Recreation Program liable for accident or injury occurring during the participation of my child in any program activity. I hear by consent my child participating in the Town Of Ashford Summer Recreation Program subject to all the forgoing rules and regulations.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____



PRIMARY FUN DAY



PRIMARY FUN DAY



STORY WALK AT WVCS

You've heard of the game Rock, Paper, Scissors—but do you know of its epic start? Ask an elementary student who participated in a StoryWalk™ at the end of the year. Students walked along an outside story path as they engaged in the reading of the book, The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors, by Drew Daywalt. Key story elements were identified and discussed while predictions of upcoming events were speculated on the way to the next page. The event culminated with a friendly game of rock, paper, scissors, and the building of a sedimentary rock treat.



ART CORNER

What an amazing school year! We are grateful to have so many creative children at West Valley. Congratulations to our graduates. To all our students: enjoy your Summer Break!



CELEBRATION OF YEARS WITH WVCS

NAME	YEARS IN DISTRICT
Natalie Galvin	TENURE
Alyssa Agro	1 Year
Jessica Behm	1 Year
Kerstin Crum	1 Year
Beau Dorman	1 Year
William Harbison	1 Year
Elizabeth Isaacs	1 Year
Jay Kupka	1 Year
Alison Locke	1 Year
Elizabeth Shaw	1 Year
Lindsey Shelley	1 Year
Stephanie Stock	1 Year
Carolyn Boberg	20 Years
Connie Jo Kazmierczak	20 Years
Patricia Kowalski	20 Years
Kimberly Lewis	25 Years
Barry Mahnk	25 Years
Michelle Pfeffer	25 Years
Dana Westfall	25 Years
Diane Westfall	30 Years

West Valley Central School
2023-2024 school calendar



Student Attendance Days 180
Teacher Days 184

SEPTEMBER <i>Days 19</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
OCTOBER <i>Days 21</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
NOVEMBER <i>Days 18</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
DECEMBER <i>Days 15</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
JANUARY <i>Days 21</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Key:

- School not in session
- School and offices closed
- Supt. Day - no students

Sept. 4 - Labor Day
Sept. 5 - Supt. Day - Staff Only
Sept. 6 - PreK - 12 first day/
PreK orientation
Sept. 20 - Open House
Oct. 9 - Columbus Day

Nov. 1 - Supt. Day - Staff Only
Nov. 9 - end of 1st quarter
Nov. 10 - Veterans Day
Nov. 20 & 21 - 1/2 day for
students/full day teachers &
staff/parent conferences
Nov. 22-24-Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 22-School & Offices closed
Dec. 25-School & Offices closed

Dec. 25-Jan. 1-Early Winter Break
Jan. 1-School & Offices closed
Jan. 15 - Martin Luther King Day
Jan. 26 - end of 2nd quarter/
rating day, 1/2 day for students
, full day for teachers/staff

Feb. 19 - President's Day
Feb. 19-23 - Mid-Winter Break
March 8 - Supt. Day - Staff Only
March 29-April 8 - Spring Break
April 19 - end of 3rd quarter
May 24-27 - Memorial Day
June 13-last reg. day for gr. 7-12

June 4 and 14-26 Regents Exams
June 19 - Juneteenth Day
June 24&25 1/2 day elementary/
full day for teachers and staff
June 25 - end of 4th quarter/
last reg day for PreK-6 students
June 26 - rating day/
last day for teachers
June 28 - Graduation Day

last day of reg. classes
Open House
Parent Conferences

FEBRUARY <i>Days 16</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		
MARCH <i>Days 20</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
APRIL <i>Days 16</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
MAY <i>Days 21</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
JUNE <i>Days 17</i>						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

1/2 day elem/full day teachers/staff
PreK orientation
1/2 day for students/full day
teachers/staff



3RD GRADE WAX MUSEUM

Ms. Westfall's third-grade students presented a "Wax Museum" for families on Wednesday, June 14th in the evening. The museum was on the school's front sidewalk, making it a family friendly event, enjoyed by all.

First, the students selected and learned about the famous people they would portray. Their subjects were a diverse collection including famous athletes, political figures, historical

figures, and more. The students read from a variety of sources and collected facts about their person's childhood, education, life and accomplishments. Next, the students wrote and typed a research report. Then students created note cards to use for their oral presentations at the Wax Museum. It was a collaborative project worked on in class and at the library.

For the museum, they dressed as their

subjects and stood as still as wax figures. Guests touring the museum were encouraged to "push" buttons created by each child -- at which time the "wax" figure would become animated, sharing a summary describing their famous person.

The students did a great job with their research and presentations.



Elizabeth Blackwell



Malala Yousafzai



Donald Trump



George Washington



Sally Ride



Helen Keller



Elon Musk



Abraham Lincoln



Albert Einstein



Michael Jordan



4TH & 5TH GRADE FIELD TRIP

On June 13, the 4th and 5th grade classes visited Hawk Creek in West Falls, NY. We had a private tour of the wild cat exhibit, bird exhibit, and eagle exhibit. While we were looking at all the cool animals, our tour guide was very informative, telling us about the animals in the wild, as well as what Hawk Creek does to help conserve each species. We also had the privilege of listening to a small animal chat and seeing a possum up close; the guide told us all about how they live and how we can protect them! This was such a cool experience and both classes raved about it afterwards!



HAWAIIAN DAY

Miss Kaz and Miss Mulhisen planned an end of the year Hawaiian celebration for the 4th and 5th graders. They started off by building boats with only 4 items: a straw, tin foil, half of a plastic cup, and a section of tape. The goal was to have your boat hold the

most weight without sinking! 1st Place went to Hunter and Jayne with their boat holding 42 pebbles. In second was a tie—Matthew and Braydan along with Quinn and Savannah with their boats both holding 24 pebbles. Next was Emma and Basilia with their

boat holding 22 pebbles. The students had Hawaiian Popcorn with dried fruit for a snack and finally the day ended with the choice to make either Salt Art or traditional Hawaiian Centerpieces. It was such a fun filled day!



2023 SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Cattaraugus Community Action is providing meals at Bingham Hall from July 10 through August 15, Monday-Friday at 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m..
5381 Depot Street, West Valley, NY 14171

VARSITY SOFTBALL

The Varsity Softball team finished with a record of 11-6, making it to the sectional quarterfinal game.

Congratulations to our players who received league recognition:

First team CCAA East 2

Lauren Frascella and Colleen Keller

Second Team

Nikki Blackwell and Mara Swan

Honorable Mention

Sam Herbst and Ronni DuFrane

Colleen and Lauren were invited to play in the exceptional senior game, and Lauren also played in the Chris Gentner All WNY Exceptional Senior All-Star Game. Coach Hansen was named Coach of the Year for the CCAA East II.



Hope At Bat Softball Fundraiser

The West Valley community raised \$1,537 for Hope At Bat, a cancer fundraiser sponsored by Minor League Baseball and the American Cancer Society.

Fall Sports

All athletes participating in a fall sport, please update your information in Final Forms, starting Friday, July 21. The first day of practice is August 21.

TRACK AND FIELD

Jack Tharnish, Olivia Harmony, and Kasper Heitman attended sectionals at West Seneca West High School. Kasper took 12th place in the high jump. Olivia ran the 1500 meter and 3000 meter taking 9th and 10th places. She also set a new PR in the 1500 beating her old time by 5 seconds. Jack took 3rd in pentathlon, vastly improving on his PR. Great job, Wildcat athletes!



Track and Field Recap By Coach Lembke

The track and field team saw a lot of success this past season both as a team and individually. Every athlete saw growth in one capacity or another. Three of our athletes achieved the honor of attending sectionals, which is outstanding considering the size of our team compared to neighboring districts. This year we brought back pole vault and even had athletes contend at our league meet where only the top 16 students in CCAA are able to attend. We hosted two home meets this year which ran exceptionally well. In addition, the team chose to attend 4 invitationals. While the weather challenged our team at nearly every meet, somehow athletes found ways to set PR's and pushed themselves into unconventional roles to help the team drive forward. We are going to miss our outgoing seniors many of whom have been here the last three years helping to rebuild the program. As their coach, I will miss their leadership and mentorship to our newer athletes.

WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

5359 School St.
West Valley, NY 14171
(716) 942-3100

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Permit No. 5
West Valley, NY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Heather Klahn, President
Charlie Davis, Vice President
Jonathan Boberg
Tracy Chai
Adam Fisher
George Kazmierczak
Gary Niesyty

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Taweepon Farrar, Superintendent
Barbara Sporyz, Business Administrator
Daniel Amodeo, Pre-K–12 Principal
Danielle Behringer, Assistant Principal, CSE/CPSE Chairperson

SPRING SPORTS BANQUET

We recognized 39 athletes at our Spring Sports Awards Night.
Congratulations to the following students for receiving awards!

3D Letter Winners (participated in all three seasons)

Lauren Frascella, Maggie Parish, Victoria Parish

Heart of a Wildcat Award

Victoria Parish, Jacob Coluci, Mara Swan, Payton Ehnes

Male and Female Athlete of the Year

Jack Tharnish and Lauren Frascella

Scholar Athlete Award

Maggie Parish, Kasper Heitman, Noah Klahn, Samantha Herbst,
Athens Leckey

