



# WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

*School and Community Working Together*

VOLUME 27, No. 8

MARCH 2022



## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AND NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Zachary Westfall, Isabella Mitchell, and Samantha Fisher; Scarlett  
Clarkson not pictured

## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

*BY DR. TAWEEPON FARRAR*



It's hard to believe that March 8, 2021, was my first day as West Valley Central School District's Superintendent. So much has occurred since my arrival that I felt it was important to reflect upon my first year. Before I reflect, I feel it would be important to understand why we reflect. We reflect to expand on our understanding of our experiences. It helps us deepen our knowledge of what did and what did not occur; what we did well; what we didn't do well; and what we can do better. This process provided me the opportunity to step back and look at the work we have done for our students, staff, and community.

Here are a FEW highlights of my first year in reflection:

### **Athletics/Extracurricular Activities**

Prior to my arrival, all our West Valley student athletes traveled to other school districts to join their teams. While there are still sports such as Soccer, Swim, and Varsity Basketball where our students compete and still travel, we focused on bringing back to West Valley CSD some sports we knew we could sustain.

- In the Spring of 2021, we brought back our own Track & Field team and Girls' Varsity Softball Team.
- In the Fall of 2021, we brought back Cross Country.
- In the Winter of 2021 and 2022, we brought back both Girls' and Boys' Modified Basketball Teams.
- In the Winter of 2022, we brought back Girls' Cheerleading.

We will continue to support these sports for this Spring and into the 2022-2023 School Year!

*Continued on Page 2.*

### Curriculum/Instruction/Academic Support

We have focused on developing a comprehensive plan for curriculum, instruction, and academic support for staff and students. ELA has been the primary content of focus along with best instructional strategies. We have developed and implemented a robust multi-tiered system for supports for all students. Special Education best practices has also been a focus. We transitioned from Cleartrack to IEP Direct as a management system that will better support and streamline Special Education timelines and law.

### Leadership Team

Over the past year, there was an opportunity to restructure our administrative team. We eliminated the title Director of Special Education and created the title Assistant Principal/CSE and CPSE Chairperson. This restructure allows our building level administrative team to focus and collaborate for ALL students and to support ALL staff. This past summer we had a retreat for our administrators to re-vitalize our roles as leaders and focus on leadership coaching. Our administrative team now has focused weekly leadership meetings and regular check-ins to continue to build our collaboration and communication. There is no doubt this restructure had an immediate positive impact on our district.

### Grants

West Valley CSD was awarded the Healthy Schools Grant. This grant, led by

Erie 1 BOCES, has helped streamline a Wellness Committee and our district policies. I have taken the lead on most of the other grants to ensure we are utilizing federal and state funds in the most efficient way for our students. The grants will allow us to purchase comprehensive ELA and Writing curriculum, Science curriculum, and Math and STEM curriculum. We will also be hiring a full-time social worker.

### Board of Education

We recently completed an updated Board Policy Manual designed to accomplish the following: a) State a position taken by the District; b) Grant the authority to act; c) Be sufficiently detailed to give adequate direction; d) Be achievable within the real environment of the school and community; e) Provide for impartial procedures.

Much of the policy manual had not been updated since 2006. That's a long time and so much has changed! The policy manual has been reviewed, adjusted, and adopted. You can find the manual on our website under the Board of Education section.

Since my arrival, we also have successfully negotiated our teachers' contract. This accomplishment allows us to move forward working collaboratively as a school community to focus on teaching and learning in and out of the classroom.

### Facilities

Planning and preparation have been in full swing the last few months as the beginning of construction will soon be upon

us. This is an exciting time for our students, staff, and community.

We also had the opportunity to create and hire a Laborer position. This position has been instrumental in increasing the efficacy of our maintenance, grounds keeping and cleaning departments.

### School Culture

There is strong evidence in research that a positive school culture contributes to improved student and staff performance, reduced student discipline, and increased extracurricular participation. Knowing this, we have worked extra hard my first year to focus on this both at the student level and staff level. One way we have worked on the "West Valley brand" has been increasing school spirit and moving forward with purpose. Tops in Springville now has our West Valley gear for sale! Most importantly, though, I have been proactively building positive relationships with students, staff, and the community.

### In Summary

My reflection upon my first year has been powerful. I feel blessed to have this opportunity and pledge to our students, staff, and community to positively lead our district with integrity, resourcefulness, and pride. I am excited to see what this next year brings!

## #WEAREWESTVALLEY

**The West Valley Board of Education has approved the following addition to their original meeting schedule: a regular meeting will be held on April 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the library conference room.**

## CHILD FIND NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all district residents with children between birth and age 21: If your child is disabled or you suspect s/he may be disabled, you may be entitled to special education and related services without cost to you.

Please contact the Special Education office at (716) 942-3100 extension 4149 to register your child or to obtain further information.

*Notice is in compliance with IDEA "Child Find" requirements Education Law 4402(1)(a).*



# West Valley Central School 2022 - 2023 Budget Development Calendar



Feb. 15, 2022	Budget Development Calendar presented to Board of Education for adoption
Feb. 15 - Feb. 28, 2022	Development of building and department level budgets
Feb. 15, 2022	BOE Meeting 7:00 p.m. – State Aid and Revenue Review, Bus Purchase/Capital Reserve Discussion
Mar. 1, 2022	Property Tax Cap Submission due to the NYS Comptroller's Office
Mar. 15, 2022	BOE Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Budget Review and Update, Instructional and Athletic Updates
Mar. 17, 2022	Petitions available for Board of Education Candidates from District Clerk
Apr. 2, 2022	1st Publication of Legal Notice for Budget Hearing, Vote, and Election (Subsequent publications on April 16th, April 30th and May 14th); (1st Publication occurs at least 45 days before annual meeting, no sooner than 49 days before annual meeting)
Apr. 5, 2022	Budget Workshop 7:00 p.m. – Budget Overview Prior to April 19th Adoption
Apr. 18, 2022	Board candidate petitions due to District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. (No later than 30 days before annual meeting)
Apr. 19, 2022	BOE Meeting 7:00 p.m. – Final Budget Review, Adoption of 2022-2023 Budget & Property Tax Report Card/ Adoption of BOCES Admin Budget
Apr. 20, 2022	Submission of Property Tax Report Card to SED (by the end of the business day following budget adoption/no less than 21 days prior to annual meeting); submission of Property Tax Report Card to local newspaper
May 3 - May 17, 2022	Copies of the budget must be available to the residents upon request (during the 14 days before the vote and on the day of the vote)
May 5, 2022	Voter Registration Day 3:00 -7:00 p.m. District Office (no more than 14 days, nor less than 5 days before vote)
May 10, 2022	Annual Budget Hearing 7:00 p.m. Auditorium (7 to 14 days prior to annual meeting); BOE meeting following hearing
May 11, 2022	Budget Notice mailed to district residents (at least 6 days prior to annual meeting)
May 17, 2022	Annual Budget vote and Board of Education Election from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (3rd Tuesday in May)/BOE Meeting 8:00 p.m.

## WEST VALLEY TEACHERS IMPROVING THEIR PRACTICE

BY MR. DANIEL AMODEO, PRE-K-12 PRINCIPAL/CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

Last month's newsletter shared that our Support Plan developed in collaboration with Erie 1 BOCES Regional Partnership was approved. One of the priorities of our Support Plan was a focus on instruction. West Valley's Elementary and Special Education teachers have participated in an 11-hour Professional Development opportunity on Explicit Instruction over the February break.

The components of Explicit Instruction can include:

- Chunking or breaking down of complex skills,
- Focus student attention on important content through modeling and think-

aloud,

- Systematic supports such as: I do, We do, You do,
- Provide opportunities for student responses and teacher feedback and,
- Create purposeful practice opportunities

When observing our teachers in real-time, the components of Explicit Instruction are present in daily lessons. In many cases it is second nature and of course good teaching. This Professional Development has affirmed our instructional practice and will also provide opportunities for continued

improvement. Similar to a baseball player perfecting their swing, our teachers are dedicated to perfecting their instruction for the benefit of our students.

Over the next several weeks we will collaborate with each other and the Erie 1 BOCES Regional Partnership towards finding opportunities where we can get better. This collaboration will occur weekly through team meetings, peer observations, discussions, and data collection. We strive to be excellent where excellence is always trying to do our best and then better.



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Emergency updates • And more!**

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## COMMUNITY CLOTHES CLOSET

St. John the Baptist Church has a Free Community Clothes Closet located behind the church in Bingham Hall every Wednesday from 1 to 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

Accepting Winter clothing and shoes, bedding, kitchen and household items and books for Cattaraugus County residents.

Donations of gently worn, undamaged, clean, and seasonal items are welcome.

Upon request, we have access to fulfill a need of furniture items.

If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment, please call Jacque Conrad at 942-3836.

Thank you very much for the continued support and a successful year.



## YEARBOOK ORDER FORM

**\$45.00**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**HR TEACHER** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SEND TO THE MAIN OFFICE**



*What would you do if you could live forever?*

Eleven-year-old Winnie Foster yearns for a life of adventure beyond her white picket fence, but not until she becomes unexpectedly entwined with the Tuck family does she get more than she could have imagined. When Winnie learns of the magic behind the Tucks' immortality, she must fight to protect their secret from those who would do anything for a chance at eternal life. As her adventure unfolds, Winnie faces an extraordinary choice: return to her life, or continue with the Tucks on their infinite journey.

Based on the best-selling children's classic by Natalie Babbitt, adapted for the stage by Claudia Shear and Tim Federle, and featuring a soaring score from Chris Miller and Nathan Tysen, this edition of *Tuck Everlasting* is a condensed 70-minute version of the Broadway production, re-conceived by the authors to be performed by nine actors.

Students in grades 5-11 have been hard at work getting ready! Show dates are Friday, April 1st, and Saturday, April 2nd, 2022. Both shows will be at 7:00 p.m.

Ticket sales will be online this year; to order tickets, go to: <https://westvalley.ludus.com>. On this site, you will be able to pay for your order by credit or debit card. Ticket prices are \$8 for students and seniors; \$10 for general admission (children aged 2 and under are free). For family orders of 5 or more tickets, a 10% discount will be automatically deducted. Please note that there will be a maximum capacity of seats for each performance. If this maximum capacity is not reached as of the show dates, tickets will be available to purchase at the door.

This information will be communicated as the show dates approach.

As of this printing, masks will be required by all patrons at all times while in the school building. Any questions or concerns, please contact:

Allison Fox | [akloepfer@wvalley.org](mailto:akloepfer@wvalley.org)  
Krystal George | [kgeorge@wvalley.org](mailto:kgeorge@wvalley.org)

*Does the story end, or never end?  
Does the secret fade, or is it everlasting?*



## TECHNOLOGY WITH MR. PERGER

Some new things are happening in technology this year! The 8th grade students have created flags and learned about industrial manufacturing and different types of assembly procedures. The carpentry class has been working hard for some time now to finish up dog houses. In class we talked about residential framing and ways houses and other structures are made through framing and construction. All of the things that we talk about in class relate to jobs that are out there in society today. 7th and 8th graders explored Computer Aided Drafting and the many engineering principles that are associated with it. Students took objects from around the room and recreated them in a 3-D model space.



# NEW WEBSITE

[www.WVALLEY.ORG](http://www.WVALLEY.ORG)

# 100<sup>TH</sup> DAY CELEBRATION

Our primary classes celebrated the 100th day of school in a big way this year! We started with doing a 100 lick Tootsie-pop sucker challenge. Surprisingly, about half of our students reached the tootsie roll! In addition, our first grade students once again created 100 day projects that were displayed in the auditorium for all to see. This year parents were able to come to school to view our projects as long as they followed COVID guidelines. In addition, we had Mr. Amodeo interview each child about their project and then posted the video to our webpage and Facebook page. These projects were created at home with parent help, allowing children to practice their counting and skip-counting skills. We had a wide variety of creative projects on display for all to see. The children had a blast showing off their work. All in all, it was one of our most memorable 100th day of school celebrations!



# POSITIVE PARENTING TIPS FOR HEALTHY CHILD DEVELOPMENT

## Middle Childhood (6-8 years of age)

### Developmental Milestones

Middle childhood brings many changes in a child's life. By this time, children can dress themselves, catch a ball more easily using only their hands, and tie their shoes. Having independence from family becomes more important now. Events such as starting school bring children this age into regular contact with the larger world. Friendships become more and more important. Physical, social, and mental skills develop quickly at this time. This is a critical for children to develop confidence in all areas of life, such as through friends, schoolwork, and sports.

Here is some information on how children develop during middle childhood.

### Emotional/Social Changes

Children in this age group might:

- Show more independence from parents and family.
- Start to think about the future.
- Understand more about his or her place in the world.
- Pay more attention to friendships and teamwork.
- Want to be liked and accepted by friends.

### Thinking and Learning

Children in this age group might:

- Show rapid development of mental skills.
- Learn better ways to describe experiences and talk about thoughts and feelings.
- Have less focus on one's self and more concern for other.

### Positive Parenting Tips

Following are some things you, as a parent, can do to help your child during this time:

- Show affection for your child. Recognize her accomplishments.
- Help your child develop a sense of responsibility - ask him to help with housework tasks, such as setting the table.
- Talk with your child about school, friends, and things she looks forward to in the future.

- Talk with your child about respecting others. Encourage him to help people in need.
- Help your child set her own achievable goals - she'll learn to take pride in herself and rely less on approval or reward from others.
- Help your child learning patience by letting others go first or by finishing a task before going out to play. Encourage him to think about possible consequences before acting.
- Make clear rules and stick to them, such as how long your child can watch TV or when she has to go to bed. Be clear about what behavior is okay and what is not okay.
- Do fun things together as a family, such as playing games, reading, and going to events in your community.
- Get involved with your child's school. Meet the teachers and staff and get to understand their learning goals and how you and the school can work together to help your child do well.
- Continue reading to your child. As your child learns to read, take turns reading to each other.
- Use discipline to guide and protect your child, rather than punishment to make him feel bad about himself. Follow up any discussion about what not to do with a discussion of what to do instead.
- Praise your child for good behavior. It's best to focus praise more on what your child does ("you worked hard to figure this out") than on traits she can't change ("you are smart").
- Support your child in taking on new challenges. Encourage her to solve problems, such as a disagreement with another child, on her own.
- Encourage your child to join school and community groups, such as a team sports, or to take advantage of volunteer opportunities.

### Child Safety First

More physical ability and more independence can put children at risk for injuries from falls and other accidents. Motor vehicle crashes are the most common cause of death from unintentional injury among children this age.

- Protect your child properly in the car. For detailed information, see the American Academy of Pediatrics' Car Safety Seats: A Guide for Families.

- Teach your child to watch out for traffic and how to be safe when walking to school, riding a bike, and playing outside.
- Make sure your child understands water safety, and always supervise her when she's swimming or playing near water.
- Supervise your child when he's engaged in risky activities, such as climbing.
- Talk with your child about how to ask for help when she needs it.
- Keep potentially harmful household products, tools, equipment, and firearms out of your child's reach.

### Healthy Bodies

- Parents can help make schools healthier. Work with your child's school to limit access to foods and drinks with added sugar, solid fat, and salt that can be purchased outside the school lunch program.
- Make sure your child has 1 hour or more of physical activity each day.
- Limit screen time for your child to no more than 1 to 2 hours per day of quality programming, at home, school, or afterschool care.
- Practice healthy eating habits and physical activity early. Encourage active play, and be a role model by eating healthy at family mealtimes and having an active lifestyle.

A pdf of this document for reprinting is available free of charge from:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/positiveparenting/middle.html>

Additional Information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/childdevelopment>  
1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636)  
<http://www.cdc.gov/info>



# ART CORNER

Welcome spring! The creativity in the art room is always blooming and the kids are growing in their art skills.

Our preschoolers just finished their Valentine paintings while our elementary students have been working hard studying animals. Kindergartners created ceramic penguins, first graders made beautiful animal drawings, second graders painted red cardinals, and third graders drew polar bears with chalk. Our fourth graders learned about the Northern Lights and made a landscape out of pastels.

Our 5th graders, Studio in Art students, and Drawing and Painting students all studied radial symmetry either creating mandalas or paintings which focused on tints and shades. A mandala is a geometric configuration of symbols, oftentimes helping with focus and meditation.

Eighth graders are working on self-portraits made out of collage, and our Ceramics students finished creating frames for mirrors. They are now enrolled in Sculpture, where they are well on their way to making piñatas.

Our Art Club learned a new fibers technique called needle felting, or "painting with wool." They created a wool painting of their choice on a hoop and now have lovely, little masterpieces that are ready to hang in their home.

Our artist of the month is Walker Herbert. Walker is in the 9th grade and has really come a long way in the art room. With hard work and dedication, his effort shows in the development of his artwork. Some of Walker's favorites include cookies and cream ice cream, dragon fruit, art, and Guardians of the Galaxy. Walker has two older sisters, two dogs, and one cat. Outside of school, Walker enjoys listening to music (specifically rock) and watching movies; he plans on joining the spring track team.

Congratulations also goes out to eighth graders Liliana Toms, Trinity Diaz, James Clark, and Madelyn Pearce, and seventh graders Noah Klahn, Dominic Tirado, and Eva Barnes. Their works of art have been accepted into the Regina A. Quick Center for The Arts 2021-2022 Middle School Juried Art Digital Exhibition. They were honored at the opening exhibition with a reception in the Theatre Atrium. Awesome job, Wildcats!



*Walker Herbert  
Artist of the Month*



## MARCH 2022 - GRADES PREK-12 - BREAKFAST MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Cinnamonis or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>1</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Donut or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>2</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Raspberry Churro or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>3</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Egg, Sausg & Chs Breakfast Sandwich or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>4</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk
Bagels or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>7</sup> Juice, Fresh Or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Assorted Muffins or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>8</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Breakfast Burrito or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>9</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Mini Strwbry Cream Cheese Bagel or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>10</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Pop Tarts or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>11</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk
Bagels or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>14</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Sausage, Egg & Cheese Breakfast Sandwich or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>15</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Frudels or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>16</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Cinnamon Roll or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>17</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	<sup>18</sup> NO SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S DAY
Pop Tarts or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>21</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Assorted Muffins or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>22</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Bagels or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>23</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Cereal Bar or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>24</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Breakfast Pizza or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>25</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk
Pillsbury Waffles or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>28</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Sausage, Egg & Cheese Breakfast Sandwich or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>29</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Raspberry Churro or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>30</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	Assorted Breakfast or Cereal w/ 1/2 Bagel <sup>31</sup> Juice, Fresh or Prepared Fruit Non or Low Fat Milk	

**MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGES**

**REMEMBER, if you are approved for free Lunch, you are automatically approved for Breakfast!**

## MARCH 2022 - GRADES PREK-12 - LUNCH MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Grilled Cheese Sandwich or Turkey Sandwich <sup>1</sup> Carrots Tomato Soup	Taco Salad w/Corn Chips or Ham & Cheese Sandwich <sup>2</sup> Refried Beans Salsa Corn	Chicken Patty on Bun or Hamburger on Bun <sup>3</sup> Tomatoes & Cucumbers	Rotini w/Meat Sauce or BLT Sandwich <sup>4</sup> Tossed Salad
Pizza or Spicy Chicken Wrap <sup>7</sup> Carrot & Celery Sticks	Lazy Lasagna w/Garlic Stick or BBQ Chicken Patty on Bun <sup>8</sup> Tossed Salad	Cheeseburger on Bun or Turkey Sub <sup>9</sup> French Fries	Oven Roasted Chicken w/ Macaroni Salad or Egg Salad Sandwich <sup>10</sup> Baked Beans Mixed Vegetables	Italian Dippers w/Sauce or BLT Sandwich <sup>11</sup> Green Beans
Twin Beef Tacos or Turkey Wrap <sup>14</sup> Refried Beans Salsa Corn	Sweet & Sour Chicken over Rice or Ham & Cheese Sandwich <sup>15</sup> Broccoli	Pizza or Chicken Finger Sub <sup>16</sup> Baby Carrots w/Dip	Leprechaun Macaroni & Cheese w/Rye Bread or Shamrock Ham Roll <sup>17</sup> Rainbow Salad Golden Coin Cookie	<sup>18</sup> NO SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S DAY
BBQ Chicken Strips w/Buttered Noodles or Ham Sub <sup>21</sup> Sweet Potatoes Green Beans	Mexican Taco w/toppings or Turkey Sandwich <sup>22</sup> Salsa Corn	Chicken Patty on Bun or Chicken Ranch Wrap <sup>23</sup> Peas	Hamburger on Bun or BLT Sandwich <sup>24</sup> Baked Beans	Pizza or Egg Salad Sandwich <sup>25</sup> Romaine Salad
Taco in a Bag or Tuna Sandwich <sup>28</sup> Salsa Corn	Hot-n-Spicy Chicken Strips w/ Rice or Chicken Patty Cordon Bleu Sandwich <sup>29</sup> Carrots	Beef Burrito or Ham & Cheese Sub <sup>30</sup> Bean Salad	Pizza or Turkey & Cheese Sandwich <sup>31</sup> Tossed Salad	

**MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGES**



# A SCHOOL BUS STORY: WEST VALLEY BUS #88 ENJOYS RETIREMENT ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Have you ever wondered what happens to a school bus once it retires?

West Valley Central School's Bus number 88 served the district well for 14 years, logging 115,493 miles transporting students across the rural countryside around West Valley, NY, a town of 561 residents in Cattaraugus County, about 40 miles from Buffalo.

Ruth Ann Courtney, who's been driving school buses for 29 years, claimed bus 88 as her own. "I wanted bus 88 because '8' is my lucky number," she shared. "I loved that bus and ended up driving it for six years. I cried when it went down the road for the last time."

Upon Bus 88's decommissioning in July of 2021, it was sold to Don Brown's Bus Sales in Johnstown, NY. Located near Albany, NY, Don Brown's sells and services new and pre-owned school buses, commercial buses, and shuttle buses. "We've sold buses all over the country and even the world," said Nick Tarbox, regional sales manager at Don Brown's. "Our buses have ended up on practically every continent. It's quite common for private individuals to purchase old buses and convert them into various applications to fit their lifestyle."

Bus 88 was found by one such private individual, Steve Rowe, from the country of England in the United Kingdom.

Steve and his wife, Joanne, have lived their entire lives in the quaint seaside town of Torquay in Devon, England. He works at a local hospital in the patient transport service, and she is a teacher's assistant at a school for special needs children.

The Bus 88 story began with Steve's long-time dream of converting an old school bus into an RV that his family could tour around the English Countryside.

"It's quite rare to see a school bus on an English street," Steve noted. "In England, children either walk to school, take public transport, or are driven by their parents. For us, a school bus is a very iconic thing. They turn a few heads when they go trundling down our small narrow streets over here."

Joanne wasn't immediately on board with the plan. "It took some time to convince her of the idea," said Steve. "After a few months of showing her pictures of converted school buses she eventually caught the vision."

After purchasing the bus, the Rowes had it shipped to England on a container vessel. Bus 88 rode the waves across the Atlantic and arrived on English shores at the Port of Southampton in November of 2021, where it was transported to London for servicing and registration. The bus made its final passage to Torquay and arrived at the Rowes' residence in December.

From the start, Steve was interested in learning more about the bus's back story. "It's been nice to find out where the bus was from and to learn a little bit of its history," shared Steve. He contacted West Valley Central School

via their Facebook page last summer, and began corresponding with Bryan Hansen, technology director and PR coordinator at the school. "When I received the message on Facebook, I wasn't sure if it was even real," Bryan commented, "but I took a chance and responded back, and it has led us to discovering the unique story of our old bus. Steve is a wonderful guy and I'm looking forward to the continued journey of Bus 88."

Steve plans on completing the bus renovation work himself, including the installation of a bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, living room, and even solar panels. So far, he's removed the seats from the bus, finding a small fortune in lunch money dropped by the children of West Valley over the years.

The Rowes look forward to traveling across the UK in Bus 88 once the renovation is fully complete. Their daughter, in grade 11, has already put in a request to ride the bus to her prom with her friends this spring.

Steve and Joanne admitted it was quite a risk buying Bus 88. They never communicated with anyone in person—it was all done over email. "In life you've got to take risks," Steve said, "and we are so pleased we did. We cross paths with so many people who ask us 'why and how' and we love telling them our story. This risk was worth taking! We look forward to many adventures in Bus 88 and meeting new people along the way, perhaps even some new friends from West Valley Central School."

Follow the adventures of Bus 88 on Instagram at:

[www.instagram.com/lucy.usa.to.uk](https://www.instagram.com/lucy.usa.to.uk).



## WINTER ATHLETICS

The winter season has wrapped up and concluded with a strong showing in both Boys' and Girls' Modified Basketball and Boys' and Girls' Bowling. The addition of Cheerleading also helped spark the Wildcat pride.

Wildcat Cheer was led by Nurse Krystal George. The team was made up of eight girls, only half of which had previous experience. The team made so much progress throughout the short season. Coach George said, "The girls learned the proper technique for jumps and hang drills for stunts. Together as a team they updated the old Wildcat cheers, learned a halftime cheer, and performed in front of parents and the school. This summer the cheer team will attend camps and continue to grow to learn how to preform mounts with extensions and to properly and safely perform a basket toss and tumbling skills."

The Boys' Basketball team wrapped up their season on February 17th. Coach Marino commented on their season, "The boys played hard all year and found more success as the season went along. The team conquered a lot of challenges faced early in the year, and down the road they showed that they could compete with anyone. A lot was asked of the boys, as many were new to the game, and they stepped up to answer the call. I look forward to seeing these players work hard in the offseason to come back and play even harder next year."

The Boys' and Girls' Bowling teams completed their 2021-22 season in strong fashion with the girls competing at sectionals on February 17th. The team had a strong showing and was led by Sam Kowalski who bowled 38 pins above her season average and had a team high series of 913 to lead the Wildcats. Nikki Blackwell bowled 20 pins above her average and bowled her personal best of 135. Janay Ghani bowled 14 pins better at Sectionals and Lauren Frascella and Collen Keller improved on their averages from the season by 10 and 8 pins respectively.

Overall, the girls finished with a 31-17 record in their division to capture 2nd place. Lauren Frascella led the team with a 138 average and high series with a 483. High game on the season went to Janay Ghani with a 187. Both Lauren and Collen made the CCAA Division 3 second team all-star team. Congratulations to the Lady Wildcat bowlers, including Eve Niesyty, who we lost halfway through the season with an injury.

The boys' team finished the season with a 27.5-28.5 record, just missing out on sectional play by a pin. The team was led by Freshman Tyler Trimm with a 157 average and team high in game (222) and series (538). Congratulations to Tyler, Jadon Schoepflin, Tristan Ehnes, Nick Peters, Zachary Westfall, Jack Tharnish, Jacob Coluci, and Aiden Benz on a great season.

As the winter season has wrapped up, we now look forward to another spring season of sports. The Varsity Softball team, which looks to improve on its strong foundational season, opens play on March 30th at Falconer with their home opener scheduled for April 1st versus Brocton. A growing Varsity Track team will host a meet at WVCS on May 10, 2022 and is scheduled for their first meet on April 19th. Schedules are still being finalized and will be in the April Newsletter.



## 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  
Tracy Chai  
Michael Harmony  
Carla Heitman  
Gary Niesyty  
Jordan Robbins

**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

**POSTAL PATRON LOCAL**

## ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Taweepon Farrar**, Superintendent  
**Ann O'Brien**, Business Administrator  
**Daniel Amodeo**, Pre-K-12 Principal  
**Danielle Behringer**, Assistant Principal, CSE/CPSE Chairperson

## SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX CODE NUMBER

The New York State resident income tax returns (IT-200 and IT-201) require you to enter the name and code number of the public-school district where you were a resident as of December 31 for the tax year 2021. The school district name and code for entry on state income tax forms are:

**District Name: West Valley Central School District**  
**District Code: 690**

It is important to put this number on your tax return because it helps determine the amount of State Aid we receive for the school district.

## TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS

The deadline for transportation requests to a non-public school for your student(s) outside of the West Valley Central School District is **April 1, 2022**. Parents are reminded that written transportation requests for non-public schools must be received by **April 1, 2022** to be eligible for the 2022-2023 school year.

Send requests to:  
Ann O'Brien, Business Administrator  
West Valley Central School  
5359 School Street  
West Valley, New York 14171

## WEST VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

The West Valley Food Pantry is open by appointment only. If you are in need of food please call Kris Aldrow 716-942-6690 or Amy Frank 716-942-6657 to set up a time/day. Most orders will be filled on normal food bank days which are the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 1-4:00 p.m. If you need emergency food please call and we will arrange a pickup or delivery time. The Food Pantry is located at the Ashford Town Barn, Fox Valley Rd.

Also remember the blessing box located at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in WV is available and open all day and evenings. The blessing box contains many non-perishable items.

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE  
INVITED TO ATTEND

**WINTER  
SPORTS  
AWARDS  
NIGHT**



COME  
CELEBRATE A  
SUCCESSFUL  
WINTER  
SEASON OF  
WILDCAT  
ATHLETICS

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10  
@ 7:00 P.M. IN THE  
WVCS AUDITORIUM**

### The food pantry is in need of the following items:

- Canned Fruit • Side Rice/Noodle Dishes
- Spaghetti Sauce • Canned Vegetables • Salad Dressing
- Paper Towels • Toilet Paper

We would also like to thank the community for their continued support. Your support is allowing us to serve 20-23 families, 25 children, 44 adults and 19 seniors every two weeks.