



WELCOME BACK!

BY MARK J. WARD, INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

There is no question that the smiles on the faces (behind the masks) of the students and staff said it all! Everyone was excited to be back to school and hoping to put a little more “normal” in everyone’s lives. On the first day of classes the entire staff assembled in the “front circle” dressed in school colors, waving, using noise makers and applauding as they greeted the return of our students!

Due to our small size, we are very fortunate to be able to offer daily instruction for all our students. We are one of only a few schools who can do this safely. We are also providing simultaneous remote instruction for our students which means students at home are receiving their classes in real time with their classmates. This certainly presents some challenges for our teachers and I commend them for their efforts to make it work. Let me take this opportunity to welcome our students and staff back to school. Since the school was shut down in mid-March, everyone’s lives have been changed, altered and impacted by the COVID-19 virus. While we recognize that we must still adhere to new daily procedures and regulations, it certainly feels good to be back!

With the safety and well-being of our students and staff our number one priority in our return to school requires us to re-think many things we used to take for granted. When you enter school you will note a number of changes: everyone is wearing masks and social distancing at least 6 feet; we are disinfecting the school several times each day; hallways are divided; seating on buses has been reduced; we have limited the number of seats in classrooms and have set up individual seats in the cafeteria; we have divided some classes for instruction; and daily remote instruction is occurring for some of our students. It is very evident that the COVID-19 virus has changed many aspects of WVCS.

Looking ahead, no one has a crystal ball, but we are working hard to model good health and safety procedures that will allow us to continue in-school instruction throughout the entire year. We want to express our appreciation to all the parents for everything you are doing to keep your children safe, support our procedures, perform the daily health assessment, communicate with our school nurse and support the wearing of masks. The school and family have always been “partners in education” but the pandemic has made this relationship even more important.

We also want to thank our teachers and staff members for their leadership and cooperation in helping us make “our plan” for re-opening work. There are many moving parts to bringing all our students back

and without “teamwork” it would not have been possible.

By the way, the person who is writing this article (Mark Ward) will be serving the district as your Interim Superintendent until a new superintendent is hired. I have held a variety of administrative positions over my 42+ years in education: Superintendent of Salamanca City Schools, Olean City Schools, Ellicottville Central School and Interim Superintendent in Allegany-Limestone and Franklinville Central Schools. I have also taught social studies, served as a Principal and was an Athletic Director. Outside my education career, I currently serve as Board Chairman for Jamestown Community College and am completing my 50th year as a member of the Great Valley Vol. Fire Company. During my time in West Valley, my intent is to get to know the staff and operation while making sure the district continues to move forward “on all cylinders.” Sometimes a different set of eyes can be helpful. I look forward to working with the Board and assisting wherever I can.

Here are several areas that the District will focus on during the 2020-21 school year.

- Continue to maintain clear and open lines of communications with all our families as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. Provide information, support, clarification and confidence to our students, staff and families.
- As a Target District based on low 3-8 testing results under ESSA (Every Students Succeeds Act) we must develop a plan to address and improve our scores. This will involve a plan to improve teacher instruction and student achievement.
- Last year, the District examined the Five-Year Building Condition Survey and developed a capital project to address some of those needs. The Board plans to review the proposed capital project and determine whether changes are needed. Originally, the project included a variety of repairs, safety issues, some system upgrades, facility improvements, technology (wiring, cameras, controllers) and a new bus garage roof plus some other upgrades.
- Examine the recent Efficiency Study to assist with goal setting and planning.
- The Board is in the process of conducting a search for the next Superintendent. They have secured the assistance of Scott Payne, Cattaraugus/Allegany BOCES District Superintendent, to run the process. An application and brochure advertising the position will soon to be released.



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

**MR. DANIEL AMODEO, PRE-K-12
PRINCIPAL AND DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COORDINATOR**



The first few weeks of school have passed by as we continue to work to make each day more consistent and normal for our students. This includes working on our health, safety, and cleaning procedures and our instructional format with in-person and remote learners. There will continue to be bumps along the way, but with the flexibility of our staff and the support of our families we can overcome these hurdles.

While we progress through the school year, we have a very important instructional initiative that we will be focusing on. This initiative is improving our students' achievement on the New York State 3-8 ELA and Math assessments. West Valley Central School was designated as a Target School in one of our student subgroups under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This designation is directly related to our student performance data on our NYS 3-8 Assessments in the 2018-2019 school year. While our current designation is in one student subgroup, the initiative to improve our ELA and Math performance across the board will benefit all student subgroups and our school.

Throughout the summer, our staff have worked with CA BOCES to analyze our data, identify areas for improvement, and determine future needs to accomplish the task of improving our students' achievement. In the coming weeks we will be planning a meeting with the families of our students to provide for an opportunity to gather input and suggestions that we may incorporate into the development of a School Comprehensive Education Plan. We plan on having this meeting in-person, while following COVID-19 guidelines. The information gathered from our families on how we can support our students' achievement is extremely valuable.

In the meantime, we have begun to assess our students with local tools to determine what supports our students may benefit from, especially considering the loss of instructional time due to the COVID-19 school closure last March. We have purchased a new assessment program that will benchmark our students progress three times a year. We will be using MAP Growth and MAP Fluency assessments developed by the Northwest Evaluation System (NWEA). The MAP Growth assessments will benchmark students in grades K-12 for ELA and Math. Additionally, we will continue to assess students' independent reading levels in grades K-5.

As our students, families, and teachers are adjusting to school in the new "normal" we still want to have a focus on improving student achievement in all areas. We will be using the data that we gain from our local tools mentioned above to aid in making instructional decisions for our students. This will help guide our instruction to best meet the needs of our students. This school year is different in many ways but the desire and responsibility for us to assist our students in achieving their highest potential remains constant.

NEW EAGLE SCOUT - LUKE DEFOE

Congratulations go out to West Valley senior Luke Defoe for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout this summer. Read the full article about Luke's accomplishment in the September 11 edition of The Villager.



HOW HIGH CAN YOU GO?

BY MRS. RINKO

With all the excitement and first day jitters, the kids were welcomed back to school with a list of requirements put in place to keep us safe. Two requirements

go against values we instill in children from the first day they begin to learn: 1) share your things, and 2) work with others. Of course, now we are saying: "no sharing and stay six feet apart." The way we teach has to be changed to meet these safety measures and yet we must keep the kids engaged in learning. In second grade, their first day challenge was to build a self supporting tower as tall as they could by using only paper and tape. The students worked by themselves but got to collaborate and see the strategies of other children. It was difficult not being able to see their smiling faces but it was so great to hear the excitement of their accomplishments. Both the kids in the room and the remote learners joined in for the challenge.



HEART BEAT

Welcome back artists! Students have been excited to be back in the art room and start creating. Sixth graders will be starting a self-portrait lesson showing off their masks as well as positive characteristics about themselves. Ceramic students are also going in a similar route, creating autobiographical sculptures. They are in the process of making sculptures that tell a story about who they are. Painting and Drawing students are engaging in a form of art therapy, drawing neurographic art. Neurographics are a way to transform your stress into something calm. In what may be a stressful time for some, this is a perfect art form for any age to produce.

Mrs. Lechner and Mrs. Mazzuto have been working on creating individual art kits for their students. This will alleviate any sharing of tools and materials in the art room. Although we are navigating through a new way of teaching, Mrs. Lechner and Mrs. Mazzuto are eager to provide art enriching experiences for their students and look forward to a successful school year.



ROGER CRANDALL MEMORIAL "HEART AND HUSTLE" AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

This is an annual award with a plaque and \$250 for each of two athletes (one male, one female) who demonstrate dedication and commitment to their sport(s), teammates and coach(es). These athletes **are seen as always giving their best** in games and in practices and must be individuals of good character.

The winners for the 2019-2020 school year were Kasper Heitman and Janay Ghani! Congratulations to the both of you for this accomplishment. Please check out the large hallway plaque in the main foyer by the Nurse's Office to always be reminded when you enter the building how proud we are of you both! Thank you for always showing your true colors as student/athletes: Purple and Gold Forever! Wildcats Forever! and without "teamwork" it would not have been possible.



OCTOBER 2020 - GRADES K-12 - BREAKFAST MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
REMEMBER... If you are approved free for Lunch, you are automatically approved for Breakfast!	BREAKFAST WILL BE AVAILABLE DAILY WITH GRAB-N-GO ITEMS SUCH AS: MUFFINS; YOGURT CUPS; FRESH WHOLE FRUIT; FRESH CUT FRUIT; PANCAKES; CHEESE STICKS; CINNI-MINIS; BAGEL BITES; CEREAL & MILK <i>These selections may change based on freshness and availability.</i>			
Pillsbury Frudel Cereal or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit, Non or Low-Fat Milk	Pillsbury Cinni Mini Cereal or Bagel ----- Juice, fruit, Non or Low-Fat Milk	Assorted Muffin, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, fruit, Non or Low-Fat Milk	Sausage, Egg, & Cheese Brkfst Sandwich, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, fruit, Non or Low-Fat Milk	Raspberry Churro, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit, Non or Low-Fat Milk
NO SCHOOL	Bacon, Egg, & Cheese Brkfst Sandwich, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit, Non or Low-Fat Milk	Pillsbury Frudel, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit, Non or Low-Fat Milk	Rich's WG Donut, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit ----- Non or Low-Fat Milk	Breakfast Burrito, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit ----- Non or Low-Fat Milk
Ham, Egg, & Cheese Brkfst Sandwich, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit ----- Non or Low-Fat Milk	Pillsbury Cinni Mini, Cereal, Or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit ----- Non or Low-Fat Milk	Raspberry Churro, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit ----- Non or Low-Fat Milk	Pillsbury Frudel. Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit ----- Non or Low-Fat Milk	Assorted Muffins, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit ----- Non or Low-Fat Milk
Pillsbury Frudel, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit ----- Non or Low-Fat Milk	Pillsbury Cinni Mini, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit ----- Non or Low-Fat Milk	Breakfast Burrito, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit ----- Non or Low-Fat Milk	Assorted Muffins, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit ----- Non or Low-Fat Milk	Bacon, Egg, & Cheese Breakfast Wrap, Cereal, or Bagel ----- Juice, Fruit ----- Non or Low-Fat Milk

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGES

OCTOBER 2020 - GRADES K-12 - LUNCH MENU

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
NOTE: Daily menu selections are subject to change based on availability. Certain items due to Covid-19 may be out of stock or unavailable for a period of time. Thank you for your understanding.	OFFERED DAILY WITH ALL SCHOOL LUNCHES: <u>Fresh NYS Apples</u> from LyOaken Farms Fresh or Prepared Fruit (served by the ½ cup portion) Vegetables (served by the ¾ cup unless otherwise noted) Must take ½ cup of Fruit OR Vegetable (May take 1 cup) Skim, Low Fat White, or Low Fat Chocolate - <u>NYS Milk</u> from Upstate Farms			
Baked Chicken Patty On A Bun with choice of lettuce and tomato ----- French Fries	8" Soft Shell Taco W/Seasoned Rice OR Turkey & cheese sandwich ----- Corn / Salsa ¼ cup	Chicken Fajitas with sautéed peppers & onions and rice Ham & cheese sandwich ----- Broccoli	Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza OR Turkey & cheese sandwich ----- Romaine Salad Mixed Veggies	Meatballs & Garlic Bread w/ Spaghetti OR Ham & cheese Sandwich ----- Green Bean / Carrots
NO SCHOOL	Taco In A Bag with all the toppings OR ----- Buttered Corn Salsa ¼ cup	Baked Chicken Nuggets & French Fries OR ----- Carrots ½ cup	Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza OR Turkey & cheese sandwich ----- Romaine Salad	Grilled Cheese W/Tomato Soup ----- Green Beans
Wildcat Burger on a Bun OR Chicken Salad Sandwich ----- French Fries Peas	8" Soft Shell Taco W/Seasoned Rice OR Turkey & cheese sandwich ----- Corn / Salsa ¼ cup	Sweet & Sour Chicken w/ rice OR Ham & cheese sandwich ----- Corn Green Beans	Cheese or Pepperoni pizza OR Turkey & cheese sandwich ----- Romaine Salad Carrots ½ cup	BBQ Meatballs & rice OR Ham & cheese sub ----- Green Beans Mixed Veggies
BBQ Pulled Pork On A Bun OR Chicken Salad Sandwich ----- French Fries	Nacho Grande W/Tostito Chips OR Turkey & cheese sandwich ----- Corn / Salsa ¼ cup	Chicken & Gravy w/ creamy mashed potatoes OR Ham & cheese sandwich ----- Peas	Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza OR Turkey & cheese sandwich ----- Romaine Salad Beans ½ cup	BBQ Chicken Sandwich w/ Tatar Tots ----- Carrots

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGES

In addition to the entrée of the day, we offer:
 PB n J Sandwich (2M & 2G); Julienne Salad; Yogurt Parfait made with NYS Upstate Farms Yogurt; Pizza



ASVAB ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT

Dear Parents and Guardians:

West Valley Central School will be administering the ASVAB assessment instrument, which is part of the ASVAB Career Exploration Program (CEP), to any **interested** students in grades 10 - 12 on **Thursday, December 3rd** from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please have your son/daughter sign up in the Guidance Office with Mr. LaBrake by **Friday, November 13th**. This test is an invaluable tool to help your child with his/her future educational and career plans.

The ASVAB CEP will help your student:

- To learn more about themselves and the world of work
- Explore occupations in line with their interests and skills
- Develop an effective strategy to realize their career and education goals

One of the scores of the ASVAB is the military services' entrance score which may be used by your student to explore career options in the military. Your child's name and ASVAB CEP Scores will be released to the military unless you choose not to have their name released. Even if your child's name is released to the military, by no means is your child obligated to the military service.

The ASVAB CEP's website: www.asvabprogram.com offers great information regarding the program to include a brief video summary explaining the process and benefits of the program. Please call me with additional questions, 716-942-3100, extension 4148. Thank you.

If you would rather not have your child's test scores released to the military, please sign and complete the information below and return to the Guidance Office.

I, (Parent/Guardian Name) _____
request that (student's name) _____
name and ASVAB CEP results not be released to the military
recruiting services.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Sincerely,

Matthew LaBrake
School Counselor



STAY INFORMED & CONNECTED!

www.WVALLEY.WNYRIC.ORG



West Valley Central School
Home of the Wildcats

2020-2021 ACT DATES

Test Dates	Regular Deadline	Late Deadline
December 12	November 6	November 20
February 6	January 8	January 15
April 17	March 12	March 26
June 12	May 7	May 21

ACT with Writing costs \$70.00 and the late fee is \$30.00. Students must check with individual colleges to see if they will accept the ACT "No Writing" exam for \$55.50. Other "ACT Fee" information (i.e. refunds, test center and date changes...etc.) is available at www.actstudent.org/register/actfees.html. To register online for the ACT, go to www.actstudent.org. You will need a credit card to register online. If a student has test modifications and/or thinks they might qualify for a fee-waiver see Mr. LaBrake before applying for the ACT's.



2020-2021 SAT/SUBJECT DATES

Test Dates	Regular Deadline	Late Deadline
November 7	October 7	October 27
December 5	November 5	November 24
March 13 (SAT only)	February 12	March 2
May 8	April 8	April 27

CEEB Code: 335-920

The SAT with Essay costs **\$68.00** for the regular registration deadline. Late registration deadlines cost an additional **\$30.00**. In order to register for the SAT Exam use the following website: www.sat.org/register. It is very important that when a student applies for the SAT's online that they write down all their passwords and print a copy of the confirmation page (last page); this is the admission ticket for the day of the test. If a student has test modifications and/or thinks they qualify for a fee-waiver please email Mr. LaBrake before applying for the SAT's. Information about the SAT's are available in the Guidance Office. Email Mr. LaBrake for assistance with registering for the SAT's.

West Valley Central School 2020-2021 School Calendar

180 student days; 184 teacher days

SEPTEMBER Days 17 	FEBRUARY Days 15
OCTOBER Days 21 	MARCH Days 23
NOVEMBER Days 17 	APRIL Days 16
DECEMBER Days 17 	MAY Days 20
JANUARY Days 19 	JUNE Days 19

Sept 8-11 Superintendent Days

14-Sep K-12 first day of class

15-Sep PreK first day of class

12-Oct Columbus Day

11-Nov Veterans Day Observance

Nov 25-27 Thanksgiving Break

Dec 24-Jan 1 Early Winter Break

18-Jan Martin Luther King Day

1-Feb Student 1/2 day; Rating Day

Feb 15-19 Pres. Day; Mid-Winter Break

April 2-9 Good Friday; Spring Break

31-May Memorial Day

3-8 NYS ELA April 20-22; 3-8 NYS Math May 4-6

25-Jun Rating Day

School not in session

School and Offices closed

Open House for Elementary 5:45-6:45pm and for Secondary 7-8pm

Nov 23&24 1/2 day Prek-12, parent confere

Superintendent Days 9/8, 9/9, 9/10, 9/11

Quarter ends 11/13, 1/29, 4/16, 6/24

6/15 last day of regular classes for grades

6/24 last day of regular classes for grades

January and June regents exams

* January 26-29

* June 16-24

June 26 Commencement

School not in session

School and Offices closed

Open House for Elementary 5:45-6:45pm and for Secondary 7-8pm

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January and June regents exams

* January 26-29

* June 16-24

June 26 Commencement

DATE CHANGE FOR 2020 PSAT/NMSQT

THE PSAT/NMSQT HAS BEEN MOVED TO Thursday, October 29, 2020. Our school will administer the PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) for 10th and 11th graders. The cost per student is **\$17.00**, and checks can be made payable to WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL. The deadline to sign up and pay for the test is **Friday, October 23, 2020** in the Guidance Office. Even if your child is not considering college at this time, he or she should take this test. Just taking it can encourage a student to start thinking seriously about life after high school, goals, and the education necessary to reach those goals.

1. It measures the reading, math, and writing skills needed for college (and for success in most jobs and careers in today's world). After the test, a score report will show the students' results in each of the sections. It will also target areas that need improvement before re-taking/taking the PSAT/SAT standardized tests.
2. This test gives students a chance to see how their skills compare with those of other students who will apply to college.
3. For 11th graders only, it is the first step in entering the National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions for scholarships and recognition.
4. The Student Search Service gives PSAT/NMSQT test takers the option to voluntarily place their names and addresses in a pool of college-bound students interested in receiving admission and financial aid information from certified colleges, universities, and scholarship agencies.
5. Lastly, it provides practice for the SAT exams, which most juniors take for the first time in the spring.

THE 22ND ANNUAL FINANCIAL AID NIGHT IN OCTOBER

Please attend the "22nd Annual Financial Aid Night" at West Valley Central School. At **6:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, October 28, 2020**, in the cafeteria. Michelle Schram (Director of Financial Aid from Jamestown Community College) will provide information for 11th and 12th graders and their parents on the financial aid process including: completion of the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) forms, grants, scholarships, and various student and parent loans.

Financial aid is money that comes in many forms. It generally consists of a combination of grants (actual cash that you do not have to pay back), scholarships (actual cash awarded for academic achievement), and loans (must be paid back). These types of aid come from a variety of sources: the college itself, individual states, private donors, and the Federal Government (by far the largest source of aid). Once you've filled out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) via the internet (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>) colleges will extend to you the types of aid for which you are eligible.



WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

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West Valley, NY 14171
(716) 942-3100

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID

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West Valley, NY

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Mr. Daniel Amodeo, Pre-K-12 Principal and
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POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

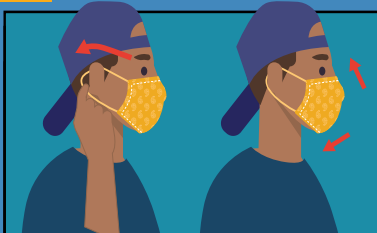
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Wear a Mask to Protect You and Your Friends

PUT ON



WASH YOUR HANDS

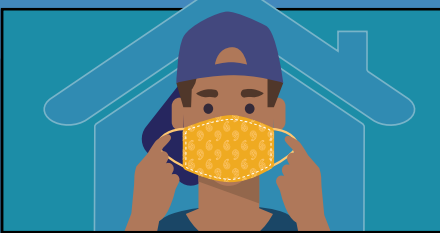


PLACE OVER NOSE AND MOUTH

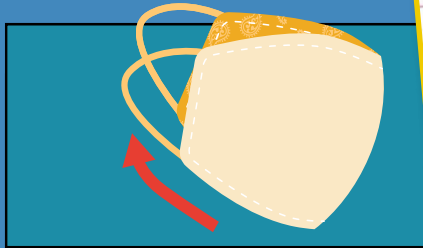


MAKE SURE YOU CAN
BREATHE EASILY

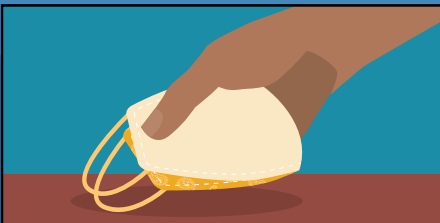
TAKE OFF



TAKE OFF YOUR MASK



FOLD OUTSIDE CORNERS TOGETHER



PUT ASIDE FOR WASHING



WASH YOUR HANDS

**WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN, WEAR A MASK, AND
STAY 6 FEET FROM OTHERS.**



CS 318104-A 08/06/2020

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



CABOCES Design & Print Publication

