

WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

School and Community Working Together



Volume 25, No. 10

June 2020



Caitlyn Cizdziel
Valedictorian

Caitlyn Cizdziel, daughter of Stan and Kim Cizdziel, is the Valedictorian for 2020 with a weighted average of 99.88%. In addition to her regular coursework at WVCS, Caitlyn has completed the following college courses: Houghton College Writing, Houghton Literature, SUPA American History, SUPA Personal Finance, JCC Algebra/Trigonometry, JCC Elementary Statistics, JCC Pre-Calculus, GCC Physics, and SUPA Biology. She has achieved high honor roll every quarter during her high school years. Caitlyn has been a member of the National Honor Society for three years, serving as secretary in her junior year and president in her senior year. She has been a part of chorus for nine years. She has been an active member of student body, holding the position of class president for the past four years, assisting with the American Red Cross Blood Drives, helping with the Toys for Tots charity, the mentoring program, and many other service opportunities. In addition, Caitlyn has been a member of student council, yearbook club, and drama club. Caitlyn has also been involved in athletics during her high school years. She has played two years of Junior Varsity Volleyball, one year of Varsity Volleyball, and four years of high school Bowling. Caitlyn is planning to attend Canisius College in the fall and major in Biology and Environmental Science.



Sandra Hebdon
Salutatorian

Sandra Hebdon, daughter of Michael Hebdon and Stepdaughter of Valeri Erlandson, is the Salutatorian with a weighted average of 95.08%. In addition to her regular WVCS course work she has completed several college level courses from three different colleges including: SUPA Personal Finance, JCC Elementary Statistics, JCC Pre-Calculus, SUPA Cybersecurity, Houghton College Literature, Houghton College Writing, JCC Algebra and Trigonometry, and SUPA American History. She has also received honor roll every quarter during her high school years. She has attended the Ellicottville Career and Technical Center for two years for Multimedia Communications. She has been a member of National Honor Society for the past three years; holding the position of Vice President in her senior year. She was inducted as a member of National Technical Honor Society in her senior year at the Ellicottville Career and Technical Center. She has been an active member of the student body, holding the position of Vice President for three years, has assisted with the American Red Cross Blood Drives, has helped with the Toys for Tots charity, and has been a participant in the afterschool mentoring program. She has also been involved with athletics during her high school career, playing two years of volleyball. She will be attending SUNY Fredonia in the fall and plans to receive her bachelors in Pubic Relations.

Top 5 Seniors continued on Page 2.

No Summer Recreation Program this summer. Everyone to have a great summer and stay healthy!



Morgan Drake

Morgan Drake, daughter of Eric and Jessica Drake, is 3rd in the graduating class of 2020, with a weighted average of 94.20%. She has achieved honor roll every quarter and has taken multiple college courses, including Houghton College Writing and College Literature, JCC Elementary Statistics and PreCalculus, GCC Physics, SUPA American History, Biology, and Personal Finance. Morgan has been offered multiple scholarships, including the Russell Sage College Award, U of R Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award, JCC College Connections Student of the Year, as well as a scholarship to the University at Buffalo, where she plans to major in Forensic Science.



Michael Moritz

Michael Moritz, son of Amy Moritz, finished 4th in the graduating class of 2020 with a weighted average of 88.83%. In addition to his regular course load here at West Valley, Michael also took a number of college courses throughout his high school career including JCC Elementary Statistics, JCC PreCalculus, JCC Algebra and Trigonometry, SUPA Personal Finance, SUPA Cybersecurity, SUPA American History I and II, Houghton College Literature Studies and Houghton College Writing. Michael is undecided about his plans following graduation.



Adriana Roblee

Adriana Roblee, daughter of Sarah Dunmire and Leon Roblee finished 5th in the graduating class of 2020, with a weighted average of 88.71. In addition to her regular course load here at West Valley, Adriana also took a number of college courses throughout her high school career including SUPA American History, SUPA Personal Finance, Houghton College Literature, Houghton College Writing. She also went to CA BOCES for Media Communications for 2 years. Outside of her academics, Adriana was also a part of several extracurricular and athletic activities throughout her school career. She was a member of the varsity bowling team for 6 years. Adriana also was a member of Spanish Club, Computer Club, and Toastmasters. She has won many awards over the years for her efforts in photography at the Cattaraugus County fair. After graduation, Adriana plans to go to a local 2-year college for general studies.

Class of 2020 Post Secondary Plans

Caitlyn Cizdziel

Attend Canisius College
Majoring in Biology and Environmental Science

Morgan Drake

Attend the State University at Buffalo
Majoring in Forensic Science

Sierra Folts

Attend Jamestown Community College
Majoring in Criminal Justice

Ethan Gilbert

Attend Rochester Audio Engineering School
Majoring in Music Production

Sandra Hebdon

Attend State University at Fredonia
Majoring in Public Relations

Keith Herbst

Seek employment as a Heavy Equipment Operator

Belladara Mondo

Attend Jamestown Community College
Majoring in Fine Arts

Michael Moritz

Undecided

Adriana Roblee

Attend a local two year college
Majoring in General Studies

Justin Seltzer

Attend Alfred State College
Majoring in Heavy Equipment: Truck & Diesel Technician

Cameron Terhune

Attend Jamestown Community College
Majoring in General Studies

Hannah Westfall

Continue education at BOCES Vo-Tech program



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Back in March as we were preparing to begin working from home, I had no idea that this would go on for the rest of the school year. Protecting ourselves from a virus that we can't see and have no idea who is or is not contagious can be frightening. But in every scary situation, there are positives. If you look around, you will notice many people helping each other. Many people are following the new expectations for our citizens. People are learning in new ways, teaching distantly and helping each other in new and different ways. These are the positive things that we should focus on.

We have learned to present new material to our students in new ways, we learned to hold meetings while social distancing. We have been successfully dealing with the everchanging expectations of our local and state health departments. While all of this is going on, we still are maintaining relationships with our students and families. I see teachers working through these difficult times and putting in a great deal of effort and care. I have been in a car parade to honor our seniors and we are planning on a special graduation ceremony at 1:00 PM on June 27th. This will be recorded and played on our website.

We will be presenting the efficiency study at our June 22nd board meeting livestreamed to the website and the Facebook page. We will be taking questions during the presentation via phone calls and/or e-mail. This will be at 7:00 PM on June 22nd and should take about 1 hour with questions to follow. Please tune in to hear the results.

Please remember to follow all protocols, socially distance, wear masks when appropriate. I look forward to seeing all of you in person when this thing is over. Please be safe.

Eric Lawton

Eric Lawton, Superintendent



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate all our Seniors on their graduation. They have persisted through a difficult and uncommon school year to achieve this milestone. I am proud of all of you and wish you all the best in your futures. I would also like to congratulate our Kindergarten students on their graduation. They too have persisted to achieve this milestone. I look forward to their futures as West Valley students and all of their successes.

I must be honest; I would have never thought we would be ending a school year without all the traditional celebrations, trips, and recognitions we are used to doing to acknowledge all the successes of our students throughout the school year. Although we are not able to do what we have always done, I believe our students, families, teachers, and community should take great pride in what we have been able to accomplish given the circumstances.

In a matter of days, we were able to train teachers to use a virtual format of instruction, deliver computer devices to all students, assess internet connectivity in the district, set up meal distribution, and determine how to provide students with opportunities for learning. The ability of our students, families, and teachers to adapt to these changes has been nothing short of miraculous. From working through computer issues to battling with internet access, our school community has never given up and worked through all the challenges.

We understand as a district that Distance Learning has come with its set of challenges and can not replace what happens face to face in our school building. We are unsure what next school year might look like, but it is our hope to have students in the building in some capacity. Throughout this summer we will be preparing for the new school year.

Our preparations will account for a few different possibilities listed below:

1. **Brick to Click:** Start off the school year as we always have but having to transition to Distance Learning at some point in the year.
2. **Click to Brick:** Start off the school year using Distance Learning and then returning to the school building at some point in the year.
3. **Blended:** A mix of Distance Learning and face to face learning throughout the school year.
4. **Fully Online:** Continuing with Distance Learning to start of the new school year for the foreseeable future.

Tate, E. (2020). "What will schools do in the fall? Here are 4 scenarios." <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2020-05-27-what-will-schools-do-in-the-fall-here-are-4-possible-scenarios>.

No matter what next school year may look like, we will continue working to provide the best opportunities and access to those opportunities for all our students. In closing this school year, I again want to say thank you to our students, families, teachers, Board of Education, administration, support staff, and our entire community for coming together to make the best of this school year. In all of my years as an educator I have never known a better place to be or a school that is so important to its community. I cannot wait for when we can have students fill the halls of our school again and share all that we do with our community!

Dan Amodeo

Dan Amodeo, Principal



CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION CEREMONY

Who: Seniors and only their immediate family members who are staying at home together shall arrive in one vehicle. If there is an out of home parent/guardian they can also come in a separate vehicle.

When: Saturday, June 27th at 1pm

Where: West Valley Central School Main Entrance Circle

Other: Family vehicles will have a pre-planned parking spot facing an outdoor tent space with podium, which will be located at the main entrance. There will be two screens on either side of the podium, which will showcase this year's graduating class while a socially distanced ceremony is conducted. We ask that all family members stay in their vehicles and only graduates exit when called upon during the ceremony.

Class of 2020 Graduation Website & Ceremony Link

Parents, Family, Students, Community Members, please visit the Class of 2020 Graduation Link at the West Valley Web site located at:

<https://www.wvalley.wnyric.org/Graduation2020>

Or go to the main page and click on the **Graduation 2020** link in the top toolbar. A special page has been set up so that everyone can view the ceremony (once completed), learn more about our graduates, and anyone interested can leave a personalized message of congratulations. Congratulations West Valley Class of 2020!

PARADE



3RD QUARTER HONOR & MERIT ROLL

High Honor Roll

- Grade 7 – Eve Niesyty, Maggie Parish
- Grade 9 – Chris Amodeo, Ben Fisher
- Grade 10 – Kayleann Kowalski
- Grade 11 – Chloe Chai
- Grade 12 – Caitlyn Cizdziel, Adriana Roblee

Honor Roll

- Grade 7 – Isabella Gibson, Victoria Parish, Jack Tharnish
- Grade 9 – Jacob Coluci, Kasper Heitman, Nolan Spencer
- Grade 11 – Bella Draine-Soto, Kyle Hickey, Aaron Ignatowski, Kaley McCracken, Leah Seltzer, Alyssa Smith
- Grade 12 – Morgan Drake, Sandra Hebdon

Merit

- Grade 7 – Onnalee Caswell, Walker Herbert, Josh Kowalski, Hailey Robbins, Tyler Trimm
- Grade 8 – Nick Peters, Mara Swan
- Grade 9 – Colleen Keller, Zachary Westfall
- Grade 10 – Nate Niesyty
- Grade 11 – Alex Fisher, Grace Keller
- Grade 12 – Justin Seltzer

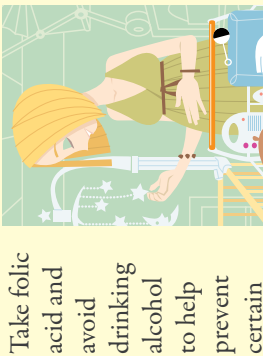




Tips for Raising Safe and Healthy Kids

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

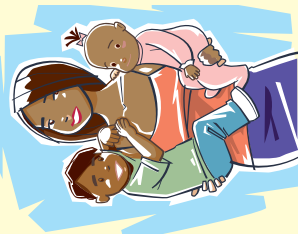
Plan a healthy pregnancy.



Take folic acid and avoid drinking alcohol to help prevent certain birth defects and disabilities. Know your family's health history to see if you and your baby are at higher risk for certain diseases and conditions. Make sure any health conditions you have are under control and that you are up-to-date on your vaccinations.

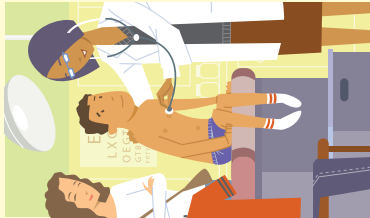
Know the signs of child development.

As your kids grow, they should reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, and act. A delay in any of these areas could be a sign of a developmental problem. The earlier you recognize a delay, the more you can do to help your kids reach their full potential.



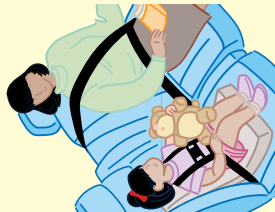
Get check-ups and vaccinations.

Routine check-ups help identify ways to stay healthy and help find health problems early, when chances for treatment are better. Vaccinations help prevent many diseases and save lives. Keep track of your and your family's check-ups and vaccinations to make sure they stay current.



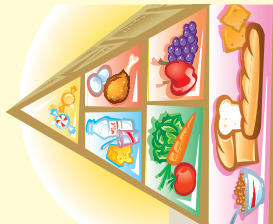
Protect your kids.

Take steps to make sure your home, car, school, and other areas are safe. Use car seats and seat belts for appropriate ages and sizes. Keep harmful substances and objects out of children's reach. Be aware of signs of maltreatment, including physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. Ask a trusted friend or family member to watch your kids if you feel yourself losing control and need a break.



Provide healthy meals.

Eating right will help provide the nutrients needed to have energy, build strong bones, and fight diseases and conditions. For babies, breastfeeding is best. As children grow, help them choose healthy meals and snacks. Pay attention to what and how much they eat. You'll help them stay on track and may uncover problems of which you were unaware.



Keep your kids active.

Help kids and teens be active for at least one hour a day. Include activities that raise their breathing and heart rates and that strengthen their muscles and bones. Find fun, safe, and active things you can do with your kids to help keep the whole family healthy.



Live a smoke-free life.

Being exposed to secondhand smoke is just as harmful as smoking directly. Be smoke-free during pregnancy to prevent premature birth and other health problems. Stay smoke-free to help lower your children's risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), bronchitis, asthma, and pneumonia.



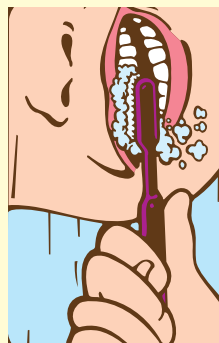
Monitor activities.

Kids learn from family, friends, media, school, and more. Know who they spend time with, what they are doing, and whether their activities are age-appropriate. Know how their schools promote health and safety.



Teach your kids healthy habits.

Help your kids develop skills to make safe and healthy choices every day. These include fastening seat belts, wearing helmets, applying sunscreen, brushing teeth, washing hands, forming healthy relationships, and more. Make safe and healthy choices every day to show kids how to do it.



Provide love and support.

Kids need the support and love of family and friends. Talk to your kids to help them understand how they can be healthy, safe, and happy. Find out what's going on with them and how they are making decisions and handling problems. Respond to their physical and emotional needs. It's important for kids to develop in a safe, loving, and secure environment.



SEGUIMOS APRENDIENDO (WE KEEP LEARNING!)

Check out what we've been working on during our remote learning lessons and independent practice this last month:



Spanish for 6th grade – Los Animales

- We learned the names to so many animals and practiced with them in two of our favorite game formats – JoinMyQuiz and Quizlet. Want to see how well you know or can guess some of the wild animals in Spanish? Try this quiz and see how you do against all other participants! <https://quizizz.com/join?gc=1828258>
- At the end of the unit, students completed a mini-project. In a template with habitat backgrounds, each student added pictures and Spanish labels of animals that could live in each place. Check out some of their slides in the pictures with this article

Spanish 7 - Seasons, Activities, Conjugating & Foods

- We finished our work on the calendar and seasons with a mini-project in Sway. Sway is an Office 365 program that takes students' ideas and makes them beautiful and easy to share. This link (or QR code) will take you to see a few: <https://bit.ly/WVCSsp7>
- Some of the hardest work we do in learning to use Spanish is verbs in sentences - otherwise known as conjugating. We worked diligently on this concept for two weeks and then started one of our favorite units: Food! We will finish the year with a mini-project designing a few meals. If you have a 7th grader in your life, ask them to show you their work about mid-June.

Spanish for 8th grade

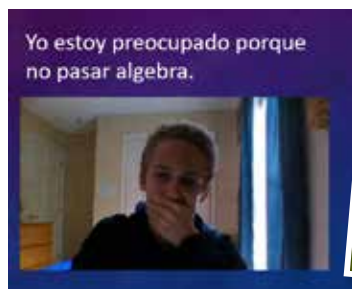
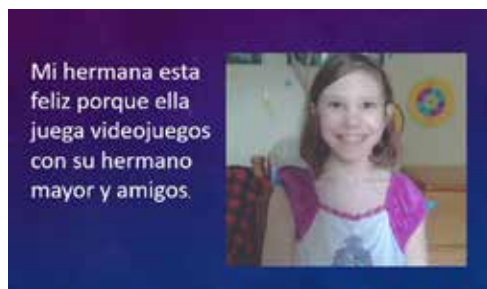
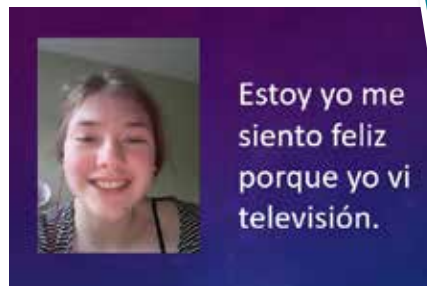
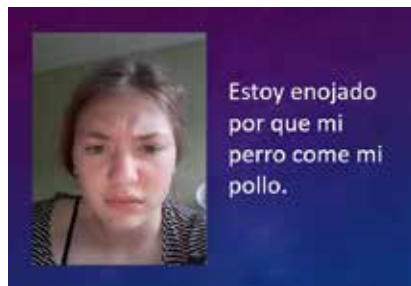
- This year's class is the luckiest class in a long while. I know that might surprise many of you. But #RemoteLearning brought a real blessing to them. NYSED said that they don't have to take and pass the proficiency exam like the 8th graders had to for the last 20 years. They will get their first high school credit in foreign language as long as they pass the class. ¡Que suerte!
- We just finished our chapter on talking about how we feel in Spanish and now we are currently studying the Spanish words for jobs. Check out a few of the slides from our "Proyecto de Sentimientos."

2020 CATTARAUGUS COUNTY YOUTH ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH POSTER CONTEST

The poster contest was open to students attending school in Cattaraugus County grades 6-12. Posters could be created using original hand drawn artwork or digital artwork. The theme of the poster was "_____ is Better than Drinking Alcohol".

Justin Seltzer was selected as a first-place winner in the 9-12 grade category, he won a \$50 Amazon gift card for the poster he made using a photo he took of his dirtbike.

Leah Seltzer was selected as the third-place winner in the 9-12 grade category, she won a \$15 Amazon gift card for the poster she created using a photo she took while baking chocolate chip cookies.



KINDERGARTEN CLASS OF 2020

Congratulations to the Kindergarten class of 2020! You are moving on up to First Grade! What an interesting year it has been! We began our year together in September never knowing that we would end our time together so quickly. I will never forget all the learning, laughs, and smiles that we have shared. You will forever hold a special place in my heart.

I found this poem that another Kindergarten teacher wrote and I think it says it all. Credit to Mrs. Fletcher.

*On March 13th we said good bye,
It felt like a normal day.
Then COVID changed our everything,
I had to teach in a different way.
I missed your smiling faces,
And seeing you each day you came.
Although I taught you from a distance,
It was never quite the same.
I have been so very proud,
You didn't get downhearted.
You finished the race, you didn't give up,
You completed the work you started.
I will always remember the fun we had,
In the first seven months of school.
And how you kept on trucking through,
Well that was pretty cool.
Now our school year is ending,
Go off and enjoy being free!
But please know no matter what,
In my heart you'll always be!*

Love, Mrs. Green



COSMETOLOGY PROGRAM AT CA BOCES

Leah Seltzer, a junior at West Valley Central, is in the Cosmetology program at the CA BOCES Center at Ellicottville. She has been working hard at home to strengthen her professional portfolio! Leah recently worked through certification trainings offered by Well, Schwarzkopf, Joico, GKhair, Virtue, and Behind the Chair University. Great work Leah!



WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

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West Valley, NY 14171
(716) 942-3100

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West Valley, NY

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ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Eric Lawton, Superintendent
Mr. Daniel Amodeo, Pre-K-12 Principal and
District Curriculum Coordinator

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

WWW.WVALLEY.WNYRIC.ORG

WEST VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

The West Valley food pantry will be open by appointment only until further notice. If you are in need of food, I am requesting you call Kris Aldrow 716-942-6690 and I will 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. If you need emergency food please call and I will arrange a pickup or delivery time.

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 has many non-perishable items.

The food pantry is in need of the following items:

- Canned fruit
- Macaroni (no spaghetti)
- Noodles
- Canned vegetables
- Soup
- Salad dressing
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper

We would also like to thank the community for their support during the pandemic. Our needs have increased but your support is allowing us to serve 28-30 families, 27 children, 36 adults and 17 seniors every two weeks.

NURSE LINDSEY'S SUMMER SAFETY MESSAGE

Just a few serious sunburns can increase you and your child's risk of skin cancer later in life. Their skin needs protection from the sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays whenever they're outdoors.

- Use sunscreen with at least SPF (sun protection factor) 15 and UVA (ultraviolet A) and UVB (ultraviolet B) protection every time you and your child go outside.

Protect yourself and your family by preventing bites and diseases, like Zika, West Nile virus and Lyme disease, which can be transmitted by insects.

- Use an effective insect repellent while playing outdoors.

While there is no concussion-proof helmet, a helmet can help protect your child or teen from a serious brain or head injury. Even with a helmet, it is important for your child or teen to avoid hits to the head.

Your child's helmet should fit properly and be:

- Well maintained
- Age appropriate



CCSE FCU LAURIE J URBANSKI MEMORIAL AWARD

Justin Seltzer was the recipient of the CCSE Federal Credit Union's Laurie J Urbanski Memorial Award. He was nominated by his BOCES instructor David Thiel. This award is given to a student who is a strong leader and a hard worker, both in the classroom as well as outside. Mr. Thiel presented Justin with the award and a \$1500 check.



FARM CREDIT EAST SCHOLARSHIP

Individuals pursuing a full-time, post high school education during the upcoming fall semester were eligible to apply for the scholarship. Winners were selected based on their career plans, experience, program of study, and extracurricular activities. Justin Seltzer was selected as a recipient of the \$1500 Farm Credit East Scholarship.

Farm Credit East is dedicated to serving the agricultural credit and financial needs of those in the business of agriculture, including farmers, nursery and greenhouse operators, forest products producers, fishermen, lobstermen, part-time growers, agribusiness owners and country home owners.

