

THE WILDCAT WEEKLY

A Note from Dr. G

Special Summer Edition 2025



Superintendent's Corner

It's August, and we've been busy preparing for an exciting year ahead! Our district leadership retreat marked the first time the entire new leadership team came together. It was a great opportunity to build connections, plan for September (and beyond!), and dive into key topics like professional development, the role of AI in education, and safety and security. We also developed our new Cell Phone Policy. Read more about it on the website!

While summer camps have kept our facilities active, our Extended School Year team has been hard at work helping students stay sharp for the fall and our beautiful turf fields have hosted athletes and community members every day. Behind the scenes, our Buildings and Grounds crew has been transforming our schools — shiny floors, freshly painted walls, and new collaborative classroom furniture are just a few highlights.

We're also excited to share that the PPS team has moved into their new space across from the District Office, the Innovation Lab at WMS is now complete, renovations in the Science Research Suite will be finished before students return, and we've received all approvals to begin capital projects related to the bond at Hawthorne and WHS right on schedule! A few additional updates: the District-wide Safety Plan and the Code of Conduct are available on our website. Our new Cell Phone Plan has been submitted to NYS and the policy and a detailed FAQ is posted online.

Next week, the Summer Newsletter will hit mailboxes, and the school calendar is off to the printer. Enjoy the rest of summer — we can't wait to welcome students back soon!

Noticing the Good

At the July Board of Education reorganization meeting, members Christopher Pinchiaroli and Steven Mastro Simone, who were re-elected in May, were sworn-in. Each of their three-year terms began July 1, 2025 and will expire June 30, 2028. The oath of office was then administered to ex officio student members, WHS seniors Bridget Doherty and Megan Alexander, each for a one-year term. The reorganization meeting also includes the swearing in of our District Clerk, MaryBeth Mancuso (who administered all the oaths except her own, which was done by Dr.G), and our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Peter Giarrizzo.

In addition to the swearing in of new members, Board members elected their leadership. For the 2025-26 school year, Sara Beaty is President and Michael Griffin is Vice President.

Congratulations and thank you all for your service and commitment to our students, families, and community.



Good News on School Taxes!



The final tax rate from the Town of Mt. Pleasant is in — and it's slightly better than projected. Homeowners will see a 0.98% decrease in their school tax rate for the 2025–2026 year (up from the 0.91% decrease we anticipated).

To estimate your new tax:
Your Assessment × \$14.54 ÷ 1,000
Example: An \$8,500 assessment = \$123.61 in school taxes.

While it's a modest change, a decrease in taxes is always welcome news!

The Week Ahead

*details will be sent from each school

- 8/21 - WMS Bagels & Locks
- 8/28 - HES and CES Meet & Greet
- 9/2 - Schools Open for Students, Kindergarten at 9 am
- 9/3 - WHS Meet the Coaches
- 9/4 - HES Back to School Night
- 9/9 - WMS Woo-Hoo 6th Grade Parent Welcome, CES Back to School Night
- 9/18 - Modified Meet the Coaches, WMS Back to School Night
- 9/24 - WHS Back to School Night

In Awe of the Paw – Celebrating Retirees

Westlake High School has been named a New York State School of Distinction for 2024–2025 — an honor awarded to schools whose entire roster of varsity teams earned Scholar-Athlete status with team GPAs of 90 or higher. Only 110 schools statewide received the award this year, and only 10 in Section 1.

Athletic Director Dave Kantrowitz will accept the recognition at the Section 1 AD Workshop this fall. Go Wildcats!

