

Westlake City Schools

QUALITY PROFILE

BEHIND

THE



DISTRICT LEADERSHIP & PARTNERSHIP

Together for Our Schools & Community

Superintendent Message

As we begin a new school year, I am once again reminded of the incredible strength of our Westlake community. Our schools are not just classrooms and hallways; they are places where students are supported, inspired, and challenged to grow into their very best selves.

In this edition of Behind the W, you'll see how we are planning ahead while staying true to the values that have guided Westlake City Schools for decades. Highlights include our continued commitment to financial stewardship, investments in safe and modern facilities, and the addition of Centegix wearable safety badges, which will significantly enhance the safety of our students and staff by improving emergency response times.

We are also excited to share highlights from our newly created four-year Strategic Plan (2025–2029), developed in close partnership with students, staff, families, and community leaders to ensure every voice in our district was heard. You'll also read about the recognition of all our school buildings as Purple Star Schools and the many ways our students continue to shine through music, science, tradition, and service.

Thank you to our families, community partners, and everyone who supports Westlake City Schools for your trust and commitment to our shared mission. We are excited for what lies ahead and confident that, together, we will continue to build on our proud legacy and create even more pathways for the success of each of our students.

Sincerely,
Dr. Scott Goggin
Superintendent



BEHIND



Community Partners

The Westlake City School District is proud to partner with several outstanding support organizations that make a lasting impact on our schools. From funding innovative projects to fostering school spirit and creating enriching opportunities for students, these groups are essential to our success.



westlakemusicboosters.org
 Contact:
wymb.president@gmail.com



westlakeathleticboosters.org
 Contact:
wdabmembership@gmail.com



wlake.org/parents/westlake-council-of-ptas
 Contact:
wcptapres44145@gmail.com



wlake.org/about-us/alumni
 Contact:
Moutoux@wlake.org

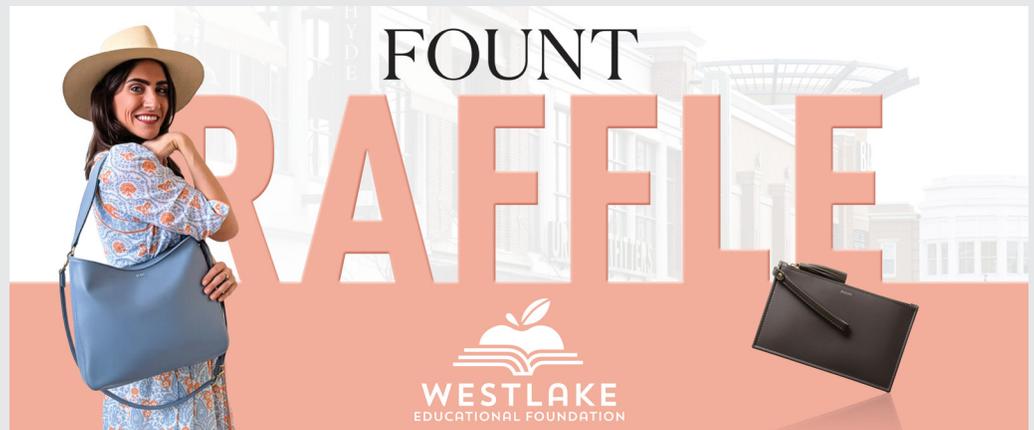


wlake.org/about-us/westlake-educational-foundation
 Contact:
westlakeeducationalfoundation@gmail.com

Support WEF and get a chance to win a bag donated by FOUNT.

Every ticket purchased helps fund innovative programs and resources for Westlake students. Join us in making a difference! Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

The drawing will be held on November 7th at our FOUNT Raffle event at Crocker Park from 4-7pm. Use the QR code to purchase your tickets!





PLANNING AHEAD:

Financial Stewardship and Safety Updates

For decades, Westlake City School District (WCSD) has taken pride in being a responsible steward of the community’s investment in education. With the lowest school residential effective tax rate in Cuyahoga County, our district has managed to deliver excellent schools, safe facilities, and enriching opportunities for students—all while keeping tax requests straightforward and transparent.

This disciplined approach to funding has allowed WCSD to maintain stability and consistency over time. But as state legislators debate changes to property tax collection, the future of that stability is at risk.

A Clear and Simple Approach to Levies

WCSD has avoided complicated levy types. We do not use emergency, replacement, incremental growth, or other specialized levies. Instead, we’ve relied on three clear, effective categories of funding:

OPERATING LEVIES (22.17 MILLS)

Operating levies provide the funding for day-to-day operations, including salaries, transportation, instructional supplies, and utilities.

Our record: Since the consolidation of levies in 1976, Westlake voters have approved just six operating levies—in 1977, 1982, 1989, 1995, 2000, and 2006.

Building on nearly 20 years of careful financial planning:

The last operating levy passed in 2006. This long gap underscores our commitment to managing resources carefully and asking only when necessary.

Current debate: While other districts may rely on fixed-sum emergency or substitute levies, Westlake does not. Ours are continuous, straightforward, and built for long-term stability.

BOND LEVIES (3.13 MILLS)

Bond levies fund large-scale construction projects such as new schools or major renovations. They expire once the project is paid off.

Our record: Westlake currently maintains three bond levies, approved in 2002 (Performing Arts Center), 2010 (Westlake High School, Lee Burneson Middle School, and Dover Intermediate School renovations), and 2016 (Westlake Elementary School).

Community foresight: Because these projects were undertaken at times of lower interest rates and construction costs, our community enjoys safe, modern facilities that deliver exceptional value for decades to come.

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT LEVY (0.53 MILL)

Permanent improvement funds are reserved for capital investments with a lifespan over five years. These cannot be used for daily operations.

Our record: WCSD has just one permanent improvement levy, passed in 2016 in connection with the elementary school project.

Smart investments: Funds have supported essentials like buses, vans, technology infrastructure, projectors, fire alarm upgrades, asphalt repairs, and maintenance equipment—all crucial for keeping our facilities safe, efficient, and future-ready while maintaining the community’s investment in our schools.

Building for the Future: Recent Capital Improvement Projects

Our district is committed to creating safe, modern, and engaging learning environments for all students. Through capital improvement projects, we are ensuring that our schools and facilities support learning today and in the years ahead. These projects reflect a balance of addressing immediate needs while planning for long-term growth and safety.

2022	2023	2024	2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine new buses • Technology infrastructure upgrades to support the 1:1 computer initiative (this initiative began in 2020) • Demolition of three closed elementary buildings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades to softball and baseball fields, including synthetic turf infields, new irrigation for outfields, new dugouts, and updated fencing • Inclusive playground surface installed at WES 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New classroom furniture at Dover Intermediate • WHS track restriped • DIS cafeteria reconfigured to support two lunch lines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure vestibule project at DIS • Partnership with Centegix to enhance school safety with CrisisAlert technology

Since 2016, WCSD has been intentional about how capital improvement funds are used—investing in buses, technology, athletic facilities, safety upgrades, and learning spaces that directly benefit students. These projects highlight our commitment to maintaining and improving district facilities. At the same time, it’s important to recognize that resources are limited; not every project can be completed at once. The district continues to balance ongoing maintenance needs with the careful selection of priority projects to ensure that funds are used effectively and responsibly.



SCHOOL DISTRICT	SCHOOL RESIDENTIAL EFFECTIVE RATE
WESTLAKE	25.824247
Strongsville	29.634207
Cuyahoga Heights	30.045378
Brecksville/Broadview Hts	33.154630
Rocky River	33.403796
Independence	33.853855
Berea	33.865537
Orange	35.066739
East Cleveland	35.303849
Beachwood	36.491531
Lakewood	37.564588
Parma	38.275296
Bedford	39.104243
Solon	39.429333
Cleveland	39.804838
North Royalton	41.419562
Bay Village	42.610912
Mayfield	42.698713
Fairview Park	43.347467
Olmsted Falls	43.497227
Chagrin Falls	44.131048
Richmond Hts	44.713982
Warrensville Heights	45.229331
Euclid	45.994028
S. Euclid / Lyndhurst	46.131930
North Olmsted	46.548558
Brooklyn	49.471735
Maple Hts	55.092061
Garfield Hts	58.651373
Cleveland Hts / Univ. Hts	59.624752
Shaker Hts	68.707880

*School Residential Effective Rate is the tax rate homeowners pay in property taxes for the local school district, including vocational education.

**Source: Data has been compiled from Cuyahoga County, Lorain County, & Medina County DTE 515 tax reports.

A District Built on Stability and at Risk from Change

Today, 76% of WCSD’s revenue comes from property taxes. That represents about 49% of all property taxes collected in Westlake. Unlike some districts, we receive no revenue from community income taxes.

This reliance on property taxes makes legislative changes particularly critical. Proposals to eliminate certain levy types or adjust property tax collection could upend the simple, proven approach that has served Westlake well for nearly half a century.

Yes, our levies are simple. Yes, they are consistent. But that balance is in jeopardy. While we acknowledge the call for property tax reform, significant changes to property tax law could greatly impact our ability to provide the excellent education, safe facilities, and well-rounded experiences our community has come to expect. We urge thoughtful solutions that protect our students’ education and preserve the quality of our schools for the future.

Our Continued Investment in Student Safety

ANOTHER STEP FORWARD IN SAFETY AT DOVER INTERMEDIATE

This summer, Dover Intermediate School (DIS) received a much-anticipated safety upgrade with the addition of a secured, two-level vestibule. For years, Westlake High School, Lee Burneson Middle School, and Westlake Elementary School have benefited from the extra protection of a secure entry system, while DIS had operated with only a single-level entryway that allowed direct access after just one door. The new design creates a buffer zone where office staff can screen and verify visitors before granting access, which adds peace of mind and aligns DIS with districtwide safety standards. The project was funded through the district’s capital improvement budget, and the finished vestibule blends seamlessly with the building’s architecture. A fun fact from the planning process is that one of the DIS secretaries suggested incorporating an internal vestibule, and that idea became the basis of the design now in place! The district is proud to bring this important improvement to DIS and thrilled with both the function and design of the new space.

NEW TECHNOLOGY EMPOWERS STAFF AND PROTECTS STUDENTS ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Safety is a top priority in Westlake City Schools, and this fall, we are implementing the Centegix CrisisAlert system to further strengthen security across the district. CrisisAlert is a trusted safety solution that equips staff with a wearable badge, allowing them to call for immediate help in any medical, behavioral, or security emergency with the press of a button.

The system covers the entire campus—indoors and outdoors—using a private network that works even without Wi-Fi or power. When activated, it instantly alerts first responders with the exact location and issues clear building-wide notifications for rapid, coordinated action.

This partnership with Centegix adds another layer to our established safety procedures, reflecting our commitment to student well-being, family confidence, and proactive community partnerships.

RESPECTING THE COMMUNITY’S INVESTMENT

Westlake City Schools has built trust with our community by asking only for what is needed, managing resources responsibly, and protecting taxpayer investment. We recognize the need for property tax reform and respect the intent behind legislative efforts. But we also urge caution: reform must be measured, not disruptive. The legacy of fiscal responsibility in Westlake has been decades in the making. Preserving that stability is not just about numbers—it’s about protecting the quality of education and the future of our students.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

Shaping the Future, Together

Thank you, Westlake!

This spring, Westlake City Schools launched an inclusive and thoughtful community engagement process to help shape our new Strategic Plan—and we couldn't have done it without you!

With guidance from The Impact Group, we gathered insights through focus groups and surveys that brought together voices from every part of our school community:

- ✓ Middle and high school students
- ✓ Staff and teachers
- ✓ Parents and families
- ✓ Community leaders and partners

More than 400 parents and community members and over 130 staff members responded to surveys, while district leadership took part in a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis to better understand where we are—and where we are going.

These conversations and data gave us a clear, shared view of Westlake's priorities, challenges, and exciting opportunities ahead. Your ideas and input are helping us build a plan rooted in transparency, collaboration, and a united vision for the future.

We are truly grateful to everyone who contributed their time, ideas, and passion. Your voice is helping shape what's next for Westlake City Schools—and we can't wait to move forward together.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey!



BEHIND



THE

WESTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS



GOAL 1

Advance Academic Excellence and Prepare Students for their Futures

Ensure all students achieve their full academic potential and are ready for success in the path they choose after graduation.



GOAL 2

Support Student Well-Being, Safety, and Belonging

Ensure every student learns in a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment that meets their emotional, social, and physical needs.



GOAL 3

Attract, Develop, and Support High-Quality Staff

Recruit, retain, and empower excellent staff by providing strong leadership, meaningful development opportunities, and a collaborative work environment.



GOAL 4

Strengthen Communication and Community Engagement

Build strong relationships and trust with families, staff, and the community through clear communication and meaningful opportunities for involvement and support.



GOAL 5

Facilities and Financial Stewardship

Provide safe and well-maintained learning environments that proactively support evolving student, staff, and program needs and ensure school facilities reflect the community's pride and vision of a future-focused educational experience.



EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

All Westlake Schools Earn Purple Star Award

We're proud to share that all four Westlake City Schools—Westlake High School, Lee Burneson Middle School, Dover Intermediate School, and Westlake Elementary—have been named Purple Star Schools by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

This statewide honor recognizes schools that go above and beyond to support students and families connected to the U.S. Armed Forces. From staff training to student transition programs and schoolwide events, our schools are committed to creating welcoming, stable environments for military-connected students.

"This honor reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring every student feels seen, valued, and supported," Superintendent Dr. Scott Goggin shared.

Each school will proudly display a Purple Star banner and certificate as we continue to recognize and thank our military families for their service and sacrifice.

Learn more at wlake.org/registration1/military-family-resources



Supporting Military Families

Westlake City Schools Named One of the Best Communities for Music Education Five Years in a Row!

For the fifth consecutive year, Westlake City Schools has been recognized as one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation.



Mrs. Patriok was honored with the Manilow Music Teacher Award

She was recognized at Barry Manilow's Cleveland concert, and our music program received \$5,000 for instruments. Congratulations, Mrs. Patriok!

Congratulations to the 2025 Westlake Science Olympiad State Teams!

Westlake Science Olympiad wrapped up its 2024-2025 season with an outstanding performance at the Ohio State Tournament this spring in Columbus. Competing against 80 of the state's top teams, both the high school (Division C) and middle school (Division B) teams showed incredible dedication, resourcefulness, and perseverance, improving their standings from last year.

Division C earned an impressive 9th place overall, with 15 Top Ten placements and three medals, including a 1st place finish in Air Trajectory.

Division B secured 11th place overall, with eight Top Ten placements and five medals earned across multiple events.

The Westlake City Schools Science Olympiad program serves students in grades 7–12 and involves nearly 100 students competing in more than 25 STEM events each year. As part of the national Science Olympiad, the program promotes hands-on learning, critical thinking, and collaboration. Westlake's teams have a proud history of regional wins, state-level placements, and a strong focus on teamwork and community involvement.

Congratulations to all of our Science Olympiad students and coaches on a fantastic season. Your hard work and commitment made Westlake proud.



BEHIND



A Westlake Tradition

Celebrating Over 57 Years of the Demonettes and Debonaires

In the summer of 1967, a new tradition took the field at Westlake High School. Inspired by other schools in the Southwestern Conference, a determined group of students worked to form an all-girls drill team, the “Demonettes”, named in honor of the Westlake Demon.

The idea wasn’t an easy sell at first. Then-Band Director Tom Hill wasn’t sure the team would be a good fit. But with persistence from students Wendy Sheba, Kathy Montgomery, and Diane Poremba, and support from the WHS Student Council, the dream became a reality. Fifty-four students tried out, and 21 made the first team, performing at home basketball games in white vests trimmed in green, topped with large green-and-white pom-poms.

The Demonettes quickly made their mark in the SWC with precise, high-energy routines performed to popular tunes of the time. By the fall of 1968, they officially joined the marching band for football season. Over the years, their uniforms evolved from vinyl jackets sewn by parent volunteers to the signature boots and themed Friday outfits still worn today.

In the late 1970s and 1980s, additions like the Flag Corps—later evolving into the Debonaires—and new fundraising traditions expanded their presence. The Debonaires became an official part of the program in 1986 and have remained a fixture ever since, with audition-based membership and captains chosen through a separate process. The 1990s brought more variety to halftime shows with hoops and swing flags.

While the Demonettes typically include 14-16 girls, the Debonaires include 15-20 girls. Both groups perform three distinct numbers during shows: an Opener, a Feature, and a Closer.

OPENER: The Demonettes march with hoops in routines created by their captains, while the Debonaires use their longest poles, often around 5-1/2 feet, in a marching routine designed by their captains.

FEATURE: The band stands still while both groups perform, the Demonettes with their kickline and pom routines, and the Debonaires using 5-foot poles in routines emphasizing footwork.

CLOSER: The entire band moves as the Demonettes and Debonaires perform the same routine with 3-foot swing flags, choreographed collaboratively by both groups’ captains.

Both groups share fun traditions, including pre-game team dinners, and build friendships that last throughout high school. They also attend band camp every August, preparing for the year ahead.

Today, the Demonettes and Debonaires remain a proud part of Westlake’s school spirit. More than five decades after the first Demonettes performed, both groups continue to bring precision, creativity, and energy to every performance, honoring a legacy built by students, advisors, and alumni alike.





HIGHLIGHTS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

WHS Internship Program

Our Business Connection Internship Program gives seniors real-world experience in professional settings from October through April, helping them explore careers and build workplace skills.

Students gain hands-on experience by assisting with lab experiments and contributing to published research, supporting graduate-level research and thesis work, and gaining exposure to all aspects of private medical practice. They shadow healthcare professionals to observe patient care and office operations, rotate through multiple medical specialties to explore different roles, and contribute to business operations, including meetings, interviews, and company communications.

Interested in becoming a Business Connection partner?

We're always looking for new opportunities for students. Contact **Bob Patton** at pattonb@wlake.org or 440-250-2113 to learn more.

Building Future Skills with Project Lead The Way



Dover Intermediate and Lee Burneson Middle School offer Project Lead The Way, a hands-on program introducing students to biomedical, engineering, and technical careers. Students build problem-solving, teamwork, and communication skills while exploring real-world challenges and preparing for high school and beyond.

Darlene Fossesco

Grade 5 – Science of Technology | Students explore how science drives technology, completing hands-on projects like making ice cream, creating glue, cleaning oil spills, and building Rube Goldberg machines while applying STEM skills to real-world challenges.

Grade 6 – Design & Modeling | Using engineering tools and software, students design, build, and test projects—from orthoses to air skimmers—developing problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork skills.

"I am excited to start my 29th year with two new hands-on courses! Students will explore technology, engineering, and design while building creativity, confidence, and problem-solving skills."



Kip Primrose

Grade 7 - Automation & Robotics | Students act as interns, designing and prototyping solutions for clients while learning mechanical, software, and electrical engineering through hands-on robotics projects.

"Kicking off my 19th year of teaching and coaching, I'm thrilled to dive into automation and robotics with our students! This hands-on course lets them think like engineers—designing, problem-solving, and bringing big ideas to life."



Meg Sherban

Grade 8 – App Creators | Students explore computer science by coding mobile apps that address real-world issues, connecting technology to fields like biomedical science and understanding its societal impact.

"I look forward to beginning my 30th year teaching, which includes bringing PLTW App Creators to LBMS. I can't wait for students to use their creativity and problem-solving skills to code and design apps."



BEHIND





A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE!

Honoring our 2025 Grads

Academic Excellence

240

Graduating Students

100

Students with GPA 4.0 and Higher

124

Students Receiving Academic Awards

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED

Mohammed Asi
Shreya Bangalore
Harmon Basic
Quentin Drake
Rishabh Ranjan
Daria Scott
Bernadette Slattery
Kaovya Vel

NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

Sarah Alahmad
Martin Bala
Luke Melikian
Ashley Spreen
Summer Spreen
Manya Tandon
Connor Tian

OHIO COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

- Ashland University • Baldwin Wallace
- Bowling Green State University • Bryant and Stratton • Case Western Reserve University • Cuyahoga Community College • Heidelberg University • John Carroll University • Kent State University • Lorain County Community College • Miami University • Mount Union • Oberlin College • Ohio Northern University • Ohio University • Ohio Wesleyan University • The Ohio State University • University of Akron • University of Cincinnati • University of Dayton

Scholarships

90

Local Scholarships

58

Students Receiving Local Scholarship

\$107,000

Total Amount of Local Scholarships Awarded

\$1M

IN SCHOLARSHIPS

From the Colleges and Universities the Top 20 WHS Students Plan to Attend

Student Athletes

13 PLAYING (D2 & D3) COLLEGE SPORTS

- Kathryn Knaak:** Women's Volleyball, Ohio Northern University
- Cole Jung:** Baseball, Mount Union
- Jake Jung:** Baseball, Mount Union
- JaCaia Onunwor:** Georgetown College
- Alex Moran:** Baseball, Bryant & Stratton
- Dominic Napoli:** Football, Ashland University
- Ella Henton:** Women's Soccer & Basketball, John Carroll
- Braedon McMillen:** Men's Swimming and Diving, Ohio Northern University
- Avery Shreffler:** Women's Soccer, Queens College
- Jacob Laux:** Men's Soccer, Ohio Wesleyan University
- Austin Schneider:** Men's Track & Field, Case Western Reserve University
- Chase Morgan:** Men's Wrestling, John Carroll University
- Xander Jhaveri:** Men's Tennis, Case Western Reserve University

OUT-OF-STATE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

- Brigham Young University • Cedarville • Clemson University • College of Charleston • DePaul University • Dickinson College • Duke University • Ferris State University • Florida Atlantic University • Florida Memorial University • Georgetown College • Grand Valley State University • Howard University • Loyola University Chicago • Massachusetts Institute of Technology • Michigan State University • Northwestern University • Palm Beach Atlantic University • Purdue University • Queens College • Rhode Island School of Design • The University of Pennsylvania • The University of Tennessee • University of California, LA • University of California, Santa Barbara • University of Central Florida • University of Georgia • University of Kentucky • University of New Hampshire • University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill • University of North Carolina Wilmington • University of Pittsburgh • University of South Florida • West Virginia University

TRADE SCHOOLS

- Aveda Brown Institute
- Cleveland Culinary School
- CNC Machining
- Raphael's School of Beauty Culture
- Universal Technical Institute

Service

13,182

Career Service Hours

Career-Tech

26

Industry Credentials Earned

Military

ARMY
Blake Elkins

Educate for Excellence. Learn with Purpose.

Contact Information

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Joseph Kraft, President
Elizabeth Pirnat, Vice President
John Finucane
Barbara Leszynski
Brad Lamb

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent	Dr. Scott Goggin	440-871-6303
Treasurer	Mr. Todd Hopkins	440-835-6301
Associate Superintendent of Instruction	Mrs. Amanda Musselman	440-250-1269
Director of Secondary Education	Mr. Paul Wilson	440-250-1240
Business Office Manager	Mr. Adam House	440-835-6319
Human Resources	Mr. Robert Maver	440-250-1267
Project Link	Mr. Michael Waters	440-835-6306
Student Services	Ms. Jane Reilly Perry	440-250-1266
Technology	Dr. Pete Zagray	440-250-1283
Transportation	Mr. Quinton Banks	440-835-6313

BUILDING DIRECTORY

Administration/Central Office 440-871-7300
Dover Intermediate School 440-835-5494
Lee Burneson Middle School 440-835-6340
Westlake Elementary School 440-250-1200
Westlake High School 440-835-6352



Westlake City School District

24365 Hilliard Blvd.
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P: (440) 871-7300



STAY CONNECTED:

Explore updates, news, and resources on our website: wlake.org



SOCIAL MEDIA:

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Instagram: [westlakeschools](https://www.instagram.com/westlakeschools)
X: [@WestlakeSchools](https://twitter.com/WestlakeSchools)



Don't Miss a Beat with the Key Communicator!

Our district newsletter is your source for important updates, student highlights, and future planning news. But remember: it's only available through ParentSquare. Sign up today to stay connected!



The ParentSquare apps are free and available in both the Apple iOS and Android stores.