

# WHITESBORO

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSPIRE | CULTIVATE | EMPOWER



### WHITESBORO CELEBRATES HOMECOMING WITH BLUE & WHITE PARADE AND SENIOR NIGHT

On October 17, the Whitesboro varsity football and cheerleading teams celebrated their Senior Nights prior to the homecoming football game at Chiz Frye Stadium. The festivities began following the annual Blue and White Parade, which brought the entire community together in a spirited display of Whitesboro pride.

Before kickoff, senior football players and cheerleaders were honored during a heartfelt ceremony, escorted by their parents and family members. Adding a meaningful touch to the evening, the cheerleaders performed the national anthem in sign language and led the crowd in singing the Alma Mater. The stands were filled with students, staff, administrators and families proudly dressed in blue and white, cheering on their teams with enthusiasm.

The evening concluded on a celebratory note as Whitesboro earned a decisive 36-0 victory over Watertown. The District extends its heartfelt congratulations to all senior athletes and cheerleaders for their dedication, leadership and contributions — both on and off the field — and wishes them continued success in all their future endeavors.

Turn to page 6 to read more!



NOVEMBER 2025

DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT  
Page 5

WINTER SPORTS REGISTRATION  
Page 6

**Dear Parents, Guardians and School Community Members:**

We have had an outstanding start to the school year! The energy and enthusiasm across our schools have been inspiring as students and staff dive into new learning, activities and opportunities.

As you will see in this issue, our students continue to achieve in academics, athletics and the arts — reflecting their hard work and the dedication of our talented staff and supportive families.

We are making great strides in advancing our Five-Year Plan, focusing on innovative instruction, student engagement and continuous improvement across all schools. In addition, we continue to build strong partnerships that support the academic, social and emotional well-being of our students and families.

As the holiday season approaches, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for your continued commitment to our District, programs and — most importantly — students. Your dedication, teamwork and care make a tremendous difference each and every day.

Together, we create a learning environment where students can grow, achieve and thrive.

I wish you and your loved ones a joyful and restful holiday season, filled with peace and gratitude. Thank you for all you do to make our District such a special place, and I look forward to our continued collaboration and shared accomplishments in the new year.

Warm regards,

**Dr. Brian K. Bellair**

*Superintendent of Schools*



## THREE WHITESBORO STAFF MEMBERS HONORED BY GENESIS GROUP

The Whitesboro Central School District is proud to announce the following staff members who were selected by the Genesis Group for the 19th Annual Celebration of Education.

### Education Hall of Distinction:

**DR. BRIAN BELLAIR**

Superintendent of Schools



**LISA PUTNAM**

Retired Whitesboro CSD Principal



### Outstanding Educator:

**ROBERT BURNS**

Parkway Social Studies Teacher



A dinner and award presentation will take place on November 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hart's Hill Inn.

**Congratulations to our award winners on this outstanding accomplishment!**



# WHITESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Below is a description of the New York State standardized terminology that the District is using during emergencies. Depending on the nature of the incident, the school will implement one of the following protective actions:

## SHELTER-IN-PLACE

Used to shelter students and staff inside the building in the event it is safer inside the building than outside. For example, this response might be implemented in the event of severe weather.

## HOLD-IN-PLACE

Used to limit movement of students and staff while dealing with short-term emergencies, such as maintenance issues or medical emergencies.

## EVACUATE

Used to evacuate students and staff from the building. When an evacuation is necessary, students can be moved outside on school grounds or to a predetermined shelter site depending on the situation, such as in the event of a fire.

## SECURE LOCKOUT

Used to secure school buildings & grounds during incidents that pose an imminent concern outside of the school.

## LOCKDOWN

Used to secure school buildings & grounds during incidents that pose an immediate threat of violence in or around the school.



## BLUE LIGHTS

External and internal blue lights are used to inform students, staff and visitors that the building is in Lockdown. The Lockdown may be a drill or in response to an actual emergency. Prominently posted signs regarding our blue emergency lights are located at each main building entrance. These signs advise all visitors to leave the campus if the lights are on (call the main office to confirm it is safe to return to the building in the event it was just a drill).



## EMERGENCY AWARENESS FOR PARENTS

### PREPARATION FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:

1. Make sure emergency contact information is correct: mailing address, phone numbers and pick-up information. Your child will only be released to parents and persons identified on the emergency contact list.
2. Keep medical information and medications up to date with the school nurse.
3. Review the emergency response information with your child. Remind them to listen to their teacher/staff for instructions and to remain calm. Explain to them that they may be moved to a different location in the event of an emergency. Talking with your child ahead of time can help to ease anxiety and fear if an emergency occurs.
4. Keep alert. Report any suspicious behaviors or activities to school administration or law enforcement.
5. "See Something, Say Something!"

### IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY AT SCHOOL:

1. If an emergency occurs, student safety is the first priority.
2. **DO NOT RESPOND TO THE SCHOOL UNTIL NOTIFIED TO DO SO.** Listen for further instruction. Monitor the District's school messenger system and the District's website for [official information](#). Be accessible through the emergency phone numbers you provided to the school.
3. **Students will be held in school custody until the emergency has been declared safe.** If your child will be dismissed directly to your custody or the custody of persons identified on the emergency contact list, they must be signed out.
4. When picking up your child, ensure that you have proper identification with you. During an emergency, pickup procedures may be different and ID may be required to release your child.

## DISTRICT INFORMATION

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
315.266.3303  
315.266.3306

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
315.266.3200

**PARKWAY  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
315.266.3175

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
315.266.3100

**DEERFIELD  
ELEMENTARY**  
315.266.3410

**HART'S HILL  
ELEMENTARY**  
315.266.3430

**MARCY  
ELEMENTARY**  
315.266.3420

**WESTMORELAND  
ROAD ELEMENTARY**  
315.266.3440

COMMUNITY/LOCAL  
**RESOURCES**  
FOR FAMILIES

**INFO - REFERRAL SERVICES**

**MVCAA/Runaway and Homeless Youth Program**  
315.624.9930/director@mvca.org

**Neighborhood Center**  
315.272.2630/info@neighborhoodctr.org

**Oneida County Dept. of Social Services**  
315.798.5804

**FOOD - CLOTHING - SHELTER**

**Food Bank of Central New York**  
315.437.1899 or visit [www.foodbankcny.com](http://www.foodbankcny.com)

**Evelyn's House**  
*Serves pregnant/parenting women ages 16-24*  
315.733.0236

**Housing Info & Referral Center**  
315.735.5246 or 211

**It Takes a Village Diaper Bank**  
315.841.8512/villagediapers@gmail.com

**Mother Marianne's West Side Kitchen**  
702 Columbia St., Utica, NY 13502  
315.735.3289

**Oneida and Herkimer County  
Department of Social Services**  
*HEAP, SNAP, medical assistance, rental assistance*  
315.798.5700 or 315.867.1291  
[socialservices@oneidacountyny.gov](mailto:socialservices@oneidacountyny.gov)

**\*Rescue Mission**  
*Serves males 18+, 212 Rutger St.*  
315.735.1645/mail@uticamission.org

**FOOD PANTRIES  
IN SURROUNDING AREA**

**Angels Among Us Food Pantry**  
66 Oxford Rd. New Hartford, NY 13413  
2nd and 4th Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Community Assistance  
Catholic Charities of Oneida/Madison County**  
1408 Genesee Street, Utica, NY  
Provides assistance with basic needs for individuals or families who have emergency need

**Johnson Park Center Food Pantry  
Johnson Park Center**  
1404 West Street, Utica, NY  
Provides a food pantry for individuals and families in need

**Mohawk Valley Church Food Pantry**  
9427 Maynard Drive, Marcy, NY  
Assists individuals and families once every month by providing enough food for three days

**Rescue Mission Utica**  
293 Genesee Street., Utica, NY  
315.735.1645  
Provides a food pantry to individuals in need.

**Foothills Food Pantry**  
7835 Church Street, Holland Patent, NY  
315.735.1645  
Assists individuals and families once every month by providing enough food for five days

**Salvation Army of Utica Food Pantry -  
Salvation Army of Utica**  
14 Clinton Place, Utica, NY  
Assists individuals and families once every month by providing enough food for three days

**Seeds of Hope Food Pantry -  
First Presbyterian Church of Utica**  
1605 Genesee Street, Utica, NY  
Provides a food pantry to individuals in need

**St. Clare's Cupboard Thea Bowman House, Inc.**  
731 Lafayette Street, Utica, NY  
Provides a food pantry

**St. John's Outreach Food Pantry**  
1119 Elm Street, Utica, NY  
Provides a food pantry for individuals in need, which can be accessed once a month

**St. Margaret's Food Pantry at Grace Church  
Grace Church**  
11 Devereux Street, Utica, NY  
Provides a food pantry for individuals in need

**Thea Bowen Food Pantry**  
702 Columbia Street, Utica, NY  
Monday-Thursday, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

**Trinity United Methodist Church  
Community Cupboard**  
8595 Westmoreland Road, Whitesboro, NY  
Provides a food cupboard with 24/7 access to individuals in need

**Utica Food Pantry**  
729 Broadway Street, Utica, NY  
Provides a food pantry to individuals and families in need

**Veteran's Outreach Center Food Pantry  
Central New York Veteran's Outreach Center**  
726 Washington Street, Utica, NY  
Provides a food pantry for veterans in Central New York

**Westminster Moriah Olivet  
Presbyterian Church Food Pantry**  
730 Broadway, Utica, NY  
Assists individuals and families once every month by providing enough food for three days

**WHERE TO GET A MEAL**

**\*Hope House**  
112 South St., Mon.-Sat.: 10-11 a.m.,  
12-1 p.m. & 4-5 p.m.; Sun.: 12-1 p.m. & 4-5 p.m.  
315.793.3723

**Mother Marianne's West Side Kitchen**  
702 Columbia St., Utica, NY 13502  
315.735.3289

**\*Rescue Mission of Greater Utica**  
201 Rutger St., Mon.-Fri.: 7-7:30 a.m.,  
12-12:30 p.m. & 4-4:25 p.m.; Weekend: 8-8:30 a.m.  
12-12:30 p.m. & 4-4:25 p.m.  
315.735.1645/mail@uticamission.org

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

**ACR Health: LGBTQ Support Group**  
315.475.2430

**Catholic Charities**  
315.724.2158

**Empowered Pathways**  
315.724.1718/info@empoweredpathwayscny.org

**Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York**  
315.793.7000/info@lasmny.org

**On-Point for College**  
315.790.5588

**The Salvation Army (Utica)**  
315.724.8736/kelly.ross@use.salvationarmy.org

**Working Solutions**  
315.793.2229

**HEALTH: ADDICTION,  
COUNSELING & WELL-BEING**

**Addiction Stabilization Center**  
315.735.1645

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
315.732.6880

**Beacon Center**  
315.366.4100

**Behavioral Services**  
315.798.8868/info@therapycny.com

**Center for Family Life & Recovery**  
315.733.1709

**Central New York Health Home Network**  
315.624.9670

**Clinton Therapy and Testing Center**  
315.859.1973

**Health Friends**  
315.724.0988

**Integrated Community Alternatives  
Network (ICAN)**  
315.792.9039

**Integrated Community Alternatives  
Network (ICAN)**  
315.792.9039

**Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center**  
315.738.3800

**Maria Horan and Associates**  
315.724.5344

**New Hartford Associates**  
315.765.0121

**Oneida County Dept. of Mental Health**  
315.768.3659

**Planned Parenthood**  
315.724.6146

**Resource Center for Independent  
Living RCIL**  
315.797.4642

**Samaritan Counseling Center**  
315.724.5173

**CHILDCARE**

**The Neighborhood Center**  
315.272.2600

**OTHER SERVICES**

**Government Phone Program**  
[www.assurancewireless.com](http://www.assurancewireless.com)

**Initial Response Team (IRT)**  
*Located at the middle and high school  
(attendance issues/truancy)*

**Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT)**  
315.732.6228 or 1.844.732.6228

**Oneida County Child Advocacy Center**  
315.732.3990 or 315.732.2804

**Oneida County Child  
Protective Services**  
315.798.5364 or 315.798.5700

**PINS and Pre-PINS**  
*(Persons in Need of Supervision) for  
incorrigible and/or truant youth*

**For more information,  
visit [www.211midyork.org](http://www.211midyork.org)**

**HOTLINES**

**American Pregnancy Hotline**  
1.800.672.2296

**Child Abuse Hotline**  
1.800.342.3720 or text "START" to 88788

**LGBTQ National Hotline**  
1.888.843.4564 or text "HOME" to 741741

**MVCAA Runaway and  
Homeless Youth 24hr Hotline**  
315.624.9930

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**  
988

**National Runaway Safeline**  
1.800.RUNAWAY

**NYS Domestic Violence 24hr Hotline**  
1.800.799.7233 or text 1.844.997.2121

**Teen Line**  
1.800.852.8336 or text "TEEN" to 839863

**YWCA Confidential 24hr  
Crisis Hotline (Domestic Violence)**  
315.797.7740

**In an Emergency - Dial 911**





**This month, we are shining a light on the incredible work happening within our Transportation Department.**

**Who We Are:**

Our Transportation Department is made up of 94 dedicated individuals, including bus drivers, bus attendants, mechanics and substitutes. Its mission is to provide safe and efficient transportation to and from school. Before a student ever walks into a classroom, the team works to make them feel safe, welcomed and seen.

**What We Do:**

The department provides a safe, welcoming environment for all students during transportation to and from school, as well as to school activities and athletic events.

Here are a couple of things the team has been working on recently:

- Supporting after-school tutoring: The department provided transportation for an after-school tutoring program, offering students extra help at a crucial time of the year.
- Reliable event service: The department continues to provide reliable and flexible transportation to school activities and sporting events, supporting students throughout their academic careers.

**Behind the Scenes:**

Did you know that the Transportation Department travels over 800,000 miles each year? The bus drivers and attendants are often at work and on the road as early as 5:30 a.m.

**Looking Ahead:**

We are excited about prioritizing safety and supporting the school system through its transportation needs. Our department is committed to building our team through continued training and providing the safest form of surface transportation.



**WHITESBORO RANKS AMONG U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT BEST SCHOOLS**

On October 28, U.S. News & World Report released its 2026 Best Elementary Schools and Best Middle Schools rankings. Previously on August 19, 2025, Best High School rankings were published. We are proud to share that several of our schools earned this prestigious recognition.

Three of our elementary schools, our Middle School Campus schools and Whitesboro High School were recognized among the Best Schools, placing among the top 40% of schools statewide.

The schools recognized are:

- Deerfield Elementary
- Hart's Hill Elementary
- Marcy Elementary
- Parkway School
- Whitesboro High School
- Whitesboro Middle School



For each state, schools were evaluated based on students' proficiency in mathematics and reading as measured by state assessments. Half of the ranking formula reflected assessment results, while the other half accounted for socioeconomic demographics — highlighting schools that excel in educating all students.

Congratulations to all of our students, staff and administrators whose dedication and hard work made this recognition possible.

ATHLETICS

# WINTER SPORTS REGISTRATION UNDERWAY

Winter sports registration for varsity, JV and modified teams is open now.

### Varsity & JV Teams, Modified Volleyball and Modified Wrestling

• Tryouts begin Monday, November 17

### All Other Modified Winter Sports

• Tryouts begin Monday, December 1

The link to register can be found on [wboro.org/athletics/athletic-registration](http://wboro.org/athletics/athletic-registration).

## Whitesboro Celebrates Homecoming with Blue & White Parade and Senior Night

The seniors for each team are listed below

#### Senior varsity football players:

#30 Maximillian Blando  
#61 Matthew Calhoun  
#17 Arthur Cornine  
#21 Joseph Dare  
#54 Ethan Douglass  
#88 Brandon Fanfarillo

#75 Kevin George  
#1 John Grieco III  
#79 Niko Grossi  
#5 Adam Gutowski  
#10 Michael Hill  
#13 Simon Kichuk

#77 Matthew Kiszewski  
#23 Lukas Koch  
#51 Frank Lekki  
#22 Noah Long  
#78 Jovani Norris  
#7 Carter Pauquette

#28 Jeffrey Reppel  
#43 Connor Robinson  
#80/70 Roman Sheaffer  
#84 Kingston Spatola  
#11 Brady Urgan  
#6 Tyler Vanno

#### Senior varsity cheerleaders:

Alyss Bronga  
Katelyn Fedee  
Trinity Kubinski  
Olivia Latella

Jocelyn O'Connor  
Grace Olds  
Mireya Pinkos  
Elizabeth White





On October 23, the Whitesboro High School Music Department successfully presented its 53rd Annual Optimist Collage Concert, a thrilling showcase of its talented student-musicians. This unique event highlighted the best of the band, chorus and orchestra programs.

The concert featured 90 minutes of continuous music, spanning everything from full ensembles and quartets to a cappella groups and soloists. Under the direction of Mrs. DePalma, Mrs. Ruggio and Mrs. Williams, students performed an impressive 25 pieces of music. What made the performance truly special was the staging — students performed from four locations within the theater, surrounding the audience with incredible sound and truly showcasing the depth and breadth of the Whitesboro music program.

## Seniors Capture Victory in 12TH Annual POWDERPUFF Game



On October 18, junior and senior girls at Whitesboro High School faced off under the lights of Chiz Frye Stadium for the 12th Annual Powderpuff Game — a spirited finale to Whitesboro's Blue and White Week. For over a decade, this beloved tradition has united the community and raised nearly \$30,000 for cancer awareness and other charitable causes.

This year's game honored the memory of Mark Tritten, Whitesboro High School's beloved head custodian, who passed away over the summer after a courageous battle with cancer. In tribute to his love for the Buffalo Bills, the evening's theme celebrated his favorite team, with proceeds benefiting a one-time scholarship established in his name.

Both teams impressed with sharp passes, long runs and standout plays. Seniors Ava Thorngren (two touchdowns), A'Nya Jackson, Maddy Montana, Gianna Ross and Sa'mari Bland led their team to a 44–20 win, converting every two-point attempt. For the juniors, Brooke Sherline scored twice and Chloe Aiello added one.

Halftime brought plenty of smiles and laughter as the junior and senior boys performed a dance routine choreographed by cheerleading Coach Kristen DiGiorgio with the help of seniors Mireya Pinkos, Olivia Latella, Mary Kate Nofri and Lizzie White.

Capping off a night of pride, unity and tradition, the seniors claimed victory while the event celebrated the heart and spirit of the Whitesboro community.

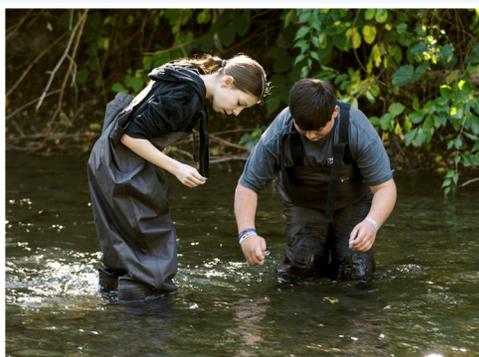
# CREEK WEEK

From September 30 through October 2, Mrs. Butka and Mrs. Dote's seventh-grade science classes participated in "Creek Week," a multi-day field study to determine the health of the local Sauquoit Creek's ecosystem.

The students spent the first day making detailed observations of the creek and its surrounding environment, noting the weather, creek bed, shoreline and nearby land usage. They then dedicated a day to collecting abiotic data, carefully measuring metrics such as pH, water temperature, dissolved oxygen levels, turbidity (cloudiness), depth and velocity.

The final day of collection involved gathering macroinvertebrate specimens. Following their fieldwork, the students returned to the lab where they identified and cataloged all 1,000 live macroinvertebrates they collected.

After a thorough analysis of all the data gathered, the students were pleased to conclude that the Sauquoit Creek's ecosystem is very healthy.



## SPIRIT WEEK CELEBRATION



Our middle school campus was full of energy and pride during Blue and White Spirit Week! Students and staff participated in themed days like Dynamic Duo/Twin Day, Who's Who Wednesday, Love Like Olivia Day and Blue and White Day, showing off their creativity and school spirit.

The middle school campus was thrilled to welcome the varsity team captains and cheer squad for an exciting pep rally. Students from fall athletics — including modified football, soccer, tennis, JV cheerleading and more — celebrated their accomplishments, while Mrs. Nobis's students sang The Star-Spangled Banner and Ms. Hughes's students performed the Alma Mater. Our clubs were also recognized at the pep rally for their hard work, including the STEAM Club, Art Club, Book Club, Chess Club and many others.

The pep rally featured activities like a pie-in-the-face contest, dance routines from the cheerleaders and a spirited talk from the girls varsity soccer captain Jillian Davis, encouraging everyone to support our teams.

### What a fantastic way to end the week — Go Blue!



# Teachers Go Gold



## for Childhood Cancer Awareness

In a show of solidarity for childhood cancer awareness, our teachers donned gold on September 19. This initiative aims to raise awareness and support for children battling cancer and their families. By wearing gold, our educators are not only demonstrating their commitment to this important cause, but also fostering a spirit of community and compassion within our school. Thank you to all the teachers for your support in shining a light on childhood cancer awareness!

## MANDARIN CLASSES CELEBRATE THE MOON FESTIVAL

Our Mandarin Chinese classes recently celebrated the Moon Festival (中秋节 Zhōngqiū Jié) with a fun and meaningful activity — making mooncakes together in class! Students learned about the cultural significance of the holiday, which celebrates family, unity and the full moon.

As part of the celebration, students also prepared a special delivery of mooncakes for our campus administration to share the spirit of the holiday and show appreciation.

By making and sharing mooncakes, students experienced a rich cultural tradition while building community across our school. It was a joyful and delicious way to celebrate Chinese culture and traditions!



## NEW INTRAMURAL CHEERLEADING PROGRAM TAKES THE FIELD

This year, Whitesboro proudly introduced a new intramural cheerleading program for seventh- and eighth-grade students. The team kicked off its inaugural season on September 3 and was soon cheering on the sidelines at its first modified football game.

Designed to welcome students of all abilities and experience levels, the program gives young athletes the chance to learn cheerleading fundamentals, strengthen existing skills and get involved in their school community. With an emphasis on teamwork, sportsmanship and school spirit, the program offers students a fun and meaningful way to represent Whitesboro.

The intramural cheer program is already off to a strong start, and we are excited to see it continue to grow. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the Whitesboro community for its ongoing support!



## Deerfield Students Participate in **FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM**



On October 9, Deerfield Elementary students took part in a fire safety program at the Deerfield Fire Department. Students learned important fire safety lessons, including how to call 911 in an emergency, how to safely exit their home if a smoke detector goes off and the importance of identifying a family meeting place outside the home in case of a fire.

The students were thrilled to meet Sparky, the Deerfield firefighters' beloved mascot, and one of the biggest highlights of the day was the firetruck escort back to school, complete with flashing lights and sirens!

Deerfield Elementary staff and students extend a heartfelt thank you to the Deerfield Fire Department for providing such an engaging and educational experience.

## DEERFIELD SECOND GRADE STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE **LIFECYCLE OF A MONARCH**



Second graders in Mrs. Gleasman's class started the school year with a unique class pet – a monarch caterpillar! After reading information about this native insect, students watched its lifecycle and incredible metamorphosis unfold right in front of their eyes. Students watched in wonder the stages of the caterpillar – from the chrysalis to an adult butterfly.

The butterfly, named Michelle by the class, took flight on September 22. The Deerfield second graders had the opportunity to watch her fly off into the morning sunshine as her colorful wings emerged into the sky. Michelle is off to find her new home in the south before she will start her journey back north to start the lifecycle all over again.

## WHITESBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CELEBRATE *"Love Like Olivia Day"*

On October 16, each of the Whitesboro elementary schools hosted "Love Like Olivia Day," an annual event dedicated to celebrating the life and lasting legacy of Olivia Rose Sacco. Students, teachers and staff showed their support by wearing purple (Olivia's favorite color) and participating in activities that promote kindness and compassion — values that reflect Olivia's bright and loving spirit.

To inspire students to become "world changers" and spread kindness, each school hosted special art and music performances. Students at Deerfield and Marcy Elementary Schools enjoyed "Emotion into Art," an inspirational presentation by speed painter and speaker Tom Varano. Meanwhile, students at Hart's Hill and Westmoreland Road Elementary Schools enjoyed performances by award-winning singer and songwriter Jared Campbell.

In addition to these activities, each school collected donations to benefit the Olivia Rose Sacco Memorial Scholarship, which honors a Whitesboro senior who exemplifies kindness. Some schools, like Deerfield Elementary, creatively raised funds through a schoolwide lemonade stand.

Through this annual event, Olivia's legacy of love and compassion continues to shine brightly throughout the community. "Love Like Olivia Day" stands as a symbol of hope, encouraging everyone to embrace her joyful spirit and spread kindness wherever they go.





# HART'S HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL



On September 26, Hart's Hill Elementary welcomed families for its annual Scholastic Book Fair and Ice Cream Social. Students and their parents/guardians had the opportunity to browse and purchase books at the fair, then enjoy ice cream sundaes together in the cafeteria.

"This event is a meaningful way to cultivate a culture of reading and empower students through the joy of books. It is also a wonderful evening to meet with families and come together as a school community," said Mr. Manolescu, principal for Hart's Hill Elementary.

A special thank you goes out to the Hart's Hill PTO for their hard work in organizing this event, as well as Stewart's Shops for generously donating ice cream sundaes for all to enjoy.



## HART'S HILL ON THE MOVE KICKS OFF 16TH YEAR



On October 2, Hart's Hill Elementary proudly kicked off the 16th year of its annual wellness program, Hart's Hill on the Move! The after-school program encourages fourth- and fifth-grade students to stay active while building teamwork, problem-solving skills and lifelong healthy habits.

Students dove right into the first session with an outdoor puzzle adventure. Working in teams, they solved riddles that guided them to a special Hart's Hill landmark on school grounds. Along the way, there was plenty of laughter, collaboration and, of course, lots of movement!

The program is off to an energetic start, and we are looking forward to a fantastic fall session filled with activity, fun and wellness.



## Deerfield Elementary PARTY ON THE PLAYGROUND AND HOTDOG ROAST

On September 19, Deerfield Elementary School hosted its annual Party on the Playground and Hotdog Roast. The popular event brought Deerfield families together for an evening of fun and community.

Students and their families enjoyed playing on the playground, making baskets on the basketball court and socializing with one another. Deerfield Elementary staff members cooked and served hotdogs, along with a variety of snacks and drinks for everyone.

The annual party is a wonderful tradition and a great way for the entire Deerfield school community to connect and celebrate the start of a new school year.



# ~Hart's Hill Celebrates~ September Character Matters Honorees

*Hart's Hill Elementary's new "Character Matters" initiative recognizes students for exemplary character.*

This year, Hart's Hill Elementary is putting a special emphasis on Character Education through a new "Character Matters" initiative. Each month, students and staff focus on a different character trait, exploring what it means and how to practice it in everyday life—both in and out of school. Through morning announcements, classroom discussions, morning meetings and daily interactions, students are learning how to be positive role models and make thoughtful, responsible choices.

In September, the spotlight was on responsibility. Morning announcements shared examples of how students can demonstrate responsibility at school, at home and in the community. Teachers encouraged deeper reflection by incorporating conversations and activities into their classroom routines.

Students who went above and beyond in showing responsibility were recognized with a Character Award, a certificate and a sweet ice cream treat! In addition, students can now recognize their peers by submitting "shout-out" tickets for responsible actions. These shout-outs are shared during morning announcements and can be dropped off in the Character Mailbox located by the main office.

Together, the Hart's Hill school community is celebrating positive character traits—one month, and one meaningful action, at a time!

## September Character Matters Award/Certificate recipients:

Maura Aery  
Vinny Calabrese  
Julian (JJ) Collea  
Isabella Curtacci  
Catherine Dillon  
Emilia DiPietro

Rowan Edwards  
Brooklyn Froio  
Grace Gardiner  
Rowan Hulser  
Jordyn Johnson  
Ayla Kallies

Rory Miller  
Raina Nandzik  
Angelo Pekala  
Benjamin Rainbow  
Kobe Sarner  
Alexandria Schoen

Veronica Susianto  
Josie Simpson  
Zachary Slover  
Lucas Tarkowski  
Scarlett Wiggins  
Jessica Zhushma



## HART'S HILL ELEMENTARY "GOES GOLD" FOR PEDIATRIC CANCER!

On September 29, Hart's Hill Elementary students and staff showed their support for Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month by wearing gold, the official color of pediatric cancer awareness. Together, they helped shine a light on the importance of research, support and hope—and reminded us all that everyone can play a part in helping to find a cure.



## MARCY ELEMENTARY HOSTS BACK-TO-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

On September 11, Marcy Elementary welcomed families for its annual Open House. The well-attended event gave parents and guardians a great opportunity to tour the building, meet their children's teachers and learn about the school's instructional programs.

Teachers went over classroom expectations and curriculum, and gave families a chance to admire the impressive work students have already completed. Throughout the evening, guests learned about exciting opportunities for engagement, including the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and various other volunteer roles.

Teachers enjoyed meeting their students' families, and students had a blast showing their parents and guardians around the school. It was a great way to kick off the 2025-26 school year!



## MARCY PTO FALL FEST BRINGS FALL FUN AND SMILES TO STUDENTS

On October 24, the halls of Marcy Elementary buzzed with excitement as students gathered for the Marcy PTO Fall Fest. Many students showed up in costume, ready to dive into a night packed with festive games and activities celebrating the season.

The event featured a variety of engaging activities that kept everyone entertained, including pumpkin ring toss, corn toss, candy corn bowling, beanbag toss and pumpkin checkers. The photo booth was a hit, capturing joyful moments and creative costumes. Students also enjoyed pumpkin painting, crafts, crossword puzzles, word searches, temporary tattoos and fall bingo, sparking both fun and creativity.

For those with a competitive spirit, the pumpkin-sweeping race, candy corn relay race, three-legged race, tug of war and sack races provided plenty of energetic challenges. A special Utica Yard Card added a creative twist to the festivities and another photo opportunity.

To keep everyone fueled, food trucks offered tasty treats and meals, giving students a chance to refuel and socialize.

A huge thank you goes out to all the teacher and parent volunteers whose time and effort made Marcy Fall Fest possible. Your support helped create a safe, fun and memorable experience for all the students.

Overall, the Marcy PTO Fall Fest was a huge success, filling the school with laughter, fun and community spirit. Students had an absolute blast celebrating the season together, making this event a memorable highlight of the fall!



## WESTMORELAND ROAD ELEMENTARY HOSTS TRUNK-OR-TREAT

On October 29, Westmoreland Road Elementary School celebrated the Halloween season with a festive Trunk-or-Treat event. Teachers, staff, students and their families gathered for an evening of spooky fun.

Teachers and staff went all out, decorating their cars' trunks and dressing in creative costumes to hand out candy to trick-or-treaters. Students, in turn, showcased their own imaginative costumes as they happily traveled from car to car with their families, collecting treats along the way.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the entire community to come together and enjoy each other's creativity and school spirit. A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated Westmoreland Road PTO for organizing this fantastic annual event for our students!



# Marcy Elementary KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

On September 3, Marcy Elementary School hosted its Kindergarten Open House. Incoming kindergarteners had the chance to explore their classrooms, meet their teachers, make new friends and become familiar with the school to help ease first-day jitters.

Teachers and staff were excited to welcome the newest Marcy Elementary students and look forward to a wonderful school year ahead!



## WEST. ROAD Chalk the Walk

On September 3, Westmoreland Road had its first ever Chalk the Walk event. Families were invited to the building to write/draw a positive message for their children as they prepared for the first day of school. Many families came out for the event, along with students from our school who designed a number of positive messages and images for fellow students and faculty.

The goal of this activity was to promote school spirit and community pride for Westmoreland Road. Parents and families are the foundation of setting their children up for success, so it is important for them to feel a connection with their children's school. This event allowed students to show off their artistic expression and families to share messages for their children that were uplifting and supportive, especially for those students experiencing their first time at school.



## WEST. ROAD SAFETY PRESENTATION

Our assistant superintendents recently provided a safety presentation on the statewide emergency response procedures. They incorporated motivating and exciting videos to demonstrate each of the emergency response protocols, a creative way of capturing student attention and interest. Many students were able to recall the procedures and enjoyed the presentation.



## WESTMORELAND ROAD ELEMENTARY WELCOMES FAMILIES AT ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE



On September 9, Westmoreland Road Elementary hosted an Open House to welcome families to the new school year. The well-attended event gave parents and guardians a great opportunity to explore the building, meet with their children's teachers and learn about the school's instructional programs.

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) added to the evening's excitement by selling spirit wear and hosting a basket raffle, highlighting opportunities for student and family engagement.

Teachers enjoyed connecting with families, and students had a blast showing their parents and guardians around the school. It was a wonderful way to kick off the new school year!

## *Marcy on the Move* BUILDING CHARACTER, FITNESS AND FUN

Marcy on the Move's fall session is complete -- successfully educating, empowering and encouraging our third, fourth and fifth graders to make good choices, develop strong character and promote healthy habits. This after-school program blends physical fitness with character building and educational workouts, offering cross training and exposure to various track and field and cross country events.

The session wrapped up with an exciting cross country race on October 22. Families gathered to cheer on their children as they competed in two heats, each featuring four teams racing two laps around the course.

In the first heat, the Blue Blazers claimed victory with 37 points. The top finishers on the boys' side were Daniel Bareiss (first place), Grayson Fernald (second place) and Jakub Jurkowski (third place). On the girls' side, Maddie Nolan (first place), Evelyn Benoit-Phister (second place) and Sadie Constable (third place) led the way. In the second heat, the Roadrunners took first place with 33 points. The top finishers on the boys' side in heat two were Maddox Joslin (first place), Cy Rothdiener (second place) and Coben Schmidt (third place). The top finishers on the girls' side were Kinsley Rothdiener (first place), Allison Nannas (second place) and Alexia Tomaino (third place).

Congratulations to all the runners for their hard work and sportsmanship! Special recognition goes to the following Sportskidship Award winners for exemplifying great character throughout the session:

- Third grade: Ben LaPiana, Gavin Rowlands, Leah Zabek
- Fourth grade: Sonny Rockwell, Melina Harris, Evelyn Benoit-Phister
- Fifth grade: Lucy Aubert, Jacob Davis, Selena Moreno

A heartfelt thank you to our varsity cross country runners and teacher and parent volunteers who made this first session a great success. We look forward to more fun, fitness and growth in the next session of Marcy on the Move!



# WHITESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSPIRE | CULTIVATE | EMPOWER

65 Oriskany Boulevard, Whitesboro, New York 13492

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Whitesboro, New York  
Permit No. 18

## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Brian K. Bellair

## BOARD OF EDUCATION, 2025-2026

Mr. Brian McQueen, *President*

Mr. Steven Farr, *Vice President*

Mr. Michael Head

Dr. Jonathan Henderson

Mrs. Cheryl LaValley

Mr. Thomas Schoen Jr.

Dr. Steven Szatko

## Postal Patron Local

The Whitesboro Central School District Board of Education meets at 7:00 p.m., unless noted otherwise. Meetings are held at the Administration Building at 65 Oriskany Blvd. in Whitesboro, or at one of the school buildings in the District. Visit [www.wboro.org/boemeeting](http://www.wboro.org/boemeeting) for the complete meeting schedule.

