



WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

*School and Community
Working Together*

VOLUME 32, NO. 5

DECEMBER 2025

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PTO MEETING • 12/1

HOLIDAY CHORUS CONCERT
12/3

COMMUNITY ED:
STAINED GLASS • 12/4

SANTA'S WORKSHOP/
HOLIDAY MARKET • 12/3

BOARD MEETING • 12/9

WINTER BAND CONCERT
12/10

ELEMENTARY HOLIDAY SHOW
12/12

BREAKFAST W/ SANTA
12/14

COMMUNITY ED:
STAMPED CARDS • 12/15

WINTER SPIRIT WEEK
12/15 - 12/19

COMMUNITY ED: CHRISTMAS
CENTERPIECE • 12/17

COMMUNITY ED: STAINED
GLASS • 12/18

EARLY WINTER RECESS
12/22 - 1/2

FARM MARKET EVERY
SATURDAY IN DECEMBER



ANNUAL ELEMENTARY ART SHOW AT THE REGINA A. QUICK CENTER FOR THE ARTS!

We're excited to celebrate our young artists whose work was selected for the Elementary Juried Art Show at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FEATURED ARTISTS:
Skye Michener-Dick • Cassidy Foster • Caitlyn Hayden
• Abby Hansen • Rylee Jones • Ilianna Hankey •
Mackenzie Hayden • Bentley Hebdon • Avery Tharnish
• Avery Boberg • Nora Bielecki • Halo Richardson • Luke

Giffis • Abigail Hansen • Layla Amodeo • Jackson Klahn
• Maalik McCarthy • Frank Hayden • Emberlee Brooks •
Emmitt Winsor

A reception was held on November 18 at the Quick Center, celebrating all of the artists and their work from across the region.

SCAN TO VIEW
EVENT CALENDAR



DELAYED OPENING OR SCHOOL CLOSURE DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

BY MR. DANIEL AMODEO, SUPERINTENDENT



The snow season has begun and with that, there is the potential for delayed openings and/or school closures. As a student, parent and lifelong educator, I know the feeling of getting a message in the morning that the weather has made travel dangerous and, consequently, school is closed or delayed.

However, on the other side of a snow-day or delay is the inconvenience caused to our students and families who may need to scramble to juggle their own schedules and childcare. Given the challenges of predicting the weather conditions, we do have a process for determining if school needs to be closed or delayed. I want to communicate our process of how we come to the decision to close or delay school.

- We begin at about 4:00 a.m. by communicating with Town Highway Superintendents and our Transportation Supervisor about the road conditions and ability to maintain safe passage within our district.
- Next, our Transportation Supervisor and I will typically drive on some of our roads to get a firsthand look at travel conditions.
- At about 5:00 a.m., after learning about the conditions from across the district and the forecast for the coming hours, we determine whether we can safely transport our students to school.
- In the 5:00 a.m. hour we also evaluate our staff's ability to drive to West Valley and consider travel conditions and travel bans that

effect their commute.

- Finally, a decision to close school or delay the start of school will be made. Ideally, no later than 5:30 a.m. This will be communicated to all families and staff via ParentSquare.

Our process is not exact and there are plenty of examples when the conditions do not match the forecast and vice versa. Unfortunately, that is the nature of Western New York winters and lake effect snow. It can be snowing like crazy in one area with almost nothing in another. However, we need to make a call considering the whole district, as we cannot transport some students to school and not others.

The amount of snow forecasted is not always a deciding factor. We could get a foot of snow throughout the day but are able to have roads cleared and treated. Whereas we could have only six inches of snow predicted, but roads are icy, with high winds, and low visibility.

For those students who may drive to school our recommendation is to take the bus. Allow our trained, experienced drivers to transport you to school and avoid driving when the weather may be bad or unpredictable.

While we hope this information is helpful, we recognize that whatever decision we make will leave some happy, some unhappy, and some questioning the call. We can assure you that each time we decide to close, delay, or keep school open, the safety of our students and staff is first and foremost.

If you have any questions about the above information, please feel free to reach out!



SEASONAL MAGIC!

BY MRS. MYCHAJLUK, PRINCIPAL

Dear Wildcat Families,

The holiday season is upon us, and December is always a magical month here at West Valley. Our students and staff have been working hard, and there are many special events planned to celebrate the season and showcase their talents.

🎵 HOLIDAY CONCERTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Tuesday, December 3: The Holiday Chorus Concert will fill the auditorium with festive cheer beginning at 6:30 p.m. Before the concert, our PTO will host Santa's Workshop, where students can shop for small gifts and enjoy holiday activities.

Tuesday, December 10: Join us for our Winter Band Concert at 6:30 p.m. Our musicians have been preparing beautiful performances that are sure to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

Thursday, December 12: Our Elementary Holiday Show will take place in the afternoon, featuring our youngest Wildcats sharing songs and smiles of the season.

Saturday, December 14: The Class of 2026 will host Breakfast with Santa, a festive fundraiser that supports class activities. Come enjoy breakfast and photos with Santa himself.

💖💛 WINTER SPIRIT WEEK – DECEMBER 15 TO 20

Get ready to show your Wildcat pride before we head into the holidays. Each day will have a special dress-up theme and activities to keep spirits high as we count down to winter recess.

📚 ACADEMIC UPDATES

The 15-week progress reports will close on Tuesday, December 17. Please take a few minutes to review your child's progress and reach out to teachers with any questions as we continue working toward strong academic growth across all grade levels.

❄️ WINTER RECESS

School will be closed for Early Winter Recess beginning Monday, December 22 through Friday, January 2. Classes will resume on Monday, January 5. We encourage everyone to use this time to rest, recharge, and make lasting memories with friends and family. Attendance remains important throughout the year, but the holidays are also a time to be present with those we love and to celebrate all that we have accomplished together.

From all of us at West Valley Central School, we wish you a season filled with warmth, kindness, and community. Thank you for your continued support of our students and staff. It is truly what makes West Valley such a special place.





WVCS SAFETY PATROL

Back row (L-R) Rosario Messino, Jeremiah O'Connell, Jaxson Trimm, Willow Winsor.
Front row (L-R) Everett Spencer, Cordelia Robbins (Lieutenant), Kaylee Harris (Captain), Jack Eaton (Lieutenant)

Our sixth grade Safety patrol helps our younger Wildcats get to and from their buses safely each day. Whether monitoring hallways or sidewalks, they're setting a great example and lending a helping hand wherever it's needed. We're proud of their leadership and commitment to keeping our school safe!

Honor Roll Students

West Valley Central School Principal, Rachel Mychajluk, announced the following students in grades 7-12 have been named to the honor roll for the first quarter.

MERIT ROLL

- Grade 7 – Lillyan Kuczka, Lilly Tronolone
- Grade 8 – Savannah Griffis, Braydan Mitchell, Cullen Shaw, Connor Washburn
- Grade 9 – Nia Schoepflin
- Grade 10 – Sebastian Froland, Oliva Messina
- Grade 11 – Megan Ehrenburg, Logan Manaher, Elizabeth Winsor
- Grade 12 – Payton Ehnes, Olivia Harmony, Karson Heitman, Kaiden Troutman

HIGH HONOR ROLL

- Grade 7 – Brody Lawrence, Ryan Peace, James Shoup, Matthew Tingue
- Grade 9 – Finley Ford-Grover, Delia Shoup
- Grade 10 – Karly Otto
- Grade 11 – Samantha Fisher, Noah Klahn

HONOR ROLL

- Grade 7 – Emma Nunn, Quinn Spencer, Jordan Swingle, Carter Widrig, Isabelle Wypij
- Grade 8 – John Atkinson, Nicholas Klahn, Dalton Otto, Lily Quinn
- Grade 9 – Kolin Holstein, Madison Lawrence, Julienna Robbins, Abigail Tucker
- Grade 10 – Jersie Czapl
- Grade 11 – Isabella Mitchell
- Grade 12 – Annabelle Proseus, Liliana Toms



West Valley Takes the Prize

West Valley won a School Pride Contest on the New York Chips Facebook page! As our prize, we received 300 snack bags of chips for students and staff to enjoy. Thanks to Lorraine in the cafeteria for entering us and making this possible!

ALL STUDENTS EAT FREE!

The West Valley Central School proudly participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). This means every student receives **one FREE breakfast AND lunch every day**, no application needed!

BUT, WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!

Completing the Application for Free & Reduced Price Meals helps support:

- **Title I** funding for reading, math, and academic support
- **Universal Pre-Kindergarten**
- **Other grant and aid opportunities**
- **Fee waivers** for SAT, ACT, AP exams and college applications
- **Continued CEP eligibility** so meals remain **free for everyone!**

ALL APPLICATION INFORMATION WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL



Dear Parent/Guardian:

All children in the school will receive meals at no charge regardless of household income or completion of this form. However, families are strongly encouraged to complete and submit the Free and Reduced-Price application as this form is used to determine eligibility benefits for State and federal funding/programs.

Below are common questions and answers to help with the application process.

1. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION FOR EACH CHILD?

No. Complete one Application for all children in the household and return to: Jenn Seltzer, West Valley Central School, 5359 School St, West Valley, NY 14171.

2. WHO CAN QUALIFY FOR FEDERAL FREE MEAL BENEFITS?

- All children in households receiving benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) or Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), are eligible for free meals. Categorical eligibility for free meal benefits is extended to all children in a household when the application lists an Assistance Program's case number for any household member.
- Foster children that are under the legal responsibility of a foster care agency or court are eligible for free meals, regardless of income.
- Children participating in their school's Head Start Program are eligible for free meals.
- Children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway, or migrant are eligible for free meals. Households with children who meet the definition of homeless, runaway or migrant should call or e-mail Rachel Mychajluk at (716) 942-3100 or rmychajluk@wvalley.org to see if they qualify.
- Children may receive free meals if your household's gross income is within the free or reduced-price limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines. Students in New York State that are approved for reduced price meals will receive breakfast and lunch meals and snacks served through the Afterschool Snack Program at no charge.
- Your child(ren) meet the income criteria if the household income falls at or below the limits on this chart:

2025-2026 REDUCED PRICE INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$ 28,953	\$ 2,413	\$ 1,207	\$ 1,114	\$ 557
2	\$ 39,128	\$ 3,261	\$ 1,631	\$ 1,505	\$ 753
3	\$ 49,303	\$ 4,109	\$ 2,055	\$ 1,897	\$ 949
4	\$ 59,478	\$ 4,957	\$ 2,479	\$ 2,288	\$ 1,144
5	\$ 69,653	\$ 5,805	\$ 2,903	\$ 2,679	\$ 1,340
6	\$ 79,828	\$ 6,653	\$ 3,327	\$ 3,071	\$ 1,536
7	\$ 90,003	\$ 7,501	\$ 3,751	\$ 3,462	\$ 1,731
8	\$ 100,178	\$ 8,349	\$ 4,175	\$ 3,853	\$ 1,927
Each Add'l person, add	\$ 10,175	\$ 848	\$ 424	\$ 392	\$ 196

3. SHOULD I FILL OUT AN APPLICATION IF I RECEIVED A LETTER THIS SCHOOL YEAR SAYING MY CHILDREN ARE APPROVED FOR FREE MEALS? Please read the letter you got carefully and follow the instructions. Call the school at (716) 942-3100, ext 4105 if you have questions.

4. MY CHILD'S APPLICATION WAS APPROVED LAST YEAR. DO I NEED TO FILL OUT ANOTHER ONE? Yes, Your child's application is only good for that school year and carried over for the first 30 operating days of this school year (or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first).

5. I GET WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) BENEFITS. CAN MY CHILD(REN) GET FREE MEALS? All children in schools participating in the Universal Free Meals program receive meals at no charge, however, households participating in WIC may be free or reduced-price eligible benefits. Please fill out an Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals/Milk.

6. WILL THE INFORMATION I GIVE BE CHECKED? Schools are required to conduct verification of a sample of submitted applications. If your application is selected then written proof of the household income is required.

7. IF I DON'T QUALIFY NOW, MAY I APPLY LATER? Yes, you may apply at any time during the school year. For example, children with a parent or guardian who becomes unemployed or who experiences financial hardship mid-year may become eligible for free and reduced-price eligible benefits if the household income drops below the income limit.

8. WHAT IF I DISAGREE WITH THE SCHOOL'S DECISION ABOUT MY APPLICATION? You should talk to school officials. You also may ask for a hearing by calling or writing to: Jennifer Schultz, 5359 School St, West Valley, NY 14171, or (716) 942-3100, ext 4103.

9. MAY I APPLY IF SOMEONE IN MY HOUSEHOLD IS NOT A U.S. CITIZEN? Yes. You, your child(ren), or other household members do not have to be U.S. citizens to qualify for free or reduced-price eligible benefits.

10. WHO SHOULD I INCLUDE AS MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD? You must include all people living in your household, related or not (such as grandparents, other relatives, or friends) who share income and expenses. If you live with other people who are economically independent (for example, people who you do not support, who do not share income with you or your children, and who pay a pro-rated share of expenses), do not include them.

11. WHAT IF MY INCOME IS NOT ALWAYS THE SAME? List the amount that you normally receive. For example, if you normally make \$1000 each month, but you missed some work last month and only made \$900, put down that you made \$1000 per month. If you normally get overtime, include it, but do not include it if you only work overtime sometimes. If you have lost a job or had your hours or wages reduced, use your current income.

12. WE ARE IN THE MILITARY. DO WE REPORT OUR INCOME DIFFERENTLY? Your basic pay and cash bonuses must be reported as income. If you get any cash value allowances for off-base housing, food, clothing, it must also be included as income. However, if your housing is part of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, do not include your housing allowance as income. Any additional combat pay resulting from deployment is also excluded from income.

13. MY FAMILY NEEDS MORE HELP. ARE THERE OTHER PROGRAMS WE MIGHT APPLY FOR? To find out how to apply for SNAP or other assistance benefits, contact your local assistance office or call 1-800-342-3009.

HOW TO APPLY: Complete one Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals/Milk, following the instructions on the form, for your household and return it to the designated office listed on the application. All household members and children should be listed on one application.

- If you receive SNAP or TANF benefits or participate in the FDPIR, the application must include the children's names, the household SNAP, TANF or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member.
 - o Contact your local Department of Social Services for your SNAP or TANF case number, if necessary.
 - o No application is necessary if the household was notified by the School Food Authority that their children have been directly certified based on Assistance Program participation. If the household is not sure if their children have been directly certified, the household should contact the school.
- If you do not list a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR case number for any household member, the application must include the names of everyone in the household, the amount of income for each household member, how often it is received and where it comes from. It must include the signature of an adult household member and the last four digits of that adult's social security number or check the box if the adult does not have a social security number.
- An application for free and reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless complete eligibility information is submitted, as indicated on the application and in the instructions. We will let you know when your application is approved or denied.

REPORTING CHANGES: The benefits that you are approved for at the time of application are effective for the entire school year.

MEAL SERVICE TO CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES: Federal regulations require schools and institutions to serve meals at no extra charge to children with a disability which may restrict their diet. A student with a disability is defined in 7CFR Part 15b.3 of Federal regulations, as one who has a physical or mental impairment which

substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual, a record of such an impairment or being regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include but are not limited to: functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working. You must request meal modifications from the school and provide the school with medical statement from a State licensed healthcare professional or Registered Dietitian. If you believe your child needs substitutions because of a disability, please get in touch with us for further information, as there is specific information that the medical statement must contain.

CONFIDENTIALITY: The United States Department of Agriculture has approved the release of students names and eligibility status, without parent/guardian consent, to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of federal education programs such as Title I and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which are United States Department of Education programs used to determine areas such as the allocation of funds to schools, to evaluate socioeconomic status of the school's attendance area, and to assess educational progress. Information may also be released to State health or State education programs administered by the State agency or local education agency, provided the State or local education agency administers the program, and federal State or local nutrition programs similar to the National School Lunch Program. Additionally, all information contained in the free and reduced price application may be released to persons directly connected with the administration or enforcement of programs authorized under the National School Lunch Act (NSLA) or Child Nutrition Act (CNA); including the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, the Special Milk Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC); the Comptroller General of the United States for audit purposes, and federal, State or local law enforcement officials investigating alleged violation of the programs under the NSLA or CNA. The disclosure of eligibility information not specifically authorized by the NSLA requires a written consent statement from the parent/guardian.

In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, disability or limited English proficiency.

If you have other questions or need help, call (716) 942-3100, ext 4105 or 4103.

*Thank you,
Jennifer Schultz
School Business Administrator*



Date Withdrew _____

F _____ R _____ D _____

2025-2026 Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals/Milk

Schools are required to establish free and reduced-price eligibility while offering meals at no-charge. Please complete the free and reduced-price meals application for your child(ren), then sign and **return it to the address listed below**. Call **(phone number)**, if you need help. Additional names may be listed on a separate paper.

Return Completed Applications to: (School Name)
(Street Name)
(City, State, Zip Code)

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	Homeless Migrant, Runaway
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits:

If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF or FDPIR benefits, list their name and CASE # here. **Skip to Part 4 and sign the application.**

Name: _____ CASE #: _____

3. Report all income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you completed step 2)

All Household Members (including yourself and all children that have income).

List all Household members not listed in Step 1 (including yourself) **even if they do not receive income**. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total income for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any other source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Child Support, Alimony <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Pensions, Retirement Payments <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Other Income, Social Security <i>Amount / How Often</i>	No Income
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Household Members (Children and Adults)

*Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX-__ __ __ __

I do not have a SS#

*When completing section 3, an adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SS#) or mark the "I do not have a SS# box" before the application can be approved.

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application before it can be approved.

I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school will get federal funds; the school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Home Address: _____

5. Ethnicity and Race are optional; responding to this section does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino

Race (Check one or more): American Indian or Alaskan Native Asian Black or African American Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island White

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY

Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application)
Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12

SNAP/TANF/Foster
 Income Household: Total Household Income/How Often: _____ / _____ Household Size: _____
 Free Meals Reduced Price Meals Denied/Paid

Signature of Reviewing Official _____ Date Notice Sent: _____

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for free and reduced-price eligibility, complete only one application for your household using the instructions below. Sign the application and return the application to _____. If you have a foster child in your household, you may include them on your application. A separate application is not needed. Call the school if you need help: _____. Ensure that all information is provided. Failure to do so may result in denial of benefits for your child or unnecessary delay in approving your application.

PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- (1) Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one application.
- (2) List their grade and school.
- (3) Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, or if you believe any child meets the description for homeless, migrant, runaway (a school staff will confirm this eligibility).

PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING SNAP, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.

- (1) List a current SNAP, TANF or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- (2) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4. SKIP PART 3. Do not list names of household members or income if you list a SNAP case number, TANF or FDPIR number.

PART 3 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE THESE PARTS AND ALL OF PART 4.

- (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people **in your household**. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. **Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box.** The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should **not** be considered as income for this program.
- (3) Enter the total number of household members in the box provided. This number should include all adults and children in the household and should reflect the members listed in PART 1 and PART 3.
- (4) The application must include the last four digits only of the social security number of the adult who signs **PART 4** if Part 3 is completed. If the adult does not have a social security number, check the box. **If you listed a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number, a social security number is not needed.**
- (5) **An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4.**

OTHER BENEFITS: Your child may be eligible for benefits such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). To determine if your child is eligible, program officials need information from your free and reduced price meal application. Your written consent is required before any information may be released. Please refer to the attached parent Disclosure Letter and Consent Statement for information about other benefits.

USE OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

Use of Information Statement: The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not submit all needed information, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs.

We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules.

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the state or local agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. **mail:**
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:**
(202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**
program.intake@usda.gov

FREE AND REDUCED PRICE MEAL APPLICATION FACT SHEET

When filling out the application form, please pay careful attention to these helpful hints.

SNAP/TANF/FDPIR case number: This must be the complete valid case number supplied to you by the agency including all numbers and letters, for example, E123456, or whatever combination is used in your county. Refer to a letter you received from your local Department of Social Services for your case number or contact them for your number.

Foster Child: A child who is living with a family but who is under the legal care of the welfare agency or court may be listed on your family application. List the child's "personal use" income. This includes only those funds provided by the agency which are identified for the personal use of the child, such as personal spending allowances, money received by his/her family, or from a job. Funds provided for housing, food and care, medical, and therapeutic needs are not considered income to the foster child. Write "0" if the child has no personal use income.

Household: A group of related or non-related people who are living in one house and share income and expenses.

Adult Family Members: All related and non-related people who are 21 years of age and older living in your house.

Financially Independent: A person is financially independent and a separate economic unit/household when his or her earnings and expenses are not shared by the family/household. Separate economic units in the same residence are characterized by prorating expenses and by economic independence from one another.

Current Gross Income: Money earned or received at the present time by each member of your household before deductions. Examples of deductions are federal tax, State tax, and Social Security deductions. If you have more than one job, you must list the income from all jobs. If you receive income from more than one source (wage, alimony, child support, etc.), you must list the income from all sources. Only farmers, self-employed workers, migrant workers, and other seasonal employees may use their income for the past 12 months reported from their 1040 Tax Forms.

Examples of gross income are:

- Wages, salaries, tips, commissions, or income from self-employment
- Net farm income – gross sales minus expenses only – not losses
- Pensions, annuities, or other retirement income including Social Security retirement benefits
- Unemployment compensation
- Welfare payments (does not include value of SNAP)
- Public Assistance payments
- Adoption assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Survivor's Benefits
- Alimony or child support payments
- Disability benefits, including workman's compensation
- Veteran's subsistence benefits
- Interest or dividend income
- Cash withdrawn from savings, investments, trusts, and other resources which would be available to pay for a child's meals
- Other cash income

Income Exclusions: The value of any child care provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program.



WILDCATS DIVE INTO SUPER SCIENCE

Science was extra fun at West Valley recently when Phil Farris (Dr. Phil) from Solepoxy, Inc. visited classrooms to lead a hands-on experiment. Students combined substances to create polyurethane, watching as a liquid transformed into a solid right before their eyes.

This “Super Science” program, brought to West Valley by Dream It Do It Western New York, sparked curiosity and excitement for STEM among our younger Wildcats.



2-HOUR DELAY SCHEDULE

EARLY DROP OFF BEGINS AT 9:00 AM

9:35 – 7-12 Students off Bus

9:36-9:45 – Breakfast and Lockers

	UPK-6	7-12
4	9:45-10:34	9:45-10:34
5	10:37-11:17	10:37-11:17
6	11:20-11:50(L)	11:20-12:00
7	11:52-12:32	12:02-12:32(L)
8	12:35-1:15	12:35-1:15
9	1:18-1:58	1:18-1:58
10	2:01-2:41	2:01-2:41

Teacher Day- 9:33-2:43

Student Day 9:36-2:41

BOCES AM Stays at West Valley

BOCES PM Departure: 11:35

BOCES PM Pick-up 1:50



EXPLORING ANATOMY AT ST. BONAVENTURE UNIVERSITY

Students from West Valley traveled to St. Bonaventure University to meet with Dr. Scott Medler and learn how to use the college’s Anatomage tables—virtual human and animal dissection tools used to study human gross anatomy. Our students will put their skills to the test in a regional anatomy tournament this March.





EXPLORING LOCAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

West Valley Central School students in grades 9–12 recently toured Koike Aronson, Inc. and Prestolite Electric in Arcade to learn about careers in advanced manufacturing. The field trip was sponsored by STEM Dream It. Do It. (DIDI) Advanced Manufacturing, coordinated by Evelyn Sabina.

At Koike Aronson, students met in the company’s conference area to learn about its global work in designing and building cutting, welding, and positioning equipment. Their tour was led by Ron Krasnek, Brand Manager for Latin America. WVCS Board of Education President George Kazmierczak, a Koike employee and West Valley alumnus, joined the group for the tour.

Students then visited Prestolite Electric, a leading global manufacturer of starters, alternators, and new-energy solutions. Kevin Nantka, Vice President of Operations, greeted the students and shared insights about the company’s cutting-edge technology and operations in Arcade, New York.

The experience gave students a firsthand look at the many opportunities available in local manufacturing and helped them connect classroom learning with real-world careers.



HONORING OUR VETERANS AT WEST VALLEY

West Valley Central School was honored to host local veterans for our annual Veterans Breakfast. The event brought together students, staff, and community members to celebrate and thank those who have served our country.

During the breakfast, Debbie Dixon from the national organization Quilts of Valor presented handmade quilts to two veterans in attendance — John Pfeffer and Arthur Green. The presentation was a moment of gratitude and recognition for their service and sacrifice.

Students played an important role in making the morning special. Members of the National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) served breakfast, while our Pre-K and kindergarten students led the Pledge of Allegiance. Other classes contributed by creating table decorations, greeting guests, and helping ensure the event ran smoothly.

It was a meaningful morning of community, appreciation, and pride!





Regents Examination Schedule: January 2026

JANUARY 20 TUESDAY	JANUARY 21 WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 22 THURSDAY	
7:45 - 10:45 am.	7:45 - 10:45 a.m.	7:45 - 10:45 a.m.	Uniform Admission Deadlines
English Language Arts	Geometry U.S. History & Government	Global History & Geography II	
11:45 - 2:45 p.m.	11:45 - 2:45 p.m.	11:45 - 2:45 p.m.	Afternoon Examinations 2:00 p.m.
Life Science: Biology Chemistry	Algebra I	Algebra II	



RED RIBBON WEEK 10/23-31
STUDENTS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS
CHAPTER EVENTS



On October 27, Jonathan Chaffee (Reality Check Coordinator - Tobacco Free Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany) presented to students in grades 7-12 on the potentially deadly side effects from synthetic Kratom, which is sold only at "Smoke Shops." He also gave updates on nicotine, new addictive types of vapes, nicotine pouches, and reviewed the DSM 5 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition) criteria for Cannabis Use Disorder. Jon's counterpart, Stephanie Kubiak, Prevention Educator from CASA-TRINITY (Council on Alcohol and Substance Abuse), presented on the negative impacts of alcohol and energy drinks on our youth.

RED RIBBON DRAWING ACTIVITY

For grades Pre-K through 6 our SADD Chapter had the students color a picture of themselves doing something "healthy, fun, and drug free" for the Buster Bison Drug Free Team Activity. Last year was our first year to receive ticket vouchers to the Red Ribbon Bisons Game for all students that submitted a drawing. The purpose of the "Red Ribbon Drawing Activity" is to encourage students (and their families) to make healthy choices while joining the "Buster Bison's Drug Free Team."



**SCAN QR CODE FOR RESOURCES TO
HELP QUIT VAPING**

KRATOM

- Tropical tree found in Southeast Asia – people chew on the leaves, which gives a stimulant effect.
- Mitragynine and 7-Hydroxymitragynine(7-OH) affects the dopamine and opioid receptors in the brain.
- 7-Hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) makes up 2% of alkaloids in Kratom leaves.
- Drinks, pills, powder with semi-synthetic or synthetic concentrates of 7-OH levels up to 98%.
- At high doses, it can reportedly cause seizures, psychosis, liver damage, and difficulty breathing, or death.



WILDCAT ATHLETICS

WEST VALLEY RUNNERS COMPETE AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

West Valley's Noah Klahn and Olivia Harmony competed at the NYSPHSAA Cross Country Championships. Olivia made her fourth consecutive trip to states, and although the race presented unexpected challenges, she pushed through and finished strong. Noah ran a great race to place seventh and earn a state medal. His showing also earned him an invitation to the Nike Cross Regionals (NXR) New York State Federation Championships at Bowdoin Park in Wappingers Falls.

Congratulations to both athletes on a great season!



WINTER SPORTS + SCHEDULES

- BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL
- BOYS MODIFIED BASKETBALL
- BASKETBALL CHEER
- INDOOR TRACK & FIELD (SPRINGVILLE)
- WRESTLING (FRANKLINVILLE)





West Valley PTO presents
2nd Annual

Santa's Workshop

How it works:

- Any WVCS student can come in and pick out a gift for a family member at no charge
- Gift wrapping and tags are also included

Wednesday, December 3rd
3-7pm
WVCS Library



Families & Community Members,
come visit the

PTO Holiday Market

Outside Santa's Workshop

handmade gifts &
baked goods for sale

Wednesday, December 3rd
3-7pm
WVCS Library



Ashford Community "Making Spirits Bright" Home Decorating Contest

The town of Ashford invites you to participate in our annual "Making Spirits Bright" Home Decorating Contest. Help brighten this year's holiday season by decorating your home for your community to see and enjoy! It's also a great way to beautify our community and bring joy to those who live here. **The contest will run from December 6 through December 20. Winners will be announced on December 23.**

Contest Rules:

- **Contact Jean Bond by November 25 to register your house for the contest (716) 942-6570**
- Decorate your home using your imagination and creativity (no restriction or rules for how you decorate your home)
- Ballots (1/person) and participant map will be handed out at the December 6 Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Voting will take place from December 6 through December 20
- Ballots must be returned by December 20 to the collection box at the Ashford Community Center (no exceptions)
- Trophies will be awarded for First, Second, and Third Place



West Valley Central School District Community Education

We're excited to offer a diverse range of classes and activities designed to enrich your personal and professional life. Please review the important registration guidelines and class details carefully to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience.

We look forward to your participation in one or more classes this winter!

STAINED GLASS FOR BEGINNERS

Instructor: Melissa Pearl

Stained glass is a hands-on course in which participants will learn the fundamental techniques of stained glass, including assembling glass pieces to create beautiful designs. You will explore the basics of foiling, soldering, and the proper use of tools. By the end of the course, you will have crafted your own stained-glass project to take home and will have the skills to continue exploring this timeless art form. No prior experience is necessary — just a passion for creativity and learning!



Multi-purpose Conference Room, West Valley Central School

Date: December 4 and 18, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35 all materials included

Maximum per class: 4

Registration deadline: One week prior to scheduled class.

RUBBER STAMP CARD MAKING

Instructor: Jody Enser

How would you like to impress your friends and family with handmade cards? Each class you will make 8 cards — 2 each of 4 different Christmas designs. Designs will vary for each date.



Multi-purpose Conference Room, West Valley Central School

Date: December 15, 2025

Time: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15 per class and all supplies are included.

Minimum enrollment: 2

Registration deadline: One week prior to scheduled class.

EVENTS BY JESS

Instructor: Jessi Dash

An experienced florist will instruct participants in a series of workshops covering centerpieces for Thanksgiving and Christmas. These are make-and-take-home workshops.



**Multi-purpose Conference Room,
West Valley Central School**

Date: December 17, 2025

Time: 6-7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 per session and includes all materials

Minimum enrollment: 4

Registration deadline: One week prior to scheduled class

FREE Community Clothes Closet



Location: Behind St. John the Baptist Church in Bingham Hall

The Community Clothes Closet will be open Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 1-4:00 p.m. (or by appointment).

Donations of gently worn, undamaged, clean, and seasonal items are welcome.

Besides clothing and shoes, we accept donations of bedding, kitchen and household items for Cattaraugus County residents. Upon request, we can fulfill a need of furniture items.

For questions or to make an appointment, please contact Jacque Conrad at 716-942-3836 or Elise at 716-942-3291.



WEST VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

Ashford Town Barns on Fox Valley Road

DECEMBER

Wed, December 3, 3-7:00 p.m.

Wed, December 10, noon-4:00 p.m.

Wed, December 17, 3-7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS BOXES

Sat, December 20, 10:30-noon

Mon, December 22, 2-4:30 p.m.

Serving the Town of Ashford and the West Valley Central School District.

IF WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL IS CLOSED, THE FOOD PANTRY IS CLOSED.

Emergency needs, would like to volunteer for the food bank or have questions please call, Amy Frank at 716-942-6657 or Kris Aldrow at 716-942-6690.

FEEDMORE WNY WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

If any family wishes to participate in our **Weekend Backpack Program**, please contact Mr. LaBrake anytime during the school year. The goal of the Weekend Backpack Program is to provide nutritious and easy-to-prepare meals for children to take home on weekends. This program is provided to you **completely free of charge!**

Each week your child will be provided with a bag of nutritious, non-perishable food to be eaten over the weekend. The food will be placed in your child's backpack at the end of the school day and is intended to be opened once your child is home. The program will continue throughout the 2025-26 school year. Participation in the Weekend Backpack Program **will not affect your family's eligibility for other food assistance programs (such as SNAP, WIC, or food pantry access).**

To enroll your child/children in the program, contact Mr. LaBrake. Please call with any questions at 716-942-3100, ext. 4148 or send an email to mlabrake@wvalley.org.



EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

West Valley Central School District uses ParentSquare to send an automated message regarding school closings and cancellations of after-school activities. The message is sent to your household phone number and to the emergency contacts that you listed at the beginning of this school year. If this information has changed or you would like to verify what is on file, please call Dana Westfall at 716-942-3100, extension 4111. The district also contacts the following radio and television stations:

Channel 2
WBEN 930 AM

Channel 4
WPIG 95.7 FM

Channel 7
Big Oly 107.1
& 105.5 FM



ACCESS WEST VALLEY'S FOOD SERVICE MENUS ANYWHERE!

View daily breakfast and lunch menus, check nutrition information, download a printable version, or save to your phone.

Scan the QR code or visit:
www.wvalley.org/departments/food-service



WVCS HEALTH CORNER

THE GIFT OF GOOD HEALTH: HOW TO FEEL THE BEST DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season brings twinkling lights, festive music, and the joy of being together. It's a time when our routines change - school schedules pause, gatherings fill our calendars, and cozy comfort foods call our names. Amid all the excitement, it's important to remember that our health – physical, mental, and emotional – deserves a place on our holiday checklist, too.

MOVE A LITTLE EVERY DAY

When it's cold and dark outside, it's tempting to hibernate. But even small amounts of movement can lift your mood and energy levels. Go for a family walk to see Christmas lights, play in the snow, dance while baking cookies, or try a quick stretch between activities. Movement doesn't have to be a chore – it can be part of the fun!

ENJOY HOLIDAY TREATS - MINDFULLY

The holidays wouldn't be the same without our favorite foods. Enjoy them! The key is balance – savor those special meals and treats, but also keep your body fueled with nourishing foods. Include fruits, vegetables, and plenty of water alongside the cocoa and cookies. Healthy doesn't have to mean “no fun” - it means feeling your best so you can enjoy every moment.

REST IS A GIFT, TOO

In the rush to wrap presents and check every box on our to-do lists, we often forget to rest. Sleep is your body's way of recharging – it strengthens your immune system, boosts mood, and keeps stress levels in check. Try to keep a consistent bedtime, even during

school breaks, and allow yourself time to unwind at the end of the day. Remember, a well-rested you is a happier you.

KEEP THE STRESS LOW AND THE JOY HIGH

While the holidays are filled with joy, they can also be stressful – travel plans, tight budgets, and long to-do lists can make anyone feel overwhelmed. It helps to pause and focus on what really matters: kindness, connection, and gratitude. Take time to breathe deeply, listen to music, read a favorite book, or spend a few quiet moments with loved ones. Often, the best memories come from simple moments – not perfect ones.

STAY HEALTHY, STAY CONNECTED

Cold and flu season tends to peak this time of year. The best prevention is simple: wash your hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home when you're under the weather. If someone around you isn't feeling well, a kind word or phone call can lift their spirits – staying connected matters just as much as staying healthy.

A SEASON FOR KINDNESS AND CARE

Health isn't just about what we eat or how much we move – it's about how we care for ourselves and one another. This December, take a moment each day to do something that fills your heart: share a smile, lend a helping hand, or enjoy a cup of cocoa with someone you love. Small acts of kindness ripple through our community and make it stronger.



WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL
5359 School St. • West Valley, NY 14171
(716) 942-3100

BOARD OF EDUCATION
George Kazmierczak, President
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Rachel Mychajluk, Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 5
West Valley, NY

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

**TOWN OF ASHFORD
ANNUAL
TREE
LIGHTING**

WHERE:
**TOWN OF ASHFORD
COMMUNITY CENTER**

DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

**PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING
A CANNED GOOD TO DONATE
TO THE TOWN OF ASHFORD
FOOD PANTRY**



love fresh fruits and veggies?

Stop by to purchase fresh, healthy, affordable and locally grown produce!



West Valley Central School

5359 School St.

West Valley, NY 14171



EVERY SATURDAY

10:30am-11:30am



The Farm Market accepts credit, debit, cash, SNAP, and Apple Pay!

**FeedMore
wny**

FeedMore WNY
www.feedmorewny.org
(716) 822-2002