

# HART'S HILL HIGHLIGHTS BACK TO SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER  
EDITION

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year. Thank you all for a wonderful start to the school year and all that you do at home to support a successful transition back to school! For those new to Hart's Hill Elementary, my name is Luke Manolescu -building principal. For those parents/guardians returning, welcome back to what will be another great year - we are already well on our way with students and teachers working hard and filling their days with exciting experiences and learning!

As you may be aware, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul signed into law new legislation prohibiting the use of *internet-enabled devices* during the school day. Thank you for being understanding and abiding by this policy!

As a reminder, our district's primary communication platform for this year and moving forward will be 'ParentSquare'. I encourage you to sign up, register, and/or download the user-friendly app for fast, up-to-date building and district information/ reminders. All classroom teachers will be utilizing this platform in some way, shape, or form.

With that being said, It is with great enthusiasm that I begin my second year as the principal of Hart's Hill Elementary. When reflecting back on the previous year, I am encouraged and very pleased with the academic progress, outstanding instruction, and many exciting initiatives, activities, and events we were able to provide our students with. It is my goal to continue the hard work and provide our students with a well-balanced educational experience that focuses not only on strong academics - but incorporates programs such as character education, social-emotional learning, and authentic hands-on opportunities! As principal of Hart's Hill Elementary, I am committed to ensuring and establishing a collaborative relationship where communication is clear, concise, and consistent. I believe that education is a partnership and encourage you to become actively involved in your child's education. Whether through volunteering at school functions, attending school events, or simply reaching out with questions, your parental engagement is invaluable and appreciated.

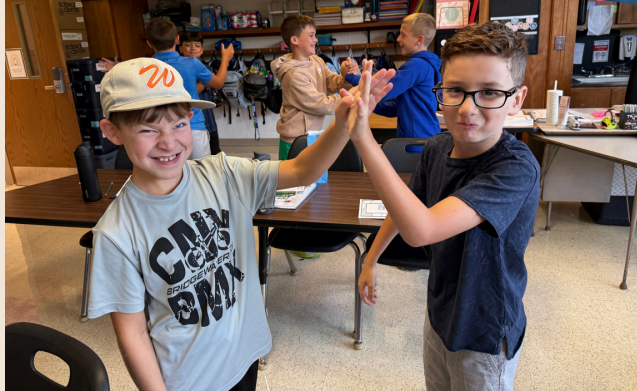
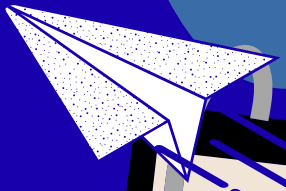
Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions, concerns. You can contact me via email at [lmanolescu@wboro.org](mailto:lmanolescu@wboro.org) or by phone at 315-266-3430. I am here to support you and your child every step of the way. I am excited to partner with you in the years to come and look forward to beginning another wonderful year together.



# HART'S HILL HIGHLIGHTS

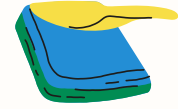
## BACK TO SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER  
EDITION





# Hart's Hill News/ Updates



## Building News!

Our first few weeks of school have been wonderful. Students are adjusting well to new classrooms, procedures, and settings. Teachers are hard at work and have done an excellent job establishing routines!

Please continue to work on establishing good routines at home as well. Coming to school attentive and prepared to learn always helps lead to a successful day. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

**NEW  
SCHOOL YEAR**

## 2025-2026 Building Goal!

Hart's Hill Elementary teachers, staff, and administration will create and support meaningful social-emotional learning (SEL) experiences that actively engage students in developing strong, respectful relationships and modeling positive interactions, character education, and behavior

## Hart's Hill 2025-2026 New Staff!

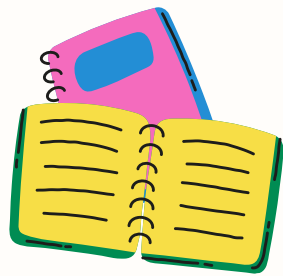
Miss Lafayette - Long-Term Substitute;  
Mrs. Ryan/ Grade 4 (Nov. 2025)

Mrs. Donovan - Long-Term Substitute;  
Ms. Jerome/ Grade 3 (Nov. 2025)

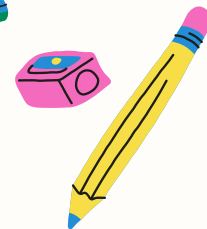
Jamie DeMichele - Food Service Helper

Kelly Tartaglia - Food Service helper

**WELCOME**



# Hart's Hill News/ Updates



## News from The Main Office!

### Parent Drop-Off:

Please pull into the lower circle (gymnasium entrance) between 9:10-9:20am and drop students off at the gym doors. There will be adults present. Please report to the main office for arrivals after 9:20am.

### Parent Pick-Up:

Parent pick-up will begin at 3:10pm at the gym doors (same as drop-off). As the transition eases, please do your best to remain in your vehicles as congestion can back up to Clark Mills Rd. If exiting your vehicle, please park in one of the parking spaces.

### Bussing:

Everyday bussing is improving. Please have patience as drivers get acclimated to their routes and routines. It is strongly encouraged that students ride the bus to and from school. Should you have any questions about bussing, please contact the transportation dept. at 315-

266-3390

## Hart's Hill PTO

PTO meetings will be held in the Hart's Hill Library. All parents and Hart's Hill staff are encouraged to attend PTO meetings. Please look for handouts from the PTO in your child's take home folder and check the Hart's Hill PTO page for school information!

2025-2026 PTO Meeting Schedule (all meetings begin promptly at 6:00pm):

Monday, 9/ 22

Monday, 10/20

Monday, 11/17

Monday, 12/8

Monday , 1/12

Monday, 2/9

Monday, 3/9

Monday, 4/13

Monday, 5/18

# News from Nurse Jill!

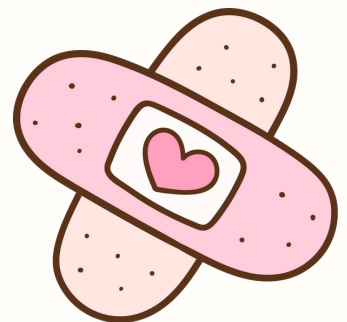
## NURSE

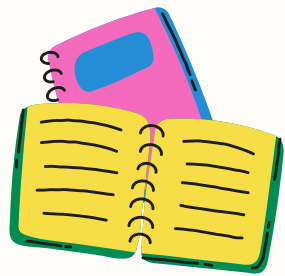
Current physicals are required for all students in Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, and 5th grade. Please forward a copy to Mrs. Bavernfeind ASAP.

Nurse B has started hearing screenings for K-1-3-5- No news is good news. Nurse B will reach out if there are concerns.

Kindergarten/ Grade 1: Parents please keep a change of clothes in your students backpack in case of spills, playground puddles, or accidents.

Thank you!





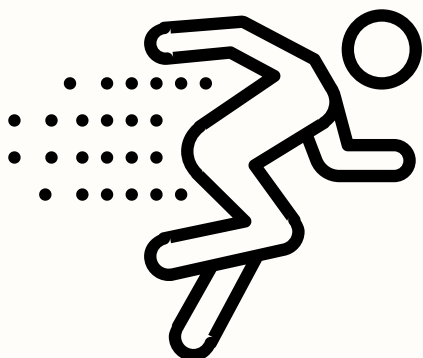
# Hart's Hill News/ Updates



## Hart's Hill on the Move!

Mrs. Pezdek and Mrs. Carrock along with the assistance of teachers/staff will be leading our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders for our "Hart's Hill on the Move" initiative starting afterschool on Thursdays during the month of October!

On these dates, students that have signed up to participate will work on physical fitness, endurance running, team building exercises, and health and wellness. A wonderful way to promote fitness, play, and group/team building!



## Physical Ed. Class Reminders

Clothing Requirements:  
Grades K-5

- Sneakers that tie and/or velcro
  - Clothes that are comfortable
- Students will be playing outside, so clothes/sneakers may get dirty!
- No sandals, boots, slip-on sneakers with heels, sneakers without backs, or zipper sneakers, crocks (please and thank you!)

Students in grades 4-5 will be required to wear a PE uniform.

Please send in a note from your doctor if a child is to be excused from physical education class with a dated release.

# Hart's Hill Summer Projects

## Summer 2025

This past summer was a busy one at Hart's Hill Elementary, with capital improvement projects underway, classroom spaces updated, and smaller renovations completed.

Alongside the work that was completed this summer, I am so excited to share a new library space with our school community and students this year. Thank you to our PTO and thank YOU for all the fundraising efforts and hard work in the past to be able to make a project like this happen. Our students, staff, and especially our school librarian LOVE the updated furniture. It has been a wonderful surprise and has created such an engaging and modern library atmosphere! Thank you, enjoy the pictures of our new furniture and space.

## Library Reno!



# Hart's Hill

## "Character Matters"

### Character Education

New to the building hallways are the addition of "Character Trait" banners to support our "Character Matters" initiative! Lining both the primary and intermediate hallways are 12 character trait banners which have been carefully selected by K-2 classroom teachers/staff and 3-5 classroom teachers/staff.

Beginning in September, a character trait will be highlighted each and every month during morning announcements, teacher morning meetings, and throughout the day. Students will learn how they can be a positive role model, set good examples, and how they can demonstrate that specific trait both in school, home, and in the community.

Concluding each month, teachers/staff will be able to nominate a student who has exemplified these traits in the school setting. They will receive a "Character Matters" certificate and will be highlighted on the morning announcements and by Hart's Hill administration, teachers, and staff!

**\*NEW\*** - New this year, a 'peer shout-out' mailbox has been placed on Mr. Manolescu's door where students are able to give a 'shout out' to a classmate/peer who has helped them in some way. shape, or form, specifically related to the monthly trait! Students who have been given a 'shout-out' will be congratulated on the morning announcements and recognized!

# Hart's Hill

## "Character Matters"

### Character Education Banners

WORK TOGETHER!



BE GOOD.  
DO GOOD.



HELP OTHERS

INSPIRE OTHERS

# Hart's Hill Open-House

## September 10, 2025

On September 10, 2025, Hart's Hill Elementary School hosted its annual Open House, welcoming parents and guardians to Hart's Hill where they were able to meet their child's teachers, review classroom expectations, and learn about curriculum/ learning experiences for the upcoming year.

A big thank you to all of our dedicated Hart's Hill teachers for preparing informative presentations, displaying student work, and decorating their classrooms.



# School Safety

## Reminders



Please ensure we are following the procedures below:

- ALL visitors **MUST** report to the main office and sign in.
- All visitors **MUST** have permission from the principal, coordinating teacher, or secretary prior to proceeding into the building.
- Visitors **MUST** wear a visitor pass.
- The building principal **MUST** approve all volunteers. Every volunteer will need to complete a volunteer application form.
- All doors will be locked and secured, expect for during the regular school day where the outside main entrance door where there is a set of double doors to enter lobby.
- Students arriving after **9:20am** will need to be walked to the main office, have a note ready, and please be prepared to sign in with Mrs. Farr.
- We have a School Peace Office (SPO) present at Hart's Hill Elementary every day. Officer Woody Zurek and Officer Clay Bramhall. Both are outstanding SPOs and interact with our students every single day. Thank you Woody and Clay!
- Please follow all morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up procedures. Gradual improvements are made everyday!
- *Please abide by the procedures for A.M. drop-off and P.M. pick-up including not entering the first entrance off Clark Mills Rd. during P.M. pickup!*
- Raptor Visitor Management System - The Raptor System enhances school security by reading a visitors drivers license (or approved government issued I.D.), comparing information against a sex offender database to alert school administration if a match is found.

### Elementary Handbook

The Elementary Handbook outlines policies and procedures for all elementary schools in the Whitesboro CSD. All kindergarten students, and those new to the district have received a copy of the handbook. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with important policies, procedures, and expectations.



# Student Safety Assembly



## September 19, 2025

Students in grades K-5 participated in a school safety assembly led by district administrators, including Mr. Russo, Mr. Muller, Mr. Cleveland, and Mr. Storsberg. The assembly focused on the importance of reviewing and practicing our yearly emergency drills as well as understanding what to do during specific drills such as fire drill and lockdowns. Students reviewed important vocabulary around NYSED SHELL terminology. Additionally, Students engaged in an interactive presentation, where they had the opportunity to ask and answer questions and interact with district administration.

Great job, Hart's Hill! I am super proud of your efforts in being responsible and safe students to start the year!





# MV Trout Unlimited Partnership

## Mohawk Valley Trout Unlimited

### WATER SAMPLING DAY WITH MVTU & SUNY ESF

Mohawk Valley Trout Unlimited and SUNY ESF needs our help! On October 4, 2025, SUNY ESF is conducting a WATER SAMPLING event, where they would like to have a goal of 500 water samples taken from the central NY region. MVTU has set a goal for us of 10 students/families to help with this initiative.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- If you are interesting in participating in this event, please email [Mohawkvalleytu@gmail.com](mailto:Mohawkvalleytu@gmail.com) no later than **Wednesday, 10/1!**
- The sampling is simple and is only a vial that needs to be filled with water. We will be sampling from Waterville all the way to Inlet NY.
- We will provide the vial!
- **Reach out to Mr. Manolescu with questions.**

Hart's Hill is thrilled to partner once again with our local Mohawk Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter for the upcoming school year. Last year, our third grade students and school community were able to experience raising brook trout fry. We were then able to release these trout into a local stream with the goal of exposing students to conservation and fish/aquatic habitats!

**NEW for 2025!** Our third grade class, specifically Mrs. Huther's class, will be raising Brook Trout once more...this time, from Brook Trout Eggs! We are very excited again to bring this initiative to our students and we thank MV TU for their wonderful assistance and collaborative efforts!

# Hart's Hill Fall Fest 2025



## October 24, 2025

Dear Hart's Hill Parents and Students,

On Friday, **October 24, 2025** from 5:30-6:30 pm, the Hart's Hill Faculty and Staff will be hosting our annual Fall Fest. The students will have the chance to dress up and trick-or-treat throughout the building. There will also be other snacks and activities for the students to enjoy. If you plan on attending, please fill out this form so we will have an idea of how many children will be coming. All Hart's Hill Students and their siblings are welcome!

We ask that each child attending donate a fall treat (bag of candy, package of pencils, box of chip bags, etc.) to the event. Please complete this form and send in your fall treat to school by **Monday, October 20, 2025**.

Please look for more detailed information regarding Fall Fest in the future. If you have any questions, please contact **Kate Radell** at [kradell@wboro.org](mailto:kradell@wboro.org). Thank you for your support and for helping to make this an enjoyable event for the Hart's Hill community!

More information will be sent home through school.

**PLEASE FILL THIS FORM OUT IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING:**

<https://forms.gle/K7Q77QkAovrRcN7f8>



# Hart's Hill Elementary Upcoming Events!

## Upcoming Events!

- OCTOBER is "Bullying Prevention/ Kindness" Month!
  - Bullying Prevention Walk
    - 10/6; Wear Blue to school!
    - 10/17: Bullying Prevention Walk
- **Fire Safety and Prevention Assembly**
  - Whitesboro Fire Department and local First Responders
    - 10/6
- Wear Purple to school for 'Love Like Olivia Day' and Deerfield Elementary. \$2.00 Donations accepted in support of the Olivia Rose Sacco Foundation Memorial Scholarship, awarded to a Whitesboro senior who exemplifies kindness.
  - 10/16 - Also Hat Day at Hart's Hill
- Jared Campbell Assembly
  - K-2, 3-5 Assemblies, Sing-a-Long, music empowerment, kindness!
    - 10/16

# Hart's Hill Elementary Upcoming Events!

DONATION: \$1.00 PER DAY/ \$4.00 FOR THE WEEK - TO SUPPORT  
THE FIFTH GRADE FUNDRAISING EFFORTS AND THEIR END OF THE  
YEAR FIELDTRIP!

**SPIRIT WEEK**

**OCT 14 SPORTS DAY**

**OCT 15 FAVORITE CHARACTER DAY**

**OCT 16 HAT DAY**

**OCT 17 BLUE AND WHITE DAY**

# Whitesboro Central School District

Whitesboro Central School District  
Board of Education



The Whitesboro Central School District Board of Education is responsible for the educational program for the District. Board meetings are typically held the first Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m. Dates are printed on the district calendar and the district website ([www.wboro.org](http://www.wboro.org)).

**Whitesboro Central School Board of Education members are:**

**Mr. Brian McQueen - BOE President**

**Mr. Steven Farr - Vice President**

**Dr. Jonathan Henderson**

**Mr. Thomas Schoen, Jr.**

**Mrs. Cheryl La Valley**

**Dr. Steven Szatko**

**Mr. Michael Head**

# Whitesboro Central School District

## NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE

The Whitesboro Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, handicap or age in employment or in providing student access to educational programs, courses and activities. This policy is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. Any alleged grievances should be reported to the appropriate compliance officer. Compliance officers are as follows:

*Section 504/ADA Coordinator*

*Mr. Christopher O'Neil*

*Whitesboro High School*

*6000 State Route 291*

*Marcy, New York 13403*

*Title IX Coordinator*

*Mr. David Russo*

*District Administration Building*

*65 Oriskany Blvd. Marcy,*

*Whitesboro, NY 13492*



# Whitesboro Central School District

Hart's Hill

## October 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	
5	6 Fire Prevention Day Day 5	7 Board of Education Mtg. 7 PM Day 6	8 Day 1	9 Day 2	10 Superintendent's Conference Day <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	11
12	13 Columbus Day <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	14 Day 3	15 Day 4	16 Day 5	17 Day 6	18
19	20 PTO Mtg. 6 PM Day 1	21 Day 2	22 Day 3	23 Day 4	24 Fall Fest 5:30 - 6:30 PM Day 5	25
26	27 Day 6	28 Day 1	29 Day 2	30 Day 3	31 Day 4	

