

THE WILDCAT WEEKLY

A Note from Dr. G

Volume 5 Issue 19



Superintendent's Corner

Noticing the Good

Welcome back, Wildcats! January is already off to a busy, exciting start across the district, with achievements, hands-on learning, and community celebrations marking the return from winter break. Congratulations to Hilary Piccoli, who has been named Section 1 Athletic Trainer of the Year. Her dedication to the health and safety of Westlake student-athletes, along with her leadership as President of the Section One Athletic Training Society, makes her a valued member of our school community.

Huge congratulations to Elizabeth Singh, a senior in the Science Research program, on being selected as a Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) Scholar. *This prestigious honor marks a historic milestone for the district, as Elizabeth is the first student from Mt. Pleasant to earn this national distinction.*

WHS seniors recently participated in Project Adventure's Dangling Duo, a high-ropes activity that emphasizes trust, communication, and teamwork. Working in pairs, students built confidence and problem-solving skills while supporting one another.

Elizabeth was selected as one of just 300 Scholars nationwide for her original research project, "A Novel Epigenetic Pathway to Reversing Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension? Investigating the Regulating Role of UHRF1 in Smooth Muscle Cells," which she conducted at New York Medical College.

In what has become an annual tradition, Hawthorne art teacher Melissa Mancini collaborates with her brother, a teacher in Irvington, to tackle The Monster Project. Our 1st graders created imaginative monster drawings, which 8th graders then brought to life as hand-sewn stuffed animals. The rest of our 1st graders will participate later this spring. At WMS, principal Anthony Mungoli highlighted the district's thoughtful approach to classroom modernization, showcasing updated furniture that enhances student engagement and supports flexible learning.

"Regeneron STS recognizes and empowers the most promising young scientists in the U.S. who are creating the ideas and solutions that solve our most urgent challenges," said WHS Science Research teacher Lawrence McIntyre. "Elizabeth's achievement, as Mount Pleasant's first-ever Regeneron Scholar, is a testament to her dedication, curiosity, and the strength of our science research program."

Finally, congratulations to the 61 students inducted into the National Honor Society. The ceremony included the traditional lighting of candles, the recitation of the pledge, musical performances by the Concert Band, and a solo rendition of the National Anthem by Julia Campanella. Photos and videos from the evening are available on our social media channels.

As part of the honor, each Regeneron STS Scholar receives a \$2,000 award, with an additional \$2,000 awarded to their school to support STEM-related education and opportunities. On January 21, 2026, 40 finalists will be selected from the pool of 300 Scholars and invited to compete for top honors during a week-long competition in Washington, D.C.

Westlake Middle & High School
8th & 9th Grade CAREER FAIR
Friday, March 20, 2026
at WHS - Morning Session

Calling All Community Members!
Share Your Career with Our Students by Being a Part of Our Career Fair (more info in link)

The Week Ahead

1/14 - BOE Work Session 7:30 PM

1/15 - CES Celebration of Learning 6 PM

For more information about the career fair, email Nick DiPaolo at ndipaolo@mtplcsd.org or scan the QR code to sign up and share your career.



In Awe of the Paw - Honoring Service

At the National Honor Society induction Ceremony, The Aimee Chu Hung Braun Travel/Study Grant was awarded to senior JT Nichols.

The \$1,000 award, presented each year by Drs. Norma and Carl Braun, honors their daughter. The long-standing award recognizes students who "give of themselves to others."

As a special treat, this year, Aimee's brother, Dr. Eric Braun, also a WHS grad, joined the ceremony.

