

West Essex Middle School

Home of the Knights



Parent Orientation Grade 6

January 8, 2026

This presentation will be posted on our website.



West Essex Board of Education

Name	Town
Philippe Andre	North Caldwell
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Raphael Stampone (Vice-President)	Fairfield
John Toth	Essex Fells
Maryadele Wojtowicz (President)	North Caldwell

West Essex District Administration



Name	Title
Mr. Damion Macioci	Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Tim Walsh	Director of Athletics
Mr. Caesar Diliberto	Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction
Mrs. Lisa Hulse	Director of Guidance and Student Personnel Services
Dr. Elizabeth McQuaid	Director of Special Services
Mrs. Lisa Swanick	Supervisor of Fine, Performing, & Practical Arts
Mrs. Syrena LoRe	Supervisor of English, Reading, & Libraries
Mr. Greg Aschoff	Supervisor of Math & Business
Mr. Michael Fetherman	Interim Supervisor of Science & Environmental Safety
Mrs. Laura Drago	Supervisor of Social Studies & World Languages

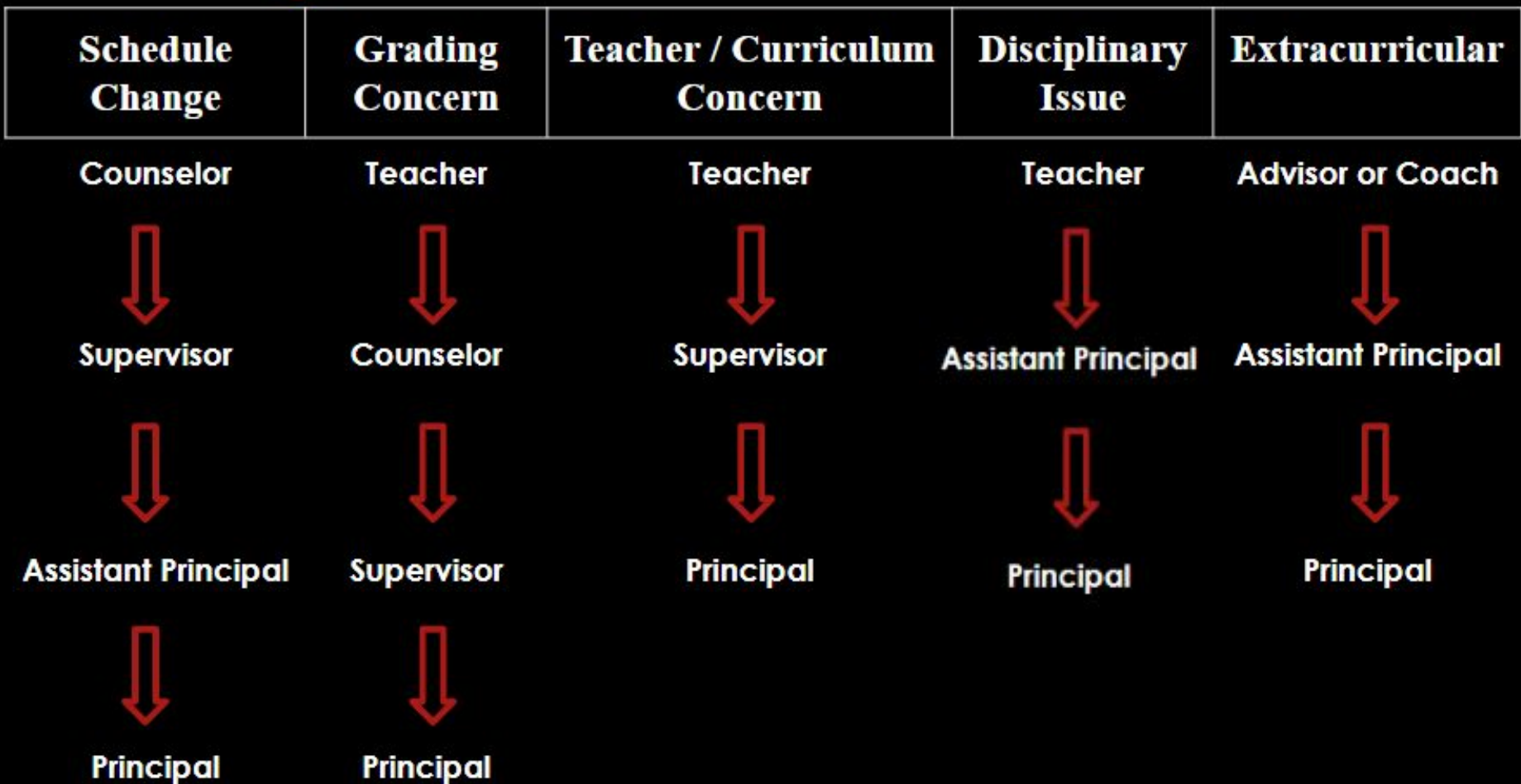


West Essex Middle School Team

Name	Title
Mr. Caesar Diliberto	Interim Principal
Mr. Jeff Martin	Assistant Principal
Ms. Vanessa Garcia	Counselor
Ms. Kaila West	Counselor
Mrs. Michele Lombardozzi	Counselor
Mrs. Dorota Martinez	Student Assistance Counselor
Mrs. Courtney Molinaro	Nurse



Communication Chain



AGENDA



- ★ Safety & Security / Climate & Culture
- ★ Middle School Model & Academics
- ★ Registration Requirements & Process
- ★ Scheduling Process
- ★ Transition Activities

School Safety & Security



- Sandy Hook Promise (2018)
 - Say Hello Random Acts of Kindness
 - Say Something Anonymous Reporting
 - on website and bookmarked on Chromebooks
- NCPD Class III Officer
- State-of-the-Art surveillance, alert and communication systems.



Culture & Climate



- Student Voice
 - Student Council
 - WE LEAD Peer Leadership



THE NO PLACE FOR HATE® PLEDGE

MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL



I WILL SEEK TO GAIN UNDERSTANDING of those who are different from myself.

I WILL SPEAK OUT against prejudice and discrimination.

I WILL REACH OUT to support those who are targets of hate.

I WILL PROMOTE RESPECT for people and help foster a prejudice-free school.

I BELIEVE that one person can make a difference - no person can be an "innocent" bystander when it comes to opposing hate.

I RECOGNIZE that respecting individual dignity and promoting inter-group harmony are the responsibilities of all students.

WE Lead



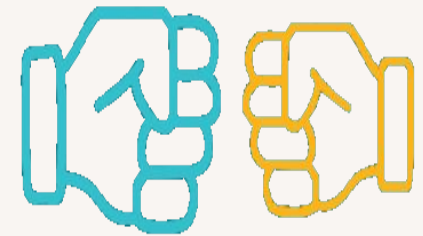
Please Welcome

Frank D'Angelo

Payton DeMarco

Nicolena Martino

- A student-centered mentor & leadership program
- Two main roles:
 - Guide 7th Graders through the first half of the year
 - Lead through service



Mentoring

7th Grade Orientation &
the 1st half of 7th Grade

- We're trained on how to be mentor AND how to translate those characteristics to our incoming 7th graders.
- Partners will have a group of 10 -7th graders that you will lead through activities during orientation.
- From there, we do occasional check-ins with your 7th graders

Service

Leadership through
serving our school
community

- We assist/help run a number of school events and initiatives throughout the year
- Events in the past
 - Back to School Night
 - Fun Night
 - 6th Grade Parent Night
 - Bring Your Child to Work Day
- Initiatives
 - No Place for Hate
 - WE CARE

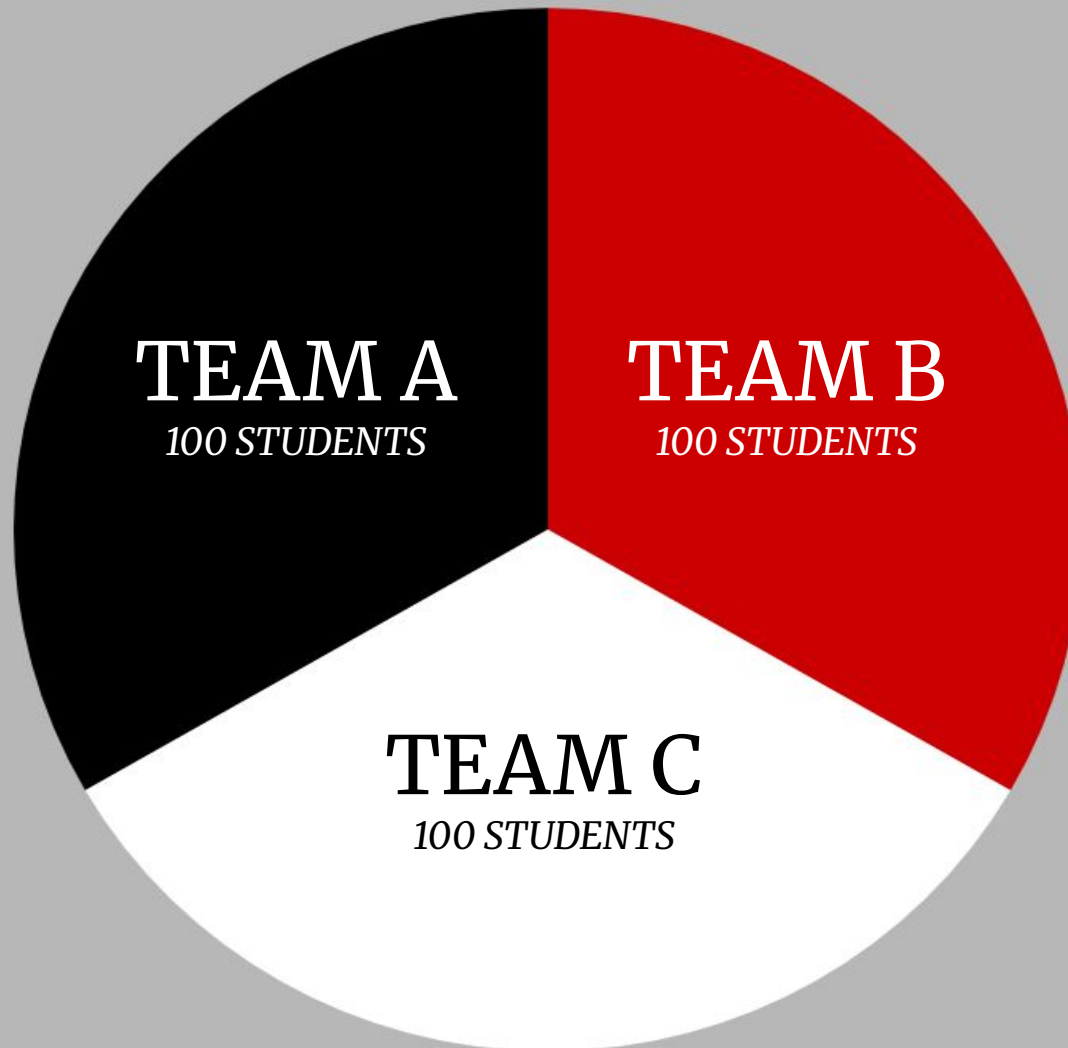
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Middle School Model

Team Model



Team Collaboration



- create interdisciplinary units
- track student progress
- create academic and behavioral interventions
- meet with students individually to discuss expectations and provide support
- communicate with parents

Academics



- Rigorous Core Academics
 - English, Social Studies, Science, World Language
 - Math 7, Math 7-1
- Reading Cycles
 - Research and Media Literacy, Reading for Young Adults, Drama, Readers as Writers
- Music Ensembles *OR* STEAM Cycle
- PE / Health

Math 7-1 Eligibility



TEST	WHO	WHEN
NJSLA	All Students	Spring of Grade 5
iReady Assessment	All Students	Week of Feb. 23
Math 7-1 Readiness Exam	Select Students via Invitation	March 14 (9am) or March 19 (4pm)

**Contact Greg Aschoff
(gaschoff@westex.org) with questions.**



3 Tips for Student Success at WEMS

1. Get Involved
2. Do your work - *for real*
3. Be Nice

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Counseling Team

Role of the School Counselor



- Assist with your child's transition to 7th grade
- Act as a support system and trusted person
- Foster your child's academic, social, and emotional growth
- Provide a safe space and open ears
- Navigate problems and make positive decisions
- Celebrate successes and achievements!

Elementary School Visitations



Upcoming Schedule Visits

Essex Fells	Tuesday, January 13
Fairfield	Thursday, January 22
North Caldwell	Wednesday, January 14
Roseland	Wednesday, January 21

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REGISTRATION PROCESS

Registration Process



- WERSD is separate district from elementary schools.
- All incoming students must submit a full registration packet
 - Copy of student's Birth Certificate and/or Current Passport
 - Parent's Driver's License ("in-district" address must be listed)
 - Proof of Residency (deed, lease, or contract of sale)
 - 3 Additional Proofs of Address (utility bill, voter registration, etc)
 - Custody Documents (if applicable)
- Completed packets to elementary Homeroom Teacher by February 20th.
- Completed packets required for Move-Up Day (June 5).

Registration Process (cont)



1. Reminder – what we need:

- 2 Guardians
 - a. If there are 2 guardians, please be sure that the primary guardian is where the student lives a majority of the week
 - b. Please be sure your cell phone is listed and your email is accurate
- 2 Emergency Contacts (other than the guardians)

Two-Household Families

- In the registration packet there is a sheet for two household families. If you are a two household family, please fill out the Parent Portal form for the additional household.

What you can access through Genesis

- Genesis is not just for report cards! We use it to post grades, communicate mid-marking period progress reports, and more. Parents should check Genesis weekly (not daily), and passwords should not be shared with students. Students will get their own Genesis Portal to keep track of grades.



Mrs. Lisa Dyer
Guidance Office Secretary
ldyer@westex.org

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Scheduling

Core & Elective Courses



Core Subjects (Grade 7):

- English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Reading Cycles
- Physical Education/Health

World Languages:

- French, Italian, Spanish (this is a two year commitment)
- If a student wants to study French, start in the 7th Grade

Electives:

- Exploratory Cycles: Art, Computer Science, Music, STEM
- Band
- Orchestra
- Chorus

Special Education Services & Recommendations

Rotate & Drop Bell Schedule



West Essex Middle School Regular School Day

<i>Block</i>	<i>Start</i>	<i>End</i>	<i>A Day</i>	<i>B Day</i>	<i>C Day</i>	<i>D Day</i>
1	8:00	8:56	1	4	3	2
2	9:00	9:54	2	1	4	3
3	9:58	10:52	3	2	1	4
LUNCH	10:52	11:39	L	L	L	L
4	11:43	12:37	5	8	7	6
5	12:41	1:35	6	5	8	7
6	1:39	2:35	7	6	5	8

Typical Student Schedule



Your locker number is 326. Use the following combination:

	A	B	C	D
Class 1 8:00AM 8:56AM	Social Studies 8B Sorrentino, John Period: 1 Room: 218 FY	MUSIC 8 Rizzo, Christa Period: 4 Room: 111 Q1	Reading for Young Adults 8 D'angelo, Melissa Period: 3 Room: 219 Q1	English 8B Lynch, Alexa Period: 2 Room: 223 FY
Class 2 9:00AM 9:54AM	English 8B Lynch, Alexa Period: 2 Room: 223 FY	Social Studies 8B Sorrentino, John Period: 1 Room: 218 FY	MUSIC 8 Rizzo, Christa Period: 4 Room: 111 Q1	Reading for Young Adults 8 D'angelo, Melissa Period: 3 Room: 219 Q1
Class 3 9:58AM 10:52AM	Reading for Young Adults 8 D'angelo, Melissa Period: 3 Room: 219 Q1	English 8B Lynch, Alexa Period: 2 Room: 223 FY	Social Studies 8B Sorrentino, John Period: 1 Room: 218 FY	MUSIC 8 Rizzo, Christa Period: 4 Room: 111 Q1
Lunch (Full Period) 10:52AM 11:39AM				
Class 4 11:43AM 12:37PM	Italian 8 Costanzo, John Period: 5 Room: 229 FY	Science 8B Sommer/Hughes Period: 8 Room: 130 FY	PE/Health 8 Sciaccitano, Donna Period: 7 Room: 105LGGYM FY	Algebra I CPA 8B Dojcinoski, Alyssa Period: 6 Room: 228 FY
Class 5 12:41PM 1:35PM	Algebra I CPA 8B Dojcinoski, Alyssa Period: 6 Room: 228 FY	Italian 8 Costanzo, John Period: 5 Room: 229 FY	Science 8B Sommer/Hughes Period: 8 Room: 130 FY	PE/Health 8 Sciaccitano, Donna Period: 7 Room: 105LGGYM FY
Class 6 1:39PM 2:35PM	PE/Health 8 Sciaccitano, Donna Period: 7 Room: 105LGGYM FY	Algebra I CPA 8B Dojcinoski, Alyssa Period: 6 Room: 228 FY	Italian 8 Costanzo, John Period: 5 Room: 229 FY	Science 8B Sommer/Hughes Period: 8 Room: 130 FY

Knight of Knowledge 2026



Join us on March 4th for our
Annual Knight of Knowledge Event
hosted by the District Culture and Climate Committee

More information and registration to come via email

*Various workshops will be offered including:
Surviving and Thriving in MS
facilitated by the WEMS Counseling Department*

Student Assistance Counselor (SAC)



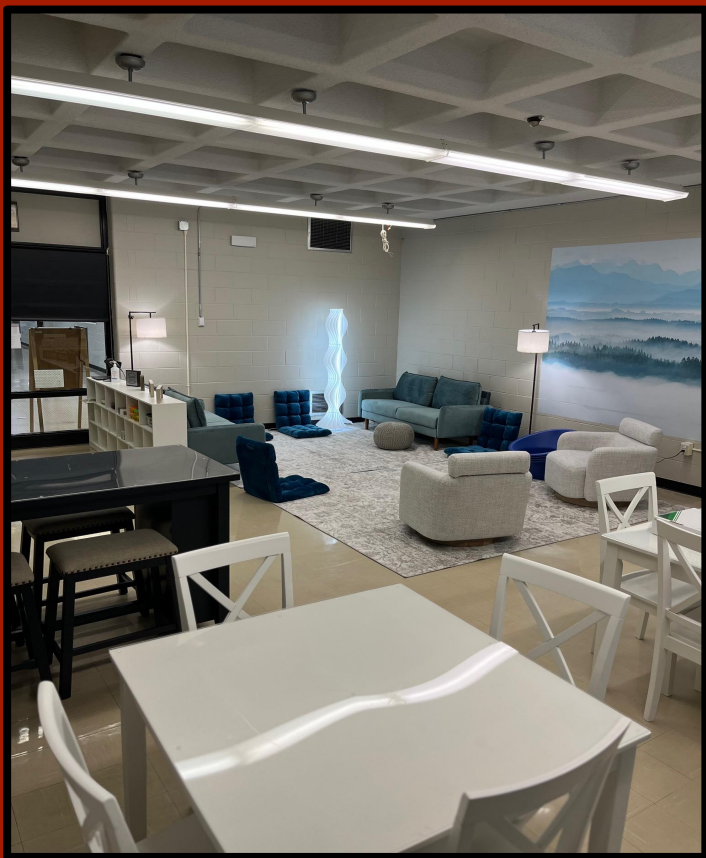
- Introduction - Dorota Martinez, SAC
- Services Provided:
 - Individual Counseling - anxiety, stress, depression, self esteem
 - Group Counseling * Get Organized!
 - Crisis Intervention and Prevention
 - Training for staff - identifying At-Risk students
- 504 Coordinator
- Frequent Concerns of Middle School Students:
 - Making NEW Friends and Maintaining Friendships
 - Healthy Relationships, Managing Social Media
 - Academic Challenges and Time Management
 - Learning to Self Advocate

Common Student Fears



- Getting to class on time
- Class changes, navigating hallways
- Finding and accessing lockers
- Finding bathrooms and lunchrooms
- Getting on the correct bus
- Perception of their new teachers
- Homework demands
- Following new rules
- Establishing social norms

NEW Counseling Corner - Room 124



*Thank you,
WEMS PTO!*

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MS TRANSITION

Transition Events



- **Move-Up Day** *(June 5, 2026)*
- **Open House** *(Week of August 17, 2026)*
- **WE Lead 7th Grade Orientation** *(Week of August 17, 2026)*
- **First Days of School**
 - **Transition Lessons**
 - **Mix it up Lunch**
- **Spring Lake 7th Grade Trip**
- **7th Grade Fun Knight** *(September TBD)*

Athletics & Extracurricular Activities



Club Offerings

- Acting Club
- Art Club
- Book Club
- Builders Club
- Chess Club
- Dance Team
- Jazz Ensemble
- Knightlights Literary Magazine
- The Knightly News
- Math Counts
- No Place for Hate
- Rogate (gifted and talented)
- SAVE Promise
- Spring Musical
- STEM Club
- Steppingstone - MS yearbook
- String Ensemble
- Student Council
- WE Lead

Athletics

Fall Season

- Boys & Girls Soccer
- eSports
- Field Hockey
- Strength Training

Winter Season

- Boys and Girls Basketball
- Cheerleading
- eSports
- Strength Training
- Wrestling

Spring Season

- Baseball
- Boys and Girls Track & Field
- eSports
- Softball
- Strength Training

*Students must pay an Activity Fee in order to participate in a sport or extracurricular activity.
This fee is paid once per school year and covers multiple activities.*

MS Sports Participation



Registration via Genesis Parent Portal >> Forms tab

1. 4 page Annual PreParticipation Physical Evaluation Form must be submitted
2. Health History Update Questionnaire, regardless of the Date of Examination
3. If applicable, Life-Threatening Allergy Action Plan or Asthma Treatment Plan must be submitted in order to clear your child for participation

[Athletic Forms](#)

ALL PAPERWORK DUE BY THE DUE DATE
to athletics@westex.org

MS Sports Participation



It takes approximately 7-10 days to have your child cleared to participate in Athletics, clearance does not come from your doctor, it comes from our school physician.

- MS Field Hockey begins on or about *August 24*
- MS Soccer on or about August 24

Schedule your doctor's appointments now!

**ALL PAPERWORK DUE NO LATER THAN
AUGUST 8th 2026
to athletics@westex.org**



Key Dates

Activity	Date
iReady Testing (Grade 6)	Week of February 23
Knight of Knowledge Parent Night 2026	March 4
Math 7-1 Readiness Test (Invitation Only)	March 14 or 19
Move-Up Day	June 5
7th Grade Open House	Week of August 17
WE Lead 7th Grade Orientation	Week of August 17



West Essex Weekly

West Essex Middle School

Issue 1

August 1, 2023

Dear Knights,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year at West Essex Middle School! As we come together from the four sending districts of Essex Fells, Fairfield, North Caldwell, and Roseland, we strive to unite as one inclusive West Essex community.

At West Essex Middle School, the safety and well-being of our students are paramount. Our team eagerly awaits the arrival of your child and remains committed to nurturing their individual growth and success. We understand that this time of year brings a mix of excitement and nervousness, especially for those transitioning to West Essex Middle School. Our foremost goal is to make this transition as seamless and enjoyable as possible.

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WE C.A.R.E.

collaboration. awareness. resilience. empathy.