Westerville South

Commencement



Saturday, May 23, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Celeste Center at the
Ohio State Fair Grounds

"Do not follow where

the path may lead.

Go, instead, where

there is no path

and leave a trail."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Audience Note: The Westerville South High School Class of 2026 requests that you join them in sharing a dignified, respectful, and orderly Commencement. During the conferring of diplomas, please hold your applause until the last graduate has received their diploma. Thank you for supporting the Class of 2026!

Program

Processional - Westerville South High School Orchestra
Lauren Edwards, Director

Pledge of Allegiance - Mark Chavez & Derek Deichert
2026 Class Officers

National Anthem - Soundsation

Welcome - Mike Hinze
Principal

"A Future to Mold into Your Home" - Niti Bhattarai

One Last Song - Soundsation
Arr. Garrett Breeze

"Nearsighted" - Rodav Kalengayi
2026 Class Officer

Principal's Remarks & presentation of Class - Mike Hinze
Principal

Acceptance of Class - Kristy Meyer
President, Westerville Board of Education

Conferring of Diplomas - Angie Hamberg
Superintendent, Westerville City School District

Awarding of Diplomas

Alma Mater - Addie Gurgiolo
Senior Soundsation Member

Closing Remarks - Mike Hinze
Principal

Turning of the Tassel - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

Alma Mater



Dear Westerville South,

we're loyal to you.

Though sorrow and joy come,

we'll always be true.

We think of all friendships,

our school days did bring.

Though dear friends have parted,

still memories will ring.

Our fair Alma Mater

thy praise will we sing!

Class of 2026

Anisa Mohamed Abdullahi - **GS**
Rania Shueyb Abukar - **H, GS, NHS**
Sandya Acharya
Aaron Papa-Yaw Ankoma Acheampong - **IBC**
Matthew K Boamah Acquah - **IBC**
Sumira Adhikari - **H, GS, IBC, NHS**
Michael Amponsah Adjei
Samuel Akwasi Agyemang
Kwadwo Otu Agyemfra
Anas Abdideq Ahmed
Fahan Salah Ahmed
Omar Hassan Ahmed
Imani Kendi Akita - **GS**
Aaliyuh Nowel Louise Al Hadid
Ayub Fadhi Ali
Nawal Said Ali
Billie Caroline Allen - **H**
Karar S Almateery
Ja'Mari Torae Alston
Maame Afia Asiedua Ampomah
Eden Benewah Amponsah
Evan Robert Andrews - **IBC, NHS**
Jake Edmund Anthony
Katherine Jo Anthony
Abiel T Arega
Dalia Noureldin Bashir Arja - **H, GS, NHS**
Jhalil Paris Armstrong
Emmanuel Ofori Asante
Kwadwo Kuffour Asiedu
Isaac Abraham Assefa - **IBC**
Amoikon Charles Stephen Attien
Abbie Elizabeth Auguste
Riziki Aziza
Oluwaferanmi Adebayo Tam Balogun - **IBC**
Luke Joseph Barfay
Hardiq Bastola
Nasir Jaesson Battle
Andrew Bruce Beardmore III
Nolan William Beaty
Makenzi Taylor Beckwith
Nathaniel Kai Bell
Kyle Davey Bellomy
Rashaun Amare Benham
Ethan James Bennett - **AV, H, IBC, NHS**
Makayla Elise Ann Bennett
Margaret Elise Benton - **IBC**
Aicha Zahara Berete
Evan Alexander Bettac - **H, IBC, NHS**
Niti Bhattarai - **AV, H, GS, IBD, NHS**
Sakinah Raiyyan Bintshahiydullah Binraymond
Bana Kesete Birhanemeskel
Connor Joshua Thomas Blackford - **AV, H, NHS**
Jada Marie Blitchington - **H**
Kylee Jade Bolen - **IBC**
Kyra Jasmine Bolen - **IBC**
Kameron Keith Bolton
Giovanni Joseph Borghese
Ava Marie Boudreau
Parker Matthew Bowling - **IBC**
Roger James Boyer
Juniper Bubis
Isaac Joseph Buchanan
Michael Budu-Biney - **NHS**
Anh Huy Nguyen Bui
Elijah Xavier Burney
Nathan Daniel Bury-Hays - **IBC**
George Musakulima Byankuba
Timothy Clayton Campbell
Micah John Carnes - **GS, IBC**
Brynley Taite Carr
Brock Logan Carraway
Sarah Emily Chan
Mark Owen Chavez - **AV, H, IBC, NHS**
Makayla Renee Cherry
Jacob Brody Chiampo
Cailyn Elizabeth Chilcote
Henry Benjamin Cho - **AV, H, GS, IBC, NHS**
Anthony Jay Somerlot Clark
Darius Maurice Coates
Elijah Aaron Cokes
Alaina Marie Colvin - **IBC**
Nailyan Yusmugyul Ahmedova Conger
Aimee Ruth Connell - **H, IBC**

Class of 2026

Anna Marie Connell
Ashley Faith Connell
Daniel Theophilus Connor - **IBC**
Alexandre Cordeiro De Souza Lira Junior
Carlos Alfredo Cordero
Louis Kamba Coussey
Felix Christopher Cox - **H, NHS**
Tess Annebeth Creamer
Anderson Daniel Crill - **H, IBC, NHS**
June Layne Crowe
Brennen Scott Curry
Caleb Samuel Dardinger - **H, NHS**
Quinton George Dardinger - **H**
Pujan Darjee
John Edward Daum III
Derek Paul Deichert - **H, IBC, NHS**
Adah Faith Dempsey-Baddeley
Leif Sheridan Brice Depenbrock-Palmore
Victor Dhital
Emanuel Eliam Diaz Figueroa
Ronald Joseph Diersing-Gray - **IBC**
Leo Doan
Macky Doumbouya - **IBC**
Desmond Floyd Ducy - **IBD**
Elizabeth Eileen Dunfeh
Abigail Jean Dusenbury
Nicolas Evora Adeyemi Edon
Ryan Tibari Elbayed
Cayden Howard Erwin
Haja Majula Fadika - **NHS**
Matida Fadika
Sihaam Ahmed Faisal
Anisa Aisha Farah
Stephanie Eva Flores-Jones
Aalims Bangura Fofanah
Sydney Alanna Fosuhemaa-Berko - **H, NHS**
Arisa Patricia-Irene Francis
Brody Emanuel French
Kevin Afriyie Frimpong
Abelangel Fuentes Cerrillo
Hadley Elise Fullen
Anthony Moises Galdamez Mejia
Yeili Garcia
Faniel Tsegay Gidey
Katheron Maxine Gonzalez - **H, IBC**
Emma Claire Gonzalez-Pifer - **IBC**
Westley Charles Gorenz - **IBC**
Xae Io Grace - **H, IBC**
Addie Laine Gurgiolo - **AV, H, IBC, NHS**
Fatumo Abdi Hade
Amanueal Tesfay Hailegorgis
Avery Jolee Hall
Heaven Latrice Ann Hall
Cinnomen Ma-Riah Marie Harmon
Ian Lewis Harper
Journee Mae Hartgrove - **IBC, NHS**
Mohamed Ibrahim Hashi
Yoonis Mohamed Hassan
Gavin Alan Hastings - **H, GS, NHS**
Elizebeth Grace Hastings Coker
Draven Evermore Hatfield
Alexander Nicholas Heckler - **H**
Joanna Azul Hernandez Guzman - **IBC**
Anna Elise Herold
Laila Loraine Marie Higgins - **IBC**
Brooklyn Ann Hogenbirk
Gabriel Ahmed Hosni
Sock Salem Wizard Hostutler
Meredith Sue Howell - **H**
Sundus Ali Ibrahim
Bilal Ahmed Ismail
Nadeen Waleed Ismail
Elijah David Jackson - **IBC**
Fatuma Abdifatah Jama
Hafsa Abdulkadir Jama
Ismahan Abdulahi Jama - **H, GS, NHS**
Jama Bashir Jama
Abigail Margaret James-Weima
Josephyne Barbara Johnson - **IBC**
Sarah Kathalin Johnson - **NHS**
Stryder Davis Johnson
Vera Lorraine Johnson
Ziriah Ashynai Johnson
Lincoln Scott Jolly
Elia Dianne Jones - **H, IBC, NHS**
Elijah Sherod Jones - **IBC**
Jayla Kae Jones

Class of 2026

Carl Nimrod Jefferson Joseph
Hassan John Kaba - **IBC**
Rodav Wanzambi Kalengayi - **NHS**
Fatumata Hassan Kamara
Ropafadzo Kanyongo
Binisha Katel
Alicia Mae Keenan - **H, GS, IBC, NHS**
Mausam Kharel
Tabarek Hikmat Khudhair - **H**
Maya Catherine Kowalski - **H**
Elsie Asieduaa Kusi - **IBC**
Rachel Charlotte Kuta - **H, IBC**
Alexandra Dee Lamm
Edward Paul Nathan Langley
Daniel Augustus Leeman
Brandi Serene Lehman
Madelynn Leigh Leis
Brookleyn Marie Light - **IBC**
Pathiwat Likithapreeyakul
Sofie Anne Loftin - **IBC, NHS**
Kobe Alexander Long
Katerin Elizabeth Lopez Rodriguez
Leland Rocky Love
Colin Frederick Donal Lundy
Cienna Christine Lytus
Lienna Ely Mack
Raj Magar
Falujo Muqtar Mahamud
Najmo Muqtar Mahamud
Jaysen Christopher Mallory Jr - **IBC**
Jerry Wilson Manns III - **IBC**
Carlos Daniel Martins De Souza
Grant Evans Masters
Averie Kathryn Mattox
Isabelle Catherine Victo Mcculloch - **IBC**
Carter Angles Mcenany
Abigail Jane Mcfeely
Luke Howard Mcginnis
Marie Valentina Mcguire-Guerra - **IBC**
Riley Tod Mcintyre
Guadalupe Medina
Wilfredo Ramon Medina III
Gabriela Medina Dominguez
Katherine Suzanne Mehlo - **H, IBC**
Marissa Renee Meinen
Mianna Hope Meinhart
Bernard Mensah-Kumih
Jocelyn Rose Meyer - **IBC**
Chiamaka Blessing Mgbatogu - **H, IBC, NHS**
William Wesley Miller
Maxwell Steven Milton
Amal Hussien Mohamed
Amina Ahmed Mohamed
Amina Bashir Mohamed
Belal M Mohamed Jr
Ibtisam Hassan Mohamed
Muna Farah Mohamed
Najmo Aziz Mohamed - **GS**
Nashaad Abdi Wahid Mohamud Hasan
Nischal Mongrati
Theodore James Montemarano
Joseph Daniel Montgomery
Charmayne Monique Moore
Yasmine Morjane
David Richard Mowery - **IBC**
Mason Allen Mullins
Claire Alexandra Munger - **NHS**
Nasteha Dahir Muse
Joyeuse Muziranenge
Susanna Katharine Boyll Mylin - **IBC**
Troy James Negron - **IBC**
Lauren Tuong-Uyen Ngo - **IBC, NHS**
Shayla Nhi Ngo - **IBC, NHS**
John Waggoner Nickoli - **IBC**
Isis Marie Nimely
Oscar Nino Soto
Manny Mcloven Norwood
Faduma Abdikhadar Nur
Cabdulraxmaan Maxammed Nuur - **IBC**
Hans Otelo Nyangoro
Joel Josephat Nyangoro
Brenna Cathleen O'Malley-Davis
Brooklynn Danielle O'Malley-Davis
Justin Joseph Mitchel Ochs
Kwaku Tweneboa Ohemeng
Nicomachus Kharon Oliver
Akeelah Aderinsola

Omoniyi - **H, IBD, NHS**
Mark Andre Orelien
Alexander Yael Ortiz-Laus - **IBC**
Chase Alexander Osterritter
Juan Diego Pablo Naredo
Lily Katherine Pabst
Jayden Victor Padilla Ortiz
Jude Lincoln Palacios
Arreis Rose Parker
Ava Jolie Parks - **IBC, NHS**
Zamir Kingston Parrish - **IBC**
Isaac James Patterson
Adam Daniel Patton - **NHS**
Kiley Ruth Audrey Pearson
Arianna Marlene Pederson
Monchebolatan Samiath
Sephora Pedro - **H, NHS**
Brandon Isaac Peebles - **IBC**
Ella Ann Pestorius
Amanda Chau Pham - **H, NHS**
Jacoby David Pinion - **H, IBC, NHS**
Olivia Lee Porter
Ja'Vier Ty'Ray Porter-Alexander
Aspyn Brewer Pyke - **NHS**
Joshua Elievi Quaicoe
Liam Henry Qualls
Amaya Lyzette Michele Quander - **IBC**
Ava Leigh Quint - **IBC**
Lesly Lizet Quintana
Adeline Grace
Quisumbing - **H, IBC, NHS**
Brooklynn Nicole Radcliff
Prabesh Rai
Tatum Bouchard
Randall - **H, IBC, NHS**
Theodore Joseph Ray
Luke John Reemtsen
Parion Victorian Reese
Mattea Rebecca Restifo
Audrey Ann Rice
Devonn Martez Robinson
Ivory Micah Ross
Mandira Rumtel - **IBC**
Deior Alonzo Hoston Russell
Daniel James Ryckman - **IBC**
Kaylee Rose Ryon
Jabril Mohamed Saeed
Sharmarke Mohamed Saeed - **H**
Mohamed Abdi Said
Ali Hassan Saleh
Naomi Pearl Samples
Yui Seki - **H, IBC, NHS**
Yanna Sophia Serenko - **H, IBC, NHS**
Paisley Annabelle Seum - **H**
Adam Mohammad Jamil Shalash
Allison Genevieve Share - **H, NHS**
Julian Donelle Shields
Kail Aiden Shipman - **IBC**
Joy Loi Anne Shirima
Ella Marie Shuster - **H, NHS**
Nevaeh Alyse Six
Kai Stewart
Smith Emrich - **H, IBC, NHS**
De'Ahna Leshell Smoot
Sara Soltanirad - **IBC, NHS**
Daniel Kwabena Somuah
Paul James Spiers
Dionysus Trammell Spight
Nathan James Sproul
Roan Marie Stacey - **H, IBC, NHS**
Samuel Allan Stedke - **IBC**
Paige Elisabeth
Stehman - **AV, H, IBD, NHS**
Alexander Jay Stein - **IBC**
Wilson Michael Stewart
Elyse Elanor Stuckey - **H, IBC, NHS**
Christopher Robert Stump
Juan Rafael Suarez Ortiz - **IBC**
Hubert Sun - **IBD**
Kala Lenae Talley - **H**
Makenna Rose Tamru - **AV, H, NHS**
Aman Hagos Tesfatsion
Jai'Den Mekhi Thames
Garrison Viking Thiegs
Al'Kaida Edward Tigg
Raymond Cash Tinsley
Michael Allen Tomlinson III
Charles Allen Townsend
Andy Phi Dai Tran
Maria Antwanett Tripp
Joshua Nana Akwasi Tuffour - **H**
Roxana Uddin - **AV, H, IBD, NHS**

Gideon Alexander Ulrey
Luca Alden Varda
London Michael Vickroy - **IBC**
Aryanna Nevaeh Ward
Caitlin Marie Ward
David Orville Weaver - **AV, H, NHS**
Alex Julian Welch
Paiton Nicole West
Alivia Paige Wheeler
Emily Grace Whitehead - **H, IBC, NHS**
Henry Daniel Whittington - **H, GS, NHS**
Avery Rose Wiese
Noah Ryan Wingo
Thomas Valentine Wolf - **H**
Cedar Mercury Yau - **H, IBC, NHS**
Ambani Oduor Yogo
Khadro Abdullahi Yusuf
James Nicholas Zepeda-Romero - **H**
Brian James Zuber

AV - Academic Varsity (Top Ten)

GS - Global Scholar

H - Honors Diploma

IBC - International Baccalaureate Course Candidate

IBD - International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate

NHS - National Honor Society Member

Westerville South Faculty & Staff

Elaine Adams
Lori Alkire
Keith Allinder
Larissa Anders
Shelby Anderson
Amy Anglin
Jennifer Aransky
Anthony Arrington
Adam Asbeck
Jacob Austrino
Melissa Bailey
Nathan Baker
Candice Bartlett
Lisa Baughman
Ericka Beeson
Stephanie Bingham
David Boldware
Jamie Boone
Lisa Booth
Kenneth Brewer
Maureen Britts
Brad Burris
Benjamin Burwinkel
Eric Calland
Jamie Callighan
Cheyney Carr
Rheygyn Carr
Bonita Castillo
Matthew Christ
Camden Coggburn
Cassandra Coggburn
Karen Conley
Shelly Corl
Mary Corson
Jenny Coulter
James Cowman
Amanda Crist
George Crooks
Sarah Detrick
Jodi Dowdy
Sheila Ebbrecht
Lauren Edwards
Laura Elliott
Ann Engelhart
Justin Ferguson
Kathryn Feucht
Dustin Few
Desirae Flynn
Kathleen Frazier
Jenny Freshly
Mary Fuchs
Richard Gary
Andrea Gaul
James Gaul
Jessica Gilbert
Jennifer Gillespie
Jeff Good
Lyra Gray
Kathryn Griffith
Maddison Gueulette
Kasandra Gutierrez
Kathy Hayman
Cliff Haynes
Irene Hedges
Mike Hinze
Jonathon Holderman
Keith Jackson
Adam Jarvis
Heather Kabler
Assiatu Kamara
Trevor Kielmeyer
Amanda King
Erin Kohut
Dennis Lackey
Elizabeth Langston
Jessica Lathon
Cassandra Lawson
Rhonda Letterio
Luke Liston
Jacqueline Long
Jeff Madama
Kenneth Maddy
Darius McBride
Sara McCrea
Jacqueline McDade
Jill McMasters
Sarah McMillen
Megan Messner
Adam Metzger
Fabiola Milla-Kimble
Bryan Miller
Jacob Miller
Caitlyn Moreland
Summer Ortman
Jeff Owdom
Shannon Pacheco
Melissa Paletta
Pat Palumbo
Toshi Pearson
Susan Pennell
Lori Peters
Abigail Phillips
Andrew Phillips
Justin Pope
Sarah Queen
Reston Randall
Ashley Reamsnyder
Matt Rees
Caitlin Robbins
Ricky Robbins
Cheryl Rodenfels
Tara Rogers
Rebecca Rollo
Melinda Rostorfer
Jason Rowsey
John Rowson
Ann Rumpke
Anthony Rutledge
Christopher Salyer
Rich Schell
Bridget Schinker
Aislynn Schmidley
Mark Schmidley
Stacy Schneider
Dave Schultz
Lauren Sefton
Melissa Simashkevich
Diane Smith
Katie Smith
Timothy Smith
Tasha Snedeker
Michael Spatafore
Patrick Spoonmore
Noelle Spriesterbach
Maura Stacey
Kelley Stocker
Kyle Stout
Jennifer Stovall
Joshua Sullivan
Karen Sullivan
Emily Swank-Kavanaugh
Kristin Tobin
Mona Towns
Robin Trueman
Gina Turner
Pamela Villegas
Roderick Watson
Robert Weimer
Rachel White
Trinity White
Victoria White
Julie Wilson
Benjamin Wittwer
Alyssa Wolfe
Matt Wolfe
Kelly Wright
Brandi Young
Kelly Zakrajsek
Holly Zimmerman

Westerville City Schools History

The Westerville School District was officially established in 1855. In 1866, the district built a building known as the Union School on Vine Street which had one room and served all grades; two more rooms were added in 1879. Until 1882, high school course study took two years to complete. In 1889, high school classes required three years of study, and by 1900, four years of study were required for graduation. In 1896, the Vine Street School (now Emerson Elementary School) was built. The new building had six rooms, seven teachers, and just under 300 students. In 1908, four more classrooms, a drinking fountain, and indoor restrooms were added to the rear of the building.

In 1921, high school science course laboratories needed to be updated. In 1923, Westerville Junior and Senior High School (now Hanby Elementary) opened with state-of -the-art facilities.

With growing attendance, a new elementary School needed to be built. In 1930, it was decided that all new school buildings should be named after poets and authors; not all district buildings, however, held to this standard. In 1931, Longfellow Elementary opened and in 1955, and Central College became part of the Westerville School District. In 1952-1959, Whittier and Hawthorne were built (respectively).

By 1959, the need for a larger high school was evident and in 1960, the new Westerville High School (now Westerville South High School) opened to students in the district. The new name for the school was to be "James Russell Lowell High School" after the famed American Poet, but was quickly disputed by many and the school returned to its former name.

Huber Ridge (1964) was the first school to be named after a subdivision; Annehurst (1970) followed and was named accordingly. Walnut Springs (1965), Blendon (1969), Heritage (1989), Genoa (1998), and Minerva Park (2023) Middle Schools were all named after their locations.

The remaining Elementary schools are as follows: Alcott (2002), Cherrington (1968), Fouse (2002), Mark Twain (1974), McVay (1989), Pointview (1973), Robert Frost (1974), Wilder (1989), and Minerva France (2022).

By the early 1970s, Westerville High School had become too small to accommodate all the students in the district, thus Westerville North opened in 1975. Several additions were constructed to both Westerville South and Westerville North until the need for a new high school was again evident. Westerville Central opened in 2003 marking a major milestone in the community. When Central opened, there were approximately 800 Freshman and Sophomores; Hanby Elementary School students shared the space as the aging Hanby building underwent renovations. Today, the Westerville City School District educates approximately 15,700 students and is the 11th largest district in Ohio.

Board of Education

Kristy Meyer, President
Jennifer Aultman, Vise President
Tatjana Brown, Board Member
Anisa Liban, Board Member
Louise Valentine, Board Member

District Administration

Angie Hamberg, Superintendent
Nicole Marshall, Treasurer / CFO
Mark Cooper, Chief Academic Officer
Scott Reeves, Chief Personnel and Policy Officer
Kari Dennis, Chief Operations Officer

South's Administration

Mike Hinze, Principal
Julie Wilson, Assistant Principal
Roderick Watson, Jr., Assistant Principal
Anthony Arrington, Assistant Principal
Jeff Good, Athletic Director
Keith Jackson, Student Resource Officer

Dedicated to Excellence

The mission of Westerville South High School is to provide a safe and inviting learning environment where individuals work to achieve their highest potential. Students, staff, parents, and community will work together to ensure that all individuals grow socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually.





Congratulations!

To all parents, grandparents, families, and friends of our graduates. We thank you for your support and encouragement of our graduates throughout their high school career.

The staff and administration wish you and our graduates success and happiness.

Congratulations

Class of

2026



Westerville South High School