



WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

*School and Community
Working Together*
VOLUME 33, No. 1

JULY 2026

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026!



West Valley Central School honored its graduating Class of 2026 at commencement exercises held Friday, June 26.

Annabelle Proseus delivered the valedictory address, reflecting on the shared journey of the class. "Every challenge, every success, every mistake, and every lesson has helped shape who you are today," Proseus reminded her classmates. "I am so proud of each and every one of you for making it this far, because I know just how far you are going to go."

Salutatorian Payton Ehnes reflected on a class that has shared the same hallways since elementary school, recalling field trips, a senior prank spent camping in front of the school, and the memories in between.

Class President Derik Schoepflin has served in the role since 7th grade, and he used the moment to thank his classmates: "I could never imagine a better group of people to grow up with. These guys have been here for me through all the highs and many, many lows. Not a single day went by that I felt alone."

The class selected science teacher Joe Guagliardo as their commencement speaker — a choice that carried special meaning. Guagliardo was a first-year teacher at West Valley when the Class of 2026 first walked into his classroom, and he spent the years since watching them grow as students, athletes, and young adults. "You helped shape my experience at West Valley just as much as I hopefully helped shape yours," he told the graduates. Guagliardo closed his address with a charge to the students: "Stay curious. Stay resilient. Work hard. Support one another. And never underestimate the impact you can have on the people around you."

Board of Education President George Kazmierczak presented diplomas to the graduates, along with superintendent Dan Amodeo and Principal Rachel Mychajluk. With diplomas in hand, West Valley's Class of 2026 concluded the ceremony by leading the audience in the school's alma mater before heading out to celebrate with family and friends.

GRADUATION CONTINUES ON PAGE 3.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

BY MR. DANIEL AMODEO, SUPERINTENDENT

Congratulations to the West Valley class of 2026! I am proud of each one of you for achieving this milestone along the journey to reach your dreams. You are all evidence that our collective future is filled with hope and success.

Congratulations to our retirees! You have dedicated decades of your life to West Valley Central School, helping to inspire and shape generations that are the foundation of our future.

Thank you to all our staff for an amazing school year. From the beginning of the school year we hit the ground running, always focused on our mission. Through many hours of professional development, lesson planning, coaching, cleaning, driving, facility planning, and problem solving, you all created a successful, positive, and engaging learning environment for our students to thrive in.

I would like to thank our families. The support you have showed since our "Meet the Teacher Night" in September to our graduation ceremony on June 26 has been remarkable and critical to the success of this past school year. Finally, we appreciate our school community and the opportunity to engage with all.

Despite operating under a contingency budget for the 2026-27 school year, we remain committed to providing the best opportunities for our students to meet our mission and realize our vision. In addition, we look forward to creating more opportunities to engage our entire school community through the work of Board of Education committees.

Students, you have worked extremely hard over the last school year learning new concepts, trying new things, studying, reviewing, collaborating, and competing. Please enjoy a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer! I look forward to seeing you in September!



WE DID IT!

BY MRS. MYCHAJLUK, PRINCIPAL

Dear West Valley Families,

Another school year is officially in the books, and what a year it has been! Looking back, it's amazing how quickly these final weeks flew by. From field

trips and fun days to our pep assembly, spring sports awards, graduation ceremonies, and Regents exams, we packed so many memorable moments into the closing days of school.

Thank you to our incredible students, staff, families, and community for your hard work, support, and partnership throughout the year. Together, we celebrated successes, overcame challenges, and continued to make West Valley a special place to learn and grow.

As we head into summer, I hope you take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy all that the season has to offer. Spend time with family and friends, explore new places, get outside, and make lasting memories.

While summer is a well-deserved break, it's also important to keep your mind active. Research consistently shows that students can experience "summer slide," losing some of the academic progress they've made during the school year. Reading regularly, practicing math skills, exploring educational activities, visiting local libraries, and simply staying curious can make a tremendous difference when September arrives.

Whether you're reading your favorite book, trying something new, or learning through everyday experiences, every little bit helps keep those skills sharp.

Before we know it, September will be here, and we'll be ready to welcome everyone back for another exciting year of learning.

On behalf of everyone at West Valley Central School, have a safe, healthy, relaxing, and restorative summer!

Go Wildcats! 💜💛

JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BOARD OF EDUCATION REORGANIZATION MEETING • 7/7

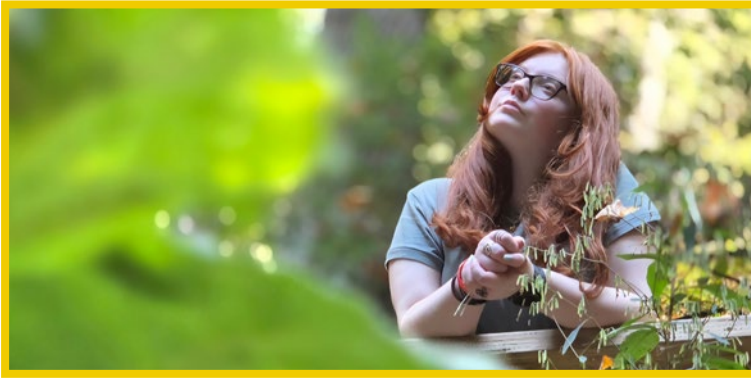
FARM MARKET • 7/11

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING • 7/21



GRADUATION NIGHT





VALEDICTORIAN Annabelle Proseus

Annabelle Proseus, daughter of Jason and Heather Proseus, is the valedictorian for the Class of 2026. While attending West Valley, Annabelle was involved in Art Club, Yearbook, and National Honor Society, and volunteered at Community Day and the Veterans Breakfast. After high school, Annabelle will attend Alfred University to study psychology and criminology.

SALUTATORIAN Payton Ehnes

Payton Ehnes, daughter of Debbie Wierzba, is the salutatorian for the Class of 2026. While at West Valley, Payton was an active part of the school community, participating in SADD, Student Council, the UB Internship Program, and Yearbook. She also competed in volleyball, softball, bowling, and basketball, and performed in the musical Shrek Jr. After high school, Payton will attend Bryant & Stratton to study in the Physical Therapy Assistant program.



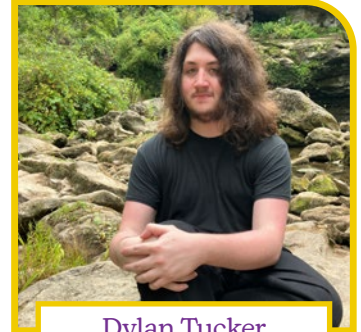
Abbigail Pinkowski



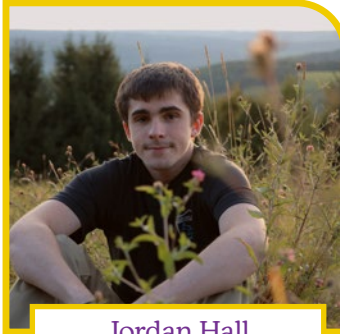
Cole Holstein



Derik Schoepflin



Dylan Tucker



Jordan Hall



Kaiden Troutman



Karson Heitman



Liliana Toms



Olivia Harmony



Tucker Fleming

CLASS OF 2026 POST SECONDARY PLANS

Annabelle Proseus	Alfred University for psychology and criminology
Cole Holstein	Starting IBEW classes in the fall
Derik Shoepflin.....	Working at Ethan Klahn Construction
Payton Ehnes.....	Bryant & Stratton for the Physical Therapy Assistant program
Tucker Fleming.....	SUNY Morrisville for Renewable Energy
Jordan Hall	Plans to enter the military, pursuing a Military Occupational Specialty as a Working Dog Handler
Olivia Harmony.....	Entering the workforce as a TIG welder
Karson Heitman.....	Entering the workforce
Abbigail Pinkowski	ECC for Radiology
Liliana Toms.....	Entering the workforce in the baking industry
Kaiden Troutman	Currently employed at Walmart and Perfectly Blended Farm
Dylan Tucker.....	Entering the workforce, with a future goal of becoming a video game developer

AWARD & SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Scarlett Clarkson	Saint Bonaventure University Reilly Award	Isabella Mitchell	Alfred State College Young Leader Award, Keuka College Award, Niagara University Purple Eagle Leadership Award, Russell Sage College Award, Saint Bonaventure University Bonnie Award
Payton Ehnes	Salutatorian , WV Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award, Barb Nagel Memorial Award, NHS Scholastic Excellence Award, Anna Schroeder Memorial Award, State of NY Comptroller Award, Triple C Award, US Air Force Scholar/Athlete Award, Keith Young Memorial Award, Delmont K. Pfeffer Memorial Scholarship, WCA Scholarship	Abbigail Pinkowski	Bette Aldrow Memorial Medical/Health Services Award, WCA Scholarship
Samantha Fisher	Alfred University Scholar Award, Clarkson University Achievement and Leadership Award, Keuka College Award, Niagara University Purple Eagle Leadership Award, Rensselaer Medal, RIT Science and Math Award, Russell Sage College Award, Saint Bonaventure University Bonnie Award, U of R Bausch and Lomb Science Award	Annabelle Proseus	Valedictorian , Academic Excellence Award, Alumni Association Award, CCB Academic Scholarship, English Award, NHS Outstanding Member, State of NY Comptroller Award, Superintendent's Award for Attendance, Triple C Award, US Air Force Math & Science Award, Jack Nuthall Memorial Scholarship, Delmont K. Pfeffer Memorial Scholarship, WVTA Scholarship
Tucker Fleming	Janda Hunt Memorial Award, WCA Scholarship	Derik Schoepflin	Douglas Ford Memorial Award
Jordan Hall	Irwin Ahrens Memorial Award, God and Country Award, Pete Scherer Memorial Award	Matthew Tingué	Anna Schroeder Memorial Servant Leadership Award
Olivia Harmony	Theron Hotaling Memorial Award, John Philip Sousa Award	Liliana Toms	Academic Excellence Award, Louis Armstrong Award, Cattaraugus County Youth Citizenship Award, OAG Civic Ambassador Award, Outstanding Vo-Tech Student Award, State of NY Comptroller Award
Noah Klahn	Alfred State College Young Leaders Award, CANY Scholastic Recognition Award, Clarkson University Achievement and Leadership Award, JCC College Connections Student of the Year Award, Keuka College Award, Niagara University Purple Eagle Leadership Award, RIT Engineering and Technology Award, Russell Sage College Award, Saint Bonaventure University Bonnie Award, U of R George Eastman Young Leader Award	Kaiden Troutman	Leo Bernhoft Memorial Award, Grover Riefler Memorial Award, Gilbert Snyder Memorial Award
Logan Manaher	U of R Xerox Award for Innovation	Kara Troutman	Saint Bonaventure University Reilly Award
		Elizabeth Winsor	NHS Distinguished Service Award, Russell Sage College Award, Saint Bonaventure University Reilly Award, U of R Frederick Douglass/Susan B. Anthony Award



HONOR ROLL

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

HIGH HONOR ROLL

- Grade 7 – Brody Lawrence, Emma Nunn, Ryan Peace, James Shoup, Quinn Spencer, Matthew Tingle, Carter Widrig
- Grade 8 – Nicholas Klahn, Dalton Otto
- Grade 9 – Finley Ford-Grover, Kolin Holstein, Nia Schoepflin, Delia Shoup, Abigail Tucker
- Grade 10 – Karly Otto
- Grade 11 – Samantha Fisher, Noah Klahn, Isabella Mitchell

HONOR ROLL

- Grade 7 – Jordan Swingle, Isabelle Wypij
- Grade 8 – Bryson Bluhm, Braydan Mitchell, Lily Quinn
- Grade 9 – Madison Lawrence, Julienna Robbins
- Grade 10 – Sebastian Froland, Olivia Messina
- Grade 11 – Megan Ehrenburg
- Grade 12 – Payton Ehnes

MERIT ROLL

- Grade 7 – Currilynn Rehauer
- Grade 8 – Savannah Griffis, Makayla Richardson, Connor Washburn
- Grade 9 – Soren DiGiorgio, Isabella McCarty
- Grade 12 – Olivia Harmony, Annabelle Proseus, Kaiden Troutman

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration appointments are being scheduled now for the 2026-27 Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes. If you have a child who will be four (4) years old before December 1, they are eligible for our pre-K program. Children who will be five (5) before December 1 are eligible for kindergarten.



Please call our **Central Registrar, Mrs. Dana Westfall, at 716-942-3100 ext. 4170** to schedule your appointment now. Appointments will take place this year in July and August.

WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS 2026-2027

All meetings will be held in the multi-purpose conference room and commence at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The Audit Committee Meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. prior to the September or October meeting - determined later.

July 7, 2026 – Reorganization	July 21, 2026
August 18, 2026	September 8, 2026
October 13, 2026	November 10, 2026
December 8, 2026	January 12, 2027
February 9, 2027	March 9, 2027
April 20, 2027	May 11, 2027 – Budget Hearing
May 18, 2027 – Budget Vote/Regular meeting at 8:00 p.m.	June 8, 2027



HONORING OUR RETIREES

Four staff members are retiring this year after a combined 86 years of service in the district.

- **CAROLYN BOBERG**, district clerk and superintendent's secretary (23 years)
- **KATHRYN CLOUSE**, elementary teacher (27 years)
- **LILLIAN LECHNER**, elementary art teacher (12 years)
- **JOSEPH PAPP**, cleaner (24 years)

Thank you for your service to the students, staff and community of West Valley Central School—we wish you well in retirement!



CAROLYN BOBERG



KATHRYN CLOUSE



LILLIAN LECHNER



JOSEPH PAPP



EMILY GARTHWAITE



ALISON LOCKE



ADRIENNE SAYERS



ANDREA SENSENEY

FOUR STAFF GRANTED TENURE AT BOARD MEETING

At the June Board of Education meeting, four West Valley staff members were granted tenure: Emily Garthwaite, Alison Locke, Adrienne Sayers, and Andrea Senseney. The Board and administration congratulate each of them and thank them for their continued commitment to West Valley students.

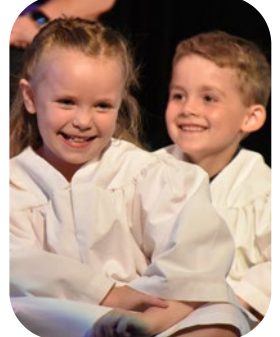
MILESTONE RECOGNITION

The following employees were recognized for their years of service at the conclusion of the 2025-26 school year:

Sarajane Absher	1 year	Madison Scheffler	1 year	Andrea Senseney	5 years
Jeanne Brown	1 year	Jennifer Schultz	1 year	Dana Lembke	10 years
Barbara Burgett	1 year	Danielle Westfall	1 year	Rebecca Roland	10 years
Natalie Gang	1 year	Ashley Foster	5 years	Daniel Amodeo	15 years
Emily Leach	1 year	Alexander Marino	5 years	Cheryl Gentner	15 years
Rachel Mychajluk	1 year	Zachary Schoepflin	5 years		



PRE-KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

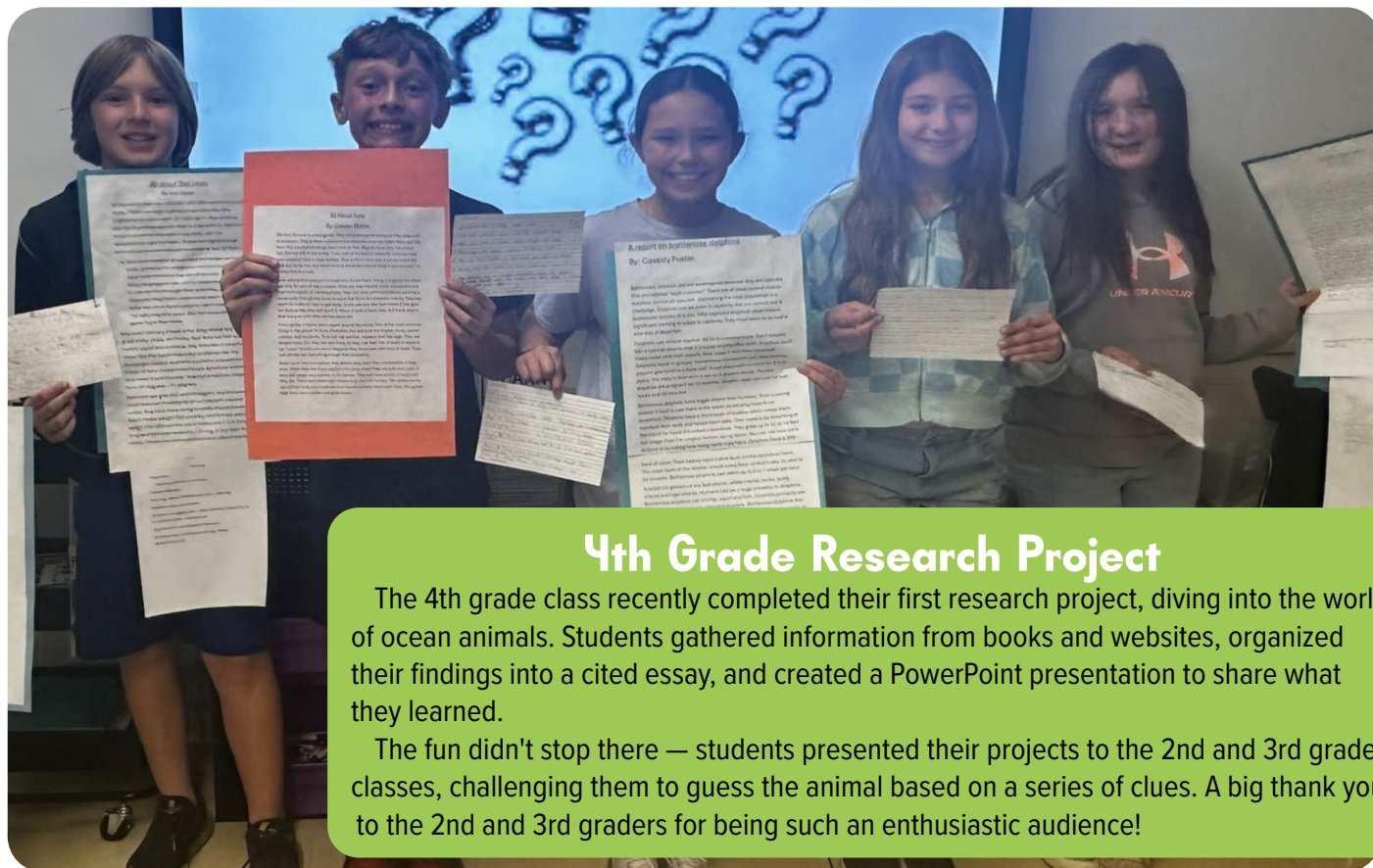


On the evening of Thursday, June 18, Ms. Westfall's third-grade students brought history to life with their very own "Wax Museum," held in front of the school.

In preparation for this event, each student selected a famous figure to portray—ranging from athletes and political leaders to historical icons and beyond. They immersed themselves in research, gathering facts from a variety of sources about their subject's childhood, education, achievements, and legacy. From there, they composed and typed thoughtful research reports and created note cards to support their oral presentations. It was a true collaborative effort, combining time spent in the classroom and in the library with Mrs. Thiel.

The big night brought these figures to life—literally. Dressed in costume, the students stood still as statues, waiting for visitors to press the buttons they'd each designed. Once "activated," each "wax figure" delivered a brief, engaging summary of their chosen individual, impressing audiences with their poise and preparation.

The students' hard work and enthusiasm shone through in every detail of the event, leaving families and guests inspired and proud.



4th Grade Research Project

The 4th grade class recently completed their first research project, diving into the world of ocean animals. Students gathered information from books and websites, organized their findings into a cited essay, and created a PowerPoint presentation to share what they learned.

The fun didn't stop there — students presented their projects to the 2nd and 3rd grade classes, challenging them to guess the animal based on a series of clues. A big thank you to the 2nd and 3rd graders for being such an enthusiastic audience!

WVCS Holds 3rd Annual Color Run

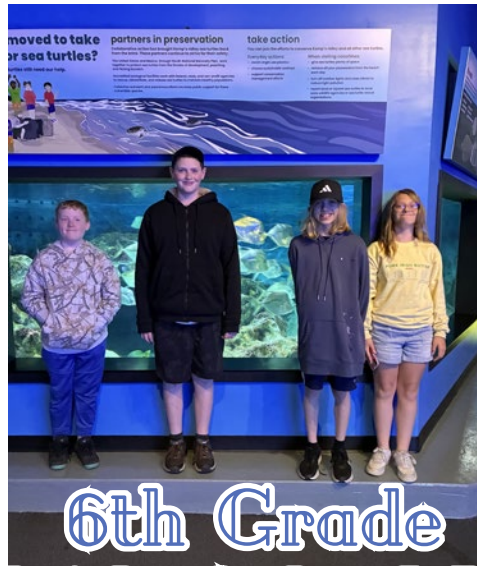
West Valley students took part in the 3rd Annual Color Run, organized by the WVCS Student Council in partnership with the PTO. Runners and walkers made their way through the course getting doused in color along the way, then refueled with help from two local food trucks, Charlie's Sugar Waffle and Big Daddy's BBQ.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S TOP FINISHERS:

1. Noah Klahn
2. Matthew Tingue
3. Jackson Klahn
4. Leo Morris
5. Everett Spencer

Thank you to the Student Council, PTO, and everyone who came out to make this year's event a success.





6th Grade Maid of the Mist & Aquarium Trip!



WEST VALLEY GOLF Tournament

WEST VALLEY TRACK AND FIELD
AND CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS



Fundraiser to support the
West Valley Track and Field/Cross Country Teams



SUNDAY, AUGUST 23RD
9AM REGISTRATION
10AM SHOTGUN START



4 MAN SCRAMBLE



18 WITH CART



**HOT DOG AND NON-ALCOHOLIC
DRINK AFTER FIRST 9**



**GRILLED CHICKEN BBQ DINNER
WITH GARDEN SALAD,
POTATO SALAD, PASTA SALAD**



**2 CLOSEST TO THE PIN AND
2 LONGEST DRIVE HOLES**



DRINKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



WATER AND SNACKS INCLUDED



50/50 AND A BASKET RAFFLE



REGISTRATION QR:



\$75/PERSON
OR
\$300/FOURSOME
(IF SIGNING UP INDIVIDUALLY
WILL BE PAIRED UP)



**PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION
DUE BY 8/1/2026**



SPRUCE RIDGE GOLF COURSE:
798 GENESEE RD, ARCADE, NY 14009



HOLE SPONSORS/RAFFLE DONATIONS
REACH OUT TO COACH LEMBKE OR CASSIE KLAHN



DANA LEMBKE (HEAD COACH)

716-799-9853 danalembke@gmail.com



CASSIE KLAHN (PTO MEMBER)

716-400-1111 caklahn@gmail.com

PAYMENTS ACCEPTED VIA VENMO:
<https://www.venmo.com/u/Dana-Lembke>

venmo

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR
WILDCATS!



WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Calendar

2026-2027



JULY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2026						
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SEPTEMBER 2026						
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OCTOBER 2026						
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NOVEMBER 2026						
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DECEMBER 2026						
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Sept. 2 nd	Teacher Day 11:50-7pm Meet Teacher 5-7pm
Sept. 3 rd	Supt. Day-no students
Sept. 7 th	No School
Sept. 8 th	1 st day All Students
Oct. 9 th	15 min Early Dismissal
Oct. 12 th	Columbus Day
Nov. 11 th	Veteran's Day
Nov. 13 th	1 st quarter ends
Nov. 23 rd	½ day all students, Parent Conf. 12-7pm
Nov. 24 th	½ day all students, Parent Conf. 12-2:30pm
Nov. 25-27 th	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec. 23-31 st	Winter Recess
Jan. 1 st	Winter Recess
Jan. 18 th	M.L. King Jr. Day
Jan. 26-29 th	Regent exams
Jan. 29 th	2 nd quarter ends
Feb. 15-19 th	Mid-Winter Recess
Mar. 12 th	½ day all students Parent Conf. 12-2:30pm
Mar. 26-31 st	Spring Recess
Apr. 1-2 nd	Spring Recess
Apr. 23 rd	3 rd quarter ends
April 30 th	Supt. Day
May 31 st	Memorial Day
June 14 th	Last day 7-12 students
June 15-25 th	Regent exams
June 18 th	Juneteenth Observance
June 23-24 th	½ day-UPK-6 students
June 24 th	Last day UPK-6 students
June 24 th	4 th quarter ends
June 25 th	Rating Day/Graduation

Total Student Days (7-12) = 181
Total Student Days (UPK-6) = 180
Total Teacher Days = 184

JANUARY 2027						
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FEBRUARY 2027						
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MARCH 2027						
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APRIL 2027						
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MAY 2027						
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JUNE 2027						
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27	28	29	30			

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).

They are currently not accepting donations at this time

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 716-244-7059 or Elise at 716-942-3291.



WEST VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

FOOD PANTRY HOURS:

1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays
Open from 3-7:00 p.m.

2nd and 4th Wednesdays
Open from 12 -4:00 p.m.

If you need emergency food, please call
Amy Frank - 716-942-6657 or
Kristine Aldrow - 716-942-6690
and they will set up a day and time.

LOCATION

9348 Route 240, West Valley



FREE COMMUNITY DINNER WEDNESDAY, JULY 22ND

Serving buffet style from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
West Valley

Everyone is welcome!

Join us for a hot meal, good conversation,
and help build community. Dessert too!

We host a community dinner on the 4th
Wednesday of every month (except Nov. And
Dec.) All are welcome to attend. Donations
are accepted but not expected.

Healthy Sleep Habits for Children and Teens

WVCS HEALTH CORNER



Summer break often brings later bedtimes and sleeping in, but maintaining healthy sleep habits is important for children's physical health, emotional well-being, and academic success.

Children and teens thrive on routine. While it is natural for schedules to relax during the summer, keeping a fairly consistent bedtime and wake-up time can help prevent sleep difficulties and make the transition back to school much easier in the fall.

Parents can promote health sleep by establishing calming bedtime routines, limiting screen time at least one hour before bed, and ensuring bedrooms are cool, dark, and quiet.

Encourage children to stay active during the day and spend time outdoors, as regular physical activity can improve sleep quality.

Recommended sleep amounts vary by age, but school-aged children generally need 9-12 hours of sleep per night, while teenagers need 8-10 hours.

Healthy sleep is an important part of a healthy lifestyle. By encouraging good sleep habits throughout the summer, families can help children return to school rested, refreshed, and ready to learn.

HAVE A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER!

WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

5359 School St. • West Valley, NY 14171

(716) 942-3100

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Heather Klahn, President

Adam Fisher, Vice President

Jonathan Boberg

Tracy Chai

Charlie Davis

George Kazmierczak

Melissa Pearl

Noah Klahn, Student Ex Officio

ADMINISTRATION**Daniel Amodeo**, Superintendent**Jennifer Schultz**, Business Administrator**Rachel Mychajluk**, Principal/Curriculum Coordinator**NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION****U.S. POSTAGE PAID**Permit No. 5
West Valley, NY***OR CURRENT RESIDENT******POSTAL PATRON LOCAL*****WEST VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL**www.wvalley.org