

THE WILDCAT WEEKLY

A Note from Dr. G

Special Summer Edition 2026



Superintendent's Corner

Summer in schools is spent preparing for the year ahead, and we have been busy! In July, the district leadership team held its annual retreat. The meetings covered instructional priorities, strategic plan implementation, a deep dive into performance-based assessment, and wrapped up with 2026-27 goals and opening-day scheduling. The facilities and ground team has been busy preparing buildings, classrooms, and outdoor spaces, and construction of new spaces is on schedule for the first day! Summer learning wrapped up last week for our extended school year (ESY) students and teachers. They worked hard keeping math, reading, and writing skills sharp AND made time to have some fun in the sprinklers!

Football season kicked off with triple sessions. New this year: they will be wearing Guardian Caps. These state-of-the-art, lightweight, soft-shell covers absorb impact and reduce the severity of head blows. Congrats, Max Sinno, Joseph Scarano, James Meyer, Justin Jativa, and Harry Hudd for making the Lohud Super 11 Watch List! Our cheerleaders spent the week at UCA Cheer Camp getting ready for the season too. We can't wait to welcome all our Fall Athletes on Monday!

Finally, U.S. News & World Report (USN) published its rankings this week. Unlike previous years, the NYS Department of Education did not authorize the College Board to share AP data with USN.

Therefore, the College Readiness and College Curriculum Breadth scores for all schools in NY were calculated solely based on participation in and performance on International Baccalaureate exams, which Westlake does not offer. This significantly impacts the year-to-year comparison. Keep an eye on your mailbox for our newsletters, which were mailed this week! See you on Sept. 3!

Noticing the Good

Ahead of the annual reorganization meeting in July, Board of Education members Sara Beaty and Laura Michalec Olszewski, who were re-elected in May, were sworn in by our District Clerk, MaryBeth Mancuso, for three-year terms beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2029.

Then, at the meeting itself, the oath of office was administered to ex officio student members Liliana Marricco and Edward Singh, each for a one-year term, followed by Board officers Sara Beaty, continuing as President, and Michael Griffin, continuing as Vice President.

Dr. G was also sworn in as Superintendent, marking the final time he'll take that oath, as he will be retiring at the end of the 2026-27 school year. Mrs. Mancuso administered all of the oaths.

Congratulations and thank you all for your continued service and commitment to our students, families, and community.

Good News on School Taxes!

TAX

The Town of Mt. Pleasant's final tax rate is in, and it's slightly better than projected.

Homeowners will see a 1.82% increase in their school tax rate for the 2026-2027 year (we had anticipated it to be 2.18%).

To estimate your tax savings as a result of the final tax rate:

Your Assessment $\times$ \$5.33 $\div$ 1,000

Example: An \$8,500 assessment = \$45.31 in school taxes.

While it's a modest change, a decrease in taxes is always welcome news!

The Month Ahead

*details will be sent from each school

8/24 First Day Fall Sports (Football started 8/17)

8/25 - WMS Bagels & Locks

8/27, 28 - UPK Meet & Greet

8/31 - Freshman Orientation

9/2 HES Meet & Greets; 3rd Gr Ice Cream Social

9/3 - Schools Open

9/8 - WooHoo Welcome; UPK Back to School Night

9/9 - HES Back to School Night

9/10 - CES Back to School Night

9/14 - WHS College Application Workshop

9/17 - WMS Back to School Night

9/19 - Kindergarten Ice Cream Social

9/24 - WHS Back to School Night

In Awe of the Paw - Celebrating Dr. Brady

Big congrats to WHS Principal Daniel Brady, who earlier this summer earned his Ed.D. from Russell Sage College!

After years of hard work, he defended his dissertation in July on how performance-based assessments shape student learning and achievement. The drive and genuine curiosity that went into this are the same enthusiasm and commitment to growth he brings to our school every single day. Mount Pleasant is fortunate to have a leader who models that love of learning for our students. Congratulations, Dr. Brady!

