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SUMMER 2026

WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

The Voice of the 'Ville

PREPARING STUDENTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMPETITIVE AND CHANGING WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE

A Message from the Superintendent



We are excited to bring you the summer edition of our District newspaper, *The Voice of the Ville.*

This issue features graduation and end-of-year photos, as well as important information about summer facility projects. Additionally, you will find student advice for peers (I especially love the kindergarten wisdom) and a new feature that we hope to continue – articles from our high school students. We are proud of their efforts and are grateful for this medium where they can share their work with the entire community. Each building chose the pieces to feature, so you will notice some differences in content.

With the 2025-26 school year in the books, I hope life slows down just a bit for everyone this summer, and you can enjoy some long sunny days and relaxation. Summer is a great time to reflect on the growth and changes that our kids go through every year. Sometimes, as a mom, I find myself just trying to get through the week during the school year. In the summer, though, I can slow down a bit and marvel at my own childrens' growth and changes throughout the year. I hope you can find time to do the same this summer.

For those of you who do not have children in school, I hope summer affords a time to have a positive connection with our students. Whether it is taking a moment to get to know a teenage worker at your favorite ice cream shoppe or hiring your neighbor kid to cut your grass, I hope you get a chance to interact with our students out in the community. They really are amazing; talking with them fills my bucket and gives me hope for a better future. If you're stopping by the annual Rotary of Westerville's 4th of July Parade, you'll be able to see many of them shine – including our high school marching bands, our middle school cheer teams and athletes from across the District.

As summer undoubtedly flies by, we will be busy preparing for the opening of the 2026-27 school year – with hiring, facility maintenance, and lots of planning and scheduling – so we are ready to welcome back our students on August 18.

Have a fantastic summer, and we will see you soon!

Angie Hamberg, *Superintendent*

The MTSS Framework at Westerville City Schools: Every classroom. Every student. Every day.









Westerville City Schools is committed to making sure every student has what they need to thrive.

To make this happen, the District uses the Multi-Tiered System of Supports or (MTSS) – a framework that focuses on the whole child, including their academic, social and emotional growth.

Whether a student needs an extra boost to master a difficult concept or more advanced challenges to expand their learning, MTSS ensures that teachers, staff and families work as a team so students have the right support at the right time.

WCS' COMMITMENT

After a launch at all elementary schools last school year, the MTSS framework expanded to preschool, middle schools and high schools this year. This rollout is a key part of the District's updated Strategic Plan, ensuring a consistent experience for every student as they grow.

A MULTI-YEAR ROAD MAP

Building a strong foundation takes time. Here is how Westerville is bringing the framework to life:

- In Year 1, the focus is on academics – making learning more accessible for all students and giving extra help to those at risk.
- As supports are implemented, schools expand support to include students' social, emotional and behavioral needs, as well as those who may be slightly behind.
- After the foundation for Academics and Social Emotional and Behavioral have been built, the framework grows to provide more explicit connections for our specialized groups such as students in Special Education, English Learners and Gifted Learners.

RESULTS FOR STUDENTS

When the plan is fully in place, District leaders hope to see students achieving more, fewer discipline issues and schools where everyone – students, staff and families – feel a strong sense of belonging.

One of the important pieces of a Multi-Tiered System of Support is looking at multiple data points to help monitor the right level of support. When using multiple data points, 31% of our K-5 students needed additional support at the beginning of the year. Through our students' and teachers' hard work, that number dropped to 19% by the end of the year.

Scan the QR code to learn more about MTSS at Westerville City Schools >>>

A Letter from Westerville City Schools Board of Education President Kristy Meyer



As we closed out another school year in Westerville City Schools, I want to take a moment to reflect and express my sincere gratitude to our families and community.

This past fall, you demonstrated your continued belief in public education and your investment in our schools. Your support has helped ensure that we can continue to provide meaningful opportunities for every student in our District. That commitment does not go unnoticed, and it makes a lasting difference in the lives of our students.

This year, there has been so much to celebrate across Westerville City Schools. In our classrooms, students have engaged in meaningful learning, building strong academic foundations and growing as critical thinkers and problem-solvers. At every grade level, we've seen curiosity spark, confidence grow, and achievements, both big and small, take shape.

Beyond the classroom, our students have excelled in so many ways. Our "We Are the 'Ville" campaign has powerfully reinforced that no matter which school we represent, we are one Westerville community, united by respect, support, and a shared commitment to positive sportsmanship. We've seen that spirit come to life on the fields and courts, where students have demonstrated teamwork, resilience, and pride. In our theaters and auditoriums, they've inspired us through music, performances, and the arts. In clubs, activities, and service opportunities, they've explored their passions and strengthened connections with one another. Whether on a field, in an auditorium, or somewhere else, students have strengthened and developed leadership skills.

These moments are what define our District. They reflect not only the dedication of our students, but also the unwavering commitment of our educators, staff, and families who support them every step of the way.

As we head into summer, I hope this time provides an opportunity for rest, reflection, and renewal. Our students, staff, and families have earned a chance to decompress, recharge, and enjoy time together.

On behalf of the Westerville City Schools Board of Education, thank you again for your continued support of our students and our District. Wishing you all a happy, safe, restful, and fun summer break.

With sincere gratitude, *Kristy Meyer*

STAY CONNECTED

Great things are happening every day in Westerville City Schools. Don't miss a moment.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
Newsletter



WE ARE THE 'VILLE
Podcast

Learn more online at **WWW.WCSOH.ORG**

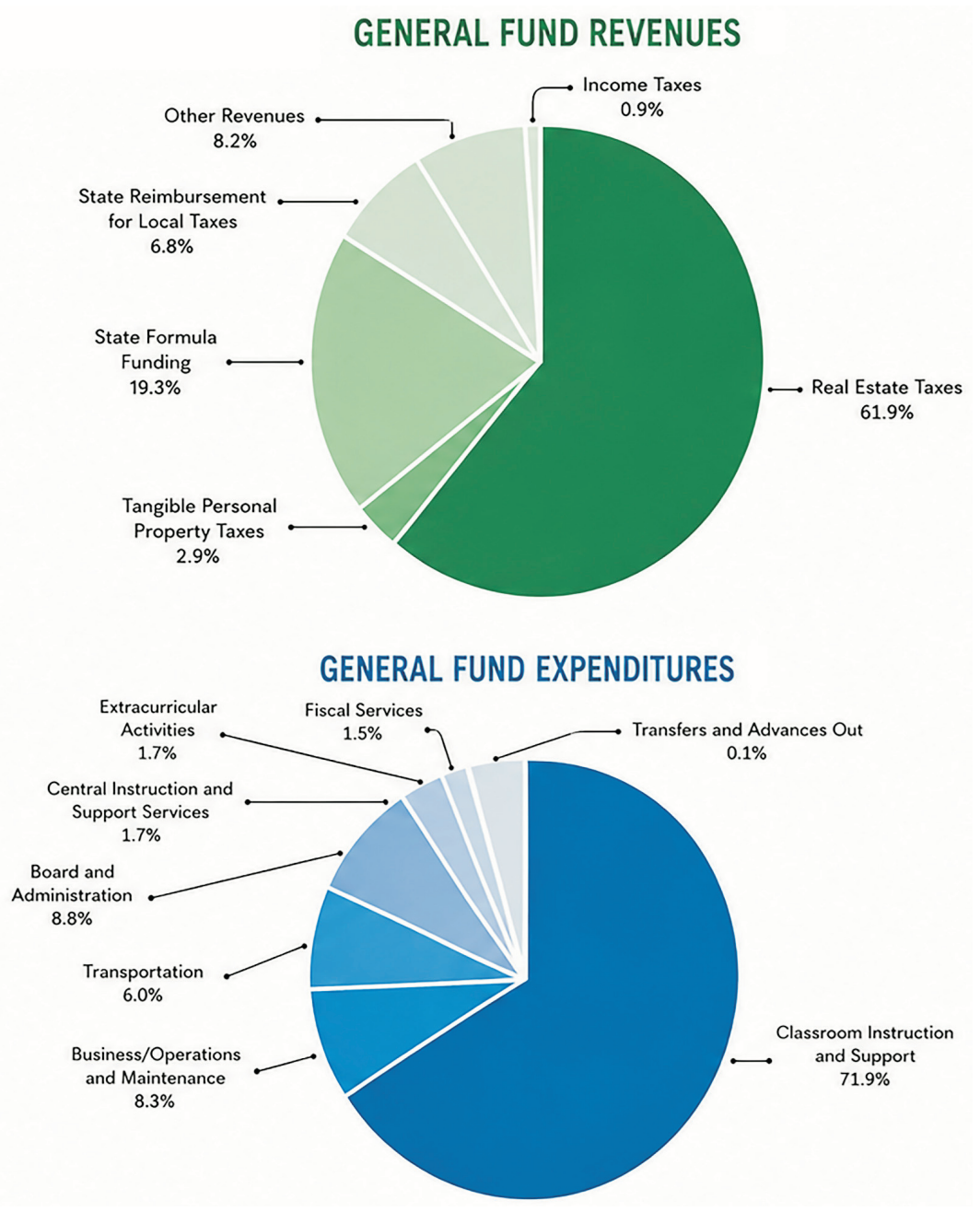
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What Makes Up the General Fund?

Westerville City Schools' FY2026 General Fund is primarily supported by local taxpayers, with nearly 65% of all revenue coming from local property taxes as approved by voters. Additional funding comes from the State of Ohio through the state funding formula and limited reimbursements tied to some local tax exemptions, along with smaller sources such as an income tax recently approved by voters, school fees, tuition for preschool and all day kindergarten, and donations. Together, these revenues support the day-to-day operations that allow the district to serve students across all schools and programs.

On the expenditure side, the largest portion of the General Fund – nearly 72% – is dedicated directly to classroom instruction and student support, including teachers, instructional staff, supplies, equipment, and educational services. The remaining funds support operational costs essential to run the schools such as transportation, building maintenance and utilities, school administration, financial services, extracurricular activities, and districtwide support services. Overall, the budget reflects the District's continued commitment to prioritizing student learning while responsibly maintaining safe schools, reliable operations, and opportunities that support the whole child.



SPORTS YEAR IN REVIEW

It has been an outstanding year for athletics across all three of our high schools. Throughout the year, our student-athletes and coaches have demonstrated incredible dedication, sportsmanship, and success both on and off the field of play. Several teams captured OCC championships, while individual athletes earned impressive accomplishments in track and field, swimming, diving, and bowling.

In addition to team success, many of our student-athletes have committed to continuing their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level – a testament to their hard work, perseverance, and the support of their families, coaches, and teammates. We congratulate all of our teams and individual athletes for representing Westerville with pride and excellence.

Central Athletic Accomplishments

State Final Four: Boys Soccer, Girls Softball
Regional Champions: Boys Soccer, Girls Softball
District Champions: Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Softball
District Runners-Up: Girls Volleyball, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball
OCC Champions: Boys Cross Country, Girls Soccer, Girls Softball, Boys Wrestling

Individual Accomplishments:
State Champion: Discus Throw - Symone Smith
State Runner Up: 400 meters - Robert Young
100 meter hurdles: Skylar Brittman - 3rd place
200 meters: Jonathon Ekpo - 6th place
High jump: Elijah Harris - 3rd place
100 meters seated wheelchair: Mohamed Issa - 6th place
Shot Put: Symone Smith - 3rd place

OCC Player of the Year, District 10 Super Team, 1st team all-Ohio: Ella Martin, Girls Basketball





Signings:
Gavin Anderson: Mount Vernon Nazarene University
Mohamed Bangoura: Miami (OH) University
Matt Brett: Ohio Wesleyan University
Olivia Curry: Quincy University
Sullivan Fahey: Madonna University
Reshaun Godfrey: Earlham College
Mason Gooden: Ohio Northern University
Tyler Gooden: Albion University
Elijah Harris: Texas Christian University
Sacoya Jackson: Xavier University of Louisiana
Ella Martin: Hillsdale College
Corbin Morrisey: Walsh University
Jake Nelson: Otterbein University
Sarina Ortega: Heidelberg University
Hannah Pullins: Robert Morris University
Symone Smith: University of Mississippi
Rowen South: Wheeling University
Avery Strickland: University of Kentucky
Robert Young: University of Indiana





Westerville North Athletic Accomplishments

State Runners-up (D2): Boys Basketball
5th Overall at State: Boys Cross Country
Regional Champions: Boys Basketball
District Champions: Boys Soccer, Boys Basketball
OCC/League Champions: Boys Soccer, Boys Cross Country, Girls Soccer, Boys Basketball, Flag Football, Boys Volleyball
OCC Player of Year: Kacee Bohan (Girls Soccer), Elijah McCree (Boys Basketball), Clark McGeorge (Boys Golf), Casey Carlos (Boys Cross Country)
OCC Coach of Year: Nick Wheeler (Girls Soccer), Nate Hartnell (Boys Soccer), Shan Trusley (Boys Basketball)
District/State Player of the Year (D2): Elijah McCree (Boys Basketball)

Individual Accomplishments:
3200 meters: Casey Carlos - 5th place | 1600 meters: Casey Carlos - 6th place

Signings:
Brandon Bell: Football - Central State
Casey Carlos: Cross Country - Ohio University
Kayden Childress: Football - Wheeling (WV)
Eli Creed: Cross Country/Track - Ohio Wesleyan University
Quinn Farrell: Boys Lacross - Capital University
Izzy Farrow: Wrestling - Otterbein University
Ethan Fury: Lacross - Guilford College
Arden Heckman: Wrestling - Otterbein University
Kaelin Hughes: Track - Capital University
DJ Lewis: Football - Wilmington College
Quin Manly: Swimming - Westminster College (PA)
Elijah McCree: Basketball - Cedarville University
Jacob Medhane: Basketball - Wilmington College
Desmond Okantey: Football - Morehead State University
Mason Spence: Westling - Gannon University
D'Nilyeon Taylor: Football - Eastern Michigan University
Braydon Travis: Lacross - Lake Erie College
Caleb Williams: Golf - Ohio Northern University

Westerville South Athletic Accomplishments

OCC Champions: Girls Bowling
OCC Champions: Boys Swimming and Diving
District Champions: Boys Basketball
District Runners Up: Girls Volleyball

Individual Accomplishments:
Diving: Andrew Keir - 6th place

Signings:
Nathan Bury-Hayes: Baseball - Wilmington College
Laney Colvin: Soccer - Lake Erie College
Anthony Galdamez: Lacrosse - Otterbein University
Journee Hartgrove: Track and Field - Ohio University
Laila Higgins: Track and Field - Wittenberg University
Elia Jones: Lacrosse - University of Findlay
Kobe Long: Lacrosse - Otterbein University
Jayson Mallory: Basketball - Defiance College
Jerry Manns: Lacrosse - Otterbein University
Theo Montemarano: Baseball - Heidelberg University
Alexander Ortiz-Laus: Cross Country & Track and Field - Capital University
Isaac Patterson: Football - University of Pittsburgh
Tatum Randall: Soccer - Drew University
London Vickroy: Football - Miami University





Westerville high schools welcome 2026 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees

Every year, the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committees at each high school honor graduates who have made a lasting impact. To qualify, alumni must be at least 10 years post-graduation and demonstrate exceptional career success and service to society.

The 2026 Hall of Fame inductees include:



WESTERVILLE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
- Dr. Miles Fisher, Class of 2011
- Morgan (Lundquist) Shawver, Class of 2012
- Jerome Ray, Class of 2008
- Haley (Kindall) Case, Class of 2013

WESTERVILLE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
- Eric Rausch, Class of 2001
- Christopher Wright, Class of 1994
- William Murdock, Class of 1991



WESTERVILLE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
- Marlena (Smith) Schmitz, Class of 2009
- Julie Kruessel, Class of 2003
- Mike Ward, Class of 1986





WCS bus drivers serve as summer 'Paint Crew'

For the past three years, a team of Westerville City Schools bus drivers has traded vehicle keys for paint brushes once summer arrives.

Drivers Brian Seeley, Carina Aviles Alvear, Tia Gunnell, and Ashley Leonard spend their summers fulfilling painting requests across the District, retouching classrooms, offices and learning spaces. Mechanic David Wiesenberger is joining the crew this year.

Dubbed "The Paint Crew," the group loves finding new ways to serve their community.

"There are only a few bus routes over the summer," Gunnell said. "I wanted to keep working here because I'm Team Westerville. I love being a bus driver – and now, I'm a painter."

Summer facelift: How WCS facilities are upgrading for the new year







While students are out for the summer break, maintenance, information technology and operations crews are in the middle of routine upgrades across the District. Their goal: to make buildings safer, more energy-efficient and more aligned with the teaching and learning needs of the WCS school community before doors reopen this fall.

From upgraded heating and cooling systems to fresh asphalt pavement, here is a breakdown of how the District is investing in its facilities this summer – and how those projects are being funded.

Permanent improvement projects: Long-term savings

The District's permanent improvement budget, which is set aside strictly for capital needs of the District, includes planned and unplanned facility maintenance, replacement of buses and MYVans, as well as IT equipment and other non-operational components. These upgrades focus on lowering utility bills and cutting long-term repair costs. They also align with the maintenance and repair program for the District's facilities.

- Classroom upgrades, including new furniture and tables at six buildings.
- Computer, server and other technology equipment upgrades at all schools.
- Roof repairs for four buildings, including all three high schools.
- Repaving of parking lots at five locations, including the Transportation bus garage.
- School Safety & Infrastructure
  - > Safety upgrades to the auditorium at Westerville South.
  - > New fire alarm equipment at Westerville South.
  - > Aging sewer pipe replacements at Blendon and Hanby.
  - > Masonry cleaning/repairs at Genoa and Heritage middle schools and Longfellow.

Maintenance department projects: Addressing immediate needs

Covering 16 projects through the District's maintenance department to address immediate building needs.

- Boiler and HVAC repairs at three schools.
- Plumbing upgrades at three schools.
- Replacing doors at three schools.
- Stage floor work and other auditorium updates at Westerville Central and Westerville South. Auditorium enhancements at all three high schools.

Information technology department projects: Equipment upgrades

Covering scheduled hardware refreshes and equipment updates across the District.

- Scheduled computer updates at five schools.
- Classroom interactive display board additions at seven schools
- Wi-Fi, networking, storage, software and security upgrades at all buildings.

2019 Bond Projects: Stretching your tax dollars

A handful of final projects are being covered by the remaining funds from the 2019 voter-approved bond issue. The bond paid for projects in the District's Facilities Master Plan, which included the construction of Minerva France Elementary and Minerva Park Middle School; renovations and additions to Annehurst, Whittier and Hawthorne elementaries; and security upgrades across elementaries.

This summer, contractors will complete the last bond project – masonry cleaning and repairs to Longfellow Elementary. By stretching these dollars, the District can also cover maintenance needs such as HVAC replacements at four schools.

Scan the QR code to the right to see how these spaces have been transformed throughout our schools. >>>

SUMMER 2026 FACILITY PROJECTS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	PROJECTS
Early Learning Center	
Alcott	
Annehurst	
Cherrington	
Emerson	
Fouse	
Hanby	
Hawthorne	
Huber Ridge	
Longfellow	
Mark Twain	
McVay	
Minerva France	
Pointview	
Robert Frost	
Whittier	
Wilder	

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS

Blendon	
Genoa	
Heritage	
Minerva Park	
Walnut Springs	
Westerville Central	
Westerville North	
Westerville South	

PROJECT KEY

- Safety and Security
- Landscape
- General Athletics
- Classroom Furniture
- Electrical, Lighting & Sound
- Flooring Replacement
- Concrete/Asphalt Replacement
- General Maintenance & Renovations
- HVAC & Plumbing Replacements
- Tech Hardware Upgrades
- Technology Updates
- Roof Repairs/Replacement



WCS propane fleet helps offset rising fuel costs

As gas and diesel prices spike across the country, fuel costs for Westerville City Schools end the school year under budget – as much as 20%.

The primary driver for the savings is the make-up of the District's fleet. While some buses, vans and trucks run on gas or diesel, more than two-thirds of all vehicles in the District consist of propane-powered buses. Propane costs up to 50% less than diesel and burns more cleanly, reducing both daily operating expenses and long-term maintenance costs.

This year, the District paid an average of $1.70 per gallon for propane, compared to $4.77 for diesel.

“When we investigated this 11 years ago, the propane market was a very steady market and has always stayed well below gasoline and diesel prices, which makes budgeting much simpler and less risky for school districts, especially in times like this,” said Shawn Dawson, the District’s Fleet and Logistics Manager.

Westerville is currently among a handful of Ohio districts transitioning to a propane-only bus fleet – a goal leaders expect to reach in a couple of years. Currently, of the buses with regular routes, 81 run on propane while only seven still use diesel.

Meanwhile, about a third of the District’s vehicle inventory – such as vans and warehouse trucks – continue to rely on gas, while heavier utility equipment uses diesel.

Bob Letterio, who oversees the District’s maintenance services, said that while it is too early to determine the full impact of rising prices on his department, he was grateful to end the year on budget and in the black. Letterio noted that while fuel expenses are up about $5,000 from this time last year, he attributes the increase partly to a harsh winter and necessary snow removal efforts.

This is where the District’s propane fleet provides a critical safety net; the steady cost of propane has helped offset the overall fluctuation of gas and diesel prices, Dawson said.

And by purchasing fuel in bulk and keeping fueling systems in-house, the District continues to curb costs, saving at least 25 cents per gallon. Here’s how:

- The maintenance department manages a 600-gallon gasoline tank for vans and trucks and a smaller diesel tank for heavy equipment.
- The bus garage houses a 10,000-gallon diesel tank, a 4,000-gallon gasoline tank and a dedicated propane filling station.

To support drivers in the northern part of the District, Dawson collaborated with BrightStar Propane & Fuels to develop an off-site fueling system. BrightStar invested $100,000 to update the system this past summer at no cost to the District. This allows the drivers with routes in the northern part of the District to remain in the area without having to backtrack to the district’s fueling station.

The shift to propane has also been bolstered by external funding. Since 2018, the District has secured more than $900,000 in state and federal grants for bus purchases, alongside $40,000 in fuel rebates. This year, the National Propane Education Research Council provided a $20,000 rebate for four new buses.

Every school day, the District provides 12,000 rides per day, logging about 18,177 miles. That includes 118 regular bus and van routes, along with additional midday and extracurricular trips.



From signs to safety vests:
Inside the SHOP at WNHS

If someone at Westerville City Schools wants to bring an idea to life, they often turn to the SHOP at Westerville North High School.

The lab’s work can be seen everywhere: diploma seals for all high schools, custom safety vests for District personnel, vinyl window coverings at Walnut Springs Middle School, buckle guards and seat belt guides for transportation, adaptive technology projects for students with the District’s special education team and even Harry Potter-themed class signs at Emerson Elementary.

For nine years, the SHOP (SHaping OPportunities) has been a hub for innovation. Equipped with 3D printers, CNC machines, laser cutters and other high-tech manufacturing tools, the lab produces materials used across the District. However, the SHOP’s ultimate goal is deeply focused on the students: providing them with hands-on opportunities to apply classroom lessons to real-world projects.

“The SHOP is a place where students, staff, business partners and local higher education institutions come together to solve real-world problems through design thinking,” said Matt Fetrow, the District’s innovation space specialist who manages the SHOP.

As the District’s first innovation space, the SHOP opened in 2017 to support the development of the engineering career pathways program at the middle and high schools. Recognizing that these spaces were vital for helping students transform concepts into reality, District leaders eventually expanded the model, adding innovation spaces to all middle and high schools.

Today, Fetrow supports 14 engineering labs across the District’s secondary schools, while also assisting elementary schools with their own creative spaces.

“The SHOP leaves its mark across the District in subtle but significant ways,” Fetrow said. “It gives students unique hands-on learning experiences and valuable opportunities to build skills that impact this whole learning community.”



Grants bring classroom lessons to life with new tech, visiting experts and field trips

Throughout the year, educators across the District introduced lessons with new technology, traveled with students to field trip sites across Central Ohio and supported students in need of food and resources.

This year, organizations such as the Westerville Education Foundation, the Bette Marschall Fund, Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Arts Council of Westerville and GPD Public School Grants provided about $93,000 in grant money that has fueled everything from visiting artists to classroom equipment to field trips.

Here's a look at some of the grant-funded projects from this school year:

WCS Middle School Poetry Slam
Sixty students from Heritage, Minerva Park and Walnut Springs middle schools performed original poems about identity, being seen and their observations about life and injustices they see in the world during a District-wide middle school poetry slam.
Funded by the Westerville Education Foundation.



Chickenology at Westerville North High School
Students in biology classes at Westerville North High School learned genetics, ancestry and the life cycle while observing and studying live chicks in class.
Funded by the Westerville Education Foundation.

Visiting artists across various schools
Mosaic artist Vicki Murphy worked with Genoa Middle School students to create murals throughout the building. Artist Lance Johnson worked with students to create collaborative art pieces for Walnut Springs Middle School and Westerville Central High School.
Funded by the Ohio Arts Council and Arts Council of Westerville.

Children's book collection to support military families at Fouse Elementary
Fouse Elementary unveiled its Purple Star book collection which features stories curated to support the unique challenges military children face, such as frequent relocation, separation from parents during deployment and developing a sense of identity within a military family.
Funded by the Bette Marschall Fund.



Creating wax art at Genoa Middle School
Art students at Genoa Middle School created paintings using beeswax, pigmented wax and a heat gun as part of a Wax Encaustic Workshop with Westerville artist Erin Wallace.
Funded by the Bette Marschall Fund and Westerville Education Foundation.

Resources and upgrades to Wildcat Den & Snack Space at Westerville South High School
The Wildcat Den at Westerville South High School received additional shelving equipment and funding for clothing, hygiene and school supply inventory.
Funded by the Westerville Education Foundation.



MODEL Mentor program pilot at Walnut Springs Middle School
District leaders relaunched the MODEL program – which stands for Mentors Opening Doors, Enriching Lives – to pair adults in the community to serve as mentors for middle school boys. Originally started in 2015 for middle school girls, the program dissolved during the COVID-19 pandemic.

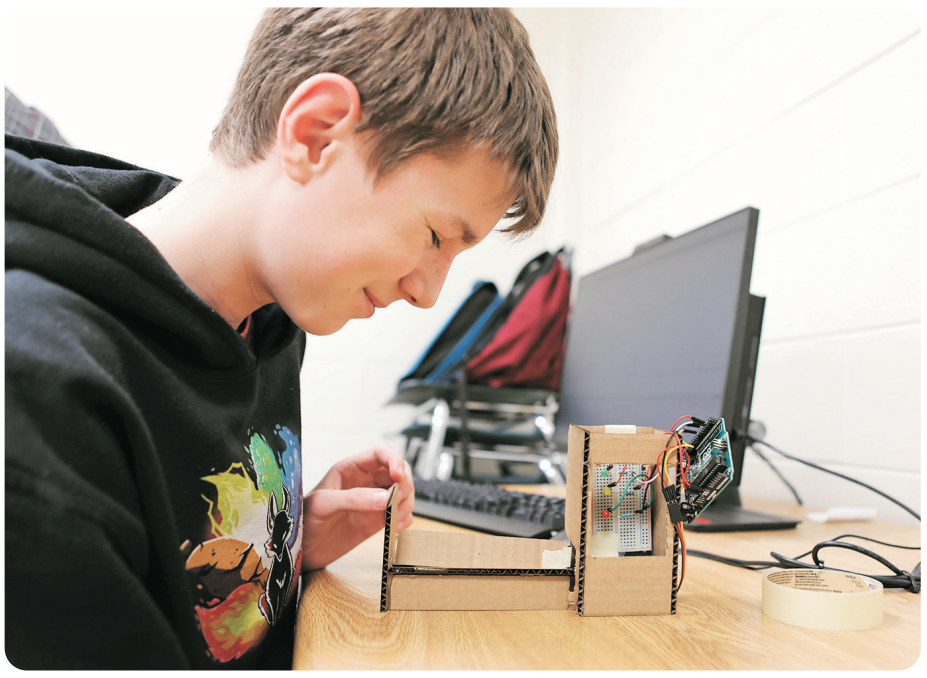
As part of the pilot at Walnut Springs this year, seventh-grade boys met with mentors each month to discuss topics of interest including public speaking, mental health, stress management and confidence.
Funded by the Westerville Education Foundation.



Roller skating comes to WCS elementaries
Physical education teachers across several elementaries debuted a traveling roller skating unit that introduced students to skating and safety equipment as well as basic skating skills.
Funded by the Westerville Education Foundation.

The Assignment unit at Westerville North High School
Students in Aaron Taylor's Contemporary Literature class at Westerville North High School English dive into the history of the Holocaust and what it means to be an upstander through the book, *The Assignment*. The young adult novel tells the story of two students who take a stand after their class is assigned to debate the Final Solution, the code name used in the Nazi plan for the genocide of Jewish people.

During the unit, author Liza Wiemer visited students to discuss some of the book's biggest lessons, including the power of one's voice and the importance of standing up for what is right. The unit culminated with a field trip to the The Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust and Humanities Center in Cincinnati, where they explored the stories of Holocaust survivors who settled in Ohio and connected the lessons of the past to consider creating positive change today.
Funded by the Ohio Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission.



A hands-on computer science lab at Genoa Middle School
Students in the Computer Science for Innovators & Makers classes at Genoa Middle School were able to take a project-based approach to the concepts they are learning. They learned how software brings hardware to life by creating projects that included microprocessors, a variety of sensors and outputs and wiring and soldering equipment.
Funded by the Westerville Education Foundation.

Realm of the Reptile visits Blendon Middle School
Students at Blendon Middle School responded with shock and awe with every snake, lizard, and tortoise revealed during the Realm of the Reptile presentation.

From a bull snake to a blue-tongued skink to a bearded dragon, the interactive show featured different species of reptiles new to students. Throughout the presentation, students volunteered to interact with the animals, from carrying a bearded dragon on their shoulder to holding a corn snake around their neck.
Funded by the GPD Employees Foundation.

Grants from the Bette Marschall Fund and Columbus Symphony covered transportation costs for field trips across Central Ohio, from the Ohio Theatre to watch the Columbus Symphony to the Westerville Water Treatment plant for a deeper understanding on water resources.

Grants also covered annual events and programs throughout the District, including:

- **Minerva Park Middle School's annual community wide book swap**
- **Westerville Central High School's Arts Alive Festival**
- **Ruling Our Experiences (ROX) at Minerva Park Middle School**

WCS students dive into passions during summer learning experiences

This summer, several Westerville students are following their passions – and career goals – with camps, academies and workshops across the country.



Aya Sofia Al-Saddoon, an incoming senior at Westerville North High School, is headed to Georgetown University in July to attend the Democracy, Peace and Conflict Academy. As part of the week-long experience, Al-Saddoon will explore topics such as democratic peace, electoral violence, political polarization and populism with Georgetown professors, activists and policymakers.

"I want to go into international relations and this is kind of the building blocks for it," she said.

The camp extends lessons she learned last summer while at the Cultural Diplomacy, Conflict Resolution & Global Peace Forum in Vancouver. It also aligns with her hopes of studying political science and international relations at Georgetown.



Evelyn Piamonte, an incoming senior at Westerville South High School, will spend a month at New York University's Tish Summer High School Filmmakers Workshop to develop her filmmaking skills.

The program includes academic classes and professional training to give students a comprehensive understanding of the art of cinematic visual storytelling production. For Piamonte, the immersive experience offers an early glimpse into her intended college major at her dream university.

"I'm hoping to strengthen my technical skills and gain hands-on experience from NYU professors and other students who are as passionate about filmmaking as I am," she said. "I'm especially excited to immerse myself in New York City's environment and get a better sense of what it would be like to study film at NYU. Attending this program will help me grow as a filmmaker and further confirm that this is the path I truly want to pursue."



Harrison Strader, an incoming eighth-grader at Genoa Middle School, is headed to Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama after receiving a competitive scholarship that included answering essay questions, conducting an engineering design project and creating a "mission patch" that represents his interests.

During the camp, he will be immersed in astronaut training techniques using equipment adapted from NASA's astronaut program. He'll learn about space hardware, enjoy an educational water activity and experience a spaceflight mission while learning about aerospace career opportunities.

Strader hopes to become an astrophysicist, following in the footsteps of his great-grandfather, a NASA nuclear physicist. The summer camp is the latest learning experience that aligns with his goals. He has participated in the OSU 4H Space Adventure Camp at Marietta College and TECH Day at NASA Glenn Research Center. He met Nobel Prize-winning physicist Andrea Ghez during a lecture at Ohio State and toured the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, where he observed a SpaceX rocket launch.

New driver's ed voucher nets $43,000 in savings for WCS families

Thanks to a grant from the Ohio Traffic Safety Office, 86 eligible students from Westerville City Schools received financial help for their driver's training this year.

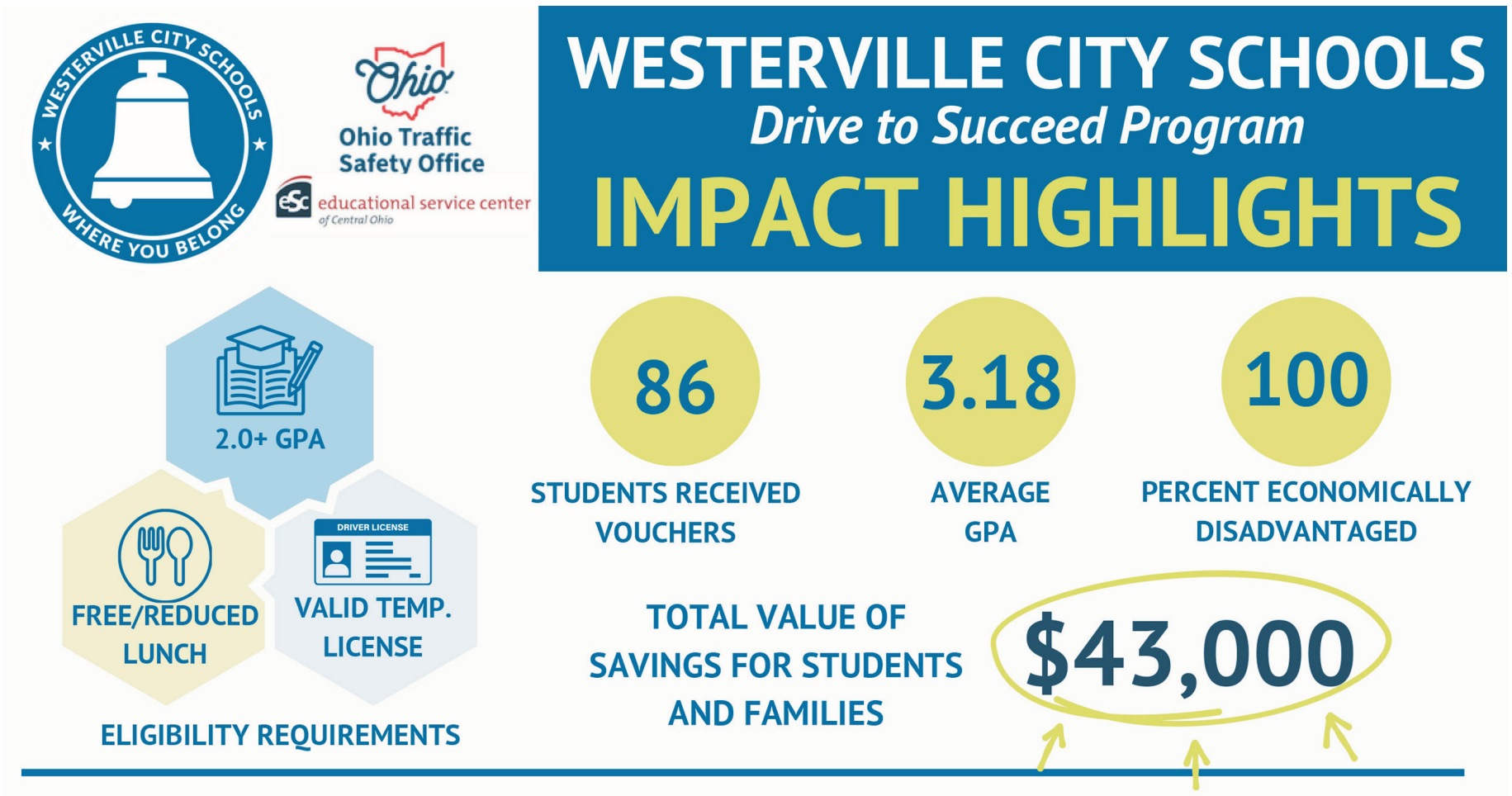
As part of the Drive to Succeed program, students who met academic and financial need requirements received a voucher that covered a 24-hour online driver's ed course and 8 hours of behind-the-wheel training with Schwartz Driving School. For students and families, the voucher resulted in more than $43,000 in savings.

"Drive to Succeed is a clear example of how removing a single barrier, transportation, can unlock access to employment, credentials, and postsecondary pathways across every demographic," said Matt Misener, Director of Career and College Readiness.

To illustrate his point, Misener shared the impact of the voucher for one student:

One of our pre-apprenticeship students with the Westerville Division of Electric is currently the primary income provider for his household. He set a goal to earn his CDL, one of the most in-demand credentials in Central Ohio, but lacked a driver's license. Despite working, saving, and even borrowing money to pay for his coursework, he was struggling to afford the required in-car driving hours. Through our partnership, we were able to not only secure his in-car instruction at no cost, but also refund the money he had already paid for the course. He is now well on his way to earning his CDL and continuing his success in the pre-apprenticeship program.

"This is the kind of impact that changes trajectories, not just for individual students, but for families and our broader community," he said.



WEF Teachers of the Month

The Westerville Education Foundation (WEF), recognizes teachers who have made an impact on their students, peers, and school community. As part of the sponsorship with Buckeye Heating, Cooling & Plumbing, Teacher of the Month recipients receive $100 for their classroom funds as well as a Free True Comfort membership that provides year-round HVAC and plumbing maintenance services. Here is the list of Teachers honored in 2026.



APRIL 2026

- **Sarah McPeak** - Blendon Middle School Music Teacher
- **Ricky Robbins** - Westerville South Business Teacher
- **Jill McMasters** - Academic Enrichment Center Math Teacher



MARCH 2026

- **Linda Amici** - Emerson Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher
- **Michelle Van Voorhis** - Whittier Elementary Kindergarten Teacher
- **Dawna Shroads** - Hanby Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher



FEBRUARY 2026

- **Hannah Deleandro** - Robert Frost Fourth Grade Teacher
- **Erin Leonard** - Heritage Middle School English Learner Teacher
- **John Sands** - Westerville North Social Studies Teacher



JANUARY 2026

- **Teresa Momeni** - Alcott Elementary Kindergarten Teacher
- **Marla Petrozzi** - Fouse Elementary First Grade Teacher
- **Max Jones** - Westerville Central Math Teacher

THE Ville SCAVENGER HUNT
A Westerville Education Foundation Event

Saturday, October 3, 2026
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.
KICKOFF & CLOSING: Hanby Elementary
HUNT LOCATION: Uptown Westerville

A BRAND NEW COMMUNITY EVENT
FOR OUR SCHOOLS
Benefiting classroom grants across Westerville City Schools!

TWO WAYS TO PLAY

SCHOOL TEAMS
- Up to 6 players
- Represent your school
- Compete for a $2,500 grant
- $100 per team

COMMUNITY TEAMS
- Up to 6 players
- Play with family or friends
- Compete for fun prizes
- $50 per team

Play for a $2,500 Grand Prize Grant FOR YOUR SCHOOL!

SCAN TO LEARN MORE & REGISTER
Gather your team and join the hunt!

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Kindergarteners' tips for starting kindergarten and making friends



Alessandra:

"Learn math, and subtraction. Do workbooks for both math and subtraction."

"Talk to a friend. Say 'can I be your friend?' and if they say 'no' then play with them, or don't play with them."



Kai:

"You have to be ready. Every night, you do math and reading."

"You ask people if they want to be your friend, and if they say no then you find someone else."



Lillian:

"You have to learn how to read. Maybe try reading some books that could help you learn. I like Bear Books."

"If you want to be their friend, make sure you're very nice to them."

Sage Advice from 8th Graders



Coen:

"Middle School doesn't have to be hard as long as you relax and talk to people and do work every now and then."



Alison:

"This school is pretty great. All the teachers are amazing and they are really nice and it's pretty easy most of the time."



Abby:

"Keep an open mind and just make friends and have fun."



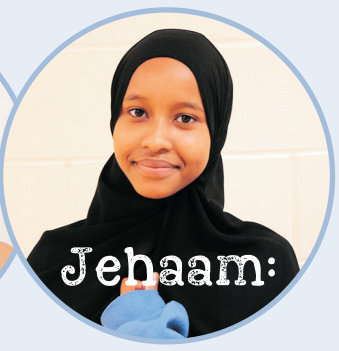
Olive:

"You're going to be nervous on the first day you come here and the school is going to seem pretty big, but over time it's going to become a lot easier and it won't be as big as a thing you think it is."



Bella:

"This is a really big next step coming into your life because you are going to meet a whole bunch of new people and new friends and you start to discover who you truly are."



Jehaam:

"It's not as hard as you think. Don't be scared of your locker because you don't really use it."

Enouraging Words from Seniors



"Try to meet as many people as you can. Social dynamics can change, but you'll always have friends from freshman year and every year you've been here, so it's always best to have friends wherever you go."
-- Sophia Deimling, WCHS



"Don't be too hard on yourself. We all have bad days. Take care of yourself first because that's the most important thing."
-- Micah Carnes, WSHS



"Stay focused on that dream you have, that passion you have. If you keep it and you learn to develop it, there are a lot of opportunities in high school to do it even more, get better at it and have more fun doing it."
-- Issac Cofie, WNHS



"Be confident and find friends that make you happy and are actually your friends that will support you and want the best for you – and stick with them through the hard times."
-- Emily Whitehead, WSHS



"Take care of your own bodies. When I have the most to show up for and I'm pushing myself too much, that's when I fall sick and I can't show up for those things sometimes. So, take care of yourrself, that aspect is really important because once your health declines, there's no way other than sitting there when you can recover."
-- Sumira Adhikari, WSHS



"Be yourself. Ask questions – as many as you can to as many people that do know like teachers and administrators. They know a lot – not just about school but about life as well. Also, I learned to redefine my definition of failure and use it as experiences to grow and not count it as a failure and a step back."
-- Des Okantey, WNHS

Next stop, kindergarten!

More than 170 students graduate from WCS preschool

Westerville City Schools' preschool program hosted graduation ceremonies on May 15 for more than 170 students moving onto kindergarten in the fall. The events – one for a.m. and another for p.m. – included caps and gowns for the graduates, a photo opportunity, a high five from preschool director Suzanne Kile and a sash from Superintendent Angie Hamberg. Board members Anisa Liban, Jennifer Aultman and Louise Valentine also joined the festivities to congratulate graduates and families.











Generation to generation: Huber Ridge Elementary partners with Blendon Township Senior Center

Third-graders at Huber Ridge Elementary have been writing to pen pals throughout the year, strengthening their writing skills. In May, they finally met the person on the other side of their letters: seniors from the Blendon Township Senior Center.

The face-to-face meetup allowed the writing partners to deepen the connections they'd built over months of correspondence. Some students presented their pen pals with handmade bracelets while some seniors greeted their pen pals with gifts.

"The seniors love doing that with the kids," said Cathy Shinaberry, a Blendon Township resident who helped launch the partnership between Huber Ridge and the senior center. "It gives them something to look forward to. When they've done the writing back and forth, it lets the students be involved in the lives of seniors and it lets the seniors be involved in the lives of youth. Developing that kind of mutual respect is great."

The pen pal program is just one branch of a blossoming relationship between the school and the township's older generation. Two years ago, Shinaberry – a former Blendon Township trustee – approached Principal Sheri Chaffin to ask how local seniors could support the school.

Since then, the collaboration has sparked impactful initiatives:

- The senior center hosted a coat and sock drive for Huber Ridge students.
- The fifth-grade choir performed special concerts for the senior center community.

"This collaboration successfully fostered empathy, enhanced communication skills and deepened our students' sense of civic belonging," Chaffin said.





WCS teachers, staff end the school

ELEMENTARY CELEBRATIONS





The Great Inflatable Race at Mark Twain Elementary where teachers dressed in inflatable costumes raced each other to kick-off the school's Field Day festivities





Field day festivities and promotion ceremonies across the District



The student takeover during Minerva France Elementary's last day of school, where students stepped into a variety of staff roles including principal, assistant principal, counselor, MTSS coach, secretary and custodian



The annual Potato Olympics at Huber Ridge Elementary

year with celebrations, traditions





Annual Evening of Excellence programs at all three high schools, where District and school leaders, family members and community groups honored seniors for their scholarship awards and academic achievements during high school







The annual send-offs for graduating seniors at Westerville Central High School as well as those who attended Annehurst and Hawthorne elementaries



The Great Science send-off at Westerville North High School where chemistry teachers Jeff Bracken, Jessica Bey and Greg Pilcher treated students with a showcase of various science experiments as part of their annual end-of-the-year send-off



End-of-year science challenges at Westerville Central and Westerville South high schools

Westerville North High School Graduation

The Class of 2026 at Westerville North High School has much to celebrate for their impressive scholarship accomplishments this year. North students earned 63 community scholarships, contributing to a total of 375 scholarships awarded or offered to the graduating class. Altogether, students received more than $60,000 in community scholarships and an incredible $12.6 million in total scholarship offers, highlighting the dedication, talent, and success of the Warrior community.



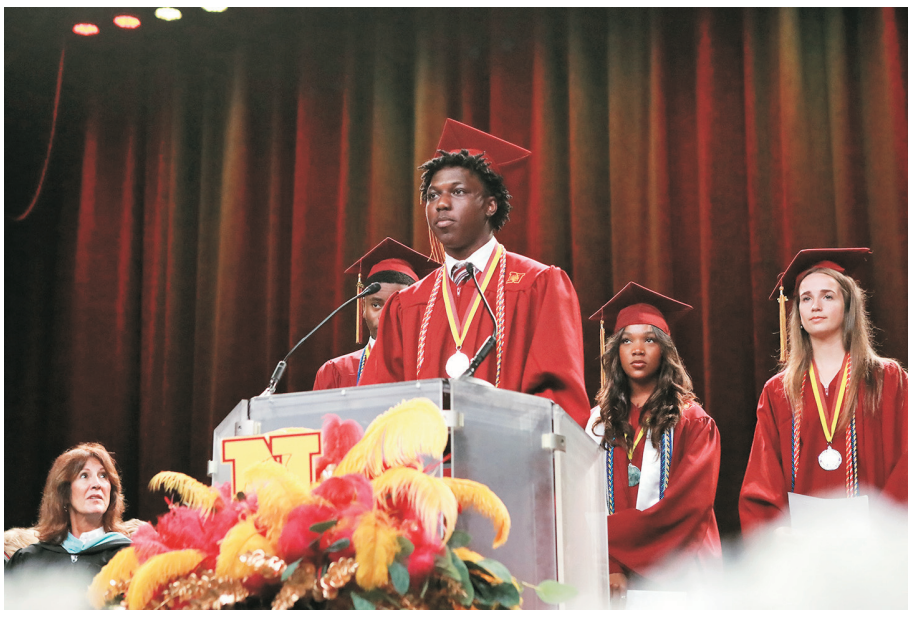














Seniors soak up last weeks of high school

The Class of 2026 has various sweet activities before graduating in May

By Mackenna Tenney



The senior class celebrated their final year with fun events at North. These include senior movie night, senior tag, senior sunrise/decision day, and the Cedar Point trip.

At North, senior movie night took place at the start of the school year at the baseball field. With blankets spread out and popcorn in hand, the class comes together to relax, chat, watch the movie *Spider-man: Into the Spider-verse*, and capture memories with photos.

The senior movie night is run by the senior class officers Kacee Bohan, McBright Ashu, Milani Howard and Isaac Cofie. Cofie says, "The hardest part of planning senior movie night is making sure people want to go. The most we can do is post in advance and hope they show up and enjoy."

Unlike senior movie night, a majority of the senior activities took place towards the end of the year, during the final nine weeks of school.

Senior tag is another activity, not affiliated with Westerville North, but made up of 16 teams, each with four to six people. Over the course of four weeks, teams compete in a bracket-style tournament. Each week, losing teams are eliminated, which means they have the most people out at the end of the week. There are rules, including no playing on school grounds and students can use a large inflatable tube around their waist for immunity. Students are eliminated individually when they are sprayed with a water gun. In the end, the winning team received $600, and the second-place team earned $200.

Senior sunrise/decision day (pictured above) took place on May 1. Seniors met at the field at 6:20 a.m., wearing shirts with their chosen university or that represent their plans after high school. Everyone took pictures together and watched the sunrise. At 6:55 a.m, seniors headed into the school's main gym to enjoy a breakfast consisting of bagels, donuts, fruit and various beverages.

The Cedar Point trip was Monday, May 18 and served as a final opportunity for seniors to spend time together before graduation. It is meant to be a fun and memorable day as everyone prepares to go their separate ways. Students took a charter bus up to Cedar Point, leaving Westerville North at 7 a.m.

These activities were intended to be fun and light-hearted, as an attempt to make the final year of high school for each class memorable before they begin college or enter the workforce.

A Season to Remember: **The Girls Softball Team Resets the Program's Standard**

By Anna Layne

The Westerville North Softball team has undergone many changes in the past four years, changing the dynamic of the program for the better.

Back in spring of 2023, the softball program had a total of 24 players, and peaked at 26 players in 2025, keeping the program large in numbers over the years.

However, this year's program has only 22 girls participating: 12 on varsity, and only 10 players on JV. A full defensive field requires nine players to be in positions, therefore the girls on the field must give it their all.

The teams' ages are very diverse; having freshmen, sophomores, and juniors on both teams, but all four seniors remain on varsity.

Captain Ali Merrell is a Senior in the Softball program, and she has had her experiences on both JV and Varsity teams at Westerville North. She is behind the plate as a catcher every game of the season.
Being captain of the team is a big responsibility for Ali Merrell, and has been a challenge at times. "Being a captain so far has been tough, because I've always been a silent leader, I lead by example. It's kind of hard to round everybody up when they're having fun, but I'm very excited and it's really fun to be a captain," Merrell says.



Photo: Aaron Layne

In the past years, there has been problems with drama between teammates, and tensions between teams. "My freshman and sophomore year, there was a lot of drama and a lot of toxicity," Merrell says. Drama would generate between teammates as well as a thick barrier between the JV and Varsity teams.

This year, Merrell is focusing on building the group dynamic, and is doing everything in her power to encourage a positive atmosphere in the softball program.

"This year has been focused on creating a place that's fun and people enjoy. It's not just about winning, it's more about competing," Merrell says. She believes that the desire to compete is more important than what the team's record reflects, concerning wins and losses.

Alyssa Toler ('29) and Ellie Albert ('29) are the two freshmen on the varsity softball team who play in outfield positions, and are new to the North softball program.

Ali Merrell's teammates think highly of her, and appreciate her role as captain. "Ali is an amazing leader. She's always willing to help anyone out in any way, shape, or form," Toler says.

The transition from middle school softball to varsity softball at North has been successful for the two freshmen, as they have been starting in their outfield positions for the majority of the games.

Alyssa Toler has adjusted quickly to North's program, and is happy to be a part of the team. "I knew the North program was going to be a good fit for me," Toler says. She admires the environment of the team, and stays involved and active.

Toler's perspective on continuing to improve herself contributes to the team as a whole. "My biggest goal this season is to prove that I belong on the varsity team and can compete with people 3-4 years older than me."

Ellie Albert ('29) is very fond of her team and the atmosphere they create. "It's a very positive environment," Albert says. "The girls make it so fun, and everyone's super encouraging. It's been a great start to my freshman season."

The North softball program plays anywhere from 1-4 games a week, and practices on weekdays to stay active and consistent.

Every single girl contributes to every play of every game, and is essential to the success of the program. Even in a regular classroom on a school day, each girl is doing their part in staying successful in their academics as well.

The softball program has a reputation for consistently averaging the highest team GPA at North. The 2026 team concluded the third quarter with a team GPA of 4.01, living up to those expectations.

Keeping their priorities of education and healthy competition above everything else, the girls softball program has made changes for the better, paving the way for years to come.

Westerville South High School Graduation

The Class of 2026 at Westerville South High School continues to demonstrate outstanding achievement both in and out of the classroom. This year, South students earned 66 community scholarships totaling more than $63,000. In addition, members of the Class of 2026 were offered more than 180 college scholarships with a combined value exceeding $10.6 million, reflecting the hard work, dedication, and bright futures of our graduating Wildcats.













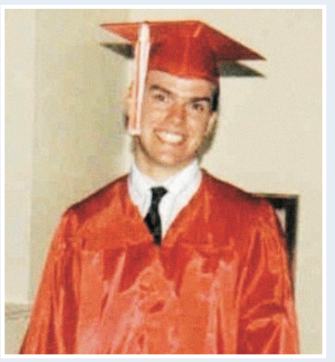




Rees to Retire: Longtime Wildcat says Goodbye

By Emma Laufer

From his freshman year of high school to the end of his teaching career, Matt Rees has loved being a part of Westerville South for the past 31 years. After he graduated in 1990 from Westerville South High School, Rees came back to teach in 1995 after being in the Marine Corps right out of high school. For his first 10 years, he taught German language classes; but when they stopped offering those classes, he started teaching American and World History.



From growing up in Westerville, Rees said he figured out he wanted to teach when he was in his German language classes while a student at South. "I took German because it seemed interesting and a lot of my peers were taking French and Spanish," Rees said. "I remember my teacher would ask me to speak to the German 1 and 2 year students whenever there was a sub. That's when I realized I really enjoyed it and that it could be my career."

Known to be a cool and relatable teacher, students shared that they will miss Rees after he retires this spring along with staff. Principal Michael Hinze shared that working with Rees these past years has been great. "I hope he enjoys his retirement, but we will miss him here," Hinze said.

"He really made my freshman year enjoyable, and he was a great teacher for my first year in high school," Junior Ishmael Bangura said.

Outside of teaching, Rees is a musician. Since first meeting in middle school, he has played the bass guitar in a local band.

"It first started as just a couple friends coming together to play and have fun," Rees said. "Then it turned into actually hopping in a van and performing in venues such as places in downtown Columbus. When thinking about his upcoming retirement, Rees looks forward to it. "I will definitely miss seeing my students and being a mentor for them," he said. After retiring in the spring, he plans on just working little jobs and playing with his band, as well as cycling more in his free time.

Sophomore Molly Niewenhous-Ryan said, "I will miss Mr. Rees because he has been a fun teacher to get to know, and I truly looked forward to seeing him everyday."

From student to long-time educator, Rees' 31-year journey has remained deeply rooted at Westerville South. As he prepares to leave, he leaves behind a legacy defined by a genuine connection with students and a lasting impact on the school community.

SENIOR PROFILE

Brooklyn Hogenbirk

By Alicia Keenan



Senior Brooklyn Hogenbirk is truly aiming high as she will be following in her family's footsteps and serving in the United States Air Force after high school. The decision came pretty naturally for Hogenbirk since she was raised by a U.S. Airmen, stating that she's "grown up with it [her] whole life." Another deciding factor in Hogenbirk joining the military was the scholarship opportunities.

Through serving, she has the potential to earn a full ride to college for further education, which Hogenbirk intends to pursue. After taking a year to focus on getting settled into the Air Force, she hopes to attend Ohio State University and study to become a homicide detective.

At one point, Hogenbirk had considered doing military full-time or being a full-time college student but thought that "if [she] wanted to do both, [she] might as well do both." This led her to ultimately choose to enlist.

Earlier this year, a recruiter enlisted Hogenbirk and she signed up to spend the next six years serving the United States in the Air Force. She chose this branch over the others because of her family being in it and so it was "just what [she's] used to."

Hogenbirk also stated that she "hope[s] to make the military a lifetime career" because it's "a real career path and it sets you up for life."

After having played soccer all four years of high school and lacrosse for three, Hogenbirk is sure to go on to do great things and make Westerville South proud.

Advice for underclassmen considering this path:

"It's a really good option especially if you don't know what you want to do with your life. Active duty is a four-year commitment; or if you do reserve, it's six. Then, if you don't like it, you don't have to do it after; but if you do, then you can make a lifetime career out of it."

SENIOR PROFILE

Cienna Lytus

By Alicia Keenan



Senior Cienna Lytus plans on furthering her education after high school, but she is trading in textbooks and calculators for scissors and combs.

During her time at Westerville South, Cienna Lytus has played on the volleyball team and been a member of Hope Squad. Following her upcoming graduation, Lytus will be attending Salon Institute which is located in Columbus, Ohio. Through their 1500-hour cosmetology program, Lytus will learn everything hair, skin, and nails to become a licensed cosmetologist. This well-rounded approach will provide her with many opportunities and ways to use her certification. Lytus shared that she chose Salon Institute over other cosmetology schools because it "has the best rate of getting jobs straight out of the school and it was also the closest to home."

However, she does not plan on always living in Ohio. Lytus shared that in five years she hopes to be "in Florida working in [her] own suite for [her]self."

Getting an education at a local institution and then using that education to go elsewhere is a great option for many people since it allows them to ease into independence. Lytus actually considered going to college in Rhode Island and becoming an interior designer, but didn't want to leave her mother, someone she is very close to. Lytus's decision was also based on what she's passionate about. She stated she "never really enjoyed [traditional] school" and "thought of finding something different," but has always enjoyed hair and beauty. This led her to pursuing an education in a field and at a school that's right for her.

Advice for underclassmen considering this path:

"Don't let people's opinions on you not going to college affect you. You're not stupid just because you're not going to college."

SENIOR PROFILE

Maxine Gonzalez

By Alicia Keenan



Senior Maxine Gonzalez has been a dedicated member of the marching band and bowling team throughout high school, but will now be using her talents in a different way. She will be going straight into the workforce as a pharmacy technician at Riverside Methodist Hospital, located in Columbus, after her high school graduation.

This past winter, Gonzalez was actually able to job shadow at the hospital for five weeks through the Delaware Area Career Center (DACC) pharmacy technician program. She shared that she "had a really great time", wrote a simple thank-you letter asking to be kept in mind for future positions, and it was such a great fit that she was offered the job just a couple of weeks later.

Gonzalez had originally considered following high school with a traditional four-year institution and pursuing some sort of medical degree but was unsure of exactly what she wanted to do. This uncertainty mixed with overwhelming college applications caused a lot of unwanted anxiety for Gonzalez.

However, after getting into the program at DACC, she found herself thinking, "wow this is great" and finally realized what she wanted to do. It was like "a major stress was just gone" and everything started to fall into place.

Gonzalez has always felt particularly drawn to the medical field because she has "a pretty decent family history of medical field occupations" and has "always been interested in science and math."

After taking the PBS (principles of biomedical sciences) class freshman year, her passion for medicine and health was solidified. Now, Gonzalez hopes to work her way up in the field while also saving up her money to travel and see the world.

Advice for underclassmen considering this path:

"What you put into it is what you get out of it, so if you put in a lot of work, you get good stuff out of it."

Westerville Central High School Graduation

The Class of 2026 at Westerville Central High School earned impressive scholarship recognition this year. A total of 74 students received scholarship funding through both community and college scholarships, with 43 community organizations participating in the Westerville Community Scholarship Application process. Collectively, Central students were offered more than $7.7 million in scholarships, with over $4.1 million accepted by members of the graduating class.



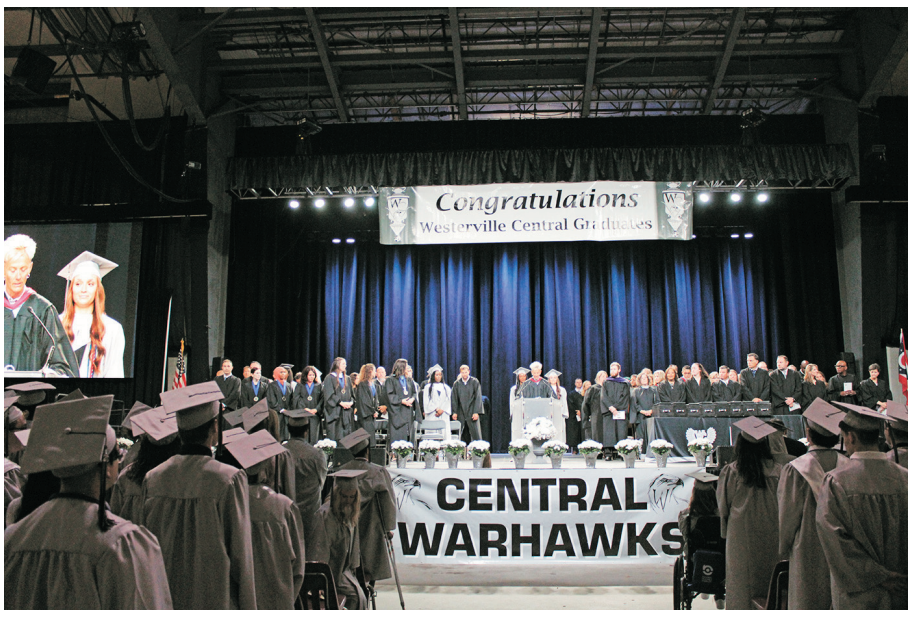














A Time to Reflect: Senior Class of 2026

By Ethan Dick



Gloria Bui - Senior Gloria Bui reflected on her high school experience stating that if she could give her freshman self some advice, "I would tell myself not to stress so hard about grades and be in the moment and enjoy my time here." Bui stated that what she will miss the most about high school is "how everyone is so tight and friendly with each other. Since I started taking CCP classes, it's a lot harder to make friends because I didn't realize that you have to reach out to people, and I definitely took that for granted."

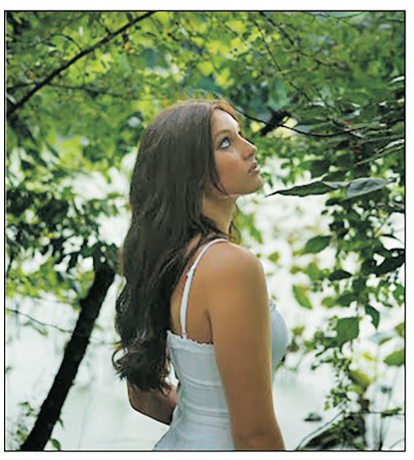
In her high school career, Bui is most proud of doing service in Key Club. "I really gave back to the community, which makes me feel warm inside," she stated. "It made me realize that I am so much luckier than a lot of people and that I am able to have this opportunity to help others not only to make me feel better but also because I care," Bui added.



Zander Tee - Senior Zander Tee shared that a piece of advice he'd give to his younger self would be "don't take things so seriously." His most memorable moment from high school was "Arts Alive 2025 or study sessions with friends," he said.

One thing Tee said he learned in high school that will be valuable for his future was the fact that "you get to choose what matters to you."

"I'd maybe take more classes my senior year to get the full high school experience," Tee stated, when asked about one thing he would change about his high school experience. Tee stated his biggest accomplishments in high school were being a 4-year varsity athlete, along with "staying true to himself" and keeping his "circle intact," throughout high school. He said high school affected him in a way where "it's definitely made me more socially aware from freshman year to now."



Lucy Clarke - Senior Lucy Clark had a lot to share about her high school experience. "The advice I'd give my freshman self would be to take it one day at a time," Clark shared. "Every day is a new day, and you just have to take advantage of that and that will help get things done."

She stated her most memorable moment was "talking to more people in my graduating class, connecting with more people, kind of just hanging out with new people and new groups" senior year. She said she will miss "the teachers that have helped me move throughout high school and kept me going. I feel like I built a lot of connections with my teachers, so I feel like lím going to miss them a lot."

Clark said her biggest accomplishment was "getting third in the nation for a website and app I made for a digital design project. I"m just proud, with getting first in the region and I'm going to Nashville soon to compete in nationals again, hopefully getting first."



What Are Your Plans Over the Summer?

By Zeinab Bah



Aboubacar Cisse (Freshman) - During summer break, Cisse is hoping to have an extremely restful summer. He plans to relax by watching sports, going on his phone and catching up on much needed sleep, especially after finals. He is excited to come back next year.



Olivia Koenig (Sophomore) is very excited for summer break. She is planning to travel to Texas for Dance Nationals and going to North Carolina with her family. Koenig is going to be using this time to relax and have fun before junior year.



Shelby Bohmer (Junior) is going to New York with her grandparents, visiting places such as Broadway and Brooklyn. Bohmer is also a junior camp counselor who will be going to Falcon Camp in Canton, Ohio for her work for about six weeks.



Mrs. Jenny Horn (Math Teacher) - Mrs. Jenny Horn is looking forward to summer break! With her daughters playing travel soccer, she will be traveling to Cleveland and Orrville, Ohio for competitions. She also plans to visit Delaware Beach to relax and catch up on some reading.



Mr. Anthony Forrest (Science Teacher) has a summer filled with a lot of adventure. He will be going to a small island called Bonaire for scuba diving and Colorado to hike and do some fly fishing. He also wants to spend more time with his son and family relaxing.





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