

Dear Dake families:

As we welcome the month of November, we enter a season that reminds us to slow down, reflect, and focus on two powerful values: gratitude and kindness.

Recently, I've found myself thinking about how quickly time passes. My son is now 9 years old and, believe it or not, playing the bassoon. Hearing him practice at home and watching him grow more independent each week has been a powerful reminder of just how fast our children change. It feels like the school year just began, yet he has already grown so much in confidence, responsibility, and character. I know many of our Dake families are experiencing similar moments. Every day, our children are growing, learning, and becoming more of who they are meant to be.

As I walk through our hallways, I see that same growth happening. Beyond academics, I see young people showing resilience, developing confidence, supporting one another, and learning what it means to be part of a community. These lessons will last far beyond their time in middle school.

This month, I encourage all of us to be intentional about expressing gratitude and choosing kindness - a simple thank you, a word of encouragement, or a small act of compassion can have a lasting impact on someone's day.

Thank you for the partnership, support, and trust you provide each day. Together, we are helping our students grow not only as learners, but as caring and capable young people.As we approach the end of the first marking period, let's celebrate how far our students have come, appreciate the moments we share, and continue to **Win the Day** together.

Sincerely,
Tim Baker

Dake Contact Information

Principal: Tim Baker | **tim_baker@westiron.monore.edu**
Asst. Principal: Claire Hamilton - Grade 7 | **claire_hamilton@westiron.monroe.edu**
Asst. Principal: Alexa Hogestyn - Grade 8 | **alexa_hogestyn@westiron.monroe.edu**
Secretary to the Principal: Cameron Wright |
cameron_wright@westiron.monroe.edu

Main office: 585-342-2140
Attendance: 585-336-3143
Fax: 585-336-3034
Website: **https://dake.westirondequoit.org/**
Counseling Office Secretary: Shannon Pollock |
Shannon_Pollock@westiron.monroe.edu

Student TEAMS Info:

- Topaz 8th grade
- Opal 8th grade
- Emerald 8th grade
- Amythyst 7th grade
- Sapphire -7th grade
- Ruby - 7th grade

Nurse: Kristina Sodeman
Health Clerk: Kim DiMarco
Health Office: 585-336-2964
Transportation: 585-336-2992 | **Web page**
District Office: 585-342-5500 | **District website**



Looking Ahead

Upcoming Events

Nov. 4 - 8th Grade DC Trip Parent/Guardian Meeting, 6:30 PM @ IHS
Nov. 11 - NO SCHOOL, Veterans Day
Nov 23 - 8th Grade DC Fundraiser: Chipotle
Nov. 26-27 - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Recess

Curriculum Corner

Understanding RTI/MTSS and Summer Lab

Empowering every student starts with the right support. At West Irondequoit, we use proven strategies like Response to Intervention (RTI) and Summer Lab to help students thrive academically and social-emotionally. Here's what you need to know:

WHAT IS RTI?

Response to Intervention or Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) is a structured approach to support students who may need extra help academically, social-emotionally, or behaviorally. It focuses on early identification and targeted support so students can succeed. How does RTI/MTSS work?

Screening: All students are assessed to identify those who may need additional support. We utilize AIMSWeb Plus and iReady to screen our students' academics. For social-emotional screening, we utilize the Panorama SEL Surveys in Grades 3-12.

Tiered Support:

- Tier 1: High-quality instruction for all students.
- Tier 2: Targeted help for students who need more support. This can be provided by the classroom teacher, interventionist, or related service provider in a small group.
- Tier 3: Intensive, individualized interventions for students with ongoing challenges. This support is provided by interventionists or related service providers in a smaller group setting.
- Progress Monitoring: Regular checks to ensure interventions are working. Teachers utilize AIMSWeb Plus progress monitoring tools, teacher-created assessments, or observational data to progress monitor students on their goals.
- Collaboration: Teachers, administrators, and families work together to support each child on their goals to close gaps.

At West Irondequoit, RTI/MTSS is built into the K-6 school day; students in grades 7–12 can access courses for literacy, math, social-emotional, and executive functioning needs.

SUMMER LAB PROGRAM

Students receiving intervention services during the school year are invited to join Summer Lab for continued learning.

- Grades: K–6
- Dates: July 26 – Aug. 12 (Monday–Thursday)
- Attendance: Students must attend all 12 days for continuity.

If your child qualifies, please schedule summer plans around these dates.

- **Kelly Santora, Director of Data, Assessment & Interventions**

Student ID Cards/Lunch Scanning

Beginning November 9th, Dake Junior High will begin using student ID cards to scan students into lunch each day. Many of our current 8th grade students may remember this process from last year, and we are excited to expand it to both our 7th and 8th grade students this year.

This process is simple and efficient. Students will scan their ID card as they enter the cafeteria, allowing us to quickly record attendance and ensure students are in the correct lunch period. This also supports our efforts to maintain a safe, organized environment and helps staff prepare to welcome students as lunch periods begin.

Students will be receiving their ID cards soon. We ask that families please remind their child to:

Keep their school ID with them each day.
Have their ID ready when entering the cafeteria for lunch.
Take care of their ID so it remains in good condition for scanning.

This small change will help improve efficiency, strengthen student accountability, and support our ongoing commitment to student safety.

Thank you for your partnership and support as we continue to look for ways to make our school day run smoothly for all students.

PTSA News

On Friday November 6th and Friday November 13th, the PTSA will be sponsoring Activity Nights for 7th and 8th grade students. November 6th will be for 8th grade and November 13th will be for 7th grade. 7:00pm-8:30pm. We will have crafts, games and snacks in the cafeteria, gaga and basketball in the gym, a silent disco in the APR, and a professional photo booth! $5 admission at the door.

Please see the sign-up Genius to chaperone! Also, please check out our Amazon wish lists to help make these events the best they can be!

8th Grade Activity Night Parent Volunteer Sign-up: **https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4CA8A622ABFC1-66444117-116**

7th Grade Activity Night Parent Volunteer Sign-up: **https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4CA8A622ABFC1-66444169-1113**

Amazon Wish List: **https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/330ODCRP860ZE?ref_=wl_share**

Thank you,
Dake PTSA


PTSA
DAKE JR HIGH
ACTIVITY
NIGHT
SILENT DISCO
8TH GRADE-11/6
7TH GRADE-11/13
Photobooth
gaga ball
7pm-8:30pm
Dake Jr High
crafts &
open gym
ADMISSION $5 at the Door
have a snack &
hang with
friends
sponsored by
Wegmans


VETERANS DAY
RESPECT. HONOR.
GRATITUDE.
NO SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11
ALL means ALL
WELCOME. NURTURE. INSPIRE.



Health Information Update

Flu season on deck: As we enter flu season, our district would like to remind families of the importance of preventing the spread of influenza (flu) and other seasonal illnesses. The health and safety of our students and staff remain a top priority. Families are encouraged to follow these recommendations:

- **Keep children home when they are sick.** Students experiencing fever, chills, body aches, cough, sore throat, or significant fatigue should remain home until they are well enough to return.
- **Follow school illness guidelines.** Students should return to school when their symptoms are improving overall and they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, consistent with district policy and public health guidance.
- **Practice good hand hygiene.** Encourage frequent handwashing with soap and water or the use of hand sanitizer when appropriate.
- **Cover coughs and sneezes.** Students should use a tissue or their elbow and dispose of tissues properly.
- **Consider flu vaccination.** Families are encouraged to speak with their healthcare provider about the annual flu vaccine.
- **Encourage healthy habits.** Adequate sleep, nutritious meals, and proper hydration support overall health and well-being.

Please notify the school of illness-related absences. The district will continue to monitor illness-related absences and follow applicable **public health recommendations**. Thank you for your cooperation and continued partnership in helping maintain a healthy learning environment for all students and staff throughout flu season.

*For more information, go to the district's Health Information page (**linked here**), which includes a directory of our nurses by school.*

UPCOMING HELMER EVENTS!

🎃**Pumpkin Smash, Sunday Nov. 8, 10 a.m. - noon:** Join us for our 2nd annual Smash-o-Lantern event. Bring your Jack-o-Lanterns and have fun smashing them before adding them to our compost! See graphic for more info!

🏠**Open House, Thursday, Nov. 12 5:30-7 p.m.:** Stop by during HNC Open House hours for an opportunity to visit our animal ambassadors, meet the new HNC Director, Kyra Stephenson, and learn a little more about Helmer!

🥾**Tuesdays on the Trails, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays:** Beginning Dec. 1, stop by for a Director-led walk in the HNC woods. This is a great opportunity to spend some time in nature! We hope you will join! See graphic for dates, times and more info.

For all events, go to the **Helmer webpage**.







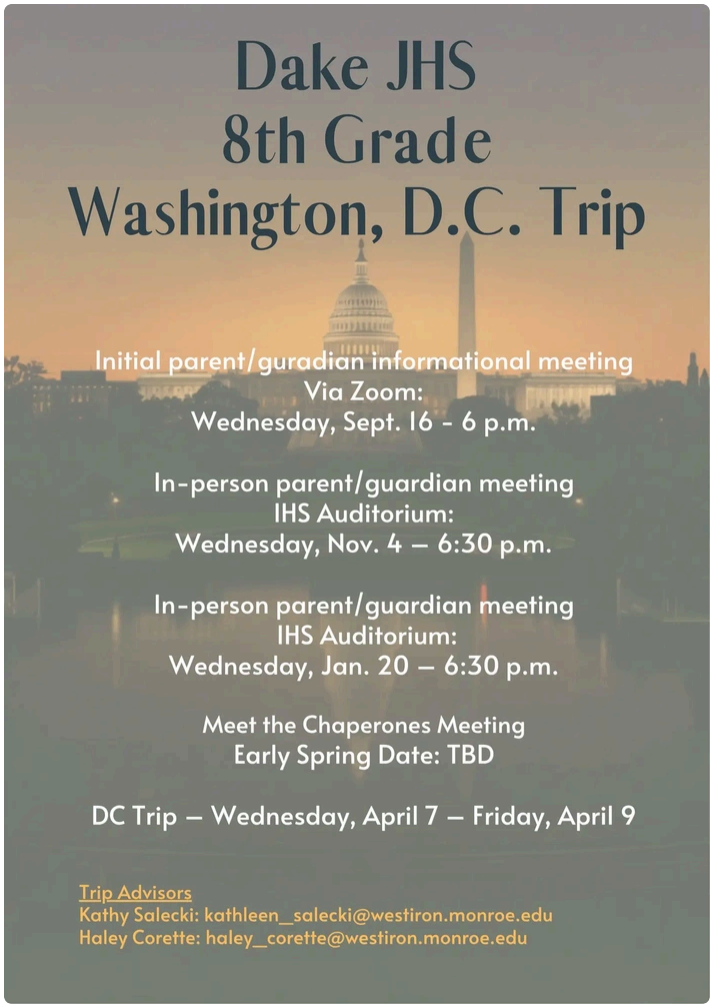
Backpack and Cell Phone Expectations

A brief reminder about some updated building expectations: **https://www.parentsquare.com/feeds/84829599**



8th Grade D.C. Trip Info

See below for some important dates regarding this school year's Washington D.C. Trip. **Meeting happening this Wednesday, Nov. 4.**


Dake JHS
8th Grade
Washington, D.C. Trip
Initial parent/guradian informational meeting
Via Zoom:
Wednesday, Sept. 16 - 6 p.m.
In-person parent/guardian meeting
IHS Auditorium:
Wednesday, Nov. 4 – 6:30 p.m.
In-person parent/guardian meeting
IHS Auditorium:
Wednesday, Jan. 20 – 6:30 p.m.
Meet the Chaperones Meeting
Early Spring Date: TBD
DC Trip – Wednesday, April 7 – Friday, April 9
Trip Advisors
Kathy Salecki: kathleen_salecki@westiron.monroe.edu
Haley Corette: haley_corette@westiron.monroe.edu

Keep contact info current



Parents/guardians,

Do you:

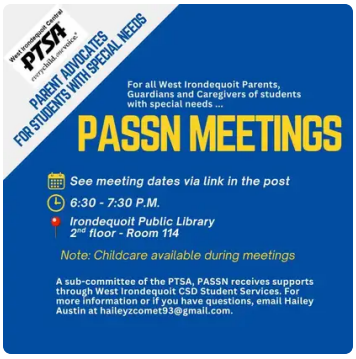
- Have a new cell/work phone number or email?
- Switched phone carriers recently?
- Need to update your emergency contacts?

Please keep us informed of any changes to numbers or emergency contact info. Update it directly in the **Infinite Campus Portal** or send a note with your child.

WHY YOUR MOBILE NUMBER IS CRITICAL

Our system does NOT default if you have just one field filled (Home/Work/Mobile). **Best practice:** Whatever number you receive calls on, put that in the HOME field; for text messages, put that number in the MOBILE field even if the same number. If your mobile number is not in the correct field, you will not receive text messages from our school/district for emergencies (such as school closings in winter months).

PASSN SCHEDULE 2026-27



On behalf of the WICPTSA and PASSN, please read below to learn more about the Parent Advocates for Student Services Network and see its monthly meeting schedule. PASSN is comprised of district parent/guardian advocates of students who receive support through West Irondequoit Student Services. Meetings are a safe space for families.

Nov. 9 - Workshop with district Occupational Therapist, Andy Casini.
December (no meeting)
Jan. 11 – Trauma Informed Workshop with district counselors and psychologists.
Feb. 8 – Workshop on Bullying with Phil Ortolani, district Director of Health and Wellness.
March 8 - CSE Workshop with Directors of Student Services, Joanna Rowe and Amy Donk.
April 12 – Mindfulness Workshop with E-RYT 200 & RCYT, Lisa Chidsey.
May 10 – Booth Night with community resources to support your children and family
June 14 – POTENTIAL MEETING - School year recap, summer service plans & how will we stay structured this summer?

Please email **haileyzcomet93@gmail.com** with any questions or for more information.

