WHITESBORO
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSPIRE | CULTIVATE | EMPOWER



WHITESBORO CELEBRATES
HOMECOMING GAME & SENIOR NIGHT

On Oct. 16, the Whitesboro varsity football and cheerleading teams celebrated their Senior Nights prior to the Homecoming game at Chiz Frye Field at Tom Schoen Stadium.

Before kickoff, senior football players and cheerleaders were honored during a ceremony on the field. Parents and families escorted them while being recognized. The stands were filled with students, staff, families and community members dressed in blue and white, showing their pride.

Whitesboro ended the evening with a 41-21 victory over East Syracuse Minoa. The District congratulates all senior athletes and cheerleaders for their leadership and dedication on and off the field and wishes them success in their future endeavors.

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NOVEMBER 2026

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A MESSAGE FROM THE **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Dear Parents, Guardians and Members of the Whitesboro School Community,



It has been a great start to the 2026-27 school year! Across our schools, students and staff are focused on learning, achievement, and making the most of the opportunities available to them. The commitment, pride, and positive momentum throughout the Whitesboro Central School District have been evident as we begin another exciting year.

Throughout our District, students continue to excel in academics, athletics, the arts and extracurricular activities. These accomplishments reflect the dedication of our students, the commitment of our staff and the ongoing support of our families and community. Together, we continue to create meaningful experiences that inspire, cultivate and empower all learners to maximize their potential.

Looking ahead, the coming months are filled with opportunities to celebrate our students and the many experiences that make Whitesboro special. From performances and athletic competitions to classroom activities and community traditions, there will be many opportunities to celebrate as we continue to strengthen our programs and prepare students for future success.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to express my sincere appreciation to our staff, families, Board of Education and community partners for their continued commitment to our schools. The time, effort and support you provide make a real difference in the daily lives of our students and in the strength of our District.

I wish you and your families a happy and restful Thanksgiving and hope you enjoy time with family and friends. Thank you for all you do for the Whitesboro CSD. I look forward to the months ahead and the accomplishments we will share throughout the remainder of the school year.

Sincerely,

David Russo

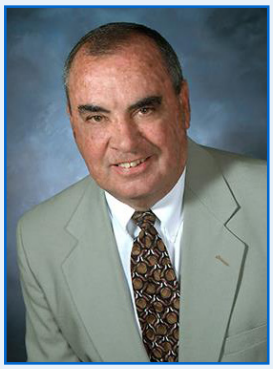
Superintendent of Schools

THREE WHITESBORO STAFF MEMBERS AND BOE PRESIDENT HONORED BY GENESIS GROUP

The Whitesboro Central School District is proud to announce the following staff and BOE members who were selected by the Genesis Group for the 20th Annual Celebration of Education.

Education Distinguished Service Award:

MICHAEL HEAD
Board of Education President



Outstanding Educators:

BRETT BOSTIC
Hart's Hill Elementary
fourth grade teacher



ABBIE GETMAN
Marcy Elementary
fourth grade teacher



CHRISTOPHER O'NEIL
Director of Pupil Personnel Services



A dinner and award presentation will take place on Nov. 19 at 5:30 p.m. at the Hart's Hill Inn.

Congratulations to our award winners on this outstanding accomplishment!

Department Spotlight: Library/Media Center

Who We Are:

The Library/Media Center team is made up of seven dedicated individuals, including 3.5 full-time library media specialists, two of whom split their duties among the four elementary schools. In particular, Merissa Marthage (Hart's Hill and Deerfield) and Elizabeth Carroll (Westmoreland Road and Marcy) are integral to maintaining a positive, student-first library program that nurtures elementary students as readers and thinkers. The department's overall mission is to support the District's goal of inspiring, cultivating and empowering students to become lifelong learners and readers. Libraries are essential to reaching these goals now more than ever.

What We Do:

The department plays a vital role in nurturing a love of reading by providing students with a multitude of reading options that align with their age and interest levels. Reading for enjoyment provides more than simple entertainment. Study after study shows that a strong library program supported by certified librarians leads to higher student test scores, improved literacy, better reading comprehension and stronger academic outcomes across subject areas. Simply put, a skilled librarian assisting students in finding "just the right book" to read for enjoyment drives measurable student growth. Key recent department initiatives include:

- **Focus on digital literacy:** In the 21st century, library lessons look quite different from those of past generations. Today, instruction also focuses on responsible technology use, how to be a good digital citizen and how to stay safe when using digital devices. These discussions begin in elementary school and continue throughout students' educational experiences into high school to prepare them for life beyond graduation as technology evolves.
- **Research in the 21st century:** The research process starts in District elementary schools, often through collaboration with classroom teachers. Research must always serve a curricular purpose, with a primary focus on teaching students how to obtain reliable information and why information literacy matters. Critical thinking and active inquiry during student research help combat the plagiarism that AI and other digital tools can so easily facilitate.

Behind the Scenes:

Did you know that throughout the District last year, students checked out more than 52,000 books?

Looking Ahead:

The department is preparing to collaborate with Dunham Public Library to spread the love of reading further across District families. The District remains committed to providing students with high-quality library and literary experiences as they grow as learners and readers.







PRINCIPAL ERIC ROTHDIENER NAMED AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION'S PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Whitesboro Principal Eric Rothdiener has been named the American Heart Association's Principal of the Year in recognition of his dedication to the Kids Heart Challenge.

Over the past three years, Mr. Rothdiener has helped raise more than $19,000 for the organization. In 2026, Marcy Elementary raised $11,942, a significant increase from the previous year. This increase in numbers is not only a reflection of the generosity of the community, but also how he inspires his students.

Mr. Rothdiener has been actively involved in making each event engaging for students. As incentives to encourage fundraising, he has dressed up as Scooby-Doo and taken a pie to the face.

Mr. Rothdiener, who recently became principal at Whitesboro Middle School, plans to introduce the Kids Heart Challenge there, as well. He also hopes to mentor the new Marcy Elementary School Principal, Ms. Melissa Leone, to maintain the program's momentum across the District.



Whitesboro Celebrates Homecoming Game & Fall Sports Senior Nights

The seniors for each team are listed below

Senior varsity football players:

Devon Ayers
Jayden Bies
Connor Donohoe
Brady Fasolo
Khalil Fuentes-Bigelow
Nicholas Gaspa
Gavin Januchowski
Giovanni Lane
Jonah Mansberger
Connor McDonald
Cameron Riley-Jones
Justice Pearson
Gregory Zeiter
Frank Zupancic

Senior varsity cheerleaders:

Francesca Aldi
Sophia Dziedzic
Noelle Webster
Savannah Yager



Senior boys varsity cross country runners:

Calvin Cooley
Mark LaBuzzetta
Christian Vella
Brodie Wengert

Senior girls varsity cross country runners:

Ashley Attilio
Elizabeth Friot
Evangeline Gwitt
Brooke Kernan
Lana Moore
Kylie Murray
Leah Protasovitskiy
Sofia Protasovitskiy
Claire Vulcano



Senior boys varsity soccer players:

Aiden Dauch
Irhan Lulic

Senior girls varsity soccer players:

Chloe Aiello
Tript Bhatti
Alisa Chapple
Brooke Sherline
Peyton Wells





Senior girls varsity tennis players:

Sara Horning
Catelin Kernan
Ariana Levkovets
Liana Levkovets
Talya Little
Maddie McDermott
Sophia Montana
Campbell O'Bryan
Isabella Perry
Alanna Sents



Senior girls varsity field hockey players:

Anna Kernan
Kaydence Schmidt
Ayanna Sowich



Senior varsity gymnastics:

Mallory Hughes



Senior girls varsity swimming:

Skye Buffa





On Oct. 3, the Whitesboro cross country teams held their annual invitational at the Deerfield Wilderness Park. Twenty-six teams from across the Section III area attended to compete in the modified and varsity-level races.

The event started with a kids run, where children from the community participated in a short distance run. Following the kids run, the modified and varsity teams went on to run their respective races.

Thank you to everyone in the community who came out to support the event.

FIELD AND STADIUM DEDICATION

The Whitesboro Central School District, along with the Schoen Dedication Committee, officially dedicated the high school football stadium as Tom Schoen Stadium and rededicated the playing field as Chiz Frye Field.

The ceremony brought together alumnus, families and community members to celebrate a football tradition built over nearly a century.

Allen "Chiz" Frye, who served as head coach from 1931 to 1965, established the program's foundation of discipline and pride. In recognition of his contributions, the District originally dedicated the playing surface as Chiz Frye Field in 1973. Former head coach Tom Schoen (1974–2018) helped carry on that legacy.

Following the sign unveiling, guests gathered at Hart's Hill Inn for a celebratory reception honoring both legends.

The newly installed stadium sign serves as a lasting tribute to both coaches and reflects the District's commitment to preserving the rich history of Whitesboro athletics. By naming the facility Tom Schoen Stadium while continuing to honor Chiz Frye Field, the District recognizes the enduring legacy of two individuals whose dedication helped shape not only a football program, but also an entire community.



VARSITY FIELD HOCKEY
HOSTS MORGAN'S MESSAGE GAME

On Oct. 14 the Whitesboro varsity field hockey team hosted a special dedication game in support of Morgan's Message, a nonprofit focused on promoting mental health awareness.

Morgan's Message advocates for the importance of mental health and well-being in student-athletes, working to eliminate the stigma that is commonly associated with mental health struggles in the sports world. By hosting this event, the team aims to amplify this mission to their community.

The team would like to thank everyone who came out to the game and supported this cause. Your attendance helped to start an essential conversation about mental health in athletics.







To learn how you can support this movement, please visit **morgansmessage.org.**

WHITESBORO VARSITY GYMNASTICS TEAM PARTICIPATES IN
SECTIONAL COMPETITION

The Whitesboro varsity gymnastics team participated in sectional competition on Oct. 16. The competition involved 80 athletes from six teams across the section.

Whitesboro athletes won 13 individual awards, including ninth grader Kaitlyn Szatko who won the Level 3 floor event and was crowned sectional champion. Tenth grader Abby Lipe qualified on the bars to compete on the state team. The state competition will be held on Feb. 28 in Cold Springs Harbor on Long Island.

Congratulations to the varsity gymnastics team on a great season!









WHITESBORO HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES
Blue and White Week

From Oct. 13-16, Whitesboro High School celebrated Blue and White Week, culminating with the Homecoming football game.

Throughout the week, students demonstrated school spirit by participating in daily themed dress-up days, including Anything but a Backpack Day, Half and Half Day, Jersey Day and the always anticipated Blue and White Day.

On Friday evening, the excitement spread across the District as students, staff and community members gathered for the Homecoming football game. The celebration carried into the weekend with a spirited Powderpuff football game on Saturday, wrapping up a week full of Whitesboro pride, unity and community spirit.













A Night of School Spirit

Community and Giving Back



On Oct. 17, Whitesboro High School juniors and seniors took the field under the lights for the 13th annual Powderpuff football game. More than 120 students participated, while over 50 high school and District staff members volunteered their time to make the evening a success.

The seniors earned a 30-14 victory, but the real winner was the community, as approximately $2,000 was raised for the Livi Strong Foundation. Over the past 13 years, the Powderpuff game has raised more than $32,000 for local charitable causes.

This year's proceeds benefited the Livi Strong Foundation, established in memory of Alivia Moylan, a Whitesboro Middle School honor student and athlete who passed away in 2020. The foundation honors Moylan's memory by supporting youth sports and animal welfare, and has been a generous supporter of Whitesboro student-athletes.

The evening featured plenty of entertainment, including a crowd-favorite halftime dance performance by junior and senior boys, choreographed by cheerleading coach Kristen DiGiorgio and captains Francesca Aldi, Katie Nofri and Mikayla Charlebois. Another highlight was the announcement of the winning names from a weeklong raffle supporting incoming animals at Anita's Stevens Swan Humane Society. Donors to the Livi Strong Foundation were entered into the drawing, with Charlie selected for the dog and Coco Puffs for the cat.

Congratulations to both classes on a great game, and thank you to the students, staff, families and community members who made the event possible.

Career and Technical Education Student Spotlight

FUTURE IN FOCUS: WHITESBORO SENIOR PREPARES FOR MILITARY CAREER

Whitesboro High School senior Nick Gaspa is turning a lifelong goal into reality. Aiming for a career in law enforcement and military service, Nick enrolled in the Criminal Justice program at the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES after taking a campus tour his sophomore year.

Now in Criminal Justice II, Nick gains practical experience through physical conditioning and industry certification courses. One standout lesson involved studying forensic science using a mock "body farm" with fetal pigs to observe biological decay.

"At BOCES, I get to learn stuff that I may actually use in the career world," Nick says. "I have more certifications than I know what to do with, and you work out in class to make you stronger and faster."

His instructor, Mr. Noel Ames, praises his work ethic: "Nick puts a great deal of effort into every aspect of the program. He excels in physical fitness and academics, which are important for public safety, and he brings an interesting sense of humor to class."

Upon graduation, Nick plans to enlist in the U.S. Army. His advice for younger students considering a CTE program? "Do it – BOCES is nothing but good for you. You get real-world experience, meet students from other schools and really get to know your teachers."



WHITESBORO STUDENTS AND TEACHER REFLECT ON 9/11

Whitesboro High School seniors Anna Kernan and John Bradley recently reflected on the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the ongoing impact on today's youth during an interview with WUTR. Although neither Anna nor John were alive during the attacks, both recalled learning about the loss of life and sensing the event's lasting aftermath. For these students, 9/11 is more than a historical tragedy; it highlights the importance of understanding national history and learning from the past.

Middle school history teacher Luke Slatton also shared his approach to teaching students about 9/11. Mr. Slatton draws from his background as a former U.S. Army officer deployed to the Middle East during the war on terror. He provides personal experience of the time while emphasizing how the tragedy served to unite the country.

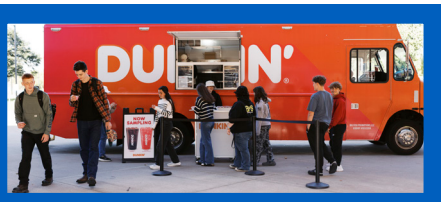


STUDENTS REWARDED FOR EXCEPTIONAL ATTENDANCE WITH DUNKIN'

The Dunkin' Cruiser visited Whitesboro High School on Sept. 22, offering students free samples of two popular menu items. The event served as a reward for exceptional student attendance, including over 97% during the first two weeks of school.

Students chose between the Strawberry Dragonfruit Lemonade Refresher and the Berry Clementine Refresher. Thank you to all who attended and a special thanks to the Dunkin' Cruiser team for stopping in Whitesboro.











Seventh Grade Science Classes
ASSESS SAUQUOIT CREEK HEALTH



From Sept. 28 through Oct. 2, seventh grade science classes participated in "Creek Week," a multi-day field study to determine the health of the local Sauquoit Creek ecosystem.

Students first learned about the geography of Sauquoit Creek and the Mohawk River Watershed, then tested the creek's water for turbidity (cloudiness), dissolved oxygen levels, temperature, pH, velocity and depth. They also collected macroinvertebrate specimens and completed a full site environmental observation.

Through this data, they were able to determine that the creek is very healthy.



Whitesboro Middle School Sauquoit Creek Family Fest

On Oct. 4, Whitesboro CSD welcomed families to learn about "Creek Week." Seventh grade students were able to show their parents and guardians the tests that they performed during the week, including velocity, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, turbidity, macroinvertebrate collection and water depth.

A variety of local businesses joined the event to inform the community of additional environmental studies:

DEC Watershed Coordinator
Hamilton College
New York Mills Green Team
Onondaga Environmental Institute
Oneida County Recycling Center
Trout Unlimited



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPANISH TEACHER PLACES THIRD FOR BEST WORLD LANGUAGE CLASSROOM IN NYS

Mrs. Discavage participated in a World Language Showcase hosted by the New York State Association for Language Teachers (NYSAFLT). Part of her showcase included giving a virtual tour of her classroom, discussing her daily instruction and explaining how she uses the space with her students. World Language teachers in NYSAFLT voted across the state, and Mrs. Discavage won third place. Her prize was a free one-year membership renewal for NYSAFLT in 2028. ¡Buen trabajo, Señora Discavage!



MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

On Sept. 18, Whitesboro Middle School hosted its annual Open House, welcoming parents and guardians into the building. Families had the chance to tour classrooms, meet their child's teachers and learn more about instructional programs and the exciting opportunities ahead for the 2026–27 school year!

An adjusted bell schedule gave families time to visit each of their child's teachers, who shared classroom expectations and curriculum highlights throughout the evening.

A big thank you to all of our teachers and staff for preparing informative presentations, displaying student work and decorating their classrooms. Your efforts created a warm, welcoming atmosphere, answered every question and set a collaborative tone for an amazing school year ahead!









PARKWAY OPEN HOUSE





On September 15, the Parkway building invited parents and guardians to explore the school and meet their children's sixth-grade teachers during the annual Open House. The evening served as a central milestone for establishing strong partnerships between educators, students and families early in the academic term.

An adjusted bell schedule provided ample time for families to visit every classroom, where sixth-grade teachers shared their expectations and curriculum.

A big thank-you to all of our dedicated sixth-grade teachers and staff for preparing informative presentations, displaying student work and decorating their classrooms. Your efforts created a warm, welcoming atmosphere, answered every question and set a collaborative tone for an amazing school year ahead!









PARKWAY STUDENTS

Remember 9/11

On Sept. 11, Parkway students began social studies class by discussing what they knew about 9/11 before visiting the Whitesboro Middle School 9/11 Memorial. At the memorial, they learned that middle school art teacher Sue Ellen Williams created the monument using bronze and granite repurposed from the school. Students explored its symbols, including an American flag representing freedom, two candles representing the Twin Towers and hands representing a father, mother and children. They also learned that a time capsule is buried beneath the memorial. The visit gave students a chance to reflect on the events of 9/11 and the meaning of remembrance in the school community.



WHITESBORO TEACHERS PARTICIPATE IN REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL LEARNING INSTITUTE

From Oct. 7 to 9, Whitesboro Central School District educators Jaclyn Countryman, Katie Goodman, Max McGowan and Jessica Sardina joined colleagues from across the region for Inspire New York Through Phenomenal Teaching, a three-day professional learning institute hosted by Westmoreland Central School District in partnership with the Public Education & Business Coalition (PEBC) and the OHM BOCES.

The institute focused on student-centered teaching practices that encourage critical thinking, meaningful discussion, collaboration and student ownership of learning. Participants explored instructional strategies, observed classrooms across multiple grade levels and collaborated with fellow educators to identify ways to strengthen their own classroom practices. Through classroom visits and reflective discussions, Whitesboro teachers gained valuable insights into creating supportive learning environments where students feel empowered to ask questions, take risks and deepen their understanding. These experiences will help participating educators bring new ideas and strategies back to their classrooms to support student engagement and achievement.

~Hart's Hill Celebrates~

September and October Character Matters Honorees

This year, Hart's Hill Elementary students are continuing to focus on character education through the "Character Matters" initiative. Each month, students and staff focus on and practice a specific character trait. Through morning announcements and meetings, classroom discussions and everyday interactions, students are learning to be positive role models, make good choices and thoughtfully contribute to their school and community.

In September, the character trait was responsibility, and in October, it was kindness. Students who were observed going above and beyond in demonstrating responsibility and showing kindness were nominated by teachers and staff for a Character Award. Our recognized students received a certificate celebrating their accomplishments and were congratulated during announcements!

Congratulations to our September and October Character Matters honorees who were recognized for being responsible and kind! We are proud of you for setting a positive example for others and showing that Character Matters at Hart's Hill Elementary!

September Character Matters Award/Certificate recipients:

Jake Bunal
Violet Curley
Nicole DeRiso
Michel Doolen
Melanie Herthum
Helen Htun
Henry Htwe
Quinn Hulser
Luke Hertline
Tessa Kalies
Kara Lasowski
Presley Madore
Aubree McNeil
Madelyn Peters
Nova Prince
Colton Schmidt
Lydia Shoop
Josie Simpson
Norah Simpson
Theodore Tahan
Brynn Vennero
Nico Vennero

October Character Matters Award/Certificate recipients:

Elysia Barry
Ella Ciotti
Jason Constantine
Olivia Curri
Emma Curtacci
Rocco DeMichele
Frank Fiorillo
Dylan Gaffney
Camilla Hammond
Roman Hammond
Noah Inman
Selim Kamal
Lucas Mahoney
Adelina Mulligan
Raina Nandzik
Jameson Palmer
Charlotte Parker
Jacob Pfluke Jr.
Colin Rena
Maggie Sunderlin
Theodore Tahan
Brycen Taurisani
Wyatt Williams





HART'S HILL ELEMENTARY

ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND BOOK FAIR

Families gathered at Hart's Hill Elementary on Sept. 24 for its annual Scholastic Book Fair and Ice Cream Social. Students and parents/guardians spent the evening discovering new books and enjoying free ice cream sundaes in the cafeteria.

Thank you to the Hart's Hill PTO for organizing such a successful night and to Stewart's Shops for generously donating the ice cream!







WESTMORELAND ROAD RUNNERS CLUB

OFF TO A GREAT START

Mrs. Aiello recently launched the West. Road Runners Club. With the support of staff members Ms. Candella and Ms. Crouch, students have been arriving before the school day begins to exercise and build endurance.

Many students have participated in the early morning sessions, bringing energy and enthusiasm to the start of the day.

The West. Road Runners Club reflects staff dedication to providing positive extracurricular experiences. We are grateful to Mrs. Aiello, Ms. Candella and Ms. Crouch for organizing the program, as well as to participating students and families who support the early morning drop-offs.

The District looks forward to watching the club continue to grow through upcoming morning sessions focused on fitness, health and school spirit.

HART'S HILL HOSTS

ANNUAL FALL FEST

On Oct. 23, Hart's Hill Elementary celebrated the season with its annual Fall Fest. The event brought students, staff and families together for a fun-filled evening. Teachers dressed up in costumes, students enjoyed trick-or-treating to classrooms and the school was decorated for the spooky season. Students and their families enjoyed apple cider and cinnamon sugar doughnuts in the cafeteria.

Thank you to the Hart's Hill staff for putting together this event and making the night so special. We would also like to thank the families that donated treats and candy to share with everyone. Fall Fest continues to be a favorite tradition at Hart's Hill!















LOVE LIKE OLIVIA: A GIFT OF *Kindness*

Olivia Sacco, a Deerfield Elementary School student who passed away in 2024, is remembered for her infectious smile, kind heart, love of learning and special way of connecting with others. The school celebrates Olivia each year on her birthday, Oct. 16.

Olivia loved science, art, music, her family and helping animals, and she was especially passionate about hosting lemonade stands to raise money for local charities.

To honor her memory, Deerfield students were tasked with paying it forward to local charities and organizations. Each grade level made donations to causes, including the NICU at Wynn Hospital, the Thea Bowman House, the Deerfield Fire Department and Anita's Stevens Swan Humane Society.

Additionally, District schools raised over $6,000 for the Olivia Sacco Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to a Whitesboro Central School District senior who exemplifies kindness, ensuring her legacy of spreading love continues to shine throughout the community.

Deerfield Elementary

PARTY ON THE PLAYGROUND AND HOT DOG ROAST

On Sept. 24, Deerfield Elementary hosted its annual Party on the Playground and Hot Dog Roast. Families enjoyed an evening of fun and community building.

Students and their parents/guardians enjoyed playing on the playground, shooting baskets on the basketball court and socializing with one another. Deerfield Elementary staff cooked and served hot dogs, along with a variety of snacks and drinks for everyone to enjoy.

This party is a wonderful tradition and an amazing way for the entire Deerfield school community to connect and celebrate the start of a new school year.









MARCY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FIRE PREVENTION DAY

On Oct. 8, volunteers from the Maynard Fire Department visited Marcy Elementary School for Fire Prevention Day. Classes visited outdoor stations where students reviewed fire safety, practiced climbing through a fire escape window and crawled through a fire safety house to practice staying low under smoke.

Students were introduced to the work of a paramedic and toured Maynard's brand-new fire truck during the hands-on educational visit.



SPREAD SMILES LIKE STELLA

Resident celebrity Stella, a therapy dog, has returned to Marcy Elementary School with a schoolwide "Spread Smiles Like Stella" initiative. The goal is simple: Look for ways to make someone else smile. Just as Stella brings smiles, comfort and joy to the school each day, students can make a difference through small acts of kindness. A smile, a kind word, helping a classmate, including a friend or simply making someone feel welcome can brighten another person's day.





WHITESBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CELEBRATE "Love Like Olivia Day"

On Oct. 16, Marcy Elementary celebrated "Love Like Olivia Day." Students, faculty and staff participated in a walk to honor the memory of Oliva Rose Sacco. The event was filled with movement, music, smiles and lemonade. Students were given "Love Like Olivia" sunglasses to wear during the walk, generously donated by the Marcy PTO.

Throughout the week, students participated in challenges and learned how small acts of kindness can brighten someone's day. Students were encouraged to add a lemon to their kindness trees whenever they completed an act of kindness.

The week was a wonderful celebration of Olivia's legacy of love and compassion.







OCTOBER IS INTERNATIONAL AUGMENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE COMMUNICATION AWARENESS MONTH

October is dedicated to raising awareness about augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and celebrating the many ways people communicate beyond spoken words.

At Westmoreland Road Elementary School, the school community marked the month by creating opportunities for students who use AAC devices to share their voices and lead morning announcements.

Recently, a student used her AAC device during the morning announcements, giving the entire school an opportunity to experience communication in a nontraditional way. Her participation sparked questions, classroom conversations and curiosity throughout the building about AAC devices and adaptive communication.

Westmoreland Road Elementary emphasizes that every voice matters and that communication takes many forms. The school community recognizes these students for sharing their voices, educating peers and fostering an inclusive environment.



Elementary Schools Welcome New York State Police K-9 Unit



During October, students from Deerfield, Hart's Hill, Marcy and West. Rd. met members of the New York State Police K-9 Unit, along with School Resource Officer Visalli. Trooper Bauer and his K-9 partner, Fitzy, demonstrated how Fitzy is trained to detect and locate explosives. Trooper Noonan and his K-9 partner, Rya, showed students Rya's ability to follow a human scent. Students learned about the dogs' specialized abilities and the dedication, focus and training required for their work. Everyone was amazed by the dogs' remarkable skills, focus and training!

Did You Know? NYS Police K-9s are named in honor of troopers who lost their lives in the line of duty. What a meaningful way to honor their service while helping keep our communities safe!

A huge thank-you to Troopers Bauer and Noonan and SRO Visalli for providing our students with such an exciting and memorable learning experience!

WHITESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Below is a description of the New York State standardized terminology that the District is using during emergencies. Depending on the nature of the incident, the school will implement one of the following protective actions:

SHELTER-IN-PLACE
Used to shelter students and staff inside the building in the event it is safer inside the building than outside. For example, this response might be implemented in the event of severe weather.

HOLD-IN-PLACE
Used to limit movement of students and staff while dealing with short-term emergencies, such as maintenance issues or medical emergencies.

EVACUATE
Used to evacuate students and staff from the building.
When an evacuation is necessary, students can be moved outside on school grounds or to a predetermined shelter site depending on the situation, such as in the event of a fire.

SECURE LOCKOUT
Used to secure school buildings & grounds during incidents that pose an imminent concern outside of the school.

LOCKDOWN
Used to secure school buildings & grounds during incidents that pose an immediate threat of violence in or around the school.

BLUE LIGHTS

External and internal blue lights are used to inform students, staff and visitors that the building is in Lockdown. The Lockdown may be a drill or in response to an actual emergency. Prominently posted signs regarding our blue emergency lights are located at each main building entrance. These signs advise all visitors to leave the campus if the lights are on (call the main office to confirm it is safe to return to the building in the event it was just a drill).



EMERGENCY AWARENESS FOR PARENTS

PREPARATION FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:

1. Make sure emergency contact information is correct: mailing address, phone numbers and pick-up information. Your child will only be released to parents and persons identified on the emergency contact list.
2. Keep medical information and medications up to date with the school nurse.
3. Review the emergency response information with your child. Remind them to listen to their teacher/staff for instructions and to remain calm. Explain to them that they may be moved to a different location in the event of an emergency. Talking with your child ahead of time can help to ease anxiety and fear if an emergency occurs.
4. Keep alert. Report any suspicious behaviors or activities to school administration or law enforcement.
5. "See Something, Say Something!"

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY AT SCHOOL:

1. If an emergency occurs, student safety is the first priority.
2. **DO NOT RESPOND TO THE SCHOOL UNTIL NOTIFIED TO DO SO.** Listen for further instruction. Monitor the District's school messenger system and the District's website for official information. Be accessible through the emergency phone numbers you provided to the school.
3. **Students will be held in school custody until the emergency has been declared safe.** If your child will be dismissed directly to your custody or the custody of persons identified on the emergency contact list, they must be signed out.
4. When picking up your child, ensure that you have proper identification with you. During an emergency, pickup procedures may be different and ID may be required to release your child.

DISTRICT INFORMATION

DISTRICT OFFICE
315.266.3303
315.266.3306

HIGH SCHOOL
315.266.3200

PARKWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL
315.266.3175

MIDDLE SCHOOL
315.266.3100

DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY
315.266.3410

HART'S HILL ELEMENTARY
315.266.3430

MARCY ELEMENTARY
315.266.3420

WESTMORELAND ROAD ELEMENTARY
315.266.3440

COMMUNITY/LOCAL
RESOURCES
FOR FAMILIES

INFO - REFERRAL SERVICES

MVCAA/Runaway and Homeless Youth Program
315.624.9930/director@mvca.org

Neighborhood Center
315.272.2630/info@neighborhoodctr.org

Oneida County Dept. of Social Services
315.798.5804

FOOD - CLOTHING - SHELTER

Food Bank of Central New York
315.437.1899 or visit www.foodbankcny.com

Evelyn's House
Serves pregnant/parenting women ages 16-24
315.733.0236

Housing Info & Referral Center
315.735.5246 or 211

It Takes a Village Diaper Bank
315.841.8512/villagediapers@gmail.com

Oneida and Herkimer County Department of Social Services
HEAP, SNAP, medical assistance, rental assistance
315.798.5700 or 315.867.1291
socialservices@oneidacountyny.gov

***Rescue Mission**
Serves males 18+, 212 Rutger St.
315.735.1645/mail@uticamission.org

FOOD PANTRIES IN SURROUNDING AREA

Angels Among Us Food Pantry
66 Oxford Rd. New Hartford, NY 13413
2nd and 4th Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Community Assistance Catholic Charities of Oneida/Madison County
1408 Genesee Street, Utica, NY
Provides assistance with basic needs for individuals or families who have emergency need

Johnson Park Center Food Pantry Johnson Park Center
1404 West Street, Utica, NY
Provides a food pantry for individuals and families in need

Foothills Food Pantry
7835 Church Street, Holland Patent, NY
315.735.1645
Assists individuals and families once every month by providing enough food for five days

Rescue Mission Utica
293 Genesee Street., Utica, NY
315.735.1645
Provides a food pantry to individuals in need.

Mohawk Valley Church Food Pantry
9427 Maynard Drive, Marcy, NY
Assists individuals and families once every month by providing enough food for three days

Mother Marianne's West Side Kitchen
702 Columbia St.
315.735.3289

Salvation Army of Utica Food Pantry - Salvation Army of Utica
14 Clinton Place, Utica, NY
Assists individuals and families once every month by providing enough food for three days

Seeds of Hope Food Pantry - First Presbyterian Church of Utica
1605 Genesee Street, Utica, NY
Provides a food pantry to individuals in need

St. Clare's Cupboard Thea Bowman House, Inc.
731 Lafayette Street, Utica, NY
Provides a food pantry

St. John's Outreach Food Pantry
1119 Elm Street, Utica, NY
Provides a food pantry for individuals in need, which can be accessed once a month

St. Margaret's Food Pantry at Grace Church Grace Church
11 Devereux Street, Utica, NY
Provides a food pantry for individuals in need

Thea Bowen Food Pantry
702 Columbia Street, Utica, NY
Monday-Thursday, 1:00-2:30 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church Community Cupboard
8595 Westmoreland Road, Whitesboro, NY
Provides a food cupboard with 24/7 access to individuals in need

Utica Food Pantry
729 Broadway Street, Utica, NY
Provides a food pantry to individuals and families in need

Veteran's Outreach Center Food Pantry Central New York Veteran's Outreach Center
726 Washington Street, Utica, NY
Provides a food pantry for veterans in Central New York

Westminster Moriah Olivet Presbyterian Church Food Pantry
730 Broadway, Utica, NY
Assists individuals and families once every month by providing enough food for three days

WHERE TO GET A MEAL

***Hope House**
112 South St., Mon.-Sat.: 10-11 a.m., 12-1 p.m. & 4-5 p.m.; Sun.: 12-1 p.m. & 4-5 p.m.
315.793.3723

***Rescue Mission of Greater Utica**
201 Rutger St., Mon.-Fri.: 7-7:30 a.m., 12-12:30 p.m. & 4-4:25 p.m.; Weekend: 8-8:30 a.m. 12-12:30 p.m. & 4-4:25 p.m.
315.735.1645/mail@uticamission.org

SUPPORT SERVICES

ACR Health: LGBTQ Support Group
315.475.2430

Catholic Charities
315.724.2158

Empowered Pathways
315.724.1718/info@empoweredpathwayscny.org

Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York
315.793.7000/info@lasmny.org

On-Point for College
315.790.5588

The Salvation Army (Utica)
315.724.8736/kelly.ross@use.salvationarmy.org

Working Solutions
315.793.2229

HEALTH: ADDICTION, COUNSELING & WELL-BEING

Addiction Stabilization Center
315.735.1645

Alcoholics Anonymous
315.732.6880

Beacon Center
315.366.4100

Behavioral Services
315.798.8868/info@therapycny.com

Center for Family Life & Recovery
315.733.1709

Central New York Health Home Network
315.624.9670

Clinton Therapy and Testing Center
315.859.1973

Health Friends
315.724.0988

Integrated Community Alternatives Network (ICAN)
315.792.9039

Integrated Community Alternatives Network (ICAN)
315.792.9039

Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center
315.738.3800

Maria Horan and Associates
315.724.5344

New Hartford Associates
315.765.0121

Oneida County Dept. of Mental Health
315.768.3659

Planned Parenthood
315.724.6146

Resource Center for Independent Living RCIL
315.797.4642

Samaritan Counseling Center
315.724.5173

CHILDCARE

The Neighborhood Center
315.272.2600

OTHER SERVICES

Government Phone Program
www.assurancewireless.com

Initial Response Team (IRT)
Located at the middle and high school (attendance issues/truancy)

S.T.A.R. Mobile Crisis Program
315.624.7575 or 1.877.624.7575

Oneida County Child Advocacy Center
315.732.3990 or 315.732.2804

Oneida County Child Protective Services
315.798.5364 or 315.798.5700

PINS and Pre-PINS
(Persons in Need of Supervision) for incorrigible and/or truant youth

For more information, visit www.211midyork.org

HOTLINES

American Pregnancy Hotline
1.800.672.2296

Child Abuse Hotline
1.800.342.3720 or text "START" to 88788

LGBTQ National Hotline
1.888.843.4564 or text "HOME" to 741741

MVCAA Runaway and Homeless Youth 24hr Hotline
315.624.9930

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
988

National Runaway Safeline
1.800.RUNAWAY

NYS Domestic Violence 24hr Hotline
1.800.799.7233 or text 1.844.997.2121

Teen Line
1.800.852.8336 or text "TEEN" to 839863

YWCA Confidential 24hr Crisis Hotline (Domestic Violence)
315.797.7740

In an Emergency - Dial 911

WHITESBORO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Whitesboro Alumni Association is a not-for-profit organization, staffed by dedicated volunteers. Our memberships number over 3,450. The Association is a valuable resource for planning class reunions. We have in excess of 18,000 names of former Whitesboro graduates in our files. It exists for three reasons: (1) to provide scholarships to graduating seniors; (2) to honor outstanding teachers; and (3) to support school and student programs. Those eligible for membership are graduates, and any Whitesboro Central faculty or staff (past or present).

Membership is $10.00 per year, renewable each October for the following year. There are also Lifetime Memberships based on your class year and several Plan Options you may choose from.

Membership Benefits:

As a member of the Association you will:

1. Receive the Association Newsletter in Spring and Fall
   a. Keep in touch with other Alumni and Faculty.
   b. Stay abreast of various reunion activities.
   c. Receive announcements of Association programs, such as the annual banquet & golf tournament.
2. Contribute to the Association mission: scholarships, Teachers' Hall of Fame, & student/school programs.
3. Be eligible to serve on the Association Board of Directors & all Association committees.

Application for Membership:
Whitesboro Central School Alumni Association

Name: _____ Class of: _____ Office Use: _____

Maiden Name: _____Phone: _____ Email: _____
(TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTER)

Mailing
Address: _____City: _____St.____ Zip: _____

Occupation: _____ Personal Note: _____

_____

Dues: $10.00 (Annually) _____ **$26.00** (Plan Option 3 years) _____ **$44.00** (Plan Option 5 years) _____

$20.00 (Graduating Seniors-4 years) _____

Lifetime Option: The dues for Lifetime are based on your class year, & change every October when a new June graduation class is added. Teachers & staff members will also be based on their own high school year.

$360.00 (2026-1999) _____ **$198.00** (1998-1984) _____ **$108.00** (1983-1974) _____

$ 48.00 (1973-1965) _____ **$ 35.00** (1964 & Earlier) _____

Contributions: Scholarship $_____ General Fund $_____ **Total Enclosed:** $_____

Interested in volunteering for the Annual Golf Tournament or Association Operations? Yes_____ No _____

Send your Application and Check To: **Whitesboro Central School Alumni Association**
PO Box 32
Whitesboro, NY 13492

WHITESBORO
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSPIRE | CULTIVATE | EMPOWER

65 Oriskany Boulevard, Whitesboro, New York 13492

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Whitesboro, New York
Permit No. 18

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Mr. David Russo

BOARD OF EDUCATION, 2026-2027
Mr. Michael Head, *President*
Mr. Thomas Schoen Jr. *Vice President*
Dr. Jonathan Henderson
Mrs. Cheryl LaValley
Mr. Brian McQueen
Dr. Steven Szatko

The Whitesboro Central School District Board of Education meets at 6:00 p.m., unless noted otherwise. Meetings are held at the Administration Building at 65 Oriskany Blvd. in Whitesboro, or at one of the school buildings in the District. Visit **www.wboro.org/boemeeting** for the complete meeting schedule.

Postal Patron
Local



