

Westlake Middle School | An IB World School

Mt. Pleasant Central School District



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December 6, 2019

Dear Families,

In my introduction letter this past July, I shared that, “every single person involved in a child's life contributes to who that child is and who that child will become. If we truly commit and work as a team, the highest potential of every child can be reached. The work is never easy and requires us to recommit each and every day, but the reward is limitless.”

I have been working closely with teachers and staff of Westlake Middle School, and am humbled by their commitment to excellence. All teachers and support staff go above and beyond in working together to ensure that, as a team of professionals, students’ needs do not go unmet.

Communication and partnerships are an important part of each child’s success. With that in mind, we encourage you to always reach out directly to your child’s teachers if you have any concerns or questions about their performance or behavior in class. Teachers are the best resource for anything related to the classroom and will work, with the support of the administration, to find convenient times to meet or correspond.

Additionally, please know that you can reach out to the administration and our counseling staff if there are concerns beyond the classroom. Administration and the counseling staff meet and work as a team weekly to ensure support for individuals and groups of students in need. They are available to hear your concerns, answer questions, and develop partnerships with families. Be assured that if you are in contact with either an administrator or counselor, your concerns will be shared and addressed as a team. If you are having trouble contacting a staff member, do not hesitate to reach out to the main office.

I’d also like to continue to emphasize the important *connections* that students are making as learners. These connections extend beyond the typical classroom *experiences* and are part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IB MYP), an important approach to learning that encourages students to make practical *connections* between their studies and the real world.

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The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program program is committed to the development of students according to the IB learner profile.

The profile aims to develop learners who are:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective

Through each learning *experience*, we seek to make *connections* to these attributes to help students not only become well-rounded learners but to make stronger *connections* between school and the larger world. For example, when students are taught about the negative effects of social media and cyberbullying, they are also asked to reflect and identify ways to make their school and online community more *caring* and *principled*.

Student members of the Principals' Leadership Group, students that have been chosen by their peers to represent their grade, have begun working with the Principal and Assistant Principal to develop ways to award, reward and celebrate students that exemplify the specific attributes, and expand our celebration of students beyond the traditional ways that we do so. These student representatives are enthusiastic and approaching the task with an *open-mind*. They will be taking the lead as *communicators* to the student community about these awards and celebrations.

The holiday season has quickly come upon us. In a time where reflection upon what we are thankful for, and seek to connect with and become closer with family, I'd like to express my sincerest gratitude to everyone in the Westlake Middle School family and wish everyone a Happy Holiday season.

Sincerely,
Anthony Mungioni
Principal