

Westlake Middle School

Mt. Pleasant Central School District

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August 2018

Dear Parents & Students,

We hope you've been having a great summer thus far. While there are still a few weeks to go, we are excited to welcome all students and families back to Westlake Middle School! As we get ready for another school year, we have also had the chance to reflect on last year's accomplishments. As you may know, Westlake Middle School became an [Authorized IB World School](#) this past winter, which reflects our deep commitment to a student-centered [mission statement and philosophy](#), in addition to an inquiry-based approach to learning. One small change, which will be evident on your child's schedule, is the terminology used to describe some of our classes. For example, English will now be referred to as *Language & Literature*, Social Studies will be called *Individuals & Societies* and our *Introduction to World Language* course in 6th grade will now be known as *Introduction to Language Acquisition*. As other changes are introduced along our IB journey, we will certainly keep you up-to-date.

This coming school year, we are also thrilled about the implementation of the *Westlake Foundations* seminar in 6th grade to build upon the success of the *6th Grade University*, which will focus on the transition from elementary to secondary education, and will include topics related to social-emotional learning, executive functioning, time management, self-advocacy, leadership and more. We also will have our inaugural *Woo Hoo Welcome* for incoming 6th grade parents and co-sponsored by our very own WMS PTA. Lastly, we are looking forward to the implementation of an *Explorations in Coding & Design* course in 8th grade, which enables all students to acquire logic and problem-solving skills through a formal sequence in computer science.

Here are some important logistics before the upcoming school year:

- Tentative student schedules, locker assignments and bus routes will be available on-line through the Parent Portal on Wednesday, August 15th at 9 a.m. (<https://esdparentportal.lhric.org>). Please note that the first time you log-in, you will be required to verify your emergency contact information.
- During the week of August 20th, the building will be open for self-guided tours from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Friday. We will also have student-guided tours on Wednesday, August 22nd, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- For those who ordered school supplies, they will be available for pick-up in the gym lobby from August 20th – 23rd, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and August 24th, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Any remaining school supplies will be available for pick-up in our main office.
- Our two school counselors will be responding to e-mails and phone calls beginning on Monday, August 20th if you wish to contact them directly or schedule an appointment:
Tania Greco, ext. 2602 | tgreco@mtplcsd.org: Grade 6 | Grade 7 (last names M-Z)
Bill Keogh, ext. 2603 | wkeogh@mtplcsd.org: Grade 7 (last names A-L) | Grade 8

We hope the remaining weeks are enjoyable and we look forward to seeing everyone back at Westlake Middle School on Tuesday, September 4th!

All the Best,



Dr. Adam Bronstein
Principal



Christine Parrottino
Assistant Principal