

# Westlake Middle School | An IB World School

## Mt. Pleasant Central School District



825 West Lake Drive  
Thornwood, NY 10594  
Telephone: (914) 769-8540  
Fax: (914) 769-8550

Mr. Anthony Mungoli  
Principal  
amungoli@mtplcsd.org

Ms. Christine Parrottino  
Assistant Principal  
cparrottino@mtplcsd.org

July 23, 2019

Dear Westlake Middle School Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. This week I officially entered my role as the Principal of Westlake Middle School. Leading up to today I have met with leaders from the district office and key staff members at Westlake Middle School. In this short time, I have learned what you as a community already know, the Mt. Pleasant School District has a dedicated core of district and building leaders that are committed to high levels of success for each and every student, and Westlake Middle School has a passionate and cohesive staff that is equally committed to this important task. I am honored to have been given the opportunity to join this team, this community, this family. I am eager to undertake the work necessary to support the district and middle school.

I have been involved in public education for over twenty years at several levels. I have been an administrator for the past ten years, and a building principal for the past six years. The most important lesson I have learned as a teacher and as an administrator is that no one ever does this work, the work of educating children, alone. 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.

As a professional and an educator, I believe in continuous growth. The work that we do is complex. It requires constant evaluation and adjustment. Over the course of my career, I have learned that leaders must be flexible and open-minded, willing to shift their thinking while keeping their eyes and mindset on the important shared philosophy and mission that drives progress. My philosophy connects with the philosophy and mission of the district and middle school. I believe that the experiences that students have during their formative adolescent years should be ones that they can transfer and apply to their careers and lives. I believe in self-efficacy; that if students are given the tools they need to be successful, and feel confident using those tools, they will become independent learners, and be confident that they can be successful. I believe that when students are engaged regularly in authentic activities that require them to think critically, they will be able to solve complex problems that they will confront in the

# Westlake Middle School | An IB World School

## Mt. Pleasant Central School District



future. These beliefs center on the mission of preparing students to have a positive and meaningful impact on their local and global community.

As a leader, I always want to be open and receptive to your needs, thoughts, and concerns. To that end, the most important thing I can do as I transition into this new role is to listen and learn. Great schools are built on the collective successes of past endeavors. It is important for me to know and understand the foundations that have been laid by families and staff, both at Westlake Middle School and throughout the district, that have led to current best practices and successes. I will be scheduling a "meet and greet" later this summer to begin this process with the families of Westlake Middle School. As an educational leader, I have come to realize that talking *with* families, and not *at* families, is important. When we meet, I hope to hear about what makes your school district and middle school great. I hope to hear what your hopes and dreams are for the future of our schools and the future of your children.

Sincerely,  
Anthony Mungoli  
*Principal*