



Principal's Newsletter

- February 2020 -

The second semester is underway and our thoughts are already beginning to shift towards the 2020-2021 school year. Scheduling meetings have begun with students and will continue for the next month. As always, parents are certainly welcomed at these meetings; however, if you are unable to make the scheduled date and time, please know this is only the first step in the process. The draft of all course selections made in this first meeting will be shared with you and parents have time to review and discuss the initial course selections and make changes based on further conversations.

When thinking about course selections, our guiding philosophy is always to find the correct balance of course load coupled with the correct level of challenge and rigor. This is a worthwhile conversation to have with your child keeping in mind all the activities that your child is involved in both inside and outside of school.

Additionally, there are some new courses to be aware of that will build off of courses running this year in the area of STEAM. Students interested in Computer Science will have the opportunity to enroll in a new AP Computer Science A course. Students who are interested in engineering will see Principles of Engineering II and Design Principles of Engineering II. In the Math Department, we have crafted a new pathway for students seeking to reach AP Calculus BC. These courses, as well as countless others, are described more fully in our Course Catalogue located under the student resources tab on our website.

On Monday, February 10, all students at Westlake High School and Middle School will be engaged in an assembly program on the Dangers of Vaping. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the High School and Middle School PTAs for bringing this highly informative and impactful program to our students. As the news continues to show, the damaging health effects from these horrible products can no longer be denied. Please take a moment to engage in conversation with your children about the assembly next week.

This past weekend, the Westlake Science Olympiad Teams competed in the Byram Hills Tournament. Congratulations to the following students for placing in their respective competition: Elisabeth Carpinelli, Olivia Cartano, Olivia Eng, David Green, Paul Gschneidner, Moses Khan, Luke Kramer, Helen Michael, Eric Miller, Marilyn Morocho, Jane Olszewski, Anthony Tothill, and Pranav Vadapalli.

The Westlake World Language Department is proud to announce that Alessia Pellegrini has won an impressive travel abroad scholarship through the Spanish Honor Society and the AATSP. Alessia will be traveling to Ecuador this July with 20 other students from around the United States. In addition, Lea Bonsignore was awarded the AATSP – SHH (Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica) Joseph Adams Senior Scholarship (\$1,000). Congratulations, Alessia and Lea, on these outstanding awards!

Our Varsity Cheerleaders are representing Westlake in the UCA Nationals this weekend in Orlando, Florida. We all look forward to hearing great news upon their return.

This Saturday, Westlake High School will host the Wrestling Divisional 1, Section 1 Qualifier starting at 9:00 am – admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 and seniors over 62. Westlake is part of a combined team and I want to congratulate the entire team on taking the League Title and we wish Luke Shaw great success as he competes this Saturday at this qualifier!

Come out and support our senior athletes as we honor their dedication and commitment to their teams:

- Friday, February 7: WHS Gym -- Varsity Boys Basketball Team vs. Briarcliff at 6:00 pm
- Tuesday, February 11: WHS Gym-- Varsity Girls Basketball Team vs. Croton at 4:15 pm
- Saturday, February 15: Westchester Skating Academy – Varsity Ice Hockey vs. Byram Hills at 7:00 pm

Good luck to our athletes as they compete through the rest of the winter season!

WHS FEBRUARY EVENTS

Monday, February 10	1-Hour Early Dismissal for all schools
Tuesday, February 11	WHS Italian Honor Society Induction – Auditorium – 2:30 pm
Thursday, February 13	WHS Talent Show – Auditorium – 7:00 pm (Tickets are \$5 at the door – all proceeds benefit the Class of 2020)
Monday, February 17 – Friday, February 21	Winter Recess – Schools Closed
Friday, February 28	WHS Quarter 3 Midpoint