



Principal's Newsletter

-October 2019-

September has come to a close and it was an awesome start to the school year. Our Spirit Week activities really highlighted our students excitement and involvement in all things Westlake. The week culminated with our annual Fall Fest activities and competitions where Westlake Spirit was really on display; so much so that we made it through the first round of the News 12 School Spirit Showdown. The link below allows you to vote for us so hopefully we take a top spot with your help, go on and vote for Westlake -- <http://westchester.news12.com/story/40997183/hv-school-spirit-showdown-2019>

Congratulations:

Please join me in recognizing senior Katelyn Jaime for being selected for the National Hispanic Recognition Program for her score on the PSAT. Katelyn scored in the top 2.5% of Hispanic students. Congratulations to Westlake senior, Riley Neglia who was named "athlete of the Week" for her incredible work on Girls Varsity Soccer! Congratulations also goes out to senior Bailey Rodgers on her feature on News 12 highlighting her work on our Varsity Football team. In Performing Arts, we are very excited to recognize the following students for being named to the Area All-State (All-County) Honors Ensemble (Choral music: Sera Mishra, Elizabeth Pagan & Valentina Rubio and in Instrumental Music: Olivia Cartano and Pranav Vadapalli). Additionally, I want to extend a huge thank you to the Westlake High School PTA and the Westlake Athletic Club for donating the funds to purchase our new banners on display as you come up the school driveway. This is an incredible way to acknowledge the achievement of our students both in the classrooms and on the athletic fields.

PSAT:

PSAT Day is right around the corner. Juniors planning to take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 16 need to register and must bring in \$25.00 to Guidance no later than October 8th. All sophomores will be taking the PSAT for tenth graders and only need to stop into Guidance and register that they will be testing.

Back to School Night:

Back to School Night is quickly approaching. On Thursday, October 3, the High School welcomes all parents to come, meet your child's teachers, and hear about their courses. The evening will begin with an introduction in the Auditorium starting at 6:45 pm. The schedules for the evening will be a combined A Day and B Day and we have prepared that schedule for you. Copies of the night's schedules will be given to your child during their Social Studies class prior to Thursday evening. Please check with your child for this schedule prior to coming on Thursday. PTA and WAC will be here that evening as well, so please consider becoming a member of these two outstanding organizations.

IMPORTANT UPDATE ON ATTENDANCE:

Starting in the month of October, we will be using our School Messenger System to place automated attendance calls for unreported student absences. Please remember if your child is out to contact the Attendance Office on the morning of your student's absence by calling (914)769-8311 prompt 1 or emailing Mrs. DiNota (mdinota@mtplcsd.org) in the Attendance Office.

VAPING:

I wanted to speak to all parents, not just as your child’s Principal, but also as a parent of two teenagers. The recent news and developments surfacing around the severe health implications of e-cigarettes and vaping has finally gotten the attention of government leaders. Governments have begun to take action, with some states banning sales of vaping products, and investigating the potential health risks they pose. We will continue our efforts here to monitor and address the use of these products and I ask that you help us in this effort at home. I have included in this newsletter materials and information that I had put out to our community two years ago as I feel it is extremely relevant still today. Thank you in advance for your partnership in addressing this potential health crisis facing our youth.

SAFETY:

Please be aware that during the month of October, we will be conducting an unannounced lockdown drill. This is one of four drills mandated by NY State and will be held throughout the year.

OCTOBER EVENTS	
Monday, September 30 & Tuesday, October 1 – Rosh Hashanah	Schools Closed
Thursday, October 3	Back to School Night – all grades 7:00 pm
Friday, October 4	Quarter 1 Mid-Point
Wednesday, October 9 – Yom Kippur	Schools Closed
Monday, October 14 – Columbus Day	Schools Closed
Wednesday, October 16	PSAT Day – Grades 10 & 11
Monday, October 21	One-Hour Early Dismissal
Friday, October 25	Senior Portrait Retakes