

Westlake High School

Mt. Pleasant Central School District

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

It's hard to believe that we are only one week away from the start of the 2018-2019 school year. My hope is that each of you had time to relax and enjoy time away from the busy schedule we all keep during the school year. This summer, the high school had its first taste of bond-related work. All classrooms on the second floor and many first floor classrooms had floors abated and new floors installed. If you happened to travel through the high school during the summer days, you got a real sense of how involved this work was. I want to take a moment to thank Mr. Eric Strack, our Director of Facilities, and the entire custodial crew for the miraculous work of putting the high school back together again; getting it ready for our faculty and students to return on Tuesday, September 4.

As I look ahead to the start of my ninth year at Westlake High School, I could not be more proud of what our students have accomplished. Our students have routinely challenged themselves, taken risks and succeeded with outstanding results. For the first time in Westlake history, we have been recognized as a School of Distinction, for having 100% of our athletic teams recognized as scholar athlete teams; we had the most significant and widespread college applicant and acceptance rates Westlake has seen in its history; our students have won accolades in the arts and sciences; looking at our most recent stats, we have now reached the point of being one (1) point shy of having 50% of our students experience at least one AP course before graduating, while still maintaining over 71% of our students getting a three (3) or better on an AP exam; our students graduate with more credits than ever before and enter college and the workforce more prepared than ever before. I want to congratulate the 58 students named as AP Scholars this past year with 20 of these students named AP Scholars with Distinction and 4 National AP Scholars.

As we look forward to the 2018-2019 school year, I know that the students will continue to strive for personal success and the faculty and administration will work with them every step of the way. This year, like so many in the past, will be filled with new challenges and changes. Some will be shaped by external forces, such as standards and assessment changes coming from New York State Education Department, or College Board and some will be influenced by internal programmatic changes and ideas. Whichever is the case, I will continue to work with the faculty to stay grounded in the essential skills students need to succeed in high school and life beyond it. A clear emphasis on critical and creative thinking, communication skills both written and oral, research skills as well as social and self-management skills are key components to our students' success and remain the cornerstones of our teaching. As each student prepares for the upcoming year, I ask that they take some time over these remaining days of summer and reflect on what they hope to accomplish this year. This is one positive step that can help shape what will undoubtedly be another amazing school year.

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In closing, please join me in welcoming Ms. Lauren Antonecchia (Cody) to our Guidance Department. She officially starts this week and is excited to meet all of her students. In Science, Ms. Lauren Laccetti will be shared between the Middle School and High School and will be teaching elective science for us. In Physical Education, Nicole Dacchille (Seward) is now officially at the high school and ready to partner with her colleagues, and in Special Education I'm happy to welcome back Nancy Deneny who will be working part time in the high school.

A few reminders before I close: All students enrolled in courses with summer assignments, please stay focused on the assignment and the deadlines for that work. Student grade level assemblies will be held in the opening weeks of school. Students will receive their agenda books with the Student Code of Conduct and attendance requirements in these assemblies. Lastly, take the last days of summer to relax and mentally prepare for another incredible school year!

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR: September 2018

September 4:	First day of School (full day)
September 10-11:	Rosh Hashanah – School Closed
September 19:	Yom Kippur – School Closed
September 24:	WHS Financial Aid Presentation – WHS Library 7:00 pm
September 27:	WHS Back to School Night – 7:00 pm

Dedicated to excellence,



Keith Schenker