

Westlake High School

Mt. Pleasant Central School District

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

The start of the 2019-20 school year is just about a week away and I hope that this past summer provided everyone some time to relax and take a break from the hectic schedules we all keep during the school year. As everyone is probably aware, the Westlake campus and the interior of the high school underwent significant bond-related work this summer. Almost every space and every mechanical system in the building was impacted over the last eight weeks. Students and staff will be returning to an updated building with upgrades to heating and ventilation, bathrooms, electrical systems, lighting and much more. Even with this massive undertaking, our custodial crew, under the direction of Mr. Eric Strack, Director of Facilities, did an outstanding job putting the entire building back together again for everyone's return. I want to extend a huge thank you to the entire custodial staff for doing everything they could to get the building ready for opening day on September 3rd.

After 10 years at the helm of Westlake High School, I still get excited about the opening of a new school year and all the promise that comes with it. Our students this past year accomplished outstanding feats academically, athletically and in our community and I know that this school year will most definitely be another incredible year for them. Students this year, in addition to our core program, signed up for new course offerings in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. Our new Computer Science courses, Introduction to Engineering Physics and Engineering Design courses, and English 12 Honors classes are fully enrolled and the teachers have created a really engaging curriculum grounded by critical skills and core competencies.

Our collective work across all content areas and courses will continue to align to a clear focus on essential skills in the areas of critical and creative thinking, written and oral communication, research, and self-management. These skills are the cornerstone of our classes and I will be working with the high school faculty on a variety of teaching strategies that can be used to build and reinforce them throughout the year. As students begin to mentally prepare for the start of the 2019-20 school year, I ask that they take some time to reflect on their own goals for the year. Students should think about what they want to accomplish both academically and socially and think about the ways in which they are going to challenge themselves - finding the "sweet spot" between too easy and too difficult is where true learning takes place.

In closing, please join me in welcoming several new faculty to the high school. In addition to construction, this spring and summer was also a busy hiring season. In Science, Mr. Daniel Clark will be teaching Physics and Engineering along with elective Sciences and Ms. Jaclyn Hoahing will be teaching Biology and Science electives. In Mathematics, we welcome Mr. Michael Flanagan who will be teaching Calculus, Pre-Calculus and Geometry. Ms. Michele Lodespoto is joining the World Language Department teaching both Spanish and Italian. Our Social Studies Department is excited to welcome Mr. Anthony Marinaccio who will be teaching predominantly our Government/Economics classes along with U.S. History. Ms. Janet Andrews will be working in Special Education and Ms. Danielle Idone, School Psychologist, will be working in our Counseling Department alongside Dr. Goldman. All of our new staff are eager to meet their students and build supportive relationships to help student succeed.

Important note for all 9th Grade Students

Given that our summer construction prevented us from having our annual 9th Grade Orientation in August, we will be meeting all 9th grade students during 1st period on Tuesday, September 3rd. We will have schedules for all students and provide time for each student to walk the building and to find their lockers before going to their first class. All 9th graders should report to the Auditorium no later than 7:45am Tuesday morning.

Welcome back and I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR: September 2019

September 3:	First day of School (full day)
September 9:	WHS PTA General Meeting 7:30pm (New Date)
September 7, 14, 21:	Senior Portraits
September 16:	One-Hour Early Dismissal
September 16-21:	Spirit Week
September 19:	WHS Hallway Decorating and Pep Rally
September 21:	WHS Homecoming
September 23:	WHS Financial Aid Presentation 7:00pm
September 24-25:	Underclassmen Photos
September 30:	Rose Hashanah – School Closed

Dedicated to excellence,



Keith Schenker