

Westlake High School

Mt. Pleasant Central School District

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August 24, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

The start of the 2017-2018 school year is only about a week away, but the halls of Westlake High School have been active for the past two weeks with student athletes preparing for the opening of their fall season. The quiet calm of the summertime has quickly given way to the energy and excitement that comes with having students back in the building. Our custodial crew has been hard at work preparing the building for everyone's return on Tuesday, September 5.

The start of a new school year always brings with it the renewed sense of optimism for what could be accomplished. It is a time of year that is filled with positive thoughts, a look ahead to new experiences, and a focus on accomplishing personal goals. I know that our students are excited to come back and set out on a positive path of achievement this year as they have done each of their years. I want to reaffirm our commitment as a faculty to work side-by-side with your child and you to ensure that each student has every opportunity to succeed at the goals they have set for themselves. I ask that each student take some time before September 5th and reflect on what they hope to accomplish this year. Establishing these goals is the first step toward achieving them. As I welcome my faculty and staff back on August 29th, I will be asking them to do the same.

This year Westlake High School will be formally submitting its application to become an International Baccalaureate World School with both the Middle Years Programme for 9th and 10th grade and the Diploma Programme for 11th and 12th graders. While this will be a multi-year endeavor, students will begin to see some instructional shifts over the course of the year. The philosophical foundation of the IB program is in perfect alignment with the work that we have undertaken over my past seven years as your principal, and I look forward to yet again increasing the opportunities for our students through the adoption of the IB program.

As I have done in all my past newsletters, I want to also share with you some of the many successes of our students. Collectively, I want to congratulate the roughly 42% of our student body that challenged themselves to take Advanced Placement courses this past year. The results are in and our students continue to excel. This year we had a record-breaking 68 students named as AP Scholars with 33 of those earning "with honors" and "with distinction" accolades and 1 student earning the National AP Scholar distinction. Combined, these students had an average AP Score on multiple exams of a 3.48 (out of 4). While I congratulate the students, I also want to thank the faculty for their dedication to and support of our students along the way. This is a great way to open the school year and I look forward to seeing the successes of all of our students as they strive for personal achievement.

With the start of a new school year also comes some new faces to our faculty. I would like to take a moment to welcome two new members to the high school faculty. First, Mrs. Anne Taylor, a familiar name for many of you, is coming to us from the middle school and will be teaching several different courses in our English Department. In the World Language Department, we welcome Ms. Melinda Vilches. Ms. Vilches comes to us from Dover and will be teaching both Level 2 and Level 3 Spanish. We are excited to have both of these teachers with us and I am certain the students will enjoy their classes.

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 week of school. Students will receive their agenda books with the Student Code of Conduct and attendance requirements in these assemblies. Please make sure you complete the attached Acceptable Use Policy for our computer network. Lastly, take the last days of summer to relax and mentally prepare for another incredible school year!

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

August 28	Freshman Orientation (PALS) 1:00-2:15 (9 th grade students only)
September 5	First day of school
September 21-22	School Closed for Rosh Hashanah
September 25	WHS Financial Aid Presentation 7:00 pm
September 28	WHS Back to School Night 7:00 pm

Dedicated to excellence,



Keith Schenker

Mount Pleasant Central School District
Thornwood, NY

District Technology
Acceptable Use Policy Acknowledgement
and Web Page Permission

Important: Students will not have access to the internet or other forms of technology unless this form is turned into the principal's office prior to the start of the school year.

As the parent/guardian of a student in the Mount Pleasant Central School District, I have read the District's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) which is available on the District's website. I understand that I can request a written copy from the building principal or the Office of the Superintendent.

I acknowledge receiving notice that the District technology and the District website will potentially allow my son/daughter/student access to external computer networks not controlled by the District. I understand that some materials available through these external computer networks may be inappropriate and objectionable; however, I acknowledge that it is impossible for the District to screen or review all of the available material. I accept responsibility to set and convey standards for appropriate and acceptable use to my son/daughter when using the District's or any other technology.

I hereby release the District, its operators and any institutions with which they are affiliated from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my child's use of, or inability to use, technology, including, without limitations, the types of damage identified in the District's policy and administrative regulations.

I also agree to release the District, the Board of Education, its agents and employees from any and all claims of any nature arising from my son/daughter's use of the District's technology, the District website and the internet in any matter whatsoever.

I agree that my son/daughter may have access to the District's technology, the District website and the Internet. I agree that this may include remote access from our home.

I also understand that in accordance with the District's policy the District may post online student work (including but not limited to essays, compositions, or reports, projects, student publication and media productions, video recordings of plays, sporting events or other events) or pictures of students and to announce activities and events that take place in the individual classrooms, at each school or at the District level.

I further understand that in accordance with that policy, I have the right to determine if I want samples of my child's work, as detailed above, a picture of my child, or my child's name displayed on the District website or on the internal network that teachers use for educational purposes or to facilitate professional discussions and I have indicated below whether I want to have my child's work, picture or name used on the District website in accordance with the guidelines included in the District's AUP policy.

I have discussed the District's Acceptable Use Policy with my child.

Please print the following information:

Student's Name:

Last

First

School: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

Date: _____

I give permission to have my child's work, picture or name to be posted online in media outlets or social networking sites, including, but not limited to, Facebook and/or on the District's website or internal network publications, in accordance with the guidelines included in the Districts' Acceptable Use Policy.

I agree

I do not agree

Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian Signature:

(Please print)

Date: _____

.....

Student Agreement:

I have discussed these guidelines with my parent/guardian and I understand and agree to follow these guidelines.

Student's Name

Student's Signature
