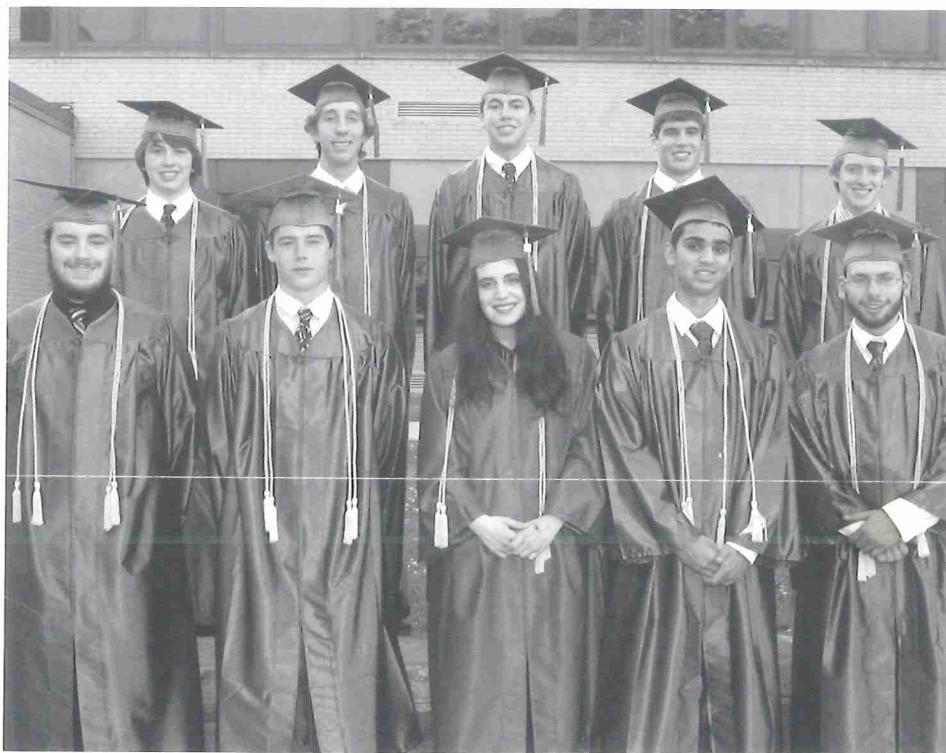


HILLTOPPER HIGHLIGHTS

2007-2008 ACHIEVEMENT AND EXCELLENCE

Westmont Hilltop Education Association Top Ten Awards

The Class of 2008 Top Ten



Top Ten: Row 1: David Shelhammer, Corbett Drummey, Wennie Tabib, Utsav Bhat, Stephen Shadid
Row 2: Benjamin Policicchio, Michael Ballow III, Sean McGhee, Thomas Polacek, Andrew Schroeder

Achievement and Excellence

Throughout the 2007-2008 school year, our Westmont Hilltop students excelled, in accordance with tradition, in the areas of academics, athletics, performing arts, and community service. Details of these

accomplishments, through which our students have honored their parents, their school, and their community, are contained within the pages of this newsletter.

Scholars who rank academically in the Top Ten of their graduating class have earned the honor of an individual plaque provided by the Westmont Hilltop Education Association and the Treasurer of the Board of Education. Each student will receive a Board of Education Treasurer's Award in the form of a \$100 savings bond. This award was initiated by former board president, Mrs. Karen Azer, supported by former school board treasurers, Dr. Robert Zellers and Dr. Daniel Meenan, and is now sustained by current Board President, Mr. Mitchell Azar, and Mrs. Marian Feath, present treasurer. The names of the following students will be inscribed on a plaque on permanent display in the lobby of our high school, listed alphabetically, as follows:

Top Ten Listed Alphabetically:

Michael Ballow III
Utsav Bhat
Corbett Drummey
Sean McGhee
Thomas Polacek
Benjamn Policicchio
Andrew Schroeder
Stephen Shadid
David Shelhammer
Wennie Tabib

The 2008 Hilltopper Highlights Achievement and Excellence, now entering its ninth summer of publication, is a special summer edition of the Hilltop School News dedicated to recognition of the outstanding individual and collective accomplishments of our students within their school and community.

The 2008 Edition of the Hilltopper Highlights is dedicated to retired High School Principal, Dr. Patrick Duffy, who originally conceived of the idea of a summer edition of the newsletter devoted exclusively to student achievement.

Where is the Class of 2008?

The Class of 2008 will be involved in post-secondary learning opportunities in these locations:

Allegheny College
American University
Art Institute of Pittsburgh
Baptist Bible College
Binghamton University
Boulder College of Massage Therapy
Bradford School
Broward Co. Community College
California University of Pennsylvania
Carlow University
Carnegie Mellon University
College of William and Mary
Community College of Allegheny County
Cornell University
Duquesne University
Eastern Mennonite University
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
Florida Southern College
Full Sail University
Grove City College
Harvard University
Indiana State University
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Juniata College
Kent State University
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
LaRoche College
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania
Mercyhurst College
Mount Aloysius College
Ohio State University
Penn Highlands Community College
Penn State University
Pennsylvania College of Technology
Pittsburgh Technical Institute
Point Park University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Robert Morris University
Saint Francis University

Saint Vincent College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Shenandoah University
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania
SUNY - ESF
Syracuse University
Temple University
United States Naval Academy
University of Montana
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
University of Phoenix
University of Pittsburgh
Waynesburg University
York College of Pennsylvania

More Fond Farewells

Our 2008 graduates are not the only ones saying goodbye to our Westmont Hilltop educational community. Three members of our faculty, each of whom has contributed greatly to the success of our students, are bidding us fond farewells. On behalf of the district, Mr. Azar thanked retiring teachers Mrs. Patti Wild, Mr. Andrew (Skip) Hanchek, and Mrs. Toni Callahan for their service and numerous contributions in support of our students' learning endeavors. We also celebrated the outstanding contributions, even as we were saddened by the retirement, of our elementary principal of fifteen years' duration, Mrs. Peggy McDonald. Former middle school principal, Mrs. Carole Kakabar, has accepted a posi-

tion as Superintendent of the Ferndale Area School District. Mr. Azar acknowledged the administrators as follows:

"We also say goodbye to our middle school principal Mrs. Carole Kakabar and wish her much success in her new position. There will certainly be a noticeable absence at the elementary school with the retirement of Mrs. Peggy McDonald, and we certainly wish her well and express our gratitude to her for her outstanding service for the past fifteen years."

Mrs. McDonald was recognized by numerous community groups and has had the opportunity to bid the community goodbye, but Mrs. Kakabar was unaware of her new position until close to the end of the current school year. She has asked that we publish her farewell. Mrs. Kakabar wrote:

"To my friends and family at Westmont Hilltop,

Thank you for the privilege of working with your children over the past four years. As I begin my new vocation as Superintendent of the Ferndale Area School District, I think back to my time at the Westmont Hilltop Middle School. Time goes so quickly, yet I have made many new friends and have had the opportunity to work with wonderful teachers, staff, leadership team, and especially parents. I am in awe of the hard work and dedication of the HAT organization. I hope to maintain these collegial friendships and keep in touch with my friends just up the street from my new location."

During the Commencement in June of 2008, Board President Mitchell Azar addressed the graduating seniors as follows:

"As a Westmont graduate, and President of your school board, I am extremely proud of all of your accomplishments, and particularly how you conducted yourselves on and off the fields and the stages. But I believe the Class of 2008 will best be remembered for your academics and your service to this community. You have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement. Over 87% of your class will be furthering their education next year in institutions of higher learning and the remaining 13% in the work world and in life. In a class of 153 seniors, 15 of you have attained a cumulative grade point average for your high school years in excess of 100%, and 27 of you have a Senior year grade point average of 100%. We are proud to have 2% of your class attending Ivy League schools next year. In addition to Harvard, Cornell, and the University of Pennsylvania, your class will send students to some of the finest institutions in the country. Others will enter the workforce; some will go to the military. We also have a graduate who has received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. No matter where your future takes you, I am confident that our Alma Mater has prepared you well."

National Merit Scholarship

The highly prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition that started in 1995. Students qualify for this recognition by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the 1.4 million students who took the PSAT exam in October 2007, only 50,000 met the requirements to enter the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program including 8 students in the WHHS Class of 2008 as follows: **Utsav Bhat, Kelly Cernetich, Corbett Drummey, Sean McGhee, Thomas Polacek, Andrew Schroeder, David Shelhammer, and Wennie Tabib.** Each student scored in the 97th or above percentile on the PSAT and earned the opportunity to compete for Merit Scholarships.

About 34,000 of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT (preliminary SAT and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) receive Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Foundation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Commended Students are named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index score that may vary from year to year.

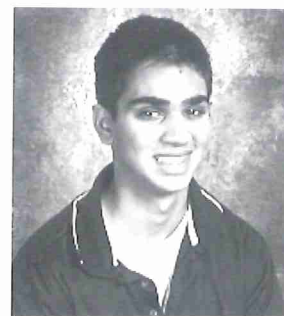
National Merit Scholarship Commended Students are: Kelly Cernetich, Corbett Drummey, Sean McGhee, T.J. Polacek, Andrew Schroeder, David Shelhammer, and Wennie Tabib. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for Merit Scholarship awards, some of these students do become candidates for Special Scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

Advanced Placement Courses at Westmont Hilltop

A front page article of the November 14, 2007 publication of Education Week includes an article entitled, "Number of Schools Offering AP (Advanced Placement) Falls after First

Audit of Courses." Following an audit of advanced placement courses that the College Board called the "largest curricular review that's ever been undertaken in American History," there was a steep drop in the number of schools offering Advanced Placement classes. Schools may not put an AP label on a course without permission to do so. The College Board became concerned that the AP label was being inappropriately applied to courses that do not meet the criteria of academic rigor. At that time, the College Board had authorized at least one AP class at 14,383 secondary schools, which is 2,081 fewer than the offerings of last school year. In our audit, all of our AP offerings passed the screening for appropriate content and academic rigor.

Advanced Placement offerings are AP American History, AP Calculus, AP English, AP European History. Other advanced or honors offerings are Algebra II Honors, Advanced Biology Lab, Advanced Chemistry Lab, Calculus, French 4 and 5, Honors English, Honors Geometry, Organic Chemistry, Physics, Probability and Statistics, Spanish 4 and 5, and Trigonometry.



Utsav Bhat

Utsav Bhat

The National Merit Scholarship

Finalist of 2008 is **Utsav Bhat**. About 16,000 students, of the 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT are notified by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation that they have qualified as Semifinalists. To ensure that academically able young people from all parts of the United States are included in this talent pool, Semifinalists are designated on a state representational basis. They are the highest scoring entrants in each state. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, Semifinalists must next advance to Finalist standing in the competition by meeting the highest of academic standards. Utsav will attend Harvard University in the fall.

College Board Recognition

Two high school students received special recognition from the College Board for their scores on the AP exams. Utsav Bhat was given the highest distinction of National AP Scholar for receiving an outstanding average on all AP Exams taken with a minimum of 8 exams. He was honored for his performance on the following exams: Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Macroeconomics, Statistics, US History, French Language, and Psychology. **Wennie Tabib** was named an AP Scholar, an honor reserved for scholars who achieve outstanding performance on three or more Advanced Placement Exams. Wennie was honored for her performances on the French Language, Calculus AB, and Psychology exams.

It Doesn't Get Any Better Than Perfect

The following students received perfect scores on one or more sections of the SAT: **Utsav Bhat** (pictured above) received perfect scores in mathematics, writing, and the Math 2 subject test. Thomas Polacek received a perfect score in critical reading. **Wennie Tabib** received perfect scores in the Writing and French Language subtests. It doesn't get any better than that!

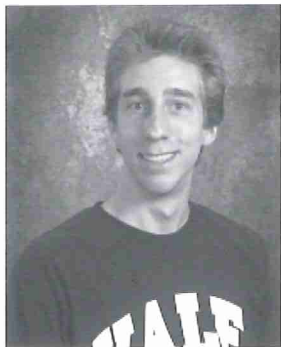


Wennie Tabib

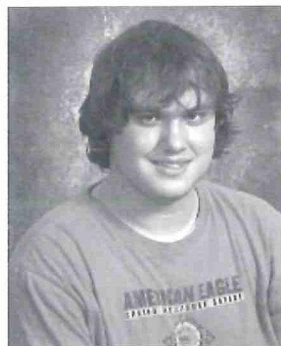
ACADEMIC HONORS & AWARDS

Graduation Speakers

In addition to **Utsav Bhat** and **Wennie Tabib** (pictured on page 3), who represented the scholarship of the Class of 2008 through their addresses during the Commencement Ceremonies, **Brock Rozich** (2007-2008 Student Council President), and **Michael Ballow** (President of the Class of 2008) are pictured below.



Michael Ballow,
President of the Class of 2008



Brock Rozich,
Student Council President, 2008

Forensics

The Forensics Speech Team qualified and participated at District, Regional, State, and Nationals! At the district level, the team, coached by Mrs. Angela Sloan and Miss Billie Jo Kisko, competed against thirteen schools in our region, placing third. *Individual District winners included:* **Utsav Bhat**, **Annabeth Faucher**, **Samantha Johns**, **Matthew Krinock**, **Kirsten Meenan**, **Benjamin Policicchio**, **David Shelhammer**, **Alex Policicchio**, **Christine Weidner**, and **Wennie Tabib**

In regional competition, we placed fourth overall in competition with twenty-six teams. State qualifiers were: **Utsav Bhat**, **Annabeth Faucher**, **Benjamin Policicchio**, **David Schellhammer**, **Alexander Policicchio**, **Christine Weidner**, and **Kirsten Meenan**.

Congratulations to the students who placed at the Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Tournament as follows: **Christine Weidner**, 7th place, persuasive; **Utsav Bhat**, 9th place, extemporaneous; **Annabeth Faucher**, 9th place, poetry; and **Kirsten Meenan**, 13th place, serious drama.

National qualifiers are: **Utsav Bhat**, **Annabeth Faucher**, **Kirsten Meenan**, and **Marianna Campagna**, who qualified for the NCFL Grand National Tournament

in Appleton, Wisconsin and provided outstanding representation for our school with the honor of competing at a national level. **Utsav Bhat** was also an Octo finalist at the National tournament, which means that he is ranked in the top 50 of his category in the entire United States. This includes schools of all sizes, public and private schools across the United States, some from major metropolitan areas such as Chicago, New York City, Arlington-Washington DC, and Atlanta.



The Scholastic Scrimmage Team (Left to Right) are: Andrew Schroeder, Utsav Bhat, Mr. John T. Wood (teacher advisor), Megan Mulrooney, Thomas Rohrabough, Shauna Hetrick (alternate)

Scholastic Quiz Team

Congratulations to both the Junior Varsity and Varsity Scholastic Quiz Teams and their Advisor, Mr. John T. Wood, for completing undefeated regular seasons in the Central Western Quiz League. The varsity team included Senior Captain **Utsav Bhat**, **Andrew Schroeder** (senior), **David Shelhammer** (senior), **Wennie Tabib** (senior and alternate), **Thomas (T.J.) Rohrabough** (junior), and **Megan Mulrooney** (sophomore). The team scored a season high of 315 points and also finished their regular season undefeated for the second time in three years. Captain **Utsav Bhat** led all individual scorers. He and **Andrew Schroeder** received awards for being among the top ten individual scorers in the league. With the win, Westmont clinched the number one seed going into the league play-off tournament.

The Junior Varsity team that competed in the Central Western Quiz League (no captain is designated for Junior Varsity) included **Zachary del Rosario** (sophomore), **Bradley Schroeder** (junior), **Rachel Adams** (junior), **Calvin Yahn** (junior), **Joseph Nagy** (junior), and **Shauna Hetrick** (junior). The Junior Varsity team led by Zach del Rosario's game high 90 points completed their best season in history with a 265 to 40 win. The Junior Varsity team outscored their opponents by nearly 1000 total points during their undefeated season.

In the televised Scholastic Scrimmage, the Varsity Team won their "Round of 16" play-off match through an outstanding 290-165 victory over Brookville. With the win, the team advanced to the "Great Eight Play-Off Round." This is as far as Westmont has advanced in the Scholastic Scrimmage, where the team placed among the final eight teams of the eighty-four teams that began the competition. The Scholastic Scrimmage team included Captain **Utsav Bhat** (senior), **Andrew Schroeder** (senior), **Thomas Rohrabough** (junior), **Shauna Hetrick** (junior and alternate), **Megan Mulrooney** (sophomore), and **Benjamin Policicchio** (senior and alternate).

President's Award for Educational Excellence

The President's Award for Educational Excellence is reserved for middle and high school students who have demonstrated substantial academic achievement. At both the middle school and high school levels, students must maintain a high level of academic accomplishment over the duration of their schooling in order to be eligible for this award. Recipients of the President's Award at the high school in 2008 are as follows:

Katherine Able	Patrick Moon-Rhoades
Michael Ballow	Thomas Polacek
Utsav Bhat	Benjamin Policicchio
Kelly Cernetich	Andrew Schroeder
Hannah Clemenson	Jacob Seigh
Lindsey Crowe	David Shelhammer
Corbett Drummey	Kaitlyn Shultz
Nathan Felix	Ryan Snow
Eric Lee	Shane Stantz
Benjamin Majcher	Wennie Tabib
Sean McGhee	Daniel Vliet
Joshua Miller	

President's Award for Educational Excellence Middle School

Zachary Aman	Autumn Helman
Trenten Boback	Meredith Herman
Sarah Bunyea	Kelsey Hoover
Carly Campbell	Sarah Layton
Bradley Carney	Benjamin Legath
Brittany Carney	Matthew Masiello
Kayla Causer	Marissa Miller
Brittany Davis	Mark Nathaniel
Parag Dharbhamulla	Niza Scuderi
DeAnnah Dick	Nicole Simmons
Jonathan Findish	Britney Smith
Alyson Forman	Carolyn Somerville
Kenneth Gibson	Lida Thompson
Joseph Glennon	Emma Thomson
Evan Good	Forest Whitlow
Celina Gutierrez	Tasha Yarris
Mustafa Hammudi	Brittany Young
Kelcy Harrison	Megan Ziemba

Academic 'Letter' Awards, Class of 2008

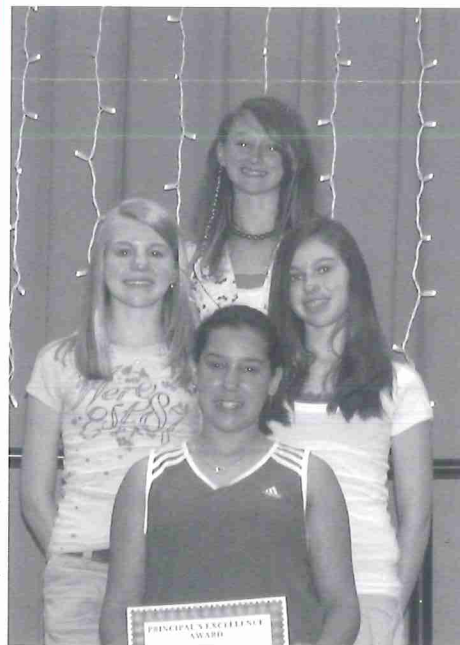
Students are awarded the academic letter based on achievement of academic excellence. Recipients of the Academic Letter Awards in the class of 2008 are:

Katherine Abele	Benjamin Majcher
Zachary Antolik	Brandon Makuchan
Michael Ballow	Kayla Marsh
Lauren Bambino	Seth Matthews
Anthony Berardi	Rebecca McDaniel
Utsav Bhat	Sean McGhee
Michael Brant	Joshua Miller
Austin Brownlee	Samantha Miller
Kelly Cernetich	Brittany Molnar
Hannah Clemenson	Patrick Moon-Rhoades
Lindsey Crowe	Olivia Mundy
Scott Davis	Beatrice Nebbia
Jill DeSignore	Christine Novelli
Devin Dorian	Nicole Phillips
Corbett Drummey	Thomas Polacek
Allison Eanes	Benjamin Policicchio
Martin Erdley	Richard Povich
Kayla Esch	Elizabeth Prociuk
Nathan Felix	Monica Rohrabough
Leah Glass	Katelyn Rossi
Douglas Glosser	Rebecca Rummel
Rahul Gore	Tiffany Schilling
Joseph Green	Andrew Schroeder
Reid Griffith	Jacob Seigh
Samuel Hahn	Stephen Shadid
Alexandra Holmes	Brittany Shawley
Kayla Jones	David Shelhammer
Kevin Kesslak	Kaitlyn Shultz
Fred Kramer	Jaclyn Skelley
Sarah Khan	Robert Smeal
Nicholas Khuri	Ryan Snow
Amanda Komara	Tracey Sojak
Natalie Kupchella	Laura St. Clair
Eric Lee	Shane Stantz
Jessica Lindberg	Wennie Tabib
Sarah Lingafelt	Michael Trentini
Hannah Long	Zachary Tvarozna
Katherine MacDowell	Joshua Vigna
Alicia Magistro	Daniel Vliet

Erica Walker
Amanda Williams
Bridget Wilson
Katee Wilson
Lydia Wolfe
Derek Yates
Caitlyn Young
Denis Zukic

The Principal's Excellence Award

To qualify for the Principal's Excellence Award in Grade 8, students must attain an academic average of 92% or higher at the end of grades five, six, seven, and the first semester of Grade 8 in honor roll subjects. This accumulative standard of excellence over the course of four years is an outstanding achievement. This year's awardees are: **Carly Campbell, Brittany Carney, Kelcy Harrison, and Britney Smith.**



Principal's Excellence Award Winners:
Row 1: Kelcy Harrison
Row 2: Britney Smith, Brittany Carney
Row 3: Carly Campbell

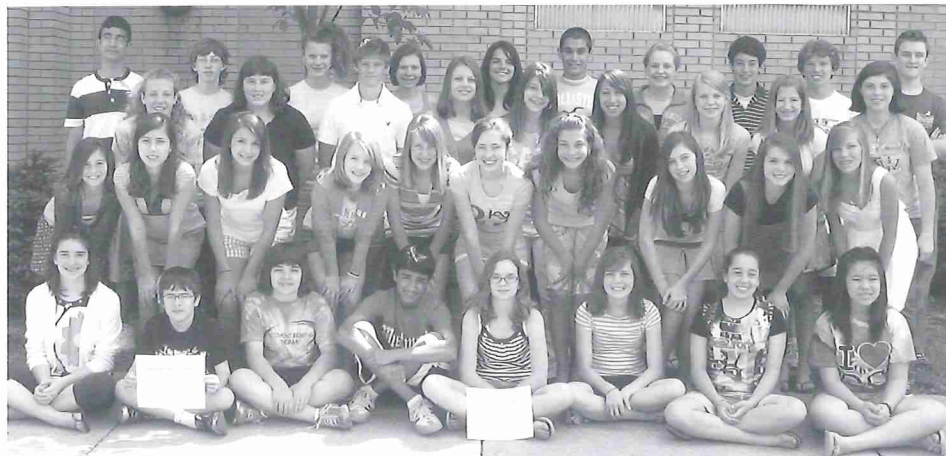
Academic Achievement Award, Class of 2008

Numerous students in grades 9-12 met their goals in striving for excellence. Seniors earning the Academic Achievement Award at the High School in the class of 2008 were:

Katherine M. Abele	Sean A. McGhee
Zachary D. Antolik	Joshua M. Miller
Michael Ballow	Samantha A. Miller
Anthony M. Berardi	Jeremiah A. J. Moeckli
Utsav K. Bhat	Brittany A. Molnar
Michael A. Brant	Patrick W. Moon-Rhoades
Austin S. Brownlee	Olivia A. Mundy
Marianna E. Campagna	Beatrice Nebbia
Kelly A. Cernetich	David T. Nikonov
Hannah E. Clemenson	Christine A. Novelli
Jill A. DeSignore	Nicole L. Phillips
Kelly S. Dorian	Thomas J. Polacek
Corbett W. Drummey	Benjamin B. Policicchio
Allison N. Eanes	Richard P. Povich
Ryan C. Edwards	Monica L. Rohrabough
Kayla M. Esch	Katelyn A. Rossi
Nathan G. Felix	Brock C. Rozich
Leah A. Glass	Rebecca A. Rummel
Douglas J. Glosser	Tiffany N. Schilling
Rahul A. Gore	Andrew R. Schroeder
Joseph R. Green Jr.	Jacob M. Seigh
Reid J. Griffith	Stephen D. Shadid
Samuel A. Hahn	Brittany L. Shawley
Alexandra N. Holmes	David A. Shelhammer
Kevin M. Kesslak	Kaitlyn E. Shultz
Sarah J. Khan	Jaclyn M. Skelley
Fred J. Kramer	Robert M. Smeal
Molly C. Krstulich	Tracey L. Sojak
Natalie M. Kupchella	Laura Ann St. Clair
Eric J. Lee	Shane A. Stantz
Jessica R. Lindberg	Wennie Tabib
Sarah E. Lingafelt	Joshua I. Vigna
Hannah M. Long	Erica J. Walker
Katherine E. MacDowell	Amanda K. Williams
Alicia C. Magistro	Bridget L. Wilson
Benjamin M. Majcher	Lydia J. Wolfe
Kayla M. Marsh	Derek S. Yates
Seth T. Matthews	Caitlin O. Young
Rebecca L. McDaniel	Denis Zukic
Sean G. McDonald	

Middle School Reading Team Achievements

One of the best ways to qualify for any of the awards and recognitions contained within this newsletter is to READ, READ, READ! The middle school students pictured below understand the importance of reading.



Reading Team: **Row 1:** Erin Suppes, James Kane, Jill Clark, Parag Dharbhamulla, Deanna Werner, Sarah Bunyea, Sarah Clark, Tasha Yarris **Row 2:** Maddison Morrell, Madalynn Swaltek, Leah Mercik, Taylor Davis, Stephanie Hetrick, Meghan Mock, Stacey Glass, Brittany Carney, Kara Kovach, Lida Thompson **Row 3:** Rachel Roper, Emma Thomson, Forest Whitlow, Nicole Simmons, Marissa Miller, Alyson Forman, Britney Smith, Allison Henry, Sarah Layton **Row 4:** Mustafa Hammudi, Daniel Durham, Mariel Kramer, Angela Sutt, Elizabeth Atterbury, Ryan Koul, Lauren Taylor, Matthew Masiello, Bradley Carney, Blake Bernstein

Interscholastic Reading Teams

The Grade 7 teams of Winter Green and Spring Green earned second place and third place, respectively, at Interscholastic Reading Competition.

Winter Green Team 2nd Place Winners: Elizabeth Atterbury, Jill Cark, Sarah Clark, Daniel Durham, James Kane, Ryan Koul, Mariel Kramer, Leah Mercik, and Madalynn Swaltek.

Spring Green Team 3rd Place Winners: Kirsten Coyle, Taylor Davis, Stacey Glass, Stephanie Hetrick, Meghan Mock, Maddison Morrell, Rachel Roper, Angela Sutt, and Deanna Werner.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society Read-A-Thon

This year's honoree is Kirsten Coyle.

Middle School Technology Achievement Computer Fair

For the first time this year, middle school students competed in a regional computer fair competition held at Penn State Altoona Campus. The results were impressive.

2nd Place Medalists: Jenna Becker, Alyssa Miller, and Samantha Phizacklea.

3rd Place Medalists: Grant Bernstein, Noah Bulas, Isaac Joseph, and Daphne Valencia.

Certificate Winners: Chris Campigotto, Rachel Mural, Natalie Fiorica, and Zach Jones.

Scholastic Book Competition

Maiya Mastovich, Bridget Moyer, and Kyleigh Smith have earned honorable mention in Scholastic Book Competition.

Middle School Mathematics Achievement

Continental Math League

Grade 8 Local First Place: Parag Dharbhamulla (Pythagorean), Jonathan Findish (Pythagorean), Daniel Marsh (Euclidean)

Local High Ranking: Forest Whitlow (Pythagorean), and Mustafa Hammudi (Euclidean)

Grade 7 Local First Place: Daniel Durham (Pythagorean), and Robert Varner (Euclidean)

Local High Ranking: James Kane (Pythagorean)

Grade 6: High Ranking (Pythagorean): Christiana Faucher and Alyssa Miller

High Ranking (Euclidian sixth grade level): Colin Barron and David Ketenheim

Grade 5: Local First Place: Ashley Shriver (Euclidian fifth grade level), Aiden Wintersheidt (Euclidian sixth grade level), and Nicholas Mical (Euclidian sixth grade and Pythagorean fifth grade)

High Ranking (Euclidian fifth grade level): Victoria Bertovich, Corrin Claycomb, and Bradley Hollins

High Ranking (Pythagorean fifth grade level): Drake Dorian

High Ranking (Euclidian sixth grade level) Baylee Bortz, Noah Gordon, Alexander Roper, and John Williams

C-Mites Participation through Carnegie Mellon University

The EXPLORE Test measures elementary students' abilities in English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science. Students are eligible to participate if they are scoring at a highly advanced level on the PSSA or have scored at the 95th percentile or better on a nationally standardized test. The following middle school students participated:

Grade 5: Maryjo Bekhash, Kyle Geibig, Alexandra Nash, Alexander Roper, Truman Welsh, and Aidan Winterscheidt.

Grade 6: Christiana Faucher, Gary Flegle, Jacqueline Meredith, and Abigail Stern.

Meritorious Attitude & Effort Awards

Each year, Meritorious Attitude and Effort Awards are given to several students in each grade. This award is given to students who exhibit a positive and commendable attitude and give continuous effort in their educational endeavors. Recipients are as follows:

Grade 5: Ian Chaney, Courtney Musser, Kyleigh Smith, and Benjamin Weisenbaugh

Grade 6: Nicole Barnhart, Dortehea Oller, and Ruby Whorl

Grade 7: Kasia Foster, Rachel Roper, and Brianna Trentini

Grade 8: Carly Campbell, Brittany Carney, and Emma Thomson



Meritorious Attitude and Effort Award: Row 1: Emma Thomson, Brittany Carney, Courtney Musser, Kyleigh Smith
Row 2: Kasia Foster, Brianna Trentini, Rachel Roper, Carly Campbell, Benjamin Weisenbach, Ian Chaney

Successful Spellers

Congratulations to the Westmont Middle School Spelling Team. On Saturday, February 2nd, **Daniel Durham** and **Dorothea Oller** competed in the 32nd annual St. Francis Spelling Competition at St. Francis University. Daniel finished among the top 10 spellers at the meet. Dorothea continued spelling and finished in first place by beating out students from 20 other school districts. She correctly spelled the word "mimeograph" to win the competition. Dorothea won a Spelling Bee trophy, a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond, a St. Francis sweatshirt, a dictionary, a thesaurus, and four general admission season tickets to St. Francis University men's

and women's basketball and football games for 2008-2009. Dorothea qualified to compete in the state spelling bee in Pittsburgh in March. The Spelling Team advisor is Mrs. Marilyn McClelland, who dedicates numerous hours to providing such opportunities for our students.



Spelling Bee Participants: Dorothea Oller, Daniel Durham

World Language Students Achieve Recognition

Mrs. Diane Rugh recognized the accomplishments of Westmont Hilltop World Language students at the Academic Awards Assembly of 2008. The Appalachian Language Educators' Society, or APPLS, Foreign Language Festival is hosted by Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Each year, the event involves over 300 students from more than a dozen area school districts. Interest in world language remains high at Westmont Hilltop and, despite many



International Night: Students enjoy International Night, presented by the High School World Language Department

conflicting responsibilities, students chose to spend a Saturday in April at the competition. The district was represented by a small yet quite accomplished group of students. Westmont Hilltop students captured ribbons in every level of language in which we had entrants. Congratulations to the following students:

NAME	LANGUAGE / LEVEL	PLACE / EVENT
Allison Mical	SP 1	1 Listening Comprehension
Keegan Terek	SP 2	2 Listening Comprehension
		2 (tie) Reading Comprehension
Christina Atterbury	SP 2	1 Speaking Proficiency
		3 Listening Comprehension
		3 Reading Comprehension
Sara Rogerson	SP 3	1 Listening Comprehension
		1 Reading Comprehension
		2 Speaking Proficiency
Kyle Molchany	SP3	2 Listening Comprehension
		3 Speaking Proficiency
		3 Composition
Luke Corona	SP 3	1 Literary Recitation
Zach Evans	SP 4	2 Listening Comprehension
		2 Reading Comprehension
Mike Varga	SP 4	3 Listening Comprehension
		3 Speaking Proficiency
Shauna Hetrick	SP 4	1 (tie) Reading Comprehension
		2 Literary Recitation
Rebecca Morbito	SP 5	1 Listening Comprehension
		2 Reading Comprehension
David Shelhammer	SP 5	1 Speaking Proficiency
		3 Listening Comprehension
		3 Reading Comprehension
	Senior High	2 Web Page Design
Stephanie Valentini	SP 5	1 Reading Comprehension
		1 Composition
Abby Hoover	FR 2	2 (tie) Literary Recitation
Juliana Bukoski	FR 3	1 Listening Comprehension
		1 Reading Comprehension
		1 Composition
		2 Speaking Proficiency
	Senior High	3 Music: Instrumental
Christine Weidner	FR 3	3 (tie) Listening Comprehension
		3 Composition
Rachel Adams	Senior High	2 Art Reproduction

Academic Best Awards

Academic "Best" Awards are for students in Grade 8 only. To be eligible, the student must have attended Westmont Hilltop Middle School for all quarters this year. A \$100.00 savings bond is awarded to the student given the honor of representing the "Best" performance in each of the designated categories.

The money for this award has been donated by Mr. Abe Beerman. Before his death in June of 2007, Mr. Beerman had established an Endowment Fund to support the Best Awards in memory of his beloved wife Janet. Mr. and Mrs. Beerman were obviously very committed to bringing out the "best" in the young people of our community.

Selection is quite a challenge, since so many students in our school represent their own high standards of academic best. The categories of the Best Awards are as follows:

English: The student in this category must demonstrate scholarship, leadership, a positive attitude, class participation, responsibility, accountability, dependability, and initiative. Congratulations to **Brittney Smith**, who earned the English award.

Mathematics: To qualify for the Best Award in Mathematics, the student must demonstrate high scholastic achievement and positive classroom performance. The outcomes of any appropriate challenges and achievement opportunities will be considered. The recipient of the mathematics award is **Mustafa Hammudi**.

Science: To qualify for the Science Award, the student must have an "A" average for three quarters, participate in all aspects of class (lectures, labs, question/answer, discussions), demonstrate leadership, respect for others, responsibility, reliability, and a mature attitude. **Trenten Boback** has earned this recognition.

Civics: The student must demonstrate scholastic high achievement; citizenship through school and community service; responsibility, cooperation with others, and initiative through class participation. **Bradley Carney** is the recipient of the Civics Award.



Best Awards: Row 1: Adam Pozun, Kelcy Harrison
Row 2: Robin Miller, Brittney Smith, Trenten Boback
Row 3: Bradley Carney, Austin Paratore, Tanner Miller, Mustafa Hammudi

Art: The selected student must display good citizenship and class participation, have a positive effect on peers, exhibit a high level of creativity, and demonstrate a significant level of improvement or achievement. The Best Award goes to the student who shows consistent production of high quality work from Grade 5 through Grade 8. **Tanner Miller** has earned this award.

Foreign Language: The academic best in this category must attain high scholastic achievement, demonstrate excellent class participation and a positive classroom attitude, and demonstrate classroom leadership and reliability. **Adam Pozun** has earned the foreign language award for French and **Robin Miller** has earned the Spanish Award.

Music: Participation in at least one ensemble is required for this award, along with superior grades in general music class; the student must possess leadership, responsibility, a positive attitude, and dependability. **Austin Paratore** is the recipient of the music award.

Physical Education: The student selected in this category must display a positive attitude toward physical education, participate to the best of his or her ability in all activities at all times, score, at the least, the average requirement on the National Physical Fitness Test for Fitness, maintain and/or improve his/her score over time, demonstrate self-discipline, display sportsmanlike behavior, and demonstrate responsible, respectful behavior as a team player. Congratulations to **Kelcy Harrison** for earning the physical education award.

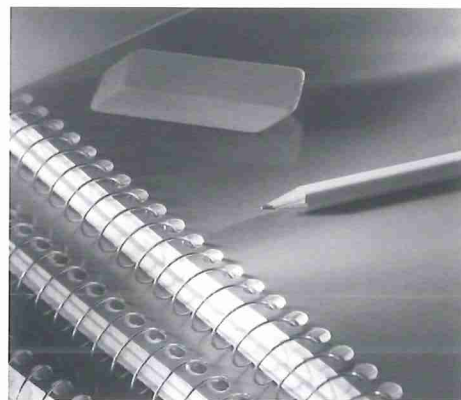
National Current Events League Award

Students in National Current Events League commit to seven months of extensive study of current events in the news and to coming to weekly discussion meetings on current events topics. Four times per year, students across the country then take a test requiring analysis and evaluation. There are approximately 140 teams entering this competition annually. The Current Events program encourages learning through media and discussion of what students are learning.

Current Events League is open to any student in grades 5-8 at the middle school. Students who are interested in competing in this league must prepare a "fact sheet" each week and gather information on current events in the following categories: three national/international facts, and one fact each in the categories of arts and entertainment, sports, business, and science and health. Students are tested or compete in four "meets" each year via a multiple choice thirty-question format.

Earning a Medal and Certificate of Distinction: Mustafa Hammudi and Andrew Miller.

Earning Certificates of Distinction: Elizabeth Atterbury, Tyler Azar, Timothy Barry, Maryjo Bekhash, Blake Bernstein, Jill Clark, Rex Cosgrove, Kirsten Coyle, Taylor Davis, Parag Dharbhamulla, Christiana Faucher, John Follansbee, Stacey Glass, Devon Gilbert, Evan Good, Carli Huber, Isaac Joseph, Ellis Kane, Mariel Kramer, Kathryn Lynch, Maddison Morrell, Leah Mercik, Jacob Moore, Colleen Mulrooney, Austin Mundy, Abigail Stern, Erin Suppes, Emma Thomson, Molly Thomson, Matthew Wehner, Forest Whitlow, and John Williams.



National Current Events League Awards: Row 1: Timothy Barry, Tyler Azar, Parag Dharbhamulla, Jack Follansbee, Ellis Kane, Devon Gilbert, Abigail Stern
Row 2: Jill Clark, Maryjo Bekhash, Colleen Mulroony, Maddison Morrell, Kirsten Coyle, Christiana Faucher, Isaac Joseph, Molly Thomson
Row 3: Kathryn Lynch, Emma Thomson, Stacey Glass, Erin Suppes, Leah Mercik, Taylor Davis, Carli Huber, Rex Cosgrove, John Williams
Row 4: Blake Bernstein, Mustafa Hammudi, Forest Whitlow, Evan Good, Austin Mundy, Matthew Masiello, Mariel Kramer, Elizabeth Atterbury, Andrew Miller

Middle School WordMasters Awards

The WordMasters Challenge is a national language arts competition. The challenge has been administered for the past 20 years and is dedicated to the inspiration of high achievement in American Schools. The process involves exercises in critical thinking and the development of vocabulary through the use of words that are higher than grade level expectations in the form of analogies. Three times each year, students study a list of twenty-five challenging vocabulary words. They are tested on their comprehension of the definitions and on their ability to analyze these words in analogies. Our students consistently excel in these challenges of learning new words as they solve logical puzzles.

WordMasters Grade 8 Medalist: Jonathan Findish

Certificates: Zachary Aman, Blake Bernstein, Sarah Bunyea, Carly

Campbell, William Crowe, Kelcy Harrison, Niza Scuderi, Elizabeth Sherrier, Nicole Simmons, and Forest Whitlow

WordMasters Grade 7 Medalist: Anthony (T.J.) Rosage

Certificates: Daniel Durham, Stacey Glass, Mariel Kramer, Leah Mercik, and Melissa Walko

WordMasters Grade 6 Medalist: Dorothea Oller

Certificates: Nicole Barnhart, Rex Cosgrove, Christiana Faucher, Alex Hockensmith, Stephen Kupchella, Jacqueline Meredith, Holly Miller, James Miller, and Madison Milligan

WordMasters Grade 5 Medalist: Nicholas Sturniolo

Certificates: Tyler Azar, Baylee Bortz, Kyle Geibig, Jonas Geisel, Nicholas Mical, Colleen Mulrooney, Alexandra Nash, Cameron Nulton, Francesca Ramirez, John Ridella, Kyleigh Smith, and John Williams

Johns Hopkins Young Students Talent Search

The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY) conducts national and international talent searches to identify outstanding academic talent. Through the Talent Search, high-performing students take a test designed for older students. This above-grade-level testing can reveal more about the academic talents of students. Students who exhibit outstanding academic talent are eligible for nomination by educators and parents. Nomination is an honor in itself for the following participants:

Grade 5: Maryjo Bekhash; Nicholas Sturniolo, who received a state award with high honors in verbal and mathematics tests; and Truman Welsh.

Grade 6: Christiana Faucher, who received a state award with high honors in the verbal and mathematics categories; and Matthew Wehner, who received a state award with high honors in the verbal assessment.

Grade 7: Kirsten Coyle; Stacey Glass, who attained distinction in the reading area and received a state award with high honors; Dante Horvath, Mariel Kramer, and Kathryn Lynch.

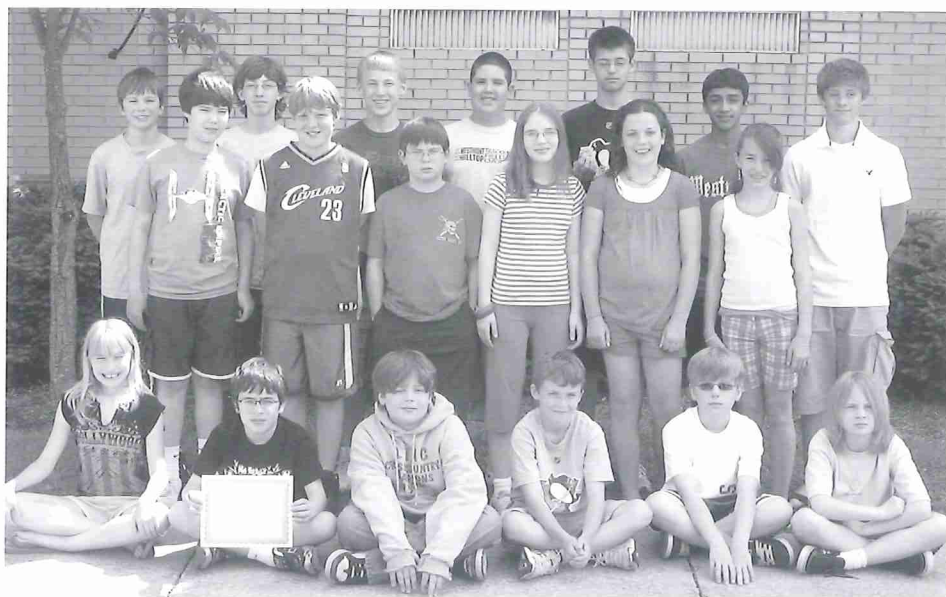
Grade 8: Trenten Boback; Parag Dharbhamulla, who received a state award with high honors in mathematics on the SAT; Alyson Forman; Mustafa Hammudi, who earned distinction in the reading and math areas on the SAT and distinction and a state award with high honors in reading on the ACT; and Forest Whitlow, who received a state award with high honors in math on the SAT.



WordMasters Row 1: Nicole Simmons, Holly Miller, Baylee Bortz, Jacqueline Meredith, Rex Cosgrove, Cameron Nulton, Sarah Bunyea, Kelcy Harrison **Row 2:** Alexandra Nash, Christiana Faucher, Nicole Barnhart, Colleen Mulrooney, Nicholas Mical, Nicholas Sturniolo, Alex Hockensmith, Kyle Geibig **Row 3:** Stacey Glass, Madison Milligan, Dorothea Oller, Melissa Walko, Leah Mercik, James Miller, Elizabeth Sherrier, Forest Whitlow, John Williams, Tyler Azar **Row 4:** Francesca Ramirez, Daniel Durham, Carly Campbell, Anthony Rosage, Mariel Kramer, Zachary Aman, Blake Bernstein, William Crowe, Jonathan Findish

Continental Math League Middle School Award

Students in grades 5-8 compete in this math competition for five months each year from November through March. The two divisions that students are tested on are the Euclidean division and the Pythagorean division. Six fairly difficult questions are given as the tests for each of the five "meets." Students have twenty-five minutes to answer the paper and pencil questions. The students compete as individuals, but the top six scores for each division are used as the basis for a team score also. Certificates are given for those students who received an Honorable Mention based on their total scores for the five "meets", and those students receiving the highest first and second place scores receive medals in addition to their certificates.



Continental Math League: Row 1: Ashley Shriver, James Kane, David Ketenheim, Drake Dorian, Nicholas Mical, Aidan Winterscheidt Row 2: John Williams, Alexander Roper, Bradley Hollins, Christiana Faucher, Baylee Bortz, Victoria Bertovich Row 3: Colin Barron, Daniel Durham, Robert Varner, Noah Gordon, Jonathan Findish, Parag Dharbhamulla, Forest Whitlow

Perfect Attendance Awards

A predictor of future success is a strong work ethic. A student with a strong work ethic may be unable to achieve perfect attendance for many valid reasons; but students with perfect attendance have certainly demonstrated their determination to succeed.

At the middle school, students who were awarded the Perfect Attendance Award were never dismissed from school except for school-related events, and these students were never tardy coming to school. Punctuality is a noteworthy achievement, in addition to their outstanding attendance records, and it provides an acknowledgement for pre-high school students who have already developed an important skill that employers will value upon graduation. The students pictured here deserve the perfect attendance award.



Perfect Attendance: Row 1: Taylor Somerville, Devon Gilbert Row 2: Courtney Morder, Kaitlin Mical, Sydney Ruis, Nicholas Mical, Jacob Suppes Row 3: Kelsey Harrison, Alyssa Forster, Shannon Marko, Erin Suppes, Tyler Azar

Elementary Accomplishments 2008

Third and Fourth Grade Achievement

This year's third and fourth graders participated in Wordmasters, a nationally sponsored program. The

Wordmasters competition is designed to increase the students' vocabulary by studying a different list of words and

their meanings weekly. Participants with the top scores in each grade level are pictured below.

Wordmasters, Grade 4



Row 1: Hunter Williams, David Williams, Bethany Carney, Rita Bekhash, Sarah Kilpatrick **Row 2:** Sarah Minnick, Mitchell Causer, Madison Hrin, Mitchell Hochfeld, Bryce Kramer, Erik Wehner

Wordmasters, Grade 3



Row 1: Venkat Gella, Hanna Robart, Rachel Toth, Jack Weidner **Row 2:** Jacob Elders, Nathan Kindja, Brock Bennett, Victoria Geiser, Michael Roper

Continental Math League Regional Top Scorers

The third and fourth graders also participated in the Continental Math League, a program that challenges

students with complex, multi-step problems to solve. The students pictured below were recognized for

their outstanding scores during the competition.



Mrs. La Monaca with the regional (Intermediate Unit 8) winners for top scorers in the Continental Math League: Sarah Minnick, Sam Barry, Hunter Williams



Third Grade Continental Math League: **Row 1:** Alison Hlivko, Rachel Toth **Row 2:** Jacob Elders, Venkat Gella, Daniel Kevenk, Michael Roper



Fourth Grade Continental Math League: Erick Wehner, Sam Barry, Hunter Williams, Zachary Vliet, Mitchell Hochfeld, Sarah Minnick

Science and Language Arts Olympiads

Students in grades 2, 3, and 4 once again participated in the Science and Language Arts Olympiads. Both of these contests are based on multiple-choice questions, which are administered to grade level groups. Each contest has a time limit of 35 minutes. There is no limit to the number of students who

may participate. In every grade level, over 75 students participated in each competition. The sum of the top ten scores for each competition is the school's team score. Questions for the Language Arts Olympiad are based on the following topics: spelling, vocabulary, reading comprehension, analogies, and grammar.

Science Olympiad questions are based on factual knowledge as well as students' understanding of scientific processes. This year, there were many students with the same score qualifying them for a place in the 'Top Ten'.

Fourth Grade Language Arts Olympiad



Row 1: Bryan Mock, Jarod Shark, Leah Hockensmith, Hunter Williams, Zachary Vliet
Row 2: Sam Barry, Emily Tiger, Emily Brazill, Madison Hrin, Sarah Kilpatrick

Fourth Grade Science Olympiad



Row 1: Hunter Williams, Helen Stern, Jamie Geiser, Bethany Carney, Megan Huber
Row 2: Erik Wehner, David Williams, Madison Hrin, Sarah Minnick, Bryce Kramer

Third Grade Language Arts Olympiad



Row 1: Rachel Toth, Hannah Roberts, Jensen Karsaba, Brock Bernstein
Row 2: Daniel Kevenk, Victoria Geiser, Nathan Kindja, Brock Bennett, Michael Roper

Third Grade Science Olympiad



Row 1: Harrison Fear, Matthew Mostoller, Jack Weidner, Meredith Trio, Joseph Hlivko
Row 2: Nathan Kindja, Daniel Kevenk, Michael Lamison, Michael Roper, Byron Custer

Second Grade Language Arts Olympiad



Row 1: Ariana Santos, Clinton Sparling, Ethan Dubnansky, Patrick Brown, Grayson Moyer
Row 2: Kaitlin Haynal, Meredith Winterscheidt, Hayley Knupp, Mackenzie Dunn, Adam Mrozowski

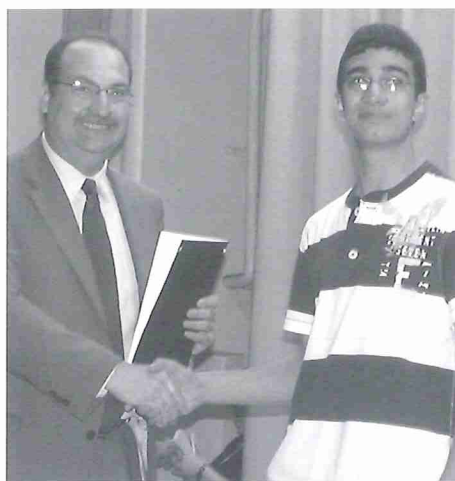
Second Grade Science Olympiad



Row 1: Kaitlyn Poad, Holly Fabrizio, Harry Weidner, Ethan Dubnansky
Row 2: Vaughn Kramer, Leo Cosgrove, Hannah Davis, Grayson Moyer, Patrick Brown

Senatorial "Good Citizenship Award"

Each year, Senator Wozniak provides special recognition to a middle school student who demonstrates the following indicators of outstanding citizenship: 1) superior academic achievement, 2) leadership capacity, 3) consistent work habits, 4) positive self-image, and 5) the ability to interact positively with others. Students are nominated to receive this honor. **Mustafa Bassam Hammudi** is the recipient of the 2008 Senatorial Good Citizenship Award. Mr. Thomas Simmons presented the award to Hammudi.



Senatorial Citizenship Award: Mustafa Bassam Hammudi

American Legion Awards

The American Legion Award is presented by the American Legion Auxiliary to one 8th grade boy and one 8th grade girl. The criteria used to select the recipients are listed as follows:

Honor: Strength and stability of character, high standards of conduct, keen sense of what is right, adherence to truth and conscience, and devotion to duty.

Scholarship: Scholastic attainment, evidence of industry, and application in studies.

Service: Kindness, unselfishness, willingness to lend a helping hand, protection to the weak, and deference to the interests and welfare of associates without hope of personal reward.

Americanism: Active interest in promotion of love of country.

Leadership: Ability to conduct the duties of leadership assigned to one as exemplified in the holding of an office, participation in committees, and exhibition of a team attitude.

Courage: The capacity to show moral courage to stand up for what is right. Earning the American Legion Award this year were **Matthew Michael Masiello** and **Marissa Rae Miller**.



American Legion Award Recipient: Matthew Masiello



American Legion Award Recipient: Marissa Miller

Community Service

Various individuals and organizations have recognized our students for their community service and scholarship as follows:

United States Naval Academy Appointment
Michael A. Brant

Westmont Hilltop Student Memorial Scholarship Awards
Sean A. McGhee
Wennie Tabib

Westmont Peace Award
Stephen D. Shadid

Westmont Hilltop Educational Association Scholarship Award
Joshua I. Vigna

Metz & Associates Scholarship
Leah A. Glass



Row 1: Unsung Hero Scholarships: Hannah Clemenson, Benjamin Policicchio, Rachael Carson
Award: Elizabeth Menna

Row 2: Sam Walton Community Scholarship: Eric Lee, **Class of 1947 Scholarship:** Katelyn Rossi, **Fleet Reserve Essay Writer:** Christina Atterbury

Unsung Hero Awards
Hannah E. Clemenson
Benjamin B. Policicchio

Key Club Award
Amanda M. Komara

Community Arts Center – M. Josephine Paul Award
Samantha E. Johns

Michael J. Rudnac Scholarship
Thomas J. Polacek

Catherine Hubbard Memorial Award
Rebecca A. Rummel



Row 1: Catherine Hubbard Memorial Award: Rebecca Rummel, **Community Arts Center Scholarship:** Samantha Johns,
Row 2: Peace Award: Stephen Shadid, **U.S. Naval Academy Appointment:** Michael Brant, **West End Lions Club:** Utsav Bhat. (Absent from photo: West End Lions Club: Wennie Tabib)

Class of 1947 Westmont/Upper Yoder Endowment Fund
Katelyn A. Rossi

Sam Walton Memorial Scholarship
Eric J. Lee

GJCTC Outstanding Senior in Graphic Design
Crystal L. Berkebile



Row 1: Greater Johnstown Career and Technology/Graphic Design Award: Crystal Berkebile, **Key Club Scholarship:** Amanda Komara, **Metz Scholarship:** Leah Glass,
Row 2: WHEA Scholarship: Joshua Vigna, **American Red Cross Scholarship:** Stephen Shadid, **Brittany Molnar, Michael J. Rudnac Leadership Award:** Thomas Polacek

The Challenge Program Award for Best Overall GPA
Wennie Tabib
Abigail Motley
Zachary del Rosario

The Challenge Program Award for Community Service
Patrick Moon-Rhoades
Tiffany Trotz
Susan Specht



Row 1: Sophomore Challenge Program: Community Service: Susan Specht, **Highest GPA:** Zachary del Rosario.
Row 2: GJSD Credit Union Scholarship: Patrick Moon-Rhoades, **National Merit Finalist:** Utsav Bhat

The Challenge Program Award for Most Improved in Grade
Brock Rozich
Cassandra Cosgrove
Kyra Burns

The Challenge Program Award for Attendance
Brendan Shue
Ashley Gilbert
Stephen Legath



Row 1: Junior/Senior Challenge Program: Community Service: Tiffany Trotz, **Best Attendance:** Ashley Gilbert, **Highest GPA:** Abigail Motley, **Most Improved GPA:** Cassandra Cosgrove,
Row 2: Most Improved GPA: Brock Rozich, **Best Attendance:** Brendan Shue, **Community Service:** Patrick Moon-Rhoades, **Best Attendance:** Stephen Legath

West End Lions Club Scholastic Awards
Utsav K. Bhat
Wennie Tabib

School Citizenship Awards



Row 1: Junior/Senior Citizenship Awards: Christine Novelli, Jill DelSignore, Natalie Smith, Elizabeth Menna
Row 2: Robert Smeal, Nathan Henry, Brett Karan, Michael Brant

Grade 12
Michael Brant
Jill DelSignore
Christine Novelli
Robert Smeal

Grade 11
Nathan Henry
Brett Karan
Elizabeth Menna
Natalie Smith

Grade 10
Margaret Atterbury
Kyle Kunkle
Ashley Schafer
Christine Weidner

Grade 9
Annabeth Faucher
Annie Fiffick
Daniel Oberst
Andrew Thomas

Rachel Carson Book Award
Elizabeth F. Menna



Row 1: Freshmen/Sophomore Citizenship Awards: Annie Fiffick, Annabeth Faucher, Andrew Thomas (Absent from photo: Daniel Oberst)
Row 2: Kyle Kunkle, Ashley Schafer, Margaret Atterbury, Christine Weidner

Rotary Finalists

There were five finalists selected for academic honors of over 100 applicants from the "best and brightest" of Cambria County. There were also three students selected for the "Service Above Self" award which the Rotary defines as their mission. Of eight students recognized in the region, three were from the Westmont Hilltop School District. **Thomas Polacek** was in second place and **Andrew Schroeder** was third. **Patrick Moon-Rhoades** was second for the Service Above Self Award.

Student Council

After a successful year of engagement in leadership, positive citizenship, and service to school and community led by **Brock Rozich**, Brock passed the gavel to President-Elect **Bradley Schroeder**. Mrs. Toni Callahan retired from teaching this year, concluding thirteen years as advisor of Student Council (as long as the Class of 2008 has been in school counting kindergarten)! We are both grateful to Mrs. Callahan for her service, and we are pleased to welcome Mr. Jonathan Rutledge as the new advisor.

Gifts of Love

Gabrielle and Annie Fiffick organized the Gifts of Love Campaign, the purpose of which was to provide toys to children who were receiving treatment at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. In the past two years, students of the district have donated over 1,100 toys, in addition to cash donations for the children in need. Gabriella is in fifth grade, and sister Annie is in grade 10.

Graduation Projects are Service Opportunity

The Class of 2008 was creative in their approach to their Graduation Projects and discovered the opportunity for community service involved in the requirement. Each graduate must complete a project in one of four areas, two of which are school improvement or community service projects.

Students went above and beyond what was required. Some examples include the installation of a wonderful new sign at the entrance of the high school; the installment of a flagpole at the soccer field; volunteering in various capacities at the elementary and middle schools; organizing events for the benefit of

the needy; teaching younger children in community settings; organizing sports camps for area youth; sending prayer kits and remembrances to our men and women in the armed services; creation of spot announcements advocating safety and responsible behavior in peers; recycling projects; refurbishing projects; and contribution or service to the Women's Help Center, local nursing homes, the Humane Society, Outdoor Odyssey, YMCA, Girls' in the Middle, the Soup Kitchen, the WHHS Sculpture Garden; and helping in various youth programs throughout the community.

Graduation Project: High School Entrance Sign

This senior beautification project would not have been possible without the help of the Westmont Hilltop Family. Michael Ballow, Max Smeal, and Elizabeth Prociuk would like to thank the following donors for their financial help towards the entry sign project at the high school: *Ace Hardware, Allegheny Orthodontic Associates, Mr. Nick Bennett, Dr. John Burnheimer, Dale Oxygen, Inc., The Drennen Family, Dr. and Mrs. David Carney, The Carpenter Family, Dr. Frank Carney, Dr. and Mrs. William Carney, The Catanese Group, Formica Optical, FWF Insurance Agency, Mr. Robert Gleason, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gleason Jr., Mrs. Deborah Herbert, The Kunkle Family, Mrs. Susan Lease, Lichtenfels Nursery, Mr. Arthur McQuillan, Minahan Sign Company, The Muchesko Family, Mrs. Margaret A. SerVaas, Robert L. Smeal CPA, Mrs. Karen Varga, Western PA. Orthopedics, Westmont Hilltop Student Government, Mrs. Sharon Yoder, and Mr. Samuel Zamias.*

Graduation Project: High School Entrance Sign

Left-Right: Max Smeal, Elizabeth Prociuk, Michael Ballow



Key Club

The following article was written and submitted by Key Club President **Amanda Komara** on behalf of Key Club. Thanks are extended to Amanda for her leadership.

"This year, Key Club participated in various projects making differences in the community and others' lives. The first major project was the very successful clothing drive benefiting the Society of St. Vincent De Paul. The hard work and dedication that Key Club put into this project attracted the attention of a local TV station and was featured on TV!"

In October, the halls of Westmont were filled with costumed students for the annual Halloween Costume Contest where the winner received two tickets for the winter formal. During the holiday season, members were able to donate gifts to children or the elderly to bring them joy when they otherwise would not be receiving any presents. Later in the year, Key Club undertook a project to send care packages to friends and family overseas; the entire school donated items that the troops desperately needed.

Daffodils were everywhere when they arrived after the successful annual sale for the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days. In the spring, Key Club showed its support for the baseball and softball teams by hosting tailgate parties before the games. The proceeds benefited "Nothing but Nets." Entertaining music and delicious food were enjoyed by the students who came to watch the games.

Teaming up with the Middle School's Westy's Angels, Key Club walked to help find a cure for multiple sclerosis at Cambria County's Annual MS Walk.

At the end of the year, Key Club beautified the school by getting their hands dirty and planting flowers! After a very enjoyable year, Key Club has had many beneficial accomplishments for the community and those who were impacted by the hard work of its members."

Westy's Angels at the Middle School

Westy's Angels, an eighth grade service group, had enthusiastic participants this year. Although the current participants are all girls, the program is open to boys as well. Westy's Angels, in conjunction with the middle school Student Government, collected over 500 boxes of cereal which were donated to the Salvation Army. Both the Angels and Student Government worked to collect canned food for a drive sponsored by St. Vincent DePaul. Students, teachers, and staff contribute to Westy's Angels fundraising initiatives. Money raised from these projects is saved for the "Treasures for Children" shopping trip. This annual trip is an activity the Angels look forward to each year. They strive to purchase the items on each needy child's wish list, but they always add something of themselves with the gifts.

Congratulations go out to the Angels for their effort in raising money for the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days, as they won this year's **Flower Power Award**. This award is presented to the school selling the most daffodils. With the support of faculty, students, and staff, Westy's Angels collected \$2,791.00 during Daffodil Days. Angels also participated in trick-or-treat at an area nursing home and the Walkathon for Multiple Sclerosis. The Westy's Angels have been invited to join Key Club when they get to the high school next year by **Amanda Komara**, Key Club President.

The Westy's Angels are: **Ashleigh Anderson, Alicia Bowser, Sarah Bunyea, Brittany Carney, Kayla Causer, Giana DeMarco, DeAnnah Dick, Emily Dozier, Alyson Forman, Celina Gutierrez, Kelcy Harrison, Nicole Hasse, Allison Henry, Lyndsie Lampel, Meredith Herman, Kelsey Hoover, Tori Karsaba, Sarah Layton, Megan Legath, Marissa Miller, Amy Regan, Niza Scuderi, Nicole Simmons, Carolyn Somerville, Britney Smith, Lida Thompson, Emma Thomson, Jenny Weinzierl, Tracy Yanosky, and Megan Ziemba.**

Marine Care Package Drive

Mrs. Wild's Room led and the entire middle school participated in a Marine Care Package Drive for 2006 graduate John Patrick Skelley and his platoon in Iraq. Lance Corporal John Patrick Skelley was deployed as a member of the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. To honor the Marine Corp's birthday and Veterans' Day, elementary students decorated bags and made cards so that each marine would receive a treat. Student Government also participated in this venture to benefit 40 platoon members. Students and faculty received a message of thanks from the 1st sergeant who wrote this note of thanks, *"Your Marines have been doing a lot of good out here. Shepherds are abiding in the fields, local shops and markets are blossoming, and people are returning home. We've even opened another school in our area. Santa likes it when we do that. Your support has had a much larger impact on the bigger picture than many of you will ever know."*

Sixth Grader **Conner Hagins** collected stuffed animals for hospitalized children. His enormous effort was highlighted in the Tribune-Democrat as he began working on his second toy drive for the benefit of the Alternative Community Resource Program, the Women's Help Center, and Good Samaritan Nursing Care Center.

First semester eighth grade students in Industrial Technology class participated in a bicycle repair unit. All bikes were donated by district residents, district employees, and local bike stores. Students learned bicycle repair and refurbishing skills during class times. Following that project, students repaired old bicycles to donate to the needy.

Miss Hillegass's and Mrs. Peskuric's sixth grade reading classes have read over 100 books which will be donated to a needy school somewhere in the United States in the name of the Westmont Hilltop School District.

Seventh grade students in Mrs. Carpenter's physical education classes contributed over \$200 through a voluntary sports initiative during homeroom period. As a result, four elementary students and one middle school student will have books and materials for school through the ProPapa Program.

PERFORMING ARTS

The students in the photograph below this article have excelled in Chorus, Band, Orchestra, and/or Choir, and in some cases, all of the above. These students participated in the Pennsylvania Music Education Association Events.



Row 1: National School Orchestra Award: Tracey Sojak, **National School Choral Awards:** Brittany Molnar, Matthew Varchol

Row 2: Westmont Hilltop Memorial Scholarship: Sean McGhee (Absent: Wennie Tabib), **Ken Null Memorial Award:** Thomas Rohrabough, **John Phillip Sousa Award:** Patrick Moon-Rhoades

In additional recognitions, **Katilyn Shultz** represented the district at Regional Chorus. **Amanda Rok** and **Ryan Snow** received the Director's Award for Band. The Samuel Hillard Outdoor Award went to **Alexandra Holms**, and the Samuel Hillard Indoor Award to **Monica Rohrabough**. The Ken Null Memorial Award was earned by **Thomas Rohrabough**.

Westmont Hilltop Students Performed Grease

Grease was one of the most energetic and visually exciting shows ever presented on the stage of the Westmont Hilltop High School. As indicated by the three-night advance sellout, the general public was intrigued by the show and more so by the talent that young performers displayed, supported by their talented music teacher, Elizabeth (Beth) Good.

The Fourth Annual Isaac Awards were held at the Mishler Theater in May of 2008 to recognize student achievement in high school musicals in Cambria and Blair Counties with thirteen participating schools involved in the nominations. **Elizabeth Menna** was the winner in the category of Costume Design. **Matthew Varchol** was runner-up as Best Actor in a Featured Role for his performance as Teen Angel. **Brittany Molnar** was nominated for Best Actress in a Supporting Role.



Matthew Varchol as Teen Angel



Brittany Molnar plays Rizzo

The Pennsylvania Music Educators' Association District 6 Elementary Band Fest Awards go to: Stephen Kupchella, Aaron Marko, Rachel Mural, and Daphne Valencia.

The Cambria All-County Band award winners were as follows: Grade 7: David Carney, Kevin Dailey, Daniel Durham, Dante Horvath, and Shannon Marko. Grade 8: Daniel Dailey, Parag Dharbhamulla, Zachary Georgevich, Sarah Layton, Austin Paratore, Forest Whitlow, and Tasha Yarris.

After School Chorus

In a day and age when parents and educators are concerned with providing healthy and nurturing environments for after school activities, a group of twenty-three eighth grade girls have created their own safe haven after school. Advisor, Kristen Santos commented, *"With very little guidance, the girls decided what songs to sing, how many vocal parts to have, what kinds of choreography to incorporate, and what attire would be appropriate during performances."*

Students demonstrated a great deal of individual responsibility and a deep sense of commitment to the group, since attendance was voluntary. Over time, the group developed considerable talent and began performing for the school talent show, the middle school spring concert, and this year's awards day assemblies in June. They held their own spring recital for family and friends, mastering a half hour of two- and three-part choral music for the event. Each member of the group was recognized during Awards Day with a special award designed just to acknowledge this very spontaneous and special group. Members are: **Alicia Bowser, Chastain Burns, Carly Campbell, Christine Connors, Maggie Green, Brittani Hileman, Katie Jones, Tori Karsaba, Kara Kovach, Jane McIlhenny, Marissa Miller, Olivia Miller, Robin Miller, Amy Regan, Rebecca Seigh, Vanessa Stofko, Erin Suppes, Lida Thompson, Emma Thomson, Kylie Turscello, Hayle Walters, Tasha Yarris, and Brittany Young.** After School Chorus, please keep singing!

Theater Club

Kudos to the Theater Club and their director, Miss Jackie Young, for their First Place finish in the Pennsylvania High School Speech League's Western Regional Drama Festival. Westmont's winning play, *Asylum*, by Alex Baron, advanced to the Pennsylvania High School Speech League State Drama Festival on December 7th and 8th at Susquehanna University. Westmont Hilltop placed second at the state level. *Asylum* is a compelling, thought provoking play about the continuing effects of World War II. Actors: **Zachary Evans, Marianna Campagna, Kirsten Meenan, Alexander Policicchio, Anthony Berardi, John Livingston;** Student Directors: **Jessica Lindberg, Samantha Hippler;** Lighting: **Stephen Legath;** Stage Crew: **Michael Varga.**

Young Artists

Nicole Phillips

The academically and artistically talented **Nikki Phillips** plans to study photography at Tyler School of Art, Temple University this fall. This spring, author/editor Skadi meic Beorh informed Nikki that he had visited her homepage and wanted to use one of her images for the cover of his upcoming historical fiction anthology called *The Age of Blood and Snow*.

The photograph is made up of two images - one of a knights' display taken at the Met in NYC and the second taken at the entrance of Stackhouse Park. To get the final image, Nikki erased the museum background of the knight's image and blended it on top of the Stackhouse Park image, thus producing the effect of knights walking through the woods. The picture was originally created by Nikki for a critique in Mr. Ed's class. The contract is signed and the anthology will be available at www.morriganbooks.com and can be ordered through major book retailers in December of this year. Meanwhile, the same author/editor has approached Nikki to create the cover art for another anthology next year. Congratulations to this young artist.

Young Artists Exhibition

The following students' artwork was chosen to be displayed at the Greater Johnstown Young Artists Exhibition. Awards were presented by Allied Artists of Johnstown and the Community Arts Center: **Brittany Carney, Jonathan Findish, Kenneth Gibson, Jenna Heiser, Kara Kovach, Alexandra Petak, Gina Rievel, and Forest Whitlow.**



Permanent Art Collection Contributors: James Mical, Devin Helmick, Jonathan Findish

Middle School Artists

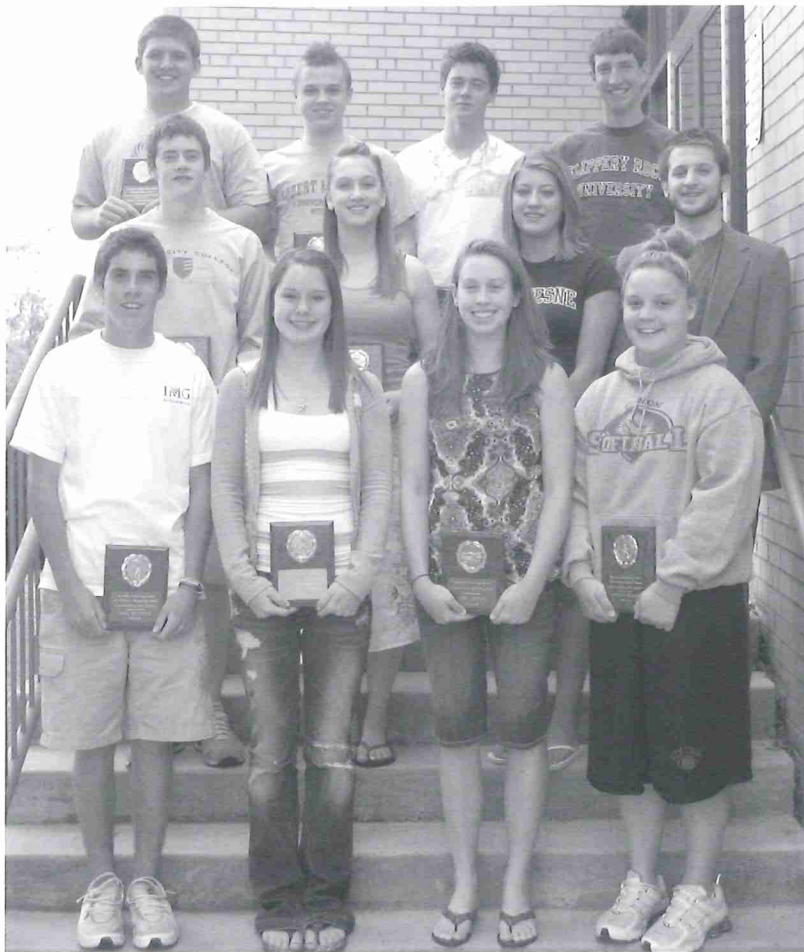
The students pictured here are middle school students who produced works that were deemed to be worthy of contribution to the permanent art collection of the middle school. These works are framed and hung in various prominent locations throughout the middle school. A plaque is added to each piece in recognition of the artist.

Sports Achievement

Westmont Hilltop has always had success in sports and sportsmanship. Although Westmont Hilltop did not win the Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference (LHAC) All Sports Trophy this year, we did place second in the conference, after a run of winning the LHAC trophy for seven years in a row! Congratulations and thanks to all the athletes and coaches in our school for representing our school with pride and dignity. Below are some Westmont Hilltop Noteworthy Newsflashes from the world of sports. Note additional details of athletic success included in the picture captions distributed throughout this article.

The Golf Team completed the season as Tri-Champions in the LHAC. They won the Anderson Golf Tournament and placed second in the Wheeling Tournament. We shared the Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference championship in golf with Bedford. The William J. Hargreaves Award for the Outstanding Male Golfer went to **Reid Griffith**. Reid was a district qualifier and will be attending Duquesne on a golf scholarship. The outstanding female golfer is **Julia Wolfe**. As a freshman and sophomore, Julia played in the district tournament.

The Westmont Hilltop Girls' and Boys' Swim Teams had another successful year in the pool. Twenty-four boys and girls represented Westmont Hilltop at the Regional Swim Meet held at State College. The girls' team secured a 3rd place showing at Regional Competition. The boys also had an impressive season and matched the girls by also placing 3rd at Regional competition. **Kelly Dorian** and **Kevin Koul** qualified for state level competition in their individual events. The relay team of **Kelly Dorian, Kevin Koul, Joseph Ward, and John Livingston** also qualified for states. The Swim Team subsequently sent four swimmers to state level competition. Kelly Dorian placed 5th in his event at states and broke the school record in the 100-yard butterfly. There were many candidates for outstanding girl and boy swimmers this year, but two stood out in particular. This year's outstanding girl swimmer is **Abby Motley** and this year's outstanding boy swimmer is **John Livingston**.



Row 1: Outstanding Boys' Golfer: Reid Griffith, **Outstanding Girls' Golfer:** Julia Wolfe, **Outstanding Girls' Swimmer:** Abigail Motley, **Outstanding Girls' Soccer Player:** Ashley Strack, **Row 2: Outstanding Boys' Cross Country:** Austin Brownlee, **Outstanding Girls' Cross Country:** Allison Eanes, **William Askey Scholarship:** Rebecca Rummel, **Outstanding Boys' Swimmer:** John Livingston, **Row 3: Outstanding Baseball Player:** Sean McDonald, **Outstanding Boys' Soccer Players:** Adam Lasky, Corbett Drummey, Seth Mathews

Rebecca Rummel is the 2008 recipient of the William A. Askey Scholarship Award. Mr. Askey was a teacher and Athletic Director at Westmont Hilltop School District. His daughter Karen established this scholarship to honor her father and female athletes who demonstrate the highest caliber of sportsmanship and scholarship.

Lindsey Pavlikowski is this year's recipient of the Volleyball Award. Lindsey demonstrated leadership, dedication, and team work throughout the season. She led the volleyball team in assists and service aces. She was selected to the Laurel Highlands All-Conference Team and played in the Cambria – Somerset All-Star Game.

The Girls' Varsity Volleyball team qualified for the District VI playoffs.

Freshmen **Jason Dean** and **Rachel Rajter** qualified for the state cross country meet held in Hershey.

Kyle Kunkle was first on the track team in total points, a two-year letter winner, and PIAA qualifier last season. He was less than two seconds from the 800-meter school record.

Alexa Eplett was named MVP for girls' track. Alexa was first on the girls' track team in total points and a district qualifier in all four of her events.

Nick Khuri, four-year letter winner and past PIAA qualifier, was named as MVP for boys' track—watch for more on Nick later in the newsletter.

Both boys' and girls' soccer teams qualified for the District VI playoffs.

In the LHAC, there were only three football teams that posted a winning conference record in each of the past three seasons, and Westmont Hilltop was one of the three. The team of 2008 had the first group of seniors to finish all three years with a .500 or better regular season record since 2001.

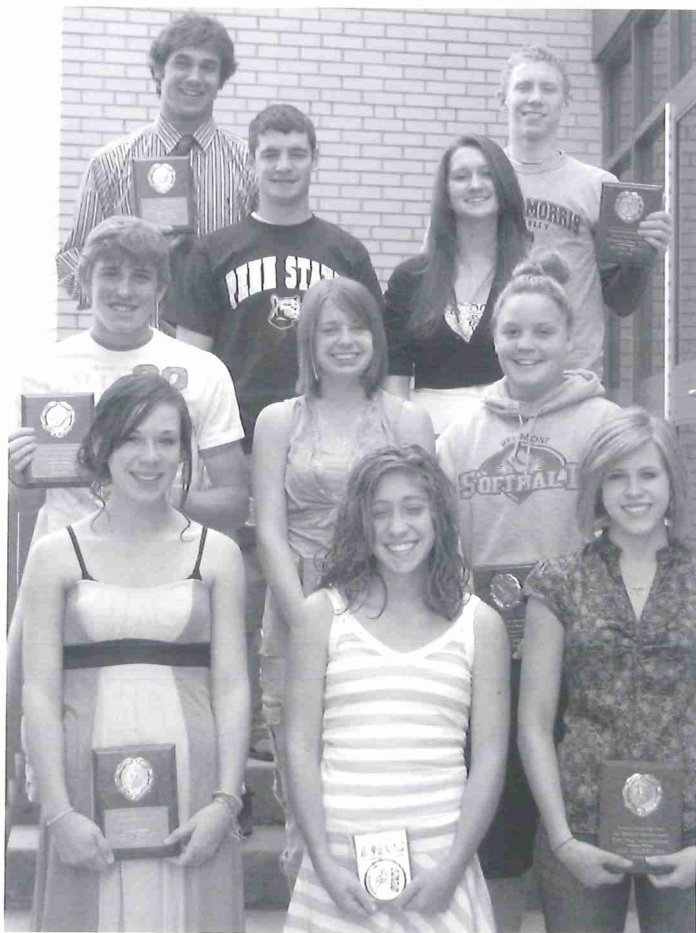
Nine wrestlers advanced to regionals. State qualifiers were **Michael Brant**, **Tanner Hough**, and **Thomas Polacek**. Wrestlers Michael Brant and Thomas (T. J.) Polacek each earned their 100th career wins during wrestling season this year. Michael Brant placed 4th, and freshman Tanner Hough earned 6th place at the state wrestling tournament.

Michael Brant made it to state level pole vault competition for the fourth time. Watch for more on Michael later in the newsletter.

Named to All-Tournament Teams were **Michael Ballow** for Varsity Boys' Basketball and **Kirsten Meenan** for Varsity Girls' Basketball.

Julia Asel and **Abby Motley** won the District VI Doubles Championship in Tennis and represented Westmont Hilltop at the state tournament. The team qualified for the team tennis championships.

The Boys' Tennis Team won the District VI Team Title and competed in the first round of the state tournament. **Utsav Bhat** and **Devin Layton** won the District VI Doubles Championship and competed at the state tournament in Hershey. It is noteworthy that Utsav had to finish his national level forensics competition and then fly to the tennis tournament, held the same weekend. This is yet another indicator of Utsav's multi-faceted talent in both academic and athletic realms.



Row 1: Outstanding Girls' Track: Alexa Eplett, **Laurel Highlands Athletic Conference All Conference Girls' Track Award:** Rachel Rajter, **Track Team Dedication:** Jill DelSignore
Row 2: Outstanding Boys' Track: Kyle Kunkle, **Outstanding Softball Players:** Shauna Hetrick, Ashley Strack
Row 3: Outstanding Boys' Basketball Player: Samuel Hahn, **Outstanding Volleyball Player:** Lindsey Pavlikowski, **Outstanding Football Player and Outstanding Boys' Track:** Nicholas Khuri, **Outstanding Hockey Player:** Brenden Boyle

ATHLETIC RECOGNITION

Ashley Strack has worked very hard in hope that her dream of playing softball in college will one day come true. She competed and played in the invitation-only Pennsbury College Showcase in Philadelphia in June. She finished in the top 15% of the 475 competitors. She competed with and played against girls from all over the United States including teams from Washington State, Colorado, Kansas, Florida, Virginia, and New York. In July of 2008, Coach Morrow received notification from the National Fast Pitch Coaches Association (NFCA) that Ashley was selected to the Second Team NFCA North, and is recognized as one of the top catchers in the northern region of the United States.

Even though the Hilltopper Highlights is dedicated to STUDENT achievement, it is impossible to resist a nod toward the men and women who give countless hours of their time to ensure that success. The following have received honorable mention:

Michael Harchick earned his 200th victory for boys' cross country. Mr. Harchick has an overall record of 200-81 in 27 years as a head coach at Westmont Hilltop.

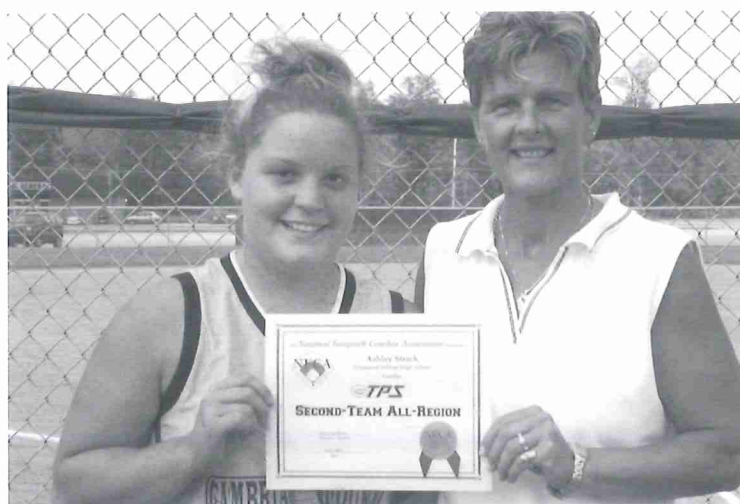
Hockey coach Arthur McQuillan attained hockey's highest coaching certification level.

Softball coach Tina Morrow surpassed the all-time record for the most wins by a Westmont Hilltop softball coach.

Boys' basketball coach David Roman celebrated his 200th career win on February 6, 2008.



Row 1: Outstanding Girls' Tennis Players: Julia Asel, Abigail Motley
Herdman Scholarship: Jeffrey Dailey
Row 2: Outstanding Girls' Basketball Player: Kirsten Meenan
John Khuri Scholarship: Samuel Hahn
Row 3: Milt Lantz Scholarship: Devin Dorian, Thomas Polocek, Michael Brant
Outstanding Wrestlers: Michael Brant (Boys' Track Team Dedication) Tanner Hough
Row 4: Outstanding Boys' Tennis Players: Devin Layton, Sean McGhee, Utsav Bhat



NFCA Honoree Ashley Strack with Coach Tina Morrow

Speaking of Sports!

On Sunday evening, August 10, 2008, students, parents, administrators, and board members gathered to initiate the 2008-2009 fall sports season. The purpose of the meeting was a pledge of respect and honor for athletes, parents, and personnel at all levels and in all sports arenas. The Leadership Team and School Board jointly acknowledge our roles as partners with parents in ensuring that students have the most enjoyable, positive, comprehensive, and challenging experience possible in the Westmont Hilltop School District.

The School Board, under the leadership of President Mitchell Azar, is currently engaged in an initiative to create a cohesive approach to all of our athletic programs through a unified effort coordinating programs from the junior high through varsity levels. To that end, thanks to the contributions of our Student Activities Committee, we have planned an approach to our sports programs that will involve every member of our community in ensuring an atmosphere of honor and respect for students and coaches alike. In particular, we acknowledge the contributions of Chairperson Diana Schroeder, and board members Leah Spangler, Rooney Gleason, Kelly Callihan; and Athletic Directors Colleen Goerlich and Thomas Callihan in conjunction with the Leadership Team in this effort.

Westmont Hilltop has a long tradition of academic and athletic excellence. We believe that athletic endeavor extends and enhances academic capacity. During the meeting of August 11, parents were invited to join school personnel in doing their part to provide outstanding role models for students, demonstrating ways to win with grace and lose with dignity, recognizing the skill of opponents in positive ways, and ensuring that all members of our community feel the respect of every other member in our athletic arenas. Community members are encouraged to demonstrate respect and sportsmanship by:

- **Encouraging our student-athletes to perform their best, just as we would urge them on with their class work, knowing that others will always turn in better or lesser performances;**
- **Realizing that athletics are part of the education experience, and that the benefits of involvement are not dependent upon the final score of a contest;**
- **Respecting the tasks our coaches face as teachers; and supporting them as they strive to educate our youth;**
- **Learning, understanding and respecting the rules of the contest, the officials who administer them, and their decisions;**
- **Honoring our opponents as competitors, and valuing them for the ways in which they provide the impetus for higher achievement;**
- **Acknowledging other team members as well as opponents for striving to do their best;**
- **Developing the capacity to maintain a sense of dignity under all circumstances**

Middle School Students Compete on an International Level

Westmont Hilltop students Ben Legath and Will Spangler played baseball on an international level—competing in the 2008 Pony League World Series. In their first game, the Boilers won against Puerto Rico by a score of 6 to 2, with Legath as pitcher. The boys play for the B. Hale Boilers, part of the Johnstown City League. In order to qualify for the World Series, the team had to win a series of tournaments, beating out many other talented teams from across western Pennsylvania. The Boilers were also the city league champions for the 2008 season, and were awarded trophies during the AAABA tournament.

The Boilers represented the Host Area (western Pennsylvania) in the 2008 Pony League World Series. In addition to Puerto Rico, they also competed against China and several teams from around the United States.



Annual Public Notice Helping Children with Special Needs

The Westmont Hilltop School District provides pre-referral and special education services to children with special needs. There are two important resources for parents and community members to help in deciding whether students need extra help or special services and, if so, what services are available and how to take advantage of them. The links to this information, along with a description of the type of information available are listed below.

For more information, please call your school guidance counselors, nurses, or building principals as follows: High School—255-8726, Middle School—255-8704, or Elementary School—255-8707.

At the link below, community members will find information about

contact people, student support teams, signals that children may need special education, types of services available, educational programs for parents, and guidelines for helping children in crisis situations.

You may access this site online from any public library computer, or call the school if you need online assistance: www.whsd.org

The Intermediate Unit 8 provides an Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services and Programs in the State of Pennsylvania that is publicized in local newspapers, but also available at the following link: <http://www.iu08.org:9080/iu8/departments/educational-programs/Announcements/annual-public-notice/>

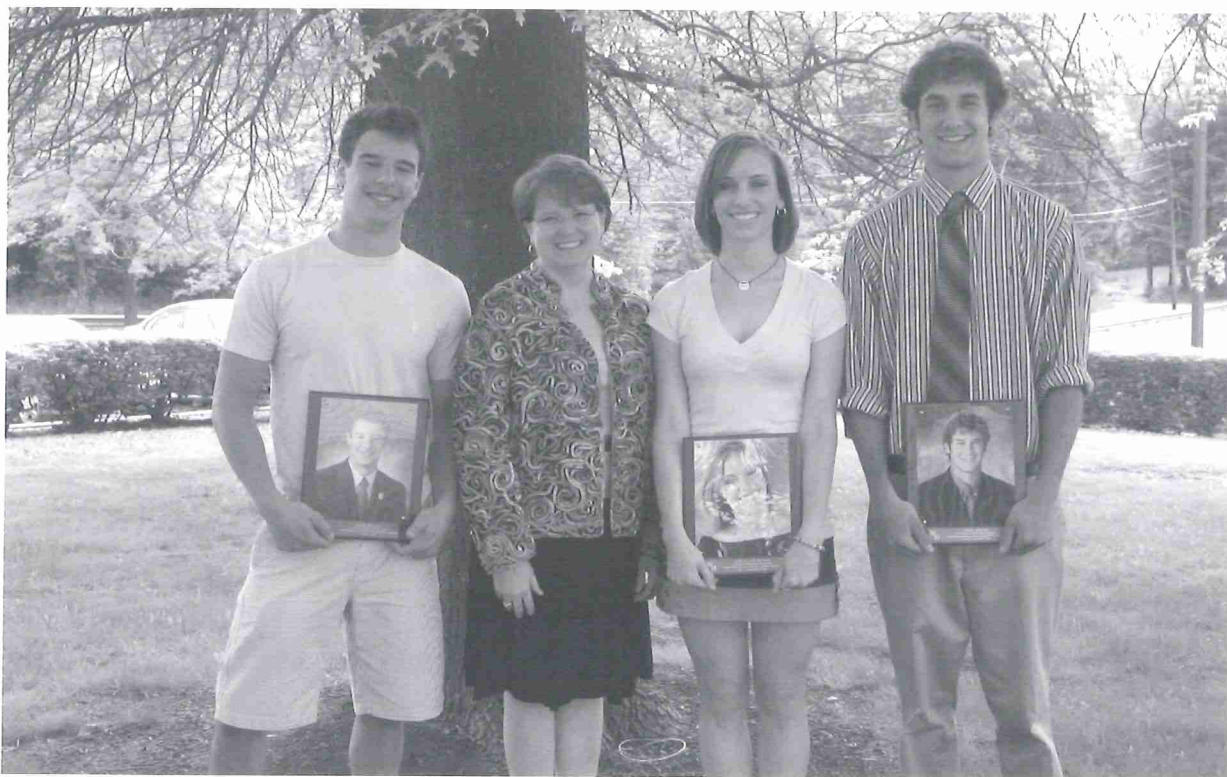
This site includes information regarding the Pennsylvania

Department of Education's responsibility to ensure that all children with disabilities residing in the Commonwealth, including children with disabilities attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated. This responsibility is required by a federal law called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 2004 (IDEA '04). It provides details about special education law, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, and the types of programs that are available for students who have been identified as being in need of specially designed instruction and have one or more of the following physical or mental disabilities:

Autism	Mental Retardation	Visual Impairment including Blindness
Emotional Disturbance	Multiple Disabilities	Deaf-Blindness
Deafness	Other Health Impairment	Traumatic Brain Injury
Hearing Impairment	Orthopedic Impairment due to Chronic or Acute Health Problems	Developmental Delay
Specific Learning Disability	Speech and Language Impairment	

The processes of early intervention, screening services, evaluation, and educational placement are explained along with the types of services and levels of support. Information regarding parents' and students' rights and protections are detailed, including issues of privacy and confidentiality, and procedures to be followed if you feel that rights have been violated.

2008 Individual Excellency Awards



Individual Excellency Awards: Left to right: Michael Brant **Chairman of Student Activities:** Mrs. Diana Schroeder **Individual Excellency Awards:** Laura St. Clair, Nicholas Khuri

2008 Outstanding Male Athletic Awards Michael Brant and Nicholas Khuri

Michael Brant earned eight varsity letters as a student-athlete at Westmont Hilltop – four each in wrestling and track. During his varsity wrestling career, Mike had a 112-39 record, pinning his opponent 45 times. In his junior year, he placed 2nd in District VI competition and qualified for the regional tournament. In his senior year, he captured the District VI championship, finished 2nd in regional competition, and ended his senior season as the 4th place wrestler at the PIAA State Wrestling Championship Tournament.

In track and field, Mike was a three-time state qualifier in pole vault competition. He was a two-time LHAC Champion and four-time District VI place winner. Mike was a member of Westmont Hilltop's National Honor Society and received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he will continue his wrestling career.

Nicholas Khuri earned eleven varsity letters as a student-athlete at Westmont Hilltop – four in track and three each in football and basketball. In football, Nick was named team MVP during his senior year. Other football

honors included being named to the SAFCA All-Star Team, and he was a LHAC All-Conference Selection. Nick was also selected to appear in the Ken Lantzy All-Star Game.

During his senior year in basketball, Nick averaged 8.4 points and 8.1 rebounds per game. He also led the team in assists and blocked shots and had an outstanding 57% field goal percentage. In track and field, Nick was a four-time District VI Qualifier and a one-time PIAA State Qualifier. He was named Co-MVP following his senior year. Nick will continue his education at Pennsylvania State University.

2008 Outstanding Female Athletic Award Laura St. Clair

Laura St. Clair earned six varsity letters as a student-athlete at Westmont Hilltop – two each in soccer, swimming, and softball. In swimming, she qualified for the regional tournament in breaststroke competition in both her junior and senior years. In softball, Laura was named as a scholar-athlete by the National Fast Pitch Coaches' Association following both her freshman and sophomore seasons. Laura was a member of Westmont Hilltop's National Honor Society and will continue her education at Duquesne University where she plans to major in business and pre-law.

School Cancellations Will be Posted on the Web

Visit www.whsd.org, the Westmont Hilltop School District main web page for district status and information. When inclement weather, or any other condition forces a delay, cancellation, or early dismissal of school, this information will be posted at that site on the web if possible. Information will also be broadcast through local media resources.

Senior Residents Have V.I.P. Status

Senior Residents are reminded that one way the district can acknowledge and thank senior residents for their contributions to our educational system is through our V.I.P. (Very Important Person) passes. Seniors enjoy free admission to all school-related athletic events. The only exceptions are hockey games played at the Cambria County War Memorial and the annual musical. If you are a senior resident, age 62 or older, you are eligible for a V.I.P. pass. To obtain one, please contact the district office at 814-255-6751.

Students Achieve on PSSA 2008

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires that all groups of students reach proficiency in mathematics and reading by the year 2014. Students must meet benchmark goals along the way, requiring that they reach target goals in attendance, graduation rate, academic performance in reading and mathematics, and participation in the taking the test. For

a school to be considered as making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward the 2014 goal of 100%, all annual benchmark targets must be met. District targets are assessed in three grade spans as follows: Grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. The Westmont Hilltop School District met AYP goals in every area and at all three levels during the 2007-2008 school year. A more detailed analysis of scores will be conducted at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, and a "District Report Card" will be published for community access. We are proud of our students and commend them for this outstanding achievement.

Sources of Funding

The Westmont Hilltop School District received funding from the following federal and state sources and publicizes receipt, as follows:

Title I	\$ 197,315
Title II	\$ 47,327
Safe and Drug Free Schools	\$ 3,737
Accountability Block Grant	\$ 132,134
IDEIA	\$ 177,610

Title I provides our kindergarten Title I program, and as of this year, the addition of 1.5 new Title I support teachers. Title II provides a portion of an extra teacher's salary in the elementary school which helps with class size reduction. The Safe and Drug-Free Schools Grant contributes toward the salaries of aides, helps toward bullying prevention efforts, and funds tutoring services for students who may be academically at risk. It funds prevention initiatives such as initiatives by the personnel responsible for the Student Assistance Program. The Accountability Block Grant funds early childhood initiatives and the implementation of full-day kindergarten. IDEIA funding is dedicated to the funding of an additional special education teacher at our high school and related support services for children.

You Are Invited...

The Westmont Hilltop School District Endowment Event will follow the format we used last year, including a special event to be held at the Grove, 1000 Edgehill Drive, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., immediately following the homecoming football game vs. Bishop McCort on Saturday, October 4, 2008.

The event will feature prizes, appetizers, and beverages.

See inside the back page of this newsletter for information on how to obtain a ticket.

Details will be published on the website at <http://www.whsd.org>.

You Are Invited to the Fourth Annual All Community Event

Benefits the Westmont Hilltop School District Endowment

- Date:** Saturday, October 4, 2008
- Place:** The Grove, 1000 Edgehill Drive
- Time:** 4:00-6:00 p.m. or immediately following the Homecoming Football Game vs. Bishop McCort
- Planning:** The event will feature prizes, appetizers, and beverages.
Details will be published on the District Website:
www.whsd.org
- Tickets:** Tickets are \$100. One ticket will entitle the bearer and one adult guest to appetizers, beverages, and a chance to win \$10,000, plus chances at multiple lower level cash prizes throughout the event.
- RSVP:** By September 7, send your request for a "ticket for two" along with the completed registration form below to:

Endowment Event

827 Diamond Boulevard, Johnstown, PA 15905 • 255-6751

What is it?

The Endowment is a "Nest Egg." The establishment of a permanent endowment fund will give the school district a new way to support the students and the school community. This endowment fund will target the needs that our students and faculty, and especially the donors to the Endowment Fund, identify as important to them. Proceeds go to the Westmont Hilltop School District Endowment at the Community Foundation and gifts are tax deductible.

How an Endowment Fund Works

An endowment is funded by tax deductible donations that are invested to earn interest. Only the growth of the investment is used; the initial donation is held permanently.

Who decides where my contribution goes?

People who donate to the endowment funds have the option of directing what special programs they would like to support or leaving that to the discretion of the Endowment advisors.

Where did the donations to start the fund originate?

The initial gift to the endowment fund constitutes contributions made by school board members and the leadership team in honor of our former superintendent, Dr. Carol Strange, who retired after twenty-six years of service to the district. The Endowment Fund is administered through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies and may be placed online at www.cfalleghenies.org

Fourth Annual Westmont Hilltop School District Endowment Event Reservations

Name(s) of Attendee(s) _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Westmont Hilltop Alumni? Circle "No" or "Yes" If Yes, Class of _____

Please make checks (\$100 per ticket—including adult guest) payable to WHSD Endowment Fund

Tax deductible gifts of any amount are accepted at any time during the year.

Westmont Hilltop School District Directory Information 2007-2008

Board Of Education

Mr. Mitchell Azar: President
Mr. George Wolfe: Vice-President
Mrs. Marian Feath: Treasurer
Mrs. Kelly Callihan, Mr. Kamal Gella, Mr. Robert Gleason III, Dr. Gary Kramer,
Mrs. Diana Schroeder, Mrs. Leah Spangler, Mr. Gregory Sanford: Secretary

District Administrative Staff

Dr. Susan J. Anderson, *Superintendent*
Mr. Steven D. McGee, *Assistant Superintendent*
Mr. Gregory T. Sanford, *Business Manager*

Building Administrative Staff

Mr. Matthew P. Thomas, *High School Principal*
Mrs. Nicole D. Kuzmiak, *Middle School Principal*
Mr. Samuel J. Brunatti III, *Elementary School Principal*
Mr. Thomas R. Mitchell, *Assistant High School Principal*
Mr. Edward W. Benning, *Assistant Middle School Principal*

Administrative Offices

827 Diamond Boulevard, Johnstown PA 15905
Phone: 814-255-6751 Fax: 814-255-7735
E-mail: Dr. Susan Anderson, Superintendent, sja@whsd.org

Mission Statement

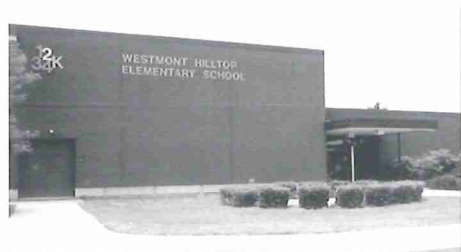
The mission of the WHSD, in partnership with our community, is to prepare each student to be an informed, ethical, responsible adult in a changing and competitive global society, through high expectations and a challenging educational program offering knowledge and skills within a safe, nurturing environment.

Civil Rights Statement

The Westmont Hilltop School District, an equal opportunity employer, will not discriminate in employment, educational programs or activities, based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, ancestry or disability. Publication of this policy in this document is in accordance with state and federal laws including: The Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IV, Title VI, Title VII, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 & 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the American Disabilities Act of 1992.



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Elementary School



Middle School



High School

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