

WEST GEAUGA HIGH SCHOOL

13401 Chillicothe Road
Chesterland, OH 44026
School Hours: 7:25 -1:25

Principal: Jay Bishop
jay.bishop@westg.org

Assistant Principal: Shawn Krippel
shawn.krippel@westg.org

Important Numbers:
Attendance (440) 729-5951
Fax (440) 729-5959
Main Office (440) 729-5950

WEST GEAUGA MIDDLE SCHOOL

8611 Cedar Road
Chesterland, OH 44026
School Hours: 7:25-1:24

Principal: Ron Dahlhofer
ron.dahlhofer@westg.org

Attendance (440) 729-5906
Fax (440) 729-5909
Main Office (440) 729-5940

ROBERT C. LINDSEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

11844 Caves Road
Chesterland, OH 44026
School Hours 8:40-3:20

Principal: Meagan Bellan
meagan.bellan@westg.org

Attendance (440) 729-5981
Fax (440) 729-5989
Main Office (440) 729-5980

WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

13738 Caves Road
Novelty, OH 44072
School Hours: 9:00-3:40

Principal: Deborah Nanney
deborah.nanney@westg.org

Attendance (440) 729-5991
Fax (440) 729-5924
Main Office (440) 729-5990

The Kids are Back!

Students and staff are back in the classrooms at West Geauga Local Schools. Approximately 75% of the students returned to the school buildings on September 8, 2020. The classroom arrangement provides for six feet between all desks and all students



Mrs. Trentanelli sharing a book with her first graders

and staff must wear masks. Although challenging at times, the teachers are striving to make a great experience for the children. The classroom instruction is engaging and exciting for all of our students.

Athletics in Full Swing



Nicola Ehrbar and Shannon Swinerton during the victory over Kirtland.

The West Geauga Athletics seasons are back in action. The Wolverines offer Football, Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Boys and Girls Cross Country, Cheerleading, and Volleyball this fall. Several mandates including occupancy of events have limited the number of spectators at these events. The

school district has been live streaming all of the home contests on the newly created Athletic Department YouTube Channel. Fans can find athletic events by going to:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbKcSFEA1x9ltiZpv_26RHA

Past events have been posted on this site as well. This has been an extremely popular way of seeing our student athletes perform at a high level. The athletes have also enjoyed seeing the videos after they have played.

Dear West Geauga Resident:

School has been in session now for over a month. This school year is one of new experiences for us. We have many new students and staff from the former Newbury Local School District who are now Wolverines. We are glad they are a part of our school community. We also have a primary (K-2) building at Westwood and an intermediate (3-5) building at Lindsey.

Approximately 25% of our students are attending school virtually from home as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the elementary level, many of those students are assigned a teacher who teaches only remote classes. At the middle school and high school levels, the majority of online instruction takes place within classes that also have in-person students in the actual school buildings. These various models pose real challenges for our teachers as they take on the extra work of teaching in several learning modalities. I am proud of their efforts.

Our schools have new cleaning and sanitizing protocols in place. The board hired four additional custodians to help carry the increased cleaning load. The district also purchased new disinfecting equipment to help them do their job more efficiently.

Our athletic program is in full swing with health and safety rules related to practices and interscholastic competitions. We must also adhere to strict regulation of spectator attendance. We are sorry that so many of our faithful fans are temporarily prohibited from attending athletic events but we must give first priority to the parents of our student participants.

So far, our efforts to keep our students and staff safe appear to be working. We will see what the winter months hold for us as flu season approaches, but I am very proud of the job that we (administrators, teachers, support staff, families, and students) have done thus far.



Our students are wonderful. Their behavior could not be better. Masks are not fun. Social distancing is not natural. Still, the students are performing like champs! Thanks for raising such great kids and for sharing them with us.

Sincerely,
Rich Markwardt, Ph.D.

Welcome New Staff - High School



Brianna Blair

Brianna joins the high school Mathematics Department this year. She holds a Master's degree in Educational Technology and is licensed in

Integrated Mathematics. She has worked in the Newbury Local Schools for the past nine years. In her free time, she enjoys Ultimate Frisbee and singing. She is also a Karaoke and Wedding DJ.



Justin Lesesky

Justin joins the West Geauga High School History Department teaching World History. He has a Bachelor's

degree from Ohio University and holds licensure in Integrated Social Studies. He has taught the last 14 years at Newbury Local Schools. In his free time, he enjoys running, fishing and going to the beach with his family.



Kristen Csontos

Kristen joins the West Geauga High School English Department this year. She has a Bachelor's from Notre Dame College and an Associate degree from Lakeland

Community College. She has worked at Charles F. Brush High School and Newbury Junior/Senior High School. In her free time, Kristen plays guitar, sings at church, officiates basketball, travels and spends time with her friends.



Kathleen Harrison

Kathleen joins the English Department at West Geauga High School this year. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English and History from Heidelberg

College and a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix. She has taught English/Language Arts at Newbury Local Schools for the past 15 years. She loves

Welcome New Staff - High School



Kristin VanderMaas

Kristin joins the staff at West Geauga High School as an Intervention Specialist. She earned her degree from Hiram College and is licensed in Elementary

Education, Special Education, Health and Physical Education. She has been an Intervention Specialist and Physical Education teacher for the Newbury Local Schools. In her free time, she enjoys Cleveland sports and her grandchildren.



Meredith Cusman

Meredith joins the staff at West Geauga High School in her new role as an Intervention Specialist. She holds a Bachelor's degree in

Middle Childhood Education in ELA and Science from Lake Erie College and a Master's degree in Special Education from Baldwin-Wallace University. She most recently cotaught ELA at Newbury for four years and was with the district for eight years. In her free time, Meredith enjoys spending time outdoors.



Lauren Tokarsky

Lauren joins the West Geauga High School staff as an Art Teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Columbus College of Art Design and a Master of Arts from Kent State University.

She has previously taught at Waterloo Local Schools and has taught at Newbury Local Schools for the past six years. In her free time, Lauren enjoys painting, cooking, baking, home improvement, hiking and time with her friends and family.



Sam Miller

Sam joins the West Geauga High School Science Department. He has two Bachelor's degrees in Geography/History and Broad Field Science from the University of

Wisconsin - Platteville. He is licenced in Integrated Sciences grades 7-12. Before coming to West G, he taught Science at Newbury for seven years at the middle and high schools. In his free time, Sam enjoys time with his family.



Adam Sopkovich

In addition to being the Head Football Coach for the West Geauga Wolverines, Adam will be joining the staff at the High School as a proctor. He attended Cleveland State University

and Bluffton College. Coach "Sop" has 23 years of experience as a personal trainer and football coach. In his free time, he enjoys hunting and fishing.



Robert Bukovics

Robbie joins the custodial staff at West Geauga High School this year. He has been in the custodial department at Newbury

Local Schools for the past 15 years. In his free time, Robbie enjoys playing guitar and fishing.

Welcome New Staff - Middle School



Carolyn Misosky

Carolyn joins the West Geauga High School staff as a daytime custodian. She comes to West G with 15 years of experience in custodial and maintenance services. In her spare time, Carolyn enjoys biking, hiking, walking and traveling.



Megan Salomone

Megan joins the West Geauga Middle School staff as an Intervention Specialist. She has a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Kent State University

and a Master of Education degree from Notre Dame College. She taught for the Newbury Local School District as well as a non-profit organization that guided students who lived in underprivileged areas access education.



Donna Temple

Donna joins the West Geauga Middle School staff as an Educational Aide. She has a teaching license from Lake Erie

College and is a retired Science, Math, and CBI teacher. She plays the french horn in "The Great Geauga County Fair Band" and "The Snowbelt Musical Association Band."



Susan Sipos

Susan joins the staff at West Geauga Middle Schools teaching the Choices and Challenges program. She has a Bachelor of Arts in

Dietetics from the University of Akron and a Master of Education from Kent State University. She has a license in Family and Consumer Science. She has spent the last 14 years teaching at Newbury after teaching at Cardinal Schools. In her free time, Susan enjoys hiking the Geauga Parks, camping, reading, and knitting.



Mona Lieblich

Mona joins the West Geauga team as an Intervention Specialist at the Middle School and Lindsey Elementary School. She has a Bachelor's degree in

Criminal Justice from Kent State University, Master of Education from Cleveland State, as well as Reading and Transition to Work Endorsements from Kent State University. She has worked at Newbury Local Schools, the Geauga County ESC and Education Alternatives.



Peter Davis

Peter joins the staff at West Geauga Middle School as a daytime custodian. In addition to his full time job, he attends classes at Cuyahoga Community College in the evenings

pursuing a degree in Integrated Systems and Engineering Technology. In his free time, Peter coaches lacrosse and enjoys going on hikes.

Welcome New Staff - Lindsey



Julie Ewing

Julie joins the staff at Lindsey Elementary School as a third grade teacher. She has a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts from Kent State University. She has taught at Newbury for 20 years. In her free time, she enjoys family, gardening, reading and her two dogs.



Michaela Jellen-Tennant

Michaela is the new School Psychologist at Lindsey Elementary School. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at Boston University, a Master of Educational Counseling at the University of Pittsburgh, and Master of Arts/Ed.S in Psychology and School Psychology from Marshall University Graduate College. She has previously worked in School Counseling and Psychology, and as in-home counseling with adjudicated youth. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, reading, walking and cooking.



Christine Jackson

Christine joins the Lindsey staff as a fourth grade teacher. She has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from The Ohio State University. She has a Master's degree and Reading Endorsement from John Carroll University. She has worked at Newbury Local Schools for the past 21 years teaching grades four through eight. In her free time, Christine enjoys spending time with her husband and children.



Jackie Baker

Jackie joins the staff at Lindsey Elementary School as a fifth grade math and science teacher. She has a Bachelor of Arts from The Ohio State University and a Master of Education from John Carroll University. She has previously taught fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh grades at Newbury Local Schools. In her free time, she enjoys reading, traveling and spending time with her family.



Robert Fitz

Robert joins the staff at Lindsey Elementary School teaching fifth grade. He is a graduate of Chagrin Falls High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts from The University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Arts from Kent State University. He has taught at Newbury Local Schools for the past 22 years. He is an avid runner with a goal of completing a marathon in each of the 50 states. He has done this in 35 states so far.



Holly Potti

Holly joins the Westwood and Lindsey Elementary School staffs as a Secretary. She has paralegal training and has taken college coursework while traveling. She has worked at Ledgemont for 14 years, one year at Berkshire Local Schools and four years a Newbury Local School District. Holly enjoys hiking, kayaking, camping and star-gazing in her free time.

Welcome New Staff - Lindsey Elementary



Lina Billings

Lina is the new Speech-Language Pathologist at Lindsey Elementary School. She holds a Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology from Cleveland State University. Prior to coming to West Geauga, she student taught in the Shaker Heights City School District. This year she is completing her Clinical Fellowship.



Natasha Williams

Natasha is the new School Counselor at Lindsey Elementary School. She has a Bachelor's degree in Communications from Thomas Edison State University and a Master of Education in School Counseling from Malone University. She has previously worked in the North Royalton School District. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling, kayaking, running and reading.



Danielle Gideon

Danielle joins the staff at Lindsey Elementary School as a proctor. She attended Malone University and is a former flight attendant. In her free time, Danielle enjoys anything that has to do with her family, which is why she is so happy to be a proctor at their school!



Thad Youngen

Thad joins the staff at Lindsey Elementary School as a daytime custodian. He has a Bachelor's degree in Education specializing in Health and Physical Education from Muskingum University. In his free time, Thad enjoys wrestling, football, fishing and playing games with his children.



Gwen Cerny

Gwen joins the team at Lindsey Elementary School as a third grade teacher. She has a Bachelor's degree from Hiram College and a Master's degree from Cleveland State University. She has taught at Newbury for the past 20 years and spent a year as the title teacher in Garrettsville. In her free time, she loves to watch her two boys participate in sports, reading and taking walks with her husband and two dogs.



Carla Fletcher

Carla joins the staff at Lindsey Elementary School teaching fourth and fifth grade Science and Social Studies. She has a Master's degree from Ashland University. Before coming to West Geauga, she taught third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and eighth grades at Newbury Local Schools. She enjoys reading, gardening, swimming, and nature walks. She also collects seaglass from Lake Erie.

Welcome New Staff - Westwood Elementary



Richard Stopek

Richard joins the staff at Westwood Elementary School as an evening custodian. He has worked in custodial maintenance at Newbury Local Schools for the past 25 years. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, grilling outdoors and cars.



Stephanie May

Stephanie joins the Westwood Elementary staff in first grade. She has a Bachelor of Science in Education and Early Childhood Education from Edinboro University and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Ashland University. She has taught kindergarten and first grade at Newbury for the past 26 years. In her free time, Stephanie spends time with her family, going to her kids' activities and events. She also enjoys traveling and reading.



Carrie Hinkle

Carrie joins the Westwood staff as a kindergarten teacher. She is a proud Alumnus of Newbury High School and Marietta College. She has taught second grade for four years and kindergarten for 11 years at Newbury Local Schools prior to coming to West G. In her free time, she and her husband enjoy playing with their two dogs, Maddie and Cedar. She also enjoys gardening, running marathons, and cheering on our Cleveland sports teams.



Angela Miller

Angela is a first grade teacher at Westwood Elementary School. She holds a Bachelor of Science and Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Kent State University. She has taught second and third grades in the East Cleveland Schools and kindergarten and first grade at Newbury Local Schools. In her free time, Angela likes to spend time with her family, golf, swim and read.



Logan Schultz

Logan joins the custodial crew at Westwood Elementary School. He has a Bachelor of Education in Sports Industries from The Ohio State University. In his spare time, Logan likes to spend time with his family and friends. He also enjoys golfing and fishing when he has time.



Bernadette Stefancin

Bernadette joins the staff at Westwood Elementary School. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Notre Dame College, a Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction, and Literacy credentials from The Ohio State University. She has 28 years of experience with 21 at the Newbury Local Schools. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, traveling, and reading.

Welcome New Staff -Westwood/Transportation/CO



Sarah Gabriel

Sara joins the Westwood staff as a second grade teacher. She has a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from Baldwin-Wallace

University and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Pheonix. For the past 15 years, she has taught second and third grades at Newbury. She loves to spend time with her three kids and her husband, who is also a teacher.



Sara Healey

Sara joins the West Geauga Central Office team as the EMIS Coordinator and Registrar. She is a graduate of West G and has earned a Bachelor of Arts from

Bowling Green State Univeristy. She has spent sixteen years in business communications and has transitioned to Education focusing on admissions and marketing. Her family loves playing and watching sports together.



Clark Cutlip

Clark joins the West Geauga Transportation Department this year as a bus driver. He has his Commercial Driver's License. He comes

to West G from Newbury Local Schools. In his free time, Clark enjoys fishing and hunting.



Thomas Coyle

Thomas joins the West Geauga Transportation Department as a bus driver. He was formerly a driver for the Painsville School District.

He has also worked in Real Estate.



Dale Minadeo

Dale joins the West Geauga Transportation Department as a van driver. Prior to coming to West Geauga, Dale has

worked at Newbury Local Schools for three years. He enjoys fishing in his free time.



Dan Bushek

Dan joins the staff at the West Geauga Transportation department as a bus driver. He has been driving for

years! He is a graduate of Newbury High School and has an Associate degree in Business Management from Kent State University. In his free time, he enjoys Nascar and drag racing on Wednesday nights.

Welcome New Staff - Transportation



Karen Lubanovich

Karen joins the West Geauga Transportation Department as a bus driver. She attended Kent State University and has a Commercial Driver's License. Prior to coming to West Geauga, Karen drove for the Newbury Local Schools. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, hiking, and gymnastics.



Kim Battaglia

Kim joins the West Geauga Transportation Department as a bus driver. She is a graduate of Aurora High School and has been driving for Newbury Local Schools for 27 years. She enjoys reading, gardening, and taking care of her eight acre parklike home. She also loves having fun with her three grandsons riding dirt bikes and swimming.



Liz Kirby

Liz joins the West Geauga Transportation Department as a bus driver. She was trained by the Newbury Local Schools where she has been a bus driver for the past 12 years. In her free time, Liz enjoys reading, sewing, lawncare, and boating.



Synthia Krukowski

Sindy joins the West Geauga Transportation Department as a bus driver. She is a graduate of Wickliffe High School and has been driving for Newbury for the past 15 years. In her free time, she enjoys reading, swimming, motorcycling, cycling, gardening and spending time with friends and family.



Pat Meagher

Pat joins the West Geauga family in the Transportation Department and Cafeteria. She went to Nordonia High School and CCC and holds a Commercial Driver's License. Prior to coming to West G, she worked at Newbury Local Schools. In her free time, she enjoys sailing and traveling.



Belinda Fagan

Belinda joins the West Geauga Transportation Department as a bus driver. She has worked at Newbury Local Schools, Berkshire High School, Lakeland Community College, and Kent State University. She has a Commercial Driver's License. She is a Firefighter and EMT, and enjoys traveling.