



Westdale News

Westdale Elementary, 705 S Center Road
797-1827

Volume 1, Issue 1

Upcoming Dates

-October 9th; Homecoming Parade

-October 9th: Popcorn Sale

-October 12th: Fundraiser Begins

-October 14th: PTO Meeting 6 p.m.

-October 21st & 22nd: Parent Teacher Conferences

October 21st: School dismissed at 10:55 a.m.

October 22nd: School starts at 11:30 a.m.

-October 23rd: Popcorn

-October 29th: Halloween Walk Thru

-October 30th: HOWL Day

From the Principal...

It has been a great start to the school year! The teachers have been focusing on teaching procedures & routines and building relationships since the first day of school. This work is paying off and has allowed us to have a smooth start.

My name is Karen Volk. I have been the principal at Westdale for nine years now. Before I became a principal I taught for the Bay City Public School system. I have two dogs (Gracie and Schembechler). In my free time I love to run. I have run several half marathons and ran my first marathon last fall. I also enjoy working in my yard.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be October 21st from noon-4 p.m. and October 22nd 4-8 p.m. Teachers will be sending home notes next week to sign up for appointment times.

The purpose of this newsletter is to help you get to know the Westdale staff better. You will find pictures and information about us in this newsletter.

Karen Volk, Westdale Elementary Principal

Great Expectations

For the past several summers our teachers have spent a week at an institute called **Great Expectations**. It focuses on building a culture of respect and academic excellence. Each month as a school we will focus on a Life Principle. During the month of September we focused on Citizenship. In October our Life Principle focus will be Responsibility. Responsibility is making the choice to be reliable and dependable.

Box Tops/Campbell Soup Labels

We are collecting Box Tops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels again this. Collection sheets will be sent home each month. Last year we earned \$3000 for this.

PTO/Boosters

Our October PTO is Wednesday, October 14th in Music Room. Free child care is provided.

Halloween Walk Through

The annual Westdale Halloween Walk Through is Thursday, October 29th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. This is a chance for students to dress up in their Halloween Costumes and trick or treat at stations set up by teachers and Westdale staff. Look for more information to come home next week.

Westdale News

Our Secretary, Mrs. Walsh

Hello Westdale Families and Students! My name is Tina Walsh and this is my fourth year as Westdale's secretary. I love seeing your smiling faces in the morning and look forward to a great year!

I am originally from Germany but now live in Saginaw Township with my family. In my spare time I enjoy playing the hammered dulcimer, reading, writing, sewing and knitting. I love my job at Westdale because I get to meet so many awesome kids and get to work with fantastic people!



Young Fives and Kindergarten Staff

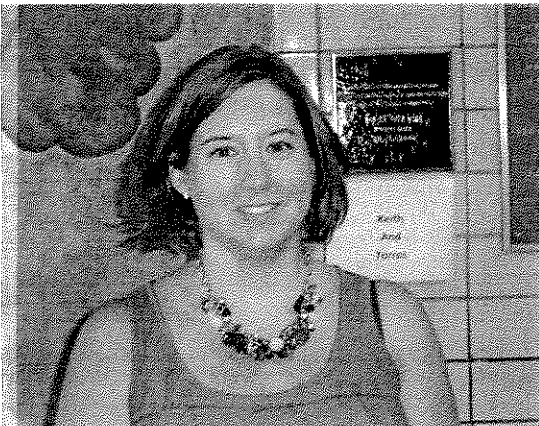


Mrs. Watz

My name is Mrs. Jeanne Watz. I am married to Eric Watz. We have three children, Kayleen, Brendon, and Matthew, along with a son-in-law, Luke. This is my eighteenth year of teaching. I am beginning my sixth year at Westdale. I am very excited to teach Young Fives for my second year. In the past I have taught kindergarten, first, and second grade at Westdale, Plainfield and Weiss. In 2006 I received my Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from SVSU. Some of my favorite things to do are spend time with my family, travel, read, and play with my dog, Daisy.

Mrs. Torres

Hi! My name is Mrs. Torres. I am a kindergarten teacher and this is my 6th year at Westdale Elementary. I graduated from SVSU and I am working on getting my Master's in Early Childhood. Kindergarten is my favorite grade to teach! I love all of the exploring, learning, and fun we get to have! I love to travel and try new things too. This past summer, I went to visit my family in Wisconsin. We had a blast going to the Wisconsin Dells and spending time with each other. I also visited Niagara Falls. Mr. Torres and I were able to get up close and personal with the falls. We not only got to ride a boat next to the beautiful waterfall, but we went behind the waterfall too. It was quite the adventure! I am excited to be back at school and start a new adventure with all of you! I can't wait to spend this year learning and growing with all of my kindergarten students! It's going to be a fantastic year!



My name is Kari Keith. This is my 5th year at Westdale and my 12th year in the district. I graduated from Central Michigan University with a B.S. in Education and received my Master's Degree in Curriculum Instruction and Assessment from Brandman University. My husband and I have been married for 11 years and have 2 wonderful children, ages 9 and 6 and a dog named Blue. In my free time I enjoy being outdoors. I love mountain biking, kayaking and gardening!





Mrs. Romain

Hello! My name is Autumn Romain. This is my 16th year of teaching Kindergarten for Saginaw Township Schools. I started my career at Hemmeter Elementary School, where I taught for ten years. I received my Bachelor's Degree from Central Michigan University in 1999. In 2006 I received my Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Saginaw Valley State University. I have three children of my own: My oldest son Avery is in sixth grade at White Pine Middle School. I have 6 year old twins, Sophia and Jack, who are in First grade at Hemmeter Elementary School. When I am not planning for my classroom, I enjoy spending time with my family. All three of my kids are now playing hockey, so you can always find me at the ice rink.

Miss Watt

I have been teaching for 14 years and became a Westdale Wolf eight years ago. I have an endorsement in Early Childhood education and a master's degree in Reading instruction. The 2015-2016 school year will be my third year teaching Kindergarten.

When I am not at school I love to read, walk, sew, and travel. My house is filled with books!



First Grade



Mrs. Hartwick

Hi, my name is Nicole Hartwick. Seems like just yesterday but this is my 18th year of teaching (the last 12 have been in first grade.) I absolutely LOVE teaching at Westdale with such great people.

When I'm not with my 'school family' I am with my 'home family.' I have been married for almost 20 years to my husband Jeff and have 2 awesome daughters. Allison is a junior at Heritage and Emily is a freshman at Heritage. Our favorite time together is spent at Grand Lake.

Mrs. Kowalski

Hi! I'm Anne Kowalski, a first grade teacher here at Westdale. This is my seventeenth year in the classroom. My husband Tom and I live in Saginaw Township. We have three little boys, Carson (7), Porter (5) and Hudson (2). With two of our boys in sports, we are a pretty busy family. We love watching our little guys play soccer and baseball, as well as watching them ride their snowmobiles and dirt bikes! In our spare time, we enjoy spending time together, up north at Higgins Lake. It is so relaxing up there, especially sitting on the boat and reading! I am so excited for this new school year! We are off to a great start and are going to have an awesome year in first grade!!





My name is Renee Clarey. My family currently resides in Saginaw Township. My husband, Dr. Tim Clarey, is a professor and author of Geology. I have two daughters; Ashley, a Fifth grade teacher at Hemmeter Elementary School. Hailey, a veteran of the United States Air Force, wife and mother. I have 2 grandchildren and another on the way in May!

Some main goals in my teaching, in addition to teaching the required subjects in innovative, integrated, and interesting ways, will be to meet the needs of children by nurturing their physical, social, emotional and cognitive development. These objectives will include: developing self-esteem and confidence, forming an appreciation of each child's uniqueness, fostering self-control, cooperation, and experiencing the joy of discovery through active learning.

For me, teaching is both a great deal of fun and a lot of hard work; it is demanding and rewarding at the same time. Education does not begin or end in any given place or time: This philosophy will be practiced as part of both my professional responsibilities as a teacher and in my personal life as I strive to continue my education and meet the needs of those families I serve.

Miss Sala

Teaching is an absolute passion of mine! I am so excited to work with our wonderful first graders! It's going to be a year full of fun, learning, and lots of adventures and I can't wait to see what the year has in store for us! Here's a little about me...

My wonderful fiancé, Aaron, and I live in Saginaw with our dog, Oscar. We are excited for the arrival of our first baby – coming in November! I grew up in Caro, Michigan. I received my bachelor's degree from SVSU, and then a Master's in Education from the University of Michigan.

It is my mission to instill a love for learning in my students. I attempt to teach with a passion so that my students develop a desire to become life-long learners



Second Grade

Mrs. Goidosik

Hello Superheroes!

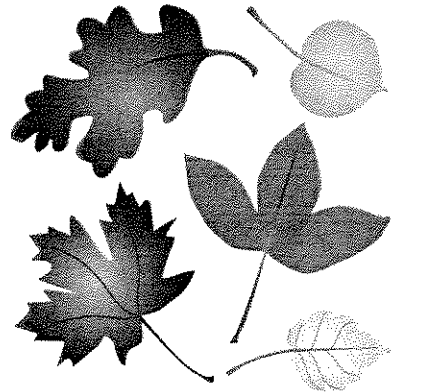
I'm Mrs. Goidosik; and I teach second grade. This is my 11th year of teaching. When I am not at school, I enjoy spending time with my husband, Erik, and my two boys, Hunter and Austin. We love camping up north, playing at the beach, and swimming in the lake. In my free time, I LOVE to read. I am looking forward to a great year with my Second Grade Superheroes! Learning is our Superpower!





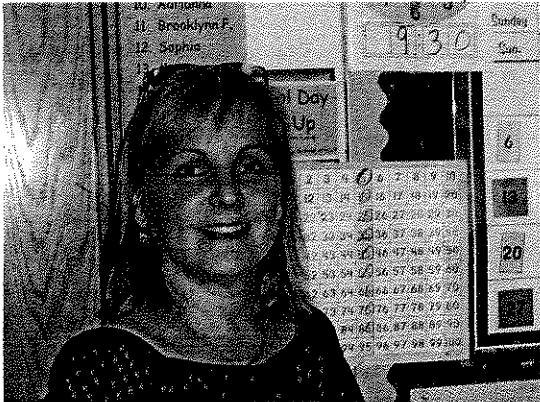
Mrs. Mikoleizik

Hello! My name is Kris Mikoleizik and I am excited to begin my 21st year of teaching. I live in Saginaw Township with my husband, two children, and my dog named Pudge. My son, Andrew, is a student at Delta college. My daughter, Sarah, is in 10th grade at Heritage High School. I help Mrs. Bordeaux with Kids Run the Nation after school every Wednesday. When I'm not at school, I enjoy playing soccer, tennis, softball, golf, and running. I also like to read and play card games with my friends and family. I am looking forward to another exciting year here at Westdale.



Mrs. Miller

Hi, Hi, Hi!! My name is Sara Miller and I LOVE teaching second grade. I also LOVE my family and friends, exercising, spending time at Higgins and Hubbard Lake, and children's books! My husband Tyler and I live in Saginaw Township with our 2 sons, dog, and cat. I am delighted to spend this year learning and growing with your children.



Mrs. Carlisle

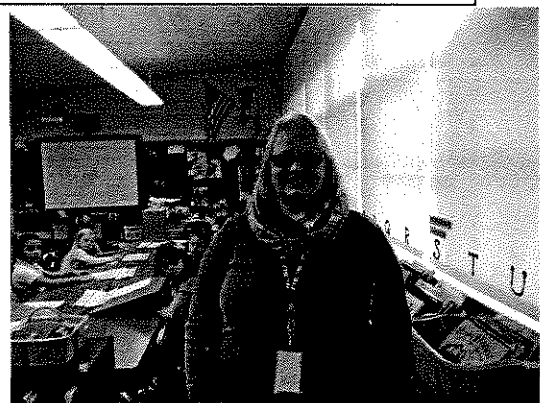
I'm Mrs. Carlisle. I live here in Saginaw Township and am very proud to be a teacher at one of the best schools in our district.....Westdale!

I am married and the mother of two grown sons. My 3 guys are the most important part of my life (other than "our" Westdale kids). I enjoy being outdoors; kayaking, fishing, gardening, watching birds...Nature!.

Ms Thornton, Student Teacher

Hello! I'm Ms. Thornton. I live here in Saginaw, but I am originally from Jackson. I am senior at Saginaw Valley State University, graduating in December with my teaching degree. I am looking forward to my first teaching job next year!

Westdale has proven to be a great learning experience and I am looking forward to continuing to learn from the staff and most of all the students.] My hobbies include camping and making jewelry! I also love a good college football game!



Special Services



Mrs. Smith

I am excited for a new school year! This is the start of my 13th year teaching and I am so happy to be at Westdale! I love working with the students and staff at Westdale. You will find me in all of the classrooms here at Westdale working on reading, writing and math.

When I am not at Westdale you will find me at a hockey or soccer game with my children Evan (7) and Addison (5).



Mrs. Loeffler

My name is Mrs. Loeffler. This is my 16th year teaching in the Special Services Department at Westdale Elementary School! It's always exciting to learn about my students, and sometimes students like to learn things about their teachers as well...

Outside of school, Mr. Loeffler and I are usually busy attending soccer practice, soccer games or Boy Scout events for our two sons, Matthew and Jacob. We also have two dogs that entertain us! We love to go camping and hanging out with our family up north. Personally, I love to read, my favorite color is purple, and I LOVE chocolate!



Miss Michelle, Paraprofessional



Miss Wiltse, Student Teacher



Miss Kathleen, Learning Assistant

Special Areas

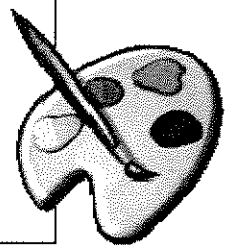
Mrs. Casler

Hello! My name is Mary Casler, and I teach music to most of the children at Westdale. I have been teaching music for over twenty years! I grew up in Sandusky, MI and am a Spartan from birth as my parents are both MSU alumni, as am I! Go Green! In my free time I enjoy swimming, reading, taking family vacations, and spending time with friends and family. My husband, Jeff and I just celebrated the marriage of our son, Andy, to his wife, Audrey on September 26th! They live in Wisconsin. We have three other children, Amanda at CMU, Elizabeth at Utah Valley University, and Doug in his first year at Heritage High School! We have two great animals- Twingo our beautiful golden retriever and Daisy our crazy cat! I can't wait for another fun, music filled year at school.



Miss Mulford, Art

I have been teaching art at Westdale for the last 12 years. My favorite artist is Claude Monet, who the 1st graders will learn about later this year. In my spare time I love to garden and walk my dog, Iris.

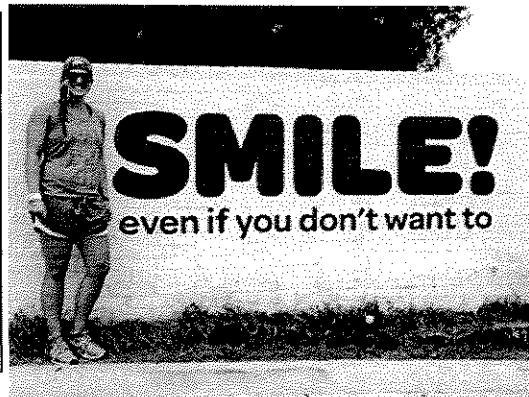




All About Mrs. Bordeaux: Physical Education

Hi! My name is Mrs. Bordeaux. I am the Physical Education teacher here at Westdale! I love teaching kids all about the importance of living a healthy life style. In my free time I enjoy boating, fishing, reading, running, and spending time with my family. My family consists of my husband, my seven-year old son, Cooper, and our spoiled dog, Dooger. I look forward to a fun and healthy year with your child.

My name is Ashley Stelter and I am beyond honored to be given the opportunity to teach Physical Education at Westdale Elementary. My goal is to promote a positive and fun learning environment that meets the needs and abilities of ALL students and encourages them to maintain physically active lifestyles. It is my passion to engage with kids while also educating them in a fun and exciting way. I believe that all children can benefit from positive physical activity in their educational environment. Teaching your child is a tremendous responsibility and I will do my best to ensure that each student has a safe and motivating learning experience in this upcoming year.



Hi! I'm Miss Simmermacher and I teach music for Mrs. Watz, Mrs. Mikoleisik, Mrs. Miller and also Arrowwood Elementary. Something you may not know about me is that I LOVE elephants, and am a big supporter of The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust! Also, I am getting married November 7th of this year and my new name will be Mrs. Rupp!

Title I Staff



Mrs. Vauhkonen

My name is Sandy Vauhkonen and I am a Literacy & Numeracy Specialist. My job is awesome because I get to work with almost every student at Westdale in classrooms, small groups, or individually. Reading, writing and math are my favorite subjects and I get to teach all three. My family and I live in Midland. My twins, Alex and Katie, are third graders. My baby, Megan, is in first grade. My family and I love the Green Bay Packers, to read, to play soccer, and to tell jokes. You could say I am always working with and enjoying children... at work and at home! J

Mrs. Sprague

I am so excited to be entering my twelfth school year with Saginaw Township Schools. This will be my sixth year at Westdale. This year I am looking forward to my second full year as one of the Literacy/Numeracy Specialist. I am able to work with all students in Kindergarten, First and Second grade.

Outside school my family keeps me very busy. I have two children, my son Jack is a fifth grader and my daughter Katie is in second grade. I love to watch them play at all their sporting events. We enjoy fishing, swimming and taking lots of vacations together as a family. Looking forward to another great school year at Westdale!

**Mrs. Mize**

Hello Westdale students and families! My name is Kim Mize and I am an instructional assistant at Westdale. This is my fourth year working here and I love it more and more every year. I have an eight year old daughter who is in third grade at Arrowwood and an eleven year old son who is a sixth grader at White Pine. Our family loves to travel and go camping in the summer. We also love biking and hanging out at the beach. I hope you all have a great year!

Mrs. Byas

I am a wife, mother of five beautiful children and grandmother of seven. I have had the opportunity to serve at Westdale Elementary as an Instructional Assistant for four years. It's an honor and a privilege to assist in the education of your children. I always believe that there is nothing impossible for our little ones, if they have the tools and human assistance, they can do it. As a mother and grandmother I have instilled the value of education in my loved ones. I am called to do the same for your children. When I'm not at Westdale, I serve as the Superintendent of Sunday School at my church and volunteer at Heartland Nursing Home.

**Mrs. Ellis, Media**

Welcome to the Westdale Library/Media Center. We believe the library is an important part of your child's education here at Westdale because reading and research skills are necessary for lifelong learning.

Students visit the library/media center at least once a week. They are able to select books for pleasure reading and assignments or projects. Our titles are easily accessed through our automated system. Books are checked out for a one week period, but may always be renewed if the student wishes to. Overdue notices are sent to students once a book is 3 weeks overdue. We do not charge fines for late materials, however, if the book is lost or damaged, we will bill the student the cost of the damaged item. That item is then replaced. We ask that parents help their child in caring for books and materials and in returning them on time.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



Support Staff

Holly Kreger, School Social Worker

I have been a School Social Worker now for 15 years and love my Westdale students and families! I work with students on many different levels to help them behaviorally, socially and emotionally. I am looking forward to a great 2014-2015 school year!



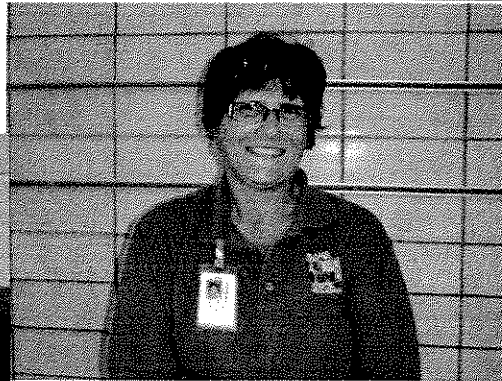
Hi there Westdale Families!

My name is Ms. Jane Drago. I have been a counselor at STCS for the past 13 years, and now I am a new member of your wolf pack!

I am so delighted to be working with this amazing Westdale staff and your wonderful students on Mondays and Fridays this year. I am here to help your children academically, emotionally and socially. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you!

Respectfully yours,

Jane Drago, Westdale Social Worker



Mary Lou Hirschman, Kitchen



Matt Dyer, Custodian



Mrs. Myczkowiak, Speech



Noon Hour Supervisors: Mr. Jeremiah, Miss Erin, Miss Courtney, and Miss Jill



Are you or is anyone you know looking for a flexible day job?

Consider being a Substitute Teacher!

Minimum educational requirement

- 90 Credit Hours towards a Bachelor's Degree

Work where you want

- Select the school buildings in which you want to work

Online Scheduling

- Choose the days you are available
- Block any days or half days you are not available
- Change your schedule when you need to

Pay rate for Saginaw Township Community Schools is \$70/day!

Arrival/Departure hours of full work days at STCS

Elementary:	7:30 AM – 2:45 PM
Middle School:	8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
High School:	7:20 AM – 2:40 PM

Your costs:

- \$60-\$75 to be fingerprinted for School Employment
- \$45 annual substitute teaching permit from State of Michigan
- \$10 application fee to PESG

Interested?

- Go to www.subpass.com and complete the online application. Upon completion of the online application, you will be directed to the required free online training modules at www.gcntraining.com.
- Attend an enrollment/orientation meeting.
- Check our website listed below for other available Staffing Positions for schools thru PESG.

Any Questions can be directed to Professional Education Services Group (PESG)

Phone number: 866-782-7277

Website: www.subpass.com



**SAGINAW TOWNSHIP
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**OPEN
HOUSE**

**Sunday, October 4, 2015
Fire Station #2
3211 McCarty Road**

**Display of
Fire Department Equipment
9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

**33rd Annual All You Can Eat
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Sponsored by Saginaw Township Fire Fighters Association
In cooperation with Saginaw Township Fire Department

Sunday, October 4, 2015 • 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Fire Station #2 • 3211 McCarty Road

5 & Under: FREE
Adults: \$6.00

Children 6-12: \$5.00
Seniors 60 & Up: \$5.00

Tickets available at the door

Homecoming Parade



Dear Parents,

The Heritage Homecoming Parade is October 9th. Westdale will not be having a float but will be participating as a walking group along with Arrowwood Elementary. We will leave Sherwood Elementary at 4:30 p.m. , proceed west on Shattuck, then turn north on Center, with the parade ending at Heritage High School. The theme is “Big Apple” so students will walk carrying signs and posters with a New York theme. All students who are participating must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is at least 18 years old. Wagons and strollers are permitted.

If you plan on participating, please complete the sheet below and return it to Westdale by October 7th.

_____ Yes we plan on participating in the Homecoming Parade.

Student Name: _____

Parent Cell Phone: _____

Grade: _____ **Teacher:** _____

Number of People Participating: _____