

INCOMING
FRESHMAN SPECIAL
SERVICES
PARENT/STUDENT
WELCOME MEETING

Welcome West Central
Class of 2023!



Introductions

- Michael Reinknecht, Director of Special Education mreinknecht@wmrhsd.org
908-879-6404 x 1476 (Mrs. Pat Ercolano, Secretary)

Building Level Administration

- Mr. Timothy Rymer, Principal, trymer@wmrhsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3315
- Mrs. Toni Liskiewicz, Assistant tliskiewicz@wmrhsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3325
- Ms. Janet Slover, Assistant Principal jslover@wmrhsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3320
- Mr. Matt Ferreri, Supervisor of College & Career Counseling mferreri@wmrhsd.org
908-879-5212 ext. 3440

Support Systems for your child at West Morris Central

- Every student with an IEP is assigned a *case manager* from the Child Study Team (CST). This Case Manager is always your first point of contact for any questions or concerns related to your child's educational program, placement, modifications, accommodations, etc.
- The *teaching staff* at WMC is one of the most dedicated, caring group of professionals. You are strongly encouraged to reach out to them with course-specific questions and concerns. Our teachers are here for your child(ren).
- All students at WMC will be assigned a *guidance counselor* who will be yet another caring professional who will get to know your child quickly. Students are assigned to guidance counselors alphabetically. The counselor assignments have already been communicated to your middle schools. In February-March, when the high school CST comes down to each middle school to participate in your child's freshman IEP development, your child's assigned guidance counselor will also attend and participate. Your child typically will have the same guidance counselor and case manager for the duration of their tenure here at West Morris Central.

Child Study Team Members

- Mrs. Karin Buchanin, Secretary to CST 908-879-5212 ext. 3540
kbuchanin@wmrhsd.org

Child Study Team Case Managers

- Mrs. Kendra Dickerson, School Psychologist kdickerson@wmrhsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3530
- Mr. Martin O'Toole, School Social Worker motoole@wmrhsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3515
- Dr. Maryann Gill, School Psychologist, mgill@wmrhsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3510
- Ms. Lois Green, School Social Worker, lgreen@wmrhsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3856
- Ms. Maria Zdroik, Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant mzdroik@wmrhsd.org
908-879-5212 ext. 3525

WMC Child Study Team members, as well as your child's guidance counselor, will be attending your upcoming 9th grade IEP planning meetings in February and March.

Guidance Counselors

- Mr. Joseph Cusack, jcusack@wmrbsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3445
- Ms. Shanna Donnelly, sdonnelly@wmrbsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3450
- Mrs. Elizabeth Grasso, egrasso@wmrbsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3455
- Ms. Janice Higgins, jhiggins@wmrbsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3460
- Mrs. Kara Losik, klosik@wmrbsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3470
- Mrs. Megan Shaffer, mshaffer@wmrbsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3415
- Dr. Jordan Bradley, jbradley@wmrbsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3415

Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Joey Wagner, jwagner@wmrshd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3425

Additional Resource Personnel

- Ms. Catherine Cartier, School Assistance Counselor (SAC), Anti-Bullying Specialist (ABS) ccartier@wmrhsd.org 908-879-5212 ext. 3465
- School Resource Officer: Officer Robert Brobst, Washington Township Police Department

Central Student Health Office

- Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM - 2:45 PM
- 908-879-5212 ext. 3495
- Fax #: 908-879-5460

Nurses

- Catherine Kane, ckane@wmrhsd.org
- Susan Moor, smoor@wmrhsd.org

Safe, Happy, Learning, and Involved

The West Morris Regional High School District Board of Education, the Department of Special Education, and the administration and staff of both high schools want your child(ren) to enjoy their time at WMC.

To that end, we strive to ensure that ALL students are safe, happy, engaged in their school community during and after school, and are demonstrating exceptional progress in their educational programs, regardless of setting.



What options are available to my child(ren) with disabilities?

- Many otherwise qualified individuals with a disability can receive accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974. **Accommodations are not intended to remediate, provide advantage, or to maximize student potential.** Section 504 is a Civil Rights statute which states that organizations that accept Federal funding ensure that individuals with qualifying disabilities have barriers removed which prevent equal access to the general education curriculum, physical facilities, and extracurricular activities that individuals without disabilities do not experience. 504 ensures a “level playing field.”
- ADHD/Auditory Processing
- Physical disabilities
- Chronic health conditions (diabetes, seizures, cancer)
- ...and many more



What options are available to my child(ren) with disabilities?

- For students who are Eligible for Special Education and Related Services, N.J.A.C.6A:14 provides a wide range of service and placement options, and districts must consider placement in the Least Restrictive Environment (*for that student*).
- School districts MUST always consider the general education classroom with appropriate supports and services first. Once all supports and services are exhausted, IEP teams may consider other placement options.
- In-Class Resource (Collaborative); Resource Center Replacement; Self-Contained Classroom; Shared-Time Placement (combination of BSP and general education classes); Abbreviated Day with Home Instruction; Out of District Placements (full or part time); Shared-Time programs at Technical Schools; Alternative Educational Placements; Home or Hospital Instruction; Structured Learning Environment placements

Remember...

- *Almost everything is possible through the IEP team process...*
- Participation in extracurricular activities, sports, clubs, and other activities is highly encouraged. Aide support is available for appropriate students.
- Class trips and overnight trips are other worthwhile opportunities for your child to experience and grow. Consider their participation whenever possible.

The next developmental steps...

- Our collective goal is to grow young men and women who are as fully independent and responsible as possible. To this end, we strive to work with students and parents to ensure consistent and punctual attendance, assignment/homework completion, and keeping track of upcoming responsibilities.
- Technology can be a huge help in this area (i.e., Google calendar), PowerSchool Learning pages.
- *“In middle school, teachers remind students what they need to do every day; high school teachers don’t.” ...a peer leader*

Upcoming Events

- Parents and guardians will be receiving a letter shortly from the WMRHSD instructing them that they MUST register their child(ren) in the district/school.
- West Morris Central's General Information Program for ALL incoming freshman, Wednesday, February 7th (snow date, February 12th).
- WMC Peer Leaders will visit each middle school to meet with the 8th graders regarding life in high school and all of the wonderful opportunities that exist. A written notice will be sent to each family from the guidance department of your middle schools.
- By the end of January, West Morris Regional will have all course placement recommendations from your child(ren)'s teachers for the courses projected to be taken. Your child(ren)'s 8th grade teachers have had the opportunity to observe classes here at WMC already and to articulate with high school staff about course expectations. 8th grade teacher recommendations historically have been accurate in predicting appropriate levels for placement based upon student performance in the beginning of 9th grade.

Safe, Happy, Learning, and Involved

Before closing, I want to reassure you that your child(ren) are going to love their time in high school. The faculty, staff, and administration are dedicated to ensuring that your kids are safe, happy, learning, and involved.

This brief, uplifting video, accurately captures the spirit of what our staff tries to do, for every child, every day.

TEDx Talk by Rita Pierson

[Every Kid Needs a Champion](#)

West Morris Special Parents Association

- We are in the process of trying to gain critical mass with parents of students with disabilities coming together, in partnership with the district, to work together to improve programs, develop new programs, and create the best high school experience possible for your child(ren).

Thank you for your interest tonight.
Questions?