April-May 2026

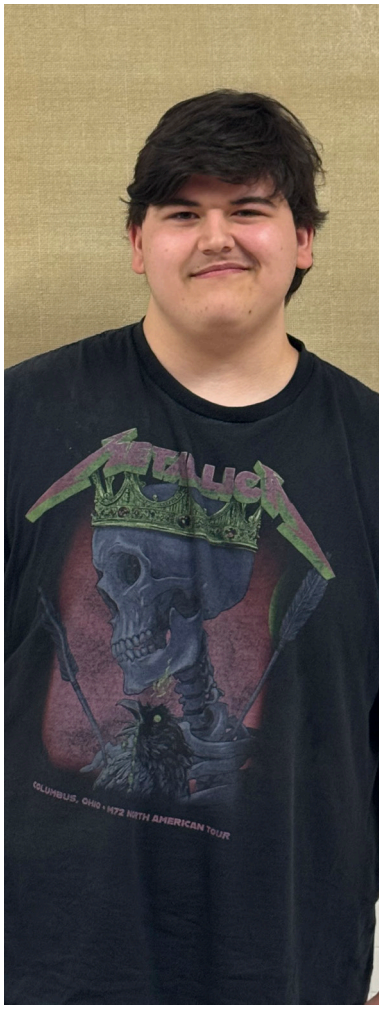
# ECHO












## Senior Spotlights: Good Luck, Class of 2026

# Senior Spotlight: Olivia Dick



By Mason Barnes

Olivia Dick, a Westfall senior currently enrolled at Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical School, plans to attend The Ohio State University next year because they have an "extensive health/medical field program."

When asked about which teacher that was her favorite and which one set her up for success she stated, "Mrs. Smith because she is so kind and always helps me prepare for my future."

Overall, her best memory was her senior-year soccer team beating the school record for most wins in a single season.

As for Olivia's time at Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical School, Toby Fischer, a teacher for the school, provides insight on the program, which focuses on developing future teachers.

Of the 12 students participating, five of them are Westfall students. Some hands-on activities include working with younger kids twice a week.

Furthermore, the teacher prep class visited to Ohio University and Otterbein University to view their education programs this year.

The class also traveled to competitions where all of the students presented in front of their peers and adults where they "practiced interview and leadership skills on top of learning the curriculum."

Although Olivia doesn't plan to major in education, she affirmed that she "didn't regret attending, as she still learned a lot while being given great opportunities."

When asked about Olivia, Mr. Fischer said she's "an amazing young lady," adding that she "has a great sense of humor, works hard, asks great questions and always gets involved."

Olivia's advice for underclassmen at Westfall is to "keep trying in school, participate in extracurriculars as much as you can, and never be afraid to ask for help."

# Senior Spotlight: Lily Danielsson




*Photo: Lily Danielsson is the first student on the left.*

By Mason Barnes

Lily Danielsson is one of Westfall High School's most accomplished seniors. After earning the highest ACT score in her class, she plans to study Criminal Justice with a minor in Spanish, ultimately planning to become a child forensic interviewer.

Reflecting on her time in high school Lily considers the show choir's trip to Chicago in May 2024 her favorite. She enjoyed the opportunity to explore the big city while spending time with friends.

Her favorite teacher has been "Mrs. Oney because she developed my Spanish skills and passion for learning different languages."

Many of her teachers highlight Lily's diligence, intelligence, and creativity.

"In a class full of many bright students, Lily stands out," explains Mr. English, who taught Lily in CP American Literature. "She's very talented and thoughtful. I strongly believe she will succeed at whatever she pursues."

# Senior Spotlight: Elijah Daniels




By Sean Williams

As graduation rapidly approaches, Elijah Daniels, a senior at Westfall High School, has a clear vision for his future. He plans to pursue a career centered on exercise and the human body, combining both his academic interests and athletic passions.

"I've always been interested in how the body works and how training can improve performance," Elijah explains. "Thats what led me to choose exercise science as my major."

After graduation, Elijah will attend Greenville University in Illinois, a private four-year, faith-based college. There, he plans not only to further his education but also to compete on the men's powerlifting team.

"Powerlifting has been a big part of my life, so being able to continue that in college while studying something I'm passionate about is a great opportunity," he says.

Elijah hopes his degree in exercise science will open doors in the physical therapy field. He sees it as a way to help others while also deepening his own understanding of strength and conditioning.

"I want to use what I learn to improve people's lives, whether that's helping them recover from injuries or just get stronger and healthier," he says.

In addition to academics and athletics, Elijah is looking forward to growing spiritually. "Greenville's focus on faith is very important to me," he adds.

Although he once considered joining the Air National Guard, Elijah has decided to focus fully on his education and career path moving forward.

# Senior Spotlight: Aaron Gardner




By Sean Williams

Aaron Gardner, a senior at Westfall, is preparing to step into the construction industry with a strong sense of direction. He is currently exploring career options in plumbing, HVAC, and welding, all of which offer hands-on work and long-term stability.

"I've always liked working with my hands and doing something practical," Aaron says. "These trades also have really good earning potential, especially as you gain experience."

Aaron is especially interested in plumbing and HVAC because of how in demand those careers are.

"There will always be a need for those jobs," he explains, "which makes them a solid choice if you want steady work."

He has already begun building his resume by earning four certifications that he can apply across multiple trades.

"Those certifications should help me stand out and possibly start at a higher pay than others who don't have to help them."

Following high school, Aaron plans to enter an apprenticeship program, where he will gain both real world experience and classroom instruction over the course of four to five years.

"Most of the time I'll be on a job site, but I'll also have a day each week to learn the technical side," he says.

Aaron is still deciding whether a union or non-union path is the better fit for him. Despite that decision, his long-term goal remains the same: to become skilled in multiple trades and eventually open his own business in the construction field.

# Westfall Boys Track



By Mason Barnes

James Curtis currently is a senior on the Westfall High School Track team, and his personal records include running a 12.8 in the 100 meter dash, running a 25.0 in the 200 meter dash, and jumping a 17.4-foot long jump.

Overall, he said that his favorite part of track was “the fun bus rides with friends because they are relaxing and prepare you for the upcoming meet.”

When asked about what areas need improvement, he asserted that the track team needs “more participation in events and more effort required.”

The team placed 4th in county 5th in Paint Valley. However, the entire team has been shattering personal records with a total of 50 new records in five meets. Quinn Eberly is currently trying to get a new 400 meter dash record, and Landon Sparks participates in a lot of events and relays. Sparks also received first place in the high jump competition multiple times.

Mr. Smith, who’s coached track for 14 years, noted that next year the team needs “more kids on the team, and a good hurdler.”

“I am proud of the track team,” he affirmed, “and I am optimistic about the upcoming years.”

# Reflecting Before Retirement: Mr. Miller



By Mason Barnes

Mr. Jay Miller has been the American History teacher at Westfall High School for 27 years and the Current Issues teacher for 23 years. He currently plans to teach the first 50 days of the next school year before retiring.

Mr. Miller says that his favorite classes to teach are Sociology and Current Issues.

Current Issues is an interesting subject because it helps students become familiar with stock market trends and terminology. The class has a positive impact on students after high school, setting them up for financial success. They also discuss topics such as certificates of deposit and planning for retirement.

Likewise, Sociology, a college-prep class, allows for more in-depth discussions about how our environment dictates our behavior and life decisions.

When asked about the best year of teaching, he stated, "2002, because our school had an excellent group of students who were high achievers academically and athletically. The softball team went to state finals."

Mr. Miller added that although he is ready for retirement, he'll miss teaching.

"I'll miss instructional time, but I'm about ready for my next chapter after teaching," he said. "Teaching has taught me patience and understanding while working with students."

Shortly after retirement, Mr. Miller plans to go on vacation somewhere new.