

Good evening Dr. Kitchin, Mr. Novak, members of the Board of Education, and members of the school community. I am Joseph Casella, and I am Aleks Ljusic and we are this year's Student Council Co-Presidents and student representatives.

We hope to keep you informed of all the wonderful achievements of the students and staff of WMHS and let you know of recent and upcoming events and activities for the school.

So to recap the end of the year, the class of '26 received thousands of dollars in scholarships from local organizations and had a great Senior Celebration June 12 and graduation on June 22.

Many of those students are now off to their new colleges, trade schools or have started their jobs. Whatever our graduates are doing we wish them well and hope they visit and report back their accomplishments.

Yes, because once a Highlander, always a Highlander. For all of our current Highlanders, yearbooks are on sale! Make sure you reserve yours ASAP and also save \$10 on the early bird special -- last year it almost sold out. There is a post on Instagram for the link or you can find it on [yearbookforever.com](https://www.yearbookforever.com).

From the Guidance Department: On Monday, August 24th, the WMHS Department of Guidance and School Counseling held its annual College Application Boot Camp. The program provided students with guided support as they worked on the Common Application, Naviance, letters of recommendation, college essays, transcript requests, and other important parts of the application process. There were almost 50 students in attendance, representing a record turnout for the program. We greatly appreciate the flexibility of our fall coaches in helping student-athletes participate. Their cooperation allowed us to provide this important information and support to more students than ever before.

We were very excited to welcome the class of 2030 on August 26 for orientation! Welcome to the herd!! Also new to the high school herd is our new principal, Mr. Bill Kane and our new secretary, Mrs. Christie, both formerly of Maple Road. We welcome

them with open arms and wish them well as they begin this chapter. We also bid a fond farewell to Mr. Strianse who has gone to Apshawa School, Ms. Tripodi who we believe returned to the classroom, and Ms. Murphy who is Mr. Strianse's partner in crime at their new school. We will miss you.

Another change this school year includes the new cell phone pouches and policy. Students place their phones in the pouches in the morning where they remain locked until the end of the day when the last period teacher unlocks them. So far this has brought about positive changes with kids paying attention in class and talking to each other during lunch and study.

This actually brings up another new change this school year, which is the 9 period bell schedule. With this change, hopefully everyone has been able to take a lunch and also fit some more electives into their schedules.

Senior meetings are currently underway. Seniors should schedule a meeting with their guidance counselors to discuss their post-high school plans such as college, trade school, military service, or employment. College visits have also begun as well. Seniors can check in guidance to see which schools are visiting and when.

The Green Team, led by their advisor Mrs. Zemser, recently took part in landscaping numerous areas outside the school, adding mulch and flowers to beautify the locations. Thank you for your hard work!

Seniors, the WMHS PTSO is all ready for you to paint your parking spots if it would ever stop raining on Sundays. They secured the rain date of October 4th and ADDED TWO MORE PAINTING DAYS AS WELL, October 11 and October 18. There is still time to grab a form from room 123, ask Mrs. Petrosillo, or find it in the Class of 2027 Google Classroom and turn it in or just bring it with you on the day of painting.

Another one for seniors, the senior class trip is being held OCTOBER 9th. They will be attending a Hudson River cruise. Trip permission slips and money were due 9/16, so hopefully they all got those in on time.

We don't have too many updates for sports just yet in the season but we would like to congratulate Boys soccer coach Mr. Ray Ferriola for his 100th win and field hockey coach Ms. Krista Provost for her 200th career win. That is simply amazing and we are so very proud of both of them! Keep it up, coaches!

The Marching Band competed in the Jefferson competition on September 19, performing its new theme this year, "Subway Blues". Not surprisingly, they came away with a first place win and hope to keep the momentum for the rest of the season.

For upcoming events, we are holding a club fair September 23rd during lunch periods so people can see all we have to offer at WMHS and get involved! We highly recommend Student Council!!

The first week of October, Student Council will be hosting events for the Week of Respect, which will be followed immediately by our Spirit Week leading into Homecoming.

The Homecoming dance is being held October 15 from 7-9 in the cafeteria. It is open to all grades and our theme is, of course, BLACK AND GOLD. Tickets will go on sale near the beginning of October at a cost of \$10. This is followed on October 16 with our pep rally during school, and the Homecoming game THAT NIGHT where the Royal Court will be announced. Students should expect to see nomination and final voting information in their Google Classrooms around the beginning of October as well.

Finally, we have the Spooktacular coming on October 24th from 5-8 pm. This is a joint collaboration between the high school and middle school student councils, the high school PTSO, the police department and PBA, the WMEA, and the West Milford Community services and recreation department. Wear your best costume and join us for a spooky night! The trunk or treat is held in the senior parking lot and is FREE to all who attend, while the haunted hallway, which takes place in Macopin, does have a small fee. We give back every year to a local charity or group, so it is going to a good cause.

Ticketing information will be out soon for the haunted hallway, as you need to reserve your time slot, so please check the website for updates. AND we are expanding this

event this year to be sort of like a mini-Autumn Lights Festival including vendors and a car show.

That seems to be all we have on our report for this evening. Thank you for your attention and we are excited to be working with you this year.