



Eagle Express

The Official Newsletter of the Lake Shore Central School District

Vol. 26 #2 Back-to-School 2022

Sept. 1st Orientations:

8-9 am

6th Grade
at Middle School

8-9:30 am

9th Grade
at High School

9-10:30 am

Kindergarten
at elementaries

11 am - UPK

at W.T. Hoag

Summer Moment

The Dion family, right, attended all three "Read Around Town" events this summer, says Middle School teacher Andrea Conrad, who coordinated the program. Mom Denise Hine reads with Lee, a 1st grader, and Ciera, who starts High School this fall.



Instructional Calendar & Back-to-School Updates Inside!

Welcome Back

**Classes resume
Sept. 6**



Superintendent's Column/by Dan Pacos

Welcome Back—here's what's happening!

We are getting ready to return to school and can't wait to see everyone. It has been a busy summer and you will see many changes this fall. For example:

- We are welcoming a number of new teachers, staff and administrators and our buildings look a bit different. Our elementary schools have new secure entryways – a single point of entry that restricts access to the building. This very big safety improvement will help keep our students and staff safer while they are in school.
- Our High School gymnasium now has air conditioning, like the Middle School gym. This keeps our athletes and spectators more comfortable, and also keeps the buildings safer by not needing to open doors to keep the gym cool during physical education classes.
- A.J. Schmidt and Highland elementary schools each have new, beautiful playgrounds. They have a rubberized playing surface that doesn't require mulch, wood chips or stones. They also have equipment that is handicapped accessible, and suitable for physical and occupational therapy. J.T. Waugh and W.T. Hoag will get a new playground like these next summer, in the next phase of the Capital Project.
- If you drop your child off at school or pick them up at the end of the day, you'll notice new bus loops and sidewalks – all big safety improvements.
- Our refurbished Middle School auditorium is in use. The High School auditorium is a work in progress, and should be ready for use in a month or two.
- Lake Shore also took delivery of Western New York's first electric school bus this past week – bus #131. The bus will transport students from the High School to the P-TECH program in Dunkirk, and Career & Tech Education students to the LoGuidice Center in Fredonia.

- Teachers, administrators and counselors have been busy, too. Administrators and counselors have been hard at work getting student schedules completed. Teachers have been planning curriculum and lessons. In addition, we ran our summer school programs for elementary and secondary students. We also had a record high number of children attend our summer Eagles Landing program. Our staff is to be congratulated – they've done all this while working around the construction happening in our buildings all summer.
- District Technology Department staff ran wiring for the new security door signals, prepared Chromebooks and laptops for school and helped implement a new look to the District website. The new look is designed to make it easier to find what you're looking for.
- Our Central Registrar has been busy enrolling new students, and our custodial staff is making the final push to have everything clean and shiny when our students arrive on September 6th.
- Finally, Covid-19 protocols have been relaxed by the CDC, so we shouldn't have to worry about weekly testing, contact tracing, masking and quarantining as much this year. The District will continue to maintain our building and bus cleaning procedures to make sure we're doing our best to protect everyone's health.
- On a related note, if your child is sick, please keep them home. If they are well, please do your best to have your child in school every day. Our teachers work hard to teach our children, but when the children are absent they miss classroom discussions and interaction that they can't get from making up a homework assignment. One of the most important things you can do to help your child learn is to get them to school every day – we appreciate you partnering with your child's teachers to make that happen.

**I hope you are looking forward to the start of school as much as I am. Lake Shore is a great place to learn and a dynamic place for students. As our sports, clubs and activities begin, we hope that everyone is able to find something to enhance their school experience.
I wish you all the best 2022-23 school year possible!**

New Staff in Eagle Country!

Due to retirements, leaves and other departures several new teachers and support professionals are joining Lake Shore Schools this year. During their Orientation Day, they worked with mentor teachers on District technology (setting up PowerSchool, email, Grade Book, Google Classroom and more). The morning session also covered the District’s special education program and professional responsibilities. In the afternoon they toured their respective buildings, met with principals and worked in their classrooms.



Top and bottom right: New staff members attend an informational session on Special Education.
Left: Mentor Connie Govenettio (A.J. Schmidt 1st grade) makes a point during a discussion on communicating with families.

DISTRICT GOALS 2022-23

These are the District Goals approved by the Board of Education for the 2022-23 school year. The District will . . .

- Maintain a rigorous curriculum and high-quality instruction to advance the learning of all students.
- Provide school community members with opportunities to support their mental and physical health and safety.
- Utilize state and federal funding to maintain and expand educational opportunities.
- Advocate for digital equity of technology at the local, state and federal levels for all students.
- Continue to maintain our facilities at the highest level, and demonstrate fiscal responsibility in all areas of operation, including Capital Construction Project Plans.
- Develop family-school-community partnerships to improve academic outcomes.



At Lake Shore, veteran teachers are teamed up as mentors to every new teacher. The mentor builds a professional relationship that provides continuous support and a partner in analyzing what works and what doesn't and why. Mentor teachers are models of teaching who are trained to assess their mentee's understanding and progress. Facing the camera are mentors Barb Blaszczyk and Katy Brokx, special education teachers at J.T. Waugh and A.J. Schmidt elementary schools, respectively.

WNY's 1st Electric Bus



... hits the road this fall at Lake Shore Central!

Its arrival was heralded with a ribbon-cutting (left), training for drivers and mechanics (middle) and media coverage (bottom). By 2027 all new school buses sold in New York State will be electric. "Within five years, districts will be unable to buy diesel buses," said Superintendent Dan Pacos. "Fleets must be totally electric by 2035. Between grants and state aid, we were able to purchase our first electric bus at minimal cost. This gives us the opportunity to try it out and see what works and what may need to be tweaked."

"It's a cleaner, quieter ride," said Transportation Supervisor Perry Oddi. "The drivers love it."



At right: WIVB-TV's Hope Winter interviews Alexa Jones, a LSHS sophomore who wanted to be the first student to ride the District's electric bus. School transportation runs in Alexa's family ... her grandmother, Charlotte Acksel, was a Lake Shore driver for many years, and still subs for the District. Alexa's mother, Jennifer Jones, also drove bus for the District before taking a position in the transportation office. Alexa's opinion of the bus: two thumbs up!



Introducing the new principal at J.T. Waugh ...

Ms. Abby Wesley

“I grew up in Gowanda and I used to come to the Lake Shore musicals ... and I was so impressed with the High School indoor track!”



She didn’t start out to be a teacher. Abby Wesley’s first degree was in communications. She worked in television and also in professional theater, touring the country and NYC in productions of *Jungle Book*, *Cinderella*, *Frog and Toad*, and *Santa Land Diaries* before heading back to school for an education degree. She first taught English. Then she taught special education for 10 years at Lake Shore High School before moving into administration.

Now she brings those skills and experiences to her leadership role as the new principal at J.T. Waugh. She says her first goal “is connecting with the community, bringing in family, parents, students and staff and returning to a ‘normal’ school year with strong relationships - and hopefully no more masks!”

Over the summer she collaborated with teachers to set up the Sept. 1st Kindergarten orientation and led planning for the school’s Sept. 9 “Meet the Principal Ice Cream Social” (6-7 pm), and an October “Fall Fest Trunk or Treat,” and a December “Holiday Fun Night.”

“Because I’m new, I really want to get to know students and families. I want to make sure J.T. Waugh is providing the right things for kids so they’re safe and happy and excited to come to school.”

She knows J.T. Waugh is “a very strong building with very strong staff.” “My goal is to keep supporting staff and students and maintain the direction that (now retired) Principal Eastman was headed in. I want to continue the work going on in the wonderful programs here in academics, as well as social-emotional supports, and the 5th grade camp and WatchDOGS programs.”

Like Mrs. Eastman, she’s big on athletics and loves dogs. Her daughter, Averie, turns four in September. “She’ll be starting her school career, too ... so everything Kindergarten through 5th grade is my life right now.”

Ms. Wesley can be reached at abby.wesley@lscsd.org or 716-926-2370.

Introducing the new principal at W.G. Houston M.S.

Mrs. Stacy Conti

*“We must first reach children
on an emotional level.
It’s all connected.”*



The Bills, Batgirl ... a chocolate wrapper. These are the fun tchotchkes you'd find on Stacy Conti's desk from various relationships she's built with students and colleagues through her administrative journey. She greatly looks forward to continuing that journey as the new principal of William G. Houston Middle School.

“The first thing I want to do is build strong, lasting, personal relationships with students, staff and community,” Mrs. Conti says, adding that she may be new to the school, but she’s no stranger to the community. “I live a few streets removed from here,” she says. “I am here, I am present and I am approachable.”

The second goal is to establish a safe learning environment. “Children are in trying times right now,” she says, “I want to foster social-emotional learning and the welfare of students at all times. They’re figuring themselves out at this age and are very easily influenced.”

The third goal is to be a strong instructional leader for staff and students, instilling a passion for life-long learning and helping teachers provide appropriate connections and interventions.

All three goals – presence, safety, and leadership – are intertwined, she notes, but it starts with the personal connection. “We must first reach children on an emotional level. It’s all connected,” says Mrs. Conti.

Mrs. Conti is Mom to two daughters, ages 13 and 10, and a son, age 8. She’s also dog mom of a Cane Corso, a Newfoundland (85 pounds at 7 months old!) and a Chihuahua. “We say we have more poundage of animals than we do of children.” She loves the outdoors, adventure and exploration. Her core values are honesty, open communication, and safety. “Those are my non-negotiables,” she says. “Even when it’s difficult, it’s best to be honest.”

**Mrs. Conti can be reached at
stacy.conti@lscsd.org or 926-2400.**

Meet the new assistant principal at W.G. Houston M.S.

Mr. Jeffrey Krause

“At Lake Shore, what appeals to me is that it’s a small community type of district where you can build relationships with the students and parents and the entire community.”



Jeffrey Krause says when he was growing up he never thought he would be in the education field. But a building principal at Cleveland Hill mentored him. “The concept of ‘students first’ came from her,” he says. “I saw it first hand and that’s what I want to replicate.”

Mr. Krause attended the University at Buffalo for history and education and completed his administration degree at Canisius. After graduation, he worked in the Cleveland Hill school district as a teacher assigned to In-School Suspension. For the past five years, he has been Dean of Students at Cleve Hill high school. “My main role was discipline,” he says. “I would see every kid, every referral, every parent for detention and suspension issues, and I oversaw the high traffic areas in the school—cafeteria, hallway passing.”

Mostly he enjoyed working directly with students. “At Lake Shore, what appeals to me is that it’s another small community type of district where you can build relationships

with the students and parents and the entire community. A goal of mine is to know the name of every student. I want to know them and help them. I got into education because I want to help students be successful in every way I can.”

“In a ‘students first’ mentality, you make all decisions based on what is in the best interests of the student. I’m a data person, too. I explain the why of what’s happening—the why of the procedures and protocols and the discipline. A person is more likely to change if they know the why.”

Mr. Krause enjoys music, sports and history and is pet Dad to a Poodle and a Westie. “The Westie was adopted as a rescue and it wasn’t until afterward that I realized he was blind. The Poodle just follows the Westie everywhere,” he says, “Still not realizing that he’s blind.”

Mr. Krause can be reached at jeffrey.krause@lscsd.org or 716-926-2309.

Meet the new principal at Lake Shore High School

Dr. Katy Berner-Wallen

“I was raised by packs of teenagers ... I started life in a bassinet on the volleyball court.”



“I was raised by packs of teenagers,” says Dr. Katy Berner-Wallen, as she explains why she’s so at ease in her position as High School principal. “My mother was a physical education teacher and when I was born it was the beginning of volleyball season. So I started life in a bassinet on the volleyball court. I’ve been comfortable with teenagers my entire life.”

“Also, I know these kids,” she says, having worked with them for six and a half years as assistant principal at the Middle School. “I’m so proud of the work they’ve done and I can’t wait to see what they’ve become when I shake their hand at graduation.”

Dr. Berner-Wallen wants to continue building relationships in the community, working toward academic excellence and supporting the district’s initiatives in social-emotional well-being. “This is my home,” she says. “It has been my home for more than six years. I have a daughter in 8th grade here, I’ve made friends and established roots. All of which were so important

to me when I looked for a place to settle down and call my home.” She jokes that she’s become a sort of Neighborhood Watch since her 10-year-old Shizu, Rosie, joined her family. “We walk through the High School parking lot and through the village and I have conversations with students and staff and the community. I enjoy seeing people. I like that when I look someone in the eye I know them. I like the parents and I like this community because they will do anything to support our kids.” As evidence, she mentions taking a walk when Lake Shore’s softball team was playing its championship game. “Everyone was cheering so loudly,” she says, “I knew what was going on in that game two roads over.”

Dr. Berner-Wallen completed her undergraduate work in English at UB, received her master’s in education from D’Youville, and earned her master’s in administration and her doctorate in educational leadership at UB. Outside of school she enjoys improv comedy, collecting unusual lawn ornaments, and gardening.

Dr. Berner-Wallen can be reached at kberner-wallen@lscsd.org or 716-926-2301.

Getting ready...



for fall !

Their carts are loaded with supplies as Jim Will (with his ever-present American flag) and Pam Fox head out to do battle with whatever forces of dirt, dust, streaks and smudges come their way.

Getting ready...



Left: Kevin Sunday usually works at the bus garage, but on this day he was marshalling the cleaning wares at W.T. Hoag.

Bottom:

Left: Linda Misiak takes a putty knife to the wax build up on a Highland classroom floor.

Middle: 1) Joe Campenella gets ready to clean windows in an A.J. Schmidt classroom and 2) Mike Piwko waxes floors at W.G. Houston Middle School.

Right: Brad LoGalbo cleans carpets at J.T. Waugh.



Getting ready...



Inside & Out...

Left: Dustin Riccio makes a clean sweep outside the High School.

Top right: Robert Zuidema, LSHS Class of '22, and Howard Butlak (LSHS Class of '23) were summer interns helping the Technology Department prepare tech devices at Lake Shore. Robert goes to Fredonia this fall for computer science.

Bottom right: Reading Specialist Kellie Rooth sets up books at J.T. Waugh.

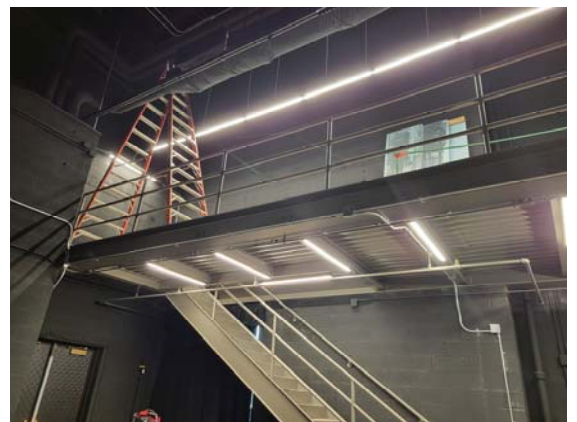


Capital Project: PLAYGROUNDS, SECURITY and MORE ...

This summer, Capital Project work at Lake Shore brought new playgrounds to A.J. Schmidt and Highland elementary schools. (Next summer, the J.T. Vaughn/W.T. Hoag playground will be done, making that the newest playground in the District.)

With Phase 1-3 work largely completed at the Middle and High schools, the focus was on the elementary buildings where secure entryways were built, and substantial paving and drainage improvements were made.

The Aud at the High School



High School Auditorium

From the catwalks to the curtains, from the seats to the acoustical wall panels and stage lighting, the old LSHS Auditorium is under full renovation.

It soon will be ready for plays, musicals, concerts and assemblies for generations of students to come.



CLOCKWISE from top left:

- 1)** Electrician Tom Jaworski working at Highland, **2)** work at W.T. Hoag remediated long-standing drainage and driveway issues, **3)** J.T. Waugh's Beth Casey at that school's new secure reception window, and **4)** replacement of old tile and flooring in an elementary classroom lav.

Workers from the Anastasi company completed blacktop projects at the District's elementary schools.



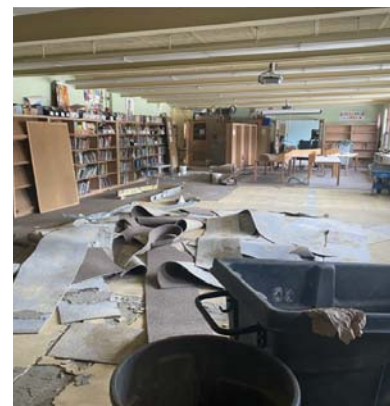
Wiring work at Highland Elementary School.



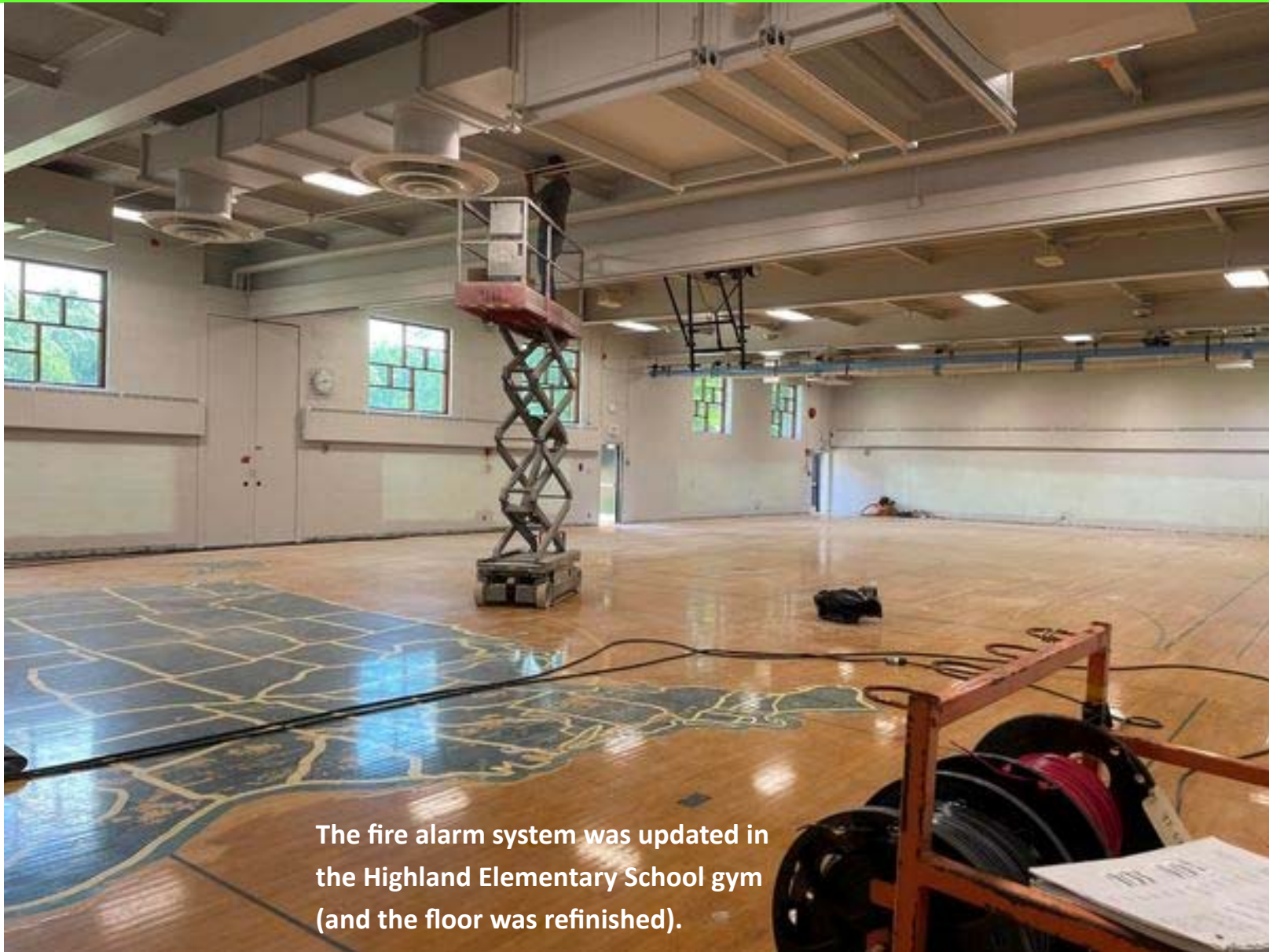
Principal Clark peeks at her office renovation.



JT Waugh: new air handling units



Highland library while undergoing renovation.



The fire alarm system was updated in the Highland Elementary School gym (and the floor was refinished).



E-sports room work at the High School.



Handicap lav work as it got underway.



New paving and side-walks at Highland



Wiring project at Hoag.

Instructional Calendar 2022-23

**AUG 31 &
SEPT 1**

Superintendent’s Conference Days

SEPT 1

Grade 6 Orientation, MS **8-9 am**

Kindergarten Orientation, elementary schools **9-10:30am**

Freshman Orientation, HS **8-9:30 am**

UPK Orientation, Hoag **11am**

Sept 6

School Resumes

OCT

7

Emergency Go Home Early Drill

10

American Heritage Day

NOV

11

Veterans Day

24-25

Thanksgiving Recess

DEC

2&5

Parent-Teacher

Conferences gr K-8, half day only

DEC 26-Jan 2

Winter Recess

JAN

16

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

27

Superintendent’s Conference Day

FEB

20

Presidents’ Day

20-24

Mid-Winter Recess

MAR 17

Superintendent’s Conference Day

APRIL

3-7

Spring Recess

7

Good Friday

MAY 29

Memorial Day

JUNE

19

Juneteenth

23

Regents Rating Day

School Day Schedule

ELEMENTARIES

(J. T. Waugh, A. J. Schmidt, Highland)

Student Day 8:45 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.

Breakfast 8:30 a.m.

Middle School (6-8)

Student Day 7:37 a.m. to 2:27 p.m.

Breakfast 7:10 a.m.

High School (9-12)

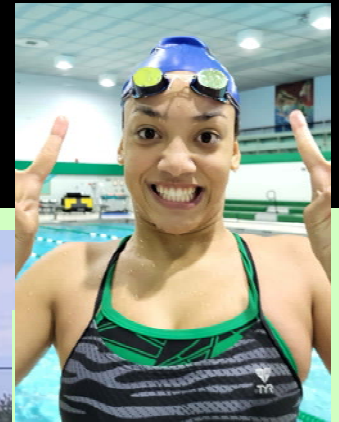
Student Day 7:55 a.m. to 2:35 p.m.

Breakfast 7:10 a.m.

Important #'s!

A.J. Schmidt Elementary	716-926-2350
Highland Elementary	716-926-2460
John T. Waugh Elementary	716-926-2305
Middle School	716-926-2400
High School	716-926-2301
W.T. Hoag	716-926-2480
Athletics	716-926-2260
School Lunch	716-926-2291
Special Programs	716-926-2230
Superintendent’s Office,	
School Board & District Clerk	716-926-2202
Transportation	716-926-2240

Athletics 2022-23



A new sports season is getting underway! Lake Shore's Varsity Football Eagles have been working on building power, speed and coordination through conditioning drills.

The team's first game of the season is at Home on Sept. 1, 6:30 p.m. against Dunkirk.

Soccer, volleyball, swim, and tennis teams also are preparing for their first meets.

You can find full Athletic Department information and fall schedules at www.lakeshorecsd.org/domain/74.

Go Eagles!





Lake Shore Central School District

THE EAGLE EXPRESS
is a publication of the
Lake Shore
Central Schools

lakeshorecsd.org

**BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

President

Jennifer Michalec

Vice President

Michael Franey

Board Members

Kristen Bauer

Kathleen Chiavetta

William Connors, Jr.

Arlene DeJoy-Meckes

Dennis Feldmann

Student

Representative

Emma Coventry

Superintendent

Daniel Pacos

District Clerk

Kristine DeMartino

DISTRICT OFFICE

959 Beach Road,
Angola NY 14006
716-549-2300



Kindergarten teacher Melanie Jones, left, and 1st grade teacher Missy Ruszaj were busy getting their classrooms ready at J.T. Waugh Elementary School. They look forward to welcoming their students on Sept. 6!

PARENTS:

please make it easy for us to reach you ...

Particularly now when new information can come out very quickly,
it is important that the District be able to quickly reach our families with
updates or new information.

If you have not already done so, please provide the best email and phone number to reach you
and update that information as needed.

You can provide your current contact information to your building principal.

This way, we can reach

everyone quickly through Blackboard Connect via email, as well as through robo phone calls.