

West Milford Township Public Schools



Academic Success Committee:
Model for Success

West Milford High School
June 25, 2024

Presenters:

Dr. Lydia E. Furnari, Interim Superintendent
Mr. Matthew Strianse, Principal, West Milford High School
Academic Success Committee Members

West Milford High School Academic Success Committee



- Matthew Strianse
- Allison Scully
- Christopher Botsolas
- Denise Flood
- Jill Nitkinas
- Kathleen McCort
- Lydia Laba
- Melissa Welch
- Susan Nebiker
- Syrena LoRe
- Dana Lambert
- Dr. Lydia Furnari

West Milford High School Academic Success Committee



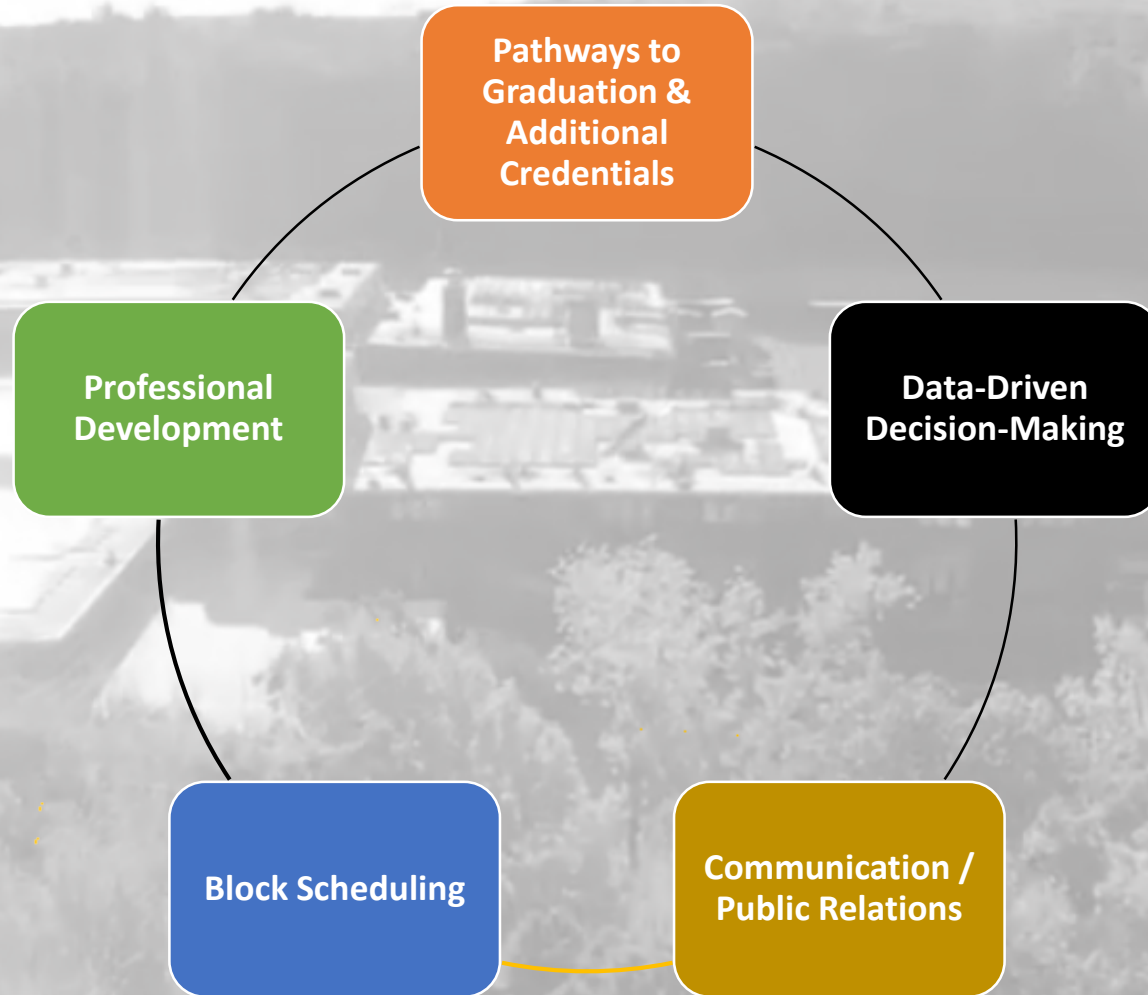
- The Academic Success Committee made a commitment to continue our work in alignment with District Strategic Plan Action Plan Goal 1, indicator 1.4.A.1a.
- The committee met numerous times over the course of the 2023-2024 school year to discuss aspects of various school ranking reporting tools, program alignment, scheduling improvements, assessments, and a variety of other areas that are important to our vision for the future of West Milford High School.

West Milford High School Model for Success



- The work accomplished this school year culminates in the form of a Model for Success, which consists of five (5) strands that will be implemented simultaneously in order to lay the groundwork for attainment of our goals.
- These strands are aligned with specific Strategic Plan Action Plan Goals and Indicators, as well as areas of the US News & World Reports school ranking system.

West Milford High School Model for Success





West Milford High School

Pathways to Graduation and Additional Credentials

- **Strategic Plan Action Plan Goal:** Goal Tasks 1.3.A, 1.3.B, 1.4.A, 1.5.A
- **School Ranking Areas Addressed:** College Readiness/College Curriculum Breadth/Graduation Rate
 - (1) Celebrate our Comprehensive High School by highlighting its unique features
 - (2) Identify Pathways to Graduation and expand opportunities for students to earn both their high school diploma and additional credentials and/or college credit (*i.e. Visual & Graphic Arts, Music, Computer Science & Programming, Automotive, Tomorrow's Teachers, Bio-Medical, Engineering & Design, Dual Enrollment Courses, AP Courses, etc.*)
 - (3) Continue to use Naviance© in support of planning for students' future success.

West Milford High School

Pathways to Graduation and Additional Credentials



- **Highlander Academic College and Career Readiness**

- The **HACCR** programs at West Milford are a specially designed set of curricula for highly-motivated students that seek academic challenges, a specific focus of study, and a dedicated faculty that engage students with not only enlightenment, but also real-world relevance.
- **HACCR** curricula are devised around a set of common themes, including: ***Collaboration, Problem-solving, Critical-thinking, Research, Technology.*** These themes represent the hallmarks of a modern, 21st Century education preparing students not just for college, but also for life beyond college. With teachers using creative and innovative approaches to lessons, students will be engaged in their studies, will analyze information from multiple perspectives, and will be capable of developing solutions to real-world problems.

West Milford High School

Pathways to Graduation and Additional Credentials



Traditional Pathway to Graduation

- 125 credits
 - English – 20 credits
 - Mathematics – 15 credits
 - Algebra I
 - Geometry
 - One advanced math course
 - World History – 5 credits
 - US History – 10 credits
 - Science – 15 credits
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Physics

Traditional Pathway (Continued)

- World Language – 5 credits
- Visual & Performing Arts – 5 credits
- Practical Arts/21st Century Skills – 5 credits
- Physical Education – 3.75 credits per year in a NJ public school
- Health or Driver's Ed – 1.25 credits per year in a NJ public school
- Financial Literacy – 2.5 credits

*Demonstrate proficiency on appropriate NJ State assessments as required

**Students may take AP and/or dual enrollment courses on the traditional pathway

West Milford High School



Sample Pathways to Graduation and Additional Credentials

Traditional + Tomorrow's Teachers

Child Development
Tomorrow's Teachers: Internship H

**Dual Enrollment coursework through
Ryder University**

Traditional + Computer Science & Programming

SCRATCH Intro to Computer Science
Computer Science 1
Intro to Cyber Security
**AP Computer Science Principles or AP
Computer Science A
Java or Python Electives
Computer Applications & Personal
Finance Literacy*
Advanced Cybersecurity

**Computer Science Microcredential
(CompTIA, Cisco Packet Tracer, etc.)**

Traditional + Automotive

Automotive & Transportation Technology
Auto Occupations/Lab
Auto 3 Special Projects Lab
Auto 4 Special Projects Lab
Personal Auto Maintenance

**Automotive Service Excellence
(ASE Certification)**

Traditional Visual & Graphic Arts

Art 1 or Ceramics 1 or Fashion 1
Art 2 or Ceramics 2 or Graphic Design 1 or
Digital Photography 1
Graphics Design 2 or Digital Photography 2
or Fashion 2
Video Game Design
Drawing & Painting, Studio Art, Fashion 2
AP Art History*

**Adobe Certified Professional
Digital Journalism Micro-
Credential**

**Digital Art Dual Enrollment
(Ramapo College)**

* Students may take elective courses outside of their chosen pathway if available. Established prerequisites apply.

West Milford High School Data-Driven Decision-Making



- **Strategic Plan Action Plan Goal:** Goal Tasks 1.2.A, 1.3.A, 1.5.A
- **School Ranking Areas Addressed:** State Assessment Proficiency/State Assessment Performance/Underserved Student Performance
 - (1) Local & State Assessments (diagnostic, formative & summative)
 - (2) Departmental approach to common assessments
 - (3) Analysis of quantitative data using a dashboard tool like LinkIt! For individual students, cohorts, program success, etc.
 - (4) Analysis of qualitative data through the use of needs assessment surveys (students, staff, parents)
 - (5) Analysis of metrics of program outcomes (including extracurricular programs, athletics, club, activities)

West Milford High School Data-Driven Decision-Making



Data warehouse
provides Navigator
Analytics



Surveys provide
qualitative and
quantitative data in
a variety of areas



College and Career
readiness software

Assessment Cycle



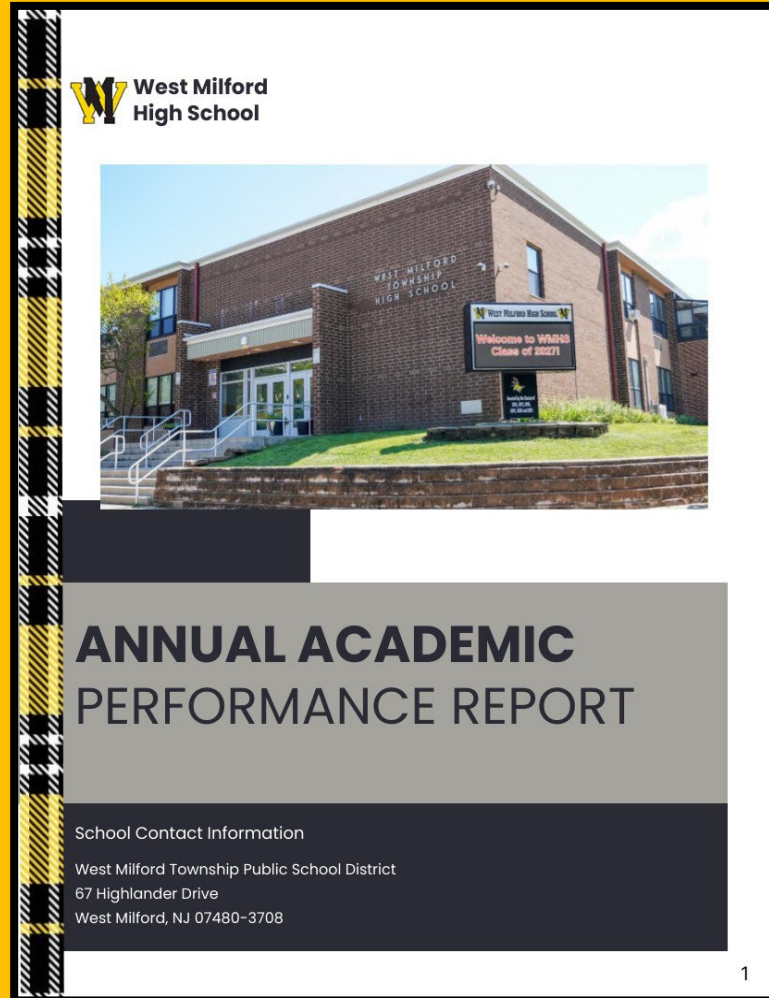
West Milford High School Communication / Public Relations



- **Strategic Plan Action Plan Goal: Goal Tasks 2.1.A**
- **School Ranking Areas Addressed: All**
 - (1) Annual State of the School Report each spring
 - (2) Branding Plan Expansion
 - (a) Strategic use of infographics, branded reports, School website, social media
 - (b) Widen exposure to informational & event videos (TV Science) by improving access and promoting visibility
 - (c) Centralize the use of social media to improve reach of school invitations, news, etc, through tools such as Aptegy-Thrillshare, that also tie to the District website.



Annual State of the School Report



This report will provide information concerning West Milford High School's progress and goal attainment. Areas contained in the report will include:

- Student Achievement, Exam Results, and Classroom Success Stories.
- Challenges Faced, Action Plans, Teacher and Student Support Programs
- School data and statistics, Program Overview and General Information
- Future Goals, Parent and Community Involvement


The report is intended to inform our school and community about West Milford High School and to celebrate the uniqueness of our comprehensive high school program.

West Milford High School Communication / Public Relations



- Why use infographics?
 - Quickly communicate our message
 - Simplify the presentation of information and data
 - Make the information presented memorable and eye-catching
 - Communicate using the District's branding plan
- [WMHS Profile](#) – supported with infographics
 - Lead the reader to want more information
 - Draw new audiences to our information and data

WMHS Story: Sample Infographics



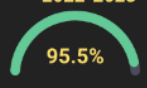
West Milford High School

Home of the Highlanders!

About West Milford High School

Welcome to West Milford High School, home of the Highlanders! We are a close knit community of learners who strive, in collaboration with faculty, students, families and community, to shape a 21st century learning environment and help every student reach his/her potential.

2022-2023



95.5%

4-year Graduation Rate

Graduation Rate

WMHS Graduating Class of 2023 earned a 4-year Graduation Rate of **95.5%** with a 5-year Graduation Rate of **98.4%**

(Source: NJDOE School Performance Report, 2024)

2023-2024

942


Students Grades 9-12

Enrollment

There are 942 students enrolled at West Milford High School, in grades 9-12

(Source: West Milford Township Public Schools, 2024)

2023-2024




Courses Offered

During the 2023-2024 school year

In addition to a full comprehensive course catalog, West Milford High School offered **25** Advanced Placement (AP) Courses and **13** Dual Enrollment Courses

Source: West Milford Township Public Schools, 2024

2023-2024



4 yr: 50%







2 yr: 35%

Other: 15%

Post Secondary Plans

Over 64.8% of seniors reported plans to attend 2 or 4 year colleges in 2022-2023

Source: West Milford Township Public Schools, 2024









Statistics and Facts About West Milford High School

WMHS is a comprehensive high school dedicated to providing all students with educational experiences that are specific to their needs. We believe our students are at the heart of all we do. Our motto: Success Starts Here.

01

WMHS has a comprehensive college preparatory program. Students in the Class of 2023 earned acceptances to 243 colleges and universities




Source: West Milford High School Profile 2023-2024

243

Acceptances

02

WMHS offers 30 varsity sports, unified sports teams, special olympics, 9 honor societies, marching band, orchestra, choirs, theater arts and over 30 clubs and activities.




Source: West Milford High School Profile 2023-2024

942

students

03

Students must carry a minimum of 30 credits per year and must earn at least 125 credits to graduate from WMHS




Source: West Milford High School Profile 2023-2024

125

credits

04

WMHS offers 21 Honors courses, 25 AP courses and 13 Dual Enrollment courses in the 2023-2024 school year




Source: West Milford High School Profile 2023-2024

59

higher level courses

05

WMHS was named as a New Jersey School of Character, awarded by Character.org.




Source: Character.org

2024

06


WMHS is one of 225 schools across the nation to be awarded the 2023 AP CSA Female Diversity Award.



Source: The College Board

1 of 225

schools



West Milford High School Block Scheduling



- **Strategic Plan Action Plan Goal:** Goal Tasks 1.4.A.1a
- **School Ranking Areas Addressed:** College Readiness/College Curriculum Breadth
 - (1) Work with Macopin Academic Success Committee on joint projects to align program pathways, academic preparation, and plans for block scheduling at both schools
 - (2) Visit several schools at various stages of implementation to learn about their journey (Last visits took place several years ago; 2018)
 - (3) Backward map our plan for the creation and implementation of a block schedule for the 2025-2026 school year.
 - (a) Curricular & Instructional needs
 - (b) Operational needs
 - (c) Financial needs

West Milford High School Block Scheduling



- The purpose of any schedule is to manage the use of time, in order to create the optimal frame within which to execute a multi-faceted plan.
- The creation and implementation of an alternative schedule must accommodate current programs and be flexible enough to allow for future growth.
- There are many forms of alternative schedules. Straight Block, Alternating Block, A/B Block, 4x4 Block, Rotating Drop Block, Drop Block with Skinny, Modified Standard, Modified Block, Intensive Block, flex model, and the list goes on.



Block Scheduling PROJECT ROADMAP



Now

2023-2024

Academic Success Committees

- meetings held with administration to discuss needs and hopes for future of block scheduling within the larger context of school improvement

Academic Program Alignment

- Improvements in academic programming including alignment from middle to high school

Identify Areas for Professional Development

- Begin to identify professional development needs and other activities that support the project

Next

2024-2025

Needs Assessment Surveys

- gather information from stakeholders (staff, students, parents) concerning block scheduling

Collaboration

- collaborate (WMHS & Macopin Academic Success Committees), to create a timeline for activities and implementation of block scheduling at both schools

School Visits

- visit schools that are in various stages of implementation to learn about successes and hurdles.

Education, Operations and Facilities

- identify solutions to challenges regarding educational, fiscal and operational needs that arise from implementation of a block schedule and plan accordingly

Communication - communicate intentions and provide a timeline for implementation to stakeholders

Later

2025-2026

Block Schedule - implement block schedule at West Milford High School and Macopin Middle School, ensure appropriate coaching occurs in all aspects of the project.

Communication - ensure appropriate signage, reminders, and messages are in place.

Monitor for Success - monitor operational and educational systems that reflect any changes caused by the new schedule. Continuous progress monitoring for effectiveness.

Analyze for Improvement - use all available data (quantitative & qualitative, to plan for and implement necessary improvements.

End of Year Look Back

Review Goal Attainment - Review level of goal attainment and report out (Spring Annual Performance Report)

Three Year Implementation Plan

- **Now – 2023-2024 School Year**
 - Academic Success Committee
 - Academic Program Alignment
 - Identify Areas for Professional Development
- **Next – 2024-2025 School Year**
 - Needs Assessment Surveys
 - Collaboration
 - School Visits
 - Education, Operations and Facilities
 - Communication
- **Later – 2025-2026 School Year**
 - Block Schedule
 - Communication
 - Monitor for Success
 - Analyze for Improvement
 - End of Year Look Back

WMHS Sample Rotating Drop Block Schedule



Time Block	Rotation Day 1	Rotation Day 2	Rotation Day 3	Rotation Day 4
7:18am – 8:13am	1	2	3	4
8:17a,m – 9:12am	2	3	4	1
9:16am – 10:11am	3	4	1	2
10:15am – 11:00am	Community Lunch			
11:04am – 11:59am	5	6	7	8
12:03pm – 12:58pm	6	7	8	5
1:02pm – 1:57pm	7	8	5	6

***Important: identify solutions for Band, extended period courses**

**Each class period is 55 minutes
Lunch period is 45 minutes
Passing time – 4 minutes**

West Milford High School Professional Development



- **Strategic Plan Action Plan Goal:** Goal Tasks 1.1.A, 1.1.B
- **School Ranking Areas Addressed:** College Curriculum Breadth/Graduation Rate
 - (1) Designing a block schedule
 - (2) Teaching in the block schedule
 - (3) Data-based decision-making
 - (4) Creating common assessments
 - (5) Dual Enrollment programs
 - (6) Advanced Placement (AP) teacher training

West Milford High School Model for Success



- The efforts described are intended to:
- Serve our students throughout their high school career, while providing them with tools for their future success
- Celebrate the uniqueness of our comprehensive high school
- Partner with colleges and universities, local, state and national organizations, and other entities, so our students have an expansive high school experience
- Share the story of West Milford High School; its programs and accomplishments with the wider community



Questions?

- Please refer all questions to Mr. Strianse or Dr. Furnari
- Matthew Strianse, Principal matthew.strianse@wmtps.org
- Dr. Lydia E. Furnari, Interim Superintendent lydia.furnari@wmtps.org

Thank you!