



QUARTER 1 REPORT

POINTS OF PRIDE

The opening of Westlake Elementary School this fall was the result of a collaborative process that involved staff, community and parent input. Thank you to everyone that was part of this project.

OUR PLEDGE TO THE COMMUNITY

PLEDGE: Design a building that incorporates student-centered learning principles while becoming an asset in the community for the next 50 years.

UPDATE: As a school district, our mission is to educate for excellence.

- **Physical spaces:** The teaching and learning spaces -- classrooms, extended learning areas, media centers -- are providing the experiences we hoped for when planning this building. The building maintains a small school feel by dividing it into three houses - PK-K, 1-2, 3-4 - to create a more intimate environment. Students are reconnecting with old friends and making new ones as they share the common experience of being the first students in the new school.
- **Support services** (such as Title I reading, gifted and English Language Learner) are being provided earlier in the school year because we are able to better utilize staff under one roof.
- **Planning:** With planning time embedded into many teachers' typical day, grade level meetings are easier to coordinate and do not require teachers being pulled out of classroom instruction and replaced with substitutes.

This completes **PHASE II** of the Master Facilities Plan. This project is the result of a years-long process that began with the 20/20 Vision Committee and continued through the Strategic Planning process.

PLEDGE: Expansion of Opportunities

UPDATE: We are able to offer expanded health, I-Time, drug prevention programming and social-emotional services.

- **School Counselors:** Now more accessible to students. In addition to working with individual students, counselors provide multiple lessons per year per classroom at all grade levels with a focus on social, socio-emotional and mental well-being.
- **DARE:** A Westlake Police Department officer delivers this drug prevention program, providing two lessons for kindergarten, and four lessons per grade level for grades 1-4.
- **I-Time:** A new opportunity for students and an expansion of our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. I-Time focuses on problem solving, inquiry, and social skills in our youngest students.
- **Health Education:** Physical education teachers will be implementing the health curriculum to all students K-4 with a focus on nutrition and personal safety.
- **World Languages:** Rather than being limited to one language, students are exposed to both French and Spanish in grades 1-4.

PLEDGE: Safety

UPDATE: The new building provides additional layers of security that were not possible in our old buildings. The district worked with our local safety forces on safety features.

- **Visitors:** Visitors enter the vestibule and wait to be cleared by the building receptionist before entering the building.
- **SchoolGate Guardian:** Prior to entering the building, visitors must scan their driver's license at a school visitor management system kiosk to determine if they are approved to pick up a student, if there are custody issues, or if the person is listed in a national database of registered sex offenders.
- **School Resource Officers:** A Westlake police officer is in the building every day to provide immediate assistance and a focus on safety for our students, staff and visitors.



AREAS OF GROWTH

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL REMINDERS:

- Drop off should only occur on our campus beginning at 8:25 a.m. Doors to the school will open at 8:30 a.m. Please do not use Westown Boulevard as a drop-off or pick-up area.
- Avoid arriving for dismissal prior to 3:20 p.m. If you choose to arrive before 3:20 p.m., you will be directed to park your car and walk to the front of the building to pick up your child.
- Placards should be clearly displayed on the passenger side dash or window. Your placard should have your name and eldest child's grade level listed.
- AM walkers may enter through the front or back of the building. For safety purposes, we will only dismiss PM walkers from the front. Those students who live behind the school will turn left out of the building, staff will help cross them through the crosswalks and assist students while cars and buses are moving. Our intent is to maintain the safest conditions for our students.
- Each day we continue to review and improve our procedures for car riders. Please see the [Arrival & Dismissal Map](#) illustrating drop-off/pick-up procedures.

Bus Transportation: We've been able to streamline our bus pick-up/drop-off processes.

Gymnasium Noise: We will be installing additional sound dampening tiles in the gym this fall to reduce the noise levels during physical education classes.

Playground Accessibility: The play structures on the playground exceed Americans with Disabilities Act standards. The mulch-wood chip base also meets ADA specifications and is similar to what was used at our previous elementary buildings. We will address issues with student accessibility as they emerge.

Back Fencing: We are extending the fencing along the Westlake Porter Public Library property.

School Zone: The city recently installed 20 MPH School Zone signage along Center Ridge Road.

Hallway Transitions: The master schedule was altered to reduce the number of students moving in the hallways at once, and allowing transitions to occur more smoothly.

Communication: We continue to improve our communication with this new venture. There is one PTA weekly blast sent out. We encourage all parents to [subscribe](#) to that newsletter as we provide important grade level and building updates. Principals meet on a weekly basis to discuss building and house topics to ensure balance and transparency.

Westlake Elementary School

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