



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
835 OLD CLAIRTON ROAD  
JEFFERSON HILLS, PA 15025  
PHONE: 412-655-8450  
FAX: 412-655-9544  
[www.wjhsd.net](http://www.wjhsd.net)

WEST ELIZABETH - JEFFERSON HILLS - PLEASANT HILLS

*DR. MICHAEL P. GHILANI*  
Superintendent  
*SCOTT T. MILBURN*  
Assistant Superintendent-Secondary Education  
*MATTHEW J. PATTERSON*  
Assistant Superintendent-Elementary Education

*TRACY A. HARRIS*  
Director of Finance/Board Secretary  
*DR. LINDSAY L. PFISTER*  
Director of Human Resources  
*ELIZABETH H. WHEAT*  
Supervisor of Special Education/Pupil Personnel

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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Contact: Carrie Lekse  
Phone: 412-655-8450 x92233  
Email: [clekse@wjhsd.net](mailto:clekse@wjhsd.net)

**WEST JEFFERSON HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
RECOGNIZED AS A COMMON SENSE DISTRICT**

*JEFFERSON HILLS, PA* – Common Sense, the national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping kids and families thrive in a world of digital media and technology, has recognized the West Jefferson Hills School District as a Common Sense District.

West Jefferson Hills School District has demonstrated its commitment to taking a whole-community approach to preparing its students to use the immense power of digital media to explore, create, connect, and learn, while limiting the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy, and cyberbullying. The recognition acknowledges our district's' commitment creating a culture of digital learning and citizenship.

It is the policy of the West Jefferson Hills School District to not discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, age, race, color, and national origin in its educational and vocational programs, activities, or employment as required by Title IX, Section 5094 and Title VI. For information regarding services, activities, programs, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons or about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Director of Human Resources at 412-655-8450 x2226.

"We applaud the faculty and staff of West Jefferson Hills School District for embracing digital citizenship as an important part of their students' education," said Liz Kline, VP, Education Programs, Common Sense Education. "West Jefferson Hills School District deserves high praise for giving its students the foundational skills they need to compete and succeed in the 21st-century workplace and participate ethically in society at large."

West Jefferson Hills School District has been using Common Sense Education's innovative and research-based digital citizenship resources, which were created in collaboration with Dr. Howard Gardner of the GoodPlay Project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The resources teach students, educators, and parents tangible skills related to Internet safety, protecting online reputations and personal privacy, managing online relationships, and respecting creative copyright. The free resources are currently used in more than 90,000 classrooms nationwide.

"We're honored to be recognized as a Common Sense District" said Dr. Michael Ghilani, Superintendent of WJHSD. "By preparing our students to use technology safely and responsibly, we are providing them unlimited opportunities to maximize and personalize their learning."

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### **About Common Sense Education**

Common Sense Education provides teachers and schools with free research-based classroom tools to help students harness technology for learning and life. Our K–12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum and interactive games teach students how to make safe, smart, and ethical decisions in the digital world. Our educational ratings and reviews platform helps educators discover, use, and share high-quality digital products that propel

student learning. Common Sense Education works with more than 340,000 teacher members in over 110,000 schools to help ensure all children have the opportunity to thrive in the 21st century.

Common Sense is the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to helping families and educators thrive in a world of media and technology. To see all of Common Sense's education resources, visit

<https://www.common sense media.org/educators>.

For inquiries related to Common Sense:

Corbie Kiernan

[ckiernan@commonsense.org](mailto:ckiernan@commonsense.org)

[415-582-6656](tel:415-582-6656)

### **About West Jefferson Hills School District**

The West Jefferson Hills School District provides quality education for approximately 2,900 students consisting of three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school based on the core values of facilitating a **Learner-Centric** focus, delivering **Personalized Learning** for every teacher, staff member, and student all built on a supportive foundation of strong **Relationships**. The District is organized in a K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 plan offering full academic and athletic programs. The Personalized Learning curriculum helps educators meet the unique needs of every student. Educational Support Programs with teams of trained personnel are available in each of the five District buildings to assist students who may be experiencing learning or emotional difficulties. Partnerships with local school districts, post-secondary education institutions, organizations, corporations and neighboring businesses further enhance the educational opportunities offered to District students.