

*News from the Stamford Public Schools*

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**WESTHILL HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMEN BEGIN  
CLASSES IN NEW \$15 MILLION ADDITION**

The City of Stamford will officially cut the ribbon on a new \$15 million addition at Westhill High School, 125 Roxbury Road, on **Tuesday, October 9 at 12:30 p.m.** In attendance will be Mayor Dannel Malloy, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua P. Starr, Board of Education members, city employees, and others involved in the construction of the project. Lt. Governor Michael Fedele, a 1973 graduate of Westhill, will also participate in the ceremony.

The “Freshmen Wing” as it is informally called, welcomed the members of the Class of 2011 when they began their high school careers three weeks ago. The 46 thousand square foot addition includes 25 classrooms, 5 science labs, and one computer lab. Freshmen attend their core classes in the new wing (math, science, social studies, and language arts – and in some cases, world language) while attending art, music, phys ed and other electives with the rest of the student body elsewhere in the Westhill complex. The new wing also includes a 14,000 square foot gymnasium, which is designated for use by all Westhill students.

“This addition to Westhill High School is another example of how the Stamford Public School district is moving into the 21st century,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua P. Starr. “Our 9th grade students will be well served in a program that is designed to support them academically and developmentally.”

The school’s 600 freshmen are benefiting from Westhill’s new approach to the first year of high school. By attending core classes in a wing designed specifically for  
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## Westhill Ribbon Cutting 9/20/07

freshmen, students will have the opportunity to forge closer relationships with staff members. Another key component of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade program is the advisory period, in which groups of 12 students and a teacher meet for 20 minutes per week. The purpose of the advisories is to provide incoming freshmen with a nurturing atmosphere and the necessary skills for a successful high school career. Typical advisory topics include effective note-taking, problem-solving, and goal-setting. According to Westhill principal Camille Figluizzi, “The 9<sup>th</sup> grade teachers all volunteered to participate in this program because they are passionate that students need a strong start in high school. They also are eager to work with colleagues to make curriculum links that might not happen without the planning time that is available to them.”

The completion of the Freshmen Wing at Westhill caps a total of \$77 million in new construction at Stamford’s high schools in less than two years. Stamford High opened a new science wing for the 2006-2007 school year, while the Academy of Information Technology & Engineering moved into a new 120,000 square foot building last month.

### **Some Facts About the Westhill High School Freshmen Wing**

- Construction began June 2006; completed August 2007
- \$15 million project
- Classroom addition: 46,350 square feet
- Gymnasium addition: 14,000 square feet
- 25 additional classrooms, 5 science labs, 1 computer lab
- Provides latest IT technology and wireless capabilities to all rooms
- Provides additional administrative area and teacher prep rooms
- Provides additional storage for administration, athletic department, custodial needs, and classrooms
- Provides new locker rooms and bathrooms accessible from the athletic fields
- Auxiliary Gymnasium meets NCAA standards
- Architect/Engineers: Friar Associates, Farmington, CT
- General Contractor: W & M Construction, Stamford, CT