



Will Carleton Academy

2001 W. Hallett Rd, Hillsdale, MI 49242 • 517-437-2000 • WillCarletonAcademy.com • Tuition-Free K-12

August 18, 2026

Dear Will Carleton Academy Families,

My heart is so full! This 29th year will be wonderful! The day started with a wonderful Opening Ceremony with students, faculty and parents all present for this important day. I spent the day walking through classrooms when I could and I am so excited to see smiling faces and hear lots of giggles as we settle into the new year. We are thrilled to be on campus and are poised and ready for a brilliant academic year!

It was so good to see so many of you last Thursday at the New Family Welcome and Ice Cream Social! I know that darkness shewed the last of us home after a lovely evening reconnecting. Thank you to the Parent Forum for hosting this event! Thank you to the faculty and staff for preparing campus in such a way that made everyone feel at home and proud to be a member of this school community.

I am thrilled to welcome so many new faces to WCA. I will include a full faculty list in next week's mailer so that all can be officially introduced. Honestly, the dust is still settling around some of the new folks and giving them this week to settle in is a gift that we can afford. I truly feel blessed to be surrounded by staff members who are committed to the students and who bring such talents and gifts to campus.

Welcome to your first Monday Mailer which is our vehicle for communication between home and office, and home and classroom. Each week your mailer will have a correspondence from me and any other important notes from the office, and for kindergarten through 8th grade students, most graded work from your child from the previous week. This is a great way to stay in touch with families and you always know when to expect any news from us; it seems to work well! Please take a look at all that is included, sign the outer envelope and send it back to school with your child. Each week we will reload and send it home again! It is that easy!

The forms for all of our student information that needs to be collected were included in your August Mailer. Those forms were blue, violet and pink and need to be returned as soon as possible to the office. Please let us know if you need another copy of those forms and Mrs. Jackson and Mrs. Miller will send those home as soon as we know.

Also included in your August Mailer was a goldenrod form to be completed providing the necessary information for us to create the student directory. Please fill out this form and return it to the office as soon as possible.

The first Cougar News of the year is included in your mailer, too. Check out the happenings of our athletics thus far this fall. Thank you to the fall coaches and Mr. Westblade for being available to our student athletes even before the start of school! It was a ray of sunshine in many students' lives to simply be on campus!

Lunch went well today and conversations were filled with stories of summer. Please be sure to include a spoon or a fork and a napkin with your child's lunch if necessary. Milk will be available for purchase again this year for 20 cents and can be paid daily, weekly, monthly or however it works for your family.

Water bottles are also necessary this year. Please be sure to send a water bottle to campus each day with your child. Our touchless water bottle fillers are ready to go in three places on campus but all drinking fountains remain closed.

Mrs. Szczotka, WCA's beloved Music Teacher and Mr. Todd, WCA's new Band Director, have asked me to remind Advanced Band students that Advanced Band will meet during lunch on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays this year. All students in 6th through 12th grades are welcome to join and it will begin this Friday, August 21st. Please reach out to Mrs. Szczotka with questions as Mr. Todd becomes acclimated to his new responsibilities. WCA is fortunate to have him and I am confident that the students will benefit from his presence on campus.

School Closet boxes are flooding the office these days! Please know that the office will contact you when an order is received. We will make those calls the same day to give you ample time to pick your items up. If you are checking the status of your order, we'd like to suggest that you call School Closet (614.476.4104) directly as they will know first-hand the status of each order.

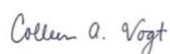
Please *like* WCA on Facebook to be sure to catch glimpses of our days here on campus. The energy is terrific and we'd love to share with you all the wonderful things that happen each day in our classrooms. Some classrooms are full with 24 students, but we do have openings in many grades. If you know a family who would like to join our student body, please encourage them to call to be a member of our school family!

Please be patient through dismissal this week as we work through this tried and true process. Look to the faculty and staff members who are poised and ready to direct you; there is a method to their madness and we simply ask for kindness and respect as they safely direct you. We will have all students gather in carpool groups, standing in the youngest member of the carpool's class line. When picking up your children, if all K and 1st grade families line up in the left lane, and all 2nd and 3rd grade families line up in the right lane, our faculty will load you into the loading lane. 4th through 12th grade families should use the main driveway and stay to the right as you make your way up the service drive to wait to be directed through the process. EP and preschool families should also use the main driveway staying in the left lane to be directed into the circle for pick-up. All students will load from the loading sidewalk and will be loaded into the vehicle from the passenger side. Please remain in your vehicle and the staff will support the children getting in and out of the cars. Please look for direction if unsure of how to proceed. We are here to help!

As always, if you have a question or need assistance with anything, the office is here for you! Give us a call and let us support you! We love to make connections with all WCA families and we will do our best for you each day!

Have a great first week! Stop by Opening Ceremony if you can; we'd love to start our day with you!

Be well,



Colleen A. Vogt