



Have a question, want to refer a student or visit the school? We'd love to hear from you.

Dr. Viviana Litovsky, Director  
 973.429.8110  
 info@westbridgeacademy.org

**OPEN ENROLLMENT**

## Westbridge Academy Accepts Students Throughout the Year



Abraham Mathew, Samantha Majak, and Eboni Williams are glad to visit your school to discuss Westbridge Academy.

### Identifying Student Needs

During the course of the school year, an interim assessment of a student's performance may suggest an alternative placement would be a better match for them. Westbridge Academy will evaluate students with emotional, behavioral, and learning challenges in grades K – 12 from schools in Northern and Central New Jersey and will help students integrate into the classroom any time during the school year.

### Referral Process

- 1. Contact Us**  
 Call the Westbridge Academy Outreach Team at 973.429.8110 to discuss a student referral. Or, have the Child Study Team submit the student's records by mail or fax.
- 2. Schedule Interview**  
 If the student is appropriate for referral, we will set up an intake interview at a time that is most convenient for the Child Study Team and family.
- 3. Intake Interview**  
 The intake process includes a student interview, an overview of our program for parents/guardians, and a tour of our school.
- 4. Admission Decision**  
 In most instances, a determination for admission is made right on the spot!

-  **Visit Us Online** [www.westbridgeacademy.org](http://www.westbridgeacademy.org)
-  **Refer a Student** **973.429.8110**
-  **Ask a Question** [info@westbridgeacademy.org](mailto:info@westbridgeacademy.org)

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# NEWS



Ryan R.  
Student of the Month

### FOSTERING STUDENT GROWTH

## Westbridge Academy Student Selected for NJPAC's Young Artist Institute for Jazz

**C**omposing music, playing the piano, and keeping beat on the drums are just a few of Wayne W.'s talents. This Westbridge Academy band member was recently selected for admission to New Jersey Performing Arts Center's (NJPAC) Young Artist Institute for Jazz. Our music teacher, Rich Eisenstein, helped Wayne prepare for his audition after being selected as a top candidate. Now, Wayne has the opportunity to work individually with one of the Institute's accomplished jazz musicians once a week. He is working hard to develop his musical style both as a soloist and as part of a musical ensemble. ■



Wayne W. composing his own music on the piano.

**"The program is a great experience and a lot of fun. I am gaining a ton of new musical knowledge."**  
**– Wayne W.**

### Teaching Creativity and Teamwork Through Music

The Westbridge Academy music program provides an innovative approach to music education. It integrates performance, theory, and listening analysis in historical, social, and geo-political contexts. Westbridge Academy's music program is focused around hands-on performance, as well as the exploration of a diverse set of music genres. Students get the chance to make music themselves, and gain insight into the nature of performance and the execution of an artistic endeavor in both an ensemble and individual setting. Students have the opportunity to explore the world of computer music through lessons and projects using Garage Band and Logic Pro. Several high school students have created entire songs, taking part in the overall process of composing, producing, and recording their own music. Also, our Westbridge Academy band is in its second year and looking forward to upcoming performances.

### NEWS

## Putting Health First

At Westbridge Academy, we do our part to make sure our students are living healthy, active lifestyles. In addition to healthy lunches, our students now have more time in their physical education classes due to our extended day. Students also participate in a health program that includes a nutrition month. During that month, students make posters to promote wellness and healthy eating.



### MARCH 2013

## Building Relationships With Parents Workshop

Earn 3 free CEU credits and learn from presenter Maria P. Kreiter how to establish constructive communication with parents. Exact date TBA.

■ For more information or to register, contact Eboni at [eboniw@westbridgeacademy.com](mailto:eboniw@westbridgeacademy.com)

### JULY 8 – AUGUST 1, 2013

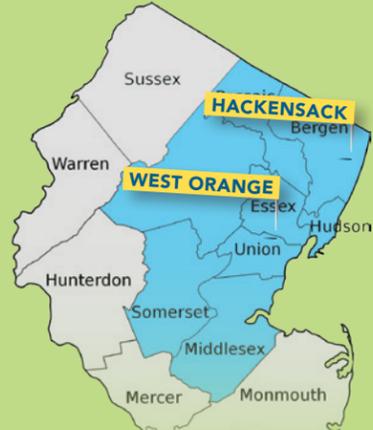
## Extended School Year

Our extended year helps students improve their skills during the summer months.

## EXPANDING ENROLLMENT

### Our Growing Community of Schools

Westbridge Academy recently welcomed students from Hackensack and West Orange as our family of school districts continues to grow throughout Northern and Central New Jersey.



## PROMOTING DRUG FREE LIFESTYLES

### Red Ribbon Week



Students make a commitment to living healthy and safe lifestyles.



**R**ed balloons float to the sky, all containing the pledges of students to stay drug, alcohol, and violence free. During the week of October 22–26, students, faculty, and staff of Westbridge Academy participated in Red Ribbon Week; one day included wearing shirts backwards to represent “turning your back on drugs.” All week long, the students participated in activities that taught them how to resist alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and violence. They also viewed a series of five DVDs by specialist Fabian Ramirez.

Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and violence prevention campaign in the country. It serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of children through a general commitment to drug prevention and education, and through a personal commitment to living a drug-free life. Through this week-long initiative, we were able to create awareness in our school community and to educate our students on committing to a drug-free lifestyle. ■

## STAFF HIGHLIGHT

### Sofia Ortiz-Almeida World Culture and Senior Spanish Teacher

For the past 14 years, Ms. Ortiz-Almeida has been responsible for planning special activities for students, including class trips and the talent show.

Recently, Ms. Ortiz-Almeida planned both Westbridge Academy’s Red Ribbon Week and our Hispanic Heritage Month.



“I believe that each child is a unique individual who needs a secure, caring, and stimulating atmosphere in which to grow and mature emotionally, intellectually, physically, and socially. Every child deserves a chance of an equal education, regardless of the child’s disability. As a teacher, it is my job to find different methods that will assist my students in their learning.”

## PROTECTING STUDENTS ONLINE

### Social Networking Safety



We want our students and staff to work as effectively as possible, and we know that means providing them with the use of computers and the internet. We have a Technology Usage Policy in place that ensures they are doing everything necessary to stay safe online.

A variety of technology resources are provided to students and employees to create an intellectually stimulating environment.

## STUDENT WELL-BEING

### Partnerships with Parents



Parents and families are an integral part of the Westbridge Academy community. We strive to provide them with educational opportunities that help bridge the gap between school and home for children. This year’s Back-to-School Night had a great turnout and fostered useful interaction between parents and teachers. Opportunities were proposed for a caregiver appreciation luncheon, a presentation by a nutritionist, and a family social gathering with games to get parents more involved in the school environment. We have gained some useful feedback and look forward to continued partnerships with the families of our students.

**H**ey Mom! Remember Billy from Science Camp? I just found him on Facebook! We’re messaging each other right now!”

For some parents, hearing this from their child might be slightly overwhelming, and cause worry. *Since when is my child on Facebook? Is that really Billy? How did he find my child online?*

While it may bother you at first, this situation does not need to cause alarm. When used properly, social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter can serve as beneficial social platforms and creative outlets for your child.

While social media channels are not used in the classroom, we know that they are becoming very prominent in our environments. It is necessary for parents and educators to be well-informed so they can help children safely navigate the world of online social networking.

At the right is a list of tips to help you keep your child safe and responsible online. ■

## Tips For Your Child’s Social Networking

### Talk About It

Start a conversation with your child about social networking sites. Find out what they know and answer any questions they have.

### Get Savvy

Set up your own profiles and familiarize yourself with the language and culture of the sites so you know what to expect.

### Check the Rules

Familiarize yourself with website policies such as age requirements before making your child a profile.

### Be Private

Set up any privacy settings that the sites allow, such as only allowing friends to see pictures. Encourage your child to use a graphic instead of a real photograph for their profile picture.

### Limit Shared Information

Things like full names, phone numbers, email addresses, schools, and other information should not be on a profile. Make sure distinguishable clothing like school sweatshirts aren’t in any photos.

### Double-check “Friends”

Users build online profiles by inviting others via email to be their “friend.” When possible, instruct your child to ask classmates in person whether they sent a friend invitation.

### Be Honest

Inform your child of the potential dangers of social media, such as people making fake profiles. Remind them to be responsible and considerate whenever posting something online.

### Limit Your Time

Like video games and TV, social media can be a drain on a child’s free time, and a serious distraction from homework. Restrict usage to a reasonable amount of time per day.

### Embrace the Benefits

Social networking sites can be great communication tools when used properly. Use your own pages as an example for your child to know how to use each site in the correct way.