

# Star-Telegram

## Westlake Academy pays tribute to human rights

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"Do you know your rights? You should." This phrase was pondered by Westlake Academy students the week of Dec. 8-12 as part of a campaign to help promote International Human Rights Day.

The UN General Assembly proclaimed Dec. 10 as Human Rights Day in 1950. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed in 1948, forms the basis for a world built on freedom, justice and peace.

During the opening flag gathering on Dec. 8, the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was read followed by an interactive presentation of the 30 rights. Posters were placed around campus that week with thought-provoking images and facts, and students were encouraged to write their thoughts on life-size paper cutouts in the shape of people.

Later that week, a video about everyday human rights was shown to each class.

At the end of the week, students were sent an email inviting them to participate in Amnesty International's electronic letter writing campaign, which highlights 10 specific cases of injustice. This was designed as a way for the students to reflect on the week, as well as take action.

Human Rights Awareness Week is the first in a series of monthly awareness campaigns at Westlake Academy that will bring more international awareness to the school. Future campaigns, which correlate with the UN calendar, will include Holocaust Victims Day, International Mother Language Day, World Water Day and World Day for Cultural Diversity and Dialogue Day.

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