

Warren Connection: Happy New (School) Year!

September 5, 2018



Dear Warren Community,

This year we are excited to be highlighting how we are all "Better Together" at WTHS. We believe it is through mutual respect and connection that we will maximize our ability to build a diverse, inclusive and powerful school community. We also realize that through collaboration, we create smarter and more creative solutions in our work. Finally, most of our daily activities are more fun when we share them with others. We hope you join us as we embark on a new year of learning and emphasizing all the ways we are "Better Together."

WARREN
Better Together

Strategic Planning Committee

Almond Campus Library

September 11, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Please notify Dr. Ahlgrim if you are planning to attend at ahlgrim@wths.net



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Go Blue Devils!

IMPORTANT DATES

2018 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
at Almond Campus Library
September 11
6:30 p.m.

Financing for College
at O'Plaine Campus Auditorium
September 12
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Festival of Bands
at O'Plaine Campus Stadium
September 20

Student Picture Retakes
at Almond and O'Plaine Campuses
September 26

Camino A College
at O'Plaine Campus Auditorium
September 27
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

SIP Days
2-Hour Late Start
September 10, 17, 24

For more information check the website at www.d121.org

September 18					
M	T	W	Th	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	



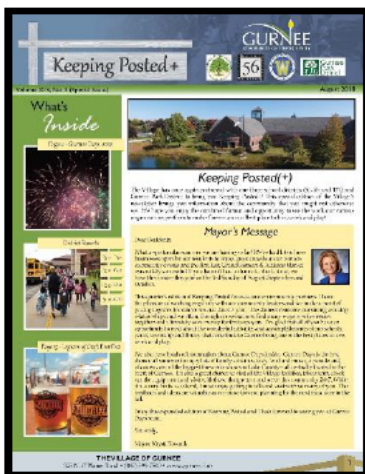
Solar Project Update

At the August 15th Board of Education meeting, an update on the district's solar project was presented. For several years, the Board has been pursuing the concept of construction of solar panels to help provide for savings in the District's operational costs, as well as help support the development of sustainable energy sources and green efforts.

Within the scope of this energy savings performance contract, the Board currently has provided direction to Performance Systems Inc, to perform the engineering stage of the project design, which will help put more specific parameters on the development of a ground-mount solar field on the south end of the Almond Campus property. The engineering phase of the planning work should also help the district in the development of a timeline for the project.



Warren's website at www.d121.org is a key link to staying connected with our current programs and projects.



The Village of Gurnee partners with the three local school districts (Woodland 50, Gurnee 56 and Warren 121) and the Gurnee Park District in this annual newsletter. Visit our website at www.d121.org to view the August 2018 edition.

Recap of August 21, 2018

Board of Education Meeting

The Board of Education had their monthly business meeting at the O'Plaine Campus in the Library Media Center. This venue provided an opportunity for the Board members and others present at the meeting to tour the building and see the renovation projects that took place over the summer months.

The Board recognized José Zires, Director of Facilities and the Building and Grounds staff for their outstanding contributions to the projects and renovations during the summer of 2018 and their efforts to have the buildings ready for students and staff.

Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Chris Geocaris, provided two reports: one report about Grants and Funding programs for our staff and students. The second report was related to the Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) which provides opportunities for our at-risk students.

Dr. Ahlgrim provided an update on the solar project.

The Board approved the following items:

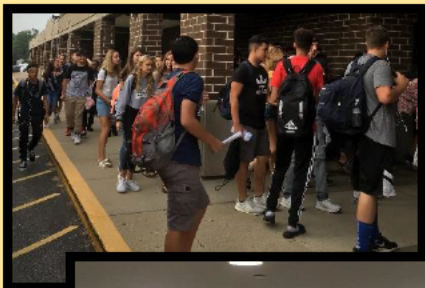
- Hiring recommendations for 27 employees and prospective candidates
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$2,325,842.77, which includes payroll and expenditures
- Regular and Executive Session minutes of July 17, 2018
- A Resolution for the Preparation of the Tentative Budget for 2018-2019
- A Resolution for the Treasurer to Participate in the Illinois School District Liquid Asset Fund (ISDLAF)

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 11, 2018 beginning at 5:45 p.m. in the Board Conference Room at the District Office. This will be a short business meeting concluding at 6:30 p.m. which will immediately be followed by the 2018 Strategic Planning Committee meeting in the Almond Campus Library. Both meeting rooms are located at 34090 N. Almond Road, Gurnee.

Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools

#WeAreWarren



First day of school
at both campuses.



Back to School Community Fun

The summer certainly went quickly and the annual Gurnee Days Celebration not only generally marks the pending return to school, but also allows the Gurnee community to join together in a



celebration with participants of all ages. The performing shows at the bandshell, rides, food and exhibit booths, ice cream and rib eating contests, and the Exchange Club rib fest are all fun activities for the community.



Specifically for WTHS students, the Gurnee Idol competition usually highlights many Warren students. Our Marching Blue Devils and cheer and dance teams are always highlight entries in the parade.



This year our Unite and Inform student organization, along with our Parent Diversity Committee again sponsored the WTHS booth and highlighted our diversity and inclusion efforts in the district.

Thanks to the Gurnee Days Corporation, the Village of Gurnee and the Gurnee Park District for their efforts to provide this great celebration of our community and a fun weekend for our students prior to their return to school!



News From Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocarlis, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

Professional Development



On August 8th, our district leadership team met for a retreat to discuss organizational goals for the year. Our professional development in the district this year will focus on **Design**. The entire staff was also introduced to this focus during the Institute

days on August 13 and 14, and over the course of this year we will be learning strategies to design meaningful and impactful learning experiences for our students.

Diversity Presentation – *Setting The Tone For a Culturally Responsive Classroom*

During the opening institute day, the entire staff participated in a presentation by Roger Moreano of Bridges Consulting LLC, regarding our diversity efforts at WTHS and building an inclusive community.

Instructional Services

Our instructional coaches provide professional development for our staff in formal and informal settings. They work individually with teachers as well as hold **Lunch and Learns** and organize collaborative activities for staff. Our Instructional Coaches are hosting their first **Lunch and Learn** this month which will focus on **Designing** a positive learning environment in our classrooms.

Educational Technology

Our Educational Technology department had a very busy summer, and were able to implement some important updates to the technology infrastructure in our district. Two Business computer labs at the Almond Campus and the Foreign Language computer labs at O'Plaine and Almond all received brand new computers for students to use.



Canvas continues to be an integral part of the educational experience here at Warren. After six days of classes, students have viewed over 42,000 pages in **Canvas**!

We also updated our school security camera system this summer. This updated system provides improved camera images, more efficient transfer of data on our network, and allows our administration and school resource officers to more easily view footage, and will provide improved monitoring of the interiors and exteriors of both campuses. We are very excited to have implemented this important school safety measure.

In The Classroom



Introduction to Piano classes are utilizing a new instructional design to make the course more meaningful for students. The students use their Chromebooks to access lesson(s) to work on for the day. This enables the students to review lessons at their own pace, get extra help from the teacher, and move ahead when they are ready. Students take a series of assessments to ensure that they attain a skill standard before moving on to the next lesson. The students and teachers have really enjoyed this change in the curriculum!



The **Tech Academy+ Program** has opened for the year. Our students are already hard at work repairing Chromebooks and earning technology certifications! These students along with our summer student workers, Tech Academy+ teachers, and Educational Technology Department staff are a large part of why our 1 to 1 Chromebook program has been so successful. Thank you to all of our students and staff at O'Plaine and Almond who participate in this program!

News From Student Services

by Dr. Patrick W. Keeley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

2018 Illinois Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Summer Leadership Workshop

What does the future hold? Who is going to lead us? Where will they get their training? Students from Warren Township High School were among students from all over Illinois who took part in the forty-second annual Summer Leadership Workshop for the Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda at the Hilton Garden Inn in Springfield, Illinois, July 28-30. FBLA-PBL is dedicated to providing students with skills necessary to lead them into the future. The theme of the workshop was "Create. Lead. Inspire."

Patty Hendrickson, Certified Speaking Professional from La Crosse, Wisconsin; Linda Walker, from Springfield, Illinois; Stephen Diol from Wauconda, Illinois; and Sandra Bronson, Illinois State Adviser from Decatur, Illinois helped students strengthen their leadership skills, practice team building, and develop valuable characteristics for the working world. Workshops included information on benefits on being an FBLA member, running for office, etiquette, competitive events, and so much more.

Officers and Advisers from Warren's FBLA Chapter who participated in the workshop and planned the chapter's program of work included: Julia Paukert (President), Krista Zimmer (Secretary), Darsh Gupta (State, Area, Local Parliamentarian), Brian Rapanan (Treasurer), Simran Patel (Reporter), Meichel Yoingco (Media Manager), Steve Vranek (Adviser), Jessica Beck (Adviser). Aspiring Business Leader Scholarships were awarded to Julia Paukert, Sahil Tripurana, and Krista Zimmer.

Thank you to Jessica Beck, FBLA Advisor, for contributing this article and sharing the good news about students actively involved in the FBLA program.



The school year is off to a great start in Student Services! Student Service Teams at Almond and O'Plaine presented to the junior and freshman class during orientation. We were excited to get the students to connect names and faces with our support teams. In addition, they shared programming and resources they can take advantage to improve their chances for success academically. At O'Plaine, Mrs. Garrity performed a music selection to get the students attention! To see her performance, please see below: [Garrity Introduction](#) [Click Here](#)



Almond Campus Social Workers promote our first quarter Student Assistance Program topic *Substance Abuse Awareness*. Throughout the first quarter we will share information, data and resources for our students to make good choices.

Presentation for Parents: *How to Help Teens Cope with Today's Stressors*

At the Open Houses at Almond and O'Plaine campuses parents were invited to an excellent presentation focused on "*How to Help Teens Cope with Today's Stressors*." Mrs. Hartley, Almond campus counselor, organized and led the event with guest speaker Audrey Grunst.



We will continue to have timely and impactful events for parents to attend organized by the Student Service office. Please be on the lookout for future emails regarding these important informative events.

News From Business Services and Operations

by Michael A. Engel, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and Operations

FY19 Tentative Budget

The budget process typically starts in January and continues through August. The fiscal year 2019 budget was developed using historical data, actuals, requests from departments, and input from the administration in a collaborative effort. The use of all of these methods helps ensure that a well thought out and collaborative budget is created. Multiple stakeholders have input into this year's budget. The budget is an estimate or our best educated guess on what will happen over the course of the next year. The budget should be used for planning and guiding budgetary decisions throughout the year.

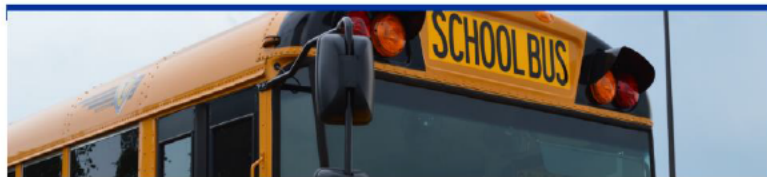


This year's current tentative budget has an estimated revenue across all funds at \$69,434,699 and expenditures across all funds at \$68,963,350. The budget is currently on public display at the District Office. The Board of Education is scheduled to adopt the budget on September 25, 2018 at the regularly scheduled board meeting.

FY18 Annual Audit

The Business Office staff generally begin preparing for the annual audit in June. The staff has been very busy gathering documentation and preparing for the audit for the past several weeks.

The audit helps ensure that the District is staying on track and using proper account coding and aligning accounting practices with both state and federal guidelines. The audit also helps ensure that the District is using best practices throughout the year.



School Bus Drivers and Bus Aides Wanted

- Starting pay \$17.50/hr. Higher with experience; Paid training!
- Complete benefit package
- Referral bonus
- Apply in Person or online @ www.d121.org and select Human Resources
- Please contact Jeanne Turf, Director of Transportation at 847-599-4787 or jturf@wths.net

News for the Month

Facilities



In September, we will complete the installation of the Pixellot Camera System in the O'Plaine Stadium and the Competition Gym at the Almond Campus. The Pixellot system will allow us to stream athletic and other events held in these venues.

The heating and hot water boilers at the O'Plaine Campus are due for replacement. The District is looking at energy saving equipment for these replacements. This is scheduled to be completed during the 2018-19 school year.

Transportation Services



As we start the school year, we are pleased to be safely transporting all of our students to and from school as well as to exciting sports competitions and extra-curricular events! We would like to remind our students and families of all the road construction going on throughout our district. Please be patient as our buses have to travel on these roads getting everyone to school and home.

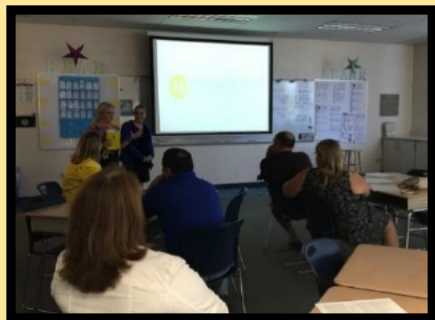
We are proud of our drivers and happy to be serving our community.



Principal's Corner at the Almond Campus

by Rob Parrott

Almond Campus Open House

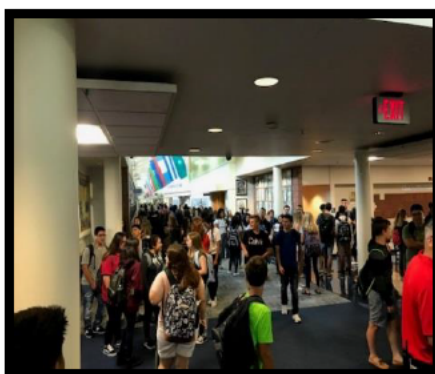


Dear Parents/Guardians:

The 2018-2019 school year is off to a great start! The Almond Campus was excited to officially welcome back our staff and students with a few events that always mark the start of another school year. First, our **junior orientation** allowed the Class of 2020 to walk their schedule, meet their teachers, and hear great advice from the student services and administrative teams.



Second, we had our annual **fall open house** on August 23. This night allowed for parents to follow their student's schedule, meet their student's teachers and hear important information about each course their student is enrolled in. Many parents were in attendance, and I always enjoy watching them get a snapshot of what their student experiences each day.



Finally, we had our all-school **welcome back assembly**. Although we delayed it for one week due to the weather on the first Friday of the school year, we were able to go outside on Friday, August 24, to take an all-school photo forming the letters "WTHS" and then return to the competition gym for student recognitions and a welcome back message.



Although we have just started a new school year, I am always mindful of how fast the time goes for our students. Whether it is the juniors adjusting to the rigors of a new school year or the seniors navigating the college application process, the time in high school will go by fast. Our staff understands the different demands of each of these years and are always willing to help support our students and parents. Please take advantage of the numerous programs and opportunities we offer throughout the school year.

Thank you, and As Always, Go Blue Devils!

Principal's Corner at the O'Plaine Campus

by Michele Bertola



The 2018-2019 is off to a great start. Students are getting acclimated to the building, finding their classrooms, getting to know their teachers and classmates, and developing daily routines. We will continue to challenge our students to focus on the five A's:

attendance, academics, attitude, acceptance, and getting involved with activities/athletics. By doing so, students will take ownership of their learning and work hard to get better every day. #WeAreWarren

Highlights of our first week back include:

- Freshmen sang the school song on orientation day, met their Student Services team, and walked their schedule. [Warren School Song](#)
- The Activity Fair and Freshman Fest were great ways for students to learn about all of the clubs, activities, and athletics Warren has to offer.
- Freshmen and Sophomore seminars have taken place during lunch study halls. Deans and Principals reviewed expectations and keys for success.
- The Welcome Crew remind students to wear Blue and Gold on Fridays and the importance of school spirit.
- We had our Fall Open House on Thursday, August 30th, and welcomed parents as they walked their student's schedule and got a feel for their student's day.



School Entry Reminders:

Before School: Students enter on the east side. Car drop off is the south lot.
During School: All use the north entrance.
After School: Buses load on the east and north side. Car pick-up is the south lot.
Parents and Guests always use the north entrance.

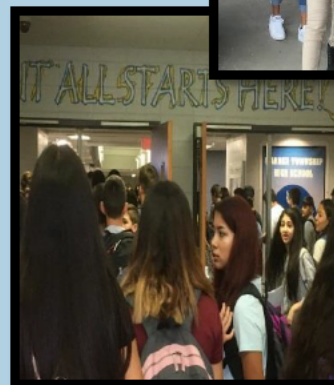
mark  your **Calendar**

WTHS Parent Bootcamp 2018
Thursday, September 27th
6:00-7:30 @ O'Plaine Library

Is this your first child in high school? Want to learn more about our school and collaborate on their experiences?
If yes, JOIN US!!



Our freshman and sophomore football team greet students on the following Friday as part of our "Welcome Crew" Fridays. Our Blue Devil welcomes student on the first Friday of school

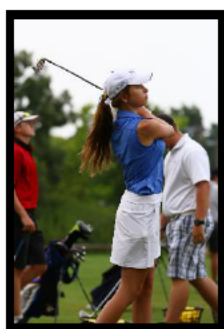


News from Activities and Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics and Aimee Lonigro, Assistant Director of Athletics and Activities Coordinator



Over the summer, 41 student athletes were selected to participate in the NSC Leadership Conference at Stevenson High School. All 30 athletic teams were represented. It was a great experience for our student athletes to collaborate with their peers from other schools.



Congratulations Chloe Morrissey, school record holder! Chloe shot a 35, one under par, at Bittersweet Golf Course.



Congratulations to the Varsity Volleyball Team on their 2nd place finish in the CrossTown Classic and on their 8-1 start to the season



Upcoming Events:

- 9/14: Senior Night Football
- 10/3: Powder Puff Football
- 10/5: Homecoming Football Game
- 10/6: Homecoming Parade
- 10/6: Homecoming Dance

COMING SOON
to WTHS Theatre
October 18-20



HOME OF THE BLUE DEVILS

Freshman Fest

The Freshman Fest was a huge success. Upperclassmen set up tables showcasing their activity programs and shared their experiences with the freshman participants.



Afterwards, the glow stick dance party began!



Warren Theatre Donations

Warren Theatre is seeking donations of any condition, any pattern of blue fabric or old clothes for its fall production of Anon(ymous) by Naomi Iizuka. The story is a modern retelling of The Odyssey and the fabric will be used to create a patchwork of the Warren community, each piece representing an individual. The final piece will show how individual pieces come together for make something bigger and greater than any one of us, and will be used in the production. Donations can be dropped of c/o Adam Miller at either campus.