

Dear Warren Community,

Happy 2020! Persistence and encouragement from others are important factors that allow people to have success in their personal resolutions. Similarly, we hope our students work diligently to have a strong second half of the year, and that we all support and encourage them along the way on their academic and personal goals this semester.

## Open House and Parent Information Session

on “Vaping and E-Cigarettes: What Parents  
Need to Know”

Our Deans of Students will lead a short presentation on an increasing trend among students across the country.

	Open House	Parent Information Session
Almond Campus January 30	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	7:00 pm to 7:30 pm Almond Cafeteria
O’Plaine Campus February 6	6:30 pm to 8:30 pm	6:30 pm AND 7:30 pm O’Plaine Main Office Commons Area

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Warren’s website at [www.d121.org](http://www.d121.org) is a key link to staying connected with our current programs and projects.

## IMPORTANT DATES

January 20						
M	T	W	Th	F	S	S
		1	2	3		
6	7	8	9	10		
13	14	15	16	17		
20	21	22	23	24		
27	28	29	30	31		

Camino a College for Freshman and Sophomores  
O’Plaine Auditorium  
January 23 - 7:00 p.m.

Super Show  
O’Plaine Auditorium  
January 24 – 7:00 p.m.

24-Hour Play Festival  
Almond Black Box Theatre  
January 25

Almond Campus Open House  
January 30 - 6:30 p.m.

National Letter of Intent Signing Day  
February 5, 2020

O’Plaine Campus Open House  
February 6 – 6:30 p.m.

ACT Test @ Almond Campus  
February 8

School in Session – Lincoln’s Birthday  
February 12

Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Athletic and Activities Night  
O’Plaine Campus  
February 12 - 6:30 p.m.

Presidents Day Observed  
District Closed  
February 17





## Board of Education News

### Potential Public Question Update

At the December 17, 2019 meeting, the Board of Education continued an investigation into the placing of a potential public question on the November 2020 ballot. Specifically, the Board reviewed the current and future financial challenges facing the district as well as reviewed the timeline of anticipated communication and engagement activities which are planned to occur between January and June, 2020.

The investigation into a potential public question began in the summer of 2019 as the Board reviewed the financial deficits which face the district, and has challenged the district for a number of years. It has been difficult for the

Comparison of Revenue per Student for Lake County High School Districts FY 2018

	Local Sources	State Sources	Federal Sources	Total
Highland Park Deerfield District 113	\$32,050	\$1,315	\$571	\$33,936
Adlai Stevenson High School 125	\$26,390	\$1,808	\$355	\$28,553
Lake Forest District 115	\$26,129	\$753	\$424	\$27,306
Libertyville Vernon Hills District 128	\$24,449	\$1,206	\$263	\$25,918
Grayslake District 127	\$18,607	\$4,471	\$186	\$23,264
Antioch Lakes District 117	\$17,455	\$4,057	\$259	\$21,771
Zion-Benton District 126	\$13,840	\$6,443	\$1,016	\$21,299
Mundelein District 120	\$16,116	\$1,642	\$623	\$18,381
Grant Township District 124	\$13,660	\$3,626	\$507	\$17,793
Warren Township High School District 121	\$12,852	\$2,658	\$437	\$15,947

Source: Lake County Regional Office of Education

district to operate within a balanced budget despite numerous significant and ongoing efforts to control operational costs. One of the most critical factors contributing to this deficit is that Warren receives the least amount per student from federal, state and local sources than any other high school district in Lake County.

Due to the seriousness of this issue, the Board has partnered with firms explicitly to support the District in our communication and public relations initiatives surrounding this issue. At the November 19, 2019 meeting, the Board approved an agreement with *Beyond Your Base* and at a January 7, 2020 meeting approved subsequent agreements with *Public Opinion Strategies* and *Minding Your Business* to support engagement and communication efforts on this issue and to help share the District's challenges and engage the community.

Over the next six months, the District will be facilitating numerous communication efforts and engagement opportunities for our community. The Board must make a decision by August 2020 if the District intends to place a referendum question on the November 2020 ballot.

### Board of Education Officer Transition

At the December 17, 2019 Board of Education meeting, the Board officially acknowledged the resignation from the Board Presidency by Thomas Drake. Mr. Drake is remaining on the Board, but stepped down from the presidency due to unanticipated personal work conflicts. As a result, past Vice-President Paul Schulz transitioned into the Board President role, and John Anderson was elected by the Board as the new Vice-President.



### WTHS Board of Education

Paul Schulz, President  
John R. Anderson, Vice-President  
Jim Walz, Secretary  
Bency Beals, Member  
Tony DeMonte, Member  
Thomas Drake, Member  
Jonita C. Wilson, Member

### Recap of December 17, 2019 Board of Education Meeting

The Board recognized IHSA fall sport state qualifiers: Football team on their second place finish, All-State recognitions for Willis Singleton, Christian Phillips, Juan Delacruz and Derrick McLaughlin. Girls Swimming and Diving All-State recognitions for Grace Bevers, Aly Wallander, Hailey Benoit, Trinity Springer and Keegan Knott.

Presentations, reports and discussion regarding the following items:

- Safety Committee meeting on November 19, 2019
- Insurance Committee meeting on November 20, 2019
- Policy Committee meeting on December 3, 2019
- Facilities Committee meeting on December 3, 2019
- Curriculum Committee meeting on December 4, 2019
- Diversity Committee meeting on December 11, 2019
- Superintendent's Report including monthly reports for November 2019
- Treasurer's reports for November 2019
- Foreign Language Department report
- First Reading of District Board Policy changes
- Discussion of Potential Public Question for a Tax Rate Increase on the November 2020 ballot

The Board approved the following items:

- Election of John R. Anderson, Vice-President of the Board of Education, effective December 17, 2019.
- Personnel recommendations for 15 employees and prospective candidates
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$7,324,123.08
- Regular and Executive Session minutes of November 19, 2019
- Summer School Program 2020
- Approval of Notification to the Simon Group for non-renewal of our current lease at Gurnee Mills for the Transition Program Center
- Approval of the Preparation of Bids for Roof Repairs and Replacements
- Approval of the Resolution Authorizing Participation in Property Tax Proceedings
- First and Final Reading and Approval of District Board Policy 4:190, Targeted School Violence Prevention Program



## Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools



### From the Transportation Department

#### Ice and Snow – Take it Slow

**Don't rush.** When roads and sidewalks are slippery, rushing to catch the bus or driving faster to make it to your destination can have disastrous results. Students need extra time to get to the bus stop in cold, windy, or snowy conditions. Encouraging them to leave a few minutes early and take their time can reduce the number of falls on slick roadways and sidewalks.

**Get a grip.** Wear footwear appropriate for conditions. Avoid footwear with slick (no-tread) soles when walking on wet surfaces, snow, or ice.

**Be patient.** School bus drivers are trained to drive in inclement weather; however, snow and icy roads can slow down even the most experienced driver. Safety is each driver's top priority and extra time may be needed to get from stop to stop.

**Time is on your side.** Give yourself extra time when the weather is bad. Drivers who give themselves extra time to get to their destination help ensure a safe and appropriate speed for road conditions.

**Remain alert.** Pedestrians are more likely to be rushing during cold temperatures and could be hidden by poor visibility or snow banks. Remain alert for children who may be hidden or standing in or near the street at the bus stop due to mounds of plowed snow.

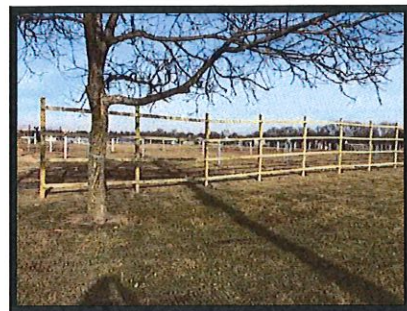
**Drive for conditions.** Adjust your driving behavior to the weather conditions. During winter, this often requires slowing down and increasing your following distance. Anticipate that bridges and overpasses may be icy and minimize acceleration and hard-braking.



Follow the solar project updates on the District website at  
<https://www.d121.org/Page/669>

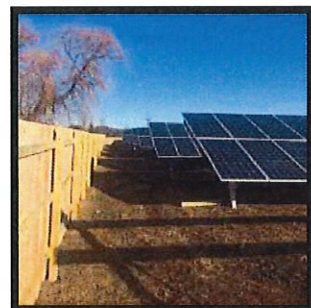
### Almond Campus Solar Project Update (as of January 16, 2020)

On October 18, 2019, District 121 officially began the construction of a solar project on the south end of our Almond Campus along Gages Lake Road, in a partnership with Performance Services Inc. (PSI). This project had formerly been initiated in August 2018 after several years of serious investigation by the district into the construction of a solar project for the environmental, educational and financial benefits.

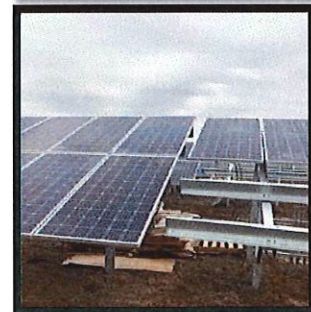


The project rests on two parcels on either side of the Warren Township High School entrance road on land that was previously unused by the school.

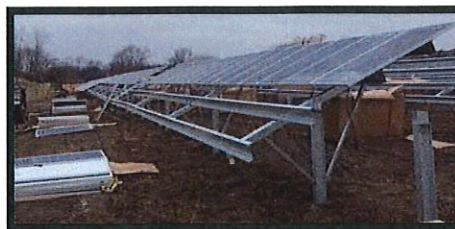
In October 2019, the project began with tree removal and excavation of the site. This process ultimately transitioned into post installation, rack assembly, and panel installation, as well as the fence construction and the boring and installation of the underground cabling. As of January, 2020, these aspects of the project are also nearing completion.



Within the next several months, the wiring connections of the panels will be taking place. The spring is anticipated to see landscaping around the perimeter of the site, and the system is intended to be completed and generating solar energy by June 30, 2020.



When energized, the system will generate enough electricity to account for nearly all the energy usage at our Almond Campus saving the



district approximately and average of \$300,000 in annual operating costs.

Additionally, this project is a significant step in our efforts to be environmentally conscious.



## News from Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocaris, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

### Educational Technology



This spring, senior students will be able to keep their Chromebooks when they graduate from Warren. There will be no additional fee for students to keep their Chromebooks. We are excited to be able to provide these devices to our students to continue to use in their future endeavors.

We have created a page on our website to provide all the information our seniors will need as they prepare to transfer their Chromebooks and Google accounts out of Warren's domain to personal-use accounts. Our *Senior Technology Information* page is under the Academics drop-down menu on our school website. [Click here](#) for a direct link to the senior technology page.

In April, we will begin to communicate specific instructions and timelines that Seniors will need to follow in order to take ownership of their Chromebooks. Seniors will be given specific instructions to do the following:

- Transfer their Chromebook out of the WTHS Google Domain
- Move their Google Drive Files from WTHS Google Accounts to a personal Google Account
- Update contact information in Naviance
- Download assignments from Canvas, if desired

This process will not impact seniors' ability to complete any course work or final exams at the end of the year.

Any questions regarding senior Chromebooks can be directed to Matt Jones, Assistant Principal at the Almond Campus.

### SAT Testing Dates for the 2019-2020 School Year

**Juniors** SAT on April 14, 2020

- Seniors will not attend school on April 14. Freshmen and sophomores will be on a normal daily schedule.

**Sophomores** PSAT 10 on April 15, 2020

- Juniors and seniors will have a normal daily schedule on April 15.

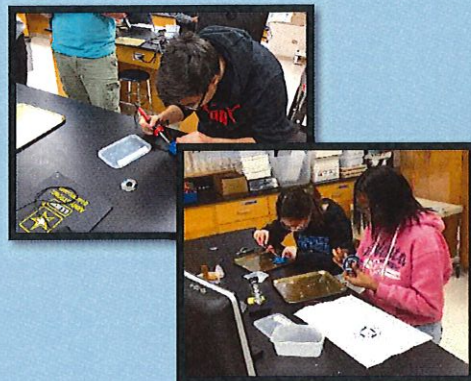
**Freshmen** PSAT 9 on April 15, 2020

- Juniors and seniors will have a normal daily schedule on April 15.

Detailed information regarding student schedules on the days of the exams will be communicated to families nearer to the dates of the exams. If you have questions regarding the SAT test for junior students, please contact Matthew Jones, Assistant Principal at the Almond Campus at 847-548-6655.

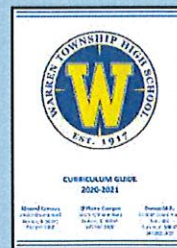
### In The Classroom

Students in Mr. Kreunen's Material Science class created their own circuits to test connectivity while learning about conductive metals and electricity. Their goal was to solder a complete circuit that would cause LED lights to blink.



### Course Selections for the 2020-2021 School Year

The 2020-2021 Curriculum Guide is posted on the District's website at <https://www.d121.org/Page/429>





## News From Student Services

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

### Career and College Counselors

WTHS is fortunate to have a career and college counselor at each campus! The career and college counselors work diligently to provide programming to help our students reflect and plan on post-secondary opportunities. In addition to student programming, they also host several parent informational meetings throughout the year. Please consider attending one of these informational meetings.

Follow us on Instagram @wthsgcc or accept their Canvas course invitation!



**College and Career Center webpage links:**

**Career Resource Link**  
<https://www.d121.org/Page/415>

**Alternatives to College Link**  
<https://www.d121.org/Page/421>

**Paying for College Link**  
<https://www.d121.org/Page/417>

**Carrie McGahan**  
Post-Secondary Counselor, Almond Campus  
847.548.6709  
[cmcgahan@wthsgcc.net](mailto:cmcgahan@wthsgcc.net)

**Trini Hartley**  
Post-Secondary Counselor, O'Plaine campus  
847.599.4532  
[thartley@wthsgcc.net](mailto:thartley@wthsgcc.net)

### Parent Informational Meetings at the O'Plaine Auditorium

*Camino a College*  
Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 p.m.

*Exploring Your Options (Freshmen)*  
Thursday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome back to second semester! Hopefully everyone had a safe and relaxing break. Prior to the break, our social workers at both campuses did a great job hosting our annual *DeStress Fest*. Students really enjoyed the break prior to final exams. Please know our student service teams are here to provide for the social and emotional growth of your student. If your student is feeling overwhelmed or uncomfortable, please make sure you reach out to someone on the team. The teams can be found on the student service section of the website at <https://www.d121.org/domain/106>

### Course Selection Information

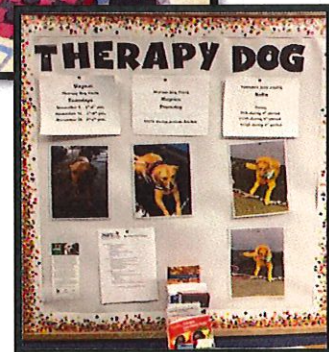
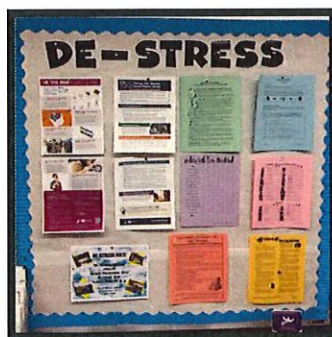
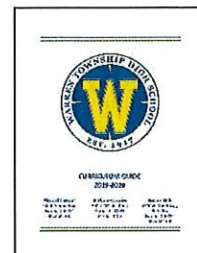


It's that time of year again! Please make sure you are reviewing the course selection process with your child. Our counselors have been working diligently to provide proactive academic advice to your child but we need you to be part of the process as well. As your child moves through high school, the choices for courses increases

and we want to make sure students are making good choices that will support their post-secondary plans.

**Course Selection Information**  
<https://il02214492.schoolwires.net/Page/578>

**Curriculum Guide**  
<https://il02214492.schoolwires.net/Page/429>





## Principal's Corner at the Almond Campus

by Rob Parrott



### Perfect Attendance

As an incentive for students who maintain perfect attendance during the school year, we draw names at the end of each month from those students who had perfect attendance and award 20 of those students' prizes.

For the month of November, we had 669 students who had perfect attendance! Congratulations to the 20 students who were randomly selected.

Katelyne Bashore, Kassandra Jimenez, Katherine Butera, Sarika Kumar, Theresa Carpentier, Jocelyn Matias-Cirilo, Brandon Dang, Stephanie Ortiz, David Encinas, Lucia Rodriguez, Megan Garward, Vanessa Rodriguez, Kayleigh Glickley, Bharbhur Singh, Nicole Haun, Ashley Thomas, Lydia Howard, Mayra Torres-Aguilera, Diya Iyer and Colton Wood.

### Open House and Parent Session on Vaping

The Almond Campus will have second semester **Open House for parents on Thursday, January 30, 2020, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Our staff looks forward to meeting all of our parents and/or guardians. You will have the opportunity to meet with individual teachers who will all be set up in the fieldhouse.



Also, we are inviting parents to a session on **Vaping and E-Cigarettes: What Parents Need to Know**. Our deans' will lead an **information session from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** in the Almond Campus cafeteria. This short presentation will provide parents information on an increasing trend among students across the country.

### Senior Second Semester Final Exam Exemption Information

I want to remind seniors and their parents about our final exam policy and attendance incentive for second semester. All seniors will be required to take final exams second semester. However, they have the opportunity to be exempt if they meet the requirements of the grade/attendance incentive.

I am optimistic that all of our seniors will strive to meet the requirements of the incentive. Please be aware that the incentive applies individually to each class second semester. A student may meet the requirement in some or all of their classes.

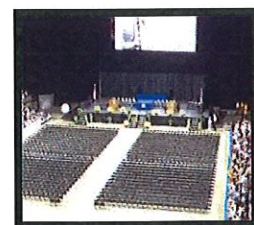
The requirements to meet the incentive to be exempt from second semester finals are as follows (NEED TO MEET ALL THREE REQUIREMENTS):

1. A student has five (5) or less *EXCUSED* absences from a class.
2. A student has a B- (80%) or higher in class.
3. A student has zero (0) *UNEXCUSED* absences.

At the end of the day Friday, May 8, 2020, grades and attendance will be finalized in regards to the incentive. On Monday, May 11, 2020, students will be able to confirm if they met the criteria for each class that they are enrolled in and review for the final exam. As a result, if your student meets the requirements of the incentive, their last day of class will be Monday, May 11, 2020. If they need to take a final(s), they will take their final(s) on Tuesday, May 12, 2020. There is not an appeal process for the incentive as the information in PowerSchool at the end of the day Friday, May 8, 2020 will determine if the incentive has been met.

### Graduation Ceremony Information

Graduation is right around the corner and our website is the best location for graduation information. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to visit our graduation page on our website. The **graduation ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates.**



Warren Township High School works directly with Jostens for graduation announcements, caps and gowns, and other Class of 2020 merchandise created by Jostens. Our school representative is Mr. Brian Walter.

If you haven't already placed your order, you can order online directly through the Jostens website. [Click here](#) to be directed to the website. If you have any questions for Jostens, you can email them at [walteroffice@jostens.com](mailto:walteroffice@jostens.com) or call them directly at 847-818-8419.



## Principal's Corner at the O'Plaine Campus

by Michele Bertola

Happy 2020! I hope you enjoyed time with friends and family over the winter break. We look forward to welcoming back our students and plan to challenge them to start the semester on a strong note. We will ask them to reflect on the five A's: Attendance, Academics, Attitude, Acceptance, and Athletics/Activities.



We will ask them to create a game plan to improve in the areas they most need it. Please ask them what they have learned from first semester in regards to "owning their learning" and what they plan to improve upon second semester. Thank you for your support!

### Supports for Students

- Late Buses: Students can stay after school to participate in activities or get extra help Mondays through Thursdays. The late bus leaves at 4:00 p.m. each day. This is a change from last semester where on Tuesdays the late bus was at 4:45. Please note the change.
- Resource Room: Students can get help in Science, Math, and Reading and Writing periods 1-8 by reporting straight to rooms 254, 256, and 257.
- Library: Our library is open in the morning, during the school day, and after school for students to work collaboratively.
- Study Table: Students needing extra academic support can attend study table in the library on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:15-4:00.
- Teacher Office Hours: Students can make appointments with teachers as needed based on student and teacher schedules.
- Student Services: Students can make an appointment with a social worker, guidance counselor, or dean in the main office.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR CLASSES? VISIT THE O'PLAINE RESOURCE ROOMS OPEN PERIODS 1-8 TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND THURSDAY	
SCIENCE	•ROOM 254
MATH	•ROOM 256
READING and WRITING	•ROOM 257

### Open House

Please join us for Parent Open House on Thursday, February 6, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Our staff looks forward to meeting all of our parents and/or guardians. You will have the opportunity to meet with individual teachers who will be set up in the gym.



Also, we are inviting parents to a session on **Vaping and E-Cigarettes: What Parents Need to Know**. Two 20-minute sessions, 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., in the O'Plaine Campus Main Office commons area. This short presentation will provide parents information on an increasing trend among students across the country.



### November 2019 Matter of Pride

Congratulations to our Matter of Pride recipients: Allyson Khubchandani, Sherlyn Garcia, Sophia Edgar, Jacob Pinder, Kasia Johnson, Oscar Lara, Josealfredo Rubio, Gracie Haupt, Leslie Lopez, LeDaethan Rice, Ashley Castro-Gomez, Sai Smriti Gogineni, Olivia Pas, Shyla Dominquez-Barnes, Adrian Jones, Caden Wittwer, and Andreas Ackron.

For the month of November, we had 411 students who had perfect attendance! Congratulations to the five randomly chosen to recognize: Ayesha Baig, Brandon Camargo, Anthony Dirzo, Stephon Francois, and Olivia Strassburger

### Parent Boot Camp

Thursday, February 13  
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

O'Plaine Campus  
Main Office Commons Area



## News about Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics



### Spring Sports Registration is now open.

Please go to the Athletic website to register and to find specific tryout dates for each sport.

<https://warrentownship-ar.schooltoday.com/>



You must be registered and have a current physical on file before you can tryout for any athletic teams.

### Winter Athletic Awards Night – March 11

Winter athletes will be honored on **Wednesday, March 11, in the Almond Campus gymnasium**. The awards presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. Please contact respective coaches for information regarding end of the season team banquets.

Warren Township High School District 121 is a member of the following athletic organizations:

Illinois High School Association (IHSA), which competes in phases of competition tournaments: sectionals, regionals and state.

North Suburban Conference (NSC), competes against eight nearby high schools throughout the season and ends with a conference tournament.

## National Letter of Intent Signees



### Football:

Juan DelaCruz, Western Illinois University  
Derrick McLaughlin, Indiana State University  
Adam Saul, Illinois State University  
Willis "JR" Singleton, Iowa State University



Congratulations to senior, Elizabeth Weinberg, for being named to the honorable mention 2019 News-Sun Girls Volleyball All-Area Team.



Congratulations to junior, Ethan Kailin, who was the NSC individual bowling champion at the inaugural NSC Championship.

## Spring Sports Start Dates

### January 27, 2020

- Boys Track & Field, Coach Williams ([jwilliams@wthsh.net](mailto:jwilliams@wthsh.net))
- Girls Track & Field, Coach Buddell ([jbuddell@wthsh.net](mailto:jbuddell@wthsh.net))

### March 2, 2020

- Badminton, Coach Heimstead ([bheimstead@wthsh.net](mailto:bheimstead@wthsh.net))
- Baseball, Clint Smothers ([csmothers@wthsh.net](mailto:csmothers@wthsh.net))
- Boys Lacrosse, Coach Janczak ([gjanczak@wthsh.net](mailto:gjanczak@wthsh.net))
- Girls Lacrosse, Coach Blakemore ([cblakemore@wthsh.net](mailto:cblakemore@wthsh.net))
- Girls Soccer, Coach McCabe ([rmccabe@wthsh.net](mailto:rmccabe@wthsh.net))
- Softball, Coach Charbonneau ([jcharbonneau@wthsh.net](mailto:jcharbonneau@wthsh.net))
- Boys Tennis, Coach Edler ([medler@wthsh.net](mailto:medler@wthsh.net))
- Boys Water Polo, Coach Whelan ([rwhelan@wthsh.net](mailto:rwhelan@wthsh.net))
- Girls Water Polo, Coach Zink ([sarahd84@gmail.com](mailto:sarahd84@gmail.com))

### March 9, 2020

- Boys Volleyball, Coach Chen ([ychen@wthsh.net](mailto:ychen@wthsh.net))

### Class of 2024 Athletic and Competitive Open House

The incoming freshmen, Class of 2024, Athletic and Competitive Activity Open House is **Wednesday, February 12, 2020**. The general session will begin at **6:30 p.m. in the O'Plaine Auditorium** and conclude in the gymnasium with a meet and greet, with coaches and sponsors, to find out information on summer camps and each specific program.



## News about Activities

by Aimee Lonigro, Assistant Director of Athletics and Activities Coordinator

### Avanza, Future Latino Leaders

Thank you to sponsors Luz Bravo and Lina Rangel for planning the Avanza, Future Latino Leaders Posada/Parranda holiday celebration. Members of Avanza hand made decorations and celebrated holiday traditions, dancing, and singing with all of their families.



Elected officers presented to families in both Spanish and English outlining the events of the evening and what Avanza is all about. Spanish teachers Luz Bravo and Tony Avila share a dance.



The symbolic pinata was brought out for all to enjoy.



Spanish teachers Luz Bravo and Tony Avila share a dance.

### Giggles 'n Bits

This January, Giggles 'n Bits performed at the Illinois High School Theatre Festival on the campus of Illinois State University. IHSFT is the largest and oldest non-competitive high school theatre festival in the nation.



Over 5,000 students, teachers, university representatives, and volunteers come together to celebrate high school theatre in Illinois.

Giggles 'n Bits is Warren Theatre's Sketch Comedy and Improv Troupe. It is directed by Adam Miller and Michael Anglemire, and features Josh Ostach, Wilson Hines, Joseph Diamond, Elizabeth Usher, Skylr Choe, Rachel McCullough, Marissa Jimenez-Captain, Riley Schroeder, and Lulu Damon-Davis.



### Important Dates

The International Club will host the  
**Super Show**  
on Friday, January 24  
in the O'Plaine Auditorium.

Tickets can be purchased for \$5 at:  
<https://warrentheatre.ludus.com/index.php>

WTHS will host the  
**IHSA Speech Regional**  
on February 8, 2020  
at the O'Plaine Campus.

### Turnabout Winter Dance February 22, 2020

The Turnabout Winter Dance will  
take place on  
Saturday, February 22, 2020  
from 7:00--10:00 p.m.  
at the Almond Campus.

Tickets will go on sale  
February 17, 2020.

The Winter Dance is for  
Warren Township High School  
students only.