

Warren Connection: Back to School

July 30, 2018



Beginning with this edition, the *Warren Connection* will be released monthly so that we can share some of the most recent highlights of achievements and activities of our students, parents, staff and community members who have recently been involved in during the last four weeks. We will also provide some progress related to initiatives within our District's Strategic Plan and other news of the district.

Thank you for your interest and support of Warren Township High School District 121.

WALK-IN REGISTRATION INFORMATION

	Tuesday, July 31, 2018	Wednesday, August 1, 2018	Thursday, August 2, 2018
Almond Campus	1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
O'Plaine Campus	1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

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IMPORTANT DATES

Registration

at Almond and O'Plaine Campuses
July 31, August 1 and 2
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Late Registration

August 8
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Sneak Peek

at Almond and O'Plaine Campuses
August 13
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Freshman and Junior Orientation

at Almond and O'Plaine Campuses
August 15
7:25 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

FIRST DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS

August 16
Regular Schedule

Open House at Almond

August 23
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Open House at O'Plaine

August 30
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information check the website at
[www. d121.org](http://www.d121.org)

August 18				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

Board of Education News and the Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education

Thomas Drake, President
Michael B. Munda, Vice-President
Barb Conway, Secretary
John R. Anderson, Member
Paul Schulz, Member
Jim Walz, Member
Jonita C. Wilson, Member



Strategic Planning

Continuous improvement efforts at WTHS are guided by our Board of Education on the Strategic Plan. The Plan entails the goals and timelines for focus areas within our school district. Some goals and activities have immediate realization for our programs, while others will require some planning prior to implementation. Also included within the Plan are the district's Greatness Indicators which were identified to help bring accountability to our plan and results for our students, staff and community.

Our current plan can be located at <https://il02214492.schoolwires.net/Page/276>

If you are interested in participating in our 2018 Strategic Planning work, please contact me at ahlgrim@wth.net

Back To School

Summer has gone quickly and it is difficult to believe that we are already at "Back-to-School" time. Regardless of the age of students, returning to school each fall certainly brings on great excitement, high hopes and a great sense of community at WTHS as we welcome back our students and staff. As we get ready to begin another fantastic year, we ask parents to please keep in mind a few critical thoughts to help make this the most successful year possible for our students.

First, please review the enclosed dates and times for onsite registration. Information has been sent to families and is available on our website regarding the necessary documents for an efficient proof of residency process. Having your child(ren) registered appropriately for school is critical for a smooth start to the year!

Second, please continue to keep informed on your child's progress at WTHS over the course of the year through PowerSchool. Your awareness of your child's attendance and grades over the course of the year will certainly help communicate the importance of students doing their best, as well as motivate your child. Please direct your inquiry to the school office if you need help with PowerSchool access.

Third, we are excited about the extra-curricular and co-curricular activities we offer at WTHS. There is no question that these programs often provide personal connection and fun for our Blue Devils to different aspects of school and their lives. Please encourage your child to continue to get involved in school activities and perform their best in these activities as well as working hard in all of their academic subjects.

Finally, please take the time as a parent to appreciate how special these high school years are for your child(ren) and you, and continue open communication with each turn as they become young adults.

Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL) Exceptional Services for Exceptional Student

Thank you to Valerie Donnan, the new Superintendent of the Special Education District of Lake County for attending our July 17 Board of Education meeting to highlight the strong partnership and collaborative work between WTHS and SEDOL. Superintendent Donnan shared some of the history of SEDOL, current programs and services that SEDOL provides for WTHS students, and many other services available to member districts and our staffs.

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@wth.net

News From Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocaris, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services

Greetings, and welcome back from the Warren Township High School Instructional Services Department! Our Instructional Services Department works with our teachers to ensure students receive a world-class educational experience at Warren Township High School by developing rigorous, vertically-aligned curriculum in all departments. In addition, we work with our Educational Technology Department to continuously improve and update our technological infrastructure to allow for seamless integration of technology into our classrooms.

Beginning this year, the Educational Technology Department, and the Department of Curriculum and Instruction will join together under the umbrella of Instructional Services. These two departments are focused on ensuring that teachers and students have access to the appropriate tools needed for effective teaching and learning to occur. By merging these two departments, we will be able to work more effectively than ever to provide students with a positive experience in the classroom, while continuing to support our teachers in their professional practice at Warren Township High School.

This year, we have had some changes in our department leadership. We welcome Peter Kupfer, Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction at the O'Plaine Campus, and Matt Jones, Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction at the Almond Campus onto our team. Peter and Matt will be leading our instructional initiatives, supporting building-level technology, and assisting with staff professional development. They will also oversee the Chromebook program at their respective campuses.

[Click Here to view Curriculum & Instruction Personnel](#)

[Click Here to view Educational Technology Personnel](#)

Chromebook Distribution



District 121 is excited to be able to issue a Chromebook to every student. This is the fourth year of our 1 to 1 Chromebook Program. Chromebooks will be distributed to all incoming freshmen and transfer students new to the district during registration on July 31, August 1, and

August 2, as well as during late registration on August 8. If a returning student has a Chromebook that was damaged over the summer, or has a Chromebook that is not functioning properly, they should bring their Chromebook to the Tech Academy+ location at their respective campus when school resumes.



Students at the Almond Campus can bring their Chromebook to Room 109. Students at O'Plaine can bring their Chromebook to Room 250.



State Testing

In June, The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) re-adopted the SAT as the state assessment for College and Career Readiness. ISBE has agreed to a 3-year commitment with the College Board to administer the SAT to all students in April of their junior year of high school. Taking the SAT will continue to be a graduation requirement. In this new contract, the state has also included the PSAT-9 and PSAT-10 for freshman and sophomore students as well. The PSAT-9 and PSAT-10 provide students with an opportunity to monitor their progress towards being ready for the SAT. All freshmen and sophomore students will take these assessments in April. There will be additional communications regarding these assessments throughout the year. Please feel free to reach out to your student's guidance counselor, or the Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction at either building.

To learn more about the SAT Suite of Assessments, please [click here](#).

2018 PSAT

Junior students will have the opportunity to take the PSAT/NMSQT this October. Registration for the PSAT/NMSQT will begin when school resumes in August. Information regarding the registration process will be sent via email in August, and can be found online on our [Testing Information](#) page. This year, the PSAT/NMSQT will be on Wednesday, October 10th. The cost to take this test will be \$20.

To learn more about the PSAT/NMSQT [click here](#).

News From Student Services

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



Meningococcal Vaccination Reminder for ALL SENIORS

Effective January 1, 2015, all students entering the sixth and 12th grades are required to get the meningococcal vaccination. Students without adequate proof of vaccination will be subject to exclusion from school.

For families that cannot schedule an appointment to get their student immunized prior to the start of the school year ***Warren has partnered with Jewel-Osco to offer the vaccination during our walk-in registration process. Jewel-Osco will be providing specially trained pharmacists who will offer the meningococcal conjugate (MCV4) vaccine at the Almond Campus during registration. Jewel-Osco will handle all billing and payment on site. Students/parents can pay with cash, credit, or check. Jewel-Osco has the ability to bill a variety of insurance plans.***

Freshman Physicals

Please make sure physicals have been submitted to the health office at O'Plaine or bring one with you to registration. Students without a physical on the first day will be subject to exclusion from school.

Welcome back to school! The Warren Township Student Service Department strives to support students and parents with direct services that enhance their experience at WTHS through support for academic, social and emotional growth.

Our Student Service Teams, see link below, are ready to continue to support students when they arrive. Our counselors will be available at registration if you have any last minute concerns about school or courses. In addition, once the year begins, please take advantage of the resources and services our counselors, social workers, psychologists and deans provide. We are happy to help students that are facing difficult decisions, struggling to acclimate to the building, struggling academically or socially, or providing resources to help start post high school planning. We encourage parents or students to reach out to any member of the team for help.

[Student Service Teams 2018/19](#)

Registration

There are two steps to complete your student's registration for the 2018-19 school year:

Step 1: Complete the online pre-registration process for your student(s) prior to walk-in registration. If you have not done so, you may log into your PowerSchool account using your parent username and password to update your student's demographic information, electronically sign for the Student-Parent Handbook and any other necessary forms that require an electronic signature. Please visit the registration page of our website for additional information.

Step 2: July 31, August 1-2, 2018, complete the walk-in registration and proof of residency process.

Attend walk-in registration at your 2018-19 campus of attendance: You will need to provide proof of residency. Students can take their yearbook photo, pick up their schedule, bus route, locker assignment, and Chromebook, textbooks and parking permits (if applicable). All medical forms you may need to complete can also be turned in at this time. Your registration is not complete until you complete the walk-in process.

Student Assistance Programming

Our Social Workers will continue to promote healthy choices with a theme for each quarter of the school year. Our first quarter topic is *Substance Abuse Awareness*. This will include announcements, informational posters throughout the building and a celebration of Red Ribbon Week in October. You can find excellent resources on the social workers webpage. Please use this link to find the information [Student Assistance Programming](#)

News From Business Services and Operations

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

Meet the Business Office Staff

Michael A. Engel, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services and Operations/CSBO

I am extremely excited to be joining the Warren family this school year. For the past nine years, I served as the Chief Financial Officer at several districts, most recently at Brookwood School District 167. These past experiences have given me an extensive knowledge of all areas related to school district finance, business office operations and facility oversight.

Dollie Jacobson, Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent for Business Services and Operations

I am new to the business office this year. Prior to this, I was the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Transportation for two years. My primary responsibility is the Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent for Business Services and Operations. My responsibilities include: facility rentals, invoicing, client's certificates of insurance, preparing vendor bids and assisting office staff as needed.

Roxanne Hopkins, Accounting Manager

I started with Warren nine years ago. I started as the Business Services Coordinator. I am currently the Accounting Manager and my responsibilities include bank reconciliations, preparing the Treasurer's reports, wire transfers, grants, audits and payroll monitoring and assistance.

Karen Efsen, Business Services Coordinator

I have worked for Warren for 15 years, as a teachers' secretary and the bookkeeper and now as the Business Services Coordinator. I deposit the checks that are sent to the District office, process the payments from the accounting software programs the District uses and oversee the bookkeepers at each campus.

Dawn Fergen, Accounts Payable and Purchasing Coordinator

I have worked in the Business Office for the past ten years. My primary responsibility is accounts payable. I also process all purchase orders for both campuses, oversee all credit card account transactions and the tax exemption certificates and W-9s for outside contractors. I also assist other business office staff as needed.

Keith Bezak, Payroll Coordinator

I have been the Payroll Coordinator for WTHS for three years. In addition to processing the paychecks for the district, I also provide assistance for the following responsibilities: payroll taxes, W2's, direct deposit, 403b's and 457b's, garnishments and other general payroll items and issues.



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.d322.org and select Human Resources
→ Please contact Jeanne Turf, Director of Transportation at 847-599-4787 or jturf@weths.net

News for the Month

Finance

The business office is closing out FY18 and preparing for the upcoming audit. The audit is scheduled for the third week in August and should take about two weeks.

Facilities

Many facility upgrades take place during the summer months under the oversight the Director of Facilities, José Zires. Below are some project updates:

- The O'Plaine Campus main office is getting a little makeover! The office space features new corridor accessibility with new glass walls, new carpeting, paint and LED lighting.
- HVAC is another big project this summer, consisting of new state-of-the-art controllers and programming for the HVAC operating systems at the Almond and O'Plaine campuses. These new components will assist with the humidity control. Also Installed will be a new roof top HVAC unit for the green room and athletic trainer's room at the O'Plaine Campus.
- The O'Plaine Campus fieldhouse has new indoor turf and a new basketball court. Many different student groups will benefit from this facility upgrade!

Food Services

A variety of meals and snacks are available in the cafeteria. Each student has the opportunity to set up an account to pay for food in the cafeteria. [Click here](#) for more information about setting up an account.



Transportation Services

The beginning of a school year is a very busy time for the Transportation Department as route information is created and distributed to District families eligible for transportation services. The Director of Transportation, Jeanne Turf, and the department staff appreciate your patience during the first few weeks of the school year.



Transportation Questions?
Call the Transportation Office at 847-599-4787.

Principal's Corner at the Almond Campus

by Rob Parrott

On **Monday, August 13**, we will host a "Sneak Peek" for students who would like to see the building/walk their schedule.

Parents/guardians are also welcome to attend. Administrators will be available for any questions or concerns that you may have. Please feel free to arrive at any time between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

On **Wednesday, August 15**, we will host a junior orientation. We will be running the busses at the regular pick-up time, and students should arrive at their bus stop if they need transportation. Students will receive their bus route information at registration. Students will arrive on campus at our regularly scheduled start time (7:25 a.m.) and follow a shortened schedule in order to become more acclimated to the building. Students may also drive to school as parking permits will NOT be enforced on this day. In addition, the administration and student services will provide the students with critical information for a successful junior year.

On **Thursday, August 16**, we welcome all students back for the first day of the 2018-2019 school year.

On **Friday, August 17**, we will have an all-school assembly to welcome our students back to school, celebrate successes, and establish expectations for success. We will encourage all of our students to wear blue and gold on this day as well as every Friday during the school year.

On **Thursday, August 23**, the Almond Campus will host our fall open house for parents to meet their student's teachers and experience a condensed school day. Parents will follow their student's bell schedule starting at 6:30 p.m. with 10-minute classes and five-minute passing periods. Teachers will be present to introduce themselves and give a brief overview of their classes and expectations.

Open House
Almond Campus
August 23, 2018
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

I hope everyone has had a safe and enjoyable summer with family and friends. As the principal at the Almond Campus, I am honored to be leading an outstanding staff to empower our students to achieve great things during their high school career and beyond. This will be my 25th year at Warren, and I am grateful to be a part of a school culture that is focused on student learning, a commitment to excellence, innovation and collaboration. It is my intention to continue these important traditions and practices during the 2018-19 school year.



Please help me in communicating a message that our staff and students will hear from me throughout the school year. This message invites everyone to be a part of the A-Team at the Almond Campus and focus our energy on five concepts that will promote success. I believe that for our staff and students to ACHIEVE great things, they should focus on:

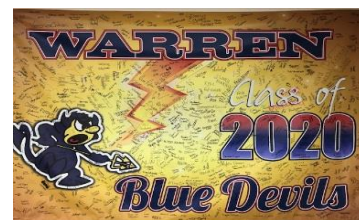
- Attendance – This is a dedication to being at school, in class, on time, each day.
- Attitude – This is a focus on choosing to get better every day. To choose an attitude that makes yourself and others better.
- Academics – This is a focus on taking active ownership of your learning and making positive progress academically.
- Acceptance – This is an appreciation for the diversity in our world and valuing the assets diversity brings to our community. It is a commitment to treating others as you would want to be treated; and even better, getting to know others so you can treat them how they want to be treated.
- Athletics/Activities – This is an engagement in the opportunities outside of the classroom that enhance student connectedness and contributions to our school community.

Those five concepts are much bigger than the words I used to describe them, but I think they may help you understand the concepts I will communicate and promote throughout the year so that we can have a common language and understanding for the things our staff and students should focus on to be successful.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with PowerSchool so you can track your student's progress academically and check attendance. Attendance is a critical part of student academic success. By encouraging a positive attendance pattern, you help support your students' academic growth. Our staff strives to provide engaging opportunities for our students, but we cannot help them if they are not here.

The start of the school year is right around the corner, and our staff cannot wait for the students to return. I believe we provide a first-class education for our students, and I know we are going to have another outstanding school year in which we celebrate many successes. Please feel free to contact me or any other staff member with questions or concerns during the school year.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer. Thank you, and as Always, Go Blue Devils!



Principal's Corner at the O'Plaine Campus

by Michele Bertola



Welcome back to school Class of 2021 and 2022. Freshman students and parents: We are excited for you to start your high school experience with us--you are all officially Blue Devils! Sophomore students and parents: Welcome back for year two--high school continues to get better!

I hope you all have had a safe and enjoyable summer with family and friends. As I start my first year as Principal at the O'Plaine Campus, I am truly honored to be a part of a school culture focused on student learning, a commitment to excellence, innovation and collaboration. This will be my 19th year at Warren, and it is my intention to continue these important traditions and practices during the 2018-19 school year. We have an outstanding staff and we look forward to partnering with you to empower our students to achieve great things during their high school career and beyond.

It is going to be an awesome year and I look forward to supporting and showcasing the work of our students. Please stay connected through our [WTHS website](#), PowerSchool (make sure email addresses are updated), and follow us on social media: #WeAreWarren.

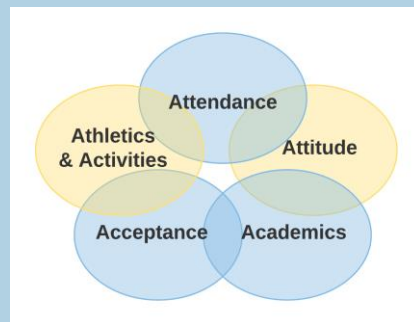
Enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing you soon. Go Blue Devils!

Open House

O'Plaine Campus
August 30, 2018
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars for some important upcoming events:

- July 31-August 2nd: Walk-in Registration
- August 13th: Sneak Peek Night
- August 15th: Freshmen Orientation
- August 16th: First Official Day of School
- Freshmen: Please remember to get your physicals in prior to the first day of school
- August 30th: O'Plaine Campus Fall Open House



Please help me in communicating a message that our staff and students will hear from me throughout the school year. This message encourages everyone at the O'Plaine Campus to focus our energy on five concepts that will promote success. I believe that for our staff and students to ACHIEVE great things, they should be ACCOUNTABLE for:

Attendance – This is a dedication to being at school, in class, on time, each day.

Attitude – This is a focus on choosing to get better every day. To choose an attitude that makes yourself and others better.

Academics – This is a focus on taking active ownership of your learning and making positive progress academically.

Acceptance – This is an appreciation for the diversity in our world and valuing the assets diversity brings to our community. It is a commitment to treating others as you would want to be treated; and even better, getting to know others so you can treat them how they want to be treated.

Athletics/Activities – This is an engagement in the opportunities outside of the classroom that enhance student connectedness and contributions to our school community. We will have an Activities & Athletics Fair on Friday, August 24th during lunch study halls for students to learn about all of the extracurricular opportunities at WTHS. Our goal is to have every student get connected to an activity or sport this school year.



News from Activities and Athletics

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



HOME OF THE BLUE DEVILS

On behalf of our administration, coaches, and sponsors we welcome you to a new year of Warren Athletics and Activities. Extracurricular participation is a great opportunity to develop character, discipline, unity, and to have fun. We feel very fortunate to work in a community with such a rich history and tradition for excellence. Our expectation is that the dedication and performance of our student athletes and activity members begins in the classroom and extends to the playing field. We look forward to being part of the continued growth of the Warren Athletic and Activity Programs. Go Blue Devils!

Fall Sports Start Dates

August 6

Boys' Golf
Girls' Golf
Football

August 8

Girls' Tennis
Boys' Cross Country
Girls' Cross Country
Girls' Volleyball
Girls' Swimming
Boys' Soccer

Athletics and Activities Registration



The 2018-2019 athletic year will begin prior to the start of school. For details regarding tryouts, please visit the athletic department page by going to www.d121.org/athletics.

All athletes are required to have a current physical exam on file with the school nurse prior to trying out for any sport.

Any student interested in trying out for sports or competitive activities must register with a parent/guardian to fill out the appropriate forms and/or consents to participate. This must be done prior to attending the first tryout, practice, or audition. More specific information can be found on the website under the Athletics and Activities tab.

Congratulations to FBLA Students

Thirty-three members of Warren's Future Business Leaders of America chapter recently attended the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Warren experienced a very successful national conference with 14 members placing in nine events. Warren's chapter was also recognized as an Outstanding Chapter and a Gold Seal Chapter.

Important Dates

August 12

Band Picture Day

August 18 and August 21

Fall Sports Picture Days

August 24

Activity and Athletic Fair
at O'Plaine Campus during lunch periods

August 25

Freshman Fest at O'Plaine Campus
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Get involved in WARREN ACTIVITIES!



BLUE DEVIL PRIDE

Athletic Honors

Being a student athlete takes a great deal of dedication and hard work. In the 2017-18 school year Warren had 259 athletes make the NSC All-Academic team. Also this past spring Warren honored 22 student athletes that played three sports during the school year. Students that are multi-sport athletes tend to do better academically, socially, and display positive leadership skills. Warren had 11 athletes earn All-State honors in spring sports! They are:

Jamie Kwon	Girls' Soccer
Caitlyn Britton	Softball
Becca Geiyer	Softball
Ashlyn Kitter	Softball
Claire Swedberg	Softball
Sebastian Castanos	Boys' Tennis
Stefan Radovic	Boys' Tennis
Brandon Ellis	Boys' Track and Field
Annika Bynum	Girls' Track and Field
Jannii Jenkins	Girls' Track and Field
Kyle Wells	Boys' Volleyball