

Warren Connection: Assessments and Preparing for Testing Season

February 11, 2019



Dear Warren Community:

Thank you for your understanding as we work through our Chicagoland winter with snow, brutal cold and ice. We have now rescheduled four student attendance days on May 28, 29, 30 and 31, due to weather related cancellations, and still have one emergency day remaining in case school is cancelled again. Our final exams for non-seniors will be scheduled for the last days of the school year. We hope springtime weather will be here soon!

Illinois 5Essentials Survey

Organizing Schools for Improvement

Annually, students, staff and parents of children in Illinois schools have an opportunity to participate in the statewide *Illinois 5Essentials Survey*, which measures conditions for learning. Your participation in the parent portion of the survey will help us understand the conditions at Warren Township High School and guide improvement. The anonymous survey is available in English and Spanish and the parent survey is open through February 15, 2019. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Parents/Guardians, the website address is: <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/> and select Warren Township High (34090 N Almond Rd, Gurnee, IL 60031) to begin the survey regardless of which campus your student attends.

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Make-up Days

In order to make up the emergency days used on November 26, 2018, January 28, 30, and 31, 2019, due to adverse weather, we plan to make the following changes in the school calendar:

**Student attendance days will be:
May 28, 29, 30 and 31, 2019**

Please keep in mind there is one more emergency day built into the calendar that could possibly be used should the need arise. We hope the weather will not cause the need for any more calendar changes this school year.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding.

IMPORTANT DATES

School in Session - February 12, 2019

Screens for Teens @ Almond Campus
February 13

Class of 2023 Athletic and Activity Night
@ O'Plaine Campus
February 13

Presidents' Day - DISTRICT CLOSED
February 18

Screens for Teens @ O'Plaine Campus
February 20, 2019

8th Grade and Jazz Band Concert
@ Almond Black Box Theatre
February 21 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

First Day of Spring Sports
(All spring sports except Boys Volleyball)
February 25

Contest Play @ Almond Black Box Theatre
March 1, 2019

Institute Day - No Student Attendance
March 1, 2019

Casimir Pulaski Day - District Closed
March 4, 2019

First Day for Boys Volleyball
March 4, 2019

Exploring Your Options for Incoming Freshman @
O'Plaine Campus
March 7, 2019 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Winter Sports Athletic Awards @ Almond Campus
March 7, 2019 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

February 19				
M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	

**SIP Days
2-Hour Late Start
February 11, 25**

Board of Education News

Dear Warren Community:

Now that Punxsutawney Phil has told us that spring is just a mere six weeks away, hopefully we can put the memory of the polar vortex behind us and continue to focus on the many important initiatives facing our district.

Maintaining a solid financial foundation is essential to delivering the quality programs our talented teachers and incredible students deserve. The Board worked hard to balance our annual budget and half way through the 2018-2019 school year, we continue to track positive to the annual plan.

Providing for safe and quality campuses is a high priority for the district. Our students, teachers, staff and community deserve nothing less. Our buildings are aging and many essential infrastructure areas need to be addressed to achieve that goal. Roofs, boilers, safety updates at each campus, locker rooms, athletic and theatre facilities all need to be maintained. Some projects (like the solar project and high efficiency boilers) can actually lower our expenses over time, i.e. pay for themselves. To support this important work, the Board authorized a restructuring of existing bond debt and an issuance of new bonds. These funds will allow us to prioritize these important repairs while actually lowering the short-term tax burden.

Lastly, we continue to work hard at staying ahead of the future challenges our district will face by updating and maintaining our five-year strategic plan. We maintain an updated version on the D121 website; please check it out. As always, if you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or any of the board members.

Thank you.

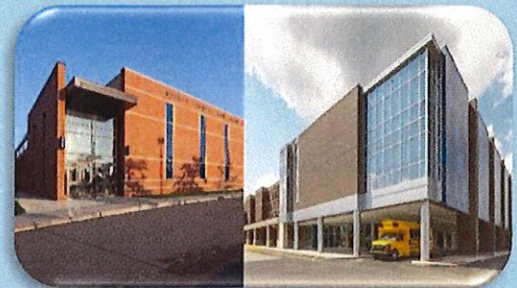
On behalf of the Board,

Thomas Drake
Board President

Department Report: Student Services

Dr. Keeley, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, provided an overview of the Student Services department, highlighting their initiatives and programs. The Student Services department includes guidance counselors, psychologists, social workers, nurses and deans of students. Within each of these areas, there are many services and resources which are available to all of our students.

Several initiatives guided by the strategic plan were a focus on parent presentations related to college and career planning, and a program on *"Vaping 101, What Parents Should Know."* Student programs focused on *"See Something-Say Something,"* student leadership groups, DeStress Fest, the Wellness Fair, Elyssa's Mission and piloting a therapy dog program. Additionally, staff enrichment was provided in *"Stop the Bleed"* program and tabletop simulations presented by the Gurnee Police Department.



Recap of January 15, 2019 Board of Education Meeting

The Board began the meeting by recognizing four football players who received special acknowledgement for their outstanding leadership and achievements. Recognized were Juan DeLaCruz, Willis Singleton, Jr., Martin Walker, II, and Zack Pelland.

Announcements, presentations and/or reports were provided for the following items:

- Announcement of the 2018-2019 School Board Meeting Schedule
- Treasurer's Reports for December 2018
- Student Services Department Report
- Presentation of the FY18 Audit
- Solar project update

The Board approved the following items:

- Payment of bills in the amount of \$3,749,019.25
- Regular and Executive Session minutes of December 18, 2018
- Hiring recommendations for three employees and/or prospective candidates
- Review of closed session minutes from July 18, 2017 through December 18, 2018
- Second reading and approval of 35 district board policies
- Approval of the 2019-2020 public school calendar
- Approval of the 2019-2020 school board meeting schedule
- Approval to begin the budget for the 2019-2020 school year
- Authorization to close inactive activity accounts
- Approval of board scholarships for 2019

Superintendent's Corner

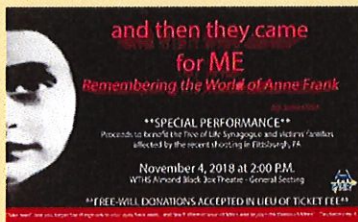
by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools

WARREN Better Together

In the news

On Sunday, November 4, the WTHS Theater Department offered an encore performance of *'And they came for Me. Remembering the World of Anne Frank'*, due to the tragic event in Pittsburgh. The cast, crew and director wanted to use the encore performance as a tribute to the victims and use the proceeds from the show to support the victims' families. In lieu of tickets, the performers asked for free-will donations that were sent to the *Tree of Life* synagogue and the victims' families.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette did a following up article about fundraising efforts for the Tree of Life Synagogue victims and their families, and Warren students and community were highlighted in this exposé.



Our Black Student Union has organized activities for the month of February celebrating Black History Month. The International Club just put on a super *SuperShow* last week. Muslim Student Association is celebrated World Hijab Day last week during lunch periods. It is great to see our student leaders and their organizations planning activities that help educate others about their culture.

In honor of Black History Month, Warren Township High School's Black Student Union will host a live presentation filled with spirit, excellence, and culture. The performance will be at the O'Plaine Auditorium on February 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m.

Solar Project Update

Due to the extreme weather and school cancellation, the **Alternative Energy/ Solar Project Committee meeting** scheduled for January 30 was cancelled and rescheduled to **6:30 p.m. on February 19 in the Almond Campus Library**. We hope to have updated designs and details regarding our proposed solar project scheduled to begin this spring on the south end of our Almond Campus along Gages Lake Road.



Gurnee Rotary Charity Dance

Saturday, March 16, 2019

7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

at the Almond Campus

<https://gurneerotarycharitydance.eventbrite.com>



SAT. 3/16/19, 7-10PM
GURNEE ROTARY
CHARITY DANCE

Warren Twp. High School Almond
Campus Field House

Come solo or bring the family! Ticket prices
available for families, individual adults, students 12-
18, + kids under 12 are FREE with a parent ticket.

Buy tickets here:

<https://gurneerotarycharitydance.eventbrite.com>

Dress in the style of
your favorite dance era

Winners through the
night for best dancers
and best outfits!

Photo backdrops and
props for
#postworthy pics

Games & Concessions

Support 6 local causes

A Safe Place/Lake County
Crisis Center

Northeast Illinois Council
Boy Scouts of America

Operation Warm

The Salvation Army, Adult
Rehabilitation Center,
Waukegan

Warren H.S. scholarships

Warren Township Food
Pantry

News from Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocaris, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

Testing Information

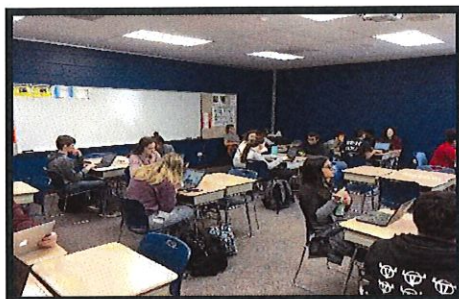
In April, all 9th grade students will be taking the PSAT 9, 10th grade students will be taking the PSAT 10, and 11th grade students will be taking the SAT. Detailed information about these tests and the schedules for our testing days will be communicated in the upcoming weeks.

Our scheduled test dates for this Spring are as follows:

- Tuesday, April 9: SAT for 11th Grade Students
 - O'Plaine Campus will be on a normal bell-schedule on this date.
 - Seniors will not attend school on this date.
- Wednesday, April 10: PSAT 9 for 9th Grade Students, and PSAT 10 for 10th Grade Students
 - Almond Campus will be on a normal bell-schedule on this date.
- Tuesday, April 23: Make-up testing for PSAT 9, PSAT 10, and SAT at both campuses.

If you have questions regarding the PSAT 9 or PSAT 10, please contact Peter Kupfer, Assistant Principal at the O'Plaine Campus.

If you have questions regarding the SAT, please contact Matthew Jones, Assistant Principal at the Almond Campus.



Educational Technology

Beginning on Monday, February 11, 2019, we will be disabling automated push notifications for student grades to the PowerSchool mobile app. If enabled, automated push notifications are sent to the mobile app any time a grade is changed in PowerSchool. Our teachers regularly use the gradebook program with individual students to illustrate how different assignments can impact their grades. Sometimes this involves entering several scores for a single assignment. The most current version of PowerSchool's gradebook application requires teachers to save the score so the gradebook will calculate a new overall grade, which then generates a push notification to the mobile app. This has caused confusion for students and parents, so we are disabling that functionality. Automated push notifications for attendance will remain enabled.

Parents can still create their own schedule of email updates from the PowerSchool website. These email notifications are customizable and can be set for Daily, Weekly, Every 2 Weeks, or Monthly. You can also select the level of detail you would like to receive in terms of academic progress and student attendance. These notifications can be setup by logging into the PowerSchool Parent Portal.



[Click here](#) for directions to set up notifications for your student(s). If you need assistance with setting up your notifications, please contact Cindy Albright, our Data Systems Manager, at calbright@wths.net



In the Classroom

Students in our U.S. History classes at the Almond Campus researched advertising techniques used in the 1920's, and analyzed how many of the innovations in advertising that arose in the 1920's are still in use today. After completing their research, students created podcasts to share their findings with a wide audience.



Advanced Placement Testing (AP)

Warren Township High School offers 26 AP courses over six departments. Students enrolled in AP courses are eligible to take the Advanced Placement exams at the end of their course for the opportunity to earn college credit. Students are charged a fee for each exam.

AP Tests are administered in early May.

Registration for AP Exams will be open until February 17. Exams cost \$100 each. Please register here: www.TotalRegistration.net/AP/142175

From February 18 through February 24 we will accept late registrations with an additional \$50 late fee per exam.

Questions about AP Exams?
Email mjones@wths.net

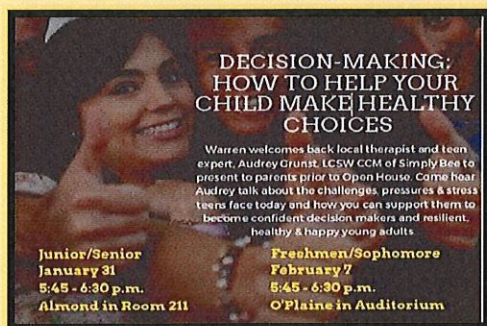
News From Student Services

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

Parent Programs offered at Spring Open Houses

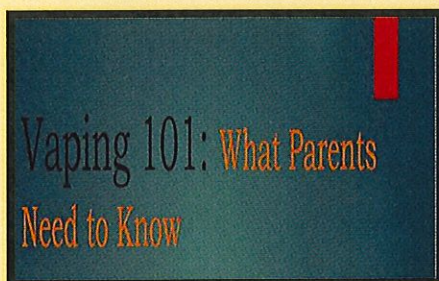
Decision Making: How to Help Your Child Make Healthy Choices

Hosted by Audrey Grunst, LCSW CCM of Simply Bee, offered a presentation to parents prior to open house.



The Dangers of Vaping

Parents had an opportunity to learn about the grave dangers of vaping. This is a growing epidemic amongst teenagers across the country. This informative seminar was held before the open house on February 7 at both campuses.



Hopefully everyone is off to a great start for second semester! Our Student Service staff is busy planning for the 2019-2020 school year. Hopefully your student has confirmed their course selections with the counselor for next year as we will begin the master scheduling process soon. Open houses at both campuses are upon us already. We hope you had time to visit us!

Therapy Dog Pilot Program

Our social workers are piloting a program with a local therapy dog due to the overwhelming response from students at our annual Destress Fest and Wellness Day. Our volunteer dog Magnus will visit specific classrooms and the student service office at the Almond campus. We are extremely excited to offer this service to our students.



Depression and Suicide Screening

At Warren, we believe it is important to focus on the whole student paying close attention to the emotions that are often associated with teen years. These years are marked by a rollercoaster of emotions, which may be difficult for teens. As a result, we will be presenting the Signs of Suicide (SOS) Prevention Program to all of our freshmen in health classes this semester as we did last semester. This is a school-based suicide prevention program presented by Elyssa's Mission, a nonprofit organization dedicated to suicide prevention. This is an evidenced-based program that addresses suicide risk and depression, while reducing suicide attempts. For more information, please review the link below. In addition, all parents and guardians were emailed a letter reviewing the program on January 8. A special thank you to our social workers for implementing this program. www.elyssasmission.org



Thank you to physical development lead teacher Brandon Schild, and the PE staff for organizing the Almond campus second semester blood drive, which took place on Wednesday, February 6. There were 191 units collected that will potentially save the lives of 573 patients. Thank you to all who gave blood to help others.

News From Business Services and Operations

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

2019-2020 Budget Preparation Begins

At the January 15, 2019 meeting, the Board provided approval to begin the budget preparation process for the 2019-2020 school year. The first step is to schedule initial meetings with lead teachers, assistant principals, and principals, to determine the needs of each department, which will help guide the budget process for creating next year's budget. Meetings will be scheduled during February and March. After these meetings take place, all of the information will be compiled to create a preliminary budget for review during the summer months, with final approval in September 2019.



Thank you to the building and grounds staff for an incredible job with all of the snow removal and keeping the buildings in tip top shape during the last few weeks of polar vortex and subzero weather.

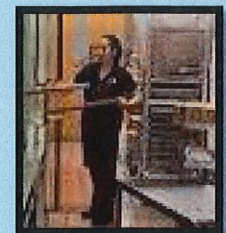


Thank you to several of the transportation staff who worked during the polar vortex and subzero weather to keep the buses in working order until school was back in session. They had to start each bus in the fleet multiple times during these days.



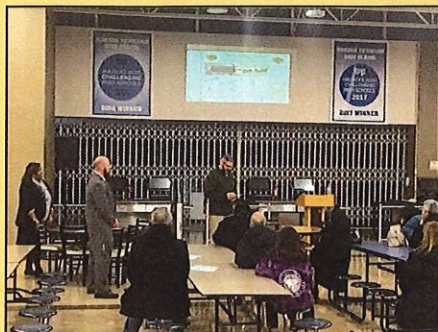
Food Services

The food service staff are always working to give our students healthy food choices. Preparation starts early every day and does not end until everything is neat and tidy.



Principal's Corner at the Almond Campus

by Rob Parrott



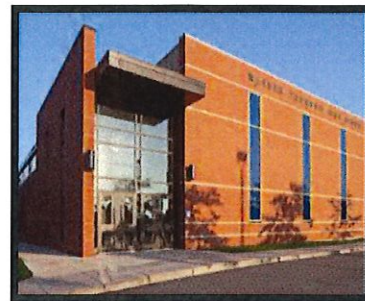
Parent presentation on
Vaping 101: What Parents Need to Know
February 7, 2019, Almond Campus



Thank you to Art teacher, Kate Knutson, who has secured a grant with Governors State University. Dr. Katy E. Hisrich, Professor in Education at Governors State University has teamed with Ms. Knutson to work with students enrolled in our art courses. This project, "Teaching Tolerance," is about using visual arts to portray social injustices and different perspectives of others, as well as portray empathy towards others. Our students will be able to interact with many local artists and gain perspectives through their work.

Thank you to Ms. Knutson for seeking out this opportunity for our students.

Second semester is off to a great start. The Almond Campus held our second semester **Open House** on February 7, 2019. This night allowed for our 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 our parents get a snapshot of what their student experiences each day.



We held our second **safety/lockdown drill** of the school year on January 17, 2019 at the Almond Campus to practice our emergency procedures. This was coordinated with local law enforcement so they could be on campus to participate in the exercise.

**IF YOU SEE
SOMETHING,
SAY SOMETHING.**

On January 15, 2019, we had our staff share information with our students about the "See Something, Say

Something" campaign that is promoted by the Department of Homeland Security. We recognize that we are all responsible for our safety and want our students to know that they play an important role in communicating any concerns they have to our staff. We want them to know that if they see something that concerns them, they should say something to an adult. Our staff also communicated what students should do if they are in locations throughout the building (i.e. cafeteria, hallway, restroom, library, etc.) and an emergency drill took place. The safety of our staff and students is extremely important to me, and I want you to be aware that we review and practice our plans and procedures on a regular basis.

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 awarded prizes to 20 of those students. For the month of December, we had 307 students who had perfect attendance! Congratulations to the 20 students who were randomly selected: Sarah Barbosa, Daniel Bonnot, Sohom Dash, Claire Dunnigan, Reilly Farrell, Bailey Holman, Vanessa Javalera, Daniel Lauer, Cameron Lawrence, Joseph Magno, Emily Makeever, Matthew Mokrzycki, Richard Pena, Gabriel Punzalan, Nathan Rentas, Krista Ross, Aneri Shah, Amelia Steinlein, Roberto Zarate-Gallegos.



We completed the first of two day-long retreats for our students from both campuses this school year to help build leadership in regards to diversity and our inclusive environment. Our goal is to provide

activities, discussion, and collaboration on the challenges and benefits that diversity brings. Our retreat was held on Monday, January 7, 2019 at the Almond campus. The next retreat will be open for students on March 1, 2019.

Principal's Corner at the O'Plaine Campus

by Michele Bertola

Happy Winter! I hope you are all staying warm during this frigid winter we are having. Although it is cold outside, we are still working hard and focusing on what needs to get done here at Warren to push ourselves to get better every day. Below are some important reminders of our work and how you can help support our mission of getting better together:

Starting Strong

We started second semester by challenging students to start strong and own their learning. At [Seminar](#) we asked students to reflect on what they did well first semester and areas that they can improve or work harder this semester. Ask your student what goal they created to help them get better this semester.

Open House

We held our second semester Open House on February 7, 2019. This night allows our parents to follow their student's schedule, meet their student's teachers and hear important information about each course their student is enrolled in.

Safety

We held our second safety/lockdown drill of the school year at the O'Plaine Campus to practice our emergency procedures. This was coordinated with local law enforcement so they could be on campus to participate in the exercise. We also had our staff share information with our students about the "See Something, Say Something" campaign that is promoted by the Department of Homeland Security. We recognize that we are all responsible for our safety and want our students to know that they play an important role in communicating any concerns they have to our staff. We want them to know that if they see something that concerns them, they should say something to an adult. Our staff also communicated what students should do if they are in locations throughout the building (i.e. cafeteria, hallway, restroom, library, etc.) and an emergency drill took place. The safety of our staff and students is extremely important to me, and I want you to be aware that we review and practice our plans and procedures on a regular basis.

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 have perfect attendance for the month and for the school year and award students a WTHS t-shirt and \$10 gift card. For the month of December, we had 690 students with perfect attendance and the following students were randomly selected: Geanette Galano, Nathaniel Kowalke-Reinwald, Grace Liu, Diana Rizzo, and Soktear Suon. We have 93 students who still have perfect attendance from August-December, and the following were randomly selected: Aleisha Armstrong, Jacob Bode, Hope Cabalfin, Garrett Hill, and Angela Sateesh.

Is this your first child in high school? Want a refresher on the high school experience? Join our next Parent Boot Camp
Wednesday, February 20th
6:00-7:30
O'Plaine Campus Library
Topics for this session include:
Second semester events,
wellness, and student leadership opportunities.



Student Leadership

Students volunteer to welcome classmates on Friday mornings as part of our welcome crew. We also have students that meet regularly with our Administrative team to give feedback on school culture and work together on suggested improvement. Any students that are interested in being a part of our Student Advisory team can see me to join.



Mr. Miller and Acting I students welcome students on a Friday morning.



Diversity

We completed the first of two day-long retreats for our students from both campuses this school year to help build leadership in regards to diversity and our inclusive environment. Our goal is to provide activities, discussion, and collaboration on the challenges and benefits that diversity brings. Our retreat was held on Monday, January 7, 2019 at the Almond campus. The next retreat will be open for students on March 1, 2019. Please remind students to check their Warren email for sign-up information.

News about Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics



First Day of Spring Sports

(All spring sports except Boys Volleyball)
Monday, February 25

First Day for Boys Volleyball
Monday, March 4, 2019

Winter Sports Athletic Awards
at Almond Campus
March 7, 2019 - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.



The Max Schewitz Foundation will be offering **EKG screening** to all Almond students on February 13th and O'Plaine students on February 20th.

The EKG will help find hidden heart conditions that otherwise would go undetected. This potential life-saving test costs only \$15.00. Please register online at:

www.heartsmartekg.org/WTHSALM2019

Noteworthy:

- Devilettes finished 17th in the state.
- Boys bowler, Ethan Kalin made it to the State finals and did an outstanding job.
- Girls bowler, Brianna Haith was a finalist at the Regional and advanced to the Sectional. She also placed 4th in the conference.
- JV Swimmers Nathan Weiner, Alex Carruthers, Ethan Harrigan and Riley Nebel broke a school record in the 200 Medley Relay. Riley Nebel also broke the school record for the 50 Free.
- Six wrestlers will advance to the IHSA Sectional on February 9th. Sawyer Nash, Austin Nash, Cameron Domke, and Joel Vandervere were IHSA Regional Champions. Isaiah Parker finished in 2nd place and Adam Hergenreder finished in 3rd place.
- Girls Gymnastics finished in 3rd place in the IHSA Regional.
- Cheerleaders finished 12th in the IHSA Sectional.
- Boys Basketball raised over \$500 for Pediatric Cancer at the game against Jacobs on January 26th. Both teams purchased gold shoelaces and proudly wore them at the game.



National Letter of Intent Signees

The following athletes have declared their intention to continue playing at the collegiate level.

Football

Nico Corsini
Robert Morris University

Tavion McCarthy
Northern Michigan University

Jimmy Poremba
Drake University

Zack Pelland
Colgate University

Boys Lacrosse
Nathan Crawford
St. Ambrose University

Girls Lacrosse

Tanya Czosek
North Central College

Abbey Triebe
North Central College

Girls Soccer

Courtney Chomko
Florida Southern College

Girls Swimming & Diving

Maia Russell
Rollins College (Florida)

Girls Track & Field

Clara Macheras
St. Louis College of Pharmacy

News about Activities

by Aimee Lonigro, Assistant Director of Athletics and Activities Coordinator

Noteworthy

Congratulations to the **Speech Team** on their 2nd place finish in the IHSA Regional competition. They advanced to the Sectional and will compete on February 9, 2019 at Rochelle High School. 1st place individual award winners were:

- Dramatic Duet Acting: Arturo Barrera and Brooke Moeller
- Dramatic Interpretation: Arturo Barrera
- Humorous Interpretation: Colin Maclean and Marco Guadiana
- Original Oratory: Shannon Antonio



Congratulations to **Scholastic Bowl team** on their 2nd place finish in the NSC.

The Varsity **Winter Guard** has had a strong start to their competition season taking 2nd place in the competitive A class with their show "Collateral Damage". The JV Winter Guard scored high enough to be promoted up a class and will be competing against a few high school varsity guards in this new class.

Science Olympiad competed at the Libertyville Invite with 22 other area schools. The Blue Devil Varsity was 5th overall and JV was 4th overall. Varsity took top 5 medals in 7 events and JV took top 5 medals in 8 events.

Warren's Chapter of **Future Business Leaders of America** attended the 2019 Illinois Northern Area Conference on Saturday January 26, 2019. Grayslake Central high school hosted the Future Business Leaders of America Northern Area Leadership Conference and 105 members from Warren Township High School competed among students from 19 other area high schools.

Individuals, teams, and local chapters are encouraged to compete in a variety of different events representing a wide range of activities and the business and leadership development focus of FBLA-PBL. Members are also urged to attend informative and interactive workshops, hosted by real business professionals and members of the Professional Division (PD) of (FBLA-PBL).

Warren Junior, Sohom Dash, was appointed to the position of Northern Area Parliamentarian for the 2019-2020 school year. Darsh Gupta also served as the Northern Area and State Parliamentarian for the 2018-19 school year. Many of the members that competed also qualified to compete at the Illinois State Leadership Conference this April.



Super Show hosted by the International Club

On January 25, 2019, the Super Show, Warren's annual cultural talent show was a huge success, performing to a sold out crowd. All proceeds from ticket sales benefited the Anti-Cruelty Society in Chicago.



Last month, Warren Theatre performed it's production of *Anon(yous)* at the Illinois High School Theatre Festival. IHSTF is the oldest and largest non-competitive theatre festival in the nation, and invites schools from around the state to share their art. This is the first time Warren has ever performed at the state festival, and the response was a standing ovation and great praise from festival attendees across the state.

