

Warren Connection: Spirit at WTHS

October 2, 2018



Dear Warren Community,

We are very excited that we begin the month of October with Spirit Week and Homecoming at WTHS. Please join us in this celebration of our school community.



**A Haunted
Homecoming
2018**



Homecoming Events

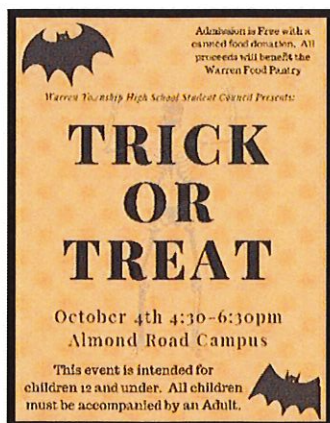
October 3: PowderPuff Football 6:30 p.m., O'Plaine Stadium
 October 4: Community Trick or Treat Event, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Almond Cafeteria
 October 5: Football Game vs. Lake Zurich, Homecoming Court Announcements, Cheer/Poms Routine, 5:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m., O'Plaine Stadium
 October 6: Parade, 9:00 a.m., Dance 7:00-10:00 p.m., Almond Fieldhouse



**Kids 12 and Under Trick or Treat
at the Almond Campus**

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IMPORTANT DATES

October 18

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

SIP Days
2-Hour Late Start
October 1, 22, 29

Columbus Day Observed - District Closed
 October 8, 2018

FAFSA Afternoon @ Almond Campus
 October 10, 2018 - 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

PSAT Test @ O'Plaine Campus
 October 10, 2018 -

Jazz Band Concert @ Black Box Theatre
 Almond Campus
 October 11, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

Institute Day - No Student Attendance
 October 15, 2018

FAFSA Night @ Almond Campus
 October 16, 2018 - 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Fall Play @ O'Plaine Auditorium
 October 18 to October 20

Choir Concert @ O'Plaine Auditorium
 October 23, 2018 - 7 p.m.

Red Ribbon Week
 October 22-26, 2018

Fall One-Act Play @ Black Box Theatre,
 Almond Campus
 October 25 to October 28

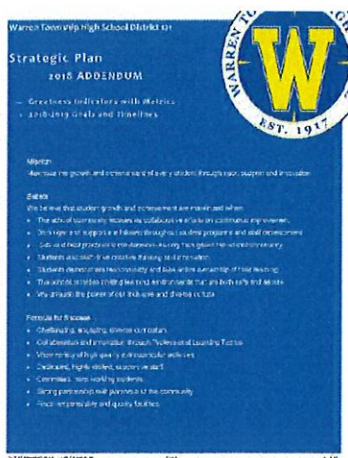
Fall Sports Awards Night @ Almond Campus
 November 1, 2018 - 7 p.m.

Board of Education News

2018 Strategic Planning Session

On September 11, District 121 facilitated its annual strategic planning process. Our Board of Education, staff, students, parents, and community members came together to review the progress we made last year on our District Greatness Indicators as well as our 2017-18 initiatives. We also worked in smaller focus groups to brainstorm, identify and articulate some additional goals and timelines for 2018-19.

The District Greatness Indicators are intended to help identify objective data measures for WTHS to track progress over time. These indicators are based on student academic achievements, success beyond high school, high levels of satisfaction by our students, external recognition of WTHS, shared leadership, fiscal responsibility and community partnerships. We continue to hold ourselves accountable to tangible continuous improvement in these areas.



The focus groups for our strategic plan continue to be Curriculum and Instruction, Student Advocacy, Shared Leadership, Student Life, Community and Communication and Securing the Future. Within these themes, a variety of important goals and timelines were identified related to maximizing

student growth, focusing on career and college readiness, highlighting our diversity, and celebrating WTHS accomplishments.

The Board approved this dynamic plan at the board meeting on September 25, 2018. The Strategic Plan - 2018 Addendum is on the District's website at: <https://www.d121.org/Page/276>



Recap of September 11, 2018 Board of Education Meeting

The following topics were discussed:

- The Illinois Association of School Boards Lake Division Meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2018
- First Reading of five District Board policies
- Notification to Post Required Salaries for FY18
- Reminder Regarding the FY19 Tentative Budget Process – ISBE 50-36 Budget

The Board approved the following items:

- Hiring recommendations for 13 employees and prospective candidates
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$2,711,333.17, which includes payroll and expenditures
- Regular and Executive Session minutes of August 21, 2018,
- Bus Lease for two 2018 Chevrolet Collins 21+1 Passenger Buses, and one 2018 Chevrolet Collins 32 Passenger Bus
- Agreement regarding the Receipt of Developer Subdivision Contributions and Indemnification, in the Event of a Private Agreement

Recap of September 25, 2018 Board of Education Meeting

Board members hosted a reception for the new teachers who started working in the District this school year.

There was a public hearing for the FY19 Budget which was held in the Almond Campus library. Mr. Engel provided an overview of the FY19 tentative budget process.

The Board reviewed Committee reports on the following meetings:

- Policy Committee, September 11, 2018
- 2018 Strategic Planning Committee, September 11, 2018
- Insurance Committee, September 12, 2018
- Finance Committee, September 18, 2018

Presentations and reports were provided by:

- Student Leadership Council
- Treasurer's Reports for July and August 2018
- Cash Basis Accounting versus Accrual
- Long Term Financing Options

The Board approved the following items:

- Hiring recommendations for 8 employees and prospective candidates
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$4,233,829.37, which includes payroll and expenditures
- Regular and Executive Session minutes of September 11, 2018
- Second Reading and Approval of District Board policies
- Strategic Plan Report – 2018 Addendum
- Revised FY19 Staffing Plan
- School Emergency and Crisis Response Plan
- Band Trip to California, February 28, 2019 to March 4, 2019
- Adoption of the FY19 Budget

Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools

Digital Citizenship

Our Digital Citizenship Program is intended to help our students understand the importance of being responsible with the use of technology.

Various topics regarding being digitally responsible will be covered throughout the school year. Students and parents can access additional resources in the Student Technology Playbook which is a course in Canvas.

Month	Date Range	Period ALM / OP		Topic
Sept	9/10 thru 9/14	0	1	Plagiarism
Oct	10/1 thru 10/5	1	2	Digital Footprint (Social Media)
Nov	11/12 thru 11/16	2	3	Cyberbullying
Dec	12/3 thru 12/7	3	4	Appropriate Digital Relationships
Feb	2/4 thru 2/8	4	5	Addiction to Technology
Mar	3/5 thru 3/8	5	6	Privacy & Security
April	4/15 thru 4/19	6	7	Conclusion & Survey

In addition, O'Plaine Campus school resource officer, Detective Metcalf, spoke to all freshman and sophomore health classes regarding responsible use of technology specifically in regards to the sending/posting of images.



District Student Leadership Council

At the September 25 Board of Education meeting, the 2018-19 District Student Leadership Council presented to the Board for the first time this school year. This Council is made of up

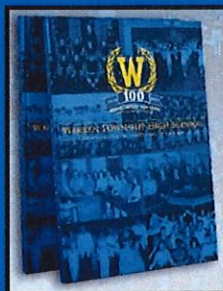


representative leaders of other WTHS student organizations who support leadership development as part of their mission. These organizations include National Honor Society, Student Council, Future Business Leaders of America, Avanza, Black Student Union, and Unite and Inform. Leadership Council members are: Bria Romero, Richard Chiu, Julia Paukert, Abigail Roman-Ahlgrim, Lexi Sapp, Dru Jasnoch, Ishaan Shah, Kylie Jasnoch, Zarina Morgan, Shyama Bhatt, Juan Felipa Olaya-Nino, Jessamyn Lopez, Victoria Ortiz.



The Leadership Council presents approximately four times per year to the school board and updates the Board on student activities, as well as facilitates a leadership seminar annually. At the board meeting on the September 25, the Council focused on the diversity message and

activities shared with the community at Gurnee Days, as well as Spirit Week and Homecoming activities planned at WTHS.



Warren Township High School: Celebrating One-Hundred Years of Excellence. This 9" x 12" limited-edition volume chronicles the history of the school as well as the proud alums and educators who have graced its halls. Read about the memorable stories that helped make Warren Township High School what it is today. This book contains 96 pages of interesting facts and stories about the school, complemented with approximately 140 historical and modern photographs of the campus, faculty and staff, students and alumni. Don't miss your chance to capture the history. Purchase your copy today at: www.d121.org

News From Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocaris, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

Professional Development

We are continuing with our Professional Development Theme of *Design* at our October 15th Institute Day. Our Institute Day will allow teachers to collaborate on best practices in important instructional design principles such as utilizing formative assessment data with students, developing relationships with students, designing classroom spaces for instruction, and designing classroom procedures that encourage responsible technology use. Our coaches will also spend part of the day completing diversity training that is focused on athletics.

Instructional Services

Our Instructional Coaches continue to work with staff at both of our campuses. This month they hosted round table discussions on utilizing features of Canvas including online assessments in Canvas, Google Cloud Assignments, Discussion Boards, and more.

Our coaches are working on their own professional learning this month when they attend a workshop at Northwestern University led by Elena Aguilar, one of the most prominent trainers for instructional coaches in the country.

Educational Technology

Our Educational Technology Department continues to work hard to ensure a positive experience for our students. This fall, we have done an in-depth analysis of our Chromebook repair program, and have begun to implement improvements to make this process more streamlined for students. We run periodic connectivity surveys within our network to ensure student and staff devices are connecting appropriately. This fall, we recorded our best connectivity rate to date for the months of August and September!

PSAT/NMSQT for Junior Students on October 10, 2018

The PSAT/NMSQT for juniors will take place at the Almond Campus on Wednesday, October 10.

PSAT/NMSQT

CollegeBoard / NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Both campuses will run a normal bell schedule on this day. Students were able to sign up for this exam in August and September.

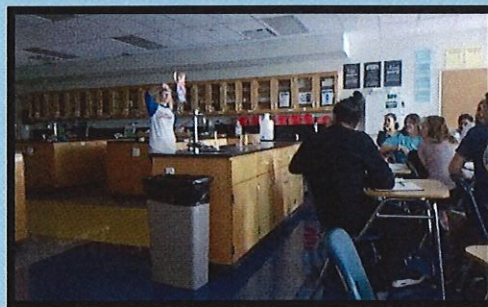
Please contact Matthew Jones, Assistant Principal at the Almond Campus if you have any questions about the PSAT/NMSQT on October 10.

In The Classroom

Our teachers provide our students with a rigorous and engaging curriculum. Every day our teachers use a variety of instructional strategies to engage students in their learning. Here are a few highlights from September at the O'Plaine Campus.



Honors Spanish 1 students working together to learn their numbers by playing a counting game.



Chemistry teacher Heather Smith is (safely) lighting a dollar bill soaked in a water/alcohol mixture on fire to demonstrate that components of a mixture do not lose their individual chemical properties. The ethyl alcohol burns off while the water protects the bill.



- ❖ Juniors will take the SAT in April
- ❖ Sophomores will take the PSAT10 in April
- ❖ Freshmen will take the PSAT9 in April

More information will be communicated about these exams later this fall.

News From Student Services

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

Vaping 101: What Parents Need to Know

Please consider attending this informational parent seminar. Officer Jack Metcalf and Social Worker Samantha Garrity will lead a discussion that will assist parents in providing the facts about this dangerous new trend for teenagers.

Thursday, October 11, 2018
6:30 p.m.
Lecture Hall, O'Plaine Campus

Mental Health Awareness

At Warren Township High School, 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. It is easy to misread depression as normal adolescent turmoil; however, depression appears to be occurring at a much earlier age, and the past decade has seen teen suicide rates double.

On October 2, we presented the Signs of Suicide (SOS) Prevention Program to all our freshman health classes. This is the only school-based suicide prevention program selected by The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for its National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices that addresses suicide risk and depression, while reducing suicide attempts. The SOS program is presented to us through Elyssa's Mission, a nonprofit organization dedicated to suicide prevention. Elyssa's Mission is the only organization in the state of Illinois to fund, distribute and implement SOS.

Please visit our Student Service website for information and resources.

[Social Workers Contact Information - Click HERE](#)

The Board of Education formally adopted a comprehensive safety plan on September 25, 2018. The Safety Committee works with the Gurnee Police Department, Gurnee Fire Department, Board members, Administrators, School Resource Officers and staff to develop a plan that ensures our safety. Our first priority is providing a safe environment for our students

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

and staff. We will continue to challenge our administration and staff to uphold safety measures and adopt best practices regarding safety. Providing a safe environment is a community effort, so please make sure you reinforce with your students, **SEE SOMETHING - SAY SOMETHING.**

Red Ribbon Week – October 22-26

The Warren Wellness Ambassadors and our social workers have been promoting healthy choices with our students. **Red Ribbon Week** will take place at both campuses October 22nd-26. At O'Plaine, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) will be presenting to all of our Health classes regarding the dangers of driving while impaired and making good decisions. On October 24 and 25 at the Almond campus, the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists will present a "victims panel" to assist our students in understanding the impact poor decisions have on innocent victims. To conclude our week of events, staff and students are encouraged to wear red on Thursday, to show support to living a substance free life. Additionally, during the lunch periods at both campuses, there will be a booth set up providing Red Ribbon Week resources, games and give-a-ways.

Financing your Student's College Education

The WTHS counseling staff has worked diligently to provide informative evening programs for parents regarding financing your student's college education. Over 400 parents attended the FAFSA presentation in September. The program featured a presentation from Julie Nelson, Regional Director of Admissions at Xavier University. Parents were provided important information so they are better prepared to complete the FAFSA form. In addition to parent nights, students can visit the college and career center for support with post-secondary options. The College of Lake County (CLC) application drive started on September 25, several colleges have scheduled visits during the school day to meet with prospective students, and a scholarship workshop will be held on November 29 during lunch hours.

Upcoming events include:

October 10, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.	FAFSA Completion Workshop	College and Career Center, Almond
October 10, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Camino A College	Room 211, Almond
October 16, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	FAFSA Completion Workshop	College and Career Center, Almond
November 8, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Junior College Planning Presentation	Auditorium, O'Plaine Campus

News From Business Services and Operations

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

FY19 Budget

The Board of Education approved the fiscal year 2019 budget on September 25, 2018. The FY19 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. 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.



The budget presented for adoption includes \$69,434,699 in revenue across all funds and \$69,001,352 in expenditures across all funds. The difference between all revenue funds and all expenditures funds is budgeted at \$433,347. Using the district's operating funds, the revenues are \$59,253,483 and the expenditures are \$58,998,260. The difference between the operating funds revenue and the operating fund expenditures is budgeted at \$255,223.

Almond Campus Solar Project Update

At the September 25, 2018 Board of Education meeting, Dr. Ahlgrim provided an update on our Almond Campus solar project. He informed the Board that after consulting with our representative from Performance Services, Inc., we are still waiting a final report from the Lake County Forestry Division regarding trees that will need to be replaced and/or relocated. This report needs to be incorporated in the final engineering scope. After the final scope is presented to the District 121 Board, we will have sufficient information to host a community forum regarding our solar project.



News for the Month

Food Service

Quest Food Service brings over 30 years of experience in serving fresh, high quality food to schools in the Chicago area. Quest focuses on using fresh ingredients, preparing meals from scratch and customizing its program to the needs of the school it serves. Quest offers new program options such as a coffee bar, picante station (Mexican food) and hemisphere station (stir fry).

Quest also garners feedback from WTHS students and staff to explore new menu options and service in the cafeteria.



Transportation Services



We work closely with the Village of Gurnee and Warren Township Highway Dept. on road repairs and construction. The recent work on the round-about intersection at Almond and Dada has been completed and seems to be running smoothly. While we did have some minor route changes during that process we are now back to our regularly scheduled routes.

As always, remember, students are walking to school or to a bus stop so please abide by the posted speed limits to avoid injuries or accidents.

Please contact us with your transportation concerns at 847-599-4787.

Principal's Corner at the Almond Campus

by Rob Parrott

Pillars of the A-Team

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.

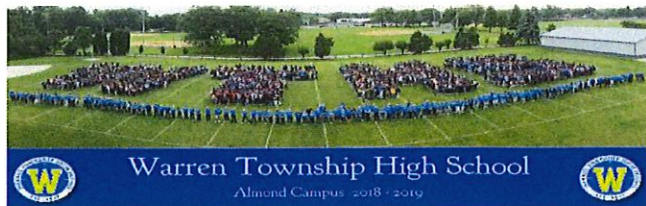


A-Team breakfast at the Almond Campus

Congratulations to the semifinalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program.



The month of October is already upon us and along with celebrating many activities during



Homecoming week, it is time to celebrate the successes many of our students have already experienced this school year. As seniors in the Class of 2019 begin to submit their college applications I am thrilled to recognize six special seniors who have established themselves as some of the best students in the nation.

First, I am proud to announce our **National Merit Semifinalists** in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 64th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$31 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title. Semifinalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program from Warren Township High School are: Christian Alcantara, Andrea Ardeleanu, Richard Chiu, Saranya Menon, Joshua Smoron and Matthew Walowski.

Second, the ACT organization informed Warren Township High School that senior, Richard Chiu, is the recipient of a **perfect 36**, which is the highest possible score during the 2017-2018 testing administration of the **ACT Exam**. Approximately two million students took the ACT last year and only about 2,200 scored a perfect 36. This score places Richard as one of the top .1% of students in the Nation. Richard's performance on the ACT indicates his strong dedication to his academics and supports our belief that we provide an enriching and challenging curriculum for our students.

Finally, our staff recognizes students each month who exhibits one or more of the pillars of our A-Team. I am proud to recognize the following students who we honored on September 28, 2018, at our monthly **A-Team breakfast** at the Almond Campus: Osmel Calzada-Serrano, Alex Kuszsik, Julie Greisser, Evan Leden, Abhijeet Singh, Francis O'Connor, Paige Changnon, Grayce Montano, Andrew Oye, Francisco Miranda, Dorian Spatley, Catherine Schoenherr, Emily Gutknecht, and Ora Cohen.

Thank you and As Always, Go Blue Devils!

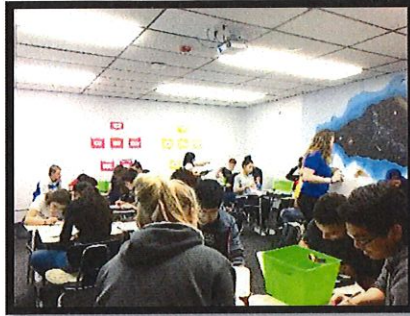
Principal's Corner at the O'Plaine Campus

by Michele Bertola

Happy Fall! I am so proud of our students and staff and the work being done every day at our O'Plaine campus. Below are some highlights and reminders of our work.

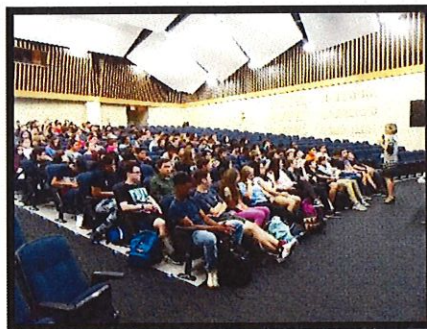
Students at the O'Plaine campus are busy working hard and getting ready for Homecoming week.

We continue to ask students to focus on the five A's: Attendance, Academics, Attitude, Acceptance, and Activities and Athletics. Everyday we challenge students to get better in these areas. Staff nominated students based on these five A's for our Matter of Pride recognitions. **Matter of Pride September recipients are:** Sydney Brennan, Aydan Thoreson, Amber Jones, Maxwell Zeisler, Noelia Garcia, Isabella Solano, Connor Edgeworth, Ethan Williams, Andrew Dunn, Caysie Castellanos, Faith Sammons, Emma Torkelson, Maria Camila Cano-Giraldo, Luis Rubio, Joshua Ostach, Autumn Aversano, Isha Bordawekar, Amir Madison and Ava Palo.



Student Seminars

We continue to meet with students during their lunch study halls to cover important school information. The most recent [freshman](#) and [sophomore](#) seminars outlined the Five A's expectations and the different measures of school spirit. We also met prior to the week of our **Digital Citizenship** week to review important reminders about being digitally responsible. This week, information on [Homecoming and more school spirit messaging](#) will be shared.



Click on the links highlighted above to see the seminar presentations.



Important Reminders

Late Buses - Students can stay after school Monday-Thursday for activities or to get extra academic help. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays the late bus leaves the north entrance at 4:10 p.m. and on Thursdays the late bus leaves at 4:45 p.m.

Academic Support - Students can make appointments with teachers before school, after school, or during free periods. Students can go to academic resource rooms during their study halls periods 1-8. Students can go to study table in the O'Plaine library on Tuesdays from 3:15-4:45 p.m. for extra help from teachers and student tutors.

Resource Room Help for Students! O'Plaine Campus	
English Room 204B	Social Studies Room 201A
Open During Study Halls! Periods 1-8	
Math Room 313B	Science Room 237

Parent Boot Camp

We held our First Blue Devil **Parent Boot Camp** on Thursday, September 27. Thank you to all the parents that attended. The goal of these meetings are to collaborate with parents new to high school and to build partnerships to best support freshmen transition to WTHS. We will have our next meeting in late November - - date and time TBA.



News from Activities and Athletics

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

The Blue Devil Scoreboard (as of September 25, 2018)

Marching Blue Devils	Grand Champions at the Chicagoland Marching Band Festival and the Grayslake North contest. Awarded the distinction "Best 3A Auxiliary and Percussion Sections"
Girls Golf	Won first place in the Rolling Meadows Tournament. They shot a school record 342 in the 18 hole tourney. Freshman girls golfer Erica Baker was the first freshman in Warren history to break 40 by shooting a 39.
Girls Cross Country	Won the Frosh/Soph run at the Bill Dawson Invite by 49 points, running all freshmen!
Boys Cross Country	Placed 6th in the 45 team Midwest Invite.
Varsity Girls Cross Country	Placed 9 th out of 41 teams at the Midwest Invite.
Varsity Football	Leading the North Suburban Conference with a 3-0 record and are 4-1 overall.
Boys Golf	Placed 3 rd at the Merit Club Invite. The boys shot their low score of the season (160) at Bittersweet. Reid Calvary shot an even par 36 in the front nine.
Boys Soccer	Player Ishaan Shah was named Chicagoland Soccer play of the match vs. Carmel Catholic. On their players to watch list are: Cris Medina, Nolan Ehlers, Josh Segura, and Sebastian Rodriguez.
Varsity Volleyball	Has a 19-5 record
Girl Tennis	10-2 record for the season



Freshman and sophomore students cheering at a football game.

Students will be getting ready for spirit week and all of the Homecoming festivities ahead. Our Blue Devil, cheerleaders, and Devilettes were the Welcome Crew last Friday at the O'Plaine Campus.



Important Dates and Information in Athletics



**Fall Athletic Awards Night is
November 1, 2018**

**Registration for Winter Sports
begins October 1, 2018**

**Winter Sports begin
October 22, 2018**

**Physical exams are required
to participate.**

Winter Sports include:

- Competitive Cheer and Dance
- Girls and Boys Bowling
- Girls and Boys Basketball
- Girls Gymnastics
- Boys Swimming and Diving
- Wrestling

Get involved in WARREN ACTIVITIES!

Check the website for more information:

<https://il02214492.schoolwires.net/domain/40>

