WARREN CONNECTION: 2017-2018 FIRST SEMESTER REVIEW

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Warren Township High School District 121

Dear Warren Community:

The Warren Connection: 2017-2018 First Semester Review is designed to share some of the highlights of achievements and activities our students and parents, staff and community members have been involved in during the first semester. Please continue to check our District website for more complete and timely information.

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

Sincerely,

John P. Ahlgrim, Ed.D. 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

Washington Post: "America's Most Challenging High Schools"

District 121
Earns National
and
International
Recognition

Washington Post has announced the list of "America's Most Challenging High Schools" and Warren is on the list for the 8th year in a row. "America's Most Challenging High Schools" list is comprised of the number of advanced placement exams given by a school divided by the number of graduating seniors. Warren is ranked #49 in the state of Illinois and #1239 in the United States. Both of these rankings hold Warren in the top 4% of schools and a higher ranking than in 2016. Warren is very proud of their advanced placement numbers and results. This past year we administered 2,346 exams to 1,155 students.

Warren Hosts International Visitor

Sharon Henry is the Head of the Languages Faculty at Wellington High School in Wellington, New Zealand. During November and December, she was in the US on a travel scholarship looking at schools that use Flipped Learning in their classrooms, and came to visit us on November 30. Jon and Kris Bergman mentioned us as a lead Flipped Learning school that she should make sure to see while in Chicago. Ms. Henry was interested in seeing how we have integrated flipped learning into classrooms throughout the school and how our experience differed from that of Clintondale High School. She also wanted to know what issues we have faced and how receptive teachers were to the change. Ms. Henry



visited with Foreign Language and Math teachers at the O'Plaine Campus. She shared with us that in New Zealand, high schools cover five years, Grade 9 (US Grade 8) through 13 (US Grade 12) so the opportunity to visit a school that focused on Grades 9 and 10 was especially useful for her.

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2017 Advanced Placement Results

Advanced Placement (AP) exam results for the 2016-2017 school year were right on target for another successful year for Warren's AP program. In the spring of 2017, we had 1155 students take 2346 exams. The pass rate for these students was 85.1%, which is above both the state and global averages by at least 20% points. The College Board also recognized 454 Warren students for exceeding on their Advanced Placement exams. Warren had 144 AP scholars, which is awarded to those students who scored a 3 or higher on 3 or more exams. We also had 88 AP Scholars with Honor for those students who averaged a 3.25 on all of their AP exams and scored a 3 or higher on 4 or more exams. AP Scholar with Distinction award was awarded to 187 Warren students who had an average score of 3.5 on all of their AP exams and scored a 3 or higher on 5 or more exams. The last award is the National AP Scholar. This was awarded to 36 Warren students who averaged at

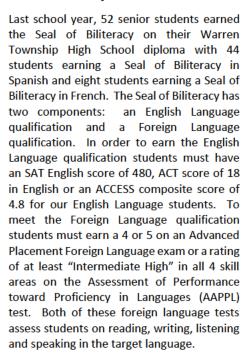


least a 4 on all of their AP exams and scored a 4 or higher on 8 or more exams. We are very proud of our students that spend numerous hours studying for these exams and would like to extend a special thank you to all of our AP teachers who spend countless hours on preparing our students throughout the school year.

Diversity Training for WTHS Staff

Warren Township High School partnered with Roger Moreano from Bridges Consulting to work with our teachers on Culturally Responsive Teaching and in particular how to create more inclusive and equitable classrooms. During the first semester, Roger recommended strategies to our teachers and administrators to become more culturally fluent and responsive while navigating potential social and political pressures that often seek to undermine diversity and inclusion efforts. We discussed how our American History and inherited society influences students from underrepresented groups. We recognized that when we become more responsive about these issues it would have long lasting effects on the potential academic success of all students. Mr. Moreano also met with our *Unite and Inform* (UNI) student groups after school at both the Almond and O'Plaine campuses. He provided guidance on some of the particular challenges these young leaders face while leading diverse groups. With their excitement and passion for diversity they are in the beginning stages of providing a student leadership retreat for many student leaders next semester.

Seal of Biliteracy and Commendation Award on WTHS Diploma



For the 2017-2018 school year, Warren has added the State Commendation toward Biliteracy Award. This award has the same two components for qualifications: English Language and Foreign Language. The English qualification is the same as for the Seal of Biliteracy, however, the change to the Foreign Language component is that a student could earn a 3 on an Advanced Placement Foreign Language or a rating of "Intermediate Low" in all 4 skill areas on the AAPPL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages test. We are very pleased with our results from last year and hope to build on these recognitions for this school year.

Warren Teachers Present at State and National Conferences

Sean Mahoney had the honor of presenting for the National Math and Science Initiative conducted at Hudson High School for Learning Technologies in Manhattan. As part of their "AP for ALL" initiative, they added other advanced placement trainings beyond the traditional STEM classes. Being a College Board trainer, Sean was able to present training on AP Psychology. Sean has been teaching at Warren for the past 18 years and has been instrumental in the success of our AP Psychology program.

Carrie Thomas and Jamie Zarnstorff presented at the annual Illinois Association of Teachers of English (IATE) conference. Their presentation was on 25 More Strategies in 50 Minutes to help you improve, streamline, simplify, evaluate and enjoy reading and writing in any classroom. With many innovative teaching strategies, their workshop was well received at the conference. Both Carrie and Jamie have been teaching at Warren for the past 14 years with much success at the freshmen and sophomore levels.

Elizabeth Logan Hay presented at the Wisconsin Council for Teachers of English State Convention. Her presentation was on facilitating difficult discussions in a classroom which was well-received by her colleagues. Elizabeth has been at Warren for the past 16 years teaching English at both the O'Plaine and Almond campuses.

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2017 Strategic Plan Addendum



In the fall of 2015, Warren Township High School District 121 embarked on a strategic planning process to help guide the priorities and work for the school for the next five years. The Board of Education approved this plan on December 15, 2015, and it will be reviewed and modified as needed annually. As the strategic plan is modified, updated versions will be available on the District 121 website.

On August 29, 2017, the Board revised the strategic plan to include goals and timelines about continuing our reaffirmation and

commitment to building a diverse community at WTHS. The **Unite 'N Inform** student groups at both campuses and the **Parent Diversity Committee** strive to promote awareness of respect in many areas, such as curriculum and instruction, hiring and professional development practices to support a diverse staff and student body, enforcing the code of conduct and strict consequences for those who violate the expectations regarding inclusion of others and mutual respect.

Changes and additions were made to all six components of the strategic plan: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Student Advocacy, Shared Leadership, Student Life, Community and Communication, and Securing the Future.

The 2017 Addendum to the strategic plan as well as the full strategic plan document is available on the website at www.d121.org

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101 Years of Excellence

At the January 16, 2018 Board of Education meeting, the Boards of

Education of Warren Township High School were recognized. Over the last century, there have been nearly 85 Board of Education members who have offered their time, talents and energies towards establishing, developing and maintaining a public high school for the children of our great community. This has allowed more than 30,000 students to complete their high school education.

WTHS District 121 is proud to announce an administrative hire that was approved at our Board of Education meeting on January 16, 2018.

Deborah Perri was approved effective January 1, 2018 as a Dean of Students at the O'Plaine Campus. Deb has taught for the past 12 years at WTHS in our Physical Development Department. She has been the assistant lead teacher for the department, and has actively participated in the District's strategic planning, as well as in our mentor program. Deb has helped in the facilitation of our staff wellness day, and assisted in many campus-wide committees. Deb's initiative and approachability will benefit her greatly in her new role.

Strategic Plan and Department Reports

Reports were provided at regular Board meetings on the following items.

July 18, 2017

Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP)

August 15, 2018

Student Leadership representatives talk with Board about student activities and programs.

September 12, 2017

A report about the 2017 Strategic Planning Committee meeting on August 29, 2017 to review the accomplishments and update the Strategic Plan.

September 26, 2017

The Student Leadership Council present student activities and program information.

October 10, 2017

The Schuler Program presented their annual report to the Board for the 2016-2017 school year.

October 24, 2017

The Transportation Department provided an overview of their department with a video and data reports.

November 21, 2017

The Social Studies Department provided a report on the curriculum offered and coordinated activities. The Student Leadership Council presented information about student activities and programs.

December 19, 2017

The Foreign Language Department shared a report on the curriculum offered and coordinated activities.



Board of Education Recognitions

At the **August 15** meeting, The Board recognized the IHSA Boys and Girls Track State Medalists: Abena Atuobi, 5th Place in Shot Put and Janil Jenkins, 3rd place in the 400 meter run, and Brandon Ellis for 7th place in the high jump.

At the **September 12** meeting, the Board recognized Ayusha Ayalur and Madelynn Roche, senior students who received the high possible score on the ACT test; a perfect score of 36.

At the **October 10** meeting, Dr. Ahlgrim thanked building principals Mr. Parrott and Mr. Meyer for their recognition of attendance at their campuses during the Regional Office of Education Attendance Week contest. Warren placed 3rd in the high school division.

During the Recognitions portion of the **October 24** meeting, Board members congratulated Mr. Rob Parrott, Almond Campus principal and Mr. Greg Meyer, O'Plaine Campus principal in recognition of National Principals' month. Additionally, Laura Kirk, Almond Campus Associate Principal and Patrick Keeley, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services for receiving their Doctorate degree in Educational Administration.

At the **November 21** Board members recognized Carly Baun, who placed 10th in the IHSA State finals diving championship. Congratulations to student athletes who signed college "Letters of Intent" on November 8, 2017. Recognized were Jordyn Hughes, Basketball at Eastern Illinois University; Kaylen Dickson, Basketball at Wake Forest; Kelly Beck, Softball at University of Wisconsin-Stout; and Claire Swedberg, Softball at Penn State University.

Also recognized were Warren Theatre students who won the Chicago Shakespeare Slam Regional Bout on November 2. They received the only perfect 10 for their performance and had the honor of performing in the Final Bout on the theatre's Courtyard State at Navy Pier on December 11. Congratulations to: Richard Diamond, Arturo Barrera, Cameron Pride, Melissa Kreppein, Sierra Fanale, Lucero Martinez, Mikayla Johnson, Justin Schmitt, Ben Villafan (student director), and Peyton Friedlander (student director).

At the **December 19** meeting, the Board recognized Micah Jones for receiving numerous all-state honors in football.



On December 1, 2017, Rafael Soto passed away after a courageous battle with cancer for two years. Rafael joined District 121 as a Dean of Students in 1997, and he coached football for the Blue Devils thru 2004. Rafael was an incredibly strong member of our WTHS family for the past two decades, and he greatly impacted the lives of thousands of young people through his commitment to their futures. He will certainly live on in the hearts of our Warren community.

#WeAreWarren



Our Mission is to unite students of all races, genders, sexualities, abilities, and backgrounds to learn about current social issues, stopping hate, and uniting with our peers to stand up together.

Things we do:

- Develop leaders
- Build relationships
- Discuss topics of interest and concerns that help us learn more about each other
- Talk about current events, how to react, and how to feel safe
- Discuss stereotypes placed on marginalized communities
- Provide a safe and welcoming environment to all
- Talk about historical events
- Celebrate all holidays
- Spread love and positivity
- Plan community service events
- Socialize as a united group
- Celebrate our diversity

We meet bi-monthly at both OPlaine and Almond after school in the library.

Our Website:

https://uniteandinform.weebly.com/

Students Making a Difference

Warren Township High School students are recognized throughout the school year for their efforts in making our high school a better place and also for demonstrating achievement in a particular department. High school staff members nominate students for the recognition.



The **Matter of Pride Award** at the O'Plaine Campus and **A-Team Awards** at the Almond Campus go to students who have displayed positive behavior in one or more of the following areas: academic excellence, academic improvement, making Warren a better place, leadership, and random acts of kindness.

Matter of Pride Awards at O'Plaine Campus

August/September recipients Asha Brown, Maria Oropeza, Juliet Walnoha, Theresa Carpentier, Neema Salim, Izaiah Perez, Sophia Trutsch, Daniel Esp, Anthony McNair, Omar Gonzalez, Timothy Schenk, Hayley Davila, Greyson Fout, Tabitha Mani-Eapen, Riley Bishop, Marissa Gallego

October recipients Brian Rapanan, Kayla Davis, Jalen Peete, Anastasia Smith, Thomas Farber, Jonah Park, Bradley Strauss, Austin Wolff, Elias Gudeman, Areli Perez-Orozco, Catherine Carani, Alina Sampolinksi, Anna Herrera, Maggie Dorr, Victor Gallegos, Ben Cortes

November/December recipients Ifra Waris, Julius White, Ashley Arteaga, Adeel Imran, Isabella Kifer, Noah Dela-Pena, Akhila Ekkurthi, Sarika Kumar, Emily Reimer, Faris Abdallah, Kasandra Gutierrez, Genevieve Berryman, Carson Ghys, Olivia Newcomb, Brin Glass

A-Team Awards at Almond Campus

August/September recipients Andy Porcayo, Kelsey James, Bradley Wilinski, Destinee Hingleton, Megan Orante, Keisha Sievers, Joshua Figueroa, Chelsea Tillman, Gianna Lucarelli, Andrea Ardeleanu, Cesar Martinez, Loyda Vazquez, Claire Swedberg, Madelynn Roche, Annika Johnson, Raymond Cordova

October recipients Brandon Tucker, Shelby Stams, Kallee Smaha, Angel Guillen, Julesis Ortega, Noel Jenkins, Audrey King, Jillian Brin, Shyama Bhatt, Kathryn Swoboda, Madilynn Prude, Elizabeth Carpentier, Jacqueline Sandoval, Elina Back, Britta Johnson, Zoe Serelis

November and December recipients Grayce Montano, Rodolf Sibayan, Rocelle Sibayan, Areli Garduno, Lexis Jones, Marcus Figueroa, Veronica Cintron, Julie Griesser, Jason Medina, Matthew Dunn, Cesar Aguirre, Layla Davis, Elijah Glaze, Zaryha Speed, Andrew Goger, Kenyatta Triplette

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)



Games 4 Gurnee

Warren Township High School's **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** sponsored a board game and toy drive called "Games 4 Gurnee." The first annual game drive was a huge success. We collected over 250 games and toys, which we will be donating to the Gurnee Park District, Woodland, Kindercare, and Sunrise Assisted Living. Thank you to everyone who donated and supported the game drive.

Illinois State Scholars Named for 2018

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission named 112 students from Warren Township High School as Illinois State Scholars.

Students are chosen based on their college entrance exam scores at the end of their junior year in high school. As Illinois State Scholars, they are expected to have much potential for success in college, but there is no monetary award for being named a scholar. Each scholar will receive a certificate of recognition.

Warren students named Illinois State Scholars are: Drayce Adams, Nabil Ahmed, Clark Anderson, Andrea Avendano-Martinez, Ayusha Ayalur, Elina Back, Nicole Baelum, Tushar Bandi, Hannah Barbosa, Tye Becker, Jack Berens, Jensen Bernard, Myrah Rafiah Beverly, Amrita Bhattacharyya, Jason Boehm, Mikayla Boyle, Jayson Bozek, Isabel Brodsky, Elizabeth Carpentier, Troy Carriere, Manpreet Chandi, Fernando Delgado, Riley Doyle, Trevor Dundore, Matthew Dunn, Alessandra Fleisher, Jennifer Fuentes-Rodriguez, Shivank Gupta, Norberto Haro, Leah Harold, Cameron Harvey, Brianna Hitchingham, Andrew Horvat, Cassidy Humphreys, Sruthi Jayanti, Elle Jespersen, Britta Johnson, Deven Johnson, Emily Johnson, Jack Koch, Lahari Kolli, Shruthi Kondin, Lianna Kowalke Reinwald, Saurav Kumar, Dowlaann Kuzmickus, Katherine Larson, Paul Nicole Lenon, Emily Lobo, Andrew Long, Daniel Luce, Allison Maan De Kok, Jason Makeever, Julia Marinescu, Tabitha Martin, Teague McGinn, Farasha Mehnaz, Abigail Mellican, Amanda Middleton, Lorena Miron, Jack Moen, Kevin Mohrmann, Ornell Napier, Rachel Nie, Joshua Nitch, Vineeta Oommen, Clyde Porter, Rajeshwari Prasad, Eric Rapanan, Evan Rapp, Alex Rebollar, Kaylee Julianna Reyes, Jacob Rich, Corinne Riemer, Madelynn Roche, Catalina Romero, Jaelee Rosenbaum, Valeria Ruiz, David Rutledge, Apurva Sanagavarapu, Benjamin Scully, Alexandria Seballos, Shayaan Shaikh, Abigail Shaw, Ryley Sheehan, Caroline Shurson, Nathaniel Sislow, Stephanie Slowik, Max Sobota, Katherine Stavrou, Cade Straits, Morgan Suchomel, Lydia Sundberg, Claire Swedberg, Hailey Szadowski, Snehitha Talugula, Alexander Tamulaitis, Hannah Tarantino, Juliana Tennant, Sean Tennant, Zoe Tobin, Joseph Tomei, Susan Tran, Cody Underwood, Jacob Vastine, Ethan Viramontes, Jake Walker, Kate Weyhrich, Ashley Wielgos, Nicholas Winkler, Emily Wong, Kevin Wong, Megan Wong, and David Young.

Semifinalists and Commended Students in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program

Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 63rd 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 \$32 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: Lahari Kolli and Susan Tran.

Almond Campus Principal Rob Parrott also announced that Clark Anderson, Ayusha Ayalur, Tushar Bandi, Mikayla Boyle, Manpreet Chandi, Sruthi Jayanti, Saurav Kumar, Abigail Mellican, Rajeshwari Prasad, Hailey Szadowshi, Snehitha Talugula, and Alexander Tamulaitis have been named "Commended Students" in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Student Assistance Program (SAP)

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) coordinates school and community resources to assist families and students in our district. Communication with parents/caregivers is a critical link with regard to this partnership. Student Assistance is not a treatment program; rather, the goal is to educate students as well as provide school-wide information to promote prevention.

Please contact us if you would like to learn more about resources in our community or if you are concerned about your child and/or family for any reason (e.g., drugs/alcohol, mental health, academics). We can work together to determine appropriate school and community programs.

During the 2017-2018 fall semester, programs offered were:

Red Ribbon Week - October 17-20

The goal of Red Ribbon Week is to educate students about the effects of drug and alcohol use and address some myths surrounding use and abuse. Thank you to the Warren Healthy Devils student organization for all their work in advocating for WTHS students to live healthy lifestyles!

Destressfest 2017 - December 15 at Almond and December 18 at O'Plaine

The end of the semester is stressful for both students and staff. We all need a little time to de-stress! A DE-STRESS FEST 2017 was offered at both campuses and students and staff engaged in activities that helped calm down, laugh, relax, and regroup.

Healthy Devils Student Organization

Healthy Devil members are student services ambassadors that help create and promote school-wide initiatives and events focused on positive decision making!

Their events include Red Ribbon Week, Stress management around finals, Depression Awareness, Distracted Driving Campaign, Text-A-Tip, Wellness Week, and Great America Post Prom event.

Learn more by contacting the sponsors, checking the latest news on the student bulletin boards at each building or check the District website.

Students in the Spotlight

Students at WTHS are actively involved in many classes, programs, clubs, athletic teams and student organizations. Here is a sampling of some of the student organization activities during the first semester.



Shakespeare Slam Champions

Students from Warren Theatre won the Chicago Shakespeare Slam Regional Bout at Carl Sandburg High School. They received the only perfect 10 given by any judge, advanced to the Final Bout and performed on Chicago Shakespeare Theatre's Courtyard Stage at Navy Pier on December 11. For more information on the Shakespeare Slam, check out: https://www.chicagoshakes.com/slam

Students involved: Richard Diamond, Arturo Barrera, Cameron Pride, Melissa Kreppein, Sierra Fanale, Lucero Martinez, Mikayla Johnson, Justin Schmitt, Ben Villafan (student director), and Peyton Friedlander (student director).

O'Plaine Students of Service (SOS) partner with American Heart Association

The Students of Service (S.O.S.) is partnering with the American Heart Association to bring awareness to healthy living and heart disease (the number 1 killer of Americans). Part of our campaign includes health tips in the announcements and posters in the halls. We are also raising funds for research, etc. If you are interested in helping to support this cause you can give a \$10 donation and receive an AHA t-shirt in return. Tuesdays at the O'Plaine Campus are "red out" days and we are encouraging staff and students to make a donation, receive a t-shirt and wear it proudly each Tuesday!





Digital Citizenship Program

Our Digital Citizenship Program is underway! During the month of September, we began our program for the 2017-2018 School Year with the topic of plagiarism, October we focused on creating positive digital footprints, and November focused on cyberbullying. In December the topic was addiction to technology, privacy and security. Students participated in classroom discussions with their teachers and peers, and we shared important information about our topics with students throughout the month.

Here are some resources for parents on healthy online relationships:

- Having a Healthy Online Relationship
- Talking About Sexting
- Cyberwise

We are also providing additional resources to our students via the Student Technology Playbook. This is a course in Canvas (our student Learning Management System). In addition to Digital Citizenship resources, students can also access FAQ's on student technology and how-to videos. Students can access the Student Technology Playbook under "Courses" in Canvas. Parents can also access the Student Technology Playbook by becoming an observer of their child's courses in Canvas. CLICK HERE for directions on how to become an observer in Canvas.

If you have any questions regarding our Digital Citizenship Program, please contact Michele Bertola at the O'Plaine Campus, or Chris Geocaris at the Almond Campus.



TEXT-A-TIP IS FOR STUDENTS TO ANONYMOUSLY SEEK COUNSELING ON POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS CIRCUMSTANCES.

Activities and Athletics Achievements

Warren is a member of the North Suburban Conference in the Lake Division. The Lake Division includes: Lake Forest, Lake Zurich, Libertyville, Mundelein, Stevenson, Warren, Waukegan and Zion Benton.



Football: 3rd place in the conference, five all-conference athletes Boys' Soccer: 6th place in the conference, one all-conference athlete Girls' Volleyball: 4th place in the conference, two all-conference athletes

Girls' Swim: 1st place in the conference, 14 all-conference athletes, 12 state qualifiers,

one all-state athlete

Girls' Cross Country: 6th place in the conference, two all-conference athletes Boys' Cross County: 6th place in the conference, one all-conference athlete

Boys' Golf: 5th place in conference, three all-conference athletes **Girls' Golf:** 2nd place in the conference, three all-conference athletes

Girls' Tennis: 3rd place in conference, seven all-conference athletes and one state qualifier

Fast Facts about Activities and Athletics

Warren competed in 30 athletic sports with 92 levels within those sports

Cumulative grade point average (GPA) for athletes during the first semester of the 2017-18 school year was 3.49.

77 athletes earned NSC All-Academic Honors

Number of students who participated in:

Athletics: 900Clubs: 999

Competitive Clubs: 195
 Intramural Sports: 319
 Performing Arts: 474

More than 1,745 students attended the Homecoming dance which was held in the field house at the Almond Campus - Homecoming 2017: Under the Sea



