

# Warren Connection: March News

March 22, 2022



## Early Release Day!

March 25 is an early release schedule at both campuses.

- The Almond Campus will dismiss students at 12:15 p.m.
- The O'Plaine Campus will dismiss students at 1:15 p.m.

Spring Break  
March 28 to April 1

Students return from spring break on  
Monday, April 4, 2022



Page 4

**State Testing Begins in April**  
WTHS students will be completing several Illinois state tests.

Page 11

**WTHS Alumni News**  
New feature for our newsletter regarding special alumni achievements

Do you have questions regarding Warren Township High School District 121 Referendum?

Would you like answers?

Come, learn more.

School representatives will be at Starbucks 7105 Grand Avenue, Gurnee from 8 to 9 a.m. every Saturday to meet and greet the public in an informal setting.

Join us for a District 121 referendum informational meeting for the community focused on the tax rate increase referendum on the June 2022 ballot.

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Wildwood Park District  
33325 N. Sears Boulevard, Wildwood

6:30 p.m. - Spanish presentation  
7:30 p.m. - English presentation

## STAY CONNECTED TO WTHS



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



<https://www.facebook.com/WTHSDistrict121>

#WeAreWarren

## PowerSchool



Please make sure your contact information on file is up to date. This will ensure you receive all communications in a timely manner.

PowerSchool can also be used to access student schedules, grades, attendance, and other useful student information.



## Principals' Twitter

[Almond Campus Principal Twitter Account](#)

[O'Plaine Principal Twitter](#)



## Principals' YouTube

[Almond Campus Principal YouTube Account](#)

[O'Plaine Principal YouTube](#)



## Board of Education News

### Community Forum

The Board and Administration are providing community presentations to provide information about our revenue challenges and the referendum question on the June 28, 2022 election ballot.

Would you like us to provide an informational forum for a school or community group? Please reach out to Dr. John Ahlgrim at 847-548-7144 or email [jahlgrim@wths.net](mailto:jahlgrim@wths.net).

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6:30 p.m. - Spanish presentation  
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121 Referendum?

Would you like answers?

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**Starbucks**  
**7105 Grand Avenue, Gurnee**  
**from 8 to 9 a.m.**  
**every Saturday**  
to meet and greet the public  
in an informal setting.

**Meet and Greet**

**Every Saturday**

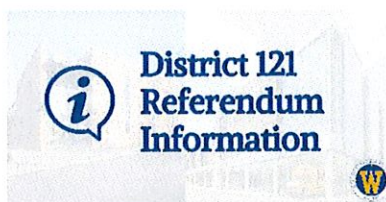
**8 a.m. to 9 a.m.**

**at Starbucks**

**7105 Grand Avenue,  
Gurnee**

**Have we answered your question?**

Check out the  
*Frequently Asked Questions*  
on the District's website at  
[www.d121.org/referendum](http://www.d121.org/referendum)



#### WTHS Board of Education

Paul Schulz, President  
John R. Anderson, Vice-President  
Bency Beals, Secretary  
Katherine Blair, Member  
Tony DeMonte, Member  
Thomas Drake, Member  
Natalia Alvarez Martinez, Member

#### Recap of the March 15, 2022 Board Meeting

The Board recognized and congratulated athletes and teams placing in state competitions in winter sports.

Presentations, reports, and discussion regarding the following items:

- Finance Committee, February 22, 2022
- Student Leadership Report
- Lake County Safety Conference at WTHS on March 7, 2022
- Announcement of summer hours for 2022
- Announcement of summer camps 2022
- Direct certification update
- Treasurer's reports for February 2022
- Monthly reports for February 2022
- Return to School update
- Referendum update

The Board approved the following items:

- Approval of personnel recommendations per Exhibit A and B for five candidates or employees
- Approval of the payment of bills in the amount of \$
- Approval of regular and executive session minutes of February 22, 2022
- Acceptance and Acknowledgement of Gifts to the District
- Approval of Resolution for Honorable Dismissal of Teachers
- Approval of Band Trip Proposal to Great Wolf Lodge in Gurnee, April 29-30, 2022
- Approval of eRate Category 2 Expenditure for eRate Year 25
- Approval of Additional Novels for the 2022-2023 School Year
- Approval of a Joint Agreement Between Participating Districts for the Lake County Area Vocational System
- Approval of the Purchase of Kitchen Equipment for the O'Plaine And Almond Campuses
- Approval of Door Repairs and Replacements as identified by the health Life Safety Inspection
- Approval of the O'Plaine Elevator Project



## Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools



Get the Facts about the  
Referendum Question at  
[www.d121.org/referendum](http://www.d121.org/referendum)

On August 17, the Board of Education approved a 60-cent operating rate increase question that will appear on the ballot June 28, 2022. If approved by voters, it would provide approximately \$13.25 million in additional revenue annually, with an estimated annual tax impact of \$200 (\$16.67 per month) per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value.

This increased funding would allow the District to preserve the eight-period school day, improve academic supports and mental health services, restore and protect activities and clubs, and restore and protect athletics. It would also allow us to lower student fees to rates comparable with other Lake County high schools.

We aim to provide clarity and details regarding how students would be impacted with and without this funding over the next two years.

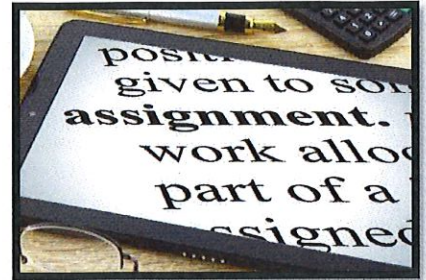
Join us for a District 121  
referendum informational  
meeting for the community  
focused on the tax rate increase  
referendum  
on the June 2022 ballot.

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Wildwood Park District  
33325 N. Sears Boulevard,  
Wildwood

6:30 p.m. - Spanish presentation  
7:30 p.m. - English presentation

Spring break marks the middle of second semester and with that comes many academic opportunities, events and activities for our students. Upon our return from spring break, please encourage your child to attend to their academic assignments through the end of the school year. It is important that students remain focused on both school-based work and upcoming testing requirements.



# Congratulations!

### National Honor Society

This year, 209 students will be inducted into the **National Honor Society**. The induction ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2022 at the Almond Campus gymnasium. Congratulations to the new members.

### First Semester Honor Roll

Congratulations to our **first semester Honor Roll students**. 1,184 students were on the high honor roll with a 3.75 grade point average or higher. 662 students were on the honor roll, with a grade point average of 3.25 to 3.74. Any grade of "D" or lower in a given semester eliminates a student from the honor roll for that semester. See the students who achieved this honor on the District's website at <https://www.d121.org/Page/497>.

### Illinois State Scholars

Congratulations to 127 students who were named as **Illinois State Scholars for 2022**. 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 scholars. See the students who achieved this honor on the District's website at <https://www.d121.org/Page/497>.



## News from Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocar, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

### State Testing Begins in April

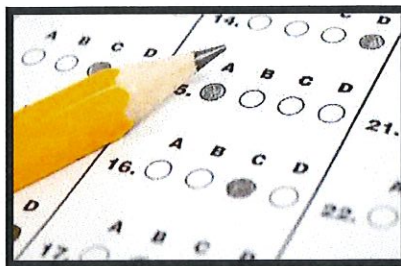
In April, WTHS students will be completing several Illinois state tests.

On April 13, 2022

- Freshman will be taking the PSAT 8/9
- Juniors will take the SAT

On April 14, 2022

- Sophomore will take the PSAT10
- Juniors will take the Illinois Science Assessment



Test dates and schedules may vary for students who receive testing accommodations. Students with testing accommodations that require an adjustment in testing dates and times will receive additional communications regarding their schedules. More specific information on testing schedules will be sent to families over the coming weeks.



For questions about the Illinois Science Assessment, contact Peter Kupfer, O'Plaine Campus Assistant Principal, at [pkupfer@wth.net](mailto:pkupfer@wth.net)

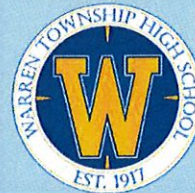


For questions about PSAT 9, PSAT 10, contact Peter Kupfer, O'Plaine Campus Assistant Principal, at [pkupfer@wth.net](mailto:pkupfer@wth.net)

For questions about SAT, contact Matthew Jones, Almond Campus Assistant Principal, at [mjones@wth.net](mailto:mjones@wth.net)

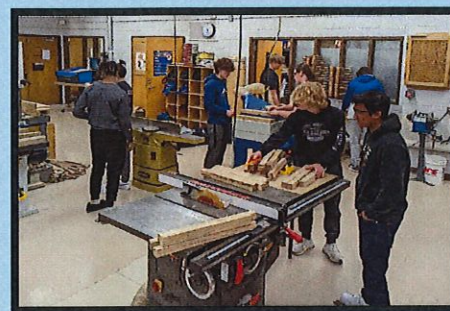
Questions regarding your student's accommodations should be directed to your student's case manager.

These exams offer a great opportunity for your student to show what they have learned! We recommend all students prepare for a positive testing experience by getting a good night's sleep and having a healthy breakfast the morning of their assessment.



### In The Classroom

Students in Mr. McCabe's Woods II class are currently building tables. In this lesson, they were planing the tables and constructing the legs for their tables.





## News from Student Services

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



### Attention Current Juniors:

All students entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade will be required to show proof of recent meningococcal conjugate vaccination (MCV). All 12<sup>th</sup> graders who received their first dose prior to their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday must have a second dose on or after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. If receiving the first dose on or after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, only one dose is required. This vaccination will prevent your child from contracting a severe bacterial meningitis, as well as other illnesses caused by this bacterium.

Families are asked to provide one of the following:

- ✓ A letter or note signed by your healthcare provider identifying the date the MCV was administered.
- ✓ A printout from your provider's electronic medical record (EMR) that indicates the vaccine was administered.
- ✓ A current Certificate of Child Health Examination form, specifying the date the MCV was administered.
- ✓ A Certificate of Religious Exemption, signed by a healthcare provider, if parents or legal guardians object, for religious reasons, to their child being immunized.

Students without adequate proof of meningococcal vaccination will be subject to exclusion from school, beginning with the first day of attendance, until proof of immunization is reviewed by the school nurse.

We hope everyone will have a safe and relaxing spring break! Please make sure you discuss the importance of finishing the semester strong with your student. After spring break, the time available to improve grades will start to diminish quickly.

## POST SECONDARY OPTIONS

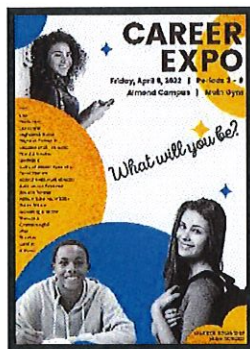
For the 2022-2023 school year, please make sure your student has made good choices for course selections that are coordinated with their four-year plan. We hope all students are starting to plan their post-secondary choices and have them aligned to the courses they are now selecting.

### 2022 Career Expo

Not sure what you might want to pursue as a future career or course of study? Want more information on internships, job-shadowing opportunities, or summer employment?

We've partnered with community businesses and organizations to bring back our annual Career Expo in-person this year! The event will be at the Almond Campus gymnasium on Friday, April 8, during periods 3-6. The goal of the Career Expo is to foster excitement, engagement, and interest by providing students with exposure to a variety of career paths.

A variety of employers and professionals will be represented and students are highly encouraged to attend. By participating, they will gain a better understanding of various industries and the many professions within them. Some employers may also have possible internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing, and/or even employment opportunities for students!



Students can attend during their lunch period or study hall (periods 3-6) and are welcome to stay for part or all of the period to meet with as many employers as possible. If a student is planning to attend from a study hall, they need to first check in with their teacher. Additionally, all 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> period PE classes will attend.

### College of Lake County (CLC) College and Career Navigator at the Almond Campus

We have several upcoming College of Lake County events in our College and Career Center and at CLC's campus. Annually, between 20-30% of our WTHS seniors enroll at CLC.

Norma Guzman is our CLC College Career Navigator at the Almond Campus, serving as the CLC contact from start to finish who walks our students through the enrollment process. We have been quite fortunate to have her as a resource on campus this year. Please encourage students who bring up CLC questions to visit the CCC during their free period. Ms. Guzman is here at Almond every day from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Her email is [NGuzman1@clcollinois.edu](mailto:NGuzman1@clcollinois.edu) and she has a [Google Classroom](#) with a multitude of resources for students.

**March 24:** CLC Scholarship Workshop in CCC (3a-6a)

**April 9:** CLC Open House at CLC 10:00-1:00 p.m.



## News from Business Services and Operations

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

### Student Fee Reminders

Two processes that occur during the second semester are our junior/senior prom for those students who choose to attend and parking permit sales for the next school year for students who are eligible.



#### → Prom Tickets

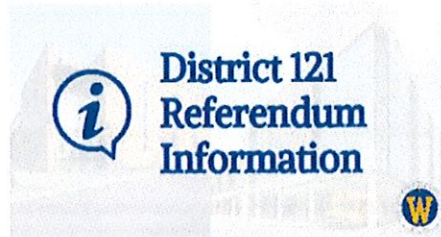
The 2022 Prom will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022. Information about prom can be found on the District's website. Tickets for the event will be on sale from April 11 through April 21. It will not be possible for you to purchase a ticket after April 21. The tickets are \$125 per person. Please be aware that all school fees must be paid in order to attend this event. This includes Chromebook fees, textbook fees, athletic and activity fees, and school registration fees. Any outstanding fees must be paid by April 1 or you will not be allowed to purchase a ticket. If you are not sure if you have overdue fees, please see the Almond campus bookkeeper, Mrs. Maiden.

#### → Student Parking Application for 2022-2023 School Year

Students who have outstanding fees on their accounts (books, electronics, lunch, or unpaid registration fees from prior years) will not be eligible to purchase a permit until those fees are paid in full. Students must complete the application process between March 1 and May 1, 2022. Please see the District website for the application form.

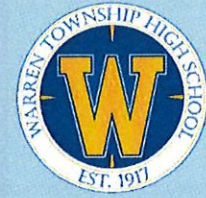
### Frequently Asked Questions

As we provide informational meetings to our community regarding our revenue challenges, questions often come up that we will try to address in the newsletter over the next several months.



#### Has the District explored additional state and federal funding?

Federal funding represents approximately 2% of the District's budget and is earmarked for specific programs including special education and transportation. Illinois provides about 15% of the District's revenues in the form of grants and general funding. The District will continue to pursue additional grants, but these are typically tied to capital projects, not operating expenses.



Get the Facts about the  
Referendum Question at  
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Warren Township High School has the lowest per-pupil revenue of all of the high school districts in Lake County.



#### Revenue Per Pupil 2020

Lake County High School Districts	Local Sources	State Sources	Federal Sources	Total
Lake Forest District 115	\$31,419	\$108	\$190	\$32,695
Highland Park District 113	\$38,619	\$1,182	\$170	\$40,051
Libertyville District 118	\$28,545	\$1,311	\$748	\$30,604
Adlai Stevenson District 129	\$26,378	\$368	\$404	\$27,150
Crystal Lake District 127	\$19,845	\$7,344	\$190	\$27,379
Zion Baptist District 128	\$15,989	\$5,373	\$1,162	\$22,524
Antioch District 117	\$16,241	\$4,738	\$281	\$21,260
Round Lake District 110	\$16,874	\$1,803	\$370	\$19,047
Grant Township District 124	\$12,020	\$3,806	\$426	\$16,252
Warren Township High School District 121	\$13,293	\$2,840	\$400	\$16,533

Source: State Board of Education, Annual Financial Report (AFR), 2020  
Finance Committee Meeting, July 14, 2021

On August 17, the Board of Education approved a 60-cent operating rate increase question that will appear on the ballot June 28, 2022.

A 60-cent increase would provide approximately \$13.25 million in additional revenue annually, with an estimated annual tax impact of \$200 (\$16.67 per month) per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value.



## News from the Almond Principal

by Rob Parrott, Almond Campus Principal



Each staff member has the opportunity to nominate a student for the Warren Way Leadership Award. These students should demonstrate leadership in our tenets of Respect, Resilience, and/or being Engaged.

- **RESPECT** – We value diversity and learn to understand other cultures and experiences. We show empathy and kindness to others. We communicate and collaborate in an effective and positive way, and we establish healthy relationships.
- **RESILIENT** – We work hard and give our best effort. We reflect, learn, and adapt based on our experiences and challenges. We make courageous and responsible decisions, and we lead healthy and balanced lifestyles.
- **ENGAGED** – We own our learning and are accountable for our actions. We explore our interests, set meaningful goals, and prepare to excel after high school. We participate in our school, local and global community. We think critically and develop creative problem-solving skills.

I am proud to recognize the following students as our monthly The Warren Way Leadership Award at the Almond Campus: Katherine Kremer, Lauren Paterkiewicz, Eric Martinez, Noelle Cheong, Oliver Morales-Sedano, Brian Dimillo, Olivia Kaether, Kendall Steffens, George Mcatee, Thomas Hale, Adeejana Scott, Anne Serdar, Brandon Bacaling, and Erin Mitoraj.

Spring is just around the corner, and we are all filled with anticipation of brighter days ahead. We have marked the two-year anniversary of the start of the pandemic and the impact it had at Warren Township High School. Although we have learned a lot in this process that we will carry forward and make us better in the future, there is no replacement for having students in person and regaining some normalcy to our school days. We hope everyone has a great spring break and returns with the excitement that summer is near.



We have academic resources available to ALL STUDENTS:

**Resource Rooms:** English, Math, and Science help is available every day during lunch periods 3-6! Teachers are available to help provide academic support.

**Study Table:** Homework help in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies is available on Tuesday and Thursday nights between 6:30 and 8:00 p.m. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the links.



### Illinois Youth Survey – March 24

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) has funded the administration of the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) biennially since 1990. The IYS is a self-report survey administered in school settings and is designed to gather information about a variety of health and social indicators, including substance use and perceptions, bullying, school climate, nutrition, and physical activity.



The administration of the IYS has two major goals:

- To provide local data to schools and school districts throughout Illinois. During state-funded survey years (e.g., 2018, 2020, etc.), the survey is available to all eligible public and private schools in the state at no cost. Each participating school is eligible to receive a report specific to their own students' responses. These reports provide critical information to school administrators, prevention professionals, and community members as they work to address substance abuse issues in their communities.
- To provide a scientific estimate of health and social indicators for the state of Illinois. The scientific estimate is based on drawing a random sample to represent the state population of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders.

WTHS surveys all grade levels to improve our data points and reports. Annually, the data provides our school with clearer direction regarding initiatives and focuses our support programs for our students.



## News from the O'Plaine Principal

by Michele Bertola, O'Plaine Campus Principal

Happy Spring! Warmer temperatures are just around the corner, and we are all filled with anticipation of brighter days ahead. Our students and staff continue to work hard and strive for the Warren Way. Please see the students recognized for their leadership below, as well as reminders for academic resources available for all students. We hope everyone has a great spring break and returns with the excitement that summer is near!



### Academic SUPPORT

We have academic resources available to ALL STUDENTS:

- **Testing Center** - Students can make up tests or quizzes here.
- **Resource Rooms** -- Students can get help from teachers in Math, Science, and Reading/Writing throughout the day.
- **Lunch Study Hall** -- All students have a half-period study hall opposite their lunch.
- **After School Study Table** -- Students can get help after school on Tuesdays & Thursdays in the library.
- **Virtual Study Table** -- Students can access virtual teacher help in Math, Science, English, and Social Studies on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.



### THE WARREN WAY

We Are Respectful, Resilient,  
Engaged Now and Always --  
Go Blue Devils



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- **ENGAGED** -- We own our learning and are accountable for our actions. We explore our interests, set meaningful goals, and prepare to excel after high school. We participate in our school, local and global community. We think critically and develop creative problem-solving skills.

I am proud to recognize the following students as our monthly The Warren Way Leadership Award at the O'Plaine Campus: Jesus Vazquez, Klaira Witkowski, Josh Herrera, Abigail Salinas, Hayden Cottrell, Diana Ruiz, Jamarion Alquicira, Christian Bremer, Catherine Walker, Thatcher Beauchamp, Madison Wojdyla, and Sarah Alonso.





# News About Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics



## Boys Track & Field

Congratulations to Luke Wiley on his 13th place finish at the National Indoor Championships in New York on March 11. Luke finished with a time of 9:05.12 and placed 13 out of 80 runners. This time broke his previous school record of 9:14 seconds. The teams traveled to North Central College and ran against some tough competition. Out of 10 schools, the Varsity team finished in second place by only a point and half. The F/S team finished in 3rd place overall behind two really good teams. Here are some of the highlights.

- David Lara won the mile in a time of 4:29 seconds. This sets the new Warren indoor record, and is the 8th fastest mile time in school history.
- Jailen Duffie sets the indoor 200m school record with a time of 22.89 and is the 4th fastest 200m time in school history. Jailen also won the 55m dash in a time of 6.63 seconds.
- The Varsity 4x2 team of Jailen Duffie, Charley Thompson, Dan Patronik, and Bryce Niebrugge set the school indoor record with a time of 1:33 seconds
- Max Zeisler finishes 3rd in the mile with a time of 4:30. This time ranks him in the top 10 mile times in school history.
- Aaron Ayobami took 2nd in the 400m run with a time of 52.31. Joell Belonga was right behind him to finish 3rd.

Frosh/Soph Level top performances:

- 4x4 team of Trey LeBeau, Eddie Lim, Zach Pilgrim, and Kim Vesely run 3:43 to place second overall. This time breaks a frosh/soph school indoor record and is also good for the fastest time in school history.
- The 4x2 team of Trey LeBeau, Eddie Lim, Zach Pilgrim, and Antonio Moore finish 3rd overall and set a new indoor school record.

## 2021-2022 North Suburban Conference Winter Season

	All-Conference	Honorable Mention
Boys Basketball	Cooper Stacey	Andrew Dolan
Girls Basketball	Grace Lynch	
Boys Bowling	Jarrett Smith	Erik Rissmann
	Kayla Cameron	Rachel Flores-Mangaran
Girls Bowling	Katelyn Siurek	
	Brianna Smith	
Competitive Cheerleading	Amanda Blumer	Kylie Conner
	Wisdom Brown	Kendall Steffens
	Annalise Sambrano	
Competitive Dance	Lauren Gaertig	
	Megan Kampf	
	Lillian Kooyenga	
Gymnastics	Amanda Hamann (vault)	Amanda Hamann (floor)
Boys Swimming & Diving	Blake Vander-Jeugd (diving)	
	Reyes Gonzalez	Anthony Soto
Boys Wrestling	Nevin Mitrovic	Carlos Ordonez
	Evan Onstad	
Girls Wrestling	Adriana Demos	
	Justyce Sieber	

## Spring Sports are Underway!

Please visit the athletic calendar on the District's webpage and plan a few dates to come and support the Blue Devils. Spring sports are badminton, baseball, boys and girls lacrosse, girls soccer, softball, boys tennis, boys and girls track and field, boys volleyball, boys and girls water polo.

## Boys Water Polo

Boys Water Polo came out strong in the season opener against Vernon Hills. Freshman Brandon Morales led with 5 goals, Senior Jake Snyder and Junior Ivan Morales each had 3 and Senior Daniel Mo and Sophomore Daniel Garcia each had 1. The Devils played tough defense the entire game. Junior goal keeper Guerrin DeJong had 10 saves in an exciting road game. Varsity won 13-10. On the JV level the Blue Devils scored 7 unanswered goals in the first period and their defense held the Cougars to 5 total goals in a 15-5 victory. This total team effort included goals by Senior Cris Salido (4), Sophomore Daniel Garcia (4), Sophomore Billy Lawling (3), Senior Jacob Simmons (2), and Junior Jackson Lobitz (2). Junior goal keeper Will Bairstow had 7 saves. On Friday night the boys played a tough game against a state ranked Waubesa Valley followed by a solid win over Buffalo Grove. Saturday morning was a battle against McHenry that ended in a 8-7 W with :17 seconds remaining with an outstanding shot by Junior Ivan Morales. The Blue Devils played Deerfield in the final game and ended their first Varsity tournament since 2019 in 4th place out of 8 teams. Current record 3-2.

## Boys Wrestling

WTHS entered 24 wrestlers into the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association Illinois Wrestling Coaches Association (IWCOA) freshman/sophomore state tournament series. 11 athletes made it to sectionals, and four qualified for the State meet.

138 lbs.: Freshman Justice Humphreys: Sectional Champion  
 195 lbs.: Sophomore Jeremija Hixson : Sectional - 3rd; State - 4th Place  
 220 lbs.: Freshman Anthony Soto: Sectional Champion, State - 3rd Place  
 220 lbs.: Frosh Matt Vasquez: Sectional Runner-Up



## News about Activities

by Aimee Lonigro, Assistant Director of Athletics and Director of Activities

### Mr. Warren Pageant

To be a Mr. Warren contestant students can sign up or be recommended by staff or Student Council members. They are judged on the quality and entertainment value of their Lip Sync and Talent performances, answers and poise in the Question and Answer segment, and by how much money they raise for the local charitable cause. This year \$1,800 in proceeds went toward the GiveNKind Foundation. Admission is free to the pageant and everyone is encouraged to "vote" for their favorite contestant through donations. The winner of Mr. Warren is awarded with two Prom tickets and a free tuxedo among other prizes that are donated by local businesses. Thank you for Student Council sponsors, Sandy Desiron and Dana Lainio as well as Kaiser's Pizza and Balmes Florist for their contributions.



Congratulations to 2022 Mr. Warren winner, Jake Peterson; Runner-up, Oliver Morales-Sedano, and Mr. Congeniality, Jonah Oh. The other 6 contestants were: Logan Sweeney, Saul Medina-Rodriguez, Alexander Vasquez, Yugi Salonga, Josh Pos and Ryan Huber.

### Math Teams

Congratulations to the Math Teams for their success in the Glenbrook South Invitational. The Varsity team took 3rd place overall in their division, the sophomores took 2nd place, and the freshmen took 4th place. Vaibhav Joshi was awarded the John Benson Honorable Mention Award for sharing knowledge, encouraging peers, and fostering enthusiasm and excitement for mathematics in others. Well done, Vaibhav! The Math team is coached by Kelly Stites and Steve Vranek.



### Winter Guard

Congratulations to the Varsity Winter Guard team on making it to the finals of the WGI Chicago Regional and placed 6th out of 18 guards from around the country. The Winter Guards are coached by Jeanette Krier-Johnson, Antonia Markowitz and Nick Parrott.



### Scholastic Bowl

Congratulations to the Scholastic Bowl team on their 5th place finish in the North Suburban Conference and their valiant effort in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Regional tournament. Theo Raitzer had an exceptional season and was the top player in the final two matches against Round Lake and Stevenson. The Scholastic Bowl teams are coached by Chad Miller and Mike Lencioni.



### Jazz Bands

Congratulations to the jazz bands and director Dave Tribbley on their recent success. After participating in the New Trier and Evanston Jazz Festivals at the beginning of February, they gave a concert alongside the Gurnee School District 56 and Woodland School District 50 jazz bands before going *Jazz in the Meadows* and the *Mundelein Jazz Invitational*. Below are the official results:

#### Jazz in the Meadows, Rolling Meadows

- HS Jazz Combo - Division I rating Jazz Ensemble II - 2nd in "Second Band Class"
- Jazz Ensemble I - 3rd in class 4A, 4th out 15 in class 3A/4A

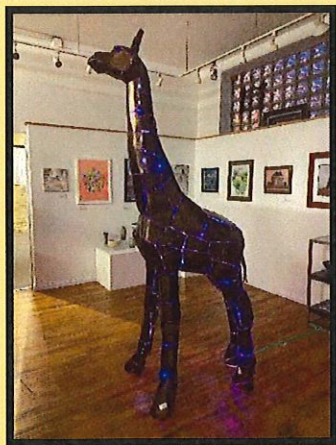
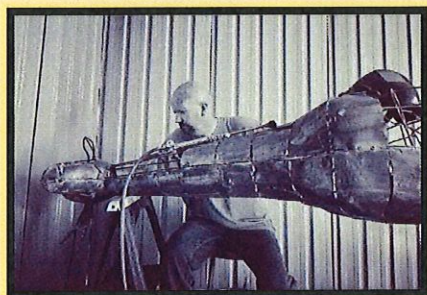
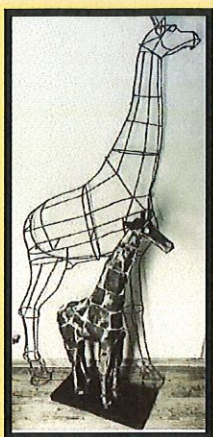
#### Mundelein Jazz Invitational, Mundelein HS

- Jazz Lab Band - High Division II rating Jazz Ensemble II - 2nd in "Second Band Class"
- Jazz Ensemble I - 2nd in "Top Band Class" and 2nd Overall

MANY students were named "outstanding musicians" in each band at each of the festivals. Most importantly, it was a rewarding month of music making and sharing our music with other schools. The bands also had an opportunity to work with professional jazz musicians and jazz educators and get their insights on what will make them better musicians going forward. Their final concert is on Thursday, April 21 in the Almond Campus Black Box theatre.







Pictures and information provided by Kendra Kett, Director, Blue Moon Gallery, 18620 Belvidere Road, Grayslake

## Popular Award-Winning Lake County Sculptor Creates 8' Tall Metal Giraffe

Warren graduate (Class of '94) Matt Bellefeuille is a renowned master metal sculptor from Winthrop Harbor IL whose captivating sculptures have been thrilling visitors at art galleries and exhibitions throughout Northern IL and Southeastern WI for the last ten years. Although Bellefeuille has always had an artistic eye and a creative spirit, it was not until he learned how to weld at his public works job for the Village of Gurnee (23 years) that he found the medium he was meant to use.

Using both recycled metal parts (such as old car parts, nuts and bolts, grates, springs, tools, sewing machine pieces, and even silverware) and other found metal objects along with new metal pieces, Bellefeuille attempts to -- and succeeds -- in giving these cold, hard components a soft and elegant look in his works of sculptural art.

Receiving consistent growing acclaim and popularity, Matt took on his most ambitious sculpture to date in the Spring of 2021 and created "Inner Peace," an 8' tall metal, illuminated, free-standing giraffe, which first debuted at the Lemon Street Gallery in Kenosha WI in late summer. The sculpture took approximately three months to complete and required torching, cutting, welding, and grinding to execute.

The sculpture presented some interesting challenges for the artist. "I wanted to create a sculpture that would have longevity and be relatively easy to maintain. To accomplish this, I had to build "Inner Peace" in two pieces. This enabled me not only to easily add the illumination but more so to sandblast and then powder coat the entire work, every inch, inside and out -- powder coating is one of the most durable things you can do to a sculpture," said Bellefeuille. "Working with two pieces was a challenge. I had to make sure the heating and welding did not warp the metal which could then impact a seamless fit."

In September "Inner Peace" traveled to Grand Rapids MI where it was accepted into the competitive and highly prestigious 3-week ArtPrize Festival marking Bellefeuille's third appearance at the noted international event. "Inner Peace" was prominently featured in front of a floor-to-ceiling window at one of the ArtPrize's most sought after locations for artists to show their work.

Next "Inner Peace" won the curator's Award of Excellence from the Robert T Wright Gallery of Art at the College of Lake County in Grayslake IL in their juried Recent Works Exhibition in October.

Inner Peace stands 95" tall (approximately 8') and is 48" wide and 28" deep. It is made of steel with a copper & black double powder coat and features over 250 multi-colored LED lights inside. A video showing the sculpture's various stages of illumination can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQil-PHzuA8>.

"I had the vision of this sculpture in my head years ago and I knew I would not be able to let go of that vision until I had made the sculpture a reality. I named it "Inner Peace" because of the soft glow that pours out of the sculpture. It represents letting our inner peace, beauty, and love shine out into the world," said the artist.

Bellefeuille has created metal sculptures of cats, dogs, fish, horses, mice, and insects. "Inner Peace" is his third and largest giraffe sculpture. "Out of all the animals in Animal Kingdom, I identify with the giraffe's strange and compelling uniqueness," said Bellefeuille. "The giraffe is my favorite animal."

Currently on display for viewing in the lobby at the Kenosha Area Business Alliance in Kenosha WI (open Mondays - Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) the commanding, award-winning sculpture is now ready to find its permanent home.

