Warren Township High School District 121

Warren Connection: Back to School

August 31, 2021



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Get the Facts
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Referendum
Question



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Breakfast and Lunch Provided for All Students This School Year

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How to buy your football tickets



Get the Facts about the Referendum Question at www.d121.org/referendum

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WTHS will be closed on Monday, September 6, in observance of Labor Day



STAY CONNECTED TO WTHS



Warren's website, at 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



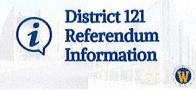
Principals' YouTube

Almond Campus Principal YouTube Account

O'Plaine Principal YouTube

Board of Education News

Get the Facts about the Referendum Question at www.d121.org/referendum



For nearly two years, District 121 has been actively working to engage our community in the ongoing reduction in programming and services necessary due to our low funding. The district has been communicating its status as having the lowest local and overall revenue compared to Lake County

high school districts, and the efforts WTHS has made over the last several years to cut costs. The district had placed a 35-cent operating rate increase question on the April 6, 2021 ballot. That question did not pass, with 3,753 yes votes and 4,700 no votes.

As a result of the failed referendum, the district is anticipating the need to cut approximately 13 more permanent positions prior to the 2022-23 school year, which is in addition to the 66 positions that have been eliminated over the last several years.

In addition to these staff reductions, the district is planning the elimination of entry-level athletic teams for all sports beginning in fall 2022. Sports with four levels of participation will be reduced to three; sports with three levels of participation will be reduced to two; and sports with two levels of participation will be reduced to one. The entry-level team would be eliminated in each case. These reductions will most likely reduce student participation opportunities for all sports and across all grade levels, as most or all programs will need to make cuts based on ability.

Increased funding will be necessary for the district to offer the same level of academics, activities and athletics that we have been proud to provide to our community over the years.



On August 17, the Board of Education approved a 60-cent operating rate increase question on the June 28, 2022 ballot. 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. Increased funding will allow the district to preserve the 8-period school day, improve academic supports and mental health services, restore and protect activities and clubs, and restore and protect athletics. The 60-cent operating rate increase would allow us to lower student fees to rates comparable with other Lake County high school districts.

The Board is allowing the district to restore the entry-level athletic teams, as well as preserve current band staffing (which is a tentative staffing reduction for the 2022-23 school year) and programming if a successful referendum occurs in June 2022. This allowance would be to the extent possible based on the time available prior to the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.



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 August 17, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

Presentations, reports and discussion regarding the following items:

- Policy Committee, August 10, 2021
- Finance Committee, July 14, 2021
- Treasurer's Reports, July 2021
- Department Report: Intervention Programs
- First Reading of District Board Policies
- Discussion of District Property Sale Process
- Return to School Update

The Board approved the following items:

- Approval of personnel recommendations for 23 candidates or employees
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$3,269,014.19
- Regular meeting minutes and executive session minutes of July 20, 2021
- Approval of Six Month Review of Closed Session Minutes
- Resolution Authorizing the Destruction of Certain Verbatim Recordings
- · Acceptance of Gifts to the District
- Approval of the Resolution for Preparation of Tentative Budget for FY22
- Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement Between WTHS District 121 and Gurnee School District 56 Concerning the Preparation of Meals Under the Federal Lunch Program for the 2021-2022 School Year
- Approval of Agreement Regarding the Receipt of Developer Subdivision Contributions and Indemnification, in the Event of a Private Agreement
- Approval of the School Project Maintenance Project Grant Application
- Consideration and Action on the Resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the Proposition to Increase the Limiting Rate of Township High School District Number 121, Lake County, Illinois, to the voters of said School District at the Election on the 28th day of June, 2022

Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools



A critical aspect of the district's referendum information efforts is to provide clarity and details regarding the anticipated reductions for the next two years without additional funding.

There are several programs affected by the referendum question, including the length of our school day (8-period day), academic and mental health assistance, activity programs, and athletic programs. The information on this page focuses on the anticipated athletic reductions.

We are very proud of our long tradition of excellence within the WTHS athletic program. We have 34 athletic programs and approximately 40% of our students participate and make Warren proud.

Without additional funding, the district is planning the elimination of the entry-level athletic team for all sports beginning in fall 2022. Sports with four levels of participation will be reduced to three; sports with three levels of participation will be reduced to two; and sports with two levels of participation will be reduced to one, with the entry-level team being eliminated in each case. These reductions will most likely reduce student participation opportunities for all sports and across all grade levels, as most or all programs will need to make cuts based on ability.

The Board is allowing the district to restore the entry-level athletic teams, as well as preserve current band staffing (which is a tentative staffing reduction for March) and programming if a successful referendum occurs in June 2022. This allowance would be to the extent possible based on the time available prior to the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

Without additional funding, the athletic and activities programs will be eliminated as early as the 2023-2024 school year.

Get the Facts about the Referendum Question at www.d121.org/referendum

Get the Facts About the Referendum Question: Investing in our Students

Restoring and Protecting Athletics

Reducing Entry-Level Athletic Teams

In April 2021, a referendum question on the ballot for Warren Township High School District 121 fell short of receiving enough votes to pass. As a result, WTHS will need to move forward with reductions to staffing and the elimination of entry-level athletic teams for all sports, beginning in fall 2022.



- . Sports with 3 levels will be reduced to 2
- · Sports with 2 levels will be reduced to 1
- · In each case, the entry-level team will be eliminated

If the June 2022 referendum is successful, the board will restore these entry-level teams to the greatest extent possible. The earliest this could take place would be at the start of the 2022-23 school year.



Fall Sports	Boys Cross Country Varsily JV	Girls Cross Country Varsity	Cheerleading Varsity JV	Devilettes (Dance) Varsity	Football Varsity JV Freshmen
	Boys Golf Varsity JV	Girls Golf Varsity JV	Boys Soccer Varsity JV Sophomore Freshmen	Girls Swimming Varsity JV	Girls Tennis Varsity JV
	Girls Volleyball Varsity Sophomore JV Freshmen				

Winter Sports	Boys Basketball Varsity Sophomore Freshmen	Girls Basketball Varsity JV Frosh/Soph	Boys Bowling Varsity JV	Cheerleading Varsity JV	Devilettes (Dance) Varsity JV
	Girls Gymnastics Varsity JV	Boys Hockey N/A	Girls Hockey N/A	Boys Swimming & Diving Varsity	Wrestling Varsity JV Freshmen
	Girls Bowling Varsity ∜				

Spring Sports	Badminton Varsity JV Freshmen	Baseball Varsity JV Frosh/Soph Freshmen	Boys Lacrosse Varsity JV	Girls Lacrosse Varsity JV Freshmen	Girls Soccer Varsity JV Freshmen
	Softball Varsity JV JV 2	Boys Tennis Varsity JV	Boys Track & Field Varsity JV	Girls Track & Field Varsity JV	Boys Volleyball Varsity JV Freshmen
	Boys Water Polo Varsity	Girls Water Polo Varsity	A 2007A 101 To 44		

News from Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocaris, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

The Warren Township High School Instructional Services Department would like to welcome back our students to school! This fall is especially exciting as we return to full in-person learning. Our Instructional Services Department encompasses the areas of Curriculum and Instruction and Educational Technology. We work with our teachers to ensure students receive a world-class educational experience by developing rigorous, vertically aligned curricula in all departments, while supporting our staff to implement instructional strategies that support all our students in their learning.

We also work to continuously improve and update our technological infrastructure to allow for seamless integration of technology into our classrooms. It's our goal to ensure that teachers and students have access to the appropriate tools needed for effective teaching and learning to occur.

To learn more about the two areas of our Instructional Services Department, please click the links below:

Click Here to view the Curriculum & Instruction page on d121.org
Click Here to view the Educational Technology Department page on d121.org

The Warren Way

At Warren Township High School, we believe we can make a difference in our lives, in our community, and in the world by being Respectful, Resilient, and Engaged.



Respectful

- We value diversity and learn about other cultures and experiences.
- We show empathy and kindness to others.
- We communicate and collaborate in an effective and positive way.
- 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.
- We lead healthy and balanced lifestyles.



SPECTE

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.

Now and always #WeAreWarren



Testing Information

We anticipate a return to normal procedures for state testing this year.

This spring, all freshmen will take the PSAT-9, all sophomores will take the PSAT-10, and all juniors will take the SAT. The SAT will continue to be a graduation requirement for all our students. The PSAT-9 and PSAT-10 provide students with an opportunity to monitor their progress toward being ready for the SAT.

All three of these assessments will be administered in April. There will be additional communications regarding the assessments throughout the year. Please reach out to your student's guidance counselor or the Assistant Principal for Instructional Services at either building.

To learn more about the SAT Suite of Assessments, please click here.

2021 PSAT/NMSQT

Junior students will have the opportunity to take the PSAT/NMSQT this October. Registration for the PSAT/NMSQT will begin in late August. Information regarding the registration process will be sent via email in August and can be found online on our <u>Testing Information</u> page.

This year, the PSAT/NMSQT will be administered on Wednesday, October 13. The cost to take this test will be \$20.

To learn more about the PSAT/NMSQT, click here.

News From Student Services

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



College and Career Counselor Information

Warren Township High School offers a comprehensive college planning, career exploration, and counseling curriculum beginning freshman year. A combination of extensive programming and individual appointments with our counselors provides families with current students and information on career exploration, college selection, applications, and the financial aid process. Guidance counselors work closely with WTHS's postsecondary counselors to provide students every advantage in the college application process. Additionally, the academic and personal/social development of all students is addressed through the student services teams.

WTHS uses **Maia Learning** to deliver an in-depth exploratory research tool to plan for students' life after high school. To preview the benefits of Maia Learning, watch <u>this introductory video</u>. For students to access, click log-in and then click Sign In with Google.

Important Dates

September 11, 2021 ACT National Test

September 16, 2021
Financing College Education
7:00 p.m. at the O'Plaine Campus
Auditorium

Happy start of the year!

News from the Health Offices

In case you missed the August 19 letter to parents from Dr. Ahlgrim, please see the following important information.

"We are hopeful your student has had a great start to the school year. As we continue to navigate through the pandemic, we are continuing to ask for your help in keeping our schools safe. In-person learning with the appropriate protective measures is safe. Students need full-time in person access to their teachers and support network at school to stay engaged, grow academically and to maintain social-emotional wellness.

In partnership with the Lake County Health Department, we continue to support efforts to get everyone who is eligible vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. The combination of proper masking and being vaccinated will keep our school safe and keep students in school. Generally, vaccinated students are significantly less likely to get sick from COVID-19 and/or will not have to be quarantined due to potential close contact with other individuals who may be COVID positive. At the end of this first week, the vast majority of known instances in which students had to miss school due to COVID-19 positive cases and close contacts were unvaccinated students. If you have not done so, please consider getting your child vaccinated."

Attendance Procedures

If your child needs to miss school (regardless of vaccination status), when you call the attendance office, please leave specific details as to why they are absent (sore throat, fever, new cough, etc.).

- If it is NOT COVID-19 related (overslept, sports injury, documented allergy problems, etc.) please say so and you will not get a follow up call.
- If your child has COVID-19 symptoms, please take them for a PCR test as soon as possible. A negative test will be required to return to school if your child has COVID-19 symptoms. If it is the common cold or anything else, the negative test will allow your child to get back into school.

Testing is readily available at most pharmacies or your primary physician's office. We cannot accept over-the-counter rapid tests to return to school.

Attendance Office at Almond Campus
<u>AlmAttendance@wths.net</u>
847-548-6333

Attendance Office at O'Plaine Campus
OplAttendance@wths.net
847-599-4799

News from Business Services and Operations

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

Breakfast & Lunch Provided for All Students for the 2021-22 School Year



Warren Township High School is excited to announce that we will continue to offer free breakfast and free lunch for all students for the 2021-22 academic school year. As the Warren community continues to recover from the effects from the pandemic, this free meal program – funded via federal COVID relief funds – will benefit many in the school community.

Please visit the district webpage for full details: https://il02214492.schoolwires.net/Page/193.

Illinois State Board of Education School Maintenance Project Grant

The roofs at both the Almond and the O'Plaine campuses need replacement. The district does not have enough funds to complete these two projects. However, the District has applied for a \$50,000 matching grant from the Illinois State Board of Education's School Maintenance Project Grant Program. Funds awarded to the district will cover less than 2 percent of our roofing needs.

Come Join Our Team!



School Bus Drivers and Aides Wanted

- → Starting pay \$20.00/hr. We will pay you for your training.
- → Complete benefit package
- → Referral and signing bonus
- → Apply in person or online @www.d121.org and select the Human Resources tab
- → Questions? Call Jeanne Turf, Director of Transportation at 847-599-4787 or email jturf@wths.net

Warren Township High School District 121

Warren Township High School District 121 is a comprehensive four-year high school with an enrollment of nearly 3,900 students.

The school district covers over 50 square miles and includes all or part of Beach Park, Gages Lake, Grandwood Park, Grayslake, Gurnee
Millburn, Old Mill Creek, Park City, Third Lake, Wadsworth, Waukegan and Wildwood.





2021-2022 School Year Tentative Budget

The school year 2021-22 tentative budget is currently on file for public inspection in the District Office. The budget includes \$71,712,110 in revenue in all funds and \$72,596,420 in expenditures in all funds. The difference between all revenue funds and all expenditures funds is budgeted at \$(884,310).

Using the District's operating funds, the revenues are \$62,065,210 and the expenditures are \$63,106,443. The difference between the operating funds revenue and the operating funds expenditures is budgeted at \$(1,041,233).

The district has made ongoing efforts to control costs. Over the last six years, the district has cut 66 positions, including 48 teachers, nine school support staff, five transportation staff, three administrators, and one school resource officer.

Warren Township High School District #121 is the least-funded high school district in all of Lake County. Increased funding will be necessary for the district to offer the same level of academics, activities and athletics that we have been proud to provide to our community over the years.



News from the Almond Principal

by Rob Parrott, Almond Campus Principal







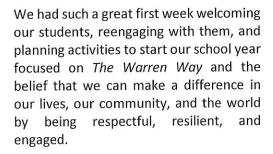


The 2021-22 school year is off to a great start! The Almond Campus was excited to officially welcome back our staff and students with a few events that traditionally mark the start of another school year. First, an annual "sneak peek" was held Thursday, August 12, allowing students and parents to walk their schedule, ask questions of the administration, and become acclimated to the school building.



Second, we held an orientation day for juniors and seniors on August 16. The event gave students an opportunity to (again) follow their schedule, meet their teachers, and hear important information from the administration.

Finally, we welcomed all our juniors and seniors back to the Almond Campus for the first day of the school year on August 17. It was so nice to have students back in person and interacting with each other and our staff again!





Although we have just started the school year, I am always mindful of how fast the time goes for our students. Whether it is the juniors adjusting to the Almond Campus and rigors of the junior year curriculum or our seniors taking on more leadership and navigating the college application process, the time in high school will go by fast. Our staff understands the different demands of each of these years and they are always willing to help support our students and parents. Please take advantage of the numerous programs and opportunities we offer throughout the school year.

Thank you, and remember: We Are Respectful, Resilient, Engaged - Now and Always. Go Blue Devils!

News from the O'Plaine Principal

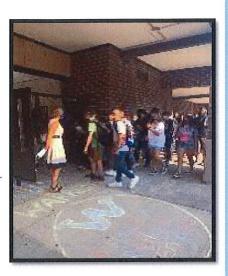
by Michele Bertola, O'Plaine Campus Principal

The 2021-22 school year is off to a great start! At the O'Plaine Campus, we were excited to officially welcome back our staff and students with a few events that traditionally mark the start of another school year. First, an annual "sneak peek" was held on Thursday, August 12, allowing students and parents to walk their schedule, ask questions of the administration, and become acclimated to the school building.

Second, we held an orientation day for our freshmen and sophomores this year on August 16. It allowed these students an opportunity to follow their schedule, meet their teachers, and hear important information from the administration.

Finally, we welcomed all our freshmen and sophomores back to the O'Plaine Campus for the first day of the school year on August 17. It was so nice to have students back in person and interacting with each other and our staff again!

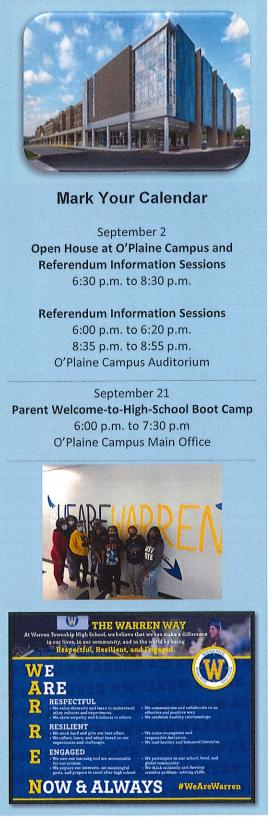
We had such a great first week welcoming our students, reengaging with them, and planning activities to start our school year focused on *The Warren Way* and the belief that we can make a difference in our lives, our community, and the world by being respectful, resilient, and engaged.





Our time with students goes fast! Whether it is the freshmen adjusting to the O'Plaine Campus and rigors of high school curriculum or our sophomores taking on more leadership and preparing to go to the Almond Campus, the time in high school will fly by. Our staff understands the different demands of each of these years and they are always willing to help support our students and parents. Please take advantage of the numerous programs and opportunities we offer throughout the school year.

Thank you, and remember: We Are Respectful, Resilient, Engaged - Now and Always. Go Blue Devils!



News about Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics



GoFan Online and Digital Tickets

Warren Township High School has moved to an all online and digital ticketing platform for our events in which we charge entry fees. We will no longer be accepting cash at the gates. Please get your tickets prior to coming to the event.

How do I get tickets?

- 1. Visit the GoFan website at: https://gofan.co/app/school/IL15712
- 2. Go to <u>www.gofan.co</u>, search "Warren Township", and select event.
- 3. Scan-To-Buy
 - Open Phone Camera
 - Hover Over QR Code
 - Access GoFan Website



We are very excited to have Warren Athletics fully back in action! Our fall sports season started on August 9, and our athletes have been working hard for the last several weeks.



Warren is welcoming all fans back on campus. Our indoor policy is that everyone wears a mask regardless of vaccination status. We ask that when you are here for outdoor events, you wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated.

The following fall sports and up and running:

- Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Football
- Boys and Girls Golf
- Boys Soccer
- Girls Swimming and Diving
- Girls Tennis
- Girls Volleyball

Please visit the athletic team website for rosters, highlights, and schedules. We encourage and welcome you to come out and support our student athletes! https://warrentownshiphs.rschoolteams.com/

If you would like to get an early jump on Winter Athletic Registration, please visit the following web page after September 6: https://warrentownship-ar.rschooltoday.com/oar



Thank you to the Girls Golf team and Coach <u>Leigh Ann</u> <u>Mondrawickas-Boncher</u> for spending their first practice volunteering at Feed My Starving Children!

News about Activities

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

I am very excited to welcome you back for the 2021-22 school year! We are so happy to have students participating in clubs and activities in person. Please visit our Activity website for an extensive list of activities that we offer at Warren, along with contact information for each sponsor.

2021-2022 Activities and Clubs Offered at Warren Township High School

COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

- Scholastic Bowl (Academic Team)
- Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
- Mathletes (Math Team)
- Mock Trial
- Science Olympiad
- Speech Team
- Youth & Government

CULTURAL BASED ACTIVITIES

- AVANZA
- Black Student Union
- French Club
- International Club
- Muslim Student Association (MSA)
- South Asian Student Organization
- Spanish Club
- Unite and Inform

DRAMA & FINE ARTS

- Art Club
- Band
- Choir
- Drama Club
- Fall Play
- Spring Musical
- Fall Dinner Theater
- Giggles and Bits
- Children's Play

HONOR SOCIETIES

- French National Honor Society
- National Honor Society
- Spanish National Honor Society

PUBLICATIONS

- · Creations Magazine
- Newspaper: Scratch Paper
- Yearbook

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

- Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)
- Mother Earth's Concerned Students (MECS)
- National Honor Society (NHS)
- Students of Service (SOS)

SPECIFIC INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS

- Anime Club
- Astronomy Club
- Christians in Action
- Future Doctors of America
- Pride Club
- Red Cross Youth Club
- Student Council
- Tabletop Gaming
- Tech Team
- Warren Wellness Ambassadors

SPORTS AND FITNESS BASED

• Student Athletic Trainers

NEW CLUBS

- Health Occupations Student Assn. (HOSA)
- · Listen! Learn! Lingo!
- Warren eSports League



On Thursday, September 23, during lunch hours at the O'Plaine Campus, we will host our 3rd Annual Activity Fair. Student leaders from all our clubs will showcase the wide range of opportunities for students to get involved at Warren. They will be there to provide information, answer questions, and encourage student involvement.

Homecoming 2021

Friday, October 1 Football Game

Saturday, October 2 Parade and Dance

Dance tickets go on sale September 11-17. Check the WTHS Activity website for more information.



In Memoriam



Dr. Calvin E. Leader, former Superintendent of Schools at Warren Township High School, passed away on Saturday, August 21, 2021, at the age of 93.

Services were held on August 26 in McComb, Ohio. Click here for a link to his obituary.

Dr. Leader served as Superintendent of Schools from 1974 until 1982. During his eight years at Warren, he gained people's trust by working with the community, staff and students. With Dr. Leader, neighbors and co-workers soon became friends and even family, and students were referred to as "his kids."

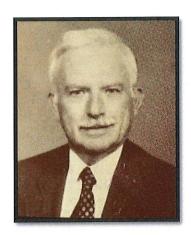
Dr. Leader's leadership style was working with everyone and doing so in a calm manner. One of his highest priorities was to ensure that WTHS students experienced

similar opportunities and facilities as students at other schools.

In 1982, Dr. Leader left WTHS to take a position in Ohio, but eventually returned to Warren in 1995 as the Interim Superintendent and was instrumental in working with the community to pass a referendum to build the much needed Almond Campus.

Dr. Leader agreed to stay for another three years through the building and opening of the Almond Campus, and left Warren in 1999. Dr. Leader and his wife Rose were inducted into the Warren Township High School Hall of Fame in May 1999 for dedicating themselves to supporting and encouraging the students of the school and, during 12 years of service, attended virtually every sports event, concert, play, and speech team tournament in which Warren students were involved.

Dr. Leader was a gentle and caring individual and touched the lives of so many individuals in the WTHS community.



James R. Strang, former principal at Warren Township High School, passed away on May 4, 2021, at the age of 86.

Services were held on May 10 at the Warren Funeral Home in Gurnee, Illinois. Click here for the link to his obituary.

Jim graduated from Warren Township High School in 1952. Following his post-secondary education and service with the U.S. Army Reserves, Jim served the Gurnee community as well as Lake County holding positions with the American National Red Cross in Lake County, the Lake County Sheriff's Police, the Gurnee Fire Department, the Village of Gurnee and the Gurnee Park District. During Jim's 32 years at WTHS, he served as a biology, health, science and physical education teacher, a football and wrestling coach, Athletic Director, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and Principal.

Jim was named to the Warren Township High School Hall of Fame as a "Distinguished Alumnus of WTHS." Jim was honored for his career successes and diverse contributions to the students of Warren and members of the community.