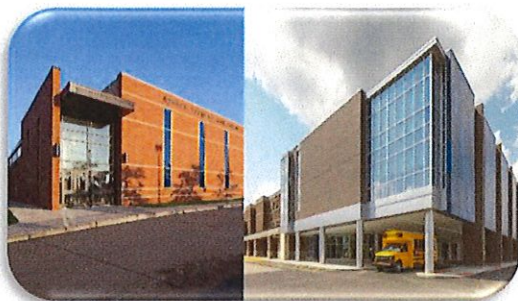


# Warren Connection: Back to School

July 31, 2019



Our return to school for the 2019-20 school year is just around the corner and we are extremely excited to begin another great year at WTHS! This edition of our *Warren Connection* is intended to provide some reminders and dates for our students and families. Please review the enclosed dates and times for onsite registration, and review the information that was sent to families (and is available on our website) regarding registration requirements and the residency verification process. Having children registered appropriately for school is critical to ensure a smooth start of the school year.

## WALK-IN REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Students are not allowed to attend school until they have completed walk-in registration. If you do not register on any of the listed days, you will need to register by appointment with the school registrar. Students not registered or without a scheduled appointment by Friday, August 16, 2019, will be removed from our attendance rosters.

|                 | Tuesday,<br>July 30, 2019 | Wednesday,<br>July 31, 2019 | Thursday,<br>August 1, 2019 | Late Walk-In<br>Registration<br>Wednesday,<br>August 7, 2019 |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Almond Campus   | 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.       | 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.         | 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.         | 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  |
| O'Plaine Campus | 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.       | 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.         | 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.         | 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  |

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### Registration

at Almond and O'Plaine Campuses  
July 30, July 31 and August 1  
1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### Late Registration

at Almond and O'Plaine Campuses  
August 7  
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

### Sneak Peek

at Almond and O'Plaine Campuses  
August 12  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### Freshman and Junior Orientation

at Almond and O'Plaine Campuses  
August 14  
7:25 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

### FIRST DAY FOR ALL STUDENTS

August 15  
Regular Schedule

### Open House at Almond Campus

August 22  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### Open House at O'Plaine Campus

August 29  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information check the website at  
[www.d121.org](http://www.d121.org)

**#WeAreWarren**

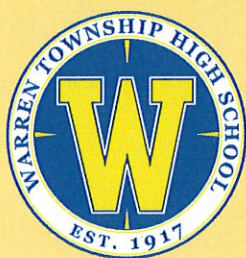


# Board of Education News and Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools

## Board of Education

Thomas Drake, President  
Paul Schulz, Vice-President  
Jim Walz, Secretary  
John R. Anderson, Member  
Bency Beals, Member  
Tony DeMonte, Member  
Jonita C. Wilson, Member



### Recap of the July 16, 2019 Board of Education Meeting

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

- Boys Lacrosse Second Place in State
- 2019-2020 Tentative Board Committee Assignments
- Announcement of the 2019-2020 School Board Meeting Schedule
- Diversity Committee, June 26, 2019
- Monthly Reports, June 2019
- Facilities Projects Update
- Treasurer's Reports, June 2019

The Board approved the following items:

- Personnel recommendations for 11 employees and/or prospective candidates
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$8,032,362.81
- Special Meeting minutes of June 27, 2019
- Approval of a Three-Year Lease for (4) 2019 14-Passenger, (10) 2019 21+1 Passenger and (15) 2019 32-Passenger Buses

## Back To School

It is almost time for the 2019-20 school year to begin and we are extremely excited to welcome our staff and students in just two short weeks. The start of a new school year is exciting for everyone, particularly for our new freshmen who have a wonderful transition to high school in their sights. It is special each year as our students from our sender schools unite to be our newest class of Blue Devils and assimilate into one united class at the O'Plaine Campus.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at Gurnee Days weekend from August 8-11. This weekend is a wonderful community celebration, which highlights many of our WTHS groups and individuals. The weekend activities provide a fun-filled celebration of Gurnee and are a great way to bring our summer recess to a close as we start school the following week.

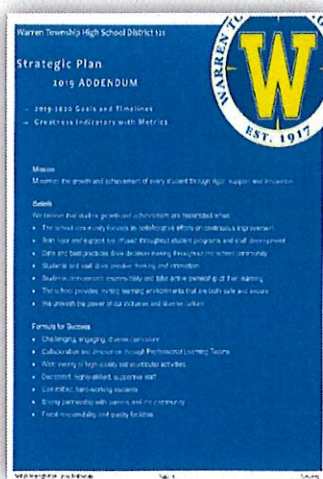
Finally, for each of us, a new school year is an opportunity to challenge ourselves to set high goals, work diligently and collaboratively to achieve these goals, learn from mistakes, and celebrate successes. As we start the 2019-20 school year, let us all take some time to reflect on some special goals we wish to accomplish this year to help be the best we can be!



## Strategic Planning

Continuous improvement efforts at WTHS are guided by our Board of Education on the Strategic Plan. The Plan entails the goals and timelines for focus areas within our school district. Some goals and activities have immediate realization for our programs, while others will require some planning prior to implementation. Also included within the Plan are the district's Greatness Indicators, which were identified to help bring accountability to our plan and results for our students, staff and community.

[Click here](#) for our current strategic plan.





## News From Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocaris, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services

Greetings, and welcome back from the Warren Township High School Instructional Services Department! 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 at Warren Township High School by developing rigorous, vertically-aligned curriculum in all departments. We also work to continuously improve and update our technological infrastructure to allow for seamless integration of technology into our classrooms. It is 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, click the links below:

[Click Here to view Curriculum & Instruction Personnel](#)

[Click Here to view Educational Technology Personnel](#)

### Chromebook Distribution

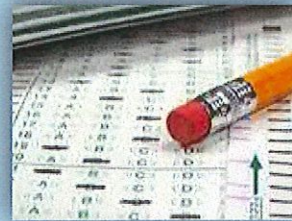


District 121 is excited to be able to issue a Chromebook to every student. This is the fifth year of our one-to-one Chromebook program. Chromebooks will be distributed to all incoming freshmen and transfer students new to the district during registration on July 30, July 31 and August 1, as well as during late registration on August 7. If a returning student has a

Chromebook that was damaged over the summer, or has a Chromebook that is not functioning properly, they should bring their Chromebook to the Tech Academy+ location at their respective campus when school resumes.



Students at the Almond Campus can bring their Chromebook to Room 109. Students at O'Plaine can bring their Chromebook to Room 250.



### State Testing

Once again this school year, 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 of our students. The PSAT-9 and PSAT-10 provide students with an opportunity to monitor their progress towards being ready for the SAT. All three of these assessments will be administered in April. There will be additional communications regarding these assessments throughout the year. Please feel free to reach out to your student's guidance counselor, or the Assistant Principal at either building.

To learn more about the SAT Suite of Assessments, please [click here](#).

### 2019 PSAT

Junior students will have the opportunity to take the PSAT/NMSQT this October. Registration for the PSAT/NMSQT will begin when school resumes in August. Information regarding the registration process will be sent via email in August, and can be found online on our [Testing Information](#) page. This year, the PSAT/NMSQT will be on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. 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, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services



### Health Office Reminders

#### Meningococcal Vaccination Reminder for ALL SENIORS

Effective January 1, 2015, all students entering the sixth and 12<sup>th</sup> grades are required to get the meningococcal vaccination. Students without adequate proof of vaccination will be subject to exclusion from school.

For families that cannot schedule an appointment to get their student immunized prior to the start of the school year *Warren has partnered with Jewel-Osco to offer the vaccination during our walk-in registration process. Jewel-Osco will be providing specially trained pharmacists who will offer the meningococcal conjugate (MCV4) vaccine at the Almond Campus during registration. Jewel-Osco will handle all billing and payment on site. Students/parents can pay with cash, credit, or check. Jewel-Osco has the ability to bill a variety of insurance plans.*

#### Freshman Physicals

Please make sure physicals have been submitted to the health office at O'Plaine or bring one with you to registration. Students without a physical on the first day of school will be subject to exclusion from school.

#### Student Assistance Programming

Our Social Workers will continue to promote healthy choices with a theme for each quarter of the school year. Our first quarter topic is *Substance Abuse Awareness*. This will include announcements, informational posters throughout the building and a celebration of *Red Ribbon Week* in October. You can find excellent resources on the social workers' webpage. Please use this link to find the information. [Student Assistance Programming](#)

Welcome back to school! The Warren Township Student Service Department strives to support students and parents with direct services that enhance their experience at WTHS through support for academic, social and emotional growth.

Our Student Service teams, see link below, are ready to continue to support students when they arrive. Our counselors will be available at registration if you have any last minute concerns about school or courses. In addition, once the year begins, please take advantage of the resources and services our counselors, social workers, psychologists and deans provide. We are happy to help students that are facing difficult decisions, struggling to acclimate to the building, struggling academically or socially, or providing resources to help start post high school planning. We encourage parents or students to reach out to any member of the team for help. [Student Service Staff contact information](#)

#### Registration

**Step 1:** You received an email in May with instructions on completing the online pre-registration process for your student(s).

- Update Student Information: The emailed instructions described how to log into the online pre-registration site so that you could update your student's demographic information, electronically sign for the Student-Parent Handbook and access any other necessary forms that require an electronic signature, as well as pay registration fees. If you haven't already done so, you are able to access the online registration process through the parent portal in PowerSchool.
- Log into your PowerSchool parent account using your parent username and password. The registration portal link, *2019-2020 Online Registration*, will be on the bottom left-hand side of the screen. If you cannot remember your PowerSchool parent username or password, click on "Having trouble signing in?" on the PowerSchool login screen and follow the instructions. *You will not be able to access PowerSchool Registration through the mobile app.*
- A limited number of computers will be available during walk-in registration. To save time during walk-in registration, we strongly encourage completing the online pre-registration process prior to arriving at walk-in registration.
- After updating demographic information, electronically signing for the Student-Parent Handbook and any other necessary forms that require an electronic signature, a fee payment screen will be available.

*It is required that you select one of three options to pay registration fee: 1) Credit Card, 2) Electronic Check or 3) Cash/Check*

- Selecting credit card or electronic check will allow you to pay the registration fee immediately through the online registration site.
- Selecting Cash/Check allows you to pay the registration fee at a later time. If you select the Cash/Check option, you must complete payment through the [online fee payment site](#). Your last opportunity to pay all fees will be during walk-in registration by visiting the lines at the cashier stations.

**Step 2:** July 30, July 31 and August 1, 2019, complete the walk-in registration and proof of residency process.

- Attend walk-in registration at your 2019-20 campus of attendance: You will need to provide [proof of residency](#). Students can take their yearbook/ID photo, pick up their schedule, bus route, locker assignment, and Chromebook/textbooks and parking permits (if applicable). All [medical forms](#) you may need to complete may also be turned in at this time. Your registration is not finished until you complete the walk-in process.



## Principal's Corner at the Almond Campus

by Rob Parrott

On **Monday, August 12**, we will host a "Sneak Peek" for students who would like to see the building/walk their schedule. Parents/guardians are also welcome to attend. Administrators will be available for any questions or concerns that you may have. The building will be open from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

On **Wednesday, August 14**, we will host a **junior orientation**. We will be running the buses at the regular pick-up time, and students should arrive at their bus stop if they need transportation. Students will receive their bus route information at registration. Students will arrive on campus prior to our regularly scheduled start time (7:25 a.m.) and follow a shortened schedule in order to become more acclimated to the building. Students may also drive to school as parking permits will NOT be enforced on this day. In addition, the administration and student services will provide the students with helpful information for a successful junior year. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for a link to the schedule.

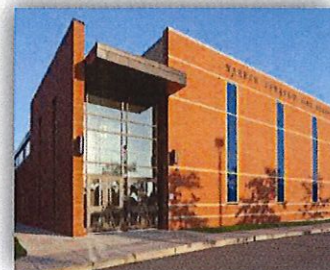
On **Thursday, August 15**, we welcome all students back for the first day of the 2019-2020 school year.

On **Friday, August 16**, we will have an all-school assembly to welcome our students back to school, celebrate successes, and establish expectations for success. We encourage all of our staff and students to wear blue and gold on this day as well as every Friday during the school year.

On **Thursday, August 22**, the Almond Campus will host our fall open house for parents to meet their student's teachers and experience a condensed school day. Parents will follow their student's bell schedule starting at 6:30 p.m. with 10-minute classes and five-minute passing periods. Teachers will be present to introduce themselves and give a brief overview of their classes and expectations.



I hope everyone is having a safe and enjoyable summer with family and friends. As the principal at the Almond Campus, I am honored to be leading an outstanding staff to empower our students to achieve great things during their high school career and beyond. This will be my 26<sup>th</sup> year at Warren, and I am grateful to be a part of a school culture that is focused on student learning, a commitment to excellence, innovation and collaboration. It is my intention to continue these important traditions and practices during the 2019-2020 school year.



Please help me in communicating a message that our staff and students will hear from me throughout the school year. This message invites everyone to be a part of the A-Team at the Almond Campus and focus our energy on five concepts that will promote success. I believe that for our staff and students to achieve great things, they should focus on:

- **Attendance** – This is a dedication to being at school, in class, on time, each day.
- **Attitude** – This is a focus on choosing to get better every day. To choose an attitude that makes yourself and others better.
- **Academics** – This is a focus on taking active ownership of your learning and making positive progress academically.
- **Acceptance** – This is an appreciation for the diversity in our world and valuing the assets diversity brings to our community. It is a commitment to treating others as you would want to be treated; and even better, getting to know others so you can treat them how they want to be treated.
- **Athletics/Activities** – This is an engagement in the opportunities outside of the classroom that enhance student connectedness and contributions to our school community.

Those five concepts are much bigger than the words I used to describe them, but I think they will help you understand the concepts I will communicate and promote throughout the year so that we can have a common language and understanding for the things our staff and students should focus on to be successful.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with PowerSchool so you can track your student's progress academically and check attendance. Attendance is a critical part of student academic success. By encouraging a positive attendance pattern, you help support your students' academic growth. Our staff strives to provide engaging opportunities for our students, but we cannot help them if they are not here. The start of the school year is right around the corner, and our staff cannot wait for the students to return. I believe we provide a first-class education for our students, and I know we are going to have another outstanding school year in which we celebrate many successes. Please feel free to contact me or any other staff member with questions or concerns during the school year. Enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Thank you, and As Always, Go Blue Devils!



## Principal's Corner at the O'Plaine Campus

by Michele Bertola

Welcome back to school Class of 2022 and 2023. Freshman students and parents: We are excited for you to start your high school experience with us -- you are all officially Blue Devils! Sophomore students and parents: Welcome back for year two -- high school continues to get better!



I hope you all have had a safe and enjoyable summer with family and friends. As I start my second year as Principal at the O'Plaine Campus, I am truly honored to be a part of a school culture focused on student learning, a commitment to excellence, innovation and collaboration. This will be my 20<sup>th</sup> year at Warren, and it is my intention to continue these important traditions and practices during the 2019-20 school year. We have an outstanding staff and we look forward to partnering with you to empower our students to achieve great things during their high school career and beyond.

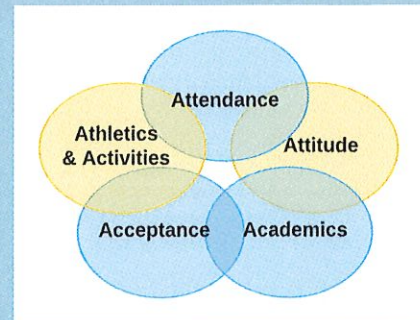
It is going to be a fantastic year and I look forward to supporting and showcasing the work of our students. Please stay connected through our WTHS website, PowerSchool (make sure email addresses are updated), and follow us on social media: #WeAreWarren.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and we look forward to seeing you soon. Go Blue Devils!

**Open House**  
O'Plaine Campus  
August 29, 2019  
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

### Mark your calendars for some important upcoming events:

- July 30-August 1st: Walk-in Registration
- August 12th: Sneak Peek Night
- August 14th: Freshmen Orientation
- August 15th: First Official Day of School
- Freshmen: Please remember to get your physicals in prior to the first day of school
- August 29th: O'Plaine Campus Fall Open House



Please help me in communicating a message that our staff and students will hear from me throughout the school year. This message encourages everyone at the O'Plaine Campus to focus our energy on five concepts that will promote success. I believe that for our staff and students to ACHIEVE great things, they should be ACCOUNTABLE for:

**Attendance** – This is a dedication to being at school, in class, on time, each day.

**Attitude** – This is a focus on choosing to get better every day. To choose an attitude that makes yourself and others better.

**Academics** – This is a focus on taking active ownership of your learning and making positive progress academically.

**Acceptance** – This is an appreciation for the diversity in our world and valuing the assets diversity brings to our community. It is a commitment to treating others as you would want to be treated; and even better, getting to know others so you can treat them how they want to be treated.

**Athletics/Activities** – This is an engagement in the opportunities outside of the classroom that enhance student connectedness and contributions to our school community. We will have an Activities and Athletics Fair on Wednesday, August 28, during lunch study halls for students to learn about all of the extracurricular opportunities at WTHS. Our goal is to have every student get connected to an activity or sport this school year.





## News from Activities and Athletics

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



HOME OF THE BLUE DEVILS

On behalf of our administration, coaches, and sponsors, we welcome you to a new year of Warren Athletics and Activities. Extracurricular participation is a great opportunity to develop character, discipline, unity, and to have fun. We feel very fortunate to work in a community with such a rich history and tradition for excellence. Our expectation is that the dedication and performance of our student athletes and activity members begins in the classroom and extends to the playing field. We look forward to being part of the continued growth of the Warren Athletic and Activity programs. Go Blue Devils!

### Fall Sports Start Date – August 12

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

### Athletics and Activities Registration



The 2019-2020 athletic year will begin prior to the start of school. For details regarding tryouts, please visit the athletic department page by going to [www.d121.org/athletics](http://www.d121.org/athletics).

All athletes are required to have a current physical exam on file with the school nurse prior to trying out for any sport.

Any student interested in trying out for sports or competitive activities must register with a parent/guardian to fill out the appropriate forms and/or consents to participate. This must be done prior to attending the first tryout, practice, or audition. More specific information can be found on the website under the Athletics and Activities tab.

### Important Dates

August 11  
Band Picture Day

August 24  
Fall Sports Picture Day

August 28  
Activity and Athletic Fair  
at O'Plaine Campus during lunch periods

#### Get involved in WARREN ACTIVITIES!



BLUE DEVIL PRIDE