

# Warren Connection: December News

December 17, 2021



## Cumulative Assessment Week Schedules - December 20-22

### Almond Campus

| Times         | Monday<br>December 20 | Tuesday<br>December 21                            | Wednesday<br>December 22                        |
|---------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| 7:25 – 8:35   | Period 0              | Period 2  | Period 6  |
| 8:45 – 9:55   | Period 1              | Period 3  | Period 7  |
| 10:05 – 11:15 | Period 4              | Period 5  | Period 8  |
|               |                       | Make-Up<br>11:25 – 12:35<br>College/Career Center | Make-Up<br>10:05-11:15<br>College/Career Center |

### O'Plaine Campus

| Times         | Monday<br>December 20 | Tuesday<br>December 21                     | Wednesday<br>December 22                    |
|---------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| 8:25 – 9:35   | Period 1              | Period 3                                   | Period 7*                                   |
| 9:45 – 10:55  | Period 2*             | Period 8*                                  | Period 6*                                   |
| 11:05 – 12:15 | Period 4*             | Period 5*                                  |   |
|               |                       | Make-Up<br>12:30 – 1:40<br>In Lecture Hall | Make-Up<br>11:05 – 12:15<br>In Lecture Hall |

## Winter Break Public Hours – December 23 – January 7, 2022

The District will be closed on December 24, 27, 31 and January 3.

Each campus has limited hours (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.) for public access on the following days:

December 23, 28, 29, 30  
January 4, 5, 6, 7

### Staff Institute Day on Monday, January 10, 2022

Both campuses will be closed in the morning and OPEN for public access from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

## Students return to school to start the second semester on Tuesday, January 11, 2022

### District 121 Referendum Informational Meeting for the Community

District 121 will host an informational meeting for the community about the tax rate increase referendum that will appear on the ballot June 28, 2022.

**Wednesday, January 12, 2022**

**Warren Newport Public Library, 224 N. O'Plaine Road, Gurnee**

English presentation starts at 6:30 p.m.

Spanish presentation starts at 7:30 p.m.

All staff and patrons two (2) years and older will be required to wear a properly fitted mask when visiting the library, even if fully vaccinated.

## 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](#)

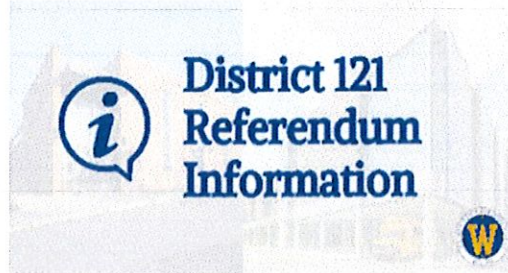
[O'Plaine Principal YouTube](#)



## Board of Education News

### District 121 Referendum Information

WTHS is working to provide our school community with information related to the June 28, 2022, referendum question. Some of these efforts include in-person information sessions at school and community events.



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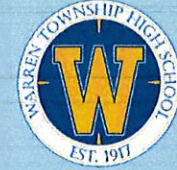
English presentation starts at 6:30 p.m.  
Spanish presentation starts at 7:30 p.m.

All staff and patrons two (2) years and older will be required to wear a properly fitted mask when visiting the library, even if fully vaccinated.

Would you like us to provide an informational forum for a school or community group to learn about our revenue challenges and the referendum question? Please reach out to Dr. John Ahlgrim at 847-548-7144 or email [jahlgrim@wth.net](mailto:jahlgrim@wth.net).



**Get the Facts about the  
Referendum Question 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

**The Board of Education  
wishes our entire WTHS  
community and very safe and  
restful winter break with  
your families.**





## 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 for 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.

There are several programs affected by the referendum question, including our eight-period school day, academic and mental health assistance, activity programs, and athletic programs. **The information on this page focuses on improving academic supports for students.**

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

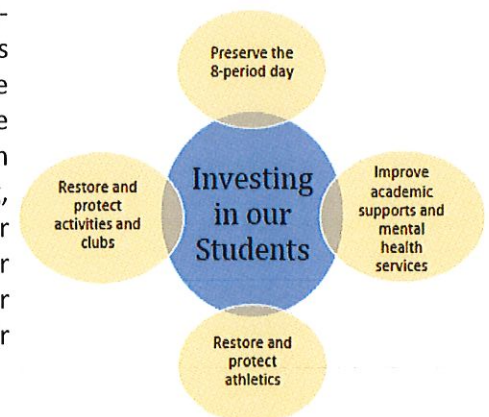
### *Improving Academic Supports for Students*

One of the ways WTHS would use the increased funding from an approve referendum is to provide greater academic supports to students during the school day. This would primarily affect our content-specific resource rooms, which support students with their coursework in mathematics and science. Students can also receive assistance for English and social studies in our Writing Center.

Students attending these rooms receive individualized assistance from Warren staff members when it comes to preparing for assessments, additional practice and explanation, and mastering important skills from their courses. The resource rooms provide students with additional support in small-group settings.

Unfortunately, due to the significant staff reductions that have occurred between 2015 and 2021, the District has dramatically reduced the number of periods during which academic resource rooms are open. This has made it harder for students to access the assistance that they need. Students who are not able to receive the additional support are less likely to be able to catch up on the skills they are lacking, and they are more likely to continue to fall. With additional local funding, WTHS will be able to have resource rooms available more frequently throughout the school day, providing increased access to additional academic assistance.

With additional local funding, Warren will also expand its formal On Track support program in the Mathematics and English departments. The program provides students who are struggling in these subjects with additional, formal instruction in small groups during the school day. These programs help students to accelerate their learning to bring them back on track for grade-level performance. Mathematics and English skill development are critical for students as they move through, and move beyond high school. Strong math, reading, and writing skills are crucial for students regardless of whether they choose to enter college or enter the workforce after their time at Warren.





## News from Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocar, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

It is hard to believe that we have arrived at the end of our first semester! I am so proud of our students and the resilience they have displayed over the past several months. As our students returned to school, they have worked hard in their studies, have participated in extracurricular activities, and have developed relationships that will last their entire lives. We have amazing students, and I hope that everyone can enjoy a restful break and take time to acknowledge the fantastic accomplishments from the past five months.

### Cumulative Assessment Week - December 20-22

Our students will complete their first semester courses with cumulative assessments the week of December 20. These assessments provide our students with the opportunity to demonstrate their learning from the semester. Details regarding these schedules have been sent home by the building

administration and are available on our website. We know our students will put forth their best effort on these assessments.

#### Almond Campus

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### After-School Study Tables Now Open at Both Campuses

We now have after-school study tables open after school at both the O'Plaine and Almond campuses on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students can attend these study tables to receive academic assistance, or simply come just to get work done. Please contact Matthew Jones for information about the Almond Campus Study Table, or Peter Kupfer for information about the O'Plaine Campus Study Table.

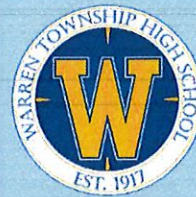
### Educational Technology

Seniors will keep their Chromebooks when they graduate from WTHS.

Important information for seniors to transfer their Chromebooks from WTHS to their own Google accounts will be communicated to senior students through their WTHS email accounts in the next few days.



This information is also posted on our [Senior Technology Information](#) page on our website.



### SAT Test Prep Opportunity

Warren Township High School has an amazing opportunity to help students prepare for the SAT test on April 13, 2022. We are proud to partner with Academic Tutoring Centers to offer junior students high-quality SAT prep classes after school at the Almond Campus.

To best accommodate our students' busy schedules, we will be running two classes on Wednesday nights. Students can register for a 2:30-5:00 p.m. class or a 5:30-8:00 p.m. class. Classes will meet from February 23 through April 6, 2022, with a week off for spring break.

If you are interested in finding out more information about the program or signing up, please go to

[AcademicTutoringCenters.com/WT2022](https://AcademicTutoringCenters.com/WT2022).

The six-week program costs \$395. There is also a discounted rate of \$245 for those who qualify for the free/reduced lunch program.

Registration closes on February 8, 2022.

If you have any questions regarding this SAT prep program, please feel free to Matthew Jones, Assistant Principal at the Almond Campus, or contact the Academic Tutoring Center at (847) 823-5300.





## News From Student Services

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



### Current Juniors - Meningitis Vaccine (mandated before starting senior year)

Vaccines for meningococcal disease have long been on the list of inoculations that the CDC recommends for adolescents, especially before they head off to college. Effective January 1, 2015, all students entering the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades are required to get the vaccination.

Therefore, 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 son/daughter from contracting severe bacterial meningitis, as well as other illnesses caused by this bacterium.

Some students may have already received this vaccine, as it has been recommended for various populations in the past. In this case, all you would need to do is provide the school health office with verification of receiving the meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

In addition to your healthcare provider, many local health departments and pharmacies offer the vaccine. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends that parents get their adolescents vaccinated now to avoid a last-minute rush during the summer. Once you have obtained or verified that your child has been immunized with the Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine, please fax, email, or bring the information to the school nurse's office.

The fax number and email address are listed below. We will enter the information into PowerSchool throughout the spring and summer. Students without adequate proof of the meningococcal vaccination will be subject to exclusion from school beginning with the first day of attendance until proof of immunization is reviewed by the nurse.

Thank you for your cooperation with this requirement. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the health office.

Almond Campus Health Office  
Phone: 847-548-6899  
Fax: 847-548-7171  
Email: [rnitto@wths.net](mailto:rnitto@wths.net)

Happy Holidays! As the semester is coming to a close, please make sure your child is finishing the semester strong. I know it has been a difficult semester to be back on campus, and students have struggled getting back into a routine. However, it is important that we prioritize staying on track for graduation and postsecondary plans.

Our student services teams are here to support you and your child. Please reach out to your dean, counselor or social worker with any questions or obstacles you are facing in finishing the semester.



### Financial Aid Application - Graduation Requirement

The state of Illinois is requiring all seniors to file a financial aid application or submit a waiver to opt out for graduation from a public high school. As a result, we have several Financial Aid Workshops this year to assist

families in understanding the financial aid process and complete this step. If you need help or have questions about your FAFSA or the IL Alternative App, click on the link below to register for a workshop.

If you would like to submit a waiver to opt out, please download the waiver form and return it to Mrs. Cindy Joy, our Student Services secretary. You can scan and email the completed document ([cjoy@wths.net](mailto:cjoy@wths.net)), or you can drop off the document at the Almond Campus to her attention, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

### Safety

Our Police Liaison Officer, security staff, and deans of students work extremely hard to monitor the hallways and large spaces to ensure students are making good decisions. Please continue to partner with us to provide a safe learning environment.



If your child reports something to you, please have them report it to an adult in the building. We will continue to promote our 'See Something, Say Something' campaign to keep our schools safe.

### Destress Fest – December 10 and 13

Annually at Almond and O'Plaine campuses, our social workers host the Destress Fest near cumulative assessments (final exams) to help students destress prior to assessment week. A special thank you to them for providing this opportunity for our students. Our students and staff look forward to this event each year!

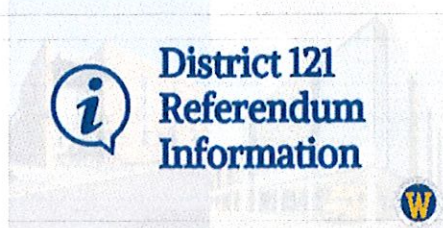


## News from Business Services and Operations

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

### 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.



**Property values in Warren Township have increased and my taxes have gone up significantly over the past 10 years. Why doesn't WTHS have enough funds? Aren't you getting significantly more in tax revenue?**

Unfortunately, no. Warren Township High School District 121 only receives a total of what it received the prior year in taxes plus the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the month of December plus any new growth (new building and/or construction).

Even with Gurnee seeing an 11.8% increase in property values year over year, Warren Township High School is limited to the consumer price index of the previous December (December of 2020) for what it will receive in the 2021-22 school year, which was 1.4%. The maximum by law is 5% per year, but only if the CPI is 5%.

Over the last five years the average has been 1.9% annually. Over the last 10 years the average has been 1.7 % annually.

WTHS District 121 has only increased 1.4% over what it had received last year. There has been very little growth over the last decade within our district's boundaries.

**With all the businesses within Gurnee, why doesn't Warren Township High School have the funds it needs?**

Schools do not receive separate funding such as sales taxes from businesses. Rather, a school district's largest source of funding comes from local property taxes, which accounts for approximately 75% of the district's total revenue. The district receives the property taxes on the land and building value of that business, but not the sales.

For more frequently asked questions about the operating rate referendum questions, visit the district's website at [www.d121.org/referendum](http://www.d121.org/referendum).



Get the Facts about the  
Referendum Question at  
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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.



### Revenue Per Pupil 2020

| Lake County High School Districts        | Local Sources | State Sources | Federal Sources | Total    |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|
| Lake Forest District 115                 | \$31,419      | \$880         | \$390           | \$32,689 |
| Highland Park District 112               | \$28,819      | \$1,143       | \$570           | \$30,531 |
| Libertyville District 118                | \$28,345      | \$1,355       | \$748           | \$29,448 |
| Adlai Stevenson District 120             | \$18,878      | \$380         | \$454           | \$19,712 |
| Graylake District 127                    | \$18,845      | \$7,344       | \$180           | \$26,369 |
| Zion Benton District 128                 | \$15,489      | \$8,373       | \$1,152         | \$25,014 |
| Antioch District 117                     | \$18,201      | \$4,736       | \$281           | \$23,218 |
| Mundelein District 126                   | \$18,874      | \$1,803       | \$278           | \$20,955 |
| Glenview District 124                    | \$13,920      | \$3,886       | \$454           | \$18,260 |
| Warren Township High School District 121 | \$13,293      | \$2,940       | \$400           | \$16,633 |

Illinois State Board of Education, Annual Financial Report (AFR), 2020



## 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: Vanessa Lara, Emily Gonzalez, Nathan Garcia, Gabrielle Kuklinski, Matt Ide, Alan Tiscareno-Jaime, Eluauah Perry, Nicholas Steinhilber, Gabriella Olavarria, Ella Divito, Luke Ebenhoch, Marco Guagliardo, Leslie Lopez, Xavier McCauley, Delaney Shea, and Luke Wiley.



December is here and will go by quickly! It is typically a month full of events and activities that keep our staff and students very busy. The winter sports season is underway, choir, band, and jazz concerts are taking place, and numerous service activities are being completed by our clubs and organizations. "De-Stress Fest" is taking place to provide healthy activities during the school day for our students. I hope everyone takes time over our winter break to relax and rejuvenate as we get ready to ring in a new calendar year. Please be safe and enjoy a few recent highlights from the Almond Campus.



**Thank you to our Lead Teacher, Brandon Schild, and our Physical Development staff for hosting a blood drive last month. They did a great job getting approximately 125 students to donate. They are planning another blood drive in January 2022. Great job!**

Thank you to our Almond Campus Student Council Advisor, Sandy Desiron, and our Student Council members for organizing another year of "Letters to Santa." Thank you to all staff and students who participated in that service this year and are bringing joy to many students at our partner school!





## News from the O'Plaine Principal

by Michele Bertola, O'Plaine Campus Principal

Happy December! Winter is officially here, and that means our semester is coming to an end. December is a busy month as students finish up their first semester work and prepare for semester one assessments. Check the WTHS website <https://www.d121.org/Page/791> for the cumulative assessment schedule, December 20-22, 2021.

Please be aware that we do not allow taking assessments early and students should take final assessments during their assigned assessment time. If students do not complete an assessment (due to an excused absence), there are make-up exam times when we return from winter break.

Other updates and happenings at the O'Plaine Campus:

- Students have been working with their counselors to choose their courses for next school year.
- The winter sports season is underway, choir, band, and jazz concerts are taking place, and numerous service activities are being completed by our clubs and organizations.
- Thank you to our O'Plaine Campus Student Council Advisor, Dana Lainio, and our Student Council members for organizing another year of "Letters to Santa." We appreciate all staff and students who participated in that service this year and are bringing joy to many students at our partner school!
- We had another Parent Boot Camp to review cumulative assessments, wellness topics, and other questions about the high school experience. For resources shared at the 11/17 meeting, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yz4svd2z>. Our next Parent Boot Camp will be in February 2022.
- Please utilize PowerSchool and Canvas to see your student's progress. Reach out to teachers if you have questions or concerns about student work.

I hope everyone takes time over our winter break to relax and rejuvenate as we get ready to ring in a new calendar year. Please be safe and enjoy time with friends and family.



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## News about Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics



Congratulations to the **Warren Hockey Program** on their 2nd place finish in the PREP Thanksgiving Tournament!



### Spring Sports Registration is Open!

Visit the Athletic page of the WTHS website and click on the link.



Don't wait until the last minute —Now is a great time to also get your **sports physical**.

## Winter Sports are Underway!

### Highlights as of December 13, 2021

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Boys Basketball        | Congratulations to the Varsity boys on a 4-1 start to the season and for winning the Mundelein/Grant Thanksgiving Tournament. In addition, Cooper Stacey, Drew Nolan and Nate Harris were named to the All-Tournament team.  |
| Girls Basketball       | The Varsity team is off to a 3-4 start overall, and 1-1 in conference. They bounced back from a tough loss versus Libertyville to defeat Lake Forest 41-34.  |
| Boys Bowling           | The Varsity boys placed 5th in the Mundelein Tournament and were paced by Jarrett Smith who placed 4th overall. In a tough Vernon Hills tournament the Varsity team placed 8th and were led by Joe Smith led the way with a 1,164 series. The boys are now 4-4 on the season with big conference wins versus Libertyville and Lake Zurich.   |
| Girls Bowling          | Congratulations to the Varsity girls on a 3-0 start to the season with wins against Lake Zurich, Stevenson, and Zion-Benton. The girls also placed 2nd in the Palatine tournament. Top performers thus far are senior Rachel Flores, junior Morgan Geiyer and sophomore Kayla Cameron.   |
| Devilettes             | The Varsity team placed 10/20 in the Deerfield Invite and 8/24 in the Minooka Invite.  |
| Girls Gymnastics       | The Gymnastics team kicked off the season vs. Stevenson and Lake Zurich. Amanda Hamann lead the Varsity team finishing 1st on Vault, 5th on the Beam, 3rd on Floor and 1st in the All-Around.  |
| Boys Swimming & Diving | The Varsity boys finished in 7th place overall in the Deerfield Invite and 3rd in the Green Division of the Stevenson Invite. Congratulations to Blake Vander Jeudt on winning the Diving portion of the Deerfield Invite and breaking his own team record for 6 dives by 25 points. In addition, Blake won the Diving portion of the Stevenson Invite.  |
| Wrestling              | Congratulations to the Freshman Wrestling team on their 6-0 start to the season and 1st place finishes in the Palatine and Rockford East Tournaments. Warren had 8 individual champions in the Palatine Tournament (Kaden Andersen, Donald Coleman, James Flores, Evan Glowinski, Justice Humphreys, Jordan Jeffery, Julian Ramos & Matt Vazquez) and 5 individual champions in the Rockford East Tournament (Kaden Andersen 132; Jordan Jeffrey 138; Justice Humphreys 145; Anthony Soto 220 & Matt Vazquez 285). |

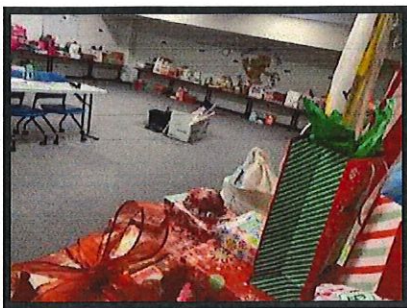


## News about Activities

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

### Letters to Santa

Thank you to the Student Council for running the Letters for Santa Drive! Over 600 letters were distributed to our students and staff to provide Christmas gifts for impoverished families in Chicago. A special thank you to our sponsors, Sandy Desiron and Dana Lainio, for making that happen.



### The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon



Congratulations to Director Janice Zimmerman and the Dinner Theatre cast and crew for two successful shows of the *Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon*. Over 400 total tickets were sold!

A special thank you to Natalie Colgan and Ben Westphal for sharing their vocal talents and providing the dinner carols.

### First Annual Sing-Along with Santa

Congratulations to Director Ben Westphal and the Choir for putting together the 1st Annual Sing-a-long with Santa. Children of all ages enjoyed a morning of singing, crafts, and a visit with Santa. Special thank you to Kurt "Kris Kringle" Gros for assisting with the success.



Congratulations to the Varsity Science Olympiad team on their 2nd place finish in the AA division at the Palatine Invitational. The following students received medals:

- Theo Raitzer – 4th place in Astronomy
- Alec Nartatez – 4th place in Astronomy
- Marc Steel – 2nd place in Detector Building
- Steven Judge – 2nd place in Detector Building & It's about time
- Lindsey Prims – 2nd place in Experimental Design
- Kayla Tagudar - 2nd place in Experimental Design
- Sarah Bedwell - 2nd place in Experimental Design
- Ajay Ragunathan – 3rd place in Gravity Vehicle
- Adityaa Rana – 3rd place in Gravity Vehicle
- Evan McGowan – 1st place in Gravity Vehicle
- Ben Isaac – 1st place in Gravity Vehicle
- David Rodriguez – 2nd place in It's about time & Ping Pong Parachute
- Dhruval Bhatt – 2nd place in Ping Pong Parachute & 1st place in Wright Stuff
- David Z. – 1st place in Wright Stuff



*Scratch Paper* has entered the 2021-2022 school year with some great new additions and responsibilities here at WTHS. The students of *Scratch Paper* publish a digital newspaper bi-weekly throughout the school year.



In addition to the news publication, this year *Scratch Paper* is producing a news segment twice a week that gets broadcasted during student announcement periods, both at the Almond and O'Plaine campuses. These announcements not only focus on the daily student bulletin information, but also include athletic team coverage, club announcements, and activity events!

Link to the newspaper:

<https://wthsscratchpaper.net/>

Link to the YouTube playlist of announcements:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXeZctMzMIVRnjQ45Te9Cuc4qOjxpDM2x>