Warren Township High School District 121

Warren Connection: Feelings of Fall

November 13, 2019

Dear Warren Community,

The recent changing of the clocks and temperature drops have reminded us how quickly fall comes and goes in our area, and fall also is a time where a great deal happens at WTHS. We are excited to share our November edition of our Warren Connection newsletter packed with news about WTHS.

Early Release on Wednesday, November 27, 2019

Almond Campus releases at 12:15 p.m. O'Plaine Campus releases at 1:15 p.m.

The District is closed on
Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29
Happy Thanksgiving!

Warren Theatre Students Present Disney's The Lion King December 7 – 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.



Disney's The Lion King has captivated the imagination of audiences around the world. The African savannah comes to life on your stage with Simba, Rafiki and an unforgettable cast of characters as they journey from Pride Rock to the jungle... and back again, in this inspiring, coming-of-age tale. Join us for singing, dancing and funl

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The Letters to Santa program, coordinated by Student Council, will begin Nov 19 at each building. Each year WTHS sponsors a school in Chicago. The wrapped gifts are collected during the week of Dec. 11.

IMPORTANT DATES

Fall Sports Awards Night @ Almond Gymnasium November 14, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

8th Grade Festival of Bands @ Almond Cafeteria November 20, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

"Guiding the College Bound Athlete" information Night @ O'Plaine Auditorium November 21, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Winter Sports Picture Days
November 22-23, 2019 and December 4, 2019

Early Release November 27, 2019

District Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday November 28, 2019 and November 29, 2019

8th Grade Course Selection Nights

@ O'Plaine Campus

December 3, 2019 and December 4, 2019
6:30 p.m.

Jazz Band Concert @ Almond Black Box Theatre December 5, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Children's Play – *Disney's Lion King*@ Almond Black Box Theatre

December 7, 2019 - 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

SAT Testing @ Almond Campus December 7, 2019

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Student Improvement Day (SIP) November 18

Warren Connection: Feelings of Fall

Board of Education News

Almond Campus Solar Update

For almost 18 months, the District has been planning for a ground mount solar project on the south end of our Almond Campus along Gages Lake Road. Working with Performance Services Inc., (PSI), construction was originally intended to be nearly complete by our return to school this year.

The project experienced some significant delays getting started this past summer and due to these delays, as well as a reduction in some of the SREC (Solar Renewable Energy Credit) financing incentives associated with the project, in August, the Board voted not to extend the original project contract and reduced SRECS. At our October 8, 2019 Board meeting, PSI presented a modified financing proposal and construction schedule which the Board approved.



Construction on this project officially began on October 18 with some tree removal and excavation on the site. The project will hopefully be completed by mid-summer 2020.

It is anticipated that the solar project will generate almost enough energy to account for the entire electricity needs of our Almond campus. The District expects to save approximately \$300,000 annually on electric costs with this renewable energy source.



The Board also reviewed many

cost reduction measures the

district has undertaken in the

last five years including but

not limited to significant staff

reductions, transition to a less

expensive employee health

insurance cooperative, and

in

energy

investments

Potential Public Questions

At a special meeting on November 5, the Board of Education continued an investigation into potential public questions on a March 2020 or November 2020 ballot regarding limiting tax rate increase for operations and/or general obligation bond issuance for projects. At the meeting, the Board reviewed the audited deficit budget results for the last several years and the current annual revenue sources for the district. Warren has the lowest annual revenue per student compared to Lake County high schools.

Comparison of Revenue per Student for Lake County High School Districts FY 2	2018

	Local Sources	State Sources	Federal Sources	Total
Highland Park Deerfield District 113	\$32,050	\$1,315	\$571	\$33,936
Adlai Stevenson High School 125	\$26,390	\$1,808	\$355	\$28,553
Lake Forest District 115	\$26,129	\$753	\$424	\$27,306
Libertyville Vernon Hills District 128	\$24,449	\$1,206	\$263	\$25,918
Grayslake District 127	\$18,607	\$4,471	\$186	\$23,264
Antioch Lakes District 117	\$17,455	\$4,057	\$259	\$21,771
Zion-Benton District 126	\$13,840	\$6,443	\$1,016	\$21,299
Mundelein District 120	\$16,116	\$1,642	\$623	\$18,381
Grant Township District 124	\$13,660	\$3,626	\$507	\$17,793
Warren Township High School District 121	\$12,852	\$2,658	\$437	\$15,947

operational costs. The Board also started a process for potential additional measures which might need to occur if additional revenue dollars are not realized.

The Board will continue to investigate these issues at the upcoming regular meetings on November 19 and December 17.



Recap of October 8, 2019 Board of Education Meeting

Board members and Administrators toured the O'Plaine Campus facility before the Board meeting.

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

- Partnership Report with the Schuler Foundation
- Curriculum Committee, October 2, 2019
- Treasurer's Reports, August 2019
- · Department Report: Technology

The Board approved the following items:

- Personnel hiring recommendations for 7 employees and/or prospective candidates
- Approval of bills in the amount of \$667,823.78
- Approval of the regular meeting minutes and executive session minutes of September 24, 2019
- Approval of the 2020-2021 Curriculum Guide changes and new Course Proposals
- Discussion on Potential Public Question(s)
- Approval of Engagement Letter with Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. for Possible Public Proposition Question regarding a Limiting Tax Rate Increase
- Approval of Engagement Agreement with Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. for Possible Public Proposition Question regarding General Obligation Bonds
- Approval of Engagement Agreement with DLA Architects, Ltd.
 For Possible Public Proposition Question for General Obligation
 Bonds
- Discussion on Almond Campus Solar Project
- Approval of the Amended Contract with Performance Service, Inc. and the Interconnection Agreements with Commonwealth Edison

Recap of October 22, 2019 Board of Education Meeting

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

- Lake County Regional Office of Education Attendance Week
- Treasurer's Reports, September 2019
- Department Report: Special Education and Transition Program

The Board approved the following items:

- Personnel hiring recommendations for 8 employees and/or prospective candidates
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$4,308,563.31
- Regular meeting minutes and executive session minutes of October 8, 2019
- Serious Safety Hazards and Temporary Serious Safety Hazards for the 2019-2020 school year
- Approval of Choir Trip Proposal from March 19-25, 2021
- First and Final Reading of Board Policy 8:20 Community Use of School Facilities and Administrative Procedure 8:20 AP, Facility Use General Statement and Guidelines @ D121
- Approval of Revised FY20 Staffing Plan
- Approval of the Resolution Estimating Aggregate Levy for the Year 2019
- Discussion on Potential Public Question(s)

Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools

Weather Related Decisions and Emergency Closing Information

As the winter season approaches, our District staff understands that our decision to delay the start or close schools in bad weather has a big effect on families. We also understand that our students are better served both academically and socially by being in school. But as always, our top priority is the safety of our students.

We make the decision to delay the start or close the school in bad weather based on a careful analysis of all relevant factors, such as:

- Information on road conditions from the transportation staff and from the police
- Amount of snow and ice accumulated
- Whether precipitation is continuing
- Building conditions (such as whether we have electricity and heat)
- Parking lot conditions
- Temperature and wind chill
- Weather predictions

As the Superintendent, I am responsible for the final decision, based on the factors mentioned above and consultation with our elementary districts, the Director of Transportation and the Director of Facilities.

The public is notified by

- Checking our District website at www.d121.org
- Receiving a rapid communication phone call on all of the phone numbers which were provided during the registration process this past August.
- Local television and radio stations
- Emergency Closing Center at www.EmergencyClosings.com

I must make the decision by 5:30 a.m. or earlier so we can notify radio and TV stations and post the decision on our website. If I wait longer to announce a change in the normal schedule, some parents will have already left for work, leaving their children unsupervised. Keep in mind that even if weather conditions worsen, we cannot reverse our decision in the morning without endangering students. Once we make the decision to open the schools, many parents rely on that decision and leave for work.

If we then send students right back home, many will return to unsupervised bus stops and empty houses. If conditions get worse during the school day, we may need to have an early dismissal, but we will give adequate notice to all parents first.

Although the Administrative staff and I do our absolute best in this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists. If you do not feel as though it is safe for your child to attend school, use your best judgment on whether he or she should attend. I encourage you to discourage teenagers from driving in bad conditions and I am suggesting you offer them alternative strategies as weather conditions worsen.

In addition, we will have school on many days when it is very chilly outside and we always hope our students are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.

Each year in the fall, I am impressed by how quickly our students become comfortable and successful with their schedules. The power of the daily routine of learning that our students experience as the year progresses is very evident and rewarding .

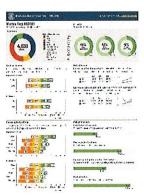
At both campuses our students have developed a strong sense of their classes and how to balance their workload and homework in with other activities outside of the school day. Certainly developing this ability to balance responsibilities will help them be successful throughout their lives.

Please continue to keep connected to your child's progress in their academic classes as we move into November and reach out to our teachers with questions. As a reminder, many parents find accessing PowerSchool to be valuable in learning about their student's progress.



If you need assistance with PowerSchool access, please call the school's main number at 847-662-1400 and ask for help.

Meaningful discussions with your child about their education not only allows you to be informed on their progress in particular classes, it also demonstrates to them your continued support and care for them even as they become more independent in their endeavors.



2018-2019 Illinois School Report Card Notification

Each fall, the Illinois State Board of Education releases report card for each school and school district in the state of Illinois.

The 2018-19 Illinois School Report Card is on our website at: https://www.d121.org/Page/247

Thank you to Student Council members for sponsoring the *Trick or Treat event* on October 30. Hundreds of families enjoyed playing games and receiving treats. The hallways were decorated and booths were set up and coordinated by our students in clubs, activities, and athletic teams. The children who attended came in their Halloween costumes.



News from Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocaris, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

SAT Testing Dates for the 2019-2020 School Year

The Illinois State Board of Education requires all freshman students take the PSAT9, all sophomore students take the PSAT10, and all junior students take the SAT. These assessments provide valuable information regarding academic progress to students and parents.

The College Board, https://www.collegeboard.org/ has extensive free resources available to help students prepare for these exams as well as to utilize their scores and results to prepare for future assessments.

Additional information on the SAT *Suite of Assessments* and helpful resources for parents and students are available on Warren's our Testing Information page on the district's website at https://www.d121.org/domain/82

Juniors

SAT on April 14, 2020

•Seniors will not attend school on April 14. Freshmen and sophomores will be on a normal daily schedule.

Sophomores

PSAT 10 on April 15, 2020

•Juniors and seniors will have a normal daily schedule on April 15.

Freshmen

PSAT 9 on April 15, 2020

• Juniors and seniors will have a normal daily schedule on April 15.

Detailed information regarding student schedules on the days of the exams will be communicated to families nearer to the dates of the exams. If you have questions regarding the SAT test for junior students, please contact Matthew Jones, Assistant Principal at the Almond Campus at 847-548-6655.

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Course Selections for the 2020-2021 School Year

We are excited to continue to offer a wide variety of educational experiences for our students! Our *Curriculum Guide* is an extensive document that contains all of the information parents and students need to help select courses for next year. This is posted on the district's website at https://www.d121.org/Page/429

Professional Development

During the month of October, our instructional leaders challenged themselves to improve their skills in working with their teams to develop stronger collaborative learning activities for our students.

Our leaders focused on the impacts of activity structure and assigning specific roles to students. Pictured here, our Professional Learning Team Leaders at the Almond campus participated in a collaborative learning activity designed to model current hest practices with this instructional strategy.



In the Classroom



Mr. DeBaker's Engineering Design and Development students test their paper airplane launchers. The launchers were developed to complete several tasks. Airplanes had to pass through hoops, complete loops, land on a target, and fly the longest possible distance. Students collaborated in design teams to develop and test their launchers.



On October 31, teachers at the O'Plaine Campus read scary stories with students during lunch periods. This event was organized by Mrs. Washington, our library media specialist.

State of Illinois Seal of Biliteracy



Registration for the State of Illinois *Seal of Biliteracy* opened the week of October 15, 2019. The *Seal of Biliteracy* is an award given by the State of Illinois in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages before graduating from high school.

The *Seal of Biliteracy* encourages students to pursue biliteracy, honors the skills our students attain, and can be evidence of skills that are attractive to future employers and college admissions offices.

If you have questions about the *Seal of Biliteracy* please contact Lina Rangel, Foreign Language Lead Teacher at the Almond Campus.

News From Student Services

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



Safety and Security

During the summer months, we began installing emergency notification communication devices in large shared spaces and classrooms that typically have struggled to hear public announcements. Some of these large areas include the band room, the industrial arts classrooms, the cafeterias, and the gymnasiums.



We anticipate that these improved devices will increase our response time to emergency announcements or events that require a lockdown or other emergency process.

In addition, all of the exterior doors at both buildings now have cameras that will send an alert signal to multiple offices if they are opened during school hours. This technology will help keep WTHS a safe and secure learning environment.

Please continue to partner with us as we continue to promote the *See Something, Say Something* initiative with our students.

Warren Students Volunteer at Feed My Starving Children Program

Students from the Educational Life Skills and the Functional Programs went to Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville on October 23. Twenty-three students and eight staff members helped pack 115 boxes of meal packs for children who need food in Haiti! Those boxes will provide 24,840 meals and feed 58 kids for a year!

We are so proud of the hard work and willingness of our students to help those in need!



Last month our post-secondary counselors hosted four parent events that focused on plans for our students after high school. Workshops covered 1) *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* completion, 2) our annual *Camino a College reviewing* the college application process entirely in Spanish, and 3) a college planning workshop for junior students and parents.

The post-secondary counselors also provided a seminar for junior students on Wednesday, November 6th during their math class period covering transcript review, course selection process, SAT test preparation and support resources. Please discuss these seminars with your student.



JUNIOR SEMINAR WITH MR. PAULUS



For more information about post-secondary workshops and opportunities, check the District's website at:

https://www.d121.org/Page/419

Guiding the College Bound Athlete Information Night



For parents of our student-athletes, please consider attending our annual *College Bound Athlete information night*. This important meeting will cover all aspects of the process of being eligible for NCAA athletics. We will host the event on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the O'Plaine Auditorium.

Red Ribbon Week

Each year during the week of October 23-31, our social workers and the Warren wellness ambassadors promote good decision making during *Red Ribbon Week* with informational booths in the

cafeteria during lunch hours.



Principal's Corner at the Almond Campus

by Rob Parrott

A-Team Awards

Our staff recognizes students each month who exhibits one or more of the pillars of our A-Team, which include:

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.

On November 1, 2019 at our monthly A-Team breakfast, the following Almond students were honored: Jadiel Quinonez-Ramos, Alexis Kindle, Olivia Newcomb, Khanh Nguyen, Matthew Dimillo, Sandy Bernal-Marquez, Lessli Estrada, Evan Maravilla, Lucas Guagliardo, Nigel Anderson, Hailey Smith, Diya Iyer, Emilio Torres, Antonio Rodriguez, Dru Jasnoch, Precious Mago, Asvin Ragunathan, Shannon Thornton, Ryan Odden, and Olivia Roebuck.



As an incentive for students who maintain perfect attendance during the school year, we draw names at the end of each month from those students who had perfect attendance and award 20 of those students' prizes. For the month of October, we had 572 students who had perfect attendance! Congratulations to the 20 students who were randomly selected: Theodore Andersen, Kendall Anderson, Ashley Bae, Maria Cano-Giraldo, Cameron Cohen, Claire Dunnigan, Alexander Gajek, Thomas Kenney, Connor Lange, Jenny Lin, Eugene Park, Ron Jacob Romualdo, Woo-Sung Shim, Paul Sidlow, Faith Smith, Jack Tarantino, Zachary Thomas, Aiden Walker, Isaiah White, and Carson Zickert.

The month of November is here and Thanksgiving is upon us. Here are some items at the Almond Campus that I am thankful for and excited to share with you. The seniors in the Class of 2019 started clicking "submit" on their college applications and our Class of 2020 will begin to select their courses for their senior year. Thank you to our counselors who are working diligently to assist during this busy time for both our juniors and senior students. Please reach out to our counselors if you have any questions about either process.





Congratulations to Cole Fagan, Computer Support Services II; Natalie Rush, Cosmetology I, Joseph Magno, Culinary Arts II, and Remington Page, Criminal Justice, who were selected as Students of the Quarter at the Technology Campus. These students have shown excellence in their respective programs in regards to their grade, attendance, and class leadership. They have gone above and beyond what is required to be a successful student.



On Friday, October 25th the Almond Campus was featured on Chicago WFLD FOX32 TV for their segment called "Pep Rally Friday." This was a great opportunity for our students, staff, and school programs to be highlighted to the Chicagoland area. Our students did a great job

representing Warren Township High School that morning and we had a great pep

assembly that morning that recognized ILMEA all-district music and choir students, NSC Conference Championship teams, played some games with our juniors vs. seniors, and showcased our wonderful drumline. Click here for a segment that aired on WFLD FOX32.





I would like to recognize and highlight one of our awesome staff members who we recently surprised at our staff institute day on October 21, 2019. Mrs. Kelda Hutson who is a science teacher at the Almond Campus, was named the College of Lake County Dual Credit Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Hutson teaches Honors Earth Science at the Almond Campus and upon successful completion of this course taken at the high school students can earn college credit at C.L.C. and transfer that credit to other colleges and/or universities. She is a "rockstar" in the classroom and that was evidenced by the nomination written by a former student. Congratulations Mrs. Hutson!

Principal's Corner at the O'Plaine Campus

by Michele Bertola

Happy November to all. I am so grateful and excited to share some of the work going on at the O'Plaine campus with you. Our students have completed their 12th week of school and are being *challenged* to improve their academic skills every day. Students are collaborating, problem-solving, and engaging with their coursework. In addition to working hard in the classroom, students are working to find a balance with studying, extra-curricular activities, and spending time to stay happy and healthy. Finding this work-life balance is challenging for all of us, and we try to support all of our students as they take ownership of their learning. Please encourage your child to see any member of their Student Services Team in the main office if they need help with this balance. Below are some more updates and showcases from the O'Plaine campus.

Matter of Pride



Students at the O'Plaine campus are coming off a very spirited Homecoming and are back to work. We continue to ask students to focus on the five A's: Attendance, Academics, Attitude, Acceptance, and Activities and Athletics. Everyday we challenge students to get better in these areas. Staff nominated students based on these five A's for our Matter of Pride recognitions.

Recipients for our October *Matter* of *Pride* are: Savannah Apostle, Keisha Bland, Charles Badgley, Ariana Bond, Zyon Butler, Naylea Calderon-Hernandez, Juliana Castro-Arcos, Brian Dimillo, Mayra Farfan-Marles, Jonathan Mateo,



Daveeda Pulido, Brittany Shepherd, Lucette Silva, and Nicholas Steinhilber.

Attendance

As an incentive for students who maintain perfect attendance during the school year, we draw names at the end of each month from those students who had perfect attendance and award those students' prizes. For the month of October, we had 512 students who had perfect attendance! Congratulations to the five students who were randomly selected: Matthew Adames, Gabrielle Brewer, Eric Buchanan, Victor Flores, and William Weil.

Leadership

Student leadership skills are being developed daily in our classrooms, athletic arenas, activity groups, and in the community. I am very grateful for our student advisory team that meets with the principals monthly to discuss important topics to them and our school. Topics included school spirit, academic challenges, academic supports, student involvement, and more. Dialogue will continue

throughout the year and opportunities for students to participate in leadership activities are always available. Please advise your child to come and talk with me if they are interested in getting involved.





Upcoming Events

Course Scheduling for 2020-2021 begins this month. Sophomores started working with their counselors on November 1st and freshmen begin November 19th

Parent Boot Camp

November 21, 2019

Is this your first child in high school? Want a refresher on the high school experience? Join our Parent Boot Camp Thursday, November 21st 6:00-7:00

O'Plaine Campus Main Office Topics for this session include: Building Safety, Study Prep and Final Exams.

School Spirit

We encourage students to wear Blue and Gold on Fridays, attend school events, and come to school with a positive attitude.



There are many ways we show school spirit, including our Welcome Crew Fridays. Here are our JV Devilettes, Sophomore Link Crew members, and our boys soccer teams welcoming students in the morning. We also encourage students, staff, and our community to showcase everything we are proud of by using the hashtag #WeAreWarren on social media.



News about Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics

Winter Sports Registration



Please visit our website at <u>www.d121.org</u> to register for winter tryouts.

All athletes need to register and have a current physical on file in the nurse's office before their respective start dates.

Winter Sports Start Dates

November 18 Girls Bowling

November 25
Boys Swimming and Diving

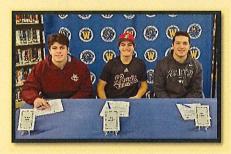
National Letter of Intent Signing Day

Three athletes have committed to competing in their sport at the collegiate level.

Dru Jasnoch, Baseball Lewis University (Illinois)

Nate Rentas, Baseball Marietta College (Ohio)

Logan Haar, Lacrosse Colorado Mesa University



Warren Township High School District 121 is a member of the following athletic organizations:

Illinois High School Association (IHSA), which competes in phases of competition tournaments: sectionals, regionals and state.

North Suburban Conference (NSC), competes against eight nearby high schools throughout the season and ends with a conference tournament.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Boys Cross Country team on their 2nd place finish in the NSC, IHSA Regional Championship and their 6th place finish in the IHSA Sectional. The boys are coached by Bill Dawson, Jason Jecman, and Joe Stubenvoll.



Congratulations to the Girls Cross Country team on their NSC Championship, 2nd place IHSA Regional finish and 6th place Sectional finish. The girls are coached by Brett Heimsted, Louis Klein, and Don Proft.



Congratulations to the Boys Soccer team on their IHSA Regional Championship and their Sweet Sixteen state finish. The boys are coached by Jason Ahonen, Doogie Clark, and Tim Pieper.

Congratulations to the Varsity football team on their 11-0 record on the season so far. The Blue Devils defeated Plainfield East in the 1st round in the playoffs and Fremd in the 2nd round. On Saturday, November 16, the Blue Devils travel to Bolingbrook High School for a 3:00 p.m. Quarterfinal showdown.

The swimming and diving team competed in the NSC Championships on November 8 and 9. The JV team finished 5th and the Varsity team finished tied for 4th place. Top finishers for the Blue Devils were Grace Bevers who took 2nd Place and Hailey Benoit who took 3rd place in the 100 backstroke. The Devils compete in the IHSA Sectional on November 15 and 16.

North Suburban Conference Fall Sportsmanship Award Winners

Jack Hovey, Football
Ryan Sundberg, Boys Cross Country
Emily Miller, Girls Cross Country
Jacob Horne, Boys Golf
Diya lyer, Girls Golf
Madison Herman, Girls Tennis
Cory Melchor, Boys Soccer
Trinity Springer,
Swimming and Diviing
DJ Serrano, Girls Volleyball