



May 17, 2019

Dear Warren Community,

This edition of our Connection marks the homestretch of our school year. Our freshmen, sophomores and juniors have just a few weeks remaining in second semester courses and will soon begin preparation for their final exams. Many of our WTHS students worked very hard to demonstrate mastery on advanced placement exams over the last few weeks. Seniors have finished up their academic careers at Warren and are currently preparing for the excitement of our commencement on May 19 and our well received warmer weather has reminded us all that the end of another school year is right around the corner.



Strategic Planning Committee

Almond Campus Library

June 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Please notify Dr. Ahlgrim if you are planning to attend at jahlgrim@wth.net

IMPORTANT DATES

May 19				
M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

Commencement Ceremony

May 19, 2019 – 11:00 a.m.

Sears Centre, Hoffman Estates

District Closed - Memorial Day Observed

May 27, 2019

Second Semester Final Exams

May 29, 30, and 31

Students' Last Day of Attendance

(assuming no more emergency days are used)

May 31, 2019

Summer Hours 2019

Starting Monday, June 3, 2019 through Friday, August 9, 2019, the daily hours for public access are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The buildings are closed on Fridays. Parents and students may make an appointment after 3:30 p.m., if necessary.

Proof of Residency and Walk-in Registration

July 30, July 31 and August 1

1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

at both campuses

Students' First Day of School

Thursday, August 15

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Board of Education News

New Board of Education Members



Warren Township High School District 121 has two new Board of Education members who took their Oath of Office at the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, April 23. We welcome Mrs. Bency Beals and Mr. Tony DeMonte to our Board, and congratulate them on

their election and new leadership endeavor! Mrs. Beals and Mr. DeMonte replace Mr. Michael Munda and Mrs. Barb Conway who retired from the Board after their respective ten and eight dedicated years of service to our Board and community.

Mr. Thomas Drake was re-elected to the Board in the April 2 election and was also elected to continue to serve as Board President. Board member Mr. Paul Schulz was elected as Board Vice-President, and Mr. Jim Walz was elected Board Secretary. These five Board members, with Mr. John Anderson and Mrs. Jonita Wilson, make up our seven member Board of Education and we are grateful to them for their leadership and service to our students and school community.

District Student Leadership Council

At the April 23, 2019 Board of Education Meeting, our District Student Leadership Council presented to the school board for the final time of the 2018-2019 school year. National Honor Society officers presented on the 2019 Induction and the academic recognition ceremonies for seniors at the end of the school year. FBLA presented on their success at the state conference. Avanza presented on the annual Chicano Bowl competition and conference, and the Senior Class and Student Council highlighted the May prom and graduation activities.

All of the 2018-19 District Student Leadership Council members were thanked and recognized by the Board for their service to the WTHS school community this year.



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 April 9, 2019 - Board of Education Meeting

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

- ComEd Smart Ideas Energy-Efficiency Program
- Barb Conway and Michael Munda, Board Members
- Insurance Committee, March 20, 2019
- Diversity Committee, April 2, 2019
- Curriculum Committee, April 3, 2019
- Safety Committee, April 3, 2019
- Alternative Energy/Solar Committee, April 3, 2019

The Board approved the following items:

- Hiring recommendations for three employees and/or prospective candidates
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$684,373.87
- Regular and Executive Session Minutes of March 19, 2019
- Approval of the Bid for the Almond Tennis Courts and Parking Lot Project and Awarded the Contract
- Approval of an Agreement for a Phase I Proposal for Security Cameras, Equipment and Installation at the Almond Campus
- Approval of 2019 Summer Workers for Technology and Building and Grounds Departments
- Approval of a Resolution for the Preparation of Tentative Amended Budget for FY2019
- Approval of Performance Services, Inc. Contract Price Amendment for the Almond Campus Solar Project

Recap of April 23, 2019 - Board of Education Meeting

The first agenda items were the organization of the Board, following the April 2, 2019 Consolidated Election.

- Declare the results of the April 2, 2019 School Board election
- Administer the Oath of Office and Seating of the New Board Members
- Board reorganization with the election of the President, Vice-President and Secretary, effective April 23, 2019

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

- Announcement of the 2018-19 and 2019-20 Board meeting schedules
- Insurance Committee, April 10, 2019
- Discipline/Student-Parent Handbook Committee, April 23, 2019
- Student Leadership Council Report
- Department Report: Mathematics
- Treasurer's Report, March 2019
- Monthly Reports, March 2019

The Board approved the following items:

- Hiring recommendations for five employees and/or prospective candidates
- Payment of Bills in the amount of \$4,735,680.54
- Approval of the 2018-19 through 2022-23 Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Warren Township High School District 121 Board of Education and the Warren Township High School Federation of Teachers
- Approval of Student Fees for the 2019-20 School Year
- Approval of Student-Parent Handbook Changes for the 2019-20 School Year
- Renewal of Non-Union Employee Contracts and Approval of Compensation for the 2019-20 School Year
- Approval of Transportation (Bus Drivers) Compensation for the 2019-20 School Year
- Approval of Substitute Teacher Pay Rates effective with the 2019-20 School Year
- Approval of Medical, Vision, Dental and Life Insurance Premiums with Educational Benefits Cooperative for the 2019-2020 School Year
- Approval of Technology Upgrades of Firewalls
- Approval of Regular and Executive Session minutes of April 9, 2019

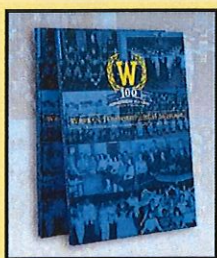
Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools

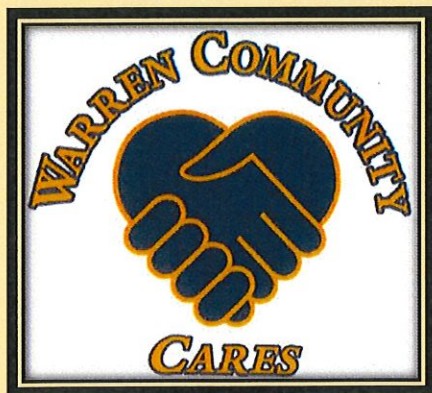
Community News

The Warren Township High School District 121 and WTHS Foundation are proud to announce the publication of *Warren Township High School: Celebrating One-Hundred Years of Excellence*. This 9" x 12" limited-edition volume chronicles the history of the school as well as the proud alums and educators who have graced its halls. Read about the memorable stories that helped make Warren Township High School what it is today. This book contains 96 pages of interesting facts and stories about the school, complemented with approximately 140 historical and modern photographs of the campus, faculty and staff, students and alumni.

Don't miss your chance to capture the history. Cost of the book is \$49.95 to pick up or \$59.95 includes shipping. Click here to order your copy today: <https://www.d121.org/Page/632>



Warren Community Cares is a campaign initiated by the coalition Healthy Community Healthy Youth of Warren Township to help our teens feel more connected.



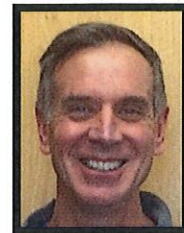
ETO Information

There has been a great deal of information in Gurnee and surrounding communities in recent months surrounding the topic of Ethylene-Oxide. The Lake County Health Department is the agency overseeing public health in the County and they have posted information on the issue. Their website is:

<https://www.gurnee.il.us/residents/safety/ethylene-oxide>

Warren's "Gurnee Teacher of the Year"

Social studies teacher, Jason Jecmen, was voted by his colleagues this year as Warren's *Gurnee Teacher of the Year*.



At a Board meeting on May 6, 2019, the Village of Gurnee recognized three Gurnee teachers, one from each of the area schools: Warren Township High School District 121, Gurnee School District 56 and Woodland School District 50. The *Gurnee Teacher of the Year* receives a \$1,000 honorarium.

Jason has been teaching at Warren Township High School for 25 years, and has been in education for 28 years. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and English from Eastern Illinois University, and a Master's Degree from National Louis University in Education Leadership.

Jason says his years at Warren have been extremely fulfilling and rewarding. "I have had the privilege to work with hundreds of outstanding educators whom I have learned a great deal from. Being a teacher means standing on the shoulders of others, and I am extremely fortunate to stand on the shoulders of both past and current teachers at WTHS."

"I have had the honor to coach with Bill Dawson in both Track and Field and Cross Country over the past 25 years, and he has been a mentor and model for working with young athletes," Jason said. "I have also been fortunate to earn the trust of my colleagues by being our Warren Township High School Federation of Teachers (WTHSFT) collective bargaining president for over 15 years. It has been extremely rewarding to work with past and present district and elected officials towards making WTHS a great place to work and learn."

Superintendent Dr. John Ahlgrim said, "Jason is truly a special individual who has committed so much to WTHS. His contributions as a teacher, coach, leader and colleague have been, and continue to be remarkable. Most important, Jason is an authentic, first class person and role model, and we are so proud of his selection as our Teacher of the Year for 2019."

Jason would like to thank all of his current and former students for always reminding him how lucky he is to teach, and eternally grateful for the opportunity to guide his students on their paths towards realizing their life goals. Jason is honored to be a teacher and humbled to accept this award on behalf of his students and colleagues.

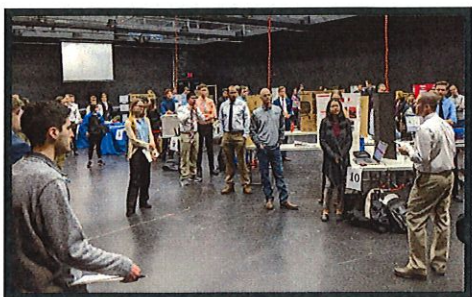


Jason also thanks his mom and dad for encouraging him to follow his dream, and his wife, Katie, for her positive spirit and uplifting support.

News from Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocarls, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

In the Classroom



Senior Project Lead The Way students held their annual tradeshow. Professional engineers were on hand to provide feedback to our students on their projects they have been developing throughout the year.

Educational Technology



As the end of the year approaches, here are some important reminders for seniors.

- Graduating seniors will be able to keep their Chromebook as long as all registration fees have been paid.
- Seniors are required to attend Chromebook/Textbook Return during the last week of senior attendance. Your Chromebook needs to be checked out to

graduating students permanently. This can only be done at Chromebook/Textbook Return.

- Chromebook/Textbook Return begins on Wednesday, May 8th for graduating Seniors.
- Student school accounts need to be changed and student files need to be downloaded before the end of June.

The [Student Technology Page](#) has instructions on how to change school accounts, download files and the dates/times of Chromebook/Textbook Return.

This year, Warren Township High School is participating in a program that is donating used Chromebooks to under resourced schools in Puerto Rico. Any graduating senior who would like to donate their Chromebook to support this program may do so at Chromebook/Textbook Return.



Summer School 2019

Location:

Summer courses will be held at the Almond Campus.

Duration:

- Session 1 begins on June 3 and ends on June 20
- Session 2 begins on June 24 and ends on July 11
 - 3-week courses start at 7:15 a.m. and dismiss at 12:15 p.m.
 - 6-week session begins on June 3 and ends on July 11
- Period 1 begins at 7:15 a.m. and ends at 9:45 a.m.
- Period 2 begins at 9:50 a.m. and dismisses at 12:15 p.m.
- Emergency days are Friday, June 20 and Friday, July 12
- Classes will be in session on Friday, June 28 due to the July 4 holiday.
- No classes in session on July 4 – 5.

Costs:

- Tuition is \$225 per course
- Transportation Fee is \$155 per three-week session

News From Student Services

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



2019-2020 School Year Information

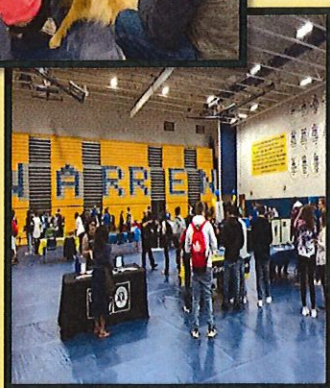
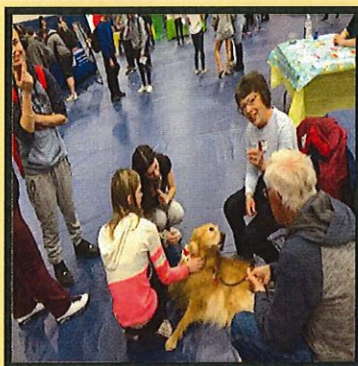
Online registration for all students opens
May 14, 2019

Parents and students will receive a notification about
the new online opportunity and process for
completing your registration.

Parents will still need to complete walk-in
registration for proof of residency and other details.

The walk-In registration dates are:
July 30, July 31 and August 1
from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at both buildings

Wellness Fair on April 26



Happy Spring! The Student Service Department is having a busy end of the year. May 1st is Declaration Day for all seniors to 'declare' where they are going or what they are doing after graduation. ALL STUDENTS and ALL POSSIBILITIES will be represented on the board. Whether they are going to a 4-year college or university, starting at CLC, attending a vocational school, going to transition, taking a gap year, enlisting in the military, or heading straight to work, we want them to be represented. If you have a senior, please encourage them to participate! Seniors can get their pennant in the Student Services office.



Our social workers hosted our annual Wellness Fair on Friday, April 26th. It's a great opportunity for our students to visit booths that were staffed by a number of community agencies that focus on helping our youth. All staff and students enjoyed the opportunity.

Finally, as the end of the school year is near, please partner with us to motivate students to make good choices and finish the school year strong. If they are struggling academically or emotionally, our Student services teams are here to help. Please reach out to your student's counselor, social worker or dean if they need help. In addition, our resource rooms are a great help to students and the tutoring is free! Please take advantage of this excellent free resource. Resource rooms are available most periods and students can choose to go during their lunch or study hall.

Have a great end of the year and even better summer!



Wellness
Fair
on
April 26



News from Business Services and Operations

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

Solar Project Update

Our Almond Campus solar project has now entered the construction phase and we anticipate significant development over the summer months.



The initial steps of the project include the relocation of some trees and fencing prior to the actual installation of the solar ground mounts and panels. The project will be located on the south end of our campus along Gages Lake Road and we hope will generate enough electricity to almost cover the electricity usage of our Almond Campus over time.

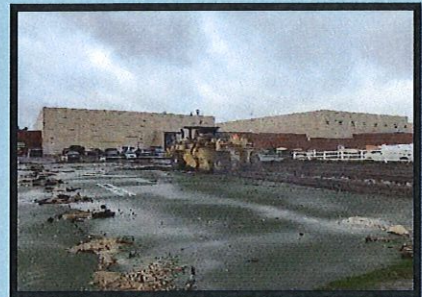
HVAC Update

Warren Township High School in partnership with Trane Chicago has recently engaged in a series of HVAC projects to replace/upgrade the aging building automation systems at both buildings as well as the boiler and domestic hot water infrastructure at O'Plaine Campus. The building automation systems were upgraded due to obsolescence and inoperability with ancillary equipment. The new building automation system unites the campuses into one system and brings the district up to the latest technology that will provide the best environment for students and staff. The upgrade will also help the District plan for future expansion and equipment replacement while doing so cost effectively. The upgrade achieved an incentive/rebate from ComEd of \$204,120.00 and will also achieve estimated year over year energy savings of \$60,000 - \$80,000. This project is now complete and the district can begin to realize the energy savings.

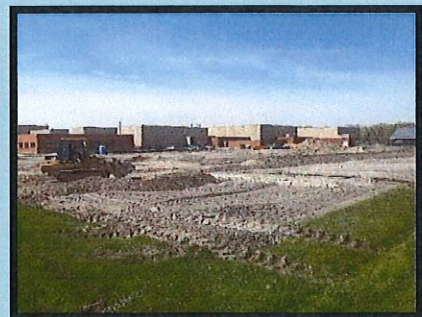


Both of the domestic hot water tanks and boilers at the O'Plaine Campus were well beyond their life expectancy and were in need of replacement. Trane has engineered a solution to redesign the system to ensure that the system is able to maintain a desired temperature for all students, staff and administration during the heating season. In addition, Trane will provide the district with proper system control to make real time adjustments that ensure comfort and maximize energy savings. Another benefit of the project will be an incentive back to the district of \$75,784.00 from North Shore Gas. Trane is roughly 50% through this project with an expected completion timeline at the end of June.

Almond Campus Tennis Courts



Construction on the tennis courts at the Almond Campus began the week of May 6 with demolition work, which included removing the old fence, nets, concrete foundations and pulverizing the existing asphalt. The pulverizing method involves crushing and mixing the old asphalt pavement and stone base together to make a homogenous material. This material remains on-site and will be reused later as a new base course for the tennis courts and parking lot. This is over 78,000 cubic feet of material being recycled, saving more than 250 dump truck loads having to haul material in and out of the site, and off our local roads. The project is on schedule with final completion set for early August.



GHA GEWALT HAMILTON
ASSOCIATES, INC.

Principal's Corner at the Almond Campus

by Rob Parrott

Upcoming Important Dates

- May 19, 2019 - Graduation ceremony. 11:00 a.m. at the Sears Centre. Hoffman Estates, Illinois
- May 29 - 31, 2019 - Final Exams

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 April, we had 507 students who had perfect attendance! Congratulations to the 20 students who were randomly selected last month.

Israel Aguayo, Jackeline Barrera, Trent Dexter, Brittany Diete, Anna Herrera, Bradley Judge, Madison Juenger, Daniel Juskiewicz, Ismary Mascorro, Adria Mestre, Khanh Nguyen, Nathan Papierniak, Jocelyn Parra-Avila, Margaret Perlstein, Tanvi Ranade, Julia Retter, Brianna Rivera, Cynthia Tran, Taylor VanderJeugdt, Ricquia Winston.

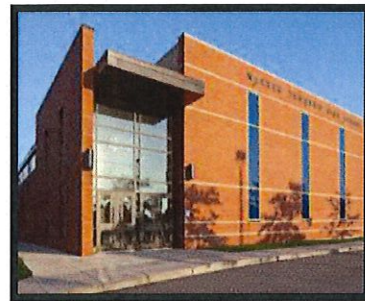
Congratulations to all of our senior Schuler Scholars who announced their college commitment this past week. The Schuler Scholar program is designed to identify and support high-achieving and under-represented students to gain access to and succeed at highly selective colleges and universities. Schuler has been a partner with WTHS since 2008 and works with about 20 students per class of students and provide supports to approximately 20 students per class at WTHS in rigorous course loads.



Congratulations to Abigail Roman-Ahlgrim and Michael Osuji who were recognized at the Illinois Principals Association for their commitment to leadership and excellence.



The end of the 2018-2019 school year is fast approaching! The final stretch run of the school year will go fast. There are numerous culminating activities that take place in the month of May. Please visit our [school events and activities calendar](#) to help keep track of upcoming events. Our Class of 2019 graduates on Sunday, May 19, 2019 at the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. It is an exciting and busy time for staff, students, and parents. Below are some highlights to share from the Almond Campus.



Our staff recognizes students each month who exhibit 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.

I am proud to recognize the following students who we honored on April 12, 2019, at our monthly A-Team breakfast at the Almond Campus.



Katharine Peters, Francisco Miranda, Jocelyn Melchor, Janiah Haynes, Megan Shanders, Sachin Patel, Tyler Gould, Brianna Rodriguez, Janelle Reams, Hayley Davila, Sophia Diaz, Ricky Moe, Hali Wilson, Zachary Relova, De Jah Washington, James Poremba and Casey Cobe.

Congratulations to the 204 students that will be graduating with academic honors this year for having a minimum cumulative 3.9 GPA at the end of their 7th semester of high school. All of these students were honored at our annual Cum Laude Recognition Night on May 6, 2019. As the Principal of the Almond Campus and on behalf of the entire faculty, staff, and administration, I congratulate each of you and your parents for your hard work and perseverance throughout your high school career.

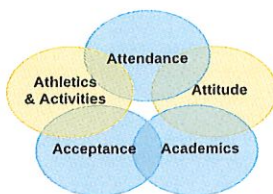


Principal's Corner at the O'Plaine Campus

by Michele Bertola

Happy Spring! As we approach the last month of school, I want to reflect on things I am grateful for leading the O'Plaine Campus. All year we have promoted the five A's as keys to success for students, and I am very proud in how our students have performed in these areas:

- **Attendance:** Our students have made the effort to be in school. Our average daily attendance for the year is 97% and we still have 37 students with perfect attendance for the school year.
- **Academics:** Our freshman have transitioned to high school by meeting course expectations and sophomores continue to push themselves in the high school setting. We challenge students to own their learning and advocate for themselves. Evidence of learning takes many forms and we want students to reflect on the reading, writing, creating, and critical thinking skills that they have grown in. We are happy that the majority of our students are on-track for next school year and we will continue our work in challenging and supporting all students.
- **Attitude:** We continue to remind students: Control what you can control. I am proud of the attitudes our students choose each day. This doesn't mean our kids always pick the most positive or motivated attitude, but I have seen them work through the challenges in the process. We encourage students to have a growth mindset and to persevere when things get tough. Our students have shown this grit in many ways throughout the year and we will continue to encourage them to choose a constructive attitude.
- **Acceptance:** Based on student online surveys and student in-person feedback, our students have reported a positive school environment. We work hard to create an inclusive, spirited, and respectful school climate. Our *See Something, Say Something* campaign has helped reinforce our value of wellness and looking out for each other. Our diversity trainings and student-led groups continue to provide opportunities to discuss relevant topics that help students navigate the complexities of the world we live in. I am proud of the efforts made by students to be kind and accepting to all that are part of our Warren community.
- **Activities/Athletics:** Over half of our campus is involved in athletics and activities here at Warren. We have encouraged students to get involved in something they are passionate about so they can connect, enjoy, and give back to our community. Our students are so talented and I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing them display these talents in the athletic arenas, fine arts stages, service settings, support networks, educational forums, and leadership activities/competitions they have participated in.



Warren students volunteering at Feed My Starving Children.

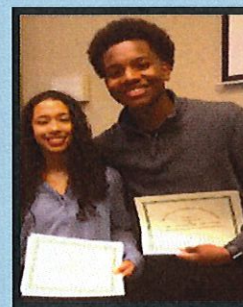


I am most grateful for students, staff, and parents that make up our Warren community. We push each other to get better every day and to get better together. I am proud of how hard we work and appreciate the collaborative and team approach to how we support each other. I am honored to help lead our school and look forward to our continued partnership. Have a great end to the school year and an even better summer. #WeAreWarren



Congratulations to our April Matter of Pride winners: Juan Cardenas, Areli Perez-Orozco, Dafne Rosas-Aguilar, Lidia Amaya-Romero, Reyes Gonzalez, Lauren Bartholomew,

Huong Ho, Hailey Conger, David Zhang, Paulina Moran, Alison Attar, Alexander Gajek, Ethan Tran, Sophia Iaconis, Kelsey McGraw, Jonah Oh, Conlan Farrell, and Aiden Tascher.



Congratulations to Gabriella Alba and Bryson King who were recognized at the Illinois Principals Association for their commitment to leadership and excellence.

News about Athletics and Activities

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



Summer Camps 2019



Summer Camps 2019 registration opens the week of April 15, 2019. Check the WTHS webpage for more details at www.d121.org

The annual Spanish National Honor Society Induction ceremony was held on Sunday, April 28, at 2:00 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. The program consisted of recognizing 57 existing members and 37 new inductees at a candlelight ceremony where the students read the oath in unison. 35 graduating seniors also received graduation honor cords. Several individual students were awarded academic and/or service awards. A special thank you to Dr. Jamie Gustafson for sponsoring the Spanish NHS at WTHS.

Congratulations to our Three Sport Athletes



- ✚ Ozzie Bandera, Cross Country, Basketball, Track and Field
- ✚ Lauren Gaertig, Devilettes (Fall and Winter), Track and Field
- ✚ Ayaan Kazi, Cross Country, Swimming and Diving, Track and Field
- ✚ Domenick Rasmussen, Football, Wrestling, LaCrosse
- ✚ Jake Snyder, Cross Country, Swimming and Diving, Water Polo
- ✚ Ava Suarez, Tennis, Basketball, Softball
- ✚ Ryan Sundberg, Cross Country, Swimming and Diving, Track and Field
- ✚ Alexis Tatum, Tennis, Basketball, Soccer
- ✚ Jeremy Walton, Football, Basketball, Baseball
- ✚ Chloe Yoder, Cross Country, Swimming and Diving, Track and Field
- ✚ Taylin Bridges, Tennis, Bowling, Badminton
- ✚ Alyla Ditiangkin, Cheer (Fall and Winter), Track and Field
- ✚ Zoie Donaldson, Cheer (Fall and Winter), LaCrosse
- ✚ Kayleigh Glickley, Volleyball, Gymnastics, Track and Field
- ✚ Noelle Hemphill, Volleyball, Bowling, Badminton
- ✚ Thomas Matheson, Football, Basketball, LaCrosse
- ✚ Emilio Torres, Soccer, Bowling, Volleyball
- ✚ Carlos Villa, Cross Country, Wrestling, Track and Field
- ✚ Sarah Barbosa, Volleyball, Gymnastics, Soccer
- ✚ Jamie Bednarz, Cheer (Fall and Winter), LaCrosse
- ✚ Samantha Garcia, Cheer, Gymnastics, LaCrosse
- ✚ Aaliyah Humphreys, Volleyball, Gymnastics, Badminton
- ✚ Vanessa Javalera, Devilettes (Fall and Winter), LaCrosse
- ✚ Emily Makeever, Devilettes (Fall and Winter), Track and Field
- ✚ Ethan McDermott, Football, Bowling, Track and Field
- ✚ Seamus Mellican, Football, Basketball, Tennis
- ✚ Hunter Subry, Cross Country, Basketball, Track and Field
- ✚ Casey Cobe, Football, Basketball, Baseball
- ✚ Jeremy Gunter, Cross Country, Swimming and Diving, Water Polo
- ✚ Tavion McCarthy, football, Basketball, Track and Field
- ✚ Alixandra Peterson, Devilettes (Fall and Winter), Track and Field
- ✚ Patrick Sharpe, Football, Hockey, LaCrosse