

Warren Township High School District 121

Warren Connection: In The Groove

October 18, 2019

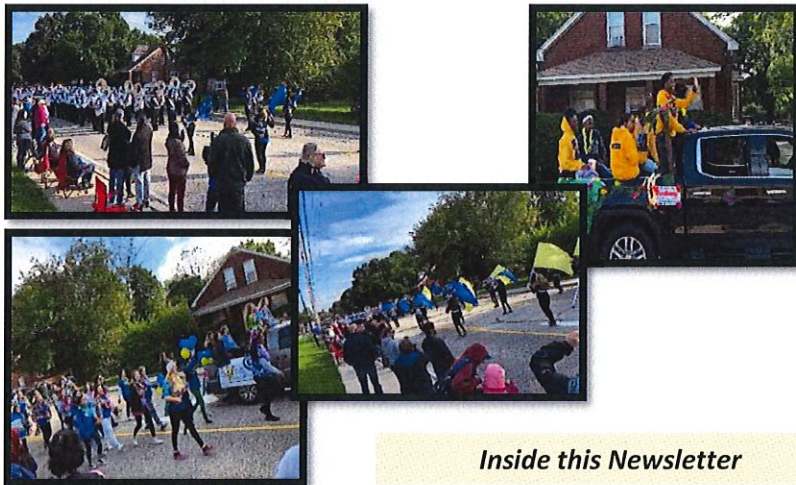


Dear Warren Community,

Thanks to all who helped us celebrate our Homecoming festivities at the beginning of October. Each year the support provided by our WTHS community to our students adds a great deal to the success of our events. Homecoming week has become a very highly anticipated celebration each fall and this year's *Hawaiian Homecoming* was no exception. A special recognition to our student council students and staff, and our athletic and activity departments for the incredible time and energy they commit each year to make the entire week meaningful and fun.



Homecoming Parade Highlights



Class of 1969
take a tour of O'Plaine Campus



Home of the
Blue Devils

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IMPORTANT DATES

Institute Day – No Student Attendance
October 21, 2019

Choir Concert
October 22, 2019
7:00 p.m. at the O'Plaine Auditorium

Fall Dinner Theatre
October 24 – 26, 2019
Black Box Theatre at the Almond Campus

ACT Test at Almond Campus
October 26, 2019

Trick or Treat Event
October 30, 2019
4:00 p.m. at the Almond Campus

Band Trivia Night
November 2, 2019
7:00 p.m. at the Almond Campus

Jr. College Planning Night
November 7, 2019
7:00 p.m. at the O'Plaine Auditorium

School in Session on November 11, 2019

Student Improvement Days (SIP)
October 28
November 4, 18

October 19					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31		

November 19					
M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

Board of Education News

Warren Township High School Board of Education considers preparing potential public questions

At the September 24, 2019 meeting, the Warren Township High School Board of Education approved the preparation of potential public questions on the upcoming election ballots.

Over the last several years, the District has experienced a deficit budget despite significant efforts to control costs. One of the critical factors that the Board continues to study is that Warren receives the least amount of dollars per student from federal, state and local sources than any other high school district in Lake County. Warren's tax rate is among the lowest which has limited the District's ability to generate comparable local dollars. Therefore, one potential public question may be an increase to the limiting tax rate for District 121.

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

Source: Lake County Regional Office of Education

Additionally, the Board of Education reviewed the long-term facility needs of the District. While some facility upgrades at both campuses have been paid for through current district resources, funding has not been identified for other high priority projects including but not limited to safety and security upgrades at both campuses, O'Plaine campus locker rooms, the O'Plaine auditorium renovation and a new swimming pool. Therefore, a separate potential public question may be for the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance building projects.

"It's the priority of this Board to solve the long-term and ongoing needs of our student body," said Board President Thomas Drake.

Over the next several months, the Board will continue to discuss the potential public questions at Board, Finance and Facilities committee meetings, and will utilize our professional services in the legal, financial and architectural aspects as needed.



Recap of September 10, 2019 Board of Education Meeting

Board members and Administrators toured the Almond Campus facility before the Board meeting.

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

- Finance Committee, August 20, 2019
- Diversity Committee, September 4, 2019
- Strategic Plan Goal, Portrait of a WTHS Successful Graduate
- Facilities Project Report
- Almond Campus Solar Project Update

The Board approved the following items:

- Personnel hiring recommendations for 18 employees and/or prospective candidates
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$1,301,927.54
- Regular Meeting minutes and Executive Session minutes of August 20, 2019
- Second Reading and Approval of District Board Policies
- Approval of Varsity Boys Lacrosse Trip to San Diego, California from March 25-28, 2020
- Notification to Post Required Salaries for FY 2019
- Approval of Agreement Regarding the Receipt of Developer Subdivision Contributions and Indemnification, in the Event of a Private Agreement

Recap of September 24, 2019 Board of Education Meeting

Board members had a "Meet and Greet" with new teachers before the Board meeting.

The Board meeting began with a Public Hearing for the FY20 Tentative Budget.

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

- Avanza Students who attended the National Leadership Conferences during the summer 2019
- Finance Committee, September 17, 2019
- Insurance Committee, September 18, 2019
- Student Leadership Report
- Monthly Reports, August 2019
- Facilities Project Report
- Roofing Report
- Treasurer's Reports, July 2019

The Board approved the following items:

- Personnel hiring recommendations for 7 employees and/or prospective candidates
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$4,176,363.44
- Regular Meeting minutes and Executive Session minutes of September 10, 2019
- Discussion and Approval of Preparation of Potential Public Question(s)
- Adoption of the FY 2020 Budget

Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools



In the Community

Over 50 items were collected for the SEDOL Backpack Program at our Homecoming Powerpuff games.

Our Social Studies classes and several student organizations are participating in the Lake County Veterans Toiletry Drive from October 28 to November 11.

Classroom collections as well as donation boxes in the main offices at each campus will be used to gather items for our veterans. Thanks to our veterans for your service to our country, and thanks to our staff, students and community for your generous support.

Our post-secondary counselors participated in the College of Lake County's (CLC) Career Fair.

Warren partners with CLC on a variety of educational and community endeavors.



Almond Campus Solar Update

For over a year, the District has been planning for a ground mount solar project on the south end of our Almond Campus along Gages Lake road. This project was with Performance Services Inc, (PSI) and 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, the Board had voted in August not to extend the original project contract and reduced SRECS.

At our October 8, 2019 Board meeting, PSI presented a modified financing proposal and schedule to the Board which the Board approved. Construction on this project is now expected to resume within a few weeks and will hopefully be completed by mid-summer 2020.

It is anticipated that the District will save between \$250,000 and \$300,000 annually on electric costs with this renewable energy source.

Diversity Committee Meeting – October 23, 2019



Our next Diversity Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Almond Campus library. We will continue to work on the academic data as part of our diversity, equity and inclusion master plan.



News from Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocaris, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

2019 PSAT/NMSQT Exam – October 16, 2019 – Junior Students

PSAT/NMSQT®



On Wednesday, October 16, the PSAT/NMSQT exam was administered to junior students at the Almond Campus.

Approximately 425 students participated in the PSAT/NMSQT exam this year. This test is a great way to prepare for the SAT and get actionable data on your performance. It is also a National Merit Qualifying test that allows students to access many scholarship and recognition activities. Both campuses will run a normal bell schedule on this day. Students were able to sign up for this exam in August and September.

Juniors will take the SAT, Sophomores will take the PSAT10, and Freshmen will take the PSAT9 in April. More information will be communicated about these exams later this fall.

Please contact Matthew Jones, Assistant Principal at the Almond Campus if you have any questions about the PSAT/NMSQT or future tests.



Advanced Placement (AP) Exam Registration Closes November 15

AP Exam registration is closing Friday, November 15, 2019 for all year-long and semester one AP courses. Please sign in to <https://user.totalregistration.net/AP/142175> to pay for your exams before November 15th to avoid the \$40 late fee. Please contact Matthew Jones, Assistant Principal at the Almond Campus if you have any questions regarding AP exam registration.



Professional Development

This year our focus is on **Challenge**. We are working together on strategies for *challenging* our students to grow in their learning and each other to grow in our professional practice.

On our next Institute Day on October 21, 2019, we will **challenge** our entire staff to consider how we serve all of our students and their unique backgrounds. We will also spend time focusing on implementing research-based strategies to help students who are struggling socially as well as academically.

In the Classroom

Our teachers provide our students with a rigorous and engaging curriculum. Every day our teachers use a variety of instructional strategies to engage students in their learning. Here are a few highlights from September at the O'Plaine Campus.



Spanish students utilize their speaking skills to learn more about their classmates' families.



Instructional Coaches Lead Round Table Discussion for Warren Staff

During the month of September, our Instructional Coaches led our staff in round table discussions of an article that focused on engaging students who are reluctant to participate in class. Our staff collaborated to apply the concepts in this article in their classrooms.

Active participation from our students is critical in their learning process, and our teachers are constantly *challenging* themselves to find ways to encourage all students to participate in a manner that helps them to feel safe and supported.

News From Student Services

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

**IF YOU SEE
SOMETHING,
SAY SOMETHING.**

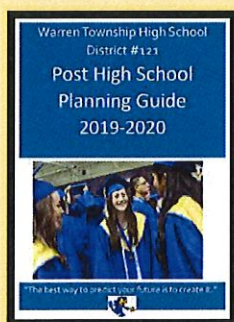
Safety and Security

As a reminder to students, staff, parents and community members, please continue to be aware of the environment around you and report suspicious activity. Continue to partner with us as we have conversations with students regarding reporting unsafe behavior so we can keep WTHS and our community safe.

Post-Secondary Planning

Our counseling staff has been providing helpful parent information nights regarding financing your students college education.

On October 8, 2019, over 400 parents attended the FAFSA presentation. The night featured a presentation by Julie Nelson, Regional Director of Admissions at Xavier University. The presentation offered parents critically important information so they are better prepared to complete the FAFSA form. In addition to parent nights, students can visit the College and Career Centers at both campuses for assistance with post-secondary options. Please discuss these programs with your student!



Please consider attending a future parent forum

Junior College Planning Presentation

November 7, 2019 7:00 p.m.
O'Plaine Campus Auditorium

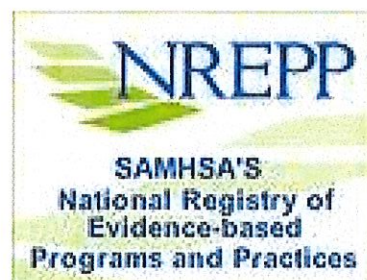
College Bound Athlete Night

November 21, 2019 7:00 p.m.
O'Plaine Campus Auditorium

Elyssa's Mission

At Warren Township High School, we believe it is important to focus on the whole student paying close attention to the emotions that are often associated with teen years. These years are marked by a rollercoaster of emotions, which may be difficult for teens. It is easy to misread depression as normal adolescent turmoil; however, depression appears to be occurring at a much earlier age, and the past decade has seen teen suicide rates double.

On September 24 and 25, 2019, we presented the *Signs of Suicide (SOS) Prevention Program* to all of our freshman health classes. This is the only school-based suicide prevention program selected by The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for its National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices that addresses suicide risk and depression, while reducing suicide attempts. The SOS program is presented to us through *Elyssa's Mission*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to suicide prevention. *Elyssa's Mission* is the only organization in the state of Illinois to fund, distribute and implement SOS.



Please visit our Student Service webpage for information and resources.

Red Ribbon Week - October 21-25

Red Ribbon Week will take place at both campuses on October 21-25, 2019. At the O'Plaine campus, social workers will present the *Dangers of Vaping* to all students during a study hall/lunch period.

To conclude our week of events staff and students are encouraged to **wear red on Thursday, October 24** to show support to living a substance free life. Additionally, there will be a booth during lunch periods at both campuses providing Red Ribbon Week resources, games and give-a-ways.

Thank you to Warren's wellness ambassadors and social workers who are promoting healthy choices with our students.

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. 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.

I am proud to recognize the following students who we honored on September 26, 2019, at our monthly A-Team breakfast at the Almond Campus.

Luis Rubio, Eric Vilona, Aisha Asad, Rebecca Miner, Asha Brown, Aneri Shah, Matthew DSouza, Alan Arguelles, Tatum Courchene, Riley Schroeder, Neha Joshi, Emma Ruge, Matthew Alcala, Roberto Zarate-Gallegos, Kaylee Rychel, Alexis Woodley, and Hunter Subry.



The month of October is already upon us and along with celebrating many activities during Homecoming week, it is time to celebrate the successes many of our students have already experienced this school year. As seniors in the Class of 2020 begin to submit their college applications, I am thrilled to recognize 30 special seniors who have established themselves as some of the best students in the nation.



Officials of National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 65th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$31 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship®



award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. Over 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

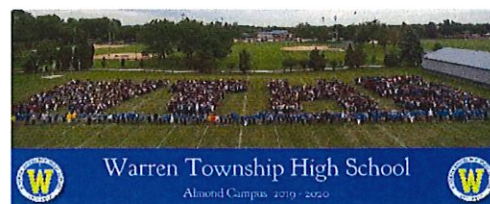
Congratulations to senior, Ainsley Hanner, who has been named a Semifinalist in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program from Warren Township High School.

I am also proud to announce that Jacob Adrian, Athirai Ambikkumar, Kendra Beaton, Allison Berens, Isabelle Bogot, Abigail Bosko, Alyssa Buttler, Sohom Dash, Nathan Denny, Matthew Dimillo, Thomas Farber, Zachary Hampton, Braden Hill, Jack Hovey, Diya Iyer, Sravya Jayanti, Neha Joshi, Sarika Kumar, Jacob Lynch, Christopher Nelson, Rebecca Nielsen, Emily Reimer, Kevin Song, Shannon Sturt, and Bernard Zhu have been named "Commended Students" in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2020 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2020 competition by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

An invitation was extended to those students at Warren Township High School that scored in the top 2.5% among Hispanic and Latino PSAT/NMSQT test takers. Students that were selected for the National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars are: Erica Chavez, Cruz Collazo, Daniel Duenas, and Esteban Padilla. Congratulations to all of our students recognized in the National Merit Scholarship Program!

Thank you and As Always, Go Blue Devils!



Principal's Corner at the O'Plaine Campus

by Michele Bertola

Happy Fall! I am so proud of our students and staff and the work being done every day at our O'Plaine campus. Below are some highlights and reminders of our work.

New Collaborative Work Space

This summer we began phase 2 of our main office renovation. Last school year we updated the main office and relocated meeting space to allow for a flexible collaborative work area for students and staff. We opened up offices to create a commons area and two meeting rooms for our school community to utilize. We are excited to see it getting a lot of use already.



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 & 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. Congratulations to students recognized at our September Matter of Pride breakfast: Rakayla Aaron, Cadence Brennan, Angel Bolden, Chaz Cuarto, Marco Guagliardo, Caleb Levy, Carol Manilay, Erika Mladenova, Myles Mojica, Pablo Montenegro-Juarez, Andrea Melchor, Joshua Pos, Reyma Rajan, Isabella Solano, and Samantha Vazquez. We also had 468 students with perfect attendance in September.



Important Reminders

Late Buses - Students can stay after school Monday-Thursday for activities or to get extra academic help. Monday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays the late bus leaves the North Entrance at 4:00 and on Thursdays the late bus leaves at 4:45.

Academic Support - Students can make appointments with teachers before school, after school, or during free periods. Students can go to academic resource rooms during their study halls periods 1-8 Tuesday-Thursday. Students can go to study table in the O'Plaine library on Tuesdays from 3:15-4:45 for extra help from teachers and student tutors.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR CLASSES? VISIT THE O'PLAINE RESOURCE ROOMS OPEN PERIODS 1-8 TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, AND THURSDAY	
SCIENCE	•ROOM 254
MATH	•ROOM 256
READING and WRITING	•ROOM 257

FIRST BLUE DEVIL



We held our [First Blue Devil Parent Boot Camp](#) on Thursday, September 18, 2019. Thank you to all the parents that attended. The goal of these meetings are to collaborate with parents new to high school and to build partnerships to best support freshmen transition to WTHS. We will have our next meeting Thursday, November 21st from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the O'Plaine campus main office commons.

News about Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics



Winter Sports Registration is now open. Please visit our website at www.d121.org 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

October 28

Boys Bowling, Cheerleading, Devilettes

November 4

Girls Basketball

November 11

Boys Basketball, Girls Gymnastics, Wrestling

November 18

Girls Bowling

November 25

Boys Swimming and Diving

Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State Series

Congratulations to the Boys Golf IHSA Sectional qualifiers: Steffen Nerheim, Kevin Borbath, Garrett Porter, Luke Behrens, and Andreas Ackron.

Congratulations to the Girls Golf IHSA Sectional qualifiers: Sydney Bornhorst, Mia Bornhorst, and Diya Iyer.

Good luck to the Girls Tennis team at the IHSA Sectional tournament this weekend on October 18-19 at Stevenson High School.

Good luck to the Girls Volleyball team as this continue their season.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Boys Golf team on their 4th place finish in the North Suburban Conference and in the IHSA Regional. All Conference medalists were Andreas Ackron, Steffen Nerheim and Garrett Porter. Jacob Horne was awarded the NSC Sportsmanship award. Sectional qualifiers are Andreas Ackron, Luke Behrens, Kevin Borbath, Steffen Nerheim, and Garrett Porter.



Congratulations Girls Varsity Golf on their 4th place finish in the NSC Tournament at Glen Flora Country Club. Earning All-Conference honors were junior Sydney Bornhorst who took 2nd place overall and freshman Alaina Goeden. Senior Diya Iyer was awarded the NSC Sportsmanship Award.

Congratulations to the Varsity Football team on their 7-0 record thus far. Come out and support the boys at their last regular season home game on Friday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m. Just before the Varsity game we will be celebrating Senior Night for our Cheer, Devilette, Athletic Trainers, and Football players.

Congratulations to the Girls Cross Country program on their 4-1 record in dual meets. Warren had great success in the Antioch Invite as the Open and JV teams took 1st place and the Varsity team took 2nd. Top finishers for Warren were Sarah Hubbartt who was the individual champion in the Open race, Sophia Iaconis took 2nd in the JV race, and Raina Rice took 3rd in the Varsity race. The girls will compete in the NSC Championship Tournament on Saturday, October 19 at Lake Forest High School.

Congratulations to the Boys Cross Country team on their 6-1 record. The Varsity finished 2nd in the Antioch Invite losing only to the state's #1 ranked team in 2A. Award winners on the Varsity level were Luke Wiley, Griffin Pasha, and John Wiser. The Freshman/Sophomore team won their race and Cole Kaether, Nate Garcia, Fahim Rafi, Ozzie Bandera, David Lara, and Brayden Sweeney were award winners. The boys will compete in the NSC Championship Tournament on Saturday, October 19 at Lake Forest High School.

Congratulations to the Boys Soccer team on their 12-3-3 overall record as of October 19 and to Cory Melchor on winning the NSC Sportsmanship award.

Congratulations the Girls Varsity Swim team on their 4-0 NSC record. The NSC tournament will be held on November 8 and 9 at Mundelein High School.

News about Activities

by Aimee Lonigro, Assistant Director of Athletics and Activities Coordinator

Warren Theatre presents



Clue showtimes are October 24 at 4:30 p.m., October 25 and 26 at 7:00 p.m. Dinner is available at 6:00 p.m. for the shows on October 25 and 26.

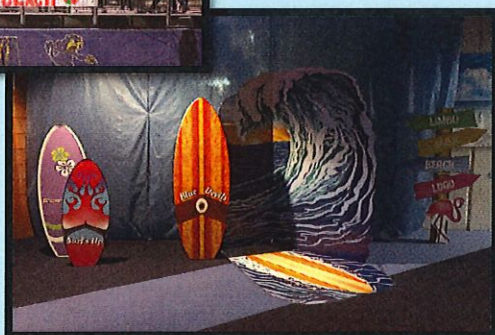
Homecoming Highlights

A special thank you to Student Council, the Blue Crew, and sponsors Sandy Desiron and Dana Lainio for an awesome Homecoming week. What a wonderful week of school spirit which included dress up days, Hawaiian themed hallways, beautiful decorations, awesome pep assemblies, a great crowd at the football games, and over 1,600 students at the Homecoming dance.



Friday night football game vs. Zion Benton High School

Decorations at the Homecoming Dance



Upcoming Events

- October 22 Choir Concert
- October 24, 25, 26 Fall Dinner Theater
- October 30 Student Council's Community Trick or Treat Event at Almond Campus
- November 2 Band Trivia Night

Get involved in WARREN ACTIVITIES!



BLUE DEVIL PRIDE

Congratulations to the Seniors and Sophomores on their big wins in the Powderpuff game.

Thank you to Ryan Bruno and the Sports Marketing Department for running this event. Non-perishable food items were collected at the gate, in lieu of money. Over 50 items will be donated to the SEDOL Backpack Program.

