

## Warren Connection: Student Services Programs, Club and Activities and Spring Sports

March 11, 2019



Dear Warren Community,

As we slowly turn to spring weather and our spring activities for our Blue Devils, I would like to thank everyone for your patience in working through a very challenging winter. Please pay close attention to our scheduled make-up days at the end of our school year.



### Make-up Days

In order to make up the emergency days used on November 26, 2018, January 28, 30, and 31, 2019, due to adverse weather, we plan to make the following changes in the school calendar:

**Student attendance days will be: May 28, 29, 30 and 31, 2019**

Please keep in mind there is one more emergency day built into the calendar that could possibly be used should the need arise. We hope the weather will not cause the need for any more calendar changes this school year.

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding.

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### IMPORTANT DATES

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony  
@ O'Plaine Auditorium  
March 14, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

Band Concert @ O'Plaine Gymnasium  
March 19, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

Choir Concert @ O'Plaine Auditorium  
March 19, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

Band Concert @ O'Plaine Gymnasium  
March 20, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

Spring Break - No Student Attendance  
March 25 - 29, 2019

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

**School Improvement (SIP)  
Days  
2-Hour Late Start  
March 18**



## Board of Education News

The following reports were presented at the February 26, 2019 Board meeting.

### Department Report: Transportation

Jeanne Turf, Director of Transportation, provided an overview of the District Transportation department and the services provided. Some of the transportation statistics include the following:

- District 121 covers approximately 50 square miles
- 42 full-size buses traveled nearly 455,000 miles using 69,000 gallons of diesel fuel
- 28 mid-size buses traveled nearly 460,000 miles using 47,000 gallons of gasoline
- 4 activity buses are used by staff and coaches for small group events
- Students walk .6 miles to their assigned bus stop
- There are 55 bus routes for Almond and O'Plaine students, servicing 3,745 students
- There are 32 special education bus routes, transporting students to 30 out-of-district schools, work training programs and mobility trips.



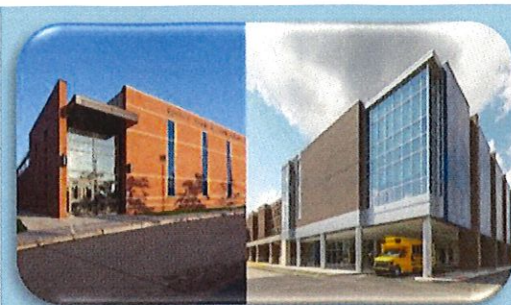
### Partnership Report: Warren Newport Public Library

Ryan Livergood, Executive Director of the Warren-Newport Public Library was featured in February as our Board of Education Partnership presentation. Ryan emphasized the library's efforts to continuously try to build programming and resources for students of all ages in the community and highlighted the success of the final exam study supports the library provides for our Blue Devils. Additionally, Ryan praised our WTHS Trident Robotics team for their initiative and support for the development of youth Robotics programs, which is housed at the WNPL.



WTHS has had a very strong, long-standing partnership with the WNPL in our common pursuit to support life-long learning for our community.

### Board Recognitions



### Recap of February 12, 2019 Board of Education Meeting

The Board began the meeting by recognizing the National Letter of Intent February signers. Recognized were Courtney Chomko, Nico Corsini, Tanya Czosek, Clara Macheras, Tavio McCarthy, Zack Pelland, Jimmy Poremba, Maia Russell and Abbey Triebe.

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

- Diversity Committee, January 22, 2019
- Insurance Committee, January 23, 2019
- Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee, February 5, 2019
- Almond Tennis Courts Project
- Solar Project Update

The Board approved the following items:

- Payment of bills in the amount of \$515,980.46
- Regular and Executive Session minutes of January 15, 2019
- Hiring recommendations for 20 employees and/or prospective candidates
- Approval of the proposal through U.S. Communities State of Illinois Buying Program for Domestic Hot Water Heaters and Boiler Replacements at the O'Plaine Campus

### Recap of February 26, 2019 Board of Education Meeting

The Board began the meeting by recognizing the IHSA State Qualifiers in Wrestling and Speech team. Recognized were: Joel Vandervere, Austin Nash, Isaiah Parker, Cameron Domke, Sawyer Nash, Brooke Moeller and Arturo Barrera.

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

- Partnership Report with Warren Newport Public Library
- Alternative Energy/Solar Committee, February 19, 2019
- Student Leadership Council report
- Treasurer's Report for January, 2019
- Department Report: Transportation
- Solar Project Update

The Board approved the following items:

- Hiring recommendations for seven employees and/or candidates
- Payment of bills in the amount of \$3,990,002.51
- Regular and Executive Session minutes for February 12, 2019



## Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools



This year, 230 students will be inducted into the **National Honor Society**. The induction ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the O'Plaine Auditorium. Congratulations to the new members.

Just a reminder to get your tickets for the **Gurnee Rotary Charity Dance** on Saturday, March 16, 2019 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Almond Campus.

For information and tickets, click here: <https://gurneerotarycharitydance.eventbrite.com>

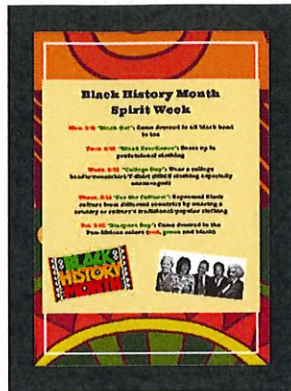
Congratulations to our **first semester Honor Roll students**. High honor roll is for students with a 3.75 grade point average or higher. Honor roll is for students with a grade point average of 3.25 to 3.74. Any grade of "D" or lower in a given semester eliminates a student from the honor roll for that semester. [Click here](#) to see the students who achieved this honor.

### Student District Leadership Council Report

Thanks to our Student District Leadership Team members for presenting to our Board of Education at our February 26 meeting. Among other items, **Student Council** leaders updated the Board on our February



Turnabout/Winter Dance highlights, **Unite N Inform** leaders updated the Board on a recent field trip to a viewing of *The Hare U Give*, as well as discussed the topics of meetings over the last several months and the preliminary planning of a WTHS Culture Fest in 2019 and 2020.



Finally, **Black Student Union** presented information on a variety of activities being sponsored at WTHS to celebrate Black History Month, including a Black History Month Spirit Week and an evening community-wide celebration which was held at our O'Plaine campus on February 28.

### Solar Project Update - Community Meeting on February 19, 2019

On February 19, 2019, the Board of Education hosted an Alternative Energy/Solar Committee meeting to review the most recent plan for the proposed solar project. Residents living adjacent to the sound end of our Almond Campus were invited to this meeting, as was the community at large to garner feedback on the proposed project.



A few key elements of the solar project are:

- the project will have two fields of solar panels; one on the north side and one on the south side of Warren Township road,
- the solar panels sit on racks arranged in rows in these fields, and
- the solar fields will be surrounded by fencing.

A question and answer period followed the presentation of information when community and committee members asked and answered a variety of questions about the overall solar project.



## News from Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocaris, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services

### Professional Development

The past month has been very active for professional development at Warren Township High School! On March 1, 2019 we had our last staff institute day of the year. Our teachers received training on current best practices in utilizing formative assessment strategies and on design thinking in their classrooms. We also had trainers work with our staff to embed growth mindset into our curriculum.

In addition to our institute day activities, we had several teachers attended the Illinois Computing Educators annual conference. This conference is held over several days and provides teachers from across the state of Illinois a chance to collaborate with one another and learn how their colleagues in other schools are integrating technology into instruction, and developing strong digital literacy skills with their students.

### Testing Information

In April, all 9th grade students will be taking the PSAT 9, 10th grade students will be taking the PSAT 10, and 11th grade students will be taking the SAT. Detailed information about these tests and the schedules for our testing days will begin to be communicated in the upcoming weeks.

If you have questions regarding the PSAT 9 or PSAT 10, please contact Peter Kupfer, Assistant Principal at the O'Plaine Campus.

If you have questions regarding the SAT, please contact Matthew Jones, Assistant Principal at the Almond Campus.

#### Testing Dates

##### Tuesday, April 9

SAT for 11th Grade students

- O'Plaine Campus will be on a normal bell-schedule on this date.
- Seniors will not attend school on this date.

##### Wednesday, April 10

PSAT 9 for 9th Grade students, and PSAT 10 for 10th Grade students

- Almond Campus will be on a normal bell-schedule on this date.
- Tuesday, April 23: Make-up testing for PSAT 9, PSAT 10, and SAT at both campuses.

### Educational Technology



As a reminder, at the end of the school year, graduating seniors will be able to keep their Chromebook as long as all registration fees have been paid. Seniors are still required to attend Chromebook/Textbook return during the last week they are in attendance. Important dates and additional information will be communicated through the students' school email and daily announcements beginning in

April. Information will also be available on the [Student Technology Page](#) on our School Website. Please contact Matthew Jones, Assistant Principal at the Almond Campus with any questions related to senior Chromebooks.

### In the Classroom

Students in Mr. McCabe's **Project Lead The Way** classes designed, built, and tested marble launchers to apply the concepts they are learning in class.



Students in **Physics** classes at the Almond Campus participated in several hands-on activities to learn more about how static electricity is generated and how it is conducted.





## News From Student Services

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

### Warren Wellness Ambassadors



As part of our third quarterly topic promoting Healthy Relationships, the Social Workers in conjunction with Warren Wellness Ambassadors had a healthy relationships booth in the cafeteria during lunch periods. Students were able to spin a wheel to answer questions about relationships, take a selfie with Valentine's Day decorations and sing karaoke. We had over 40 students participate in Karaoke!



Our Student Services team at the O'Plaine campus presented an information session about vaping to freshman and sophomore students during their study hall.



Since September, the O'Plaine Campus **Study Table** program has assisted approximately 450 students who receive tutoring help nearly every Tuesday after school.

Students Services has had another busy month! As we head into the final stretch of school, please continue to have conversations with your child regarding their progress in their classes. We have a few events coming up next month, please take advantage of these events.

### Exploring Your Options Freshmen Career Presentation

The Guidance Department hosted our **Freshmen Career Exploration Presentation** on Thursday, March 7, 2019, to learn about how to search for careers and utilize the resources available to our Warren students. Freshman year is an excellent time to begin to reflect on personal goals and strength to research careers which are a good fit for individual students.

The presentation held in the O'Plaine Auditorium and featured a panel of our current senior students, who shared their experiences and suggestions for how to progress through high school and manage the pressures of planning for life after high school.

### Career Expo

On March 8, our College and Career counselors organized our first Career Expo at the Almond Campus gymnasium. The goal of hosting this Expo is to bridge connections between local employers and our students for career information but also possible job shadowing, internships, and even employment after high school.



Thank you to the following community employers who participated in this tremendous opportunity for our students.

Premier Veterinary Group  
Children's Dentistry Group  
Gurnee Police Department  
Gurnee Fire Department  
Village of Gurnee  
Abbott Laboratory  
Lake County JATC/IBEW Local 150  
Electricians  
Lake County Press  
Lake County State's Attorney's Office  
FBI  
ATI Physical Therapy  
Watkins Legal Group

Play Mechanix  
Cisco Systems  
AON  
Lake County Health Department-Child and Adolescent Behavioral Services  
Kumon Learning Center  
Celebration Authority  
Douglas Aveda Institute  
Carlson, Dash  
Community Trust Credit Union  
Gurnee Park District  
Lake County Partners & Workforce Dev.



## Principal's Corner at the Almond Campus

by Rob Parrott



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 January, we had 794 students who had perfect attendance and for the month of February, we had 543 students who had perfect attendance! Congratulations to the 40 students who were randomly selected for the previous two months.

Xochitl Aguirre, Cortez Albarran, Connor Bora, David Campbell, Catherine Carani, Rebecca Dybas, Victor Gallegos, Kenneth Hayes, Niyanna McDonal, Meghan McMillen, Clayton Mobile, Sarah Parmar, Mitchell Reich, Jaden Rogel, Hunter Subry, Byron Tillett, Jonathan Valentine, Jaylene Vazquez, Joshua Westphal, John Wiser.

Faraaz Baig, Jamie Bednarz, Celine Cardenas, Nathan Denny, Taylor Graham, Fiona Green, Jeremy Gunter, Emmanuel Guzman, Ava Howard, Cade Kelly, Clara Macheras, Tiffany Maravilla, Alexa Mielke, Maya Muhammad, David Nyarko, Ethan Reyes, Caroline Rukstales, Eric Schweikl, John Welch, Aisha White.

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.

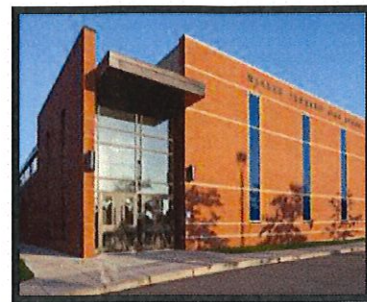
**Acceptance** – This is an appreciation for the diversity in our world and valuing the assets diversity brings to our community. It is a commitment to treating others as you would want to be treated; and even better, getting to know others so you can treat them how they want to be treated.

**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 February 28, 2019, at our monthly A-Team breakfast at the Almond Campus:

Inman Glass, Riley Nebel, Jonathan Brenner, Frankie Jaimes, Kevin McCarthy, Brandon Nitto, Iona Flint, Jake Fanizza, Lillian Dahlberg, Sophie Shulman, Alex Kuscsik, Matthew Rich, Lauren Marsh, Francisco Miranda, Mary Claire Turner and Daniel Lauer.

The winter weather is trying to hold on, but spring is right around the corner! As we approach the midway point of second semester we have many highlights to share with the Warren Community. A reminder that we will be on an [early release schedule](#) with a 12:15 p.m. dismissal at the Almond Campus.



We completed the second full day retreat for our students from both campuses this school year to help build leadership in regards to diversity and our

inclusive environment. Our goal is to provide activities, discussion, and collaboration on the challenges and benefits that diversity brings. Our retreat was held on Friday, March 1, 2019 at the Almond Campus.



We have five **National Merit Finalists** this year! Congratulations to seniors, Christian Alcantara, Andrea Ardeleanu, Richard Chiu, Saranya Menon, and Matthew Walowski who have moved on in the PSAT/NMSQT competition and been named National Merit Finalists! These students are among the top 1% of students in the nation.

The White House Commission on **Presidential Scholars** and The United States Department of Education has informed us that senior, Daniel Lense, has been named one of (up to) 161 U. S. Presidential Scholars. Scholars are invited to Washington, D.C. for a National Recognition Program in June. Congratulations Daniel!



**A-Team**

We have two students that have been named to the **Daily Herald 2018-2019 Lake County Leadership Team!** Congratulations to seniors, Janhvi Dubey and Ellie Nerheim, who were recognized for their excellence in volunteerism and community service.



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

by Michele Bertola

Happy March everyone! Our hard work continues at the O'Plaine campus as we keep focused during our stretch before Spring Break. We have had a range of student recognitions, competitions, and celebrations this semester that center around our **five A's: Attendance, Academics, Acceptance, Attitude, and involvement in Activities and Athletics.**

### Matter of Pride

Congratulations to our **January/February Matter of Pride Winners:** Sara Lewis, Justin Ward, Alexander Cortes, Ann Lichter, Philip Hird, Emma Farley, Aliyah Fortunato, Brian Dimillo, Dominic Jikomes, Vaibhav Joshi, Vanessa Nino, Jacob Pinder, Yibo Zhang, Dhruval Bhatt, Angeles Silvas-Gastelum, Kevin Goger, Nicole Harrison, Ember Roeder, and Eric Alvarez. Our staff nominated these students based on their success with our 5 A's.

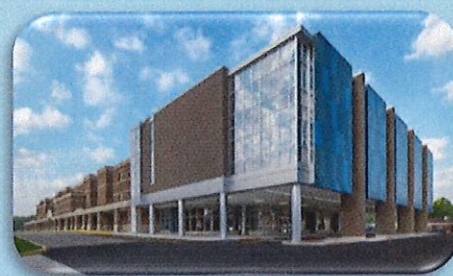
### Leadership

We completed the second full day retreat for our students from both campuses this school year to help build leadership in regards to diversity and our inclusive environment. Our goal is to provide activities, discussion, and collaboration on the challenges and benefits that diversity brings. Our retreat was held on Friday, March 1, 2019 at the Almond Campus. Student groups and staff also led various supports including: thank you notes to a local state trooper's family, raising money for a variety of charities, EKG screenings, information sharing on healthy relationships, depression screenings, and a variety of service projects.



### Celebrations

Our Black Student Union led several activities throughout the month of February to celebrate Black History Month. The month ended with an Inaugural Black History Month Celebration in the O'Plaine Auditorium on February 28th. A range of talents were on display, as well as student excellence awards and presentations.



*Congratulations!*

### Attendance Award

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 January, we had 676 students with perfect attendance and the following students were randomly selected: Caysie Castellanso, Aldo Flores, Megan Garward, Ethan Lee, and Anne Serdar. We have 73 students who still have perfect attendance from August-January, and the following were randomly selected: Anantya Kasturi, Megan Parrott, Kiera Rodriguez, Moses Soria, and Richard Tran.

For the month of February, we had 596 students with perfect attendance and the following students were randomly selected: Ronan Attiah, Isha Bordaweker, Payal Sutaria, Sebastian Widlak, and Lorelai Yager. We have 56 students who still have perfect attendance from August-February, and the following were randomly selected: Faaz Arif, Nikki Pacheco, Madison Smits, and Odessa Haw-Tay.

### Matter of Pride





## News about Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics



### Important Dates

March 9, April 3  
Spring Athletic Pictures

April 17  
National Letter of Intent Signing Day

April 22  
Devilette Tryouts Begin



## Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Accomplishments

### Swimming

- Congratulations on an amazing Conference Championship Meet. JV broke 5 School Records and finished 2nd overall in the conference. Varsity took 4th overall and finished in a tie for 3rd place in the conference with Lake Forest.

#### Broken Records

- 200 Medley Relay – Natan Weiner, Alex Carruthers, Ethan Harrigan, Riley Nebel
- 50 Freestyle – Riley Nebel
- 200 Freestyle Relay – Riley Nebel, Natan Weiner, Evan Berndt, Markus Lefebvre
- 100 Breaststroke – Alex Carruthers
- 400 Freestyle Relay – Riley Nebel, Natan Weiner, Wes Gari, Evan Berndt
- Varsity made All Conference in all 3 relays, Jeremy Gunter 100 Freestyle and Taylor Vander Jeugd in the 100 Breaststroke.

### Wrestling

- A year ago, Joel Vandervere finished third in state as a freshman. As a sophomore, Joel Vandervere finished 15-1 on the year and only wrestled four matches entering into the post season because he was recovering from injury. Joel made the best of his limited time and placed first in the Lake County tournament and was also a Regional and Sectional tournament champion. To complete his season Joel wrestled in what is considered in this state to be one of the highest honors in wrestling. Last Saturday night in Champaign Joel Vandervere competed for a state championship in the finals at the 126 pound weight bracket. Joel lost the highly competitive match, however, this is quite a feat considering his limited time back from injury and he only being a sophomore. Joel is on his way to becoming the most decorated wrestler in Warren High School history.
- Austin Nash competed for a state title again this year. After qualifying for state as junior, Austin rededicated himself and made it a goal to get back to the state tournament. Austin was a match away from being an All American this past summer, and he entered the state tournament with only one regular season loss. With championships earned in the Lake County, Regional, and Sectional Tournaments.
- Isaiah Parker qualified for state this year in the 152 pound weight bracket. Last year Isaiah lost in what wrestlers refer to as the "blood round". Lose and go home, or win and go to state. Isaiah would not make the same mistake this year as he was triumphant in his semi-final wrestle back match at Sectionals to placed fourth, securing his position to wrestle at the state tournament.
- Cameron Domke qualified for state this year as a junior at 120 pounds. With a final record of 43-4 Cam had one of the most successful seasons ever for a Warren wrestler. Cam wrestled in the finals of every tournament this year including championships won in both Regionals and Sectionals in order to qualify for state.
- Sawyer Nash qualified for state for the second time. Sawyer won every tournament the team wrestled in this year including the Stagg, Whitewater, Niles North, Lake County, Regional and Sectional Tournaments. Leading into the state tournament, Sawyer Nash had a perfect record of 43-0. Sawyer was the captain and team leader for the entire season. With a final record of 45-2 and a two time state qualifier Sawyer Nash has cemented himself as one of the most successful Warren wrestlers ever.



## News about Activities

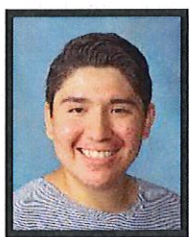
by Aimee Lonigro, Assistant Director of Athletics and Activities Coordinator

### Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Accomplishments

#### Speech Team

**Brooke Moeller (junior):** This is Brooke's second time competing as a State qualifier, but first time competing in an individual event. Brooke and Arturo had a strong season performing their Dramatic Duet, and many competitors across the region knew about Warren's outstanding duet. Brooke worked hard to fill the role of a mother who has a difficult relationship with her son following her husband's death. This role required a great deal of maturity and we are so proud of how well she refined her acting as the season progressed. Brooke and Arturo placed 9<sup>th</sup> in the State with their Dramatic Duet! A great top 10 finish to the year.

**Arturo Barrera (senior):** This was Arturo's third consecutive appearance at State! Qualifying for State in both the Dramatic Duet and his Dramatic Interpretation, Arturo is quite accomplished as someone who "double broke" to State! In his duet with Brooke, Arturo played Brooke's son who was struggling with the loss of his father. His role left the audience with chills. His Dramatic Interpretation centered around the character, Biff, from the classic *Death of a Salesman*. His judges commented that it was fun to see a classic with a more modern interpretation. He placed in the top 15 in the State- coming in at 13<sup>th</sup> with his Dramatic Interpretation.



#### 2023 Activity/Athletic Open House

42 Sport programs, clubs, and competitive activities spent the night welcoming the incoming freshman class to what Warren is all about. Coaches, sponsors, and students were stationed at tables with information about their program to encourage the Class of 2023 to get involved.



### Important Dates

March 14  
National Honor Society Induction (O'Plaine Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.)

March 21  
Winter Guard Invitational (Almond Gym, 7:00 p.m.)

March 31  
Winter Guard Championships @ LaPorte HS

April 26, 27  
Spring Musical (O'Plaine Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.)

April 28  
Spanish National Honor Society Induction

May 11  
Prom

#### 2019 Prom, Color the Night

When: Saturday, May 11, 2019

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Where: Donald E. Stephens Convention Center

1. Sign up for Prom text reminders to 81010 and put in the message @wthsprom19
2. The outside guest form link will be available on March 18, 2019.
3. Table request forms will be available on April 1, 2019.
4. Prom tickets will be on sale from April 8-11, 2019.