



Dear Warren Community:

With just a few weeks remaining in this school year, we want to be sure that all our students and families have an opportunity to learn the facts about the referendum question on the June 28, 2022 ballot.

Have you had a chance to attend one of our community informational presentations? Have you received the mailer in your mailbox at home? Have you seen our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram postings? Do you have questions about the tax rate increase referendum?

It is our hope that you will find the information in this special referendum edition of our monthly Warren Connection newsletter helpful in learning about the tax rate increase question on the June 28, 2022 election ballot.



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## District 121 Referendum Information



On August 17, the Board of Education approved a 60-cent operating rate increase question that will appear on the ballot June 28, 2022.

A 60-cent increase would provide approximately \$13.25 million in additional revenue annually, with an estimated annual tax impact of \$200 (\$16.67 per month) per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value.

Increased funding would allow the district to preserve the eight-period school day, improve academic supports and mental health services, restore and protect activities and clubs, and restore and protect athletics. The rate increase would also allow us to lower student fees to rates comparable with other Lake County high schools.

Join us for a District 121 referendum informational meeting for the community focused on the tax rate increase referendum on the June 2022 ballot.

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Millburn Elementary School  
18550 Millburn Road, Wadsworth

6:30 p.m. - Spanish presentation  
7:00 p.m. - English presentation



## Board of Education News

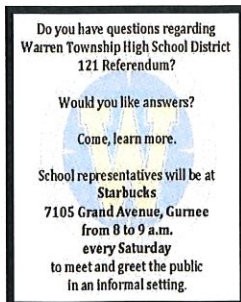


**Were you able to attend a District 121 referendum informational meeting for the community focused on the tax rate increase referendum on the June 28, 2022 ballot?**

August 18, 2021	Band Parents Meeting
August 22, 2021	Fill the Drum Marching Bands Performance
August 24, 2021	WTHS Theatre Parents Meeting
August 26, 2021	Almond Campus Open House - Meetings before and after open house
September 2, 2021	O'Plaine Campus Open House - Meetings before and after open house
October 18, 2021	Teachers Institute
October 20, 2021	Almond Campus Classified Staff Meeting
October 20, 2021	O'Plaine Campus Classified Staff Meeting
November 9, 2021	Gurnee Exchange Club
November 10, 2021	Girls Basketball Parents Meeting
November 19, 2021	Boys Basketball Parents Meeting
November 30, 2021	8th Grade Parent Meeting at O'Plaine Campus
December 1, 2021	8th Grade Parent Meeting at O'Plaine Campus
January 12, 2022	Community Informational Webinar
February 9, 2022	Gurnee Women's Business Association
February 9, 2022	Community Informational Presentation at the Almond Campus Cafeteria
February 11, 2022	Warren Township Senior Center Valentine's Day Lunch
February 23, 2022	Track Parents Meeting
February 23, 2022	Community Informational Presentation at the Warren Newport Public Library
March 3, 2022	Gurnee Rotary
March 3, 2022	Incoming Freshman Athletic Program Night at O'Plaine Campus Auditorium
March 16, 2022	Community Informational Presentation at Grandwood Park Park District
March 17, 2022	Warren Township Senior Center St. Patrick's Day Lunch
April 7, 2022	Devillettes Parent Meeting
April 13, 2022	Community Informational Presentation at Wildwood Park District
April 14, 2022	Cheerleaders Parent Meeting at Almond Campus
April 21, 2022	Warren Township Senior Center, WTHS Choir Concert
April 22, 2022	Warren Township Senior Center, Lunch

### Please join us for a community informational meeting

May 3, 2022	Community Informational Presentation at Millburn Elementary School
May 11, 2022	Community Informational Presentation at the Wadsworth Village Hall
	Community Informational Presentation at the O'Plaine Campus Auditorium
June 1, 2022	6:30 p.m. - English Presentation 7:30 p.m. - Spanish Presentation
	Community Informational Webinar
June 22, 2022	6:30 p.m. - English Presentation 7:30 p.m. - Spanish Presentation



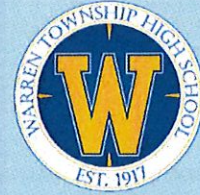
**Meet and Greet**

**Every Saturday**

**8 a.m. to 9 a.m.**

**at Starbucks**

**7105 Grand Avenue, Gurnee**



### Referendum Question on the June 28, 2022 Ballot

Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for Warren Township High School District Number 121, Lake County, Illinois, be increased by an additional amount equal to 0.60% above the limiting rate for school purposes for levy year 2020 and be equal to 2.644864% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2022?

(1) The approximate amount of taxes extendable at the most recently extended limiting rate is \$45,711,762, and the approximate amount of taxes extendable if the proposition is approved is \$59,124,418.

(2) For the 2022 levy year the approximate amount of the additional tax extendable against property containing a single family residence and having a fair market value at the time of the referendum of \$100,000 is estimated to be \$200.

(3) If the proposition is approved, the aggregate extension for 2022 will be determined by the limiting rate set forth in the proposition, rather than the otherwise applicable limiting rate calculated under the provisions of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (commonly known as the Property Tax Cap Law).



## Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools



On August 17, 2022, the Board of Education approved a 60-cent operating rate increase question that will appear on the ballot June 28, 2022. If approved by voters, it would provide approximately \$13.25 million in additional revenue annually, with an estimated annual tax impact of \$200 (\$16.67 per month) per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value.

**Increased funding will be necessary for the District to offer the same level of academics, activities and athletics that the District has been proud to provide to our community over the years.**

- This includes preserving the 8-period school day, improving academic supports and mental health services, restoring and protecting activities and club, and restoring and protecting athletics.
- The 60-cent operating rate increase would also allow student fees to be lowered to rates comparable with other Lake County high school districts.

The Board has stated that it will allow the District to restore the entry-level athletic teams, as well as preserve current band staffing (which is one of the staff reductions implemented in March 2022) and related programming, if a referendum passes. This allowance would be to the extent possible based on the time available prior to the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

For almost two years, District 121 has been actively working to engage our community in the ongoing reduction in programming and services due to cuts related to low funding. The District has been communicating its status as having the lowest local and overall revenue compared to Lake County high school districts and the efforts the District has made over the last several years to cut costs. Increased funding will be necessary for the District to offer the same level of academics, activities and athletics that the District has been proud to provide to our community over the years. The District had placed a 35-cent operating rate increase question on the April 6, 2021 ballot; that measure failed, with 3,753 yes votes and 4,700 no votes.

As a result of the failed referendum, the District reduced 13 more permanent positions in March 2022, which is in addition to the 66 positions that had been eliminated over the last several years. One of the 13 reductions is a band director, which will greatly reduce our band programming, including the elimination of our competitive marching band. In addition to these staff reductions, the District is also planning the elimination of the entry-level athletic team for all sports beginning in fall 2022. These reductions will most likely reduce student participation opportunities for all sports and across all grade levels as programs will need to make cuts based on ability.

**Without additional funding, the District anticipates it will need to implement a seven-period school day for all students, as well as the elimination of athletics and activities as early as the 2023-24 school year.**

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*Increased funding will be necessary for the district to offer the same level of academics, activities and athletics that we have been proud to provide to our community over the years.*

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Preserve the 8-period day



Restore and protect activities and clubs

Investing in our Students

Improve academic supports and mental health services



Restore and protect athletics





## News from Business Services and Operations

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

### Revenue Challenges

Generally, Illinois schools receive revenue from local, state and federal sources. Local sources primarily come from property taxes. This local revenue accounts for approximately 75% of WTHS funding. WTHS currently receives the lowest per-pupil revenue compared to all of the high school districts in Lake County.

- The average total revenue for a Lake County high school is \$25,337 per student. WTHS would need an additional \$8,704 in revenue per pupil just to reach the average.
- WTHS has only been funded at a level of 65-70% of adequacy for the last several years according to the Illinois State Board of Education.

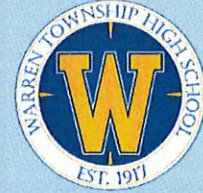
This under-funding is not a new challenge for WTHS. District 121 has only had two approved operating rate referenda over the past 50 years. The last approved operating rate increase was in 2001 for 12 cents.

### Revenue Per Pupil 2020

Lake County High School Districts	Local Sources	State Sources	Federal Sources	Total
Lake Forest District 115	\$31,419	\$886	\$390	\$32,695
Highland Park Deerfield District 113	\$28,619	\$1,162	\$570	\$30,351
Libertyville Vernon Hills District 128	\$28,345	\$1,351	\$248	\$29,945
Adlai Stevenson District 125	\$26,278	\$1,369	\$404	\$28,051
Grayslake District 127	\$19,845	\$7,344	\$280	\$27,469
Zion-Benton District 126	\$15,499	\$8,373	\$1,152	\$25,024
Antioch Lakes District 117	\$18,261	\$4,736	\$261	\$23,258
Mundelein District 120	\$19,874	\$1,903	\$376	\$22,154
Grant Township District 124	\$13,520	\$3,865	\$406	\$17,790
<b>Warren Township High School District 121</b>	<b>\$13,293</b>	<b>\$2,940</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$16,633</b>

Illinois State Board of Education, Annual Financial Report 2020

Referendum Question on the June 28, 2022 Election Ballot



School districts are obligated to educate all students and meet state and federal mandates. Regulations designed to ensure sound educational and financial practices place constraints on school districts that are quite different from those that businesses face when developing budgets. Unlike businesses, revenues for school districts are in large part tied to taxes. There are constraints on how much Illinois school districts can raise their tax levy each year to address growing expenses. In fact, over the past decade, districts have not been able to increase their tax levy by more than 2% annually.

On August 17, 2022, the Board of Education approved a 60-cent operating rate increase question that will appear on the ballot June 28, 2022.

A 60-cent increase would provide approximately \$13.25 million in additional revenue annually, with an estimated annual tax impact of \$200 (\$16.67 per month) per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value.

On August 17, 2022, the Board of Education approved a 60-cent operating rate increase question that will appear on the ballot June 28, 2022.

A 60-cent increase would provide approximately \$13.25 million in additional revenue annually, with an estimated annual tax impact of \$200 (\$16.67 per month) per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value.

This increase will allow the District to continue to maintain current programming for our students and still maintain a relatively low tax compared to Lake County high school districts.

### How would WTHS stack up to its peer districts with a 60-cent limiting rate increase? (Based on FY-2020 Data)

\$100,000 Fair Market Value Impact Would be \$200 Annually (\$16.67 per month)

High School Districts	Local Sources	State Sources	Federal Sources	Total
Lake Forest District 115	\$31,419	\$886	\$390	\$32,695
Highland Park Deerfield District 113	\$28,619	\$1,162	\$570	\$30,351
Libertyville Vernon Hills District 128	\$28,345	\$1,351	\$248	\$29,945
Adlai Stevenson District 125	\$26,278	\$1,369	\$404	\$28,051
Grayslake District 127	\$19,845	\$7,344	\$280	\$27,469
Zion-Benton District 126	\$15,499	\$8,373	\$1,152	\$25,024
Antioch Lakes District 117	\$18,261	\$4,736	\$261	\$23,258
Mundelein District 120	\$19,874	\$1,903	\$376	\$22,154
Warren Township High School District 121	\$16,306	\$2,940	\$400	\$19,646
Grant Township District 124	\$13,520	\$3,865	\$406	\$17,790

Referendum Question on the June 28, 2022 Election Ballot





Whenever possible, WTHS has taken steps to reduce costs and balance its budget through reductions that do not directly impact students. These include refinancing outstanding debt, reducing the cost of employee benefits through a new healthcare cooperative, renegotiating vendor contracts, and completing building improvements to lower operating costs.

However, it has also been financially necessary for the District to reduce 79 staff positions over the last six years. Staffing reductions have an impact on students through increased class sizes, reduced course options and a reduction in academic assistance for students.

Future reductions will continue to directly impact students by moving to a 7-period school day, eliminating activities and athletics, and further reducing academic assistance as early as the 2023-24 school year. Entry-level athletic teams will be eliminated starting in the 2022-23 school year.

The Board has stated that it will allow the District to restore the entry-level athletic teams, as well as preserve current band staffing (which is one of the staff reductions implemented in March 2022) and related programming, and lower the student fees to more normal levels for our families, if a referendum passes. This allowance would be to the extent possible based on the time available prior to the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

### Cost Control Measures

#### Cost Control Measures

- ✓ Eliminated late afternoon, evening and consolidated regular bus routes
  - ✓ Reduced health insurance costs
  - ✓ Refinanced debt
  - ✓ Relocated Special Education Transition Program to the O'Plaine Campus
  - ✓ Renegotiated vendor contracts
  - ✓ Completed building improvements to lower operating costs
  - ✓ Implemented salary freezes for administrators
  - ✓ Staff Reduction Plan (~~66~~ 79 Positions Cut Between 2015 and ~~2021~~ 2022)
- At the March 17, 2022 Board meeting, 13 more staff positions were eliminated effective for the 2022-23 school year. These reductions are identified in red.

#### Staffing and Programming Reductions

- ✓ Staff Reduction Plan (~~66~~ 79 Positions Cut Between 2015 and ~~2021~~ 2022)
  - ~~48~~ 56 Teachers
  - ~~3~~ 4 Administrators
  - ~~9~~ 13 School Support Staff
  - 5 Transportation Staff
  - 1 School Resource Officer

#### Impact to staffing reductions:

- Increased class sizes
- Reduced course options
- Reduction in academic assistance for students

- 9 Science
- ~~9~~ 8 English
- ~~9~~ 8 Social Studies
- ~~7~~ 6 Math
- 4 Physical Education
- 3 World Language
- 3 Social Workers
- 2 Business
- ~~3~~ 2 Special Education
- 1 Industrial Tech
- 1 Library/Media Specialist
- ~~3~~ 4 Guidance Counselor
- 1 Instructional Coach
- 1 Fine Arts

### Staffing Levels 2020

Student-to-Teacher Ratio		Student-to-Administrator Ratio	
District	#Students: 1 Teacher	District	#Students: 1 Administrator
Lake Forest District 115	14.0 to 1	Grayslake District 127	73.1 to 1
Highland Park Deerfield District 113	15.7 to 1	Lake Forest District 115	75.0 to 1
Libertyville Vernon Hills District 128	16.0 to 1	Libertyville Vernon Hills District 128	78.3 to 1
Grayslake District 127	16.9 to 1	Highland Park Deerfield District 113	90.1 to 1
Adlai Stevenson District 125	17.2 to 1	Antioch Lakes District 117	94.0 to 1
Antioch Lakes District 117	17.5 to 1	Mundelein District 120	102.4 to 1
Zion-Benton District 126	17.9 to 1	Grant Township District 124	118.2 to 1
Grant Township District 124	18.1 to 1	Zion-Benton District 126	120.4 to 1
Mundelein District 120	19.6 to 1	Adlai Stevenson District 125	137.8 to 1
Warren Township High School District 121	19.9 to 1	Warren Township High School District 121	193.8 to 1



Illinois State Board of Education, School Report Cards 2020



## News from Business Services and Operations

### Normalizing Student Fees

One of the consequences of the low annual revenue the District currently receives from property taxes has been increases of student fees on families to offset the lower local tax revenue. Currently, the fees for WTHS are abnormally high and much greater than comparable Lake County High School districts.

#### Student Fees for the 2021-22 School Year

Lake County High School Districts	Average Registration Fees	Parking Fees	Athletic Fees	Club Fees
Highland Park Deerfield District 113	\$0	\$360	\$0	\$0
Zion-Benton District 126	\$135	\$100	\$100	\$50
Grant Township District 124	\$136	\$100	\$100	\$0
Antioch Lakes District 117	\$151	\$80	\$30	\$30
Grayslake District 127	\$273	\$150	\$100	\$0
Mundelein District 120	\$275	\$200	\$75	\$50
Libertyville Vernon Hills District 128	\$300	\$170	\$60	\$0
Lake Forest District 115	\$330	\$1,450	\$235	\$0
Adlai Stevenson District 125	\$380	\$320	\$0	\$0
<b>Warren Township High School District 121</b>	<b>\$545</b>	<b>\$340</b>	<b>\$240</b>	<b>\$50</b>

Illinois State Board of Education, Annual Financial Report 2020

Referendum Question on the June 28, 2022 Election Ballot

These are the student fees of the 2021-22 school year.

- Warren Township High School has the highest registration fees of all the high school districts in Lake County at \$545 per student
- WTHS has the third highest parking fees in all of Lake County at \$340
- WTHS has the highest athletic fees in all of Lake County at \$240 per sport
- WTHS is tied with the highest club fees in all of Lake County at \$50 per club

Pending additional funding through an approved referendum in June, the Board of Education has approved lowering the fees to more normal levels for our families. Below is a chart demonstrating the anticipated fees for families, beginning with the 2022-23 school year, both with and without additional funding through a referendum.

#### Student Fees

Current WTHS Student Fees 2021-2022	Registration Fee	Parking	Athletics	Club Fee
<b>Warren Township High School District 121</b>	<b>\$ 545</b>	<b>\$ 340</b>	<b>\$ 240</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>

#### Without Additional Funding

Anticipated WTHS Student Fees 2022-2023	Registration Fee	Parking	Athletics	Club Fee
<b>Warren Township High School District 121</b>	<b>\$ 600</b>	<b>\$ 340</b>	<b>\$ 260</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>

#### With Additional Funding

Anticipated WTHS Student Fees 2022-2023	Registration Fee	Parking	Athletics	Club Fee
<b>Warren Township High School District 121</b>	<b>\$ 200</b>	<b>\$ 200</b>	<b>\$ 200</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>

A reduction in student fees for our families allows WTHS to be more comparable with other districts. The average savings due to the fee reduction would be approximately \$550 per student per year.

Referendum Question on the June 28, 2022 Election Ballot



#### Investing in Our Students

Proposed  
Solution to Our  
Needs

June 28,  
2022  
Election

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A 60-cent increase would provide approximately \$13.25 million in additional revenue annually, with an estimated annual tax impact of \$200 (\$16.67 per month) per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value.



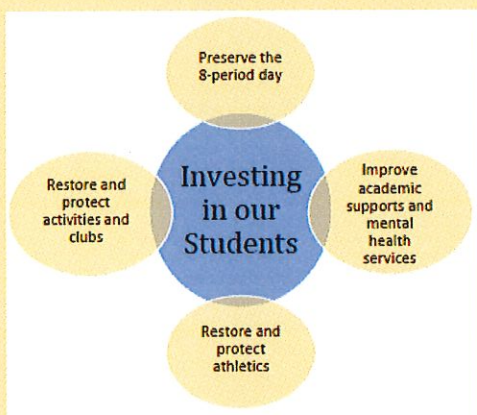
## News from Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocar, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services



With an approved referendum, the Board of Education has committed to restoring the band director position and associated programming for the 2022-23 school year to the extent possible.

Without additional funding, the District anticipates it will need to implement a 7-period school day for all students, as well as the full elimination of athletics and activities as early as the 2023-24 school year.



### Preserving the 8-period School Day

As early as the 2023-24 school year, WTHS may need to move to a 7-period school day (in place of our current eight-period day) due to financial challenges resulting from our low funding.

Preserving the 8-period school day is our most important priority. Students would experience fewer academic opportunities under a 7-period school day if implemented.

Currently, students are able to choose two (2) electives each year. In a 7-period day, students can pick only one. For example, a student at WTHS can now take Spanish AND Band for all four years of high school. This allows the student to fully complete both programs over the course of four years. In a 7-period day, a student would take Band OR Spanish. They would need to eliminate one of those programs from their schedule. **This reduction impacts all our students.**

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*Preserving the 8-period school day is our most important priority. All students would experience fewer academic opportunities under a 7-period school day if implemented.*

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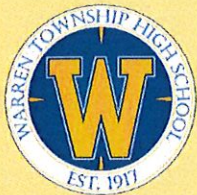
WTHS offers elective courses in Music, Industrial Technology, Art, Business, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and English. WTHS also offers several Advanced Placement elective courses including courses like AP Psychology, AP Computer Science Principles, and AP Human Geography. Students' ability to access these courses would be reduced with the shift to a 7-period day.

The Lake County Tech Campus is one of WTHS' most popular two-year programs. In a 7-period day, only senior students would be able to attend tech campus, even though many of its programs are two-year programs. WTHS also offers many two- to four-year programs in World Language, Industrial Technology, Business, and Band. These programs provide students with certifications, industry credentials, and early college credit opportunities. Students will not remain as competitive for college and career opportunities as they lose access to these outstanding programs.

An approved referendum would also allow our District to maintain our current 8-period day for our students and continue to provide access to many programs that develop important skills for our students to be successful beyond high school.

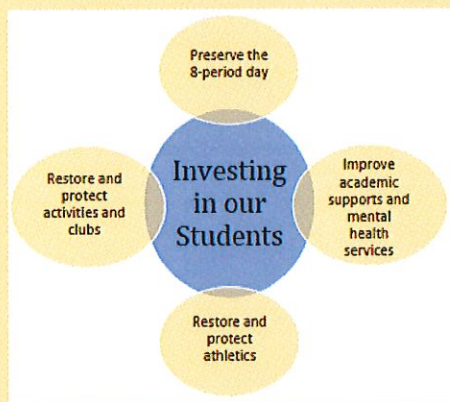


## News from Instructional Services



With an approved referendum, the Board of Education has committed to restoring the post-secondary counselor position at the O'Plaine Campus for the 2022-23 school year to the extent possible.

The post-secondary counselor works with freshman and sophomore students to identify career interests and internship opportunities. The post-secondary counselor also works with students to identify post-secondary education goals aligned with their interests and supports the post-secondary programming for students at the Almond Campus.



### Improving Academic Supports for Students

In addition to protecting the 8-period school day with an approved referendum, WTHS will improve our academic supports to students during the school day. With the reduction in teaching positions, WTHS has reduced the number of resource rooms open during the school day. These resource rooms support students with their writing in the Writing Center, and also provide curricular support in the mathematics and science resource rooms.

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*In addition to protecting the 8-period school day with an approved referendum, WTHS will improve our academic supports to students during the school day.*

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Students who are not able to receive additional support are less likely to be able to catch up on the skills they are lacking, and they are more likely to continue to fall behind.

With additional local funding, WTHS will be able to have resource rooms available more frequently throughout the school day, providing increased access to additional academic assistance.

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



## News from Student Services

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

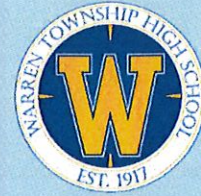
### Improving Mental Health Services

One of the benefits of increased local funding from an approved June 2022 referendum would be increased mental health services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the previously alarming trends in mental health among youth. WTHS, like all schools, has been working to effectively deal with mental health crises for our students. In fact, we will not be able to effectively address our mission of *maximizing the growth and achievement of every student*, without first also addressing mental health needs. Unmet needs may result in social, emotional, or behavioral challenges. Without effective support services, these students may experience reactive and exclusionary discipline practices (e.g., suspensions or expulsions) that further intensify mental health concerns, interrupt access to and participation in learning, limit opportunities, and negatively affect outcomes.

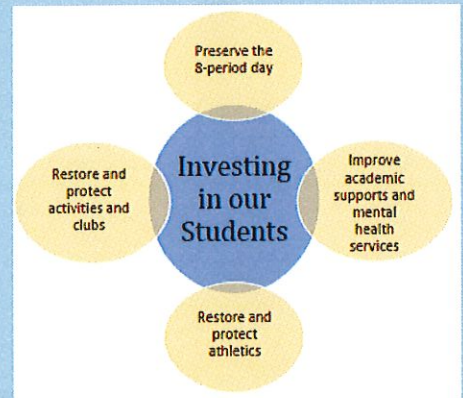
***With additional local funding provided, WTHS will be able to improve mental health services for our youth.***

With additional local funding provided, WTHS will be able to improve mental health services for our youth. Improving mental health services includes leveraging prevention and intervention practices to address the mental health needs of students. It means trying to maximize services at school through the availability of social workers, school counselors, school nurses, and school psychologists. This is not done solely as a response to COVID-19, but rather as an ongoing priority to fully address children and students' overall wellbeing and their full access to education and opportunities.



Since 2015, WTHS has eliminated three social workers and three counselors.

In addition, the ratio of school psychologist to student rate is 1,216 to 1, which is far above any national standards or other local districts.



### Improve Academic Support and Mental Health Services



- Restore math and English intervention programs
- Address critical mental health needs for students

With funding, the Post-Secondary Counselor position to be restored prior to the 2022-2023 School Year, to the extent possible



Referendum Question on the June 28, 2022 Election Ballot



## News About Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics



We are very proud of our long tradition of excellence within the WTHS athletic program.

We have 32 athletic programs and approximately 40% of our students participate.

Without additional funding, the district is planning the elimination of the entry-level athletic team for all sports **beginning in fall 2022**. Sports with four levels of participation will be reduced to three; sports with three levels of participation will be reduced to two; and sports with two levels of participation will be reduced to one, with the entry-level team being eliminated in each case. **These reductions will most likely reduce student participation opportunities for all sports and across all grade levels, as most or all programs will need to make cuts based on ability.**

The Board has stated that it will allow the District to restore the entry-level athletic teams, as well as preserve current band staffing (which is a tentative staffing reduction for March) and programming if a referendum passes in June 2022. This allowance would be to the extent possible based on the time available prior to the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

Without additional funding, **the athletic and activities programs will be eliminated as early as the 2023-24 school year.**

**Restore and Protect Athletics**

WTHS fields more than 30 athletic teams

- Without additional funding a level within each sport program **would be reduced next school year (2022-2023 school year)**
- With additional funding entry level athletic programs for next school year (2022-2023 school year) will be restored to the extent possible

Recreation Services on 10/10/2022 District Board

## Restoring and Protecting Athletics

WTHS has 32 athletic programs.

- Without additional funding, the athletic programs will be eliminated as early as the 2023-24 school year. This includes the elimination of the entry-level teams for each sport in the 2022-23 school year.
- With additional funding, WTHS will continue to offer our athletic program, including the restoration of the entry-level teams for the 2022-23 school year, to the extent possible.

## Reducing Entry-Level Athletic Teams



In April 2021, a referendum question on the ballot for Warren Township High School District 121 fell short of receiving enough votes to pass. As a result, WTHS will need to move forward with reductions to staffing and the elimination of entry-level athletic teams for all sports, beginning in fall 2022.

- Sports with 4 levels of participation will be reduced to 3
- Sports with 3 levels will be reduced to 2
- Sports with 2 levels will be reduced to 1
- In each case, the entry-level team will be eliminated

If the June 2022 referendum is successful, the board will restore these entry-level teams to the greatest extent possible. The earliest this could take place would be at the start of the 2022-23 school year.

Fall Sports	Boys Cross Country Varsity <b>JV</b>	Girls Cross Country Varsity <b>JV</b>	Cheerleading Varsity <b>JV</b>	Devilettes (Dance) Varsity <b>JV</b>	Football Varsity JV <b>Freshmen</b>
	Boys Golf Varsity <b>JV</b>	Girls Golf Varsity <b>JV</b>	Boys Soccer Varsity JV Sophomore <b>Freshmen</b>	Girls Swimming Varsity <b>JV</b>	Girls Tennis Varsity <b>JV</b>
	Girls Volleyball Varsity Sophomore JV <b>Freshmen</b>				
Winter Sports	Boys Basketball Varsity Sophomore <b>Freshmen</b>	Girls Basketball Varsity JV <b>Fresh/Soph</b>	Boys Bowling Varsity <b>JV</b>	Cheerleading Varsity <b>JV</b>	Devilettes (Dance) Varsity <b>JV</b>
	Girls Gymnastics Varsity <b>JV</b>	Boys Hockey N/A	Girls Hockey N/A	Boys Swimming & Diving Varsity <b>JV</b>	Wrestling Varsity JV <b>Freshmen</b>
	Girls Bowling Varsity <b>JV</b>				
Spring Sports	Badminton Varsity JV <b>Freshmen</b>	Baseball Varsity JV Fresh/Soph <b>Freshmen</b>	Boys Lacrosse Varsity <b>JV</b>	Girls Lacrosse Varsity JV <b>Freshmen</b>	Girls Soccer Varsity JV <b>Freshmen</b>
	Softball Varsity JV <b>JV-2</b>	Boys Tennis Varsity <b>JV</b>	Boys Track & Field Varsity <b>JV</b>	Girls Track & Field Varsity <b>JV</b>	Boys Volleyball Varsity JV <b>Freshmen</b>
	Boys Water Polo Varsity <b>JV</b>	Girls Water Polo Varsity <b>JV</b>			



## News About Activities

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

### Restoring and Protecting Activities and Clubs

Warren Township High School recognizes that participating in extracurricular activities is an important part of the educational experience. Our athletic and activity programs offer opportunities for students to learn the values of teamwork, responsibility, competition, diversity, and a sense of culture and community. Extracurricular activities provide a channel for reinforcing the lessons learned in the classroom, giving students the chance to apply academic skills in a real-world context. Our goal is to provide opportunities that make students more well-rounded and create a sense of pride about having what it takes to be a Blue Devil.

*Without additional funding, the district is planning to eliminate activities and clubs as early as the 2023-2024 school year.*

- **Fine Arts** – Band, choir, drama club, fall play, spring musical, children's play, Giggles 'N Bits, art club
- **Competitive Clubs** – Scholastic Bowl, Science Olympiad, Speech Team, Mathletes, FBLA, Youth and Government
- **Leadership and Service Organizations** – Student Council, National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, Students of Service, Council for Exceptional Children, Mother Earth's Concerned Students, Students of Service
- **Cultural Related Clubs** – Avanza, Black Student Union, Spanish Club, French Club, International Club, Muslim Student Association, South Asian Student Organization
- **Publications** – Creations Magazine, *Scratch Paper* newspaper, Yearbook



We have a wide variety of activities and clubs that allow students to participate in their areas of interest, while empowering them to feel more connected to school in general. These activities support our students' social and emotional needs. **Without additional funding, the district is planning to eliminate activities and clubs as early as the 2023-24 school year.**

Over half of the students at WTHS are involved in our student clubs and organizations. They not only offer opportunities for our students, but also provide wonderful services and pride for our WTHS community.

Specifically, for the 2022-23 school year, the district is planning the reduction of 13 staff positions. One of these positions is expected to be a band director position, without which our band programming will be greatly reduced. This includes the elimination of our competitive marching band. The Board has stated that it will allow the District to restore band staffing and programming, to the greatest extent possible, if a referendum passes in June 2022.

### Restore and Protect Activities and Clubs



About  
**3,000**  
WTHS students  
participate in  
activities, clubs  
and/or athletics

Up to 55 clubs and activities would be eliminated, including but not limited to:

- Fine and Performing Arts: (band, choir, fall play, spring musical, art club, etc.)
- Competitive Activities: (Scholastic Bowl, Science Olympiad, Speech, Mathletes, etc.)
- Leadership and Service Organizations: (Student Council, National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, Students of Service, etc.)
- Cultural Based Clubs: (Avanza, Black Student Union, Spanish Club, French Club, etc.)
- Publications: (Yearbook, *Scratch Paper*, etc.)



Referendum Question on the June 28, 2022 Election Ballot



## Voter Information

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### Mail-in Voting

**March 28 to June 23, 2022**

Voters can request a mail-in ballot on the Lake County website..

Ballots are mailed starting June 3.

Your completed ballot may be hand-delivered to the Lake County Clerk's office by 7 p.m. on Election Day, or it may be returned via U.S. Mail with a postmark no later than Election Day and received at the Lake County Clerk's office no later than 14 days after Election Day.

#### Early Voting

**at Lake County Clerk's Office**

**May 19 to June 10, 2022**

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lake County Clerk's Office  
18 N. County Street, Waukegan

#### Early Voting

**at Gurnee Village Hall**

**June 13 to June 25, 2022**

Mon. through Fri., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Gurnee Village Hall  
325 N. O'Plaine Road, Gurnee

**For the most accurate information about voting,  
go to the Lake County website at:**

**Lake County election web address:**

**<https://www.lakecountyil.gov/163/Elections>**

Here is an overview of voting information that may be helpful.

#### Registration

- Check current status: <https://www.lakecountyil.gov/351/Voter-Power-for-Registered-Voters>
- Two forms of identification are required to register through a deputy registrar, both showing current name and one showing current physical Lake County street address and the last four digits of your social security number.
- Additional voter registration locations include the following: Lake County Clerk's office, Illinois Secretary of State Drivers Services Facility, most municipal or township offices, most libraries (Warren-Newport Library does offer this service), Precinct committeemen or Qualified civic organization.

Online voter registration is available until June 12, 2022 at the Illinois State Board of Elections' website ([ova.elections.il.gov](http://ova.elections.il.gov)). You must provide:

- Valid Illinois Driver's License or Illinois State ID number,
- Last four digits of Social Security number
- Date the license or identification was issued, AND
- Your birth date

#### Election Day Voting

is at your assigned neighborhood precinct location  
Check the Lake County website.

**June 28, 2022**

**6 a.m. to 7 p.m.**