

WARREN CONNECTION: 2015-2016 FIRST SEMESTER REVIEW

Warren Township High School District 121



Dear Warren Community:

The Warren Connection: 2015-2016 First Semester Review is designed to share some of the highlights of achievements and activities our students and parents, staff and community members have been involved during the first semester. Please continue to check our District website for more complete and timely information.

Thank you for your interest and support of Warren Township High School District 121.

Sincerely,

John P. Ahlgrim, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



2015 Results on Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

- Pass rate on Advanced Placement exams increased 3.4%
- Warren has 509 AP Scholars.
- 159 scholars scored 3 or higher on 3 or more exams
- 80 scholars scored 3 or higher on 4 or more exams
- 213 scholars scored 3 or higher on 5 or more exams
- 56 scholars scored 4 or higher on 8 or more exams
- One scholar was globally recognized for interest in pursuing university study outside of the US.

Washington Post: America's Most Challenging High Schools

For the 6th year in a row, Warren was named as one of the best high schools in America by the Washington Post. This ranking is based on a ratio of the number of AP exams taken each year, divided by the number of seniors who graduated that same year. Warren ranks #33 in the State of Illinois and #1158 in the United States.

Illinois State Scholars

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission named 192 students from Warren Township High School as Illinois State Scholars. Students are chosen based on their college entrance exam scores at the end of their junior year in high school. As Illinois State Scholars, they are expected to have much potential for success in college, but there is no monetary award for being named a scholar.

National Merit Finalists Recognized

Seventeen students received recognition and scholarships from the national Merit Scholarship Program in the following categories: National Merit Semi-finalists, National Achievement Scholarship Competition, Outstanding Participants and National Merit Commended Students.

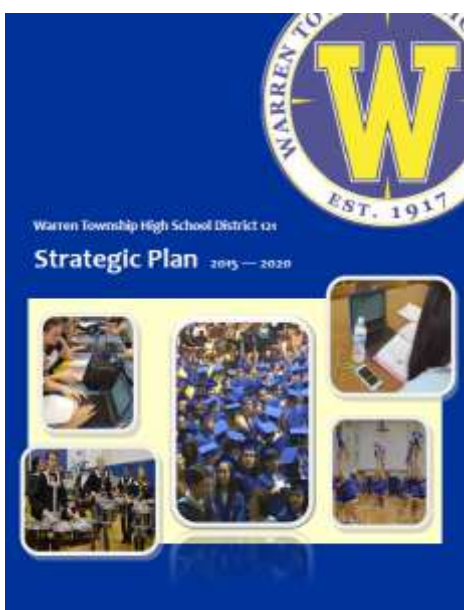
Fast Facts about School Finances



Financial Profile—State of Illinois	
2015	Recognition
2014	Review
2013	Recognition
2012	Recognition
2011	Recognition
2010	Recognition
2009	Recognition
2008	Recognition
2003	Watch

Credit Rating History		
Since 2011	AA+	S & P
2009	AA	S & P
2007	A+	S & P
2001	Baa2	Moody's

Strategic Plan 2015-2020



In the fall of 2015, Warren Township High School District 121 embarked on a strategic planning process to help guide the priorities and work for the school for the next five years. The process was very thorough including a full review of WTHS demographic and performance data, as well as a comprehensive satisfaction survey in which over 2,100 students, 750 parents and 300 staff members participated. Additionally, a diverse committee with nearly 60 stakeholders from the school district and community met with our Board of Education over the course of three months to review the District's mission, beliefs, and formulas for success. A Saturday session was held to solicit more informal recommendations from students, staff and the broader community which were considered in the overall strategic plan.

The strategic plan is a compilation of the strategic planning work. The Board of Education approved this plan on December 15, 2015, and it will be reviewed and

modified as needed annually through 2020. As the strategic plan is modified, updated versions will be available on the District 121 website.

The goals and timelines document provides general focus areas within our school district. Some goals and activities have immediate realization, while others will require some planning prior to implementation. Also included within the plan are the initial Greatness Indicators which were identified to help bring accountability to our plan and results for our students, staff and community.

Thank you to all members of the community who participated in this strategic planning process. Identifying and documenting our continuous improvement efforts are vitally important to ensure we can continue the tradition of excellence at WTHS.

The full strategic plan document is available on the website at

www.d121.org

100 Years of Excellence

Warren Township High School District 121 plans and prepares for 100-Year celebration in 2016-2017 school year.

The Steering Committee has started meeting to plan celebration events for the centennial anniversary.

One to One: One Chromebook for every student



During the fall open house events at both campuses, parents and the community were invited to discover how high school students would use Chromebooks and learn about Digital Citizenship.

- Approximately 4,500 Dell Chromebooks were distributed to students for the district 1:1 initiative.
- Under 10% of the devices were damaged and needed to be repaired. All non-warranty repairs were completed in house by Tech Academy + students.

Tech Academy. Get Certified. Get Noticed.

Tech Academy courses offered by the Business Department at Warren Township High School help students become more productive by increasing proficiency, confidence, and effectiveness in using Microsoft Office programs. The courses are designed to prepare students for industry recognized certifications.

Fast Facts about Technology

Through newly available e-Rate funding for the wireless hardware, the district has had the opportunity to upgrade the wireless infrastructure at both campuses to improve the wireless connectivity. Currently, we are averaging over 1,000,000 wireless authentications a week from students and staff. The internet bandwidth was doubled to a 1 Gigabit for each campus.

Warren's Theatre Students and Drama Club

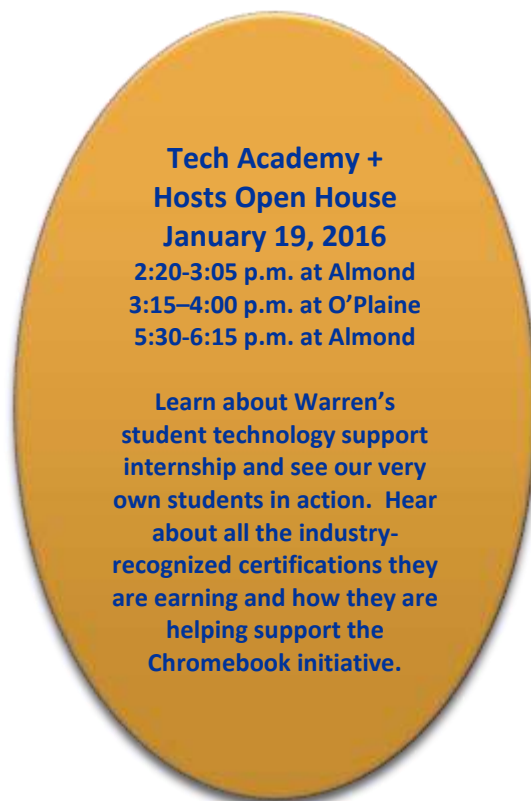


Warren Theatre's Dinner Theatre production was *These Shining Lives* by Melanie Marnich. The show ran from October 8-10. There were 45 students working on this production.

The Warren theatre students presented *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, (abridged)* from October 22 – October 24. Over 80 students were actively involved with this performance.



Two performances of E. B. White's classic, *Charlotte's Web* was featured on December 5th, in conjunction with Breakfast with Santa. More than 70 students worked on this performance as either a cast member, crew leadership or as a crew member.



Students Making a Difference

Warren Township High School students are recognized throughout the school year for their efforts in making the high school a better place and also for demonstrating achievement in a particular department. High school staff members nominate students for the recognition.



The Matter of Pride Award at the O'Plaine Campus and A-Team Awards at the Almond Campus go to students who have displayed positive behavior in one or more of the following areas: academic excellence, academic improvement, making Warren a better place, leadership, and random acts of kindness.

Matter of Pride Awards at O'Plaine Campus

August/September recipients are Markus Lefebvre, Nathan Cibula, Teagon Albert, Griffin Hall, Channel Williams, Daniel Encinas, Niko Ramos, Christian Goeden, Melissa Tamayo-Patino, Myriam Guirado-Urrea, Karen Gomez, Emily Baio, and Seth Leith.

October recipients are Keegan Traver, Frankie Jaimes, Andrew Goger, Jordan O'Bryant, Janhvi Dubey, Elizabeth Carpentier, Jonathan Salazar, Brandon Labak, Abigail Tichy, Jaden Clark, Ayesha Annaqeeb, Jhonatan Morado, Cynthia Tsarpalas, Zachery Andersen, Taylor Krause, and Nicolas Dominguez.

November/December recipients are Claudia Barcenas, Kerri Olzewski, Kyle McCasland, Andres Jasso, Jacqueline Ocampo-Caspeta, Michael Lopez, Sebastian Ruffolo, Saranya Menon, Alexis Schaper, Trixa Manuel, Cora Pack, Jeffrey Phillips, Shivank Gupta, and Nicole Estrella.

A-Team Awards Awards at Almond Campus

August/September recipients are Haley Brock, Teagan Tennerman, April Johnson, Emma Siragusa, Joseph Vandembush, Jonah Kindred, Kyle Farmer, Ryan Bowen, Nikolas Eiden, Danny Usher, Willow Baartz, Rebecca Slawin, Leah Davis, and Richard Lee.

October recipients Eduardo Dominguez, Jaime Lopez-Tenorio, Andres Castrol-Chavez, Morgan Griffin, Santiago Olaya, Zujey Morales, Nkese Jack, Austin Clark, Mikayla Poehler, Spencer Kantner, Julia Dennen, Bea Cuasay, Eric Schmidt, Eduardo Dominguez, Giovanni Diaz, Manpreet Bhalla, and Matthew Boyle.

November and December recipients Raul Nunez-Pena, Abel Salinas, Jamie Alexakos, Nicole Kravtsov, Joseph Raasch, Darrion Jones, Tessa Kauppila, Carolina Loreda-Maldonado, Elizabeth Karlovics, Elijah McArthur, Julian Ruiz, Zachary Clouse, Kevin Mendoza, Ilka Avila, Johanna Bonilla-Recendez, Hannah Freese, Leilani Barrera, Samantha Martinez-Campos, Sabrina Trevino, Orlando Avila-Ortiz, Kathleen Hand, Hannah Keller and Sydney Chuen.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

Warren has one of the largest FBLA chapters in the country. We currently have 413 members who work on projects and activities through the year. The *Caring 4 Kids* Carnival fundraiser on November 14th at the O'Plaine Campus raised funds totaling \$1,311.03. An additional \$805.72 was also raised for *Caring 4 Kids* by members working on a community service event at Great America. Through *No Shave November*, an activity period dime war at the O'Plaine campus, and the remaining monies raised through the event at Great America, a total of \$1,303.90 was raised for the *March of Dimes*.

Student Council

Members of Student Council and National Honor Society coordinated the **Letters to Santa** program which provided more than 1,300 Christmas gifts for students at Reilly School in Chicago. With a limit of \$25 per gift, Warren provided approximately \$32,000 in giving.



In addition, other activities and events that Student Council members worked on were: Homecoming events in September, Red Ribbon Week in October, and coordinating students sending thank you letters to teachers and staff in November. The O'Plaine campus student council members organized a food drive in November and collected 300 cans, which were donated to the Northern Illinois Food Pantry.

Students of Service (SOS)

This group regularly donates time to organizations in Lake County. Groups of SOS students spent many hours working with The Gurnee Village Church to prepare and serve Thanksgiving dinner to sailors stationed at Great Lakes, raking leaves for the elderly through Elder Care, working at Northern Illinois Food Bank and Bernie's Book Bank, volunteering in classrooms in area schools.

Marching Blue Devil Band

The Marching Blue Devils organized a Fill-the-Drum fundraiser in September and raised over \$4,000 for medical expenses for a Warren student.

Football Program

During the fall, seven of the "B" team football players helped clean up Stearns School road by picking up litter and garbage along the side of the roads.

The Varsity football players provided an activity program for the senior citizens at Sunrise Living in Gurnee. Senior citizens played games and enjoyed music during the Christmas holiday.

Sports Marketing Class

The WTHS Sports Marketing class hosts the annual powderpuff game during homecoming week. With the money collected at this event, \$700 was donated to Caring 4 Kids which supplies local needy children with winter clothes. \$500 was used by the WTHS government classes for care package postage and \$400 was donated to the Lurie Children's Cancer Research Center.

O'Plaine Campus College and Career Center

- Hosted Freshmen and Sophomore Fall Seminars with counselors (September and October)
- Hosted the annual Sophomore College Planning and Camino a College presentation in Spanish for our Freshmen and Sophomores (October)
- Hosted a Scholarship Workshop for Freshmen and Sophomores (November)
- Presented to the Tech Academy Foundation, Spanish for Native Speakers I, and Sophomore Reading Readiness classes (October and November)
- Hosted a Connecting the Dots Workshop (November)
- Hosted a Guiding the College-Bound Athlete Night for Freshmen-Seniors (November)

Almond Campus College and Career Center

- Hosted annual Senior College Application Kickoff (August), Junior College Planning presentation, Camino a College presentation in Spanish for our Juniors and Seniors (September)
- Hosted a Common Application Workshop (September)
- Hosted Junior and Senior Fall Seminars with counselors (September and October)
- Hosted a Culinary Arts demonstration with Kendall College for interested students (October)
- Hosted a Scholarship Workshop for Juniors and Seniors (October)
- Hosted a CLC Application Drive for Seniors (October)
- Presented to Contemporary Economics and Government classes (November and December)
- Hosted a Visual & Fine Arts College Night for interested students (November)
- Co-hosted a college planning evening for Special Education students on the Autism Spectrum (November)

Activities and Athletics Achievements

Warren is a member of the North Suburban Conference in the Lake Division. The Lake Division includes: Lake Forest, Lake Zurich, Libertyville, Mundelein, Stevenson, Warren and Zion Benton.



Football: 2nd place in the division, six all-conference athletes

Boys' Soccer: 2nd place in the division, four all-conference athletes and one all-state athlete

Girls' Volleyball: 4th place in the division, two all-conference athletes

Girls' Swim: 4th place in the division, eight all conference athletes, five state qualifiers and one all-state athlete

Girls' Cross Country: 9th place in the conference, one all-conference athlete

Boys' Cross Country: 2nd place in the conference, four all-conference athletes and one all-state athlete

Boys' Golf: 5th place in conference, two all-conference athletes and two state qualifiers

Girls' Golf: 6th place in the conference

Girls' Tennis: 4th place in conference, six all-conference athletes and four all-state qualifiers

Fast Facts about Activities and Athletics

- Warren competed in 28 athletic sports with 84 levels within those sports
- 1,626 students participated on athletic teams
- Cumulative grade point average (GPA) for athletes during the first semester of the 2015-16 school year was 3.42.
- More than 900 students participated in clubs and intramural activities
- More than 1,600 students attended the Homecoming dance which was held in the field house at the Almond Campus. *Homecoming 2015: We Run the World* was this year's theme.

Board of Education Recognitions

At the September 8th meeting, Laura Judge and Haiwen Liu, senior students, were recognized by the Board for having received the highest possible score on the ACT; a perfect score of 36. Nationally, while the actual number of students earning the top score varies from year to year, on average, less than one-tenth of 1% of students who take the ACT earns the top score. Among test takers in the high school graduating class of 2015, only 1,598 of more than 1.92 million students earned an ACT Composite score of 36.

At the September 22nd meeting, the Board recognized the Gurnee Police Explorers, where they competed at the Illinois Law Enforcement Explorer Conference during the summer. This is the first competition for the GPE, who are students ranging from 14 to 19 years old. Warren has three students who are a part of the Explorers group.

At the October 27th meeting, Dr. Ahlgrim congratulated our students for receiving recognition from the Regional Office of Education for Attendance Week, which was held in September. Warren had a 95.77% attendance rate and received 4th place in Lake County.

At the November 17th meeting, Dr. Ahlgrim announced that November 15 was School Board Member Day and he expressed his appreciation and thanked the Board members for their leadership and volunteerism on behalf of the school district, students, parents, staff, and administration.