

WARREN CONNECTION: 2016-2017 FIRST SEMESTER REVIEW

Warren Township High School District 121



Dear Warren Community:

The Warren Connection: 2016-2017 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

Board of Education

John R. Anderson, President
Michael B. Munda, Vice-President
Barb Conway, Secretary
Liz Biondi, Member
Catherine Campbell, Member
Thomas Drake, Member
Jim Walz, Member

**District 121
Earns Two
National
Recognitions**

Washington Post: America's Most Challenging High Schools

For the 7th 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 #37 in the State of Illinois and #1216 in the United States.

WTHS on "Best High School" List

Newsweek released their list of "Best High Schools" and Warren is proud to be on this list in the #32 spot in Illinois and #865 in the United States. The "Best High Schools" list is based on four criteria: 1) Warren students are performing better

than statistically expected in the state, 2) Warren's disadvantaged students are out-performing other disadvantaged students in the state, 3) Warren's graduation rate and 4) advanced placement scores. Since we are in the top 2,000 schools nationally we are the recipient of the Silver Medal Award. We are very proud of this national recognition for our students and staff. We continue to work hard on our district initiatives to provide our students with a rigorous curriculum and a nationally recognized education experience.

Earn a Biliteracy Seal on your WTHS Diploma

Warren Township High School is proud to offer the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy to qualifying WTHS seniors who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in these languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

What is the Illinois State Seal of Biliteracy? This seal certifies that you are biliterate in more than one language. You can read, write, speak, understand another language in addition to English.



After School Tutoring Program (“Study Table”)

WTHS hosts an After School Tutoring Program for freshmen and sophomores students who need academic support. Who can attend: Freshmen participating in IHSA Competitive and Performance based activities that are ineligible during their season, ELL students, Failsafe students, SWS students, Bridges Day School students and ARC students. Subject areas represented are English, Math, Science, Social Studies and Health. Tutoring is available every Tuesday after school at O’Plaine Campus from 3:20 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. A late bus run is offered to these student at 4:55 p.m. No other late run buses will be available on Tuesday. First semester Study Table begins September 6 through December 13. Second semester Study Table begins January 24 and runs until May 16.

Digital Citizenship Program is Underway!

During the month of September, October, November and December, our students discussed the importance of controlling their digital footprint. Students participated in classroom discussions with their teachers and peers, and we shared several other Digital Footprint safety tips with students throughout each month. Resources were sent to parents on Cyberbullying: [Defining, Preventing, and Reporting Cyberbullying](#), [What Parents Can Do To Protect Their Children](#), and [Warren Township High School Bullying Policy](#).

Also provided were resources to our students and parents via the *Student Technology Playbook*. This is a course in *Canvas*, our student Learning Management System.

The program will continue to focus on the driving question: What does it mean to be digitally responsible? Topics for this year include: Sexting, Plagiarism, Addiction to Technology, and Privacy and Security.



District 121 Earns International Recognitions

District 121 Earns International Recognition

This fall, Warren hosted visitors from two different countries to observe some of our flipped classrooms. An Instructional Coach from Australia, Ryan Gill, visited in September. Ryan visited several math classrooms at O’Plaine. He also met with members of the math department, instructional coaches, and some administrators. The discussions during Ryan’s visit centered around increasing student engagement through instructional strategies such as the Flipped Classroom.

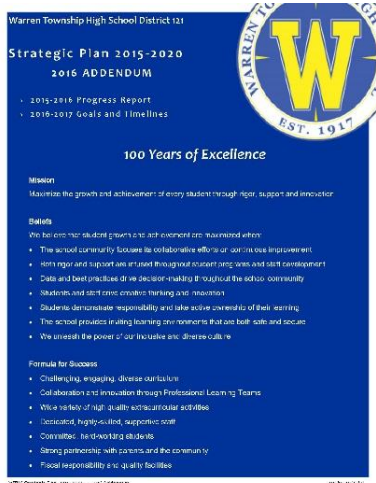
In November, we hosted several faculty members from the POSCO Educational Foundation from South Korea. They are a large school district covering 13 schools in three cities. They learned about our flipped classroom program through the Korean Broadcasting System’s feature piece that we participated in several years ago. They visited math, foreign language, and industrial technology classes during their visit. They also met with teachers from those departments to discuss their instructional methods, as well as what technology is available to our students, and how teachers utilize this technology in their classes.

Warren’s Project Lead the Way Receives Recognition

Warren Township High School was among nine high schools recognized for completion of ten (10) consecutive years of PLTW Engineering participation at the end of the 2015-16 school year. Congratulations to PLTW teachers Ryan McCabe, Brett Heimstead, Josh Greene, Brian Korstanje, Corey Pitchford and Adam DeBaker.



2016 Addendum to the 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 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.

On December 13, 2016, the Board revised the strategic plan to include goals and timelines about reaffirming our commitment to building a diverse community of respect in the curriculum and instruction area, reviewing hiring and professional development practices to support a diverse staff and student body, reviewing our current code of conduct language to ensure strict consequences for those guilty of violating expectations regarding inclusion of others and mutual respect, recognizing and/or establishing student organizations on highlighting unique aspects of different cultures and working together as a unified community, and establishing a parent/guardian committee to investigate school-home connectedness as it pertains to respecting all people and cultures.

Additionally, the goal and timeline to research a more effective website for District 121 has been accelerated to January 1, 2017.

The 2016 Addendum to the strategic plan as well as the full strategic plan document is available on the website at www.d121.org

100 Years of Excellence

During the first half of this school year, Warren hosted over 50 events with a Centennial acknowledgement. A Calendar of Events is published on the District's webpage at www.d121.org



Strategic Plan Update Reports

Reports were provided at regular Board meetings on the following items.



Centennial events were reported at each meeting.

- **September 13, 2016**
An energy update report was offered to the Board.
- **October 25, 2016**
Report on the Strategic Plan Committee work and revisions made to the strategic plan for 2016-17 regarding District 121's website and diversity challenges.
- **November 15, 2016** Diversity work update and Illinois Youth Survey Data
- **December 13, 2016** Diversity and Website Updates

Board of Education Recognitions

At the **December 13th** meeting, The Board recognized Courtney Barker for the fourth consecutive year. Courtney placed 5th in the 100-yard backstroke and 9th place in the 50-yard Freestyle at the Illinois High School Association state competition. With those two medals Courtney finished her high school career with six IHSA state final medals, which honors her as the most decorated girls' swimmer in Warren history.

In recognition of National School Board Member Day today, **November 15**, Dr. Ahlgrim recognized and thanked school board members for their service to the students and staff of Warren Township High School.

At the **October 25th** meeting, Dr. Ahlgrim thanked Mr. Keeley and Mr. Meyer for their recognition of attendance at their campuses during the Regional Office of Education Attendance Week contest. Warren placed 3rd in the high school division.



At the **September 27th** meeting, Dr. Ahlgrim and the Board of Education recognized Six Flags/Great America and the Gurnee Chamber of Commerce for providing a fun-filled day at Six Flags on

September 17. Representing Six Flags were John Krajnak, Director of Marketing and Sales and Jason Altschul, Regional Sales Manager. John Krajnak also represented the Chamber of Commerce. Thank you to many people who participated in this great event, such as the Gurnee 56 Concert Band for their musical performance, the Giggles 'N Bits Traveling Troupe for three entertaining shows, the Buildings and Grounds staff for transporting equipment and WTHS staff who helped during the day. This was a unique opportunity for the Gurnee community to enjoy a beautiful day.



At the **September 13th** meeting, Scott Hagel, Vice President of Communications for the Chicago Bears presented the Board with a Chicago Bears jersey and football, both autographed by

John Fox. The Board expressed their appreciation for the special gifts and for the fantastic community event on August 20.

National Honor Society (NHS)

Members of the National Honor Society volunteer their time providing services to others. During the 2016-17 first semester,

- NHS members assisted students with homework after school on Tuesdays at the *Study Table Program*
- Created supplemental information to support the monthly topic for the *Digital Citizenship Program*
- Volunteered at multiple events to support the Gurnee Park District
- Cleaned a local roadside to support the *Village Roadside Program*
- A large group of students went to the *Feed My Starving Children* program to help package food
- Members collected toys for dogs who are work with the military at the *Barks and Boots Drive*
- Helped with the Band Booster Club, and
- Helped the Athletics Boosters at the concession stand.



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 Nathan Rentas, Caroline Kucharski, Trey Howley, Diego Sotelo, Isabella Kifer, Kevin Farach, Joel Rodriguez, Tim Murray, Jesse Bustamante, Angel Aguilera, Thailyn Oum, Mitchell Reich, Jillian Tapia, Athirai Ambikkumar, and Raven Townsend.

October recipients Suhani Sanchez, Charles Peyton Hines, Connor Lange, Ashley Loisel, Isabella Reyes, Frankie O'Connor, Maggie Dorr, Wesley Tunelius, Christian Watson, Julissa Martinez-Angeles, Makayla Mohajer-Iravani, Angy Cevallos-Quinde, Aykeem Spivey, Vanessa Mays, Jairenne Ofilanda, and Shaun Johnson Samuel.

November/December recipients Edgar Duron-Espinal, Savannah Gallagher, Emily Baio, Joseph Hale, Karen Krause, Carissa Topolinski, Ramanpreet Kaur, Joseph Hennessey, Evan Leden, Jimmy Poremba, Sarah Parmar, Ashley Roeder, Jackie Ambrosio, Sam Aiello, Matt Kroll, Arturo Barrera, Pauline Broeckling, Madison Olms, Timothy Schenk, and Mary "Claire" Turner.

A-Team Awards Awards at Almond Campus

August/September recipients Maria Logue, Michael Rojas, Stefan Radovic, Gabrielle Alcala, Hannah Harrison, Joseph Cha, Kaitlyn Peppler, Nicholas Zblewski, Amanda Stautz, Shubhangi Sharma, Jeffrey Pioquinto, Cesar Rodriquez, Simron Dhali, Sandra Samuel, and Stephanie Frost.

October recipients Barak Diehl, Elizabeth Carpentier, Rajeshwari Prasad, Myrah Beverly, Max Zumpano, Erica Pituk, Matthew Griffin, Ayesha Annaqeeb, Madleen Abdallah, Regina Mannino, Lindsey Hardiman, Nora Maihack, Catalina Romero, Jared Cosey, Monica Sanchez, Ciara Ward, and Alberto Lara.

November and December recipients Kathryn Haynes, Kyle Hauder, Alexandra Batke, Alanna Martin, Amanda Middleton, Alexandra Warda, Jaylen Davis, Gavin Getchius, Victor Perez, Peter Kircher, Karina Aguilar, Houston Malden, Christopher Rosso, Sydney Ross, Shannon Dunn, Simone Johnson, and Macy Weslager.



WTHS Volunteers at Feed My Starving Children



O'PLAINE CAMPUS ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
STAFF VOLUNTEER AT FEED MY STARVING
CHILDREN FOOD PANTRY.

Warren staff and students volunteered time at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville, Illinois.

Eight Tech Team members helped by packing food kits to be sent abroad to ease childhood hunger.

Nearly 12 staff members from the English Department at the O'Plaine Campus offered two hours packing food kits.

Wrestling Program

The Wrestling Program members volunteered at the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Park City and processed thousands of pounds of fresh and canned foods for the community.

Football Program

The Varsity Football program organized a fundraiser at BBQ Productions in Grayslake for the Gurnee Police Department, raising nearly \$130.

Boys' Soccer Program

The Boys' Soccer program held their 5th annual "Kickin' in the Scleroderma" game against the Zee Bees at Zion Benton High School. \$1,106 was donated to the Great Chicago Chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation.

Girls' Volleyball Team

During the first semester, the girls' volleyball team raised \$1,100 for the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides of Lake County" at their Pink game and Making Strides walk.

Marching Blue Devils

A marching band performance showcase was hosted by the Warren Township Marching Blue Devils. The marching bands from Woodland Middle school and Viking Junior High also participated. Over \$3,000 was raised and donated to *Orphans in the Storm*, a Lake County animal shelter.

Trident Robotics FRC Team 4296

The Trident Robotics team organization a donation drive for Orphans of the Storm, a non-profit Illinois animal shelter. Instead of making a financial donation, team members collected items such as blankets, towels, newspapers, pet toys and food for the animals. Team members will visit the shelter to volunteer their time for a day as a team and deliver the supplies.

WTHS Physics Classes

Eight physics classes raised money during the holiday season for the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Small coin and bill collections were made by the students and teachers during this event. The donation amounted to \$123.52. A thank you letter from the food bank said, "I love how quickly change can add up. Please know that we have a company that is doing a matching program until the end of the year, so your donation is being matched for a total of \$247.04! And with our purchasing ability, for every dollar that is donated to the Food Bank we can purchase \$8 worth of groceries. So with the match, your donation will help us purchase \$1,976.32 worth of groceries for our hungry neighbors in Lake County!!!"

Student Council highlights were
Letters to Santa, canned food drive at O'Plaine Campus,
Red Ribbon week activities and Homecoming week activities.

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, Waukegan and Zion Benton.

**SUPERFAN
SPOTTER**



Football: 3rd place in the conference, five all-conference athletes
Boys' Soccer: 3rd place in the conference, five all-conference athletes
Girls' Volleyball: 4th place in the conference, two all-conference athletes
Girls' Swim: 3rd place in the conference, eight all conference athletes, four state qualifiers and one all-state athlete
Girls' Cross Country: 7th place in the conference, one all-conference athlete
Boys' Cross Country: 6th place in the conference, one all-conference athlete
Boys' Golf: 5th place in conference, one all-conference athlete
Girls' Golf: 3rd place in the conference and four all-conference athletes
Girls' Tennis: 3rd place in conference, eleven all-conference athletes and three all-state qualifiers

Fast Facts about Activities and Athletics

- Warren competed in 30 athletic sports with 92 levels within those sports
- Cumulative grade point average (GPA) for athletes during the first semester of the 2016-17 school year was 3.41.
- 112 athletes earned NSC All-Academic Honors
- Number of students who participated in:
 - Athletics: 936
 - Clubs: 1232
 - Competitive Clubs: 185
 - Intramural Sports: 178
 - Performing Arts: 560
- More than 1,640 students attended the Homecoming dance which was held in the field house at the Almond Campus. *Homecoming 2016: 100 Years: Through the Decades* was this year's theme.

