



The Journal

EL students continue to grow through daily support

by I. Susan Kattula

Board of Education Secretary



As a member of the Warren Consolidated Schools Board of Education, it is an honor to serve the students, staff, and residents of this district.

In my capacity as Board Secretary, I am afforded the opportunity to participate in several district events and activities and witness the various accomplishments of the students who attend our schools.

One thing I am most proud of is the fact that Warren Consolidated Schools is made up of such a diverse population of community members. More than 70 languages are spoken in homes throughout the district, including Chaldean, Arabic, Bengali, Albanian, Polish, Hmong, Vietnamese, Spanish, and many more.

Warren Consolidated Schools currently educates 3,540 English Learner (EL) students in grades K-12, and our district falls in the top five highest populations of English Learners in the state of Michigan.

Our district is showing great improvement with our EL population and I am pleased to report that we have exited 12 percent of our students in 2018, and 13 percent of students who took the WIDA ACCESS test in 2019. This is above the state average.

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Summer Bond projects completed on schedule

Bond work continued throughout the district this summer, with several buildings receiving exterior, interior, classroom, plumbing, electrical, and technology upgrades.

Upgrades at Black, Cromie, Jefferson, Siersma, Susick, and Wilde Elementary Schools included: replacing concrete around the site; replacing sinks, toilets, urinals, flooring, and faucets in the restrooms; updating building signage; replacing flooring in the corridor, media center, office, and stage; replacing classroom and gym flooring; replacing drinking fountains and adding water bottle filling stations; upgrading existing fire alarm system operating software; upgrading classroom instructional technology; replacing classroom computers; and upgrading the A/V systems.



Upgraded classroom flooring.

Bond work at Cousino and Warren Mott High Schools included: upgrading exterior masonry; replacing sinks, toilets, urinals, flooring, partitions, and faucets in the restrooms; refinishing the auxiliary gym floor at Warren Mott; replacing gym wall pads, bleachers, and wrestling mats; replacing gym

lockers; replacing gym equipment; replacing window treatments; replacing drinking fountains; replacing shower towers in locker rooms; upgrading building interior lighting; replacing emergency and exit lighting; football stadium lighting upgrades; and new classroom instructional devices.



Newly refinished main gym floor and bleachers at Warren Mott High School.

Upgrades at the Career Preparation Center included: replacing sinks, toilets, urinals, flooring, faucets, and toilet partitions in restrooms; replacing flooring in selected classrooms and office; upgrading window treatments; replacing drinking fountains and adding water bottle filling stations; replacing boiler, pipes and valves; upgrading lighting, emergency egress, exit lighting, and occupancy sensors; and new instructional devices.

The improvements were made possible through a \$134.5 million bond proposal, which was approved by voters in May 2016, to preserve the district's facilities and remain competitive as one of Macomb County's leading school districts.

Students explore career opportunities during Manufacturing Day 2019



Students in Mr. LaFever's Computer-Aided Design (CAD) class get ready to visit the Diversified Manufacturing & Assembly facility.

The Career Preparation Center partnered with several local businesses to explore the exciting world of manufacturing and the diverse career opportunities it offers during Manufacturing Day on October 4.

More than 130 CPC students participated in the initiative that focuses on exposure to the industry to help improve the perception of the field of manufacturing, and expand the understanding of its value to the U.S. and local economies.

Students had the opportunity to visit local business partners to get first-hand exposure to viable STEM careers in areas related to manufacturing, such as, skilled trades, engineering, industrial design, information technology, and more.

"We are so thankful to the business partners who opened their doors to our students to show them the reality of modern manufacturing careers," Chief Academic Officer John Bernia said.

Participants visited the following businesses: FCA Assembly Plant, AIM Computer Solutions, Inc., American Axle & Manufacturing Metal Forming, Luckmarr Plastics, and Diversified Manufacturing & Assembly.

WARREN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS and THE CITY OF WARREN proudly announce

COUSINO HIGH SCHOOL

as one of America's Best High Schools - 2019

as reported in U.S. News & World Report

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English Learner classes are taught throughout the district and are aligned with the Michigan Department of Education's competency-based model. Our staff and Language Acquisition Specialists support our students and schools on a daily basis. The district is committed to providing research-based instruction to support EL students' development of the English language through our multi-tiered system of support.

The district also recognizes the unique linguistic, cultural, and academic needs of its EL student population and has implemented supportive English as a Second Language (ESL) programs for adults to meet these needs. Classes began in September for students ages 20 and older, and are held at Fillmore Elementary in Sterling Heights.

On August 13, I had the privilege of attending a Back-to-School event at the Chaldean Community Foundation where staff members shared essential information with families. We also provided back packs and supplies to 220 families. I am amazed at how hard our staff members continuously work with our families to build a support system and offer tools that assist with developing oral language skills.

I thank all the district staff and families who are committed to student achievement, high expectations and strong relationships.

SENIOR CITIZEN ATHLETIC PASSES AVAILABLE

As a way of saying thank you to our Senior Citizen community, WCS is offering a FREE Athletic Pass to WCS Senior Citizens. Contact the Office of Public Relations at 586.698.4044 to request an athletic pass.

Absence awareness—Don't let absences build up...attend everyday

by Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D.—Superintendent of Schools



As a child growing up in a working-class family in St. Clair Shores, I would often hear my dad say that if you don't go to work, you don't get paid. At the time, I did not appreciate how important this was in shaping my work ethic today.

Over the summer, I took some time to review district data that shows the relationship between students' grades and their attendance in school, which is kind of like going to work and getting paid. Not surprisingly, those students who regularly attend school did far better than those who were absent. In fact, our data shows a direct relationship between grades and student attendance. It also shows how great of a job our teachers are able to do when children are in class.

I ask you to join me in making a strong commitment to getting our children to school. It is an important part of their success now and later in life.

You may also be aware that the state passed a new law earlier this year, making cyberbullying a crime. I strongly encourage you to read the WCS Student Code of Conduct,

available at WCSKIDS.NET, and discuss with your child how to use social media responsibly as the consequences have become more serious for students who cyberbully.

On a related note, this past summer we completed our 3rd phase of bond improvements across our schools. I remain thankful for the community's support of the 2016 bond issue, which has provided us the opportunity to maintain and upgrade our facilities to world class standards. From state-of-the-art classroom technology to numerous infrastructure improvements like parking lots, upgrades to heating and cooling, plumbing, electrical, flooring and new school buses, I am proud to say that our schools are in fantastic shape! Read all about the improvements that took place throughout the district over the summer in this newsletter.

Most important, please join me in thanking ALL our staff members, regardless of the work they do, for providing an outstanding education for your children. Their tireless devotion during these extraordinary times should be recognized. Along with the commitment from our exceptional Board of Education, WCS is strong and continuously providing your child with an opportunity to develop a dynamic future.

Community High Falcon Friends partnership

Community High School partnered with Maple Lane Elementary School for the newly created Falcon Friends program. Community High School students in the program visit Maple Lane twice a month throughout the year to work with diverse learners.

The students will participate in hands-on learning and then journal about their experience. At the end of the school year, students will submit a reflection essay about their experience and earn credit toward their graduation. Currently there are 34 students in the Falcon Friends program.

Area businesses such as Jimmy Johns and Chicken Shack, both in Sterling Heights, have generously sponsored lunch for the students.



District partners with DIA to provide field trips to third graders



Warren Consolidated Schools and the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) are teaming up to provide every third grader in the district with a customized tour during a free field trip to the museum.

The tour, entitled *Shaping Identity*, focuses on literacy and social studies standards. Students will visit exhibits that highlight pieces from different groups of Indigenous people.

"For many of our students, this field trip to the DIA is their first experience in a museum," Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Livernois said. "The DIA is an important resource for our students because art is a tool that can be used to express beliefs, ideas, traditions and identities without using words."

During each field trip, the DIA will provide writing support and interactive activity sheets to help third-graders make connections between art and their own lives, as well as a greater understanding of the art's time period and culture. At the end of their visit, students write short stories about an object they discovered at the museum.

The visits to the museum will also help English Language Learners (ELL) improve their basic vocabulary skills. After the field trip, ELL students receive sentence starters to help them share their thoughts and ideas about their experiences.

The DIA will provide free bus transportation and admission for WCS student field trips beginning in January 2020, as part of the tri-county millage that was passed in 2012.

Around the District...

COURT IN SESSION AT BEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

37th District Court Judge Matthew P. Sabaugh presided over a special court session at Beer Middle School, as part of his *Court in School* program to create public awareness of the court system. The docket included several criminal cases that educated students on the consequences of making poor decisions.



Judge Matthew Sabaugh speaks to students about the legal system and making smart choices as an adolescent.

BLACK ELEMENTARY STUDENTS HEAD TO CAMP

The fifth-grade students from Black Elementary recently visited Camp Copneconic in Fenton for a two-day educational and team building experience. The camp experience promotes caring, responsibility, respect, and honesty among the students who become immersed in team and experiential based programming.



The Black Elementary 5th grade camp group.



Camp strengthened the relationship between students and between teachers and students.

SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE IN GREAT APPLE CRUNCH

Students at Warren Mott, Beer, Green Acres, Lean, and Siersma participated in the 6th annual Great Lakes Apple Crunch on October 10. Students celebrated National Farm to School Month by crunching into apples provided by Westview Orchards in Washington Township. The Apple Crunch encourages healthy eating and supports farm to school and local food initiatives throughout the Great Lakes Region. Apple Crunch was sponsored by the WCS Nutrition Services Department, in partnership with Gleaners Best Food Forward, Westview Orchards, and Michigan Farm to School.



Students were able to sample one of five varieties of delicious Michigan apples.

JEFFERSON STUDENTS OBSERVE PATRIOT DAY

The students and staff at Jefferson Elementary observed Patriot Day with a special ceremony led by Principal Keith Karpinski. Patriot Day honors the memory of those killed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Students and staff gathered around the school's flagpole while Karpinski shared details about the American flag, the true meaning of Patriot Day, and students recited the Pledge of Allegiance.



NEW FACES IN NEW PLACES

WCS is pleased to announce the following administrative changes for the 2019-20 school year:

- Amanda Abernathy**—Special Education Supervisor at the Administration Building.
- Jason Clark**—Principal at Harwood Elementary School.
- Jamie Elkouri**—Assistant Principal at Warren Mott High School.
- Elizabeth Ijkoski**—Principal at Grissom Middle School.
- Jason Kluzak**—Assistant Principal at Sterling Heights High School.
- Christine Lewis**—Chief Human Resources Officer.
- Michael Schulte**—Administrator or State and Federal Programs.
- Chris Shepard**—Assistant Principal at Cousino High School.
- Robin Stanton**—Principal at Beer Middle School.
- Coreen Tremmel**—Principal at Siersma Elementary School.
- Eric Williamson**—Assistant Principal at Beer Middle School.



(Left to right: Michael Schulte, Amanda Abernathy, Robin Stanton, Jason Kluzak, Elizabeth Ijkoski, Chief Academic Officer John Bernia, Jamie Elkouri, and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Livernois.

2019-20 Calendar

- November 1**—K-12 half day; No AM ECSE; PM reports in the AM
- November 5**—NO SCHOOL; District-wide professional development
- November 15**—K-12 half day; AM ECSE; No PM ECSE
- November 25**—K-12 full day; evening parent teacher conferences
- November 26**—K-12 half day; No AM ECSE; PM reports in AM; afternoon and evening parent teacher conferences
- November 27-29**—NO SCHOOL; Thanksgiving recess
- December 2**—Classes resume
- December 20**—K-12 half day; No PM ECSE
- December 23-January 3**—NO SCHOOL; Holiday Break
- January 6**—Classes resume
- January 15**—9-12 half day; High School exams
- January 16**—9-12 half day; High School exams
- January 17**—K-12 half day; No AM ECSE; PM reports in AM; High School exams
- January 20**—NO SCHOOL; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- February 12**—Supplemental Student Count Day
- February 14**—K-12 half day; No PM ECSE
- February 17-21**—NO SCHOOL; Winter Break
- February 24**—Classes Resume
- March 6**—K-12 half day; No AM ECSE; PM report in AM
- March 12**—K-12 half day; No PM ECSE; afternoon and evening Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 27**—K-12 half day; No PM ECSE
- April 3**—K-12 half day; No AM ECSE; PM reports in AM
- April 6-13**—NO SCHOOL; Spring Break
- April 14**—Classes resume; MS/HS Testing Day
- May 1**—K-12 half day; No PM ECSE
- May 22**—K-12 half day; No AM ECSE; PM reports in AM
- May 25**—NO SCHOOL; Memorial Day
- May 26**—Classes resume
- June 6**—High School Graduation Ceremonies
- June 9**—9-11 half day; High School exams
- June 10**—9-11 half day; High School exams
- June 11**—K-12 half day; No AM ECSE; PM reports in AM; High School exams

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WCSKIDS.NET

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Commitment to Equal Access and Opportunity

Nondiscrimination Statement: In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, it is the policy of the Warren Consolidated Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes") be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chief Human Resources Officer: 31300 Anita, Warren, Michigan 48093, (586) 825-2400, ext 63110.

Stay connected...



WCS partners with Gleaners Best Food Forward to bring healthy and delicious food to the community



WCS, in partnership with Gleaners Best Food Forward, is offering Mobile Pantries at several schools throughout Warren.

Monthly truckloads of healthy and delicious foods are available to community members **FREE** of charge.

Families are provided 30 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, protein, milk, and other shelf-stable grocery items.

Mobile Pantries are available at the following schools:

Siersma Elementary—1:30-2:30 pm; November 4, 18, December 2, 16

Warren Mott High School—8:15-9:15 am; November 13 and December 11

Holden Elementary—9 am; November 14

Beer Middle School—8:45-9:45 am; November 15, 27, December 13

Green Acres Elementary—11:30 am-12:30 pm; November 21, December 3, 19

Pearl Lean Elementary—9:30-10:30 am; November 26, December 10

Legal Notice

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires Warren Consolidated Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Warren Consolidated Schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow Warren Consolidated Schools to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local education agencies (LEA's) receiving assistance under the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2015* to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information—names, addresses and telephone listings—unless

parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without prior written consent.

If you do not want Warren Consolidated Schools to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing. Warren Consolidated Schools has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listings
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors and awards received
- The most recent educational agency/institution attended
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A student's SSN, in whole or part, cannot be used for this purpose).

Annual Notices

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The State of Michigan law requires that schools that may apply pesticides on school property must provide an annual advisory to parents or guardians of students attending a facility.

Please be advised that Warren Consolidated Schools utilizes an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to control pests. IPM is a pest management system that utilizes all suitable techniques in a total pest management system with the intent of preventing pests from reaching unacceptable levels or to reduce an existing population to an acceptable level. Pest management techniques emphasize sanitation, pest exclusion and biological controls. One of the objectives of using an IPM approach is to reduce or eliminate the need for chemical applications of pesticides. However, certain situations may require the need for pesticides to be utilized.

As required by State of Michigan law, you will receive advance notice regarding the non-emergency application of a pesticide such as an insecticide, fungicide or herbicide, other than a bait or gel formulation that is made to the school grounds or buildings during the school year. Please note that notification is not given for the infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be notified following any such application.

Advance notification of pesticide applications, other than a bait or gel formulation, will be given by at least two methods. The first method will be by posting at the main entrance to the school. The second method will be posting at the school's main office.

Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school are entitled to receive the advance notice of a pesticide application, other than a bait or gel formulation, by first class United States mail postmarked at least three days before the pesticide application, if they so request. If you prefer to receive the notification by first class mail, contact Kenneth Matheny at Elite Pest Management who is contracted and responsible for all inspections and pesticide procedures. Elite Pest Management can be reached at 586-294-7055. Forms are also available in the main offices of each school.

Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school may review the school's Integrated Pest Management program and records of any pesticide application, upon request.

For more information on the Warren Consolidated Schools Integrated Pest Management program, please contact Kerry Weishaupt, Supervisor of Auxiliary Services at 586-698-4446.

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that each year district workers and building occupants receive notification about asbestos activities such as response actions and inspections. The purpose of this correspondence is to meet those requirements and familiarize you with the asbestos related activities that have been conducted in Warren Consolidated Schools this past year.

Management Plans—In 1998, Warren Consolidated Schools contracted with Asbestos Management Inc. to conduct inspections for asbestos containing material within all district owned buildings. This information was then compiled into Asbestos Management Plans. These Management Plans are kept in each building and are available for review. A copy of each building management plan is also located in the Educational Service Center.

Surveillance Activities—The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) regulation requires surveillance of the condition of AMC every six months and re-inspections every three years. The periodic surveillance was conducted in September 2014. Since the last re-inspection was done in 2016, the next three years re-inspection will be conducted in 2019. Both of these surveillance activities will be included as part of the buildings' Management Plans.

Asbestos Abatement—It is anticipated that Warren Consolidated Schools will need to conduct asbestos abatement within its facilities over the next year removing materials such as, but not limited to, floor tile, floor tile mastic, fire doors and fire door frames. All remaining AMC will continue to be maintained under the Operations and Maintenance Program.

Any removal projects will be performed by a Michigan Licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor and managed by Nova Environmental, Inc., the District's environmental consulting firm.

Asbestos documentation is available for review in each building file and at the Educational Service Center. For information, please contact Kerry Weishaupt, Supervisor of Auxiliary Services at 586-698-4446.