

**EdTalk: October 22, 2021**

**Dr. David Leach, WVCSD Superintendent of Schools**

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If you're a new parent in Warwick, you might be unfamiliar with the Partners in Education Program (PIE). All Warwick Valley Central School District students are eligible to participate in the PIE program. Kindergarten and grades 1-4 typically attend Sanfordville Elementary, while grades 5-6 attend the Middle School.

In the Warwick Valley classroom, PIE strongly links home, school, and community together. Teachers, students, and parents collaborate as partners with the district leadership's full support.

The PIE ideology supports bridging the gap between home, school, and community, providing educators with a helpful support system and parents with a window into their child's learning environment. The PIE program adheres to four pillars: multi-age classroom, family involvement, integrated curriculum, and nature appreciation.

PIE is a multi-age grouping that facilitates non-competitive, collaborative social interaction, and supports children along their development continuum, with students having the chance to be mentors and mentees.

There is a two-year commitment to the multi-age classrooms at the grades 1-2 and 3-4 levels. PIE Kindergarten students commit to the entire school year.

Please visit our webpage under the curriculum and instruction category to learn more about this program. On my weekly radio show, "Your Schools," which airs on WTBQ every Monday at 12:05 p.m., I regularly highlight our academic program.

The following are some of the highlights from our schools in the past week:

#### **Pine Island Elementary School**

The Warwick Historical Society recently visited the 12 kindergarten classes at Pine Island Elementary School. Members of the Historical Society presented a lesson on *Symbols of America*. Students were familiar with and ready to talk about symbols such as the American Flag, Liberty Bell, Statue of Liberty, and Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Members of the society also enriched the conversation by showing, for example, the present American flag with 50 stars, as well as a flag that represented our 13 colonies with 13 stars from the 1700s.

#### **Park Avenue Elementary School**

This week marks Red Ribbon Week at Park Avenue. Red Ribbon Week is our nation's largest and longest-running drug prevention campaign. We strive to achieve the associated goals in age appropriate ways. Each day students are emphasizing important messages in the following

ways: Respecting our bodies and brains; exercising and eating healthy; saying “Boo” to bad decisions; focusing on positive choices for a brighter future; and voting for healthy bodies and minds.

### **Sanfordville Elementary School**

Last week, our teachers conducted review lessons and drills with our students during our “School Safety Week.” These drills included fire, shelter-in-place, hold-in-place, lockout, and lockdown drills. We reassured our students our goal is to always keep them safe while here at school. Each day during the week teachers discussed emergency procedures with students. We ended the week with a formal lockdown drill. Our goal is always to help students feel safe but never frightened.

### **Warwick Valley Middle School**

Our entire student body has banded together to raise awareness for breast cancer. Last week, we shared facts about the disease through our morning announcements. Our culminating event was our Friday’s Pink Out Event. Students and staff wore pink, and to raise money for the American Cancer Society our student senate offered temporary tattoos, bracelets and pictures in our photobooth.

### **Warwick Valley High School**

Under the direction of Carrie Lynn Taylor, the journalism classes have submitted their first edition of The Survey. The writers submitted stories and editorials surrounding issues of student interest as well as national and world news events. The Survey is going to print any day now. Meanwhile, Therese McLoughlin’s Yearbook students are designing the 2022 yearbook cover. Students collaborated with each other to decide on colors, fonts and designs for the first draft. It promises to be a well thought out and creative design.