

EdTalk: September 3, 2021

Dr. David Leach, Superintendent of Schools

For students and teachers, the opening of the Warwick Valley Central School District school year is a memorable and important time. Our teachers do everything to alleviate their students' apprehension about beginning a new class and making new friends. They devote time to co-creating the classroom norms and values that will guide the class throughout the year. Teachers dedicate time to helping students learn each other's names and get to know one another. They value the children's input and give them ownership of these norms. And, of course, they make learning fun!

The following are some of the highlights from our schools:

Pine Island Elementary School

After navigating detours and washed out roadways, our 226 kindergarten students arrived at school for their first day ever! Our youngest students had physical education, art, music, and STEM classes. All of the kindergarteners toured the school and had the opportunity to meet some important people - the nurse, secretary, custodian, and our new school principal, Dr. Marijane Reinhart.

Park Avenue Elementary School

To ensure a successful year, the teachers and other staff participated in professional learning and planning activities on Wednesday, September 1. Teachers were seen throughout our school building putting the finishing touches on supportive learning environments. Parents and teachers met at the PTA's Ice Cream Social while students enjoyed their ice cream treats. The students were eager to return and, despite the storm, were able to enjoy outdoor recess.

Sanfordville Elementary School

The PTA hosted an Ice Cream Social on Monday, August 30, for our students. The next day, students who were new to the district came in for an orientation and tour. Teachers attended briefings, prepped their classrooms, and participated in a grade-level "Meet and Greet." On Thursday, the students were overjoyed to be back in the cafeteria, gymnasium, art, music, STEM lab, and the library!

Warwick Valley Middle School

This year, we are excited to bring a new math textbook into our classrooms. Our math teachers have been working hard to plan lessons and differentiate materials to meet the needs of all students. The new program includes a comprehensive digital component that will allow teachers to personalize each student's learning.

This year's middle school theme is #tellyourstory. Students and faculty were asked to write a story about how they see this school year unfolding. They were also encouraged to share their goals for the year. These excellent stories help everyone get engaged and ready for learning!

Our students were thrilled to be back in the building and even more delighted to eat lunch in the cafeteria.

Warwick Valley High School

Four students were selected for the NYSSMA All-State Performing Ensembles. Last spring, thousands of students from across New York State auditioned for this honor. The All-State Festival will take place December 2-6. The students who were selected are:

Eamon Comiskey, Clarinet, Symphonic Band
Isabelle Flores, Jazz Soprano Voice, Vocal Jazz
Caitlyn Moran, Jazz Soprano Voice, Vocal Jazz
Aiden Woods, Jazz Alto Saxophone, Symphonic Band

Congratulations to these four students and their teachers, Mr. Chris Persad and Ms. Noreen Hanson, who prepared them to succeed.

High school sports have also begun and many teams are playing their first games. It was great seeing fans back at C.Ashley Morgan Field on Friday night as our football team opened its season at home against Valley Central!