

EdTalk: March 11, 2022
Dr. David Leach, Superintendent of Schools

For nearly a decade, the Warwick Valley Central School District has been at the forefront of technology integration. The district has improved its technology infrastructure and given teachers and students more access to technology.

We were ready when the pandemic began. The District's instructional technology facilitators (ITFs) in each building helped the teachers with the deeper integration of technology into their curriculum in new and innovative ways.

One model that the ITFs used to explain the technology integration was SAMR. The SAMR model involves the substitution, augmentation, modification, and redefinition of materials in the classroom:

- Substitution: Technology acts as a substitute, with no functional change.
- Augmentation: Technology acts as a substitute, with functional improvement.
- Modification: Technology allows for significant task redesign.
- Redefinition: Technology allows for the creation of new tasks that were previously inconceivable.

When teachers are first introduced to this kind of teaching tool, they often focus on how technology can replace traditional materials, such as converting lessons and worksheets into digital formats.

These are important steps, especially when the District was entering into the pandemic. However, the last two levels of the SAMR model – Modification and Redefinition – should also be utilized. At these levels, students become owners and producers of their work across platforms of media. They are even participating in digital forums with other peers around the world.

Technology integration is not determined by staying at specific levels of the SAMR model. In fact, technology integration can happen at any level. It is about being aware of all of the options for a curriculum or a classroom and deciding which level is best suited for the situation and students.

Here are some highlights from our schools this week:

Pine Island Elementary School

Pine Island kindergarten students and staff had a fun time celebrating literacy with Dr. Seuss Week. On Monday, students read *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*, and everyone wore their favorite color from head to toe. There were many students dressed in blue and pink. Orange was a popular color too. On Wednesday, teachers and students read "*Wacky Wednesday*," and there were many crazy hats and crazy looking hairstyles in the hallways. Kindergartners walked the halls with green, blue, and red hair in ponytails and pigtails. There were Wildcat hats, and, of course, Dr. Seuss hats, along with baseball caps and beautiful flowered bonnets. The book of the day on Thursday was *Fox in Socks*. Students and staff rolled up their pants and wore all different kinds of crazy socks. On Friday, they read "*The Cat in the Hat*." Everyone dressed up in stars and/or stripes or their favorite Dr. Seuss character. There were lots of smiles, giggles, and high fives all around the building.

Park Avenue Elementary School

The Traveling Trunks Team from the Warwick Historical Society visited third-grade classes to present their very popular interactive lesson, "Barn Raising: Men's Work on the Farm, a STEM lesson." For this lesson, historical society member John Johansen taught students how barns were built during the 1800s, why barns are painted red, and how they moved a barn five miles in Warwick! The Warwick Historical Society, which holds a number of workshops with our students each year, has kept 12 historic sites and a lot of other things from Warwick safe for more than a century.

Sanfordville Elementary School

Our first-graders celebrated 100 days of school. Each student made fun shirts with "100 things" attached to them. They couldn't wait to share and count their 100 things. Some shirts included 100 buttons, coins, fuzzy balls, ink dots, footprints, Legos, candy hearts, gum balls, and more! Students wrote about being 100 years old and played math games with hundreds of charts. Some classes did 100 different exercises, read for 100 minutes as a class, read 100 day books, and did a coin flip 100 times. A fun day was had by all!

Carla Overbey's third-grade students explored nonfiction texts as they researched important African-American figures in our history. Students were able to choose their person to research, study important facts, write informative biographies about their contributions, and then share what they learned with their classmates.

Warwick Valley Middle School

We held our parent and student orientations for our incoming fifth-graders. The parents of our current fourth-graders came to the middle school to learn about our programs and how our days are structured. Their informational session concluded with student-led tours. The parents enjoyed seeing the building and speaking with our Wildcat Student Ambassadors. Our Park Avenue fourth graders visited the middle school. They had the opportunity to try some of the food our cafeteria has to offer. They were also able to spend time asking our Wildcat Ambassadors questions about middle school and touring the building. The students were excited to see our recently renovated media center and new learning spaces. A few older siblings stopped by to see the fourth-graders, which made them all very excited. It was a great morning for all involved, and we are looking forward to welcoming them to the middle school in September.

Warwick Valley High School

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!! A big congratulations to the following teams and individuals for taking home the sectional titles and moving on to the state tournaments.

The Girls Varsity Basketball team won their first section title in 11 years. They defeated Monroe Woodbury High School in the championship game at Sullivan County Community College last week. The team consists of Brianna Brookins, Sarah Davis, Megan Desrats, Natalie Evans, Courtney Evans, Lindsay Evans, Melina Garby, Michaela Germain, Paige Girardi, Regan Kelly, Siobhan Kelly, Kiera Larney, Annie Lincoln, Dariel Patterson, Meghan Selvaggio and Jesse Tagg. They will play the Section 1 Champion on Tuesday night at Kingston High School.

Jessie Abramson took home the 200 meter and 500 meter boys' swimming titles at the OCIAA Division II Championships. And, at the time of this writing, he is headed to Ithaca to compete in the state meet. We have been so excited for Jessie!

Many athletes on the Winter Track and Field teams brought their A game to the section meet and came home with the titles including: Soria Roberts, Katherine Finnerty, Erin Smith, Julia Singh and Nathalia Evelyn in the 4x400 relay; Luke Beattie and Lilly Beattie in the Pole Vault; and Tabitha Peterson in Weight Throwing.

And, Alex Greco was the Section IX Wrestling Champion in the 118-pound division. He will continue on to the State Wrestling tournament. We wish him the best of luck.

GO WILDCATS!