

WVCSD EdTalk: July 20, 2022

Dr. David Leach, Superintendent of Schools

The Warwick Valley Central School District works hard every summer to update its buildings and grounds to improve the teaching and learning environment for its staff and students. This summer, we are working on quite a few projects that involve federal grant funds, a capital improvement project that was approved by voters last December, and other in-house maintenance and improvement projects. Here are just a few:

A storage area in the high school is being converted into a new technology classroom. The buildings and grounds team has installed new walls, cabinetry, ceilings, tables, and a heating unit. The wood floor has been refinished, and there is now a classroom and a technology lab area. The room will house the Electric Car course, a STEM project-based course where students perform basic assembly steps and investigate the environment, resource issues, and alternative sources for fuel and energy.

Intensive work is being done to create a new culinary room at the high school. The staff are installing or upgrading plumbing, electrical, and gas connections, as well as kitchen appliances. The room will have a similar layout to the middle school's culinary room. Two classrooms next to the Wildcuts Salon will be combined into one big room with two learning spaces separated by a glass wall and a door.

Approximately 12 classrooms at the High School will receive new vinyl click flooring. This is a continuation of a multi-year project, as 80 percent of the school's floor space currently has new flooring.

In addition, 430 new wide lockers will be installed in October. These spacious lockers make it easier for students to store their backpacks and other items.

A new rubber roof will replace a 50,000-square-foot section of the high school's old foam roof, which requires constant maintenance. Crews are removing the lobby ceiling and installing new ductwork and insulation. The old ductwork and air handling units in the two cafeterias are being replaced with new ones.

The parking lot, north road, and bus lot of the middle school will be resealed and restriped.

All of the schools are re-coating their gyms to protect the wood and make sure the floor is safe.

A contractor is installing new vinyl click flooring on the second and third floors of Park Avenue Elementary School. Our team is also painting classrooms and the stairwells.

At Sanfordville Elementary School, a chiller unit that provides air conditioning to the building will be replaced in September. The district has identified this as an emergency project, meaning that although it will be paid for through the general fund, approximately 55 percent of the cost of the project will be reimbursable.

With BOCES moving its classrooms from Sanfordville to Pine Island Elementary School, where it will rent the building from the district, five classrooms at Sanfordville are being updated. New cubbies and desks, which came from Pine Island, are being installed, and the rooms are getting a fresh coat of paint.

Also, contractors are finishing up the replacement of 37 interior doors to complete a multi-year door replacement project for the school.

New LED lighting will be installed on the existing light poles at the high school field by District staff. In November, demolition work will begin on the track and field. Both are funded through the capital project.

UVC lights are being installed in the classroom unit ventilators across the district—approximately 1,000 in all. They work by sterilizing the air and returning it along with fresh air into the classrooms. These are being paid for through a federal grant the district obtained last year.

Concrete pads for the outdoor classrooms—approved through the federal grant—are being installed this summer. The structures will be installed once they arrive, most likely in October. There will be two high school outdoor classrooms, two middle school classrooms, one Park Avenue classroom, and one Sanfordville classroom.

Construction has also begun on the exterior bathroom at the high school field. The others will be built at the middle school and in Sanfordville afterward.

Here are some highlights from our schools this week:

Park Avenue Elementary School

Staff members are continuing their summer work to ensure a smooth and great start to the school year. Members of the School Culture Team are refining some of their efforts pertaining to Park Avenue's PBIS/ROAR system. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports is "an evidence based approach meant to create positive, predictable, equitable, and safe learning environments" for everyone. Our team designed Park Avenue's behavioral matrix to communicate the behavioral expectations to all students in a very clear manner. It leverages the use of the acronym R.O.A.R, which highlights respect, outstanding choices, acceptance, and responsibility as important school and community values. Members of the School Culture Team are preparing presentations for both staff and students to help cultivate a common understanding of these expectations and to share the celebratory acknowledgements for students that exhibit these traits on a consistent basis.

Sanfordville Elementary School

The elementary teachers have been busy this summer completing a variety of important curriculum work. Some examples of these collaborations include: the Grade 3 teachers diving deeper into the Fountas and Pinnell Word Study program; the Kindergarten team unpacking

work study as well as gaining a better understanding of the shifts in the literacy standards; the elementary report card redesign team meeting to tweak the reading, writing, and math report card indicators and grading rubrics, the art teachers designing new multidisciplinary units; and the PIE teachers focusing on math professional development and curriculum writing of new interdisciplinary units.

Warwick Valley Middle School

Our summer academy students have been working hard this past week. Many of our students are reading the historical fiction novel, "My Brother Sam is Dead." The book takes place in Redding, Connecticut, during the American Revolution, and is told from the perspective of a young boy, Tim Meeker. The novel details Tim's brother, Sam, and his desire to fight for the Patriots, despite his father's opposition to the war. Ultimately, Tim is forced to decide between siding with his brother and joining the colonies' war efforts or abiding by his father's anti-war wishes. The students are engaging in discussions about life during the American Revolution and what pushed Tim to feel the way he did.

Warwick Valley High School

Summer school students and teachers have been working hard on their coursework. With one third of the program already completed, participants are gearing up for the August Regents exams and gaining credits for graduation requirements.

This week, history teachers have been writing a robust curriculum for ninth grade history coursework. Beginning in 10th grade, students have an opportunity to take three Advanced Placement (AP) level history classes prior to graduation. The work being done on the curriculum will include AP themes and writing skills that will give students who will take AP classes later in high school a stronger foundation.

The Warwick Police Department began hosting a Junior Police Academy at the high school. This is the first of two two-week programs that are offered to the Town of Warwick students between the ages of 8 and 15. The coursework outlines the basics of police work and entails field trips to West Point, Cho-Sun Martial Arts, and the Orange County 911 center, along with other exciting ventures. The students will also learn CPR, about canine officers, and motorcycle and bicycle patrol.

This week, over 70 athletes enjoyed the Warwick Valley High School Summer Girls' Basketball Camp. Members of the girls' varsity basketball team work with younger athletes in the community on skill development and team building. The older girls show the younger girls how to play offense and defense and help them with games and other activities.