

WVCSD EdTalk: October 26, 2022
Dr. David Leach, Superintendent of Schools

The author of a recent Chronicle of Higher Education article, Audrey Williams June, discussed a recent study on why high school graduates between the ages of 18 and 30 dropped out of two- or four-year colleges – or never enrolled. Over 38% of the 1,675 respondents from seven states said it was too expensive and they did not wish to incur (more) debt. The tuition at SUNY schools is a fraction of the average cost of a private college in the United States, with a higher average graduation rate and a lower average debt load.

That makes the upcoming **applySUNY** admission fee waiver week by the State University of New York (SUNY) the perfect time to take advantage of two valuable opportunities at once.

Beginning on October 24 and continuing through November 6, SUNY is allowing students to apply for admission to up to five SUNY campuses with no application fee. Students will not need a special code to access the application promotion, as long as they submit their applications during the two-week free application period. Students may use either the **applySUNY** application or by using the Common App to submit up to five free SUNY college applications.

Students will be able to apply through the SUNY website, at www.suny.edu/apply. The **applySUNY** landing page also includes one-click access to detailed application instructions, Frequently Asked Questions about the program, a list of SUNY Admissions offices, and a list of SUNY campuses that accept the **applySUNY** application.

Two ways to apply...

ApplySUNY Users

When you get to the payment page, it will show the first five campus application fees as waived. These are the applications that will be paid by SUNY.

Common App Users

You must apply online, campus by campus. During the process, each SUNY page will indicate the following: *"It is free application week with The State University of New York through November 6th! Would you like SUNY to pay your application fee?"* Select "Yes" and your fee will be waived for that SUNY school.

In addition to **applySUNY** fee waiver week, SUNY also offers ongoing fee waivers that apply to 60 percent of all NY high school seniors. I encourage students and parents to take advantage of the upcoming **applySUNY** fee waiver week, and to check eligibility for these similar waivers that are provided annually by SUNY.

Here are some highlights from our schools this week:

Park Avenue Elementary School

Student Council members began their first service project of the year, planning for Wreaths Across America! The organization "touches the lives of thousands of school, scout, civic, and religious groups across the country through fundraising for wreath sponsorships." They ensure our fallen heroes are acknowledged by placing wreaths on their graves.

Fourth graders, led by Mrs. Amy Buliung and Mrs. Theresa Canfield, started by sending home fliers to all Park Avenue families seeking donations to help purchase the wreaths. With the help of our PTA, the students shared an inspiring video on how wreaths are made, along with a special appeal asking for donations by email and on social media. If interested, please send donations to Park Avenue by November 9. Although wreaths are \$15 each, any donation amount is welcome. Please make checks payable to Park Ave PTA.

Sanfordville Elementary School

K-2 students were excited and curious to learn about fire safety from the Warwick Fire Department. The firefighters taught the students the difference between toys and tools, what to do if they see or smell smoke, how to 'stop, drop, and roll', and not to be afraid of a firefighter in his or her full gear. Of course, the highlight was students getting to spray a real fire hose! Thank you to the WFD for the fire hats, cards, and key chains!

Fourth-grade students celebrated the end of their Reader's Workshop launch by creating a Google Slides Virtual Book Recommendation for their peers. The virtual book recommendations had to identify the title and author of the book, and the genre, provide a main summary with the five concepts of retelling, write a statement that will entice others to read their book and review it utilizing a 5-star system. This project was a culminating learning activity of all the reading skills learned up to this point in fourth grade. Students thought about the books they chose to read and liked talking about them with their classmates in the classroom.

Warwick Valley Middle School

The Student Senate began working on their first service project of the school year! Last Friday, October 21, was our 6th Annual Pink-Out Day to raise awareness and fundraise for cancer research. This year we are collaborating with the American Cancer Society. Our Student Senate sold t-shirts, socks, and headbands all week, and on Friday, we celebrated our efforts with a DJ at recess, face painting, and a photo booth. The students learn the importance of giving back and helping those in need.

Last Thursday, members of our SADD Club celebrated the start of Red Ribbon Week by attending the ribbon-tying ceremony at the Goshen Government Center. WVMS sponsored a ribbon that will be on display during Red Ribbon Week. The campaign, sponsored by the National Family Partnership, takes place yearly from October 23–October 31. This year's theme is "Celebrate Life. Live Drug-Free," a reminder that Americans make significant daily contributions to their communities by being their best drug-free selves!"

Warwick Valley High School

Each fall season, the college application process begins for juniors and winds down for seniors. High school juniors and their families begin investigating which college or university could be a

good fit for them based on location, major, and cost. College visits usually take place during the year, and by the end of the school year, students have developed a list of schools they will apply to in the fall. Seniors have begun the application process by submitting their applications and collecting letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, and other professionals that can speak to their character. Families also begin to look for financial assistance and review student loan options.

The high school hosted a College Fair and Financial Aid Night with representation from nearly 100 colleges and universities along the east coast. Hundreds of families attended to learn about schools that piqued their interest as well as schools with which they were unfamiliar. Dozens of parents attended a financial aid presentation by Marist College. Options for federal and state loans were discussed, as well as what qualifies a person to be considered for each. No matter where these families are in the college application/selection process, they enjoyed the essential and helpful information available on Wednesday night.