

## **WVCSD EdTalk: October 5, 2022**

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

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High school seniors are likely to be submitting their college applications right about now, a time of year that can be difficult for everyone involved, from the student to his or her family.

Warwick Valley High School's counselors look to alleviate this tension through thoughtful planning and by increasing students' and parents' knowledge of the college application process. Breaking down related tasks by high school year helps to relieve some of the anxiety. Like with everything else in life, having a plan helps you remain on course, organized, and less anxious.

High school counselors offer ongoing support for post-high school preparation to all students, regardless of their post-high school goals. Individual meetings, college and career fairs, college admissions, and financial aid seminars are just a few of the ways students and families can get assistance. So, here are a few examples of what our high school counselors do to help our students.

The "College Kickoff" on September 29th was a lecture for parents and guardians interested in learning more about the college admissions process. Counselors provided general information about college applications, letters of reference, college visits, essay writing, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act waiver, and the NCAA clearinghouse to participants.

A presentation on financial aid will be held on October 19th where the financial aid process and how it works in college financial aid offices will be discussed. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), types of financial aid, and the anticipated family contribution were also discussed. Don't let the initial cost be the sole deciding factor. Many private colleges offer generous financial aid packages to entice students from all socioeconomic backgrounds, making them as accessible, at times, as less expensive public universities.

Visits from more than 70 college representatives are scheduled throughout the year. Students can meet with representatives from colleges and universities from across the country in person during their lunch and electronically after school. These representatives often review their applications and make admission decisions.

Students in the 10th and 11th grades will take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) on October 15th at 7:45 am. It is planned for juniors and sophomores who want to learn more about standardized testing and how it relates to college admissions. Students who take the PSAT will receive a score report that breaks down the test by topic, allowing them to see where they need to improve before taking the SAT. The College Board and Khan Academy have teamed up so that students who receive a code with their PSAT score report can obtain individualized SAT practice through Khan Academy. For juniors, PSAT scores are used to determine eligibility for the National Merit

Scholarship Program. Students received information about signing up for the exam in their English classes a few weeks ago.

A Parent Information Night scheduled for January 26th will provide information on local scholarships. Typically, a large portion of a student's financial support comes from the federal government and the university. However, community organizations in Warwick have been generous with their support through granting local scholarships. For many years, a low percentage of students applied for these local scholarships.

There isn't a perfect university. Students will be more engaged in the application process if they have a variety of options and are not focused on one school. Students should also know they do not have to figure out what they want to be when they grow up. Majors are typically switched two or three times during college, and college graduates often change careers several times during their lifetime.

The Warwick Valley High School staff is willing to help and able to answer many of your questions. We're here to support our students and families!

***Here are some highlights from our schools this week:***

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

Ms. Martimucci's second grade art students are working through a printmaking unit using Andy Warhol as their artistic inspiration. Warhol focused on creating art that was vibrant, ironic, and made for the "masses." Using this information as a springboard, students were asked to partner up and create their own prints, with students switching roles between printmaker and assistant each week to experience the unique aspects of both roles. Students created clean prints, using our printmaking materials safely and correctly, then shared feedback with one another. Comments included, "Everything was fun; I enjoyed using the materials" and "I like having a partner because you can give each other ideas and be helpful."

During Ms. Cangialosi's STEM class, kindergarten and first grade students completed station rotations focusing on the theme "*How to be an Engineer!*" Stations provided students with practice circulating the room, transitioning to new activities, and completing specific STEM activities at each. Activities included building cubes, coloring, using Play-Doh and LEGO bricks, using scissors properly, working with building toys called Jenks, and using fine motor skills to learn how to use tweezers. The students loved the diversity of the activities!

#### **Sanfordville Elementary School**

Sanfordville parents and guardians recently visited the school to learn more about the upcoming school year. Prior to visiting their kids' classrooms, Principal Maraia gave a presentation on Title 1 and welcomed parents into the cafeteria for grade-level parent meetings. She introduced the grade level teams of teachers, Encore teachers, and service providers. She gave a brief overview

of our district's mission to prepare every student for their future through the lens of the Portrait of a Graduate. Then parents headed to their children's classrooms to meet with the teachers and learn more about classroom expectations and routines as well as the grade level curriculum.

### **Warwick Valley Middle School**

The motivational organization, Sweethearts and Heroes, visited WVMS this week. The focus of their assembly was to educate our students on the impact of bullying and share ways to be an upstander when they witness such behavior. We were fortunate to have the organization conduct an assembly with our fifth and sixth graders and an additional session with our seventh and eighth graders. Our seventh and eighth grade Wildcat Ambassadors spent some time with presenter Tom Murphy learning about how to be an everyday leader. We can't wait for Sweethearts and Heroes to come back in January. They will meet with other classes to talk about dealing with problems and being kind.

### **Warwick Valley High School**

The motivational group, Sweethearts & Heroes, also visited WVHS to address ninth and tenth grade students with their message of H.O.P.E. Their main focus was to educate students on the impact of bullying, build empathy and compassion in our youth, and develop young sweethearts and heroes by promoting bystander empowerment through leadership roles.

Hundreds of students showed up to the annual Electives Fair with an interest in joining one of the more than 50 clubs represented at the event. The clubs focus on community service, academic subject areas, personal interests, hobbies, health and wellness. The fair was a huge success, giving students opportunities to take part in the school community in ways that align with their interests and passions.

Congratulations to the students below who have been chosen as commended scholars by the National Merit Scholarship Program:

- Noah Adelsberg
- Thomas Kanz
- Hunter Ludovicy
- Julia Singh
- Trevor Stevens
- Camren West

These students scored among the top 50,000 students out of approximately 1.5 million on the PSAT examination last October. Students who get a commendation are recognized for their great academic potential because they scored in the top 3% of those who took the test.