

WVCSD EdTalk: December 21, 2022
Dr. David Leach, Superintendent of Schools

The Warwick Valley Central School District is fortunate to have not been adversely affected by the recent nationwide teacher shortage. Despite experiencing a decline in the number of teaching candidates, we have, so far, been able to meet our hiring needs.

The teacher shortage across America is a complex issue. The challenges of filling teaching vacancies emerged as a fundamental concern even before the onset of the pandemic. Superintendents cite hiring shortages as a significant obstacle to responding to students' needs. Most New York superintendents also acknowledge that hiring permanent and substitute teachers has become increasingly challenging over the past decade.

Those considering employment in a public school or becoming a teacher should be aware that districts struggle to fill many vacancies. For example, teachers of special education at the secondary level, foreign language teachers, technology teachers, family and consumer science teachers, librarians, aides for students with disabilities, custodial workers, bus drivers, mechanics, and school nurses. The vacancies in these categories have increased in recent years, according to over 80% of New York superintendents.

If you are interested in exploring opportunities here in the Warwick Valley Schools, please consider the following:

Administrative & Teaching Positions

The District posts administrative and teaching positions on the Online Application System for Educators (OLAS) website. This process requires an online application.

Non-instructional Positions

Non-instructional opportunities are posted on the district website, under the Human Resources link, and in school buildings and other non-instructional areas of the school. Letters of interest must be received at the district office – either in person or by US Postal Service – by the close of business on the date specified in the job posting.

Substitute Teachers & Tutors

If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, substitute support staff, or tutor, please get in touch with Ms. Millie Rivera in our Human Resources department at mriviera@wvcsd.org.

Part-time Bus Drivers

The District recruits part-time school bus drivers regularly. Pay begins at \$24.44 per hour for Class B drivers with P and S endorsements. Don't hesitate to contact the Transportation Department for more information at (845) 987-3035.

Earlier this year, I reflected on the idea that "great teachers make for great programs, and great programs make for great schools." That is 100% the case here in Warwick, and it's the case with every member of our school community in every department. Each September, our district honors employees who have reached career milestones -- five years with the District, 10 and 15 years, or even multiple decades of service to our students. If you or someone you know thinks public school work might be for you, we're always looking for more great people.

Here are some highlights from our schools this week:

Park Avenue Elementary School

Students continue their studies on our natural environment and climate and their impact on humans. Second graders are currently working on "Dealing With Changes to the Earth" during science classes. Students are exploring how wind and water movements affect rocks and soil. Through various fun experiments, students discover that it takes wind and water a very long time to facilitate the kinds of changes they read about in textbooks. Third graders have continued cultivating their expertise on one type of natural hazard as a part of their current science unit, "Natural and Hazardous Events." Students researched various topics, collaborated with peers, and organized their presentations. They visited each other's classes to present this work. These experiences help foster some of Warwick's Portrait of a Graduate attributes. Namely, students honed their ability to work collaboratively in groups and effectively communicate what they learned to others. Finally, students learned how these events affected people globally and discussed how to prevent severe damage from natural hazards in different parts of the world.

Sanfordville Elementary School

First graders had their first visit from the Warwick Historical Society's Traveling Trunks program. Society volunteers taught students about school life in Warwick 100 to 200 years ago. The students were curious and asked some great questions. We thank the volunteers for sharing their expertise with our students.

Our fourth-grade students were fortunate to have been visited by Native American Storyteller Madelyn Folino. Ms. Folino recited stories and fables, which helped students learn more about the lives and traditions of Native Americans. Thank you for sharing with our students.

K-1 students boarded the Polar Express at school as PTA volunteers did a read-aloud of the book, *The Polar Express*, written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg. The PTA gifted each

student with a train ticket, punched by the conductor, and their own bell. Thank you to the PTA for a fun morning.

Warwick Valley Middle School

The Ukulele Club loves to perform and spread the joy of music to others. They also enjoy giving back to the community. Each year the Ukulele Club picks an organization to support. Students discuss current causes that are meaningful to them and decide to fundraise for them. This year the Ukulele Club chose DKMS. Students chose this organization because it holds a special meaning to one of our Ukulele Club members. DKMS assisted in saving the life of one of our sixth graders. DKMS is an international nonprofit organization that is dedicated to the fight against blood cancer and blood disorders. In addition to raising money, the Ukulele Club has set a goal of adding 250 donors to the national bone marrow/stem cell registry. On December 10, the Ukulele Club held its first of three donor drives. Twenty-six community members signed up in person or online to become possible donors. Please consider registering as a donor at one of the club's upcoming events on either April 15, 2023, or June 6, 2023.

Warwick Valley High School

The High School students are very much involved in lifting the spirits of others during the holiday season. Under the direction of Noreen Hanson, the Meistersingers and Treble Choir choral groups have been busy performing popular winter songs in the community. Many heard them in Sugar Loaf as they spent over two hours caroling along the sidewalks, entertaining holiday shoppers. Next weekend, the choral groups will perform during the Wreaths Across America ceremony.

Jeanine Fogler and the Interact Club collected 25 holiday meals that Interact recently donated to the Food Pantry. The students also volunteered as "elves" at the Warwick Valley Rotary Club's annual holiday party. The students paired up with children in the community and engaged in games, crafting, and decorating. Each child received a bag of presents and got to shop for a gift to give to their own families.