

Weekly Column: EdTalk
Superintendent of Schools: Dr. David Leach
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The Warwick Valley Central School District has undergone a comprehensive enrollment projection review. The study has highlighted the district's anticipated stability in overall enrollment between 2023 and 2032, with slight variations in specific grade level enrollments. This projection process is an ongoing endeavor that requires periodic updates.

The table presented below offers a detailed view of the projected enrollment figures by grade level. It is important to note that the figures denoted by an asterisk (*) indicate the peak enrollment during the 2023 - 2032 timeframe.

Projected Warwick Valley CSD Enrollment

Year	K - 4	5 - 8	9 - 12	K - 12
Actual 2022	1,278	1,084	1,366	3,728
Projected 2023	1,309	1,086	1,342	3,737
2024	1,312	1,123	1,328	3,763
2025	1,341*	1,133	1,328	3,802*
2026	1,309	1,157	1,322	3,788
2027	1,285	1,178	1,335	3,798
2028	1,243	1,210	1,360	3,813
2029	1,227	1,223*	1,356	3,806

2030	1,191	1,220	1,382	3,793
2031	1,189	1,192	1,393	3,774
2032	1,188	1,147	1,424*	3,759

As revealed above, it is anticipated that overall enrollment will remain stable over the next decade. Specifically, the projected enrollment for the year 2032 is 3,759 students, representing a slight increase of 31 students when compared to the current enrollment figures. This stability in enrollment can be attributed to various factors such as demographic trends, migration patterns, and attendance at non-public or charter schools.

Here are some highlights from our schools this week:

Park Avenue Elementary School

In art class, kindergarten students are beginning to learn how to make pottery. Students will work on creating clay turtles. Part of this new work will entail exploring how to create different forms, shapes, and textures with clay. As a mentor text and inspiration, the book *How Did the Turtle Get Its Shell* will be used to springboard the students' work into action. Students will also engage in some research so they can expand on their current knowledge base regarding the many different types of turtles. They will use clay to create their turtles with the emphasis placed on molding, scoring and forming.

Park Avenue held its annual Talent Show. Spearheaded by our PTA and its parent volunteers, the call went out to all singers, dancers, musicians, magicians, comedians, and so many others. Students were welcomed to participate as individuals or as small groups. Each act was 2 minutes or less in duration as onlookers were awed by the diversity in Park Avenue's talent base.

Sanfordville Elementary School

Carla Overbey's third grade students learned all about the Lunar New Year. After discussing its meaning, culture and traditions, students used recycled materials and supplies to create their very own dragon to perform the dragon dance. The dragon dance is often performed during Chinese New Year. Chinese dragons are a symbol of China's culture, and they are believed to bring good luck to people, therefore the longer the dragon is in the dance, the more luck it will bring to the community. The class danced through the halls and visited the main office to spread good luck to all!

Christine Esserman's students worked in groups to write a final "How To" piece. The class decided to teach their fellow schoolmates "How to" be a good friend. They each wrote their own section of the poster but had to work together to be sure everyone's thoughts were original (and not repeated). They then came together to organize the layout of their posters, gluing everything in place. The class ended their learning with group presentations to the class.

Warwick Valley Middle School

Robert Kirschke and Janice Graven teach the MAC class at Warwick Valley Middle School. Our Multi-Age Classroom (MAC) program is the fifth and sixth grade extension of our K-4 PIE program. Students spend fifth and sixth grade together, working collaboratively on multi-disciplinary projects.

Recently, the students in our MAC class have embarked on a deep dive into the impact tyrannical laws have on a group of people. Their recent project began with the students studying the purposes of the Revolutionary War and the importance of the Declaration of Independence. This project was introduced through a video that focused on the causes of the Revolutionary War, highlighting the diary entries of the Founding Fathers of the United States. The video also included contemporary leaders in our country that analyzed the different aspects of the Revolution. This led into a discussion about the feelings of the colonists living under tyranny.

Students then launched into creating their own kingdoms with corresponding, egocentric laws. Students then began studying the Declaration of Independence, dissecting the purpose, contents, and emotionally-charged language. To conclude this lesson study, students then developed their own declaration of independence from their recently created kingdoms. Students then presented their declarations to their classmates.

This unit of study provided students with the opportunity to analyze laws and the impact, positive or negative, they have on a group of people.

Warwick Valley High School

Many of our art electives at Warwick Valley High School focus on one or two mediums. Students are able to take Ceramics, Photography, Drawing and Painting, 3-D Media Art and Fashion Design to name a few. One course that is unique to the high school is Set Construction and Woodworking. In this course, students design and build the stage sets for the high school fall drama and spring musical.

Students do so much more than paint background scenes in this class. The ultimate goal is for the audience to encounter the most accurate representation of each piece of the set, whether that is a building, an animal, or an automotive device. The students learn the skills of mural development, faux finishing and the importance of scale size. They investigate materials that can be used to

have the greatest effect and most realistic appearance to the viewer. They also learn a tremendous amount of engineering principles when building moveable parts that must function in multiple ways and move in many directions.

As we enter the month of February, things start to heat up in this class. While the spring musical will take the stage in the middle of March, the set must be on the stage at the end of February to provide the student actors time to rehearse with the set and familiarize themselves with the space on the stage. A strict timeline with hard deadlines for the completion of the set is a must in this class. As a result, students are scheduled and manage their time accordingly.

So come out and see the play next month. Be sure to take in not just the incredible acting, singing and dancing, but also the incredible stage set and design!