

Weekly Column: EdTalk
Superintendent of Schools: Dr. David Leach
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The Warwick Valley Central School District is in its second summer of hosting the Warwick Police Department Junior Police Academy. For students ages 10 to 15, the program emphasizes public service and leadership. It teaches civic engagement and local government while showing junior cadets what law enforcement training entails. It also gives them a glimpse into a career in law enforcement, the legal process and emergency services. We appreciate this meaningful community partnership with Warwick Police. It consists of two two-week sessions for 40 junior cadets. The first is July 10-21 and the second is July 31-August 11. This summer's first graduation ceremony is Friday, where students will be recognized for their dedication, work and perseverance.

In many ways, the program's objectives align closely with the qualities outlined in our district's Portrait of a Graduate. Students learn leadership, collaborative and communication skills, as well as citizenship and problem-solving.

The academy, with its packed schedule of classroom learning and hands-on, real world experiences, is a 10-day program that includes activities and lectures led by police department members and New York State Troopers, as well as presentations and workshops by local professionals, and several field trips. Here are some of the activities.

- *Meeting with Officer Derek Kerstner and his friend, K-9 Fritz.*
- *Processing a playground "crime scene" using techniques.*
- *Visiting TreEscape Aerial Adventure in Vernon, N.J., to build self-esteem.*
- *Touring the Orange County Emergency Services Center.*
- *Training at Chosun Taekwondo Academy.*
- *Experiencing defensive tactics and handcuffing techniques.*
- *Working out and learning the benefits of yoga at Vastu in Warwick.*
- *Learning about bicycle safety with John Jones, director of Orange County's Traffic Safety program.*
- *Seeing a live police motorcycle demonstration.*
- *Watching a New York State Police drone in action.*

At the core of the program is the Cadet Creed, a set of standards that each participant agrees to uphold during their learning and training. Here is the Cadet Creed:

- *As a Cadet, I will strive to improve myself physically, tactically, and intellectually at all times.*

- *As a Cadet, I will try to set the example for others to follow and take the initiative to do what is right.*
- *As a Cadet, I will respect my fellow cadets and never abandon them in a time of need.*
- *As a Cadet, I will never lie, cheat, or go back on my word.*
- *As a Cadet, I will maintain my bearing and keep my appearance to a high standard of professionalism.*
- *As a Cadet, I will follow the rules and regulations at all times. I will obey the orders of all instructors to the best of my ability.*

Thank you to our school resource officers Dave Serviss, Katie Oresto, James Feragola, Bob Kenney and Kat Hulak for running such an impactful program and engaging the students each day of the program, and, of course, Town of Warwick Police Chief John Rader, for his support of his officers, the program and the school district. I would also like to thank the community leaders and business owners who contributed to this program.

Here are some highlights from our summer program:

Park Avenue Elementary School

Extended School Year and Summer Academy teachers in grades 1 through 4 began the critical work of continuing learning during the 2022-2023 school year. Students engage in theme-based learning that combines summer fun with work. So, they participated in activities like parachute play and playground time but they also worked on their writing skills by writing complete thoughts in sentence form. Students continued decoding and encoding mixed short and long vowel sounds, too. Also, they worked on strengthening their math fact fluency and reviewed strategies and tools like using a number line.

Sanfordville Elementary School

Construction crews at Sanfordville Elementary School worked hard to complete the renovated roof project over the summer. In addition, the newly constructed bathrooms will also be built by the fields for use by our students during outdoor physical education classes and recess. In addition, they will be built for athletes and spectators at our high school sporting events on campus. Students will be excited once the Sanfordville playground updates, repairs and additions are completed in fall. Some of the existing equipment will be repaired while additional units will be added for even more fun opportunities. A tremendous thank you to our Sanfordville PTA who have added to the project by donating a tire swing unit and an inclusive music board station to the area! The PTA donated two basketball posts, backboards and hoops. These posts will be installed in the back of the building for students to use during recess. Thank you again for everything our PTA provides for our students. Please note, while the work is being done on the roof, Mrs. Maraia and the summer staff are completing their summer work. They are also

assisting with Summer School at Park Avenue Elementary School. Sanfordville phone calls are forwarded to SES staff at Park Ave.

Warwick Valley Middle School

Our incoming fifth grade students in our Summer Academy are on an exciting journey of mathematical discovery as they dive into multi-digit subtraction! Led by Ms. King and Ms. Carter the students are engaging in mathematical challenges and are mastering the art of subtracting numbers with multiple digits. Through engaging lessons and interactive activities, our students discover the importance of place value. We are all so excited to watch the learning process unfold for our newest members of our Middle School family.

Our eighth and ninth grade Middle School students are also busy at work during Summer Academy. Mr. Warren and Mr. Barchi have engaged our students in robotics classes. This class offers a summer learning experience that fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity while building and programming robots. This has allowed our students to develop their skills in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Even though this class is a fun change from traditional classes it still helps our middle schoolers gain valuable knowledge and hands-on experiences, equipping them with the skills necessary for success in the 21st century.

Warwick Valley High School

Our 10th grade students that are taking Global History 2 this summer have been immersed in a captivating exploration of two transformative forces that have shaped the modern world: industrialism and imperialism. Guided by their teachers, Mr. Vanderstar and Mr. Tobin, our students have embarked on a journey to understand the profound impact of these interconnected phenomena on societies, economies, and cultures. They have delved into the origins of the Industrial Revolution, examining technological advancements that propelled mass production and transformed labor practices. The authors also discussed the expansionist ambitions of powerful nations during the era of Imperialism. Through engaging discussion and interactive activities, our students develop critical thinking skills, historical awareness, and a deeper comprehension of the complex dynamics that have shaped our modern world. Our Warwick scholars are not only enhancing their knowledge but developing the characteristics that define a Warwick graduate.