

Weekly Column: Ed Talk
Superintendent of Schools: Dr. David Leach
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This week marked the “unofficial” kick-off of the fall athletic season, as both established and hopeful Warwick Valley athletes attended their first practices and try-outs on Monday. Our coaches welcomed back championship teams preparing to defend their titles, scholar-athletes training to reach new personal bests, and, most of all, friends reunited by a shared passion, ready to grow, learn, and compete with sportsmanship and Wildcat pride.

The excitement is in the air and the anticipation of the first match-ups is high among players and coaches. Here’s a Wildcats fall refresher for you. Our district competes in New York State’s Section IX, at various levels in eight different interscholastic sports during the fall season:

1. Football: modified, junior varsity and varsity
2. Soccer: boys and girls modified/junior varsity/varsity
3. Girls tennis: junior varsity, varsity
4. X-Country: boys and girls modified/varsity
5. Volleyball: modified/junior varsity/
6. Girls swimming: varsity
7. Cheerleading: junior varsity/varsity
8. Crew Club

Our cross-country teams showed real dedication, being among the first to get out on the practice courses – the boys at 7:15 am on the Tim St. Lawrence Track with Coach Potter, and the girls at Sanfordville at 8:00 am with Coach Candia at the Trevor Jahn Pavilion. Meanwhile, Coach Sirico and the football players opened a training camp on the practice field behind the stadium. More than a few players and coaches commented on the upgraded features of the football stadium. They looked forward to playing their home opener under the brightened lights on the freshly sodded and immaculately groomed C. Ashley Morgan Field.

Fall has nets! Girls and boys soccer players met with their coaches, Coach Chester and Coach O’Connor respectively. Coach Zwart was on the court with our junior varsity and varsity girls tennis players. Coach Thomas and the junior varsity and varsity volleyball players were in the high school gymnasium. Girls varsity swimming and diving candidates donned the caps and dove into pre-season training at the pool with coaches Beneat, swimming, Voloshin, diving. Our Crew Club will take to the water for their first practice a little later in September, looking to have another great season in a row.

Finally, our Wildcat spirit ambassadors - the Wildcat junior varsity and varsity cheerleaders – are attending the National Cheerleaders Association Cheer Camp this week with Coach Elizabeth Sullivan.

Get ready for an exciting Fall season filled with remarkable enhancements to our beloved facility! The Capital Project work at C. Ashley Morgan Field is now complete, showcasing the brand-new installation of fresh natural grass sod and state-of-the-art LED lights. This transformation has expanded the previous 160-foot-wide, football-exclusive field into an impressive 185-foot-wide natural grass surface, now expanded for multi-sport activities. This innovative feature promises to ignite nighttime with various sports teams competing at the stadium, all brilliantly illuminated by our upgraded lighting system.

Embrace the excitement of our improved six-lane track, which is now an eight-lane expansion! The field events area has been thoughtfully relocated to a dedicated space at the field's end, paving the way for enhanced sportsmanship. The resurfacing process is now complete, showcasing the track's upgraded rubberized running surface. Additional upgrades, such as new fencing and finished outdoor restrooms, enhance the experience for all visitors during games, graduations, and public gatherings.

But that's not all! Our stadium boasts further enhancements, including countdown clocks for football games, a sophisticated irrigation system to keep the field lush and green. It also boasts a practical space-saving storage facility.

Mark your calendars for the stadium's debut football game on Sept. 1, where the Wildcats welcome Binghamton. With our upgraded field and enhanced lighting system, it promises to be an unforgettable event!

New school year. New season. I eagerly await cheering alongside my fellow Wildcats!

Go Wildcats!

Here are some highlights from our schools this week:

Park Avenue Elementary School & Sanfordville Elementary School

Sanfordville and Park Avenue students who participated in the Summer Academy and Extended School Year programs completed their work last week. Congratulations! Thank you to the staff from both schools, who worked so hard to make this year's summer experience a success.

Teachers from both schools have been working together this summer on curriculum planning projects. A few of them include revising reading, writing, social studies, and science calendars. Meanwhile, teachers in fourth grade worked on enhancing cohesion between some of our science units.

Reminder: Our first day of school is Tuesday, September 5! Official elementary school start/end times are 8:55 am and 3:35 pm. Please be on the lookout for more notices coming soon, containing pertinent information about the start of the school year.

Warwick Valley Middle School

It's difficult to believe that our summer program has ended. One of the highlights of the last few

weeks was a project designed by our rising 4th graders. The incoming 5th graders have created their own smoothie stands throughout the Summer Academy. They are split up into groups and have built a stand with their own brand name and smoothie type. Throughout the summer they have created menus for the stands, fabricated social media posts advertising the stand, and even developed math word problems revolving around smoothies. They brought in the necessary supplies, and made their end of summer smoothies on Monday, August 14th. They were so excited for the whole project to come together, and to share their smoothies with their peers. This was a very rewarding cumulative experience of dedication and work. Our 4th graders are officially our new middle school group!! We can't wait to see what they all bring to the Middle School in the fall!

With fall around the corner, Warwick Valley modified sports teams will begin during the first week of school. First practices or tryouts will be Wednesday, September 6. All Middle School practices begin between 3:00 and 4:00 pm and take place on the Middle School campus. Exact times and locations will be shared in the morning announcements on the first day of school.

Warwick Valley High School

With the curtain rising on a new academic year, the Class of 2024 embraced a long tradition last week. Senior portraits kicked off their senior year. This week, our Wildcats have been coming to campus to capture the perfect yearbook portrait. As these young adults capture this pivotal moment in their lives, the air is filled with excitement and anticipation - a moment to capture the excitement, aspirations, and camaraderie of a graduating class. Each smile, pose, and expression tells a story of achievements earned and dreams ready to unfold. We look forward to seeing everyone at the start of an amazing school year, on Tuesday, September 5!