



Board Report

MAKE IT HAPPEN - TOGETHER!

Let It Snow!

School Closing Information

Instructional time is valuable. Like our work, it is important that we demonstrate to young people the importance of a good work ethic. When weather conditions dictate slower traffic or walking conditions, please be sure that your child starts out for school earlier than usual in the morning to ensure a timely arrival.



Local radio station WJR (760), as well as television Channels 2, 4, and 7 will broadcast school closing information on days when severe weather and hazardous road conditions prohibit the operation of school buses. Night school, school activities and athletics will also be cancelled. All school cancellations are for one day only. If school will not reopen the next day, additional media announcements will be made.

Please refer to your child's individual building newsletters for information on severe and inclement weather procedures.



Visit us online at

www.warrenwoods.misd.net

...and tune into

WOW Cable Channel 15

Comcast Cable Channel 22

The Warren Woods Public Schools are dedicated to maintaining continuous student achievement within a caring environment that provides for individual excellence for all.

Volume 62, No. 3

December 2012



A Message from Board President Jere Green

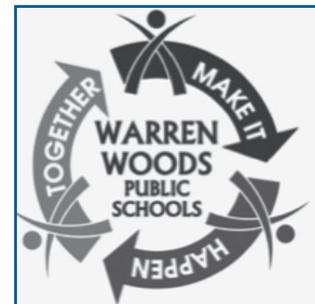
AS THE STATE CONTINUES to introduce legislation that is supposed to “reform” schools, I ask you to consider the following perspective.

During my tenure as a member of the Board of Education in Warren Woods Public Schools, I have had the opportunity to visit schools and extra-curricular activities and I am here to report that there is absolutely nothing wrong with our schools, despite the consistent rhetoric about the failure of public schools.

MY TIME ON THE BOARD has confirmed for me that those in control of education policy must stop changing what is expected of schools from year to year in order to hold them accountable. The rate at which policymakers introduce new forms of assessments, ways to make Adequate Yearly Progress, Persistently Low Achieving School lists, which are now Priority, Focus, and Reward Schools, etc. will do nothing in the long run to help Michigan recover economically and prosper once again.

These kinds of policy “rabbit holes” simply distract teachers, parents, and administrators from focusing on their true mission of nurturing and teaching children how to work and live in our society. Consider this the next time your child must participate in a state-mandated test or assessment, which the schools are required to give in order to get money to operate.

NOTED SUPREME COURT JUSTICE Louis Brandeis once stated that “You can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few or you can have a democracy, but you cannot have both.” It is time to put the power and control of public education back into the hands of parents and local school districts where it belongs and let them hold schools accountable for their own children. And at the same time, honor the work of teachers and staff who educate our children.



In a cost cutting measure, this back-to-school newsletter has been printed in two-color rather than in full color.

CALENDAR

WWPS December-April

Please Verify Dates and Times in Monthly School Newsletters and on our Website: www.warrenwoods.misd.net

December 2012

Dec. 24 – January 2 Holiday Recess – No School

January 2013

3 Classes Resume
9 Early Release
14 Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
21 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (observed) -
No School for all Students
23-25 WWTHS Exams
25 End of 1st Semester
28 Special Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
30 Early Release

February 2013

5 8th Grade Orientation @ WWTHS 7:00 PM
6 Early Release
11 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
15 & 18 Mid-Winter Recess – No School
19 Classes Resume
20 Early Release
25 Special Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

March 2013

7 Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences
10 Daylight Savings – “Spring Ahead”
11 Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
13 Early Release
20 5th Grade Orientation – 7:00 p.m.
25 Special Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
27 Early Release
29 No School

April 2013

1-5 Spring Break – No School
8 Classes Resume
10 Early Release
11 Elementary Conferences – Elem. Students ½ day
15 Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
17 Elementary Conferences – Elem. Students ½ day
18 Elementary Students – ½ day
24 Early Release

Board Meetings

Regular Board meetings are scheduled on the second Monday of each month. Special meetings are held as needed, usually on the fourth Monday. Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Administrative Service Center, 12900 Frazho Road, Warren, MI 48089.

2 Make It Happen - Together!



Wireless Network installed at Warren Woods-Tower High School

Thanks to a generous donation of \$12,000 from the Warren Woods-Tower Booster Club, a \$10,000 grant from the Warren Woods Education Foundation and a donation of \$4,915 from the WWT Student Council, a wireless network was installed this fall at Warren Woods-Tower High School.

Students using district laptops and netbooks can now move throughout the building during the day and stay connected to the internet. Students will also be able to connect to the internet using their cell phones or other devices in the Media Center, Commons and Cafeteria throughout the day. After school hours, the wireless network will be available throughout the building for all students and visitors.

According to Building Principal Mike Mackenzie, “It’s great that we no longer have to be restricted to just computer labs in order to provide our students with an opportunity to learn on line.”

The Board of Education and Administration would like to once again thank the Warren Woods-Tower Booster Club, Warren Woods Education Foundation and the WWT Student Council for partnering together to provide the funding for the project.



Senior Citizen Activity Pass

A pass to admit one Senior Citizen and spouse to any in-district Warren Woods School function (High school musicals excluded) may be obtained by contacting Nola Hartert at (586) 439-4417. Seniors must be 62 years and either a resident of Warren Woods or have a grandchild participating in Warren Woods School functions.

JANUARY IS SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

As citizen leaders, individual school board members face complex and demanding challenges. They are alternately described as having the most important volunteer jobs in the country and facing the toughest challenge in elected American government. Yet school board members are just ordinary citizens with extraordinary dedication to our nation's public schools. All Michigan citizens should recognize the vital contributions of these men and women and the crucial role they play in the education of our children.

Public education is the backbone of American society, and local school boards are deeply rooted in U.S. tradition. It's the foundation on which our democracy was built. Today local school boards continue to do the most important work of their communities - that of educating our youth.

Their job is to establish a vision for the education program, design a structure to achieve that vision, ensure schools are accountable to the community and strongly advocate continuous improvement in student learning. The job of a school board member is tough, the hours long and the thanks few and far between. Too often we're quick to criticize school board members without really understanding the complex nature of their decisions. Now's the time to thank them for their untiring efforts.

School board members come from a variety of backgrounds, yet they share a common goal - helping students achieve in school and life. As a state, Michigan has faced many challenges, but the key to a brighter future is a strong public education system.

We often forget about the personal sacrifices school board members make. Board members contribute hundreds and hundreds of hours each year leading their districts. The time spent in board meetings represents just a small fraction of the hours school board members spend leading in their districts. Collectively, they spend almost 7,000 hours on professional development to keep abreast of the latest trends in educational leadership, are deeply involved in community activities and spend many hours at extracurricular events. They continually advocate for the children of our state, and in the past year school board members made countless passionate pleas to legislators, speaking out against budget cuts and pushing for smart reforms.

The month of January marks the annual observance of School Board Recognition Month and our Board will receive special recognition at the January 28th Board Meeting. This is a time to show our appreciation and begin to better understand how local trustees work together to prepare today's students to be tomorrow's leaders. In January, join with others from throughout our district and state to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools.



*Left to Right:
Front: Elizabeth Lenhard, Jere Green, Kay Walsh
Back: Paul Zannetti, Gerald Barkey, Donald Marx, and Michael Schulte.*

Student Chooses To Make a Difference!

During the week of October 22nd, Mrs. Cooper's eighth grade Advisory class spent time on their character education unit, discussing what it looks and feels like to be appreciative, kind and caring.

Upon hearing that the upcoming Saturday was Make a Difference Day, Peyton Marnon took it upon herself to truly do just that. She took a few hours out of her day, to volunteer at the Henry Ford Continuing Care facility to assist hearing impaired residents enjoy an afternoon of table games!

Upon return on Monday, it was clear that Peyton knew the true meaning of appreciation!

WWTHS Celebrates a Wonderful Fall Sports Season

It's been a great fall season for our sports teams at Warren Woods Tower! We had 203 athletes participate and 153 of them received a 3.0 or higher this last card marking which is 75% of our athletes!!!

On the playing surface we accomplished some great goals. Our GIRLS' CROSS-COUNTRY team was undefeated for the THIRD straight year – boasting a record of 38-0 in the MAC GOLD. Lindy Pastrick was league champ for the 2nd year in a row, and our top 7 runners were ALL DIVISION. They are Lindy, *Krystal York, Cortney York, * Micah Turner, Tiara Jhons, Elena Furman, Ashley Harger. GREAT RUNNING LADIES!!! *Denotes Captains –*Ireland Portalski.

Another team that went undefeated this year, and BACK-TO-BACK GOLD CHAMPS was our BOYS' TENNIS team. Josh Hallendy was the MVP of the league as well as All County and All Conference. Jay Holland received All County 2nd team and All Conference honors, as did Sean Whitehead. Mitchell Parker and Andrew Cicchelli were 1st doubles. Way to “LOVE” the game and bring home the GOLD!!

Our FOOTBALL team started out slow but won their last FOUR games. Their “family” atmosphere, their hard work, and their Titan spirit were a joy to be around. All Conference Players were Chuckie Voorhees, Gary Smith and Lamar Thomas; Macomb County Players were Chuckie – 1st team, Gary Smith and Josh Scott – 2nd team, Lamar and Darion Storey – Honorable Mention.

SOCCKER is a game of endurance and skill and this year our team worked hard all season and won their first District game. All MAC Gold was Alex Willis, Tyler Mascarin, and Connor Pierce. All District Team was Tyler, Connor, and Jacob Berkley.

The BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY team ended the season 6-4. Kevin Lafriniere, Andy Wolanin, and Lawrence Jhons were All-Conference. Lawrence and Lewis Jacques were captains. Way to go the extra mile!

VOLLEYBALL moved up to the Blue Division and finished the year 500 which was a great accomplishment. However, they will always remember their Sterling Heights nemesis. All Conference winners were Erica Wilson and Samantha Borowiak. Sam was also 1st team All Defensive, Erica- 2nd team, and McKenzie Wohlfarth and Emily Schulte were Honorable Mention All-County.

In GIRLS' SWIMMING had a MAC Champ in Evie Walper in the 500 free-style. Devin Hodell was one of the top 6 swimmers in the division the last four years. Congratulations ladies!!

Our cheer and dance teams performed at every home football game and have worked very hard since last May. These girls put in many long hours to be ready for Homecoming and games. This winter the girls will cheer competitively, and our dance team will be at every basketball game and at the Palace competition.

WWT won two MAC SPORTSMANSHIP awards this year –FOOTBALL and GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY – Congrats! This is always an award that brings great PRIDE to the District.

It doesn't really matter what honors were won. Our coaches and athletes are all “winners” for just participating and dedicating themselves to a sport. It is a great avenue for developing teamwork, sportsmanship, dedication and perseverance. As we all know, many valuable lessons are learned through competition and teamwork. Many believe the locker room is one of the best classrooms.

“Nothing is as Good as...” Briarwood Authors and Illustrators

Briarwood students in Mrs. Jarvie's third grade class are becoming authors and illustrators. Third grade students had an opportunity to write a descriptive piece titled, “Nothing is as Good As...” A few examples include: “Nothing is as good as a creamy, mouth-watering, delicious, Oreo on a hot summer day.” “Nothing is as good as an excellent, chestnut brown, creamy, caramel sundae when I arrive home from school.” “ Nothing is as good as a marvelous, epic, coffee brown steak at TGI Fridays.” “Nothing is as good as a fantastic, delicious, mouth-watering, pale pink, strawberry milkshake from Dairy Queen.”

Students were able to add adjectives, adverbs and similes to describe the perfect item. After completing the writing pieces, students typed their essays, completed an illustration and organized the pages. Mrs. Jarvie sent all of the writings off to a publishing company where they are presently being bound together to form a hard-cover book.

Amazing Students Present Special Plaques to the Board of Education

By Michele Morgan
Occupational Therapist
Warren Woods Tower High School

Thanks to the combined support of the POHI Parents Club and the WWT Booster Club, the Special Education Department was able to purchase a CNC router for the workshop to create awards and plaques for departments throughout the district. Logos and text are imported from a laptop and transferred to a computer controlled router that engraves onto wood. Salvaged boards from demolished bleachers in the administration building have been used to prepare plaques for the Drama Club, NHS, and the Athletic Department. Most recently, students created custom nameplates for members of the Warren Woods Board of Education.

In addition to the projects using the router, students also make hand-turned pens using lathes that were discovered in the district by our supervisor, Dan Simeck. Our director, Justin Michalak supported the replacement of palm sanders to involve more students in the finishing process. It has truly been a group effort developing a 21st century woodshop that addresses both academic and transition goals of our students. Working with wood has given students in special education a unique opportunity to apply classroom concepts and develop pre-vocational skills while creating valuable products the staff and students can treasure for a lifetime. We hope to expand the program in the future.



Front Row: Angela Dzielski, Shannon Szymanski, Kassie Stanton, Ashley Bowman and Brittany Arthur. Back Row: Board Members - Michael Schulte, Gerald Barkey, Don Marx, Jere Green, Superintendent Stacey Denewith-Fici, Elizabeth Lenhard, and Kay Walsh.

Westwood C.A.T.S.

At Westwood we follow our C.A.T.S. behavior. C.A.T.S. stands for:

- Care about others**
- Awesome Attitude**
- Take responsibility**
- Safe Behavior**

The students in Mrs. White's third grade have learned a chant that goes along with the behavior goals. The chant was video taped and, thanks to second grade teacher, Mrs. Meneghin, the rest of the students in Westwood will be able to learn it and recite it. It is our hope that this chant will help the students at Westwood think about their behavior and always do their best. Here's the chant:

***I'm a Westwood Wildcat,
The best there is!
I care for others everyday
And mind my own biz.
My attitude is awesome!
I always do my best.
I take responsibility
And don't leave a mess!
Safety is important
You can give me a quiz.
Cuz I'm a Westwood Wildcat
THE BEST THERE IS!***



WWTHS Music Department Performance Ready

It has been a very busy Fall for the Warren Woods Tower Titan Marching Band. The students performed their 2012 “Own the Night” show as well as their traditional pregame show at all the home football games this year, beginning in August. On September 30th, the marching band performed their competition show at the Harper Woods Band-O-Rama. Three adjudicators at Harper Woods gave both the students and Mr. Corpuz wonderful feedback on how to improve aspects of the show. The band took that criticism, worked hard, and had a fantastic performance at MSBOA’s Marching Band Festival on October 9th at Stevenson high school. The band received the best possible rating, first division ratings from all three adjudicators! Homecoming was also an exciting time for the band as they performed for two pep rallies, a parade, and the football game, not to mention that the students had also been hard at work for two weeks preparing the band’s float for the parade. On October 24th, the middle school bands and the marching band performed for the Fall Review concert. The high school students were able to enjoy and appreciate the middle school bands’ performances. The high school students also performed a variety of pieces from both this year’s and previous years’ shows. The final marching band event of the Fall was on October 26th, when the band visited all three elementary schools and performed portions of the show for those students.

The band now begins to transition into concert season. Concert Band and Concert Winds performed at the WWTHS Holiday concert on December 10th and then began preparations for MSBOA’s Band Festival, which WWT will be hosting on March 15th and 16th. Students will also be participating in MSBOA’s Solo & Ensemble Festival on January 26th.

The Warren Woods Tower High School Choir performed at the pregame of the Homecoming game on October 6th. The choir sang “The Star Spangled Banner” and they received wonderful praise. The Choir had their first concert on November 7th at WWTHS. The choir then began preparing for their Holiday concerts held on December 10th and 15th. These students will also be participating in MSVMA’s Choir Festival in March, as well as MSVMA’s Solo & Ensemble Festival on January 26th.

The Guitar class has been hard at work this Fall. There is a wide range of abilities levels throughout the class. Select students from the guitar class performed at the Choir Concert on November 7th. The guitar students will continue to have performance opportunities with other performance groups for WWTHS in the future.

Musicals For All Ages

This year Mulan, a Disney feature, will be a new Musical designed for grades 4 through 8. Auditions will begin soon, so students are urged to look for information from their school. This Musical is a gift from the Myrtlewood Foundation, which was founded by Auditorium Director, James Higginbottom.

In addition, this year’s high school musical is the beloved, “The Sound of Music”. The high school casting is finished and auditions for the children’s parts will soon be completed. Again, look for more information from your school.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

**FOR TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964
TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT OF 1972
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973
AGE DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 1975
TITLE II OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990**

Section I

Any person believing that the Warren Woods School District or any part of the school organization has inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of (1) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (2) Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, (3) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (4) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and/or (5) Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, may bring forward a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance to;

*Civil Rights Coordinator
Grace Stafford, Assistant Superintendent
12900 Frazbo Road, Warren, MI 48089
(586) 439-4457*

Section II

The person who believe a valid basis for grievance exists shall discuss the grievance informally and on a verbal basis with the Civil Rights Coordinator, who shall in turn investigate the complaint and reply with an answer within (5) business days.

If the complainant feels the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved, they may initiate formal procedures according to the following steps.

Step 1

A written statement of the grievance signed by the complainant shall be submitted to the local Civil Rights Coordinator within five (5) business days of receipt of answers to the informal complaint. The Coordinator shall further investigate the matters of grievance and reply in writing to the complainant within five (5) business days.

Step 2

A complainant wishing to appeal the decision of the local Civil Rights Coordinator may submit a signed statement of appeal to the Superintendent of Schools within five (5) business days after receipt of the Coordinator's response. The Superintendent shall meet with all parties involved, formulate a conclusion, and respond in writing to the complainant within ten (10) business days of the meeting.

Step 3

If unsatisfied, the complainant may appeal through a signed, written statement to the Board of Education within five (5) business days of receiving the Superintendent's response in Step 2. In an attempt to resolve the grievance, the Board of Education shall meet with the concerned parties and their representative within forty (40) days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the Board's disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) days of this meeting. The decision of the Board of Education is final.

Student Directory Information

Each year the district will provide public notice to students and their parents of its intent to make available, upon request, certain information known as "directory information". The Board designated, as student directory information, a student's name, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight, if a member of an athletic team, dates of attendance, date of graduation, awards received, or any other information which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy, if disclosed.

Parents and adult students may refuse to allow the district to disclose any or all of such directory information upon written notification to the district within ten (10) days after receipt of the district's public notice. A form for this purpose is available at each building or at the pupil accounting office.

The district may disclose directory information on former students without student or parental consent.

The superintendent shall prepare procedures to ensure that students and parents are adequately informed each year regarding their rights to inspect and review the student's education records.

The principal of each building or the department is charged with the responsibility of maintaining and safeguarding the educational records. Employees of WWPS in the areas of instruction, special services, administration, research / evaluation and student records are authorized to have access to records in the educational interest of the student.

This would include the student's academic, physical, emotional, personal, social and vocational decisions. Any other person except those agencies specified in the Act must have a signed consent of the parent or eligible student to gain access to the educational records and request amendments prior to their being released.

District Directory 2012-2013



Central Office

S. Denewith-Fici	Superintendent	(586) 439-4417
G. Stafford	Assistant Superintendent & Personnel	(586) 439-4457
N. Cassabon	Business Manager	(586) 439-4413
K. Griffor	Director of Curriculum	(586) 439-4469

Building Administration

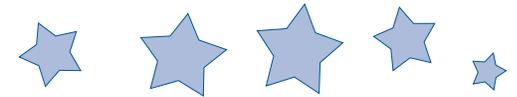
M. Mackenzie	Principal – WWTHS	(586) 439-4402
C. Gruben	Assistant Principal – WWTHS	(586) 439-4402
J. Ohrt	Assistant Principal – WWTHS	(586) 439-4402
J. McFarlane	Principal – WWMS	(586) 439-4403
M. Johnson	Assistant Principal – WWMS	(586) 439-4403
C. Walter	Principal – Briarwood Elementary	(586) 439-4404
D. Sikora	Principal – Pinewood Elementary	(586) 439-4405
C. Crocker	Principal – Westwood Elementary	(586) 439-4406
G. Hamblin	Coordinator – Enterprise High School	(586) 439-4407

Directors

J. Stottlemeyer	Facilities & Transportation	(586) 439-4975
J. Michalak	Special Services	(586) 439-4464
D. Dubay	Career Development / CTE	(586) 439-4416
P. Minch	Food Service	(586) 439-4419
D. Russo	Child Care & Preschool	(586) 439-4882

Coordinators

K. Allen	Adult & Community Education	(586) 439-4408
D. Simeck	Special Education Supervisor	(586) 439-4455



High School Math Teacher Awarded Grant

Warren Woods Tower High School Math Teacher, Pam Brennan, was awarded a \$1,359.00 Grant from Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning (MACUL).

An iPad 3, Apple TV and other peripherals will be used to develop mathematical practices related to the Common Core State Standards. Student work will be broadcast from their desk, allowing them to explain their mathematical thinking on a daily basis and to hear other students' explanations. This technology enters the students' digital world and captures their interest.

Congratulations to Ms. Brennan and her involvement in advancing student achievement!



WWPS Website



Anything you want to know about Warren Woods Public Schools is accessible with just a few clicks of your mouse. Log on to: www.warrenwoods.misd.net. The site includes information about every school in the district, special programs, and so much more. **Also tune into WOW Cable Channel 15 or Comcast Cable Channel 22.**

This **Back To School** issue of *The Board Report* is published by the Warren Woods Board of Education as a Public Service to the Residents of our school district. All correspondence should be addressed to:

Stacey Denewith-Fici, Superintendent
12900 Frazho Road, Warren, Michigan 48089

**Warren Woods Public Schools
Board of Education**
Jere Green, President
Elizabeth Lenhard, Vice President
Kay F. Walsh, Secretary
Donald Marx, Treasurer
Gerald A. Barkey, Trustee
Michael A. Schulte, Trustee
Paul Zannetti, Trustee

It is the policy of the Warren Woods Public School district that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender/sex, age or genetic information, disability, height, weight or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment.

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