

## **EdTalk: November 5, 2021**

**Dr. David Leach, WVCSD Superintendent of Schools**

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The Warwick Valley Central School District offers students a five-year sequence in French, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese. The language program's primary goal is to teach fluency using a communicative approach based on the five world language learning standards (communication, cultures, connections, comparisons, and communities).

The program defined a new aim to strive towards about five years ago. The New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB) honors high school graduates who have demonstrated a high degree of proficiency in one or more languages other than English. Focus is given to listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and recognizes the value of being bilingual in today's global society. Students receive a medal and a state seal on their diplomas for their successful efforts when they graduate.

Students who satisfy the criteria of the Seal of Biliteracy have gained 21st Century abilities that will be helpful in college, the workforce, and life. These students have a global perspective and recognize the benefits of being multilingual, and they have worked very hard to complete this demanding program.

The District's NYSSB project presentation was completed by 43 students in June, including 42 Spanish students and one French student. The majority of them were juniors preparing to meet the NYSSB requirements to receive the accolade in 2022. As part of the NYSSB project presentation evaluation, students needed to create a written presentation and video. They also participated in a live question and answer session where they talk in the target language about their research. Our students understand the benefit of conversing in a foreign language and deepening their connection to other cultures.

Please visit our webpage under the curriculum and instruction category to learn more about this program. On my weekly radio show, "Your Schools," which airs on WTbQ every Monday at 12:05 p.m., I regularly highlight our academic program.

The following are some of the highlights from our schools in the past week:

### **Pine Island Elementary School**

Pine Island celebrated Superhero Day on Oct. 29. Inga Mezzetti used Superhero Day to launch the new Super Reader unit to the students. Students had the opportunity to read like a superhero. Making the connection between Super Readers and super heroes was a great way to motivate and engage the students.

### **Park Avenue Elementary School**

A live Veteran's Day commemoration returned to Park Avenue this year. On Nov. 8, our student body assembled on the main lawn to honor our beloved veterans. Although the morning's

activities were not open to the public, the school hosted the Warwick Valley VFW (Post 4662) who presented the colors as part of the program.

### **Sanfordville Elementary School**

First-graders are very busy learning many new words called SNAP words or in the upper grades they are called sight words. These are words that students will see most often in their reading and need to know in a “snap”! They are usually words that cannot be sounded out or words that don't follow the typical rules for spelling. Students practice these words in a variety of different multisensory ways, including writing on white boards, writing in sand or shaving cream, rainbow writing in different colors, using letter tiles, and forming letters and words with clay.

### **Warwick Valley Middle School**

The Warwick Valley Middle School teamed up with the Warwick Valley High School and the Warwick Prevention Coalition to host a Trunk or Treat event on Halloween. The Rotary Club, the Lions Club, various school clubs and generous community members hosted trunks and activity tables for the 400 youth who attended the event throughout the day.

### **Warwick Valley High School**

All eighth-grade families currently attending Warwick Valley Middle School and Greenwood Lake Middle School were invited to an open house at the Warwick Valley High School. Both middle schools were invited to participate in the event for the first time this year. Typically, the open house was hosted for Greenwood Lake eighth-grade families in order to assist them in making an informed selection when selecting a high school. There were approximately 150 families in attendance.