

EdTalk: February 25, 2022

Dr. David Leach, Superintendent of Schools

The Warwick Valley Central School District encourages its students to explore the multifaceted world of Science so they can apply the knowledge they develop to real-world situations and problems.

The District provides a comprehensive Science program that includes Honors and Advanced Placement courses and a three-year, independent study Science Research Program in partnership with SUNY. The curriculum consists of Biology, Earth Science, Environmental Science, Physics, Astronomy, Chemistry, and more. At the Elementary School level, the Science curriculum is focused on developing inquiry-based skills and is integrated into the schedule by the classroom teacher.

For Warwick Valley students interested in the varied fields of Agriculture, the District offers a well-rounded agricultural program. Students in the program deepen their interest in the scope and importance of agriculture – locally and globally – and develop applicable, real-world skills that prepare them for college or career pursuits. The District's diverse agricultural program offers classes in areas including Land, Food & People, Landscape and Floral Design, Animal and Veterinary Science, Conservation, Wildlife, and Land Management. Students are also encouraged to develop leadership, career, and technical skills through involvement with Future Farmers of America's highly regarded national organization.

Here are some highlights from our schools this week:

Pine Island Elementary School

Do you know what a snap word is? Students in Ms. Emma Weuste's class demonstrated that they are almost experts on snap words, even learning about snap words with inflected endings. For example, "call" is a snap word; "calling" is a snap word with an inflected ending. Ms. Weuste explained that even a snap word with a strange ending is still a snap word.

"Boys and girls, you can use your reading superpower to look at the snap word, look at the ending, and put the two together to say 'calling' or 'going' or 'looked,'" explained Ms. Weuste.

Students were excited to find snap words in their reading text, highlight them and share them with their classmates. A few students even seemed disappointed for the lesson to end, but Ms. Weuste assured them not to worry, "we will practice our snap words again tomorrow!"

Park Avenue Elementary School

Park Avenue students participated in the *Valentines for Veterans* program, hosted by the Office of Representative Sean Patrick Maloney. Students created Valentine's Day

greeting cards for Vets at the Castle Point VA Hospital in Wappingers Falls and other locations throughout the 18th Congressional District.

Additionally, students demonstrated their support and love for local healthcare workers by creating handmade cards, delivered along with candy, to St. Anthony Community Hospital staff on Valentine's Day.

St. Anthony Vice President/Hospital Administrator Anita Volpe wrote saying, "It was such a pleasure to see the surprise and appreciation on everyone's faces. Thank you for your continued support of our hospital and the entire healthcare system."

Sanfordville Elementary School

School psychologist Ms. Wylong encouraged her students to participate in the *Kindness Challenge*. After teaching students about kindness and caring, students brainstormed ideas on how to show kindness to others in their classroom, school, home, and community. Students chose a secret person to be especially kind to for two weeks. After the two weeks, students will try to guess their kindness based on how they made them feel.

Sanfordville classes also participated in Congressman Maloney's *Valentines for Vets* project, creating dozens of cards and letters to Veterans for Valentine's Day. We hope these cards and letters bring joy to many.

Leadership Club students worked closely with a retired Warwick teacher who volunteers at St. Anthony Community Hospital. The students campaigned throughout Sanfordville ES, recruiting classmates to create cards for the nurses at the hospital. Our students hope the nurses felt the love this Valentine's Day!

Warwick Valley Middle School

In grades five and six, WVMS students were placed on teams of two teachers and 50 students to create meaningful learning experiences. They will develop units that encompass multiple content areas. Cross-curricular units like these effectively teach students transferable problem-solving skills, give real-world meaning to school assignments, and increase engagement and rigor.

In ELA, fifth-grade students have launched into their nonfiction unit by learning the history of the Olympics, including specific Olympians through history and the background of various Winter Olympic events. Science teachers utilized the design process to expand on this unit, requiring students to build a bobsled and skier to compete in 'Olympic Events.' On February 17, the students competed in downhill skiing

and bobsledding, testing their creations to see which designs worked best. Students made adjustments to their plans to improve distance and time throughout the competition. This cross-curricular unit allowed students to learn about the history and rules of Olympic events while challenging them to create a device that could compete in these events.

Warwick Valley High School

We are happy to share that students Arden Hallett and Laura Cook have been named National Merit Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition (NMSC). This distinction places them among the top 15,000 – the top 1% – of all students that took the PSAT examination during their junior year of high school. In early September, the girls were notified that they qualified as semifinalists. This honor meant that they were designated on a state-representational basis and were among the highest-scoring entrants in New York State. The girls were provided with scholarship application materials to move forward in the competition through high school. They both were required to submit transcripts, letters of recommendation, and an essay to be considered finalists. The girls must be enrolled in the last year of high school and planning to enroll full-time in college in the fall of 2022. They must be fully endorsed for finalist standing and recommended for a National Merit Scholarship by the high school principal. They must also record consistently high academic performance in grades 9 through 12, including college coursework. Arden plans on attending the University of Iowa. Laura is still undecided on her college choice but intends to major in education and become a math teacher.