

**WVCSD EdTalk: March 23, 2022**  
**Dr. David Leach, Superintendent of Schools**

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The planning for the 2022–23 school year has already begun! Kindergarten registration and orientation are one of the school district's first preparation steps. Kindergarten registration began in January, and the majority of parents have already registered their children.

Kindergarten orientation and screening happen in May. This event is full of excitement! The incoming students are full of anticipation and wonder, as they might be either the first child in the family to go through the process or get to follow an older brother or sister to school.

Principals will start to reach out to families soon after the spring break to let them know what day they should attend the orientation and some of the fun activities. This opportunity includes getting to see the inside of the school. For some, this will be their first time in Park Avenue or Sanfordville Elementary Schools. The principals will review some of the routines to expect and some of the procedures. This year, we are also thinking about a first-grade orientation since they will be new to the buildings.

Those going through this incredible experience in May will be here before you know it. The District looks forward to seeing all the new faces entering the building for the first time!

Here are some highlights from this week at our schools:

**Pine Island Elementary School**

Kindergartners in Mrs. Mezzetti's class began learning to write 'How To' books. When asked what they knew about writing 'How To' books, students responded with 'you need steps' and 'you need pictures.' Students talked about sequence words such as first, second, and third, along with transitional words such as next, then, and finally. Students read their books to classmates to check their work and make sure they included all the steps and the correct sequence and transitional words. Students were very excited about reading their books to their classmates, and it was terrific to see the students' enthusiasm as they were writing and sharing their books. Titles included *How To Ski*, *How to Make Your Bed*, and *How to Grow a Unicorn*. Mrs. Mezzetti let the students know they are all great writers, telling them, "I am so proud of you!"

**Park Avenue Elementary School**

Park Avenue's Lego League Jr. team completed their season, sharing their final presentation and Lego project. Students have met with Ms. Amanda Melican every Wednesday morning before school to work on this year's Lego challenge, called "Cargo Connect." It involved researching how cargo is sorted and transported to various destinations worldwide. Students learned about cargo, packages, labels, sorting centers, and much more during each Lego session.

Using the building mat as a guide, the team exhibited models of the following modes of transportation: plane, train, truck, and boat. They also decided to build scale models of the

following structures: house, farm, gas station, igloo, tropical hut, and a packaging sorting center. The team learned about programming and worked to troubleshoot the coding blocks to create a seamless code that could sort each package at the center.

In addition to constructing a physical model, students employed teamwork and collaboration skills to achieve their final goal. Lego League team members include third-grade students Ava Hagan and Molly Brady and fourth-grade students Ethan Reilly, Oliver Annucci, Alyssa Balsamo, and Molly Corcoran.

### **Sanfordville Elementary School**

Mr. Bauer's fourth-grade students applied the writing process to brainstorm, draft, edit, revise, and publish their opinion writing pieces. The topic: my favorite things about spring! The final works are beautifully displayed outside their classroom for all to enjoy reading!

The SES PTA recognized the top two readers in each class for Week #1 of the Read-a-Thon. The principal read the students' names over the intercom during morning announcements. They were also able to choose a prize from the PTA's treasure chest and sign the "Rock Star Reader" board. Sanfordville students read for over 33,000 minutes during the first week of the Read-a-Thon. That is 550 hours, almost 23 days of reading.

This week SES fourth grade students visited Warwick Valley Middle School for orientation. The students were excited to see their future school, meet their new administrators and teachers, tour the building, and even taste the yummy lunches. Students felt welcomed and were very well behaved. Thank you to the Middle School for making it such a lovely morning for them.

### **Warwick Valley Middle School**

This week, our WVHS Scholar-Athletes came down to the Middle School to speak with our seventh and eighth-grade students about the many benefits of participating in high school sports. Students who participate in team sports are less likely to engage in activities that could negatively impact their health. Participating in sports provides students with an outlet to relieve stress. Students learn to understand the importance of teamwork. The skills gained through participating in sports often carry over into the classroom, creating a more positive school experience. As spring sports begin, many of our seventh and eighth-grade students plan to try out for Modified, JV, and Varsity teams.

### **Warwick Valley High School**

Ms. Gina Scarpulla and Ms. Katie Johnson, class advisors, hosted a breakfast for the Class of 2022 to commemorate "100 Days Until Graduation." The event was held for the first time this year, and it was a grand celebration for our seniors. Julie Helmrich was kind enough to arrive early to help set up the room and provide bagels, donuts, fruit, yogurt, juice, and water. Thank

you also to the WVHS PTSA, which provided each member of the Class of 2022 with a stylus pen. The students enjoyed themselves and were grateful for the recognition.

Several events are planned for the Class of 2022 over the next few months as the seniors finish their careers in the District. A class trip to Dorney Park, a senior class picnic, Awards Night, Decision Day, the Senior Prom, and lawn sign distribution day are just a few planned events (the PTSA is donating lawn signs). We are very excited about honoring the senior class and their achievements.