



Worcester

CENTRAL SCHOOL

Strive, Support, Succeed,

June, 2022 Newsletter



May 19 Concert – The P. Elliott Dubois Auditorium was once again filled with the musical sounds of our high school students. The night kicked off with the Jazz Ensemble followed by the Senior High Chorus and prior to the Senior High Band, Mr. Odell and Miss Mortati acknowledged the talent and hard work of all of the Seniors. Senior Malena Fisher also received the first DuBois Memorial Scholarship in honor of Pat and Elliott Dubois.

Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2022!

Gabriella Alexander • Hailey Bilby
• Aidan Bolton • Justin Buck •
Nathan Cain • Malena Fisher •
Michael Griffioen • Iriyah Haley •
Devon Hill • Owen Hogan •
Dalton Juhl • Seth Keever •
Grace Kelley • Sean Kersmanc
• Destiny Koss • Courtney Madl •
Michael Martin • Maci Milavec •
Rianna Otero • Tucker Richards •
Adrienne Rifenburg •
Kimberly Rock • Joshua Rutty •
James Sasso • Aydan Schultz •
Kacey Scriber • Kristin Temple •
Emily Thompson



Superintendent's Message

Dear Worcester Central School Families,

On Tuesday, May 17, voters approved the 2022-23 school budget, with 103 casting votes in favor of the \$11,885,006 spending plan and 37 opposed. In the Board of Education election, Tanya Shaylor was re-elected to a five-year term. Voters also approved the capital reserve fund proposition.

The budget maintains all academic and extracurricular programming for students as they currently exist, and is a 1.6% increase in spending year-over-year. The approved budget includes using \$685,000 of the district's fund balance to keep the tax levy increase to 1.23% which is below the district's state-calculated tax cap.

I wanted to take a moment to thank our school district's voters, whether you voted for or against our propositions, for your participation in the democratic process. Exercising the right to vote is extremely important and is what makes our community and country so great.

I especially want to express my gratitude to our voters for their tradition of supporting our students, faculty and staff. We will continue the lasting legacy of quality academics and extracurricular opportunities for our students. I value the confidence that our voters and community have placed in WCS. The District will continue to act in the best interest of our students.

I look forward to continued collaboration and maintaining the Worcester Central School District as a place of academic excellence and pride of the Worcester Community.

Respectfully,

Tim Gonzales, Superintendent



Future teachers get hands-on experience at local school

This article originally appeared on the SUNY Oneonta website.

The jackets and lunch boxes have been stowed, the first bell has rung, and 22 Elementary Education students are sitting attentively in rows of desks, pens in hand.

In the back of the classroom, baby chicks are peeping from a bunny house-turned-chicken coop. Clear plastic bags containing germinating lima beans are tacked up on the wall, next to the chick incubator and the swallowtail butterfly cocoons. To the front, next to the door, there's a tank of brown trout that will be released in June into a stream at a farm down the road. Along the side of the room are two sinks, a box of Madagascar cockroaches and two colorful Lego robots that tower above shelves piled high with science supplies of all kinds.

"Welcome to Block 25," says Dr. Leanne Avery, professor and chair of SUNY Oneonta's Elementary Education and Reading Department. Let the fun begin.

Today is Tuesday, and that means Block 25 has arrived in Worcester Central School STEM teacher Sandy Knapp's classroom ready to teach – and learn – at 8:30 a.m. sharp. It's a clinically rich classroom where students in grades pre-K through 8 have their core science lessons, with one class coming each period of the day, similar to other "specials" like art, music and physical education.

Both the STEM room and Worcester's partnership with SUNY Oneonta have been in place since 2015, and it has become an exciting and rewarding part of Knapp's work as a teacher.

"The best part is seeing the connections they make with the students," she says. "Our kids, they so look forward to it. Every Tuesday, they say, 'The college kids are here!'"

After a morning meeting with Avery and department Lecturer Jacqueline Myers, who is here today to observe how the pre-service teachers integrate literacy into their science lessons, the class divides in half. One group heads to a small classroom off the library for teaching methods instruction with Avery. The other remains in the STEM room with Knapp to work with the pre-K students. After lunch, they will switch.

Getting their feet wet

Today is a C Day, which means students in pre-K, second grade, fifth grade, sixth grade and eighth-grade will be coming to the STEM room, and the pre-service teachers will test the lesson plans they developed with their teaching partners for each grade level.

"They're doing extraordinary work in taking on this opportunity to work with students for a whole day every week," Avery says. "It's very different from preparing for a college class. They're getting their feet wet and really committing to a high level of professional practice."

During the half-hour lunch break, the college students grab their colorful lunch boxes and eat with their professors at desks in the STEM room. "This is sacred time," Avery says. But the sixth-graders will arrive soon, and there are last-minute preparations to do. One pair of teaching partners projects a world map onto a smart board on the wall, tapes a sheet of white paper on top of it and begins tracing it in black marker.

Throughout the day, pre-service teachers try out lesson plans ranging from having pre-k

students color squares making up the sides of a rectangle and count them aloud to understand how $10+6=16$, to challenging sixth-graders to write a persuasive letter to the producers of "The Amazing Race" about which of the world's biomes would make the best settings for the next season.

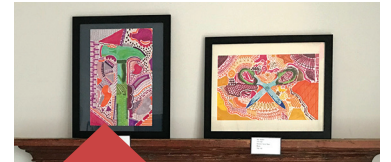
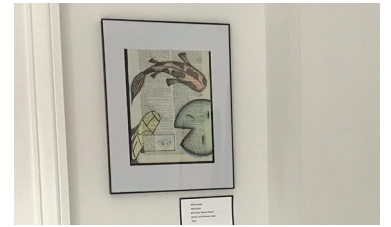
Real-life experience

It's a long day, but these future teachers say it's worth it for the chance to get this real-world, supervised practice.

"This is much different from the observation hours that we would be doing. This actually gives you a real idea of what the normal day would look like," said Matthew Hartman, an Early Childhood/Childhood Education major from East Atlantic Beach, NY, and one of two Block 25 students who have been offered substitute teaching jobs at Worcester through the partnership.

"Coming here every week has been so different from other field experiences in such a positive way," agreed Dayna DeAngelo, an Early Childhood/Childhood Education major from Old Forge, NY. "We get to make connections with not only the students, but the teachers. It's giving us real-life experience of what it would be like to be a teacher and really building our confidence."





1st Annual Worcester Schenevus Art Show – Art exhibits are on display from April 30th to June 3rd at the Worcester Schenevus Library.

Worcester Envirothon team wins first place at regional competition

– Worcester Team A won first place at the regional Envirothon and will be competing at states at the end of the month! The Envirothon® is an environmental and natural resource conservation problem-solving, teambuilding and leadership experience and competition for high school students across the United States, Canada, and China. Incorporating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) principles, experiential learning and hands-on outdoor field experiences, the Envirothon fosters student learning in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife and current issues.



STEM Fair
– SUNY Oneonta students on a recent visit in elementary STEM classes.



College Camp at SUNY Oneonta – Students in grades 4-6 visited to the College Camp at SUNY Oneonta on May 4. College Camp is on 276 acres of former farm and woodland and provides educational, recreational and social opportunities for neighboring communities.



WCS Clark Scholarship Recipients
– Congratulations to the WCS Clark Scholarship recipients who completed the interview process on May 11 and enjoyed a celebratory lunch at the Otesaga Hawkeye Grill!

Board of Education

William Fisher, *President*

Stacey Serdy, *Vice President*

Michelle Francis

Peter Kwiatkowski

Tanya Shalor

Tim Gonzales, *Superintendent*

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Worcester CENTRAL
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June, 2022

Mark your CALENDAR

JUNE

- 7 Athletics Awards Night
- 9 Art Show
- 9 Elementary & Jr. High
Spring Concert
- 10 Kindergarten Celebration
- 13 Last Day of Classes -
Grades 7-12
- 14 Regents Exams Begin
- 16 National Jr. Honor Society -
Induction Ceremony
- 20 Juneteenth - No School
- 21 MS & HS Honors Recognition
and Awards Ceremony
- 22 PreK - End of Year Celebration
- 22 Board of Education Meeting
- 22-24 Early Dismissal at 12:15 p.m.
- 24 Last Day of School - Grades
PreK-12 / Rating Day
- 25 WCS Alumni Association
Banquet
- 26 WCS Class of 2022 Graduation



Congratulations to the Class of 2022!

Valedictorian Iriyah Haley

Iriyah Haley, daughter of Eric and Dareth Haley, has been a part of WCS since attending Pre-Kindergarten in 2009. Her academic excellence has earned her the honor of being the Valedictorian of the Class of 2022. She has participated in many extracurricular activities including Student Council, Yearbook, Wolverine Pride Club, and National Honor Society. She is also an outstanding athlete, playing softball, soccer, and basketball. Iriyah plans on attending SUNY Brockport to pursue a degree in Physical Therapy through Upstate Medical University.



Salutatorian Sean Kersmanc

Sean Kersmanc, the son of Richard and Jennifer Kersmanc, has been a student at WCS since Pre-Kindergarten. His hard work and determination has earned him the title of Salutatorian of the Class of 2022. During Sean's time at WCS, he has participated in Student Council, National Honor Society, Science Club, Wolverine Pride Club and the WCS Music Program. He plans on attending Cornell University in the fall to pursue a degree in Animal Science with a focus on Dairy.

