



*Strive, Support, Succeed!*

Winter 2022-2023 Newsletter



## Superintendent's Message

Dear Worcester Central School Families,

How quickly the school year has progressed! I am so proud of the work our faculty, staff, and students have put into sustaining an exceptional school environment and upholding our mission to strive, support, and succeed.

This year, many events and fantastic stories have evolved that we would like to share with you during this holiday season. It has been an absolute pleasure to see our students, with smiling faces, have unrestricted in-school activities and events such as the fall concert, spelling bee, three-show musical, Veteran's Day breakfast, fall festival, and other exciting in-person events. We have greatly enjoyed supporting your children's growth socially, emotionally, and academically so far this school year.

Families and residents, I would also like to take the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for your support on the recent capital project vote. As you know, polls opened December 14, 2022, for the Worcester community to vote on a \$6,977,501 capital improvement project. We are very excited to keep moving forward with making the WCS facilities the best place possible for our current and future students.

Respectfully,  
Tim Gonzales, Superintendent



Kindergarten students explore a corn maze at the Middlefield Orchard in Cooperstown, NY.



**Top Row:** Elyza Schoeberl, Evelyn Kersmanc, Emma Serdy, Lucas Roof, Hailey Shalor, Peyton Armstrong

**Bottom Row:** Connor Fancher, Sophia Adams, Elizabeth Odell, Anna Serdy, Makenna Ventuleth

## Congratulations to Worcester's newest National Honor Society Inductees

Join us in congratulating the above students whose hard work and dedication have paid off and made it possible for them to join the National Honor Society. This year's ceremony also included last year's inductees who were unable to have a ceremony due to Covid-19 restrictions.



# Worcester residents vote to approve \$6,977,501 capital project proposal

On Wednesday, December 14, Worcester Central School residents voted to approve the District's \$6,977,501 capital project proposal by a tally of **82 YES** votes (65.6%) to **43 NO** votes (34.4%).

"Our community's continued support of our school district is greatly appreciated," said Superintendent Tim Gonzales. "We're excited to be able to take this project forward to benefit every student, staff member, and community member who walks through our doors and on our campus. Most importantly, the project assists in ensuring the longevity of the campus for our future students."



Seen here are some much-needed repairs that will be fixed with the capital project.

## Hailey Zabelicky wins annual Worcester Spelling Bee

Ashley Head, Worcester licensed teaching assistant, leads the Worcester Spelling Bee each year. In order to narrow down competition, Head gives a spelling test to all students in grades 5-8. From this test, the top two spellers in each grade are able to compete in the school bee. Each contestant is given a list of words to study



for the week leading up to the Spelling Bee. For the 2022 Spelling Bee, eight students competed in a heated round, where sixth grader Hailey Zabelicky won with the word "temperature." Arianna Lengel and Noah Fyfe were the two runner-ups in the competition. Zabelicky and Fyfe will represent Worcester Central School at the 2023 Regional Spelling Bee at SUNY Oneonta on Saturday, January 14.

## THE WORCESTER WATCH



### Basketball Court dedicated in honor of living legacy James Kenyon

Worcester Central School kicked off its basketball season with a double header and dedication of the playing surface as "James Kenyon Court." James Kenyon, a longtime coach, previous student, and former teacher, has worked with Worcester Central School for more than 40 years.

"Coach (JK) James Kenyon has represented all that is good with athletics and Worcester Central School for over 40 years," said WCS Athletic Director Chris Kaltenback. "Seeing his signature on the floor reminds

"When I think of this court... it's got my name on it, but it belongs to every athlete that has run these lines in here," Kenyon said in an address to the crowd. "Having that name Kenyon on the court means more than you'll ever know."  
**James Kenyon**

everyone of his impact on the lives of his athletes and students. It is truly an honor to work alongside and learn from him."

The ceremony took place during the season kick-off double header, where the WCS Boys Varsity played Sharon Springs, winning 40-36, and the Girls Varsity played Middleburgh, winning 49-11. "WCS Girls Varsity Coach JK coaching and helping win the first game ever played on James Kenyon Court really helped cap off a great celebration," said Athletic Director Kaltenback.

During the dedication ceremony as his signature was unveiled on each side of the court, Kenyon was joined at center court by his wife Pam Kenyon, their three daughters Olivia, Brianna, and Annica, five of their grandchildren, WCS Superintendent Tim Gonzales, and WCS Board President Bill Fisher.



## Worcester Elementary STEAM Fair

On December 8th WCS students in PreK - 2nd grade participated in a STEAM fair hosted by students from the SUNY Oneonta Early Childhood block classes. Students rotated through presentations ranging from activities about color changes and weather to working with Oobleck and bubbles. The children enjoyed learning about science and working with the college students.



## Second Annexation Merger Vote Happening In Schenevus

The Schenevus school district has waited the required one year and a day to petition the NYS Commissioner of Education for a second vote. As a result, the commissioner will now set the date for the vote in Schenevus. The Worcester community does not need to vote again because the original 'yes' vote is still binding.

In meeting with the New York State Education Department, it has been recommended the vote be held sometime in February. The commissioner has yet to confirm the date of the vote.

If the Schenevus vote is in favor of the annexation merger, the suggested start of the expanded Worcester Central School District would begin in July of 2024. We are awaiting the commissioner to issue the order to confirm that starting date.

## PBIS ASSEMBLY: Fall Festival



Worcester CS promotes a positive school climate by fostering accountability and independence



through clear, common expectations for students and families. Students at Worcester CS are required to meet four expectations that make up the acronym PAWS: Positive attitude, Academic excellence,

Wise choices, and Show respect. In collaboration with this effort, Worcester CS uses a systemic approach called PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports) to help prevent school discipline problems.

At the beginning of the year, students participate in a kick-off event and learn expected behavior through instruction and demonstration. Throughout the year, staff support this learning through acknowledgement, positive reinforcement, and assemblies. Consistent, positive reinforcement is used to celebrate our student's successes as they meet behavior expectations. Throughout the year, teachers give students "PAWS" at any point to recognize students.

Monthly, there is a Student of the Month and PBIS assembly, during which one elementary student and one secondary student is chosen at random in a raffle—tickets are exchanged for 5 PAWS—to receive a prize. There are also quarterly awards.

This quarter, the PBIS assembly was a Fall Festival, which included face painting, pumpkin smashing, a hands-free donut eating contest, tug-of-war, outdoor bowling, and many other fun group activities that encouraged positive camaraderie among the students.



Seventh grader Ciara Decker attends with Al Decker.

## Worcester holds 16th annual Veteran's Breakfast, two years after Covid

Every year, Worcester Central School honors its community veterans by holding a breakfast in the cafenadium in their honor. This year, after a two-year hiatus due to Covid-19 restrictions, more than 41 veterans attended with their students and families to eat a community meal together and watch a short performance by elementary students.

"I believe incorporating veterans into the veterans breakfast is an eye-opening experience for the students who participate," said vocal teacher Elizabeth Lamica. "They look around the event and see people who have sacrificed their lives for our country and their safety. It's a very humbling experience. This is a feeling that I believe all students share, which brings them closer to each other."

## Board of Education

William Fisher, *President*

Stacey Serdy, *Vice President*

Michelle Francis

Peter Kwiatkowski

Tanya Shalor

Tim Gonzales, *Superintendent*

*Produced in cooperation with the Capital Region BOCES Communications Service.*



# Worcester

CENTRAL SCHOOL

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# Worcester

CENTRAL SCHOOL

## Mark your CALENDAR



### JANUARY

- 2 Holiday Break
- 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 24-27 Regents Exams

### FEBRUARY

- 8 Early Dismissal at 12:15 p.m./Conference Day
- 20 Presidents' Day
- 20-24 Winter Recess

## Community shows up for "Once Upon a Mattress"



Cast of "Once Upon a Mattress"

On Nov. 18, 19, and 20, Worcester Central School presented the musical comedy "Once Upon a Mattress", based on the book by Jay Thompson, Dean Fuller, and Marshall Barer.

Over the course of the three showings, hundreds of community members eagerly appeared for the first in-person musical performance of the year. "Once Upon a Mattress" is a humorous two-act adaptation

of the 1835 Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale "The Princess and the Pea." In this adaption, a domineering queen creates a nearly impossible test for the princess her son wishes to marry.

After many months of carefully hand-crafting the set and practicing their lines, the Worcester students put on an incredible performance that was beloved by their community audience. Superintendent Tim Gonzales said, "The shows were excellent! I am so proud of the hard work our students, Mr. O'Dell, and Mrs. Lamica contributed to the success of this show."

## WORCESTER CENTRAL SCHOOL 1ST QUARTER HONOR ROLL 2022 - 2023

### CRITERIA:

Superintendent's List: 95 and above  
High Honor Roll: 90-94  
Honor Roll: 85-89

### GRADE 12:

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S LIST:

Sophia Adams, Maurisa Ebert, Connor Fancher, Alexis Howell-Manon, Elizabeth Odell, Anna Serdy, Remington Shafer, Makenna Ventuleth  
**HIGH HONOR ROLL:** Tyler Beverland, Rylee Falcone, Joseph Geiskopf, George Haughn, Marie Holzer, Kayla Keever, Gwenivere Race, Jacob Sanders

#### HONOR ROLL:

Megan Arcovio, Isabella Duffy, Harley Fagan, Makayla Knapp

### GRADE 11:

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S LIST:

Benjamin Ballard, Allison Boyle, Evelyn Kersmanck, Lucas Roof, Elyza Schoeberl, Hailey Shalor, Samantha Tompkins

#### HIGH HONOR ROLL:

Sophia Armao, Peyton Armstrong,

Abygail Banhart, Georgia Basso, Aidan Hogan, Amelia Johnson, Faith Meiser, Madison Schultz, Emma Serdy

#### HONOR ROLL:

William (Tyler) Head  
**GRADE 10:**  
**SUPERINTENDENT'S LIST:**  
Grant Beverland, John-Alden Brady, Mason Sivacek, Katelyn Temple

#### HIGH HONOR ROLL:

Alexander Adams, Delana Baldwin-Rhodes, Mariska Ball, Mariska Bellinger, William Brady, Angel Empie, Isabella Head, Griffin Kelley, Giovanni McDonnell, Angel Mravija, Nickolas Race, Roy Reynolds Jr., Cheyenne Rifembark

#### HONOR ROLL:

Katelyn Bolton, Dakota Bywater-Rutty, Sarah Holcomb, Malina Milavec, Hayley Rundblad, Jordyn VanSickle

#### GRADE 9:

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S LIST:

Grayson Basso, Lola Kelley, Alexander St.Denis  
**HIGH HONOR ROLL:** Megan Bolton, Rowan Dunham, Brandon Eager, Melanie Felitti, William Martin, Schuyler Maynard, Matthew Sanders, Liam Serdy, Jeremy Strobeck

#### HONOR ROLL:

Alena Hahn,

Abigail Pasqualino, Lucas Warren

#### GRADE 8:

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S LIST:

Annabelle Davis, Lily Dorsch, Sienna Holm, Camryn Koss, Stella Martin, Lily Sivacek

#### HIGH HONOR ROLL:

Ciara Kaltenbach, Conner Land, Derek Land, Mason Larrabee, Gabrielle Manchester, Samuel Millias, Logan Palmatier, Briah Reardon, Julia Roof

#### HONOR ROLL:

Lukas Dolan, Madison Doty, Zachary Eager, Joshua Head, Caden Lengel, Arletta Yearry

### GRADE 7:

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S LIST:

Sylvia Brady, Ciara Decker, Julianna Everson, Logan Gates, Zoey Griffin, Spencer Head, Anna Larrabee, Arianna Lengel, Julianne Militello, Brooke Moser, Kylie Palmatier, Payton Proctor, Kacy Reardon, Abbagail Rifembark, Nolan Stroosnyder

#### HIGH HONOR ROLL:

Zachary Battisti, Casandra Bellinger, Justin Frost, Alexis Lysogorski, Wyatt Utter

#### HONOR ROLL:

Hunter Romaine, Alourha Zdeb

## An amazing night of music in October

The Worcester Central Music Department held a fall concert on Oct. 20. Pieces performed by the Junior High Chorus included The Beatles' "Blackbird" and "A Million Dreams" by Pasek & Paul. The Junior High Band played "The Big Mambo" by Timothy Loest and "Lexington March" by John Edmondson. "The Welleman" by Nathan Evans, "Danny Boy" by A & M. Podd, and "Fly Me to the Moon" by B. Howard were performed by the Senior High Chorus, and "Amparito Roca" by Texidor, "Mama Mia!" arranged by Robert Longfield, and "Trumpet Shout One" by Larry Neeck were performed by the Senior High Band.

