



# Worcester

## CENTRAL SCHOOL

*Strive, Support, Succeed.*

January, 2022 Newsletter



The National Honor Society sponsored the Schenevus and Worcester drive-thru food drives in December and January to benefit the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. Sincere thanks to all donors and volunteers.



## Superintendent's Message

Dear Worcester Central School Families,

As we begin a new and promising year, we want to recognize the difference your sustained support and resilience have made in bringing our students back to our classrooms.

As educators we couldn't be happier to see our students back in our building. Our goal, when we opened school in September, was to remain with in-person learning, as long as it was safe for our students and staff. I am proud to share that with

your support our students continue learning in person, and we have resumed athletics, clubs, school assemblies, after school enrichment programs, and field trips! This is what learning should look like, and we came this far, together. As we reflect on the last few months, we celebrate our faculty and staff for their endurance and their commitment to educating our students, through the good and the difficult times. We celebrate our students for their renewed engagement in learning and their demonstrated pride and respect for their school.

As we get set for the second part of the school year, we will continue to work hard to provide a quality education experience for each of our WCS students. We will continue to strive to meet the needs of your children, supporting them in their education, and preparing them for long term success as students and individuals.

Once again, we thank all our community members for their pride in our school district and their shared sense of responsibility for the success of Worcester students. We look forward to many new learning adventures this winter and spring.

On behalf of all of us at WCS, I wish you all a healthy and safe New Year!

Respectfully,

Tim Gonzales, Superintendent



## January 2022 Regents exams cancelled

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has canceled all Regents exams scheduled for Jan. 25-28, 2022.

At this time, no decisions have been made regarding the June and August 2022 Regents examinations or any other State assessment programs.

As we await guidance from NYSED about the impact this cancellation will have, please know that we will share that information with all affected students and families. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Steve Fancher at [sfancher@worcestercs.org](mailto:sfancher@worcestercs.org) or call (607) 397-8785.





## Enrichment Programs

This fall, students enjoyed a variety of school enrichment activities. This is a great opportunity for students to learn new skills and explore their interests.



Students in the American Sign Language Workshop send their love!

### Students, sign up now for Winter Enrichment:

- Introduction to Spanish (grades 3-5)
- Architectural Block Building (grades 1-2)
- Board Games (grades 5-12)
- Introduction to Yoga (grades 4-6)
- Model Building Ship in a Bottle (grades 7-12)
- Minecraft (grades 3-6)
- Envirothon (grades 7-12)
- Worcester Community Pride (grades 3-7)
- Minecraft (grades 7-9)



**Art Club** – It was a busy month of December for the WCS Art Club. Students made 22 ceramic trees as gifts for faculty and staff, who had to find them throughout the building. Club members also visited The Studio for Art and Craft in Cobleskill where they learned how to make fused glass dishes.



**Envirothon Club** – Field trips are back! The Envirothon Club visited the Albany Pine Bush to learn about the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly.



**Fall Festival** – The 2021 Fall Festival was a great success and a means to connect students and staff with community members, including BOE volunteers, Bill Fisher, Tanya Shalor, and Stacey Serdy. An incentive-based event, the Fall Festival rewarded students for positive behavior. Activities included pumpkin launch, human Plinko, arts and crafts, Minute-to-Win-it, and lawn games– topped with hot chocolate and popcorn! A great time was had by all!



**Principal Sill Reads to Students** – To connect with her elementary students, and to help develop life-long readers and learners, Elementary Principal Katie Sill has been taking the time to read to each elementary class. “Visiting the classes as a guest reader has been a great way to get to know the students and reinforce Growth Mindset ideas,” Principal Sill said. “I truly enjoy spending this time with the students!”





**PBIS Assembly** – On Friday, Jan. 7, Worcester Central School held its schoolwide PBIS assembly. Sporting their house-colored T-shirts, students participated in a virtual assembly recognizing four elementary students and three secondary students as students of the month. Two students from each house were also drawn for PBIS prizes. Together, students have earned 3,621 PAWS this quarter for displaying PAWS values (Positive Attitude, Academic Excellence, Wise Choices, and Show Respect). Students will earn a Winter Wonderland Festival if they reach the goal of 4,000 PAWS by the end of this quarter.

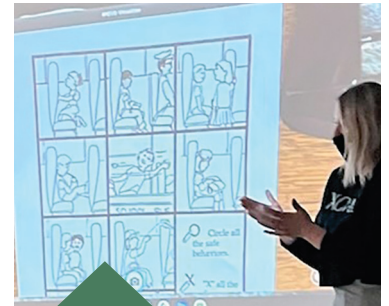


**Career Outlook** – Olivia Forte gets her nails done by senior Destiny Koss during an eighth-grade visit to ONC BOCES in Milford. Students toured the facility and heard from faculty to learn more about career and technical program offerings.

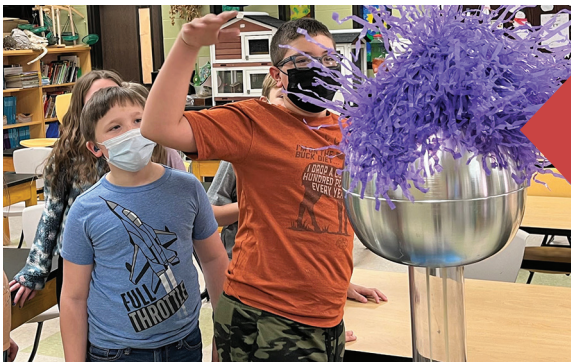
### National Honor Society Inductees

– Nine new members were inducted to the WCS National Honor Society. This brings our NHS membership to 12 students.

Inductees Sophia Adams, Hailey Bilby, Connor Fancher, Maci Milavec, Elizabeth Odell, Kimberly Rock, Anna Serdy, Emily Thompson, and Makenna Ventuleth joined current members Malena Fisher, Iriyah Haley, and Sean Kersmanc.



**Bus Safety Drills** – All WCS students have been participating in regular bus drills to raise their awareness of bus safety. Coming in from the freezing cold, bus driver Mrs. Southworth visited with Pre-K and Kindergarten students to discuss proper bus behaviors and review bus stop procedures. Sincere thanks to Worcester's amazing bus drivers! Please remember to keep everyone safe on the roads and stop on red-kids ahead!



**STEM with Mr. Peter Pollock** – WCS students love their STEM lessons and activities and are especially excited when they involve Mr. Pollock from our local BOCES! They've had fun learning and experimenting with static electricity, water rockets, the five senses, and many other interactive lessons.

## 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.*



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## Mark your CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY

- 9** Early Dismissal  
@ 12:15 p.m.
- 16** Board of Education  
Meeting at  
6:30 p.m.  
in the  
Cafenasium\*
- 21** Presidents' Day:  
**No school**
- 21-25** Winter Recess:  
**No school**

### MARCH

- 18** Superintendent  
Conference Day  
**No School**
  - 23** Board of Education  
Meeting at  
6:30 p.m.  
in the Cafenasium\*
- \*Location subject to change to  
meet COVID-19 restrictions*

## Attention All Juniors and Parents

The most exciting and important part of the school year is right around the corner! Traditionally, this time of year, you would be invited to attend an in-person presentation for information on all you need to know about the upcoming senior year. Instead, Mr. Fancher will meet with all junior students three times to review important topics for next year, such as post secondary goals, college search and application process and financial aid. There are plans for an in-person parent presentation in February for students and parents, with the opportunity to ask questions. The goal is to establish open communication during this critically important junior year.

January, 2022



## ATHLETICS ROUNDUP

Worcester athletics made a strong comeback with more than 70 students signing up for a variety of sports offerings.

In soccer this fall, Worcester fielded two varsity and two modified teams. Both varsity soccer teams were very competitive in league play, with the boys team qualifying for sectionals.

Current teams include boys varsity, girls varsity and junior varsity, boys and girls modified basketball teams-and a competitive cheer team.

In basketball, the girls JV team brought home the Ray Preston Holiday Tournament Championship, and the boys varsity team won the Schenevus Tip Off Tournament, for the fifth consecutive year. The girls varsity team recently defeated the #1 ranked team in New York State's class D.

"I am especially proud that our student athletes earned the NYSPHSAA School of Distinction honors, for two years in a row!" said Athletics Director, James Kenyon. "We were one of four teams in all of section 4 to do so. Go Wolverines!"