

WCSD
Positive Happenings
Learning in Action
1/27/2025



Elementary

EES:

Thank you, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Myers and Ms. Chase, for helping put together the Holiday Character video with the support of Allegheny Outfitters for the kids to enjoy! What a great and wonderful way to boost kids' spirits before the break!

Elf on the Shelf (Mrs. Myers) and Grinch (Mrs. Julie Morrison), thank you for braving the cold and waving to the buses and cars as they pulled in or drove EES the day before Christmas break. You put a smile on a lot of faces that morning.

PTC sponsored the Annual Santa Sale for students to purchase gifts for their families and have them wrapped. They also sponsored the Glenn Colton Christmas assembly.

Mrs. Bielawski led the singing, and Mr. Hunt accompanied the piano during Santa's visit and annual Christmas singalong.

EES conducted their annual Kiwanis Christmas party for 13 students in need. EES also dispersed Christmas dinners for families in need.

Students in grades 2 and 4 performed in a Holiday concert for family and friends on December 17. Second grade students sang a fun Christmas song and also a classic Hanukkah tune, *I Have a Little Dreidyl*. During the preparation process, we discussed the Hanukkah holiday and traditions associated with it. This was particularly special for students who celebrate Hanukkah with their families. Fourth grade students were challenged with a two-part choral song. They also learned a version of *African Noel* that included a descant part. The song was accompanied by students playing African percussion. The concert concluded with a song about peace in which all of 2nd and 4th grade were joined by members of EMHS's Middle Level choir and the audience.

Students in Kindergarten learned about three different December Holidays: Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza. We listened to and sang music from all three traditions and had an opportunity to observe pictures of a living room decorated for each holiday, which facilitated non-judgmental discussion about the similarities and differences between these cultures and traditions.

Students in grades 3 & 5 learned about the ballet *The Nutcracker*, learning the general storyline and identifying iconic melodies from the score through activities and play-alongs.



Derek Leach placed in the top 10% in the Notetic Math competition. He was also the team winner for the competition as well. The following were honorable mentions for the Noetic Math competition placing top 50% for students nationwide.



5th Grade: Glade Rulander, Lily Arthur, Connor Martin, Lucas Wansitler, Grant Criswell.



4th Grade: Autumn Waite and Hadley Peterson

SAES:

The month of December was full of excitement at Sheffield Area Elementary School! Immediately following the Thanksgiving Holiday, 1st grade teacher Molly Chapman ensured the SAES Team kicked off the Christmas holidays by supporting their community in the annual ringing of the kettlebell in downtown Sheffield. Numerous members of the SAES team and their families, scheduled and organized by Mrs. Chapman, donated time on “Black Friday” in support of this important initiative, demonstrating the importance of commitment to our students, families, and community.

In similar fashion, throughout the month of December, all students, classrooms, and staff worked together to host the annual “12 Days of Christmas” Food Drive. 3rd grade teacher Mrs. Conn collaborated closely with the local Sheffield Area Food Pantry to determine local needs and provided a daily item for student donation. As is tradition, if the school was able to reach their goal (this year’s goal was 1500 pieces of food), students were given the opportunity to embarrass Principal Harris during the annual holiday assembly. Unsurprisingly, the students and staff not only met but exceeded their goal, resulting in Mrs. Harris wearing a blow-up Santa costume for the Holiday Assembly and to visit classroom parties on December 20th.

By way of academics, students in Mrs. Lindberg’s Kindergarten classroom kicked off the winter months with news of their adopted cow Milky Way! Through “Discovery Dairy”, Mrs. Lindberg was able to adopt the dairy cow and will incorporate the calf, learning about farming, and where milk comes from into classroom lessons. “Discovery Dairy” is an engaging, interactive, cross-curricular, multi-leveled lesson series that meets Pennsylvania state education standards and anchors for science, math, and reading while incorporating social studies concepts to show students where milk comes from and how dairy farms contribute to our world.

As the holiday season continued to approach, Mrs. Hornstrom's fifth grade WIN group wrote letters to Santa! In addition to learning the proper structure of a letter, students practiced addressing envelopes to the North Pole.

Finally, the K-3 Holiday Concert and Community Celebration was held on Wednesday, December 11th, 2024. Under the direction of Music Teacher Matt McClard, students in grades K – 4 performed a selection of holiday favorites for a packed-full auditorium of supporters! This year’s concert also featured the addition of several holiday favorites, including “Elf Shelf” Santa Shopping, a traditional cookie table, and a photo booth with Santa himself, resulting in a culmination of special forever memories for our students, families, and community.

WAEC:

December and January have been rewarding months at WAEC, as we wrapped up Middle of the Year (MOY) benchmark testing for reading and math.

Progress in reading and math is evident across all grade levels, reflecting the impact of new instructional methods and focused interventions. In Kindergarten, 82 students are at or above benchmark in reading, with 18 already meeting end-of-year benchmarks. The use of Enhanced Core Reading Instruction (ECRI) and support from the Success for PA Early Learners (SPEL) grant have been instrumental in this improvement. Similarly, 85% of Kindergarten students have achieved strategic or benchmark levels in math. First grade is also seeing positive outcomes, with 69 students meeting or exceeding reading benchmarks and 92 showing strong math performance, supported by the first full year of ECRI implementation. Additionally, Kindergarten continues to receive crafts every month from the students in the WCCC Early Childhood program. Our first-grade teachers are reporting that the students are truly enjoying their new MySci curriculum for science. This is year 1 of full implementation of ECRI at the first-grade level, and we are seeing some strong indicators in the data that students are making great growth!

In second through fourth grades, steady progress is being made in academic performance. The addition of a second-grade teacher has helped improve student-to-teacher ratios, contributing to gains in reading and math benchmarks. Third-grade students enjoyed hands-on learning with new science projects with the new MySci curricular resource, such as building pinball machines, while fourth-grade students have made notable strides in math fact fluency. Attendance continues to be a key factor in student success, as a few students who did not show improvement were noted to have irregular attendance. Collaboration between fourth and fifth-grade teachers is also helping to ensure a smooth transition for students moving to the next grade level.

Overall, updates to curriculum and engaging classroom activities have supported a positive learning environment for both students and staff. Science and health lessons are on track with curriculum maps, and schoolwide activities like Guess the Teacher and Food Trucks have added to the sense of community. These efforts reflect steady progress and a focus on providing students with a supportive and enriching educational experience.

Finally, our 2nd grade students had an incredibly successful Christmas concert. The gym was packed, and the students were amazing. Our PTO has been incredible this year in their efforts to support students and teachers this year. WAEC has also experienced a recent increase in substitute teachers. We would like to thank all our substitutes, both long and short-term, for showing up and doing such an amazing job! Our substitute teachers are so flexible and always willing to help out wherever needed.

YES:

A Title I Math Night that was held at Youngsville Elementary School on Thursday, November 14th, from 5-6 in the gymnasium. Youngsville Elementary School is a Schoolwide Title I school. Parent engagement is a key component of Title I funded schools, aimed at enhancing communication between families and educators to support student achievement.

At the Title I Math Night held at Youngsville Elementary School, the teachers hosted math tables with fun and engaging math games and activities for parents to play with their children. Each student that attended received a goodie bag with math games to continue the math game fun at home.

In the first picture, parents and grandparents are seen playing Math 7 with Mrs. Rooney, our Title I teacher. Everyone seemed to have a great time!



In the second picture, Kora Rankin is pictured with the estimation jar she won at the Title I Math Night. Kora estimated the closest to the total jar amount of 339 candy corns.

In the third picture, Braylon Kent is seen throwing her paper airplane as part of the table for Paper Airplane measurement and graphing activity. Felix Gocal is waiting his turn to throw his paper airplane. This table was a



Mrs. Bierbower took the lead at a YES on a Christmas project. She collected \$3,645 in donations from nineteen community organizations and individuals. These donations were used to purchase gifts and wrapping paper for 37 students. We had a little bit leftover from the year before, so we were able to spend \$100 per student. This helped to spread Christmas cheer and happiness to our students in need during the holiday season.



A Christmas concert was held on December 17th which featured grades 3-5 led by Mrs. Cecelia Peterson. For the first time in many years, the gym stage was used for the Christmas performance along with a new portable sound system. The students had many speaking parts. A special appearance was made by the Grinch along with the Soaring Eagles choir, Soaring Handbells. Around 350 plus people showed up for this concert. A special thank you to Mrs. Cecelia Peterson, Mrs. Lynn Shultz and our custodial team for their help in making this concert so magical for all!

Santa and Mrs. Claus came to Youngville Elementary School on Friday, December 20th to spread Christmas cheer to all of our students in the classroom! The students enjoyed seeing



Middle/Secondary

BWMS:



Avah Briggs, 5th grade student, was the winner of Beaty's spelling bee with the word "euphoria." She will be representing Beaty January 31st at the WCSD Spelling Bee. Good Luck Avah!

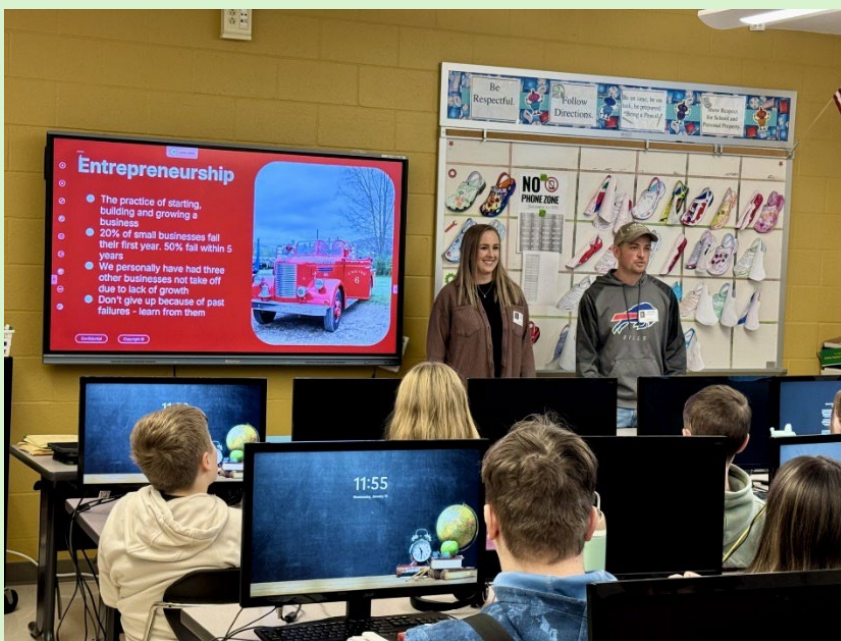
Beaty's Student Council joined with Blue Star Mothers of Kinzua PA203 to hold a Veterans Day Drive! We collected items to send to troops stationed overseas!



Our Very own "Elf on a Shelf" showed up to greet the Beaty Students as they entered the building. Thank you, ELF Johnson.

EMHS:

Clara Steinberg became just the second girl in school history to eclipse the 1,000-point mark for her career in a region matchup against the Northwestern Wildcats. Overall, the Eisenhower Girls are off to their best start in several years and currently 2nd in the region.



Natalie and Eric Hastings, owners of the Bucket Brigade Pizza Food Truck came in as guest speakers for Mrs. McElhaney's Computer 8 classes. Both are alumni of Eisenhower and Mrs. McElhaney had them as students when she first started teaching. They spoke to students about entrepreneurship and being small business owners.

The Eisenhower Instrumental Program put on their Mid-Winter Concert on Thursday evening. Students had been preparing and practicing for the event since September.



SAMHS:

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The SAMHS Junior High Boys' basketball team lost on a buzzer beater to cross county rival Youngsville. Both teams played competitively, and the score switched sides for most of the fourth quarter.



The SAMHS Cheerleaders volunteered at the elementary Christmas concert serving cookies and working at the elementary Christmas store.

8th grader, Mason Jordan won the Amazon gift card given away by Nutrition.



Middle school cheerleader Riley Grubbs played the grinch for a special elementary lunch.



Zeke Lindsey attended the first WCSD High School Art Competition at the Warren Public Library. Students from each high school were assigned a team to complete the task of creating an artwork inspired by a master artist using links. Each team, using different strategies, worked together to create works that will be placed at Central Office for viewing. Zeke's group created a landscape of a river valley.

VA – Outside:

January has been an exciting and productive month for Virtual Academy Services (VAS) as we focus on finishing the first semester strong and continuing to provide exceptional support to our 17 partner districts.

- **First Semester Completion:** We are wrapping up the first semester and have seen an influx of students transitioning in and out of the program. Thanks to our streamlined processes, we can seamlessly add transfer grades and excuse prior content, ensuring students' cumulative scores remain accurate and up to date. While this process requires individualized attention, it's well worth the effort to provide a smooth transition for all students.
- **New Reporting Capabilities:** We are thrilled to introduce a new reporting tool that has been met with great enthusiasm from our districts. This update allows administrators and educators to run reports based on specific time periods, showing daily time spent in a course and each student's current score. This enhancement provides a clearer picture of student progress and attendance, empowering districts to better support their students.

The positive feedback from our districts highlights the importance of these updates and reflects the strength of our continued collaboration. Together, we're ensuring that students receive the personalized support they need to succeed.

WAHS:

- WAHS Senior Alyssa Wismar was selected as the PGE/Your Daily Local Student of the Month for December 2024. From Alyssa's recommendation for the award:

"Her passion for the performing arts is evident in her involvement in theatre productions and her independent music gigs in neighboring towns. Alyssa's creativity and confidence shine on stage, where she captivates audiences with her performances. She also shares her love for music by teaching guitar lessons, an endeavor that showcases her patience, generosity, and ability to inspire others. In addition to her artistic talents, Alyssa has a strong academic background, having served as editor of her former school's paper and participated in the academic bowl. Her leadership qualities are further exemplified by her role in the student council and her two-year commitment to the Key Club and the National Honor Society. Alyssa's ability to balance diverse extracurricular activities with her academic pursuits is a testament to her exceptional time management skills and her genuine passion for learning. Alyssa's ambition to become an attorney reflects her deep-seated desire to make a difference in the world. Her interest in defending individuals and corporations alike is rooted in a profound sense of justice and empathy. She is drawn to biographies and Shakespearean literature, finding inspiration in the lives and words of those who have paved the way before her. These readings have enriched her understanding of human nature and fueled her desire to advocate for others."



- WAHS Senior Adam Strandburg was selected as the IU5 C.L.A.S.S. Act Nominee for WCSD for January 2025. From Adam's recommendation for the award:

"Adam has been an excellent academic student at WAHS, taking a challenging course load while being involved in numerous extracurricular activities. Adam has maintained an excellent GPA while taking every advanced science and math course offered as he plans for a future career as a Mechanical Engineer. In the building Adam has been active in Key Club, Varsity Football, the Flannel Panel, and Varsity Tennis. Adam is well respected in the building by both peers and adults and is a model student to have in the building.

In addition to school sponsored activities, Adam has been involved in a number of organizations outside of school. He has participated in the local Boy Scouts of America, earning the rank of Eagle Scout. This is no small feat, and through this journey, Adam has honed many valuable skills that will undoubtedly serve him well in the future. At the same time as working on his Eagle Scout rank, he has volunteered at hospice, the soup kitchen, and with the Special Olympics. These experiences have taught him the importance of empathy and teamwork, both qualities that are essential for any engineer looking to make a positive impact. In his spare time, Adam likes to hike, bike and build. One of his favorite things that he created was when he forged and welded a fire poker out of rebar. This ability to create and craft things from scratch is just one example of how he will excel as a Mechanical Engineer."





WAHS Unified Sport Bocce participated in their first ever match on 1/14/25, winning their matching against Maplewood with a victory in the "Golden Frame".



WAHS Robotics participated in their first tournament on Monday, January 13th for the 24.25 school year at DuBois, and are preparing for upcoming tournaments in the upcoming weeks.



WCCC:

The TANF program recently was approved for the purchase of a large TV monitor to go in the lobby area. This monitor will showcase COOP and TANF students.

Early Childhood Development:

The YMCA will visit the WCCC on three different occasions for small group activities. Mrs. McClellan is currently obtaining 3-4 community sites for students to earn their volunteer hours.

The Early Connections Pre-Apprenticeship program has started working with our students – up to 8 junior and seniors. Early Connections will assist the students in completing their CDA portfolios, earning their 480 hours and preparing them for the CDA assessment. Early Connections will also assist them in finding potential employers.

FBLA

10 students (out of 13) qualified for the FBLA state competition in April. These students will be presented to the board at the February meeting.

DECA

7 students will be competing at the DECA state event in Hershey in February – including 1st place winner Andria Anderson for Quick Service Restaurant Management. These students will also be brought to the February board meeting.

SkillsUSA

Results from the district event have not yet been posted. All qualifiers will be brought to the board in February.

YMHS:

The YMHS students recently traveled to Erie, PA, for the WQLN Scholastic Scrimmage, where five students competed against schools from across Northwestern PA. During the competition, students answered questions in areas such as math, history, science, and literature. They showcased their knowledge and quick thinking, buzzing in before the time expired for a chance to earn points and bonus questions. The season 3 of the Scholastic Scrimmage will begin airing soon for viewers to enjoy.

We are incredibly proud of YMHS student Titus Chase, who competed in the District Orchestra at Collegiate Academy in Erie, PA. Titus placed 8th out of 49 students from Districts 2, 3, and 5 combined. Although he narrowly missed advancing to the regional competition by two spots, he was invited back for a reaudition, marking a tremendous achievement in his musical journey.

District Band Auditions

YMHS students are preparing for the District Band Competition, which will take place at St. Mary's High School. On January 23, 2025, students Michael Carnahan, Zerick Jackman, Sarah Blauser, and Caitlyn Pikna will compete in the auditions. We wish them the best of luck in this exciting opportunity!

YMHS Boys Basketball Team Success

The YMHS Boys Basketball team has had an impressive start to the season with a 10-2 record. They are currently ranked in the top 3 in the region for Single A basketball, and they continue to work toward improving their standing. Additionally, the 1992 District 10 championship team will join the Youngsville community to celebrate their past achievements and show their support for the current team. This reunion is sure to be a memorable event for all.

Youngsville Middle School Wrestling Achievements

The Youngsville Middle School Wrestling team recently competed in the Ed Margie Memorial Junior High Wrestling Tournament in Union City, finishing 6th overall out of 13 teams. Tucker Sanford and Colin Havers both won their respective weight classes, and Johnathan Sullivan placed 3rd in his weight class. These strong performances are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our young athletes.

Junior High Volleyball Season

The Junior High Volleyball team is gearing up for the 2025 spring season, with 23 girls participating this year. This strong turnout demonstrates the growing interest and enthusiasm for the sport, and we look forward to seeing the team in action.

Junior High Boys Basketball

The Junior High Boys Basketball team has also had a solid start to their season, currently holding an 8-5 record. Their dedication and teamwork have been evident, and we are excited to see how the rest of their season unfolds.

Gifted:

Our District gifted students had the amazing opportunity to share their hard work with the younger students at Youngsville Elementary on December 11th! They presented a variety of incredible projects in a rotation format, giving everyone a chance to explore and learn.

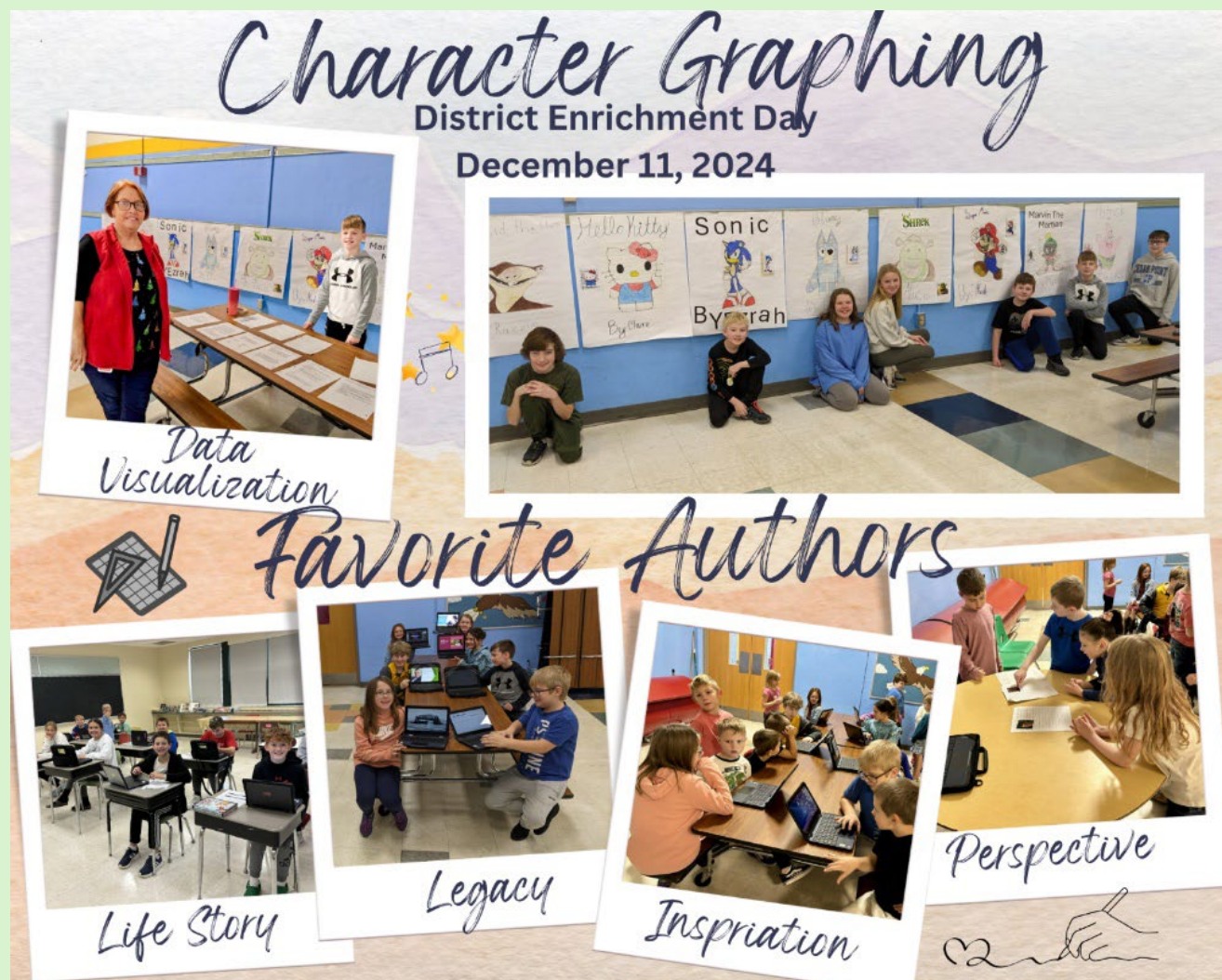
💎 Historical Figure Wax Museum: Our talented students brought history to life by portraying iconic figures and sharing fascinating facts.

💎 Character Graphing Project: The students explained how they used data and graphs to draw characters, blending creativity with math!

💎 Rube Goldberg Project: Ingenious machines and contraptions took center stage as our students demonstrated their engineering skills and problem-solving abilities.

💎 Biography Project: Students shared their research and writing, showcasing biographies they created about famous historical figures.

It was an interactive, fun, and educational experience for everyone involved! A big thank you to all our gifted students for their dedication and enthusiasm in making this event a huge success. We're so proud of all their hard work!



Gifted HIGHLIGHTS

Warren County School District

District Enrichment Days

Our students have been actively engaged in their projects during District Enrichment Days. They have recently begun to explore new topics across various subjects, including:

- Science/Technology: Designing and constructing a putt putt golf hole to complete a 9-hole putt putt course
- Mathematics: Creating Math Breakout EDU games and Math Puzzles and games
- English Language Arts: Debates and Mock Trials

Upcoming Academic Contests (Any student can enter)

Visit each website to learn more

- Warren County American Legion Essay Contest - Deadline February 20
- Young Writers Writing Contests - Deadline February 21
- WPSU Poetry Contest - Deadline February 28
- Warren County Conservation Poster Contest - Deadline March 14
- WOLN Art Contest - Deadline March 14
- WOLN Writing Contest - Deadline March 31
- American Library Poetry Contest - Deadline April 30

Gifted students in Warren County School District have several exciting field trip opportunities coming up

Hack-A-Thon (January): Hosted by the Regional Science Consortium in Erie, students will hear from experts and research an environmental problem. Students will then work to develop a solution, create a prototype, and present their findings to a panel of judges.

Carnegie Arts and History Museum (March): Students will have the opportunity to explore both the arts and history at the Carnegie Arts and History Museum.

Forensic Escape Room (March): Hosted by the Regional Science Consortium, students will experience and solve a mystery through a series of forensic labs that provide clues. Students will work in teams to solve the mystery and "escape the room."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Favorite Authors Study

By: Caleb Hellman
3rd Grader at Warren Area Elementary Center

"The author I chose for my author study was Meggie Ramm because she writes graphic novels. My favorite book of hers is *Fat Cat*"



Wax Museum Project

William Shakespeare
By: Ceci Wallace
5th Grader at Eisenhower Elementary School

"I learned that William Shakespeare was an older historical figure than I originally thought. I enjoyed doing it because I liked researching and learning about William Shakespeare."



Wax Museum Project

Leonardo da Vinci
By: Noah Ringer
5th Grader Beaty-Warren Middle School

"I chose Leonardo da Vinci because he was a really good artist and he inspired me to be an artist. I also think his inventions were very useful shaping the world into what it is today."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Our students have been hard at work! Several participated in the Noetic Math Contest this fall, entered stories and poems in recent writing contests, and completed their first enrichment projects. Here are a few of our standout students in the spotlight!

Congratulations Derek!




Derek Leach is a 5th grade student at Eisenhower Elementary School. He participated in the National Noetic Math contest this Fall, and was the only student in the district who earned the National Honor Roll status, top 10% in the nation. Derek stated "The competition was really fun and engaging. I didn't really care what place and medal I got, but it was really fun to see the score that got." Congratulations to Derek!

Character Graphing Math Project

By: Ian Lewis
6th grader at Youngsville Elementary School


"We used the grid to find the coordinates of different points and multiplied them by two to create a bigger version of our cartoon."



Favorite Authors Study

By: Madilyn Leichtenberger
5th Grader at Sheffield Elementary School

"I chose Megan Shull for my project because she wrote my favorite book called *Bounce*. I like it because it incorporates fantasy and real life."

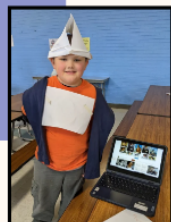


STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Wax Museum Project

By: Magnus Ferrie
2nd Grader at Warren Area Elementary Center


"I liked learning about Christopher Columbus. I was surprised that he was born in Italy. I liked making my costume."



Geometry Math Project

By: Nash Howell
5th Grader at Youngsville Elementary Center


"We used geometry and multiplication to find the size and shape of the character once its remade."

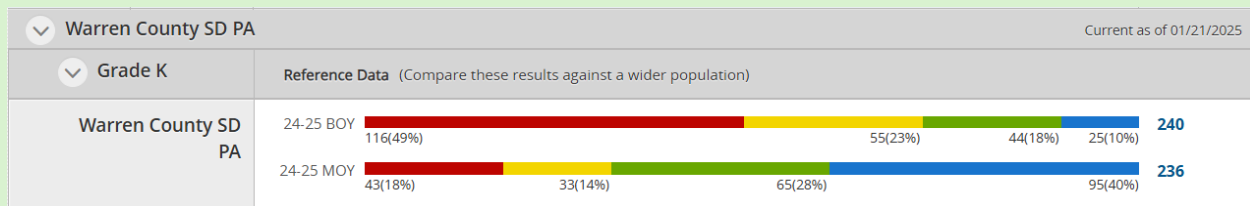


Wax Museum Project

By: Gaven Mealy
8th Grader at Beaty-Warren Middle School

"I was James Madison in the wax museum. I was the president during the civil war and one of the key people in writing the constitution. I had fun doing this activity and showing the elementary students who James Madison is (and what he looks like)."





The implementation of Enhanced Core Reading Instruction (ECRI) in all elementary buildings during core instruction is having a positive impact on the early literacy skills in kindergarteners. WCSD Kindergarten DIBELS benchmark scores have increased from the beginning of the year.

- At the beginning of the year, 28% of the students scored at or above benchmark (18% at benchmark and 10% above benchmark).
- At the middle of the year, 68% of the students scored at or above benchmark (28% at benchmark and 40% above benchmark).

AWARD:

The Warren County School District has been selected by the PAEE (Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators) as the recipient of one of only two annual awards for the MWEE School of Excellence Award.

Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE) are learner-centered experiences that focus on student investigations into local environmental issues that lead to informed action and civic engagement. Although not a requirement, Pennsylvania promotes and recommends one MWEE experience occur in each grade band 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

The implementation of the MWEE at the third-grade level includes locating the water source closest to individual buildings and tracking it the Allegheny River and beyond, while investigating how treatment of localized waterways can affect entire river basins. Students participate in activities that include weather tracking, analyzing water run-off, water testing, health of the Eastern Hellbender, and consequences of litter. Throughout the unit, students gain understanding of how their actions affect others as well as encouraging awareness of human actions.

At the sixth-grade level, students take a more in-depth look at localized waterways by gathering more water quality data to determine effects on the structure and function of freshwater macroinvertebrates by the influence of surrounding landscape and general ecological health of the stream community. Students collect samples of macroinvertebrate colonies and conduct studies to gain understanding of how leaves, generally the dominant food source for small streams, are part of ecosystem energy driven by photosynthesis. Commonly, unpolluted waters support a greater variety of freshwater macroinvertebrates than polluted waters. Students take a more mature look at what they can do to support a healthy watershed.

Ideas and activities for the high school band are being discussed as the elementary and middle level activities continue to evolve.

