

**WCSD**  
**Positive Happenings**  
**Learning in Action**  
**2/24/2025**



## **Elementary**

### **EES:**

The end of January culminated with the district-wide spelling bee held at EMHS. Ethan Patterson from Tidioute Community Charter School was the Warren County Champion.

EES held its annual 100th-day activities. We had our Valentine's Day festivities on February 13.

Nutrition Inc. held Cow Day on Tuesday, February 21. This event had the students sampling multiple flavors of milk accompanied by chocolate chip cookies.

### **SAES:**

The month of February kicked off with a special "Groundhog's Day" celebration provided by our amazing Nutrition Team! Beau Threadgill, 1st-grade student, randomly selected the "lucky tray" to win the "Ground Hog Prize Gift Bag"; all students celebrated with special "Ground Hog Pudding" on lunch trays. February 6<sup>th</sup> brought football-themed activities and lunches in preparation for the Superbowl while students dressed in sports attire and shared their predictions for the upcoming game.

Festivities switched gears quickly in preparation for "The 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School" and "Valentine's Day" with a variety of fun learning activities and projects popping up all over the place. 1st-grade classrooms completed "Why I love \_\_\_\_" writing assignments while 2<sup>nd</sup> grade created "I am" hearts that highlighted their positive attributes; both classes enjoyed presenting their written work and activities in class for Mrs. Harris. Kindergarten classrooms celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school in style by creating hats, necklaces, color wheels, and enjoying several activities based on the theme of "100".

Weekly "Golden Tray" PBIS Recognitions and principal lunches with classrooms have also continued with an ongoing emphasis on positive lunchroom behaviors. CKLA lessons focused on geology, continual monitoring of the growth/development of Kindergarten's adopted cow Milkway, and ongoing Math facts/preparations have also continued.

SAES will finish the month of February with the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual "Basketball Extravaganza", this year with the theme of "Sheffield Forever". Proceeds from the annual event are used to purchase a yearbook for every student at SAES at no cost to families.

## WAEC:

At Warren Area Elementary Center, the school year has been filled with positive happenings that have brought excitement and growth to our students. One of the highlights was the PTO-sponsored “Exotic Adventures” assembly, where all students had the incredible opportunity to get up close and personal with animals from all around the world. The assembly provided an engaging, hands-on experience as students learned about unique creatures from diverse environments, sparking curiosity and fostering a deeper understanding of global wildlife. This event was both educational and fun, leaving a lasting impression on our students as they discovered new animals and cultures.



Another memorable event at WAEC was McTeacher Night, a fundraising effort that brought together teachers, staff, and the community. On this special night, staff members volunteered to work various roles at the local McDonald's, with all proceeds benefiting the school's Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program. The event was a huge success, not only raising much-needed funds but also strengthening the relationship between the school and the local community. This initiative has provided valuable resources to support our PBIS efforts, which in turn helps create a positive and encouraging environment for all students.



In addition to these exciting events, our students have been making significant academic progress, particularly in the K and 1st grades, through the implementation of the ECRI (Enhanced Core Reading Instruction) program. This targeted approach has proven effective in helping students develop strong foundational reading skills. Furthermore, our students have greatly benefited from the increased support and services provided through our partnership with Beacon Light Behavioral Health Services (BLBHS) School-Based Behavioral Health program. Carrie McCausland, the new Mobile Therapist, has been instrumental in leading the program at WAEC, offering both in-school and at-home behavioral supports. This collaboration ensures that our students receive the comprehensive care they need to succeed academically and socially, contributing to the overall well-being of our school community. Additionally, our choir students had the honor of singing the national anthem at a basketball game at Warren Area High School, showcasing their talent and pride for our school.

## **YES:**

On Wednesday, January 22nd, the Jamestown Jackals visited Youngsville Elementary School for their quarterly S.O.A.R. Assembly. The Jamestown Jackals are a professional basketball team from Jamestown, NY and are members of the Basketball Super League. They taught students about the



importance of integrity and other lessons learned through playing basketball. Some of our students learned more about shooting hoops and handling the ball during relays at the assembly.



Ruby-Wiles Shaw, Founder/Director Free Books for Kids Town came to Youngsville Elementary School on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, for students to pick out a free book to start the new year with a good read! Pictured are a few of Mrs. Nyquist's students from left to right: Emma Rankin, Alivia Peate, Bethany Shellhouse, Olyvia Funkhouser, and Rylan Simons picking out a book. Students are given several opportunities throughout the school year to pick out a free book from this wonderful program!



## Middle/Secondary

### BWMS:

Beaty students and staff had an amazing time as the Jamestown Jackals made a special visit to our school! The energy was high, and smiles were everywhere as we celebrated our PBIS FIRE expectations: Fierceness, Integrity, Responsibility, and Excellence.



Beaty students participated in a Zoom session with Mike Kiehl and Jeff Dougherty, asking them questions about transportation, traffic collisions, bridges, and overall safety as it relates to various transportation. These students are participating in the K'nex STEM Design Competition and are challenged this year to design and create a prototype that addresses real-world problems relating to infrastructure, transportation, or urban development. They are to think about how cities, roads, bridges, and systems can be built or improved to be more efficient, sustainable, accessible, and/or safer. The students asked some great questions relating to their project. The K'nex STEM Design competition will be held at the beginning of April.



### EMHS:

#### **EMHS Kindness Week: 2/10 – 2/14**

The 3rd annual Kindness Week was celebrated here at EMHS the week of February 10th-14th. Many activities were held throughout the week such as a school-wide kindness pledge, daily kindness challenges, spirit week, and a kindness cafe to celebrate students who were nominated by their teachers for being consistently kind. The goal of Kindness Week is to encourage students and staff to engage in acts of kindness, encourage empathy, promote and celebrate positive behavior, and

foster the development of our strong school community and overall compassion. We aimed to highlight the importance of kindness in everyday life, inspiring students and staff to be more thoughtful and considerate towards others.



**Boys and Girls Basketball advance to D-10 playoffs:**



**Wrestlers advance to various levels of postseason tournaments:**

Abbie Darr, Brynn Lindell, Evan Huck, Hunter Vanderhoof, Bryceton Wilkins, Ryan Chambers, Rever Caudill, Shawn Miller, Thayne Gourley, Owen Ash, Wesley Wilcox and Lane Morrison have all qualified to advance to various levels of postseason tournaments.





### **Open House 2/5:**

On Wednesday, February 5th, Eisenhower hosted an open house for prospective Youngsville students coming next school year. The event showcased all the classes, clubs, sports, and other extracurricular activities that are offered. The event was well attended and allowed families to interact with teachers and ask questions to help inform their decisions for the 25-26 school year.

### **Student Leadership Group with YMHS:**

Students from both Eisenhower and Youngsville have been working and meeting together to plan the transition for the next school year. The group meets bi-weekly and has brought forth many suggestions and ideas for the combining of both schools.



## **SAMHS:**

### **Cupid's Ball**



Sheffield Middle School was filled with dancing and fun on February 7th as students danced the night away at this year's Cupid's Ball! Hosted by the Middle School Student Council, the cafeteria was beautifully transformed into a Valentine's wonderland, decked out in shades of pink and red. One of the highlights of the evening was the crowning of Cupid's Ball King and Queen, Molly Richards, and Ryder Wagner! The court also included:

👑 Alex VanGelder, Mason Smith, Ryder Wagner, Chance Gustafson, and Liam Frederoski

👑 Kelsey Hawk, Bristol Holden, Molly Richards, Daejah Cochrane-Smith, and Riley Grubbs

A huge thank you goes out to the Middle School Student Council for their hard work in planning and decorating for the event. Their dedication made the night truly special, and it was wonderful to see so many students come together to celebrate. Great job, Wolverines!

### **Football Accolades**

We are thrilled to announce that three of our outstanding student-athletes—Andrew Kyler, Colby Barr, and Alex Marfink—have been selected to participate in the prestigious Big 30 Football All-Star Game! This annual event showcases the top talent from schools across the region, and having three players chosen is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team.



## **C.L.A.S.S. ACT Winner!**

Congratulations to Madison Connolly, SAMHS senior, for earning the WCSD February nomination to the CLASS Act Emerging Leader! See the SAMHS nomination below.



Sheffield Middle Senior High School is proud to nominate Madison Connolly for the C.L.A.S.S. Act Emerging Leader for IU5. Madison exemplifies the C.L.A.S.S. characteristics both inside and outside of the classroom. Madison embodies characteristics of a true leader, excelling in academics, extracurricular activities, and community service. Her dedication to her school and community makes her an outstanding candidate for this recognition.

Madison is a hardworking and persistent student, maintaining a 3.7 GPA while challenging herself with AP and Honors courses. She leads by example as Student Council President, demonstrating responsibility and a commitment to improving her school. Additionally, she is a member of the National Honor Society, S.A.D.D., Varsity Club, and Academic Bowl, as well as serving on the Advisory Council for the Warren County School District K-12 School Guidance Plan, showcasing her dedication to student advocacy and school improvement. Her character is evident in her leadership roles—as a team captain for both the volleyball and cheerleading teams, she fosters teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship. Madison extends her leadership beyond high school by working with elementary students at youth camps for cheerleading and volleyball, displaying optimism and mentorship for younger students.

Madison's good citizenship and respect for others are demonstrated through her extensive community service. She has volunteered at the Sheffield Food Pantry, The Salvation Army, and the Knights of Columbus fish fry, all while balancing her academics, athletics, and employment at Dockside's Café. Her willingness to help others, whether through babysitting or dog sitting, highlights her compassionate nature and trustworthiness.

Madison represents Sheffield High School with integrity, positivity, and dedication, making her a role model for her peers. She consistently upholds the values of respect, responsibility, and service, making a meaningful impact in her school and community. Her commitment to excellence and leadership, along with her plans to pursue a career in the medical field, reflect her drive to continue making a difference in the lives of others.

For these reasons, the staff and administration wholeheartedly recommend Madison Connolly for the C.L.A.S.S. Act Emerging Leader award. She is a true leader, a dedicated student, and a compassionate community member who exemplifies the very essence of this honor.

## **Virtual Inside and Outside:**

### **Positive Happenings: Virtual Academy Services Update**

This month, Virtual Academy Services (VAS) has been focused on exploring innovative tools and strategies to enhance virtual instruction and support both teachers and students.

- **Exploring AI and New Tools for Instruction:** We have been actively researching and testing AI-driven tools within our Learning Management System (LMS) to provide additional support for teachers and improve student learning experiences. As AI continues to develop, we anticipate an increase in tools that can streamline instruction, provide real-time feedback, and enhance engagement in a virtual setting.
- **Professional Development at PETE&C:** Administration attended the PETE&C conference to gain deeper insight into AI in education and best practices for online learning. This opportunity allowed us to connect with industry experts, explore cutting-edge technologies, and bring back valuable resources to share with staff.
- **February 17th Professional Development:** Insights from PETE&C were shared with our educators during the recent PD day, providing them with an opportunity to explore potential new instructional supports. Some key tools that were discussed:
  - **ALEE:** A novel-based learning platform that offers comprehensive novel units, which could be embedded within our existing English curriculum.
  - **Streamable Learning:** A virtual field trip platform that allows students to experience real-world learning from their screens, broadening their educational experiences.
  - **ClickView:** A content resource that provides engaging, high-quality 3–7 minute videos aligned with subject areas and standards, helping teachers build out curriculum with engaging instructional content.

As we continue to innovate, these tools have the potential to enhance virtual learning by making instruction more interactive, engaging, and personalized. The positive engagement from our teachers and districts reinforces the importance of exploring new ways to support student success in an evolving educational landscape.

## WAHS:



Leihden has been a leader among his classmates and has proven in his academic and extracurricular endeavors that he is worthy of being a PGE/Your Daily Local Student of the Month. Leihden has been an excellent academic student at WAHS and previously at Sheffield Area High School, taking a challenging courseload while being involved in numerous extracurricular activities. Leihden has maintained an excellent GPA while taking advanced courses including AP and Dual Enrollment offerings. Wotorson transferred from Sheffield to Warren for his senior year. He has served as a class officer and been active in Key Club, Varsity Club, and the “Flannel Panel,” along with playing varsity golf and basketball. Leihden has been a team captain for both the Sheffield basketball team and this year after transferring for the WAHS basketball team, a testament to his leadership qualities as seen by both schools and coaching staffs. Leihden Wotorson is admired by the administration and the teaching staff for his relentlessly positive attitude and demeanor.

WAHS Cheerleading team participated in the PIAA State Championships in Reading, PA. Congratulations to Kaelon Connolly on her District 10 Girls Wrestling Championship! Dragon’s boys’ and girls’ basketball teams have qualified for the District 10 Playoffs. Numerous swimmers and divers will compete in the District 10 Meet. Three WAHS students represented the school at PMEA District Jazz. WAHS also sent student to the PMEA District Choir this month. WAHS students also attended the Robert H. Jackson Center. 40 students also went on a tour of JCC and SUNY Fredonia.

## WCCC:

The WCCC will be holding its annual “Mock Interview” day on February 27 in the AM. Special thanks to Mrs. Cathie Cummings for organizing the event.

The BCO program has been hard at work preparing the sets for the upcoming Junior All County musical. Way to go BCO.

## YMHS:

Youngsville Middle/High School honored Caitlyn Pikna as the high school student of the month for January and both Ethyn Higley and Rylee Rectenwald for middle school.

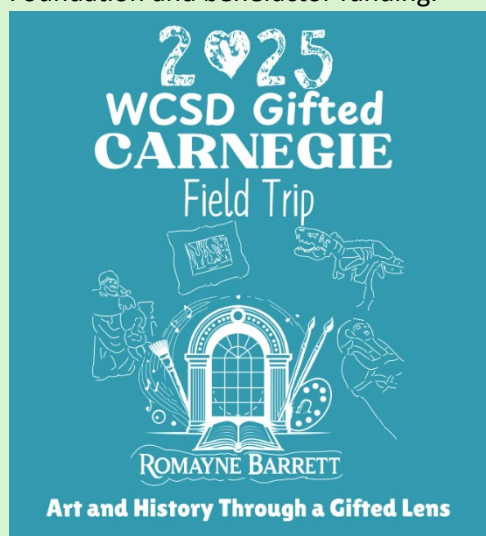


Youngsville had some middle school students qualify for PJW state championships. They are Johnathan Sullivan, Jakob Battko, Khloe Ruhlander, Tucker Sanford, Brenton Myers, Collin Havers, and Ryker Chase. Congratulations and good luck to these hard-working student-athletes. Youngsville High School students Michael Carnahan, Caitlyn Pikna, and Zerick Jackman participated in the district band and have qualified to move on to the region band. The varsity basketball team qualified for district playoffs and will take on West Middlesex on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The winner of that game will then move on to the District 10 finals. The Varsity wrestling team had 12 student-athletes participate in the Section tournament for wrestling. Unfortunately, none were able to move on to the next tournament. Student ambassadors from Eisenhower and Youngsville have been meeting bi-weekly to identify student concerns/needs with the transition of YMHS students to Eisenhower. Students are creating an open dialog with each other and the administration.

### **Gifted:**

The WCSD Gifted Support Program just received confirmation that they have successfully met the requirements of the PDE gifted state compliance monitoring. Mr. Gary Weber received a letter highlighting this effort which will be shared with the school board.

The Gifted Support Program is gearing up for a field trip to the Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. This effort is being funded through the Community Foundation of Warren County through benefactor money from the Romaine-Barrett Fund. The Gifted Support students helped design the t-shirt logo for the trip which incorporated the Romaine-Barrett fund logo and their design. Below is the t-shirt design in which each student will be given a t-shirt to wear on the trip. We are thrilled to have this opportunity to take our students on this enrichment trip through the support of the Community Foundation and benefactor funding.



### **District:**

YMHS/EMHS student leaders have been meeting bi-weekly. Additional information about these meetings can be found under each school's positive happenings. This effort will be expanded to SAMHS 8<sup>th</sup> graders, upperclassmen, and students transitioning to WAHS from YMHS soon.

Course selection is underway. Along with courses that have been offered in the past, new course availability includes Physical Science, Personal Finance, The Art of Public Speaking and Communicating, Future Tech and Engineering, Limitless Techn and Engineering I, Fabrication and Manufacturing I & II, and Creating Digital Media I & II.