



OUR SCHOOLS

FALL 2024

Superintendent's Message

Academy Programs: Preparing Students for the Future

Our nationally recognized Academy programs afford our students the opportunity to explore a career field while developing transferable academic and workplace skills. This fall, the West Seneca Central School District inducted 116 students from West Seneca West and East Senior High School into our five Academy programs:

- Business & Finance
- Engineering
- Information Technology/Digital Media
- Life Science
- Visual Arts

Our Academy programs provide students with unique opportunities to grow their skills through internships, field trips, shadowing opportunities and professional workshops. Students who participate in Academy programs stand out among the rest because of the skills they acquire through these unique learning experiences. Employers and colleges are seeking individuals who take initiative, go above and beyond the minimum standard, have interpersonal skills, can be part of a team, and who demonstrate professionalism. Our Academy Programs equip students with these critical life and career skills, while helping students explore career fields.



Katelyn Welker



Lisa Krueger, Ed.D.

In addition, the West Seneca Central School District welcomed Mrs. Katelyn Welker as our new Director of Academies, CTE and Professional Development. Mrs. Welker is credited with the growth of the Academies and Career & Technical Education (CTE) programming in the Pioneer Central School District and, most recently, served as an administrator in the Orchard Park Central School District. Mrs. Welker shared, "Although I have always felt at home in the classroom, it is in my position as an administrator where I have been most fulfilled in my life's work. This new role provides me the chance to work collaboratively with teachers on a daily basis, while also remaining connected to students' learning and growing in the classroom. I firmly believe that every child can excel and that the partnership between home and school builds confidence in students to use their powers to shape their future and the future of our community." Mrs. Welker is a collaborative leader who added, "I am excited to work closely with students, staff and community members to grow the opportunities for all students as they work towards successful graduation completion and post-graduation accomplishments.

We are excited to have Mrs. Welker on our team and look forward to the continued growth and enhancement of our programs under her leadership.

Academy Program Inductions

To learn more about our Academy Programs, scan this QR code:



Congratulations to all!

3rd Annual Trojan Triathlon



The Trojan Triathlon has truly blossomed over the past three years. Transforming from a modest event with 20 participants into a robust competition involving 60 enthusiastic student athletes. The dedication and commitment of both students and staff have been instrumental in this growth. Students have been diligently training in the mornings and after school, with the support of Mrs. Michalek, Mr. Grover, and Mrs. Lutman, who organized the after-school runners club. Meanwhile, Mr. Overton and Mr. Nicosia spearheaded the 7am swim club, which saw an impressive turnout of over 30 athletes three times a week. The West Middle physical education team, Mr. Marinaro and Mrs. Marshall, also played a crucial role in preparing their athletes. This year's event was further enriched by the involvement of the Ionraic Triathlon club. The top athletes, Greyson Resch and Gianna Cawthard from West, along with Logan Wilson and Olivia Mekelberg from East, delivered remarkable performances. The smooth execution of the event was made possible by the invaluable assistance of Bill Hill and the custodial teams from East Middle and East Senior, including Darryl Hertel and Paul Kempf, whose efforts behind the scenes ensured everything ran seamlessly.





Ms. Urkewich's class from Clinton Street Elementary



West Seneca History Museum

Field trips are a vital part of the educational experience for elementary school students, offering a range of benefits that enhance learning and development.

In collaboration with the West Seneca Historical Society, 4th grade elementary classes are provided the opportunity to take a field trip to the West Seneca Historical Society's Museum for a tour. Tours are scheduled throughout the year. The rich history of the museum aligns well with the study of New York State History which is part of the 4th grade curriculum. This is a great learning experience for students as they have the opportunity to explore numerous historical artifacts featured in the museum.

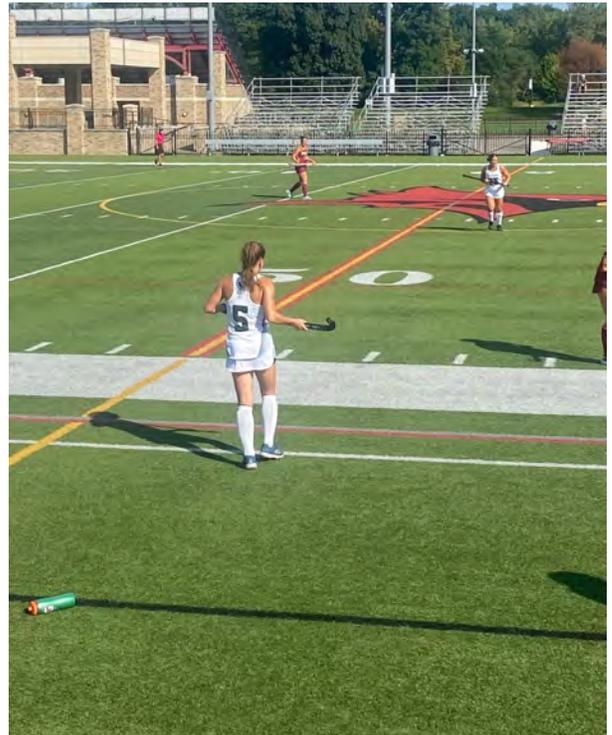
Thank you to the West Seneca Historical Society for playing a crucial role in enriching the educational journey of our elementary school students. They not only the ye were not only able to participate in enhanced academic learning but you have also contributed to social development, cultural awareness, and a lifelong love of exploration.

**More information about the museum can be found at:
www.westsenecahistory.com.**



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In early September, West Senior Coaches Ruchalski and Roberts decided to take a road trip to support Class of 2024 West alumna Eliza Freeland playing in her first college game with the William Herons. No road trip would be complete without bringing current team members who came to support - Grace Cutrona, Ari Gioia, Ella Harrington. Not only were they able to spend time catching up with Eliza they were able to witness her first goal.

Way to go Eliza! Keep making West Seneca proud!



Seeding Change for a Greener Future



Encouraging students to try farm-fresh foods not only enhances their diet but also nurtures a lifelong appreciation for healthy eating, environmental stewardship, and community support.

West Middle's FACS department has started a new monthly initiative to introduce students to local and seasonal fresh foods that they may be unfamiliar with or have never tried. The initiative called "Fresh Food Fridays" was launched at this year's West Fest.

In coordination with local farms and organizations donations and/or at cost foods that are in season will be provided to student volunteers to prepare and serve the sample tastings. Introducing the students to farm-fresh foods is crucial for their health, development, and appreciation of nutrition as well as learning some new culinary skills. These samples will be given out once a month on a Friday afternoon at dismissal.

