



WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

A VISION OF EXCELLENCE

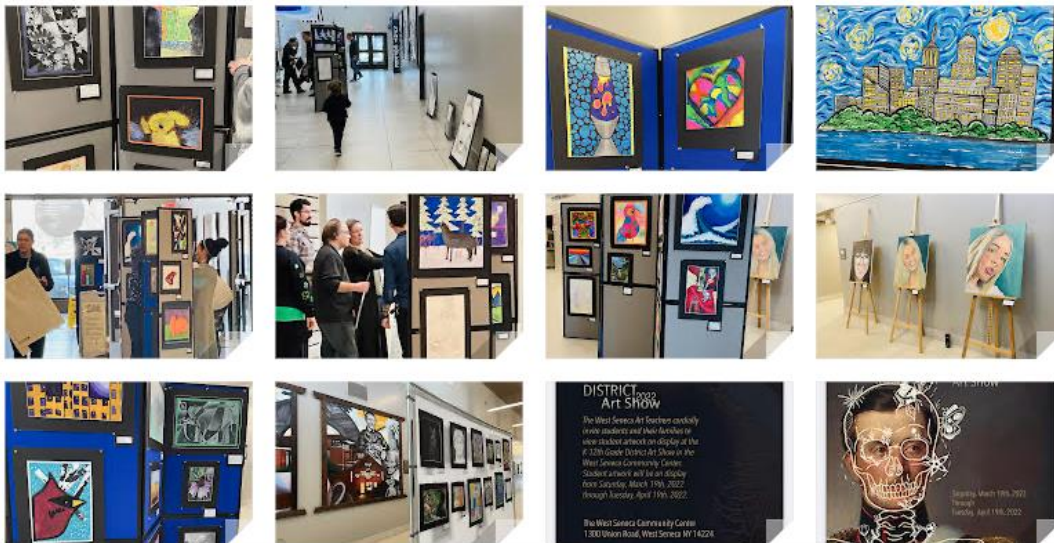


Superintendent Matthew Bystrak's Weekly Brief

March 25, 2022

ANNUAL DISTRICT ART SHOW

The Annual District Art Show is up and running at the Martha Burchfield Richter Atrium at the West Seneca Community Center. One hundred and fifty pieces of beautifully curated student artwork, including pieces from 10-12 students from each K-12 grade level were chosen to represent each school in the district. The installation will be on display for the community to enjoy until April 19th.



MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH & CONCERT SEASON

West Seneca may not have our own philharmonic, but we have the next best thing. We enjoy a richness of music education within our schools that is exciting and enviable by any K-12 standards! Students are encouraged and inspired from the earliest grades to become involved in music in a variety of ways, and we are helping to form exciting young musicians! See our course offerings below.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend our upcoming spring concerts that are the result of our year-long, in-school music instruction with an extraordinary corps of teachers who are, in many cases, award winning working musicians. All types of presentations considered; our musical groups make over 100 public performances per year! [Click here to view the entire calendar of musical events.](#) Moreover, the WSCSD was awarded the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) 2021 "Best Communities For Music Education" award for the fifth consecutive year (8 times overall), and our award-winning Marching Band had an historic 2021 season!

Elementary Course Offerings:

Classroom Music for K-5
Band and Orchestra Lessons and Ensemble 4&5
Chorus 4&5

Middle School Course Offerings:

General Music 6&7
Chorus 6-8
Band and Orchestra Lessons
Band 6-8
Orchestra 6-8
Extracurriculars: Drama Club, Jazz Band, Fiddle Club. Opportunities to participate in All-County and New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Festivals, and Marching Band.

High School Course Offerings:

Combining both East and West we offer
Music Theory
AP Music Theory
Guitar Class
History of Classical Music
6 different choruses
5 different bands
3 orchestras
Extracurriculars: Drama Club, Jazz Band, Vocal Jazz, Vocabella (treble only vocal jazz ensemble), Marching Band, and Chamber ensemble opportunities. Opportunities to participate in All-County and NYSSMA Festivals.



MARCHING BAND RECRUITMENT

YOLO! Relatively, there is a small window in a person's life when they get to be part of a high school marching band! All band, orchestra, chorus students, dancers, and pianists in grades 7-11 were welcomed and encouraged to attend one or both of our Marching Band expo events to find out what the award winning, six-time State Champion West Seneca Marching Band is all about! There was an expo at West Senior on March 23rd, and there will be another at East Senior on March 31st. Interested students were asked to bring friends, guardians, parents, and any instruments they might have.

Our Marching Band enjoys a wide community of band backers who make sure our students have top-of-the-line instruments and uniforms. Consider joining our troupe of fine musicians and join in the fun and magnificence of being a marching-music representative of the West Seneca Central School District.

Band Director John Blickwedehl says, "We had a great turnout, and we're hoping to see even more people at our second expo next week. It is our goal to build on the success of last season and have the largest marching band in 20 years this season!"



COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHT

College Information Night was recently held in the auditorium at East Senior. Our school counselors presented valuable information to juniors and parents/guardians. This unique experience with our "pros who know" is a boon to our families, whether their children are first generation college-goers or not. So much has changed in higher education in recent years, and our counselors make sure they are informed of the latest changes and innovations on college campuses. Representatives from the University at Buffalo, Buffalo State College, SUNY Erie, Daemen University, and Alfred State College formed a panel to answer FAQs, while our East and West Senior counselors facilitated and supplemented information. Thank you for your service, counselors! College shopping would be a difficult road to navigate without your expertise.



AUTISM AWARENESS

Recently, West Elementary School sold Autism Awareness shirts and designated The Children's Hospital Autism Spectrum Disorder Center as the recipient of **\$675** in proceeds! The donation will be used to supplement Children's family and activities fund. According to the CDC, approximately 1 in 44 children in the United States is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. Early intervention, effective supports, and access to resources, greatly benefits both children and adults with autism. Resources can be found through The Children's Hospital Autism Spectrum Disorder Center, Parent Network of WNY, and several other local groups. Thank you to all who participated in the fundraising, and thank you for raising awareness by wearing your T-shirts (shown below)! We think you're Au-some!



Board and PTA Member Elizabeth Gates with Mrs. Vanderlip's Kindergartners & Mrs. Goodman's 3rd graders at West Elementary's PTA organized Bookfair.

RELIEF FOR UKRAINE

West Elementary 4th graders recently took the initiative to start a fundraising club for the Ukraine. With very little teacher assistance, the group ran a school-wide coin drive and awareness "march." Money collected will go to the (New York State United Teachers) NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund, and West Seneca Teachers Association (WSTA) will be asked to match donations the students are able to collect. On Friday morning, students held an awareness march from 8:45 to 9:15 during drop-off, and from 3:10 to 3:30 during pick-up. The students were safely in clear view with signs, while staff manned the parking lot. The plan was to collect coins from parents and grandparents, but there was a lot of paper money offered.

The generosity (no final count yet) is overwhelming. Our sense of community, local or worldwide, driven by our children, defines us. I am so proud of our West Elementary family for their willingness to help those in need.



EAST SENIOR BLOOD DRIVE

Our East Senior High Student Council Officers ran a highly successful Red Cross blood drive this week! There were 4 "Double Red" donors and 35 additional units collected. Each unit saves three lives, and as an amazing bonus, currently the Red Cross tests for Covid-19 antibodies and administers that blood to Covid-19 patients, as well as immunocompromised and elderly patients! "Our East Student Council has really demonstrated major leadership post-Covid and has campaigned to make all of their events successful, including this blood drive!" says East English teacher Dyan Scritchfield.



"OUR SCHOOLS" SPRING 2022

The latest issue of the *Our Schools* quarterly publication of the WSCSD is hitting the presses any moment now for a community-wide mailing. You can see it first on the [Community Relations page of our website!](#)

Enjoy your weekend!

Matthew Bystrak
Superintendent