



# En Route

## The Wappingers Central School District Newsletter

### Superintendent Publishes WCSD Navigating Our Way Document

Superintendent of Schools José L. Carrión has published the Navigating Our Way (NOW) to Empower, Challenge, and Grow document. NOW is intended to provide you with a detailed understanding of the

entire WCSD learning community. This document, which is available on our website, provides a cohesive, comprehensive



understanding of the philosophy, work, culture, climate, and goals from each of our offices aligned to the values of the Board of Education and the WCSD Strategic Plan.

[Please take the time to check it out.](#)



### Ceremonies Held to Thank Veterans

Students at John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham High Schools honored veterans during moving flag pole ceremonies on November 9. An impressive line of small American



flags outlined the John Jay campus. Veterans, including an American Legion Color Guard, enjoyed students performing patriotic songs.



### School Board Recognized for Dedicated Service Artwork Presented by Kindergarteners

This year during School Board Recognition Week in October, the Wappingers Central School District's Board of Education was presented with artwork created by Kindergarteners as a token of appreciation. Board members are volunteers who spend many long hours working to improve public education.

The one-of-a-kind pieces of art highlight the talents and innocence of the district's youngest learners while depicting the unique personalities of each building. The gifts were made possible thanks to the efforts of the elementary principals, art teachers, Kindergarten teachers, and Kindergarten students. The effort showcases our Kindergarten students engaging in opportunities to learn through play.

As part of a new local initiative, WCSD Kindergarten teachers



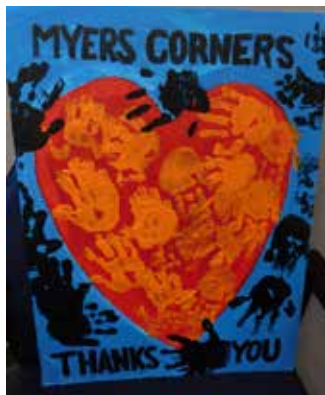
Three Kindergarten students represented all of the class of 2030 to present the artwork to the Board of Education.

worked during the summer of 2018 to map out a curriculum that increases student play-centered experiences without compromising rigor. Bringing back the "play" in Kindergarten, while continuing to meet New York State Standards, is important because young, five-year-old students thrive in such an environment.

*The mission of the Wappingers Central School District is to empower all of our students with the competencies and confidence to challenge themselves, to pursue their passions, and to realize their potential while growing as responsible members of their community.*



## Kindergarteners' Works of Art to Thank Our Dedicated Board of Education





## 2019-20 Superintendent's Recommended Budget Preparation is Underway

Each fall, collaboratively, the Board of Education, Superintendent, and senior staff begin preparing the budget for the following school year to enable thoughtful decision-making. The goal is to be fiscally responsible and considerate of taxpayers, while providing all students the rich educational experience they require and deserve. The public is invited to attend Board of Education meetings and Superintendent Forums to hear presentations about the upcoming budget.

[Click here for the latest budget information.](#)

### Key Budget Development Dates

Board of Education meetings are held in the auditorium of Wappingers Junior High School and the public portion is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m.

Listed here are key dates in the budget development process. The Board of Education and Superintendent encourage your participation.

#### January 7, 2019

- Superintendent Forum "A Budget Conversation" presented in Spanish 5:30- 6:30 pm. Room 105 WJHS
- General Support & Instruction Budget Presentation at the BOE meeting

#### February 11, 2019

- Superintendent Forum "A Budget Conversation" 5:30- 6:30 pm. Room 105 WJHS
- Transportation & Undistributed Budget Presentation at the BOE meeting

#### April 8, 2019

- BOE Meeting - Budget Hearing

#### April 23, 2019

- Deadline for BOE approval of 2019-2020 Budget

#### May 7, 2019

- BOE Meeting - Mandated Budget Hearing

#### May 21, 2019

- Budget Vote

## Investing in Education: Update on Key Capital and Improvement Projects

The WCSD has been working diligently to maintain and improve our buildings and grounds through Capital Projects approved by the voters and available NYS funding.

Phase 1 of the 2016 Capital Project has been completed. Some of the installed sidewalks will be redone next summer to correct some deficiencies at the cost of the contractor. All of the work scheduled for last summer under Phase 2 has been completed and pre-construction planning has begun for Summer 2019. The wheelchair lift installation at WJHS is nearly complete. Acoustic panel installations at John Jay and RCK auditoriums are scheduled for the December break.

The \$33 million 2018 Capital Project addresses

roofs, windows, and HVAC needs. The roof/window portion has been designed and is under review by the NYSED. It is expected to be approved for bid in about two months (end of January/beginning of February).

The HVAC project is in the design phase, with the expectation that it will be submitted to NYSED for review in May 2019. Construction will be done during the summers of 2020 and 2021.

The vestibule project, designed to improve security at the entries of all WCSD schools was approved by the NYSED Smart Schools Bond Act office on December 3, 2018.

The project will be put out to bid in January and construction is scheduled for the summer of 2019. [Click here for the latest information.](#)





# IN OUR SCHOOLS



## Van Wyck Junior High Promoting Meaningful Connections

This fall, VWJHS has been focusing on activities that help to promote a sense of family throughout the school. The key to achieving this are efforts to promote cultural



proficiency so everyone can learn more about each other and develop understanding, connections, and rapport.

Staff members created word clouds that reflected important facts about themselves and hung them on the classroom doors. Included were ethnic backgrounds, hobbies, likes,

dislikes, religion and anything the staff member wanted to share. Students were able to learn more about their teachers as people with just a glance and many conversations were sparked by the personal tidbits.

Another effort to forge connections is the creation of student artwork in the building, including one that highlights the various cultures of the Van Wyck community. Staff and student "shout outs" on Twitter have been used to underscore each monthly theme, friendship in September and courage in October.

The Fall Pep Rally saw the debut of staff t-shirts tie dyed in school colors. Student groups performed, teams and clubs were recognized, and Griffin cheers filled the air.

By the Winter Pep Rally, students will have created their own t-shirts to match and the entire building will be a unified sea of blue and gold.



## Six Students Selected for All-State Music Ensembles

Six students from the Wappingers Central School District have been selected to participate in 2018 All-State Ensembles. They performed in concerts at the acclaimed Eastman Theatre in Rochester, NY during the annual Winter Conference of the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) from November 29 to December 2, 2018.



These talented, young musicians from John Jay and Roy C. Ketcham High Schools were selected for membership in the All-State Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Band, String Orchestra, and Treble Chorus. Thousands of students across the state auditioned last spring in solo evaluation festivals.

"We are very proud of these students and their accomplishments," said Bonnie King, Director of Fine & Performing Arts and Foreign Language. "The hard work and dedication demanded by their craft is evident. They will be excellent representatives of our music department and school district."

Superintendent José Carrión said, "We are always proud to celebrate our students. The achievements of these fine young musicians are due to their hard work and they, along with their teachers, are to be commended. This is another great example of us coming together to empower our students to pursue their passions."

Congratulations to the following students:

*Tanvi Athavale*, Symphony Orchestra - John Jay  
*Amelia Chen*, String Orchestra - John Jay  
*Kiyan Daneshvar*, Symphonic Band - RCK  
*Asia McGough*, Treble Chorus - John Jay  
*Catherine Schweiger*, String Orchestra - RCK  
*Daniel Susman*, Symphony Orchestra - RCK



# IN OUR SCHOOLS



## Hundreds of High School Students Hear Career Advice and College Options John Jay and RCK Host Career/College Fairs

In the ongoing effort to support the success of every WCS D student, [John Jay](#) and [Roy C. Ketcham High Schools](#) hosted college and career fairs this fall. Each school partnered with more than 50 local businesses to provide a chance for students to speak to people working in careers they may consider in the future. Hundreds of students reviewed displays and asked local professionals questions about employment opportunities.

Although some students have not yet decided if they will be heading to college, 9th graders were happy



to test the waters by speaking to college representatives. More than 20 colleges brought admissions and financial aid materials to John Jay. At RCK, students had the chance to speak to representatives from 45 colleges.



“It’s important students are made aware of the wonderful opportunities available to them,” said Superintendent José Carrión. “Having businesses and colleges right there at the high schools, it is easy to learn about career prospects and pursuing college dreams. We want to support



all of our students so they succeed after graduation.”



## WJHS Hosts 7th Annual Career Fair

[Wappingers Junior High School held its 7th Annual Career Fair October 18.](#)

The event provided students with

the opportunity to look at possible future career and educational opportunities.

With the support of 30 local businesses and members of the local community, students learned about a variety of careers including those in the health care, legal, law enforcement, entertainment, and financial fields.

Principal Terrence Thompson went live on air

with K104’s Bill Beale during the event and thanked the many participants including IBM, GLOBALFOUNDRIES, Central Hudson and M&T Bank. He also thanked Ms. DeDominicis and Mr. Nostrand who coordinated the event for planting the seeds of possibilities in the minds of students.

Presentations by AJ Martelli, a sports reporter for the Poughkeepsie Journal, and Antoinette Banks, former rapper who worked with LL Cool J before working for Central Hudson as an accounting manager,

were very well received by the students.





## National Merit Scholarship Program Recognizes High School Seniors

Congratulations to Eileen K.

Liang and Kreena

N. Vora, from

Roy C. Ketcham

High School, and

Liam A. Stobert

and Amy Zhou,

from John Jay

High School, on being chosen as semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.



In September, high school seniors from across the country were named semifinalists in the program, which recognizes academic achievement of high school



students. Shortly, 7,500 finalists will be named and become eligible for \$31 million in scholarships.

Those awards will be announced in the spring and benefit the students when they begin their college education.



In addition, RCK students Andrew P. Derasmo and Andrew Scheck were named Commended Students in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Congratulations to all.

## John Jay's Mustaches For Kids Raises \$11,000 for Children's Hospital

In an amazing team effort, students and staff at John Jay raised \$11,000 for the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital while having a little fun. "Mustaches for Kids" was held to raise the money. To start, 17 male teachers agreed to stop shaving for six weeks. During that time, for \$1 per vote, students and staff were able to choose a crazy design - like tiger stripes - for a particular teacher. On November 13, barbers came to the school and shaved the secret design into the teachers' mustaches/beards. They found out their fate by looking in the mirror and agreed to sport the style until Thanksgiving Break. At least one lucky volunteer won the half face - one side clean shaven and the other with half a beard and half a mustache.

The highest earners and vote getters brought the donation to the hospital and spoke about the fundraiser on WHUD 100.7 during a radio-thon on November 14. Bake sales, private donations, corporate sponsors, and two

community fundraisers at Five Guys and Red Line Diner helped the school to reach the \$11,000, said John Jay's Allison Fedigan, who coordinated the successful event.





## GLOBALFOUNDRIES Hosts Students for National Manufacturing Day

This fall, more than 300 WCS D students had the opportunity to visit GLOBALFOUNDRIES' East Fishkill facility to explore engineering and scientific topics with engineers who work for the international semi-conductor company as part of National Manufacturing Day.



activities including snap circuits, electroplating, magnetic slime, wafer manufacturing, and race cars. The students collaborated around tables and spread out materials on the floor to build golf ball towers.

On October 26, GLOBALFOUNDRIES hosted 100 students from John Jay and RCK. Teams were assigned challenging work place scenarios to manage including environmental safety, power outage, tool purchases, a chemical spill, yield management, and managing a maintenance budget.

After lunch, the students participated in "speed" mentoring. Groups of five were assigned to a table with engineers and spent nearly an hour asking him or her questions about their work at the company, education, engineering, and career advice.

WCS D is fortunate to have GLOBALFOUNDRIES as a community partner to help educate and inspire our students with thought-provoking scientific and engineering-based activities.

More than 220 sixth grade students from James S. Evans, Oak Grove, and Sheafe Road Elementary Schools visited on October 19 and rotated between fun educational



## West Point Women's Hoops Team Helps Kinry Students to Read More

Kinry Road students have been inspired to read more by the Army West Point Women's Basketball team. How can college basketball players help elementary school students read more? It's easy – they give them free tickets to a game! During the month of November, Kinry students completed reading logs by dutifully counting the pages they read each night. They also had to list the titles of the books they were reading and needed

parents sign off on the reading logs. In one month, the students read 10,264 pages!

"This is an exceptional way to encourage students to read and instill in them the habit of becoming lifelong readers," said Meredith Inkeles, the school's librarian. All elementary and middle school students in the local New York area were eligible to participate. Prizes will be awarded for highest school total, highest class total, highest

individual total, and highest individual from each grade. The school with the most pages read and the class with the most pages read will receive a special visit from the basketball team players and coaches! This is the fourth year the Black Knights Reading Program has been supporting literacy efforts in schools.





# IN OUR SCHOOLS



## New Business Class Offered for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders to Earn High School Credit

Beginning this fall, students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, who had room in their schedules, were able to choose to take a Microsoft Office class. This semester-long course will earn students a ½ credit on their transcript toward high school



graduation. Throughout the semester, students are learning touch typing and improving their knowledge of these software tools for use in their current classes, in high school, and also in a variety of post-secondary occupations.

Microsoft Office, which includes PowerPoint, Word, and Excel, is also one of the courses in the approved New York State Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathway in Business. Students who successfully complete a CTE Pathway earn a special endorsement on their high school diploma.

## Seeing Stars: Orchard View Astronomy Class Meets Before Dawn

On a clear, cold morning in November, the Astronomy class of Orchard View Alternative High School met in the parking lot adjacent to the school before dawn to observe the sky. Robert Nicodemo, Elizabeth Lopez, and Angela Viveros, along with teacher Nick Perino and teaching assistant Sue Argueta, met at 5:30 a.m. to navigate the sky and stars. It was a crisp 36 degrees and the sky was exceptionally luminous.

Students identified the North Star, Orion, Big Dipper, Little Dipper, and Cassiopeia. Star maps on paper were given to the students at the start of the star gazing,



aiding them in reading the sky and identifying the constellations. They also videotaped the sky and students believe the clear conditions helped them to spot the International Space Station.

The class watched the video taken on a SmartBoard in the classroom and completed their discussion in the warm building. Breakfast sandwiches and coffee helped to warm up everyone after the stargazing. The class looks forward to the next stargazing event.



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### WAPPINGERS CENTRAL SCHOOLS

Brinckerhoff Elementary  
Fishkill Elementary  
Fishkill Plains Elementary  
Gayhead Elementary  
James S. Evans Elementary  
John Jay Senior HS  
Kinry Road Elementary  
Myers Corners Elementary  
Oak Grove Elementary  
Orchard View Alternative HS  
Sheafe Road Elementary  
Roy C. Ketcham HS  
Vassar Road Elementary  
Van Wyck JHS  
Wappingers JHS

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