



WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Highlights - December 2022



The following information is intended to inform staff and community members of recent action taken by the Board. The information included in this brief is not intended to be complete and does not replace official Board minutes. Please see the Board agenda on the District Website for the complete action of the Board.

ENROLLMENT: 2,813 as of December 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT, DR. DREW RICCHIUTI:

It has been an exciting month in the West Deptford Schools. A few things the Board would like to highlight include:

- The High School held its annual Operation Blessing. It was once again a great success. It's amazing to see the WD School community come together to help those in need.
- The Holiday shows and concerts at Red Bank and Middle School were outstanding and well attended. We are lucky to have such fantastic teachers who truly bring out the talents in our students. We hope you will join us for the remainder of the shows scheduled this week.
- Winter Sports have started at both the High School and Middle School. Good luck to all our athletes and teams. The Board encourages our community to come out to support our students.
- The Elementary students are all looking forward to their Holiday parties and visits from Santa this week.

Finally, on behalf of the West Deptford Board of Education, I would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a happy, healthy, and safe New Year.

Dr. Drew Ricchiuti, West Deptford Board of Education President



STAFF RECOGNITION:

West Deptford School District is proud and excited to announce the individuals who have been nominated as this year's Governor's Educators and Governor's Educational Service Professionals of the Year for the 2022-2023 school year! The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) strives to recognize educators who have gone above and beyond in their service to New Jersey's students. This program promotes a culture that recognizes excellence, creates a sense of pride, and brings public attention to the work of outstanding educators. We are proud to honor these individuals for their outstanding service to our district. Congratulations!!

Governor's Educators of the Year:



Lindsay Freedman (HS)



Jil Spurduto (MS)



Jennifer Penney (GF)



Adrienne Lokaj (OV)



Amanda Peticari (RB)

Governor's Educational Service Professionals of the Year:



April Sanford (HS)



Kimberly Lee (MS)



Bettina Tropiano (GF)



Patricia Mellohusky (OV)



Amy Wilson (RB)

OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WELCOMES OFFICER HENRY

Oakview Elementary is excited to welcome our full-time Class III Resource Officer, Officer Richard Henry! Officer Henry recently retired as a Detective Sergeant after a long and successful career with the West Deptford Police Department. We are very thankful to have him at our school to keep us safe! In addition to Officer Henry, the district's full-time School Resource Office, Office Kienholz, will continue to support our school as well as the other schools in the district.

We would like to thank Officer Kraemer for his continued support at Oakview over the past few years. Office Kramer will remain in the district as the full-time Class III Resource Officer at Red Bank Elementary.



STUDENT RECOGNITION:

WORLD LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETY (WLHS) INDUCTION

Congratulations to our high school students who were inducted into the World Language Honor Society on Friday, December 2. Students were inducted for French, Spanish, English as a Second Language, and American Sign Language. Thank you to the World Language Department for their efforts in recognizing these students' accomplishments!



SOARING EAGLES

The West Deptford Board of Education recognized the following individuals at their December Meeting. These students have been selected by their teachers for demonstrating outstanding character and for their commitment to their schools.

Red Bank Elementary School

- Ashton Streets-Lewis
- Ezra Asare

Oakview Elementary School

- Kennedy Dooling
- Delaney Doe

Green-Fields Elementary School

- Gavin Guldin
- Norberto Leon

West Deptford Middle School

- Gabrielle Chan
- Kayleigh Davis

West Deptford High School

- Laiba Javed
- Andrea Trazzi



Congratulations!

GARDEN STATE ESPORTS ALL-STATE FIRST TEAM HONORS

Congratulations to Julian Geibel (Super Smash Bros) and Jason DiMattesa (Rocket League), who both earned Garden State Esports All-State First Team honors! This is the first time the conference has awarded this title, which was determined by the competitors who received the greatest number of Player of the Game nods, which both coaches voted on after each match.

Julian and Jason will also be recognized at the Garden State Esports Fall Finals, which will take place at Rider University on December 17. The team looks forward to attending to cheer for them, watch the state championships, and meet professional gamers and local college teams!



WDHS OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



WDMS NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



PERSONNEL

- Appointments:
 - SLEO Class III Officers
 - Substitutes - 2 Teachers, 1 Custodian
 - 2 WDHS Custodians
 - District HVAC Lead
 - WDHS Administrative Assistant to the AP for Curriculum & instruction
 - WDHS Administrative Assistant to the AP for Athletics & Activities
 - WDMS LTR Health/Physical Education Teacher
 - WDMS STEM Club Co-Advisor
 - WDMS STAMP Advisor
 - WDMS Notes from the Nest Co-Advisor
 - WDMS Volunteer Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
 - GFES Club/Program Advisors
 - 2 RBES Special Education Instructional Aides
- Resignations/Retirements:
 - Retirement WDHS Applied Technology Teacher
 - Resignation WDHS PM Custodial Leader
 - Resignation WDMS Instructional Aide
 - Resignation OV/RB Music Teacher
 - Resignation OVES Instructional Aide
 - Resignation OVES Non-Instructional Aide
 - Resignation District Bus Aide
- Change of Status:
 - WDMS Special Education Aide to WDHS Media/Computer Lab Aide

THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING:

- School Business Days
- Cafeteria Donations and Donation to OVES
- Facilities Use
- Radio System
- Amend Substitute Rates
- Agreement with Rowan University
- Agreement with Camden County College - HS Plus/CTE
- Approve 2023-2024 PEA Operational Plan
- Clinical Intern & Practicum Placements - Rowan University
- Nursing Student Placements - Rutgers-Camden
- LDTC Clinical Hours
- Foundations Workshops

- TECHSPO 2023
- WDHS & WDMS Field Trips
- WDHS Marching Band and Field Hockey Championship Jackets
- Policies - HS Graduation & Student Intervention & Referral Services
- School Accountant Position & Job Description
- Advanced Degree Status
- Leaves of Absence

BUSINESS, FACILITIES, & FINANCE:

- The Board approved the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports, Transfers, Payroll, and Bills Lists.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Numerous other requests for approval for workshop attendance, student activities, and education items were approved by the Board of Education. These approvals will be reflected in the formal minutes of the meeting, which are available in the office of the Board of Education Secretary, as well as posted online after Board approval. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is the Reorganization Meeting which will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 in the West Deptford Middle School at 7pm. The date and time is subject to change.

NOTES FROM THE NURSES

As various illnesses are currently circulating in the community, the district nurses would like to take this opportunity to remind families of the guidance and protocols that have been in effect since September, and continue to be in effect at this time, regarding COVID-19:

COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria:

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be excluded from participating in the educational program and extra-curricular activities until the required 5-day isolation period has been satisfied. Isolation can end at least 5 days after symptom onset and after fever ends for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are resolved, if these individuals can continue to properly wear a well-fitted mask around others for 5 more days after the initial 5-day isolation period. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or day the positive test was performed. If a mask cannot be worn upon return, the individual will remain out for the full 10-day isolation period.

COVID-19 Quarantine:

Quarantine is no longer recommended for people who are exposed to COVID-19. If you are exposed to the virus or have been informed that you were exposed, you should wear a mask as soon as you find out about the exposure, watch for symptoms, and get tested on day 6 (5 full days after your last exposure). If you test positive, isolate immediately and follow the above exclusion guidelines. If you test negative, continue wearing your mask and taking precautions through day 10 after exposure. **Student COVID absences are medically excused only when documentation of a positive result from a testing facility and/or a physician's certificate is submitted to the attendance and/or nurse's office at the time of absence.**

Please click [here](#) for the full district guidelines as noted on our district website. We would like to wish our students and families a happy, healthy holiday break!

OPERATION BLESSING

Operation Blessing is a district-wide initiative that provides assistance to 100 West Deptford School District families during the holiday season. WD schools and the High School's National Honor Society work closely to bring holiday cheer to our local families. We are reaching out to our community for help - please see below to learn ways in which your family may spread some holiday cheer this year.



WDHS INCLUSION – DECEMBER 2022

During the first full week of December (12/5-12/9), WDHS celebrated "Inclusive Schools Week." This is an annual celebration held each year since its inception in 2001. Inclusive Schools Week celebrates all the progress schools have made in providing both support and quality education to its diverse student population. This year at WDHS, we welcomed our [Community-Based Instruction](#) students into some of our science and social studies classes for interactive lessons with their peers. With the help of the World Language Department, students created an Inclusive Schools Week [video](#) for the morning announcements.

WDMS CHOIR TRIP TO AULETTO'S

The WDMS Eagetones traveled to Auletto's two times in December to entertain some of our West Deptford senior community members. They were spectacular performances, and we thank them for sharing the gift of music and some holiday cheer with our community!



WDMS HOUR OF CODE

WDMS held its 10th annual Hour of Code event on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. Our school participates in the Hour of Code in order to provide students with an opportunity to interact with computer programming to extend the learning that takes place in their Creative Computing course. This year's program gave students of all levels the ability to have fun with computer science. Activities included learning about the basics of coding via online tutorials featuring characters from Star Wars and Minecraft, opportunities to get creative by designing artwork using Turtle Art, and challenging projects for more experienced students like 'debugging' broken programs. The Hour of Code is a global movement aimed at introducing students to computer science and showing that anybody can learn the basics of coding. The event, organized by Code.org, reaches tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. Thank you to Mr. Seeley and some of his HS students for offering onsite assistance for our 82 students who participated!



WDMS 12 DAYS OF WINTER SPIRIT



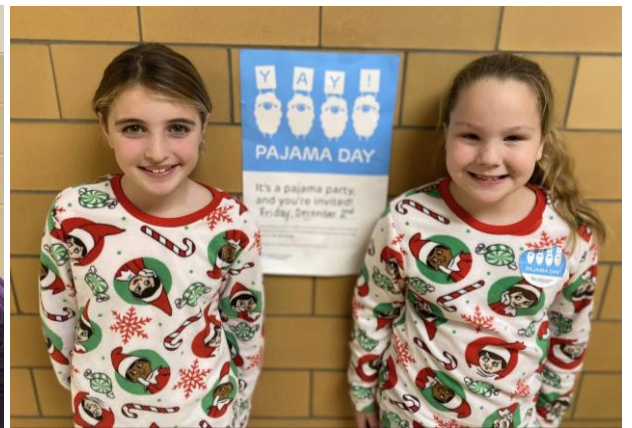
On the 12 days leading up to our Holiday Break, Middle Schoolers are getting into the holiday spirit by dressing up for various fun theme days. Click [here](#) to view the full list of spirit days.



PAJAMA DAY FOR CHOP

On Friday, December 2, the three Elementary Schools participated in Pajama Day to raise funds for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). On this day, students and staff wore their favorite pajamas and brought in an optional donation to help raise money for the children and families cared for at CHOP. Giving back and creating a sense of community are important experiences that we want to provide our students with. This effort was a huge success, raising approximately \$4,400 between all three schools!









ELEMENTARY ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOP

There's always a lot happening in December, but we always start the month off by converting our elementary libraries into mini-Target stores. Yes...it's the annual Holiday Shop where students can come down and shop for amazing Holiday gifts for their family. The selection of quality items is quite extensive, and includes gifts such as coffee mugs, novelty magnets, cooking utensils, dog toys, jewelry, various tools, and even holiday decorations. Our students absolutely love it and we're so grateful that we can offer this opportunity to them. A special thanks goes out to our wonderful WDES PTO for arranging this each year and giving of their time during some busy days.



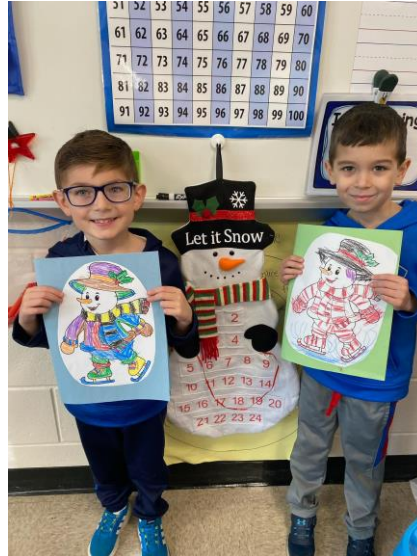
NEW ONE-WAY ORDINANCE FOR PHILADELPHIA AVENUE

A new traffic pattern has been issued for Philadelphia Avenue beginning on November 15th. A township ordinance has made Philadelphia Avenue a one-way street at all times. The one-way ordinance ends at the cross street of Philadelphia Avenue and Cedar Street. The one-way sign has been replaced with a Do Not Enter sign. Thank you for taking care to abide by this new ordinance that has been put in place for the safety of Red Bank Elementary.

SERVICE-LEARNING AT OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

During the month of December, our character theme is focused on generosity. To provide our students with a hands-on and real-world learning experience, we came together as a school to show our generosity to the community through a service-learning project. Our PreK and Kindergarten students made winter season cards for our local vets, police and fire department, and assisted living homes. The first-grade students made dog biscuits that were donated to the Gloucester County Animal Shelter, while our second-grade students worked together to make no-sew blankets to be donated to a local shelter. We were very excited for this opportunity to come together!





ONE BIG WD FAMILY!

One of the best things about our West Deptford school community is how we come together to support each other. Consider supporting one of our own by making a possible life-sustaining donation to the Red Cross Blood Drive in honor of the Love Clara Foundation. Click [here](#) for more information.

**Blood Drive
In Honor of Clara
Woolwich Township
Municipal Building**

Courtroom
120 Village Green Drive
Woolwich Township, NJ 08085

**Thursday, December 29, 2022
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Love Clara to schedule an appointment.



Shake up your traditions! Come give Dec 16-Jan 2 for a NEW long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, ltd qty!



American Red Cross

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

**Donate Blood
In Honor Of
Clara**



Celebrate life and make a difference by giving blood. Blood is needed for many different kinds of patients. It could be a young child with a rare blood disorder, a family member fighting cancer, or a friend involved in a car accident. Please schedule an appointment to donate at this special blood drive. You'll feel good knowing you've helped change the lives of patients in need.

RED BANK HONOR GUARD

At Red Bank, November's monthly theme is "citizenship," so it was apt that this was the month they introduced their first Honor Guard. This project is specific to 2nd grade. Each Honor Guard will serve a two-week duty and it will rotate throughout the year. Our students are so proud each day as they raise, lower, and fold the American flag. 🇺🇸



HOLIDAY CONCERTS

We had the pleasure of welcoming families last week to enjoy musical performances and to share the love and warmth of the holiday season from MS and RB students. Special thanks to our music teachers who have been working tirelessly with our students to create such special events. Be sure to attend our OV, GF, and HS Concerts this week!

- [RB Preschool Holiday Show](#)



CAFETERIA INFORMATION

- Please click [here](#) to view your school's cafeteria menu.
- All parents are encouraged to fill out a Free/Reduced Lunch Application. For more info, click [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

District-Wide Events

- 12/23 Early Dismissal
- 12/23-1/3 Winter Break

Red Bank Elementary

- 12/20 Cookies with Santa

Oakview Elementary

- 12/20 - Winter Concert

Green-Fields Elementary

- 12/20 - 3rd Grade Winter Concert (Group A)
- 12/21 - 3rd Grade Winter Concert (Group B)

Middle School

- 12/22 - New Student Breakfast

High School

- 12/20 - Holiday Arts Festival & Concert