

# WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## West Deptford School District

### Board Highlights - December 2021



*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:** 2,865 as of December, 2021

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Mr. Cappello updated the Board on a variety of topics related to the District, which included the following discussion item(s):

- Our second vaccination clinic was extremely successful. 321 members of the community received either vaccines or boosters!
- We are continuing to follow CDC and NJDOH recommendations for quarantines; however the Department of Health has allowed some flexibility moving forward in regard to close contacts and the length of quarantines. We have implemented some additional safety measures throughout our District to try and cut down on entire classes being quarantined as well. We are keeping the balance but bringing it more toward safety. We are asking parents to keep students home who are sick. Please see our updated [COVID-19 Return to School Flowchart](#) for adjustments that have been made.
- Thank you to the Board for supporting all of these events and everything the staff and students are doing.

#### **BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION:**

We would like to recognize and thank Mr. Peter Guzzetti for his 10 years and 8 months of service to the West Deptford Board of Education (served as President for the last 5 years). Mr. Guzzetti spent a large amount of time and effort volunteering to serve the students of West Deptford. He did this with integrity and distinction. Our community owes him a great deal of gratitude.

Congratulations to Mrs. Nancy Barna for completing the requirements of the NJ School Boards Association's Board Member Academy Program and being awarded the designation of Master Board Member!

**STAFF RECOGNITION:**

***GEOY and GESPOY***

Congratulations to the below-listed staff members who achieved the prestigious honor of being named Governor's Educators of the Year and Governor's Educational Service Professionals of the Year. West Deptford is so proud of the dedication and commitment of our staff members!

<b>School</b>	<b>Governor's Educator of the Year</b>	<b>Governor's Educational Service Professional of the Year</b>
West Deptford High School	Patrick Vilary	Gabrielle Prendergast
West Deptford Middle School	Amanda Donahue	Thomas Jakubowski
Green-Fields Elementary School	Lauren Uzdavinis	Eileen Straub
Oakview Elementary School	Nicole Barney	Shannon Norris
Red Bank Elementary School	Cheryl Micciche	Madeline Cross

***WEST DEPTFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL***

As we approach the new year, we would like to thank Mrs. Christine Trampé for her years of dedication and service to the students and community of West Deptford. We wish Mrs. Trampé well as she advances to the role of Superintendent in the neighboring district of Mantua Township. Mrs. Trampé has been working closely with Mr. Jeff Podolski, current WDMS Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction, as he will transition into the role of WDMS Principal on January 1st. Please find a brief bio about Mr. Podolski below:

Jeff Podolski was born and raised in West Deptford Township, having graduated from West Deptford High School in 2001. Mr. Podolski taught History at Woodstown High School for over 12 years and was named Teacher of the Year in 2016. While teaching, Mr. Podolski also coached basketball, football, and softball. He was named South Jersey Coach of the Year in 2009 and 2016. In February of 2019, Mr. Podolski joined Alloway School District as the Director of Curriculum/Vice Principal. In April of 2020, Mr. Podolski joined West Deptford Middle School as the Assistant Principal of Curriculum and Instruction. While at West Deptford, Mr. Podolski has worked closely with teachers and administration to continue to support current and new programs to ensure their successful implementation through a variety of instructional platforms inclusive of in-person, hybrid, and virtual instruction. With the return to in-person instruction, Mr. Podolski has mostly enjoyed the opportunity to establish so many positive relationships with students, staff, and community members through the interconnectedness of daily activities associated with the traditional school day. Mr. Podolski and his wife are the proud parents of a daughter and two sons. Mr. Podolski enjoys watching his children participate in a variety of sports and activities.

## STUDENT RECOGNITION:

Congratulations to WDHS Computer Science senior Aryana Aiken for being awarded First Place in the Carnegie Mellon University December 2021 Creative Task Competition! Aryana wrote over 200 lines of code to create the image below, layering shapes and colors until she got her desired result. We are so proud of her work!



December 2021  
Creative Task Competition

## Comp Sci 1: Unit 1 First Place

**Aryana Aiken**  
West Deptford High School  
12th Grade

<https://academy.cs.cmu.edu/sharing/springGreenRabbit6786>

## **NAHS INDUCTION CEREMONY**

West Deptford High School held its annual NAHS Induction on Wednesday, November 17, 2021. New inductees were welcomed to NAHS by advisors Brianna DeWitt and Dana Hallahan with a certificate and a slideshow of artwork. The slideshow can be viewed here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ucvCkFg6ZV8>

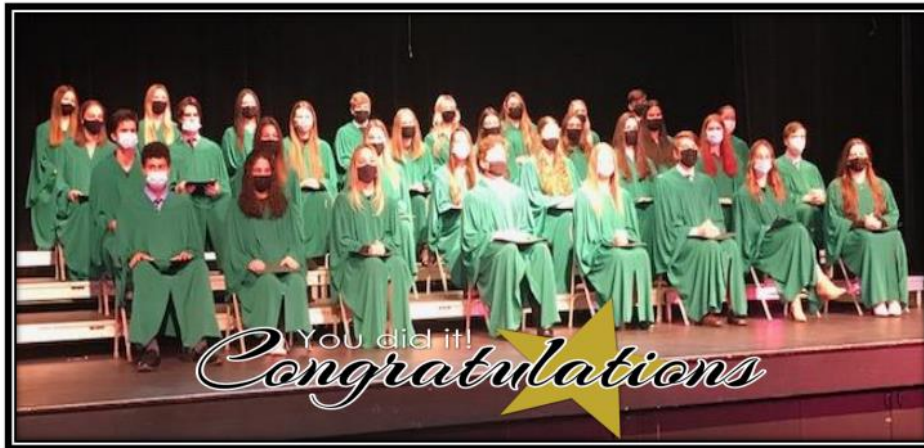


## **WLHS INDUCTION CEREMONY**

Congratulations to the 69 students who were inducted into the World Language Honor Society on December 10, 2021.

## **NHS INDUCTION CEREMONY**

Congratulations to the High School Students who were inducted into the National Honor Society on Thursday, December 2, 2021. There were a total of 33 juniors seniors that were honored at the ceremony.



## **PERSONNEL**

- Appointments:
  - MS Principal
  - 2 Special Education Instructional Aides - OV
  - 2 Non-Instructional Aides - HS
  - 2 Non-Instructional LPC Aides - OV
  - LTR Instructional Aide - OV
  - OV Health Office Assistant
  - 4 Substitute Teachers
  - Substitute Instructional/Non-Instructional Aides
  - 4 Substitute Cafeteria Workers
  - YEP Supervisor
  - School Safety Specialist
  - HS Volunteer Assistant Wrestling Coach
  - HS Young Women Leaders Co-Advisor
  - MS Boys to Men Club Advisor
  - MS Assistant Track & Field Coach
- Resignations/Retirements:
  - Resignation YEP Supervisor
  - Resignation School Safety Specialist
  - Retirement - WDHS English Teacher
- Change of Status:
  - Voluntary Transfer OV LTR Kindergarten Instructional Aide to OV Instructional Aide
  - Voluntary Transfer RB Special Education Personal Aide to OV Special Education Personal Aide

### **THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING:**

- HIB Summary Report - 2nd Period
- WD Disaster Recovery Plan
- High School Field Trips
- Middle School Field Trips
- Oakview Field Trips
- Training Site Agreement with Thomas Jefferson University
- McRel Evaluation Framework
- Professional Development Workshops
- Clinical Practicum Placements
- Increase Teacher Coverage Pay
- Amended Salaries due to Minimum Wage Increase
- Amended Substitute Administrative Assistant and Substitute Non-Instructional Aide daily rates
- Revised Facilities Calendar
- ACES Purchasing Cooperative
- Purchase of Championship Jackets/Plaques for WDHS Marching Band

### **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 a Reorganization Meeting on Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7pm. This date and time is subject to change.

### **WDHS 29th ANNUAL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION**

Congratulations to the Inductees to the WDHS Athletic Hall of Fame. The Ceremony took place on Sunday, November 29, 2021 at RiverWinds, and the following people were inducted. We are very proud of their accomplishments and the rich tradition of excellence our athletic programs have provided over the years!

- Coach Clyde Folsom 1991 - 2017
- Zach Smith 2003 - 2007
- Gerald Owens 2010 - 2014
- Nick Pulli 2010 - 2014
- 2014 Boys Track & Field Team (Head Coach Mark Dixon)

### **HOT CHOCOLATE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Thank you to all who came out to attend our second event where the community had a chance to informally speak with members of Administration. If you missed it, we hope you will be able to attend the next one!



### **RED BANK'S GOOD NEWS CALL OF THE DAY**

One school-wide activity Red Bank uses to reinforce and celebrate positive character traits in our students is #GoodNewsCalloftheDay. It is so simple, but the impact on our students goes a long way. Teachers and staff reach out to me when they notice random positive behavior and briefly describe what was noticed. That student is called down to the principal's office so we can "shout out" his/her great behavior or positive choices. We talk about how proud RB is of them, but the best part is the child makes the positive phone call home. Having the students do the "bragging" helps them intrinsically value the act of positive behavior. The smiles are incredible. Many schools around the country use the same hashtag #GoodNewsCalloftheDay and it is a wonderful platform for sharing the amazing students in our schools.



### **ARC (AMERICAN READING COMPANY)**

Oakview Elementary School is proud of our students and staff for their commitment to reading. This year we began our second year of the American Reading Company (ARC) in first grade and our third year in kindergarten. Our monthly instructional discussions with the ARC trainers help to identify trends in classroom data within School Pace and prepare for future instruction. The implementation of the Tier II specialist and the alternation of utilizing the kindergarten instructional aides to support first grade during ARC has provided tremendous opportunities for our students. All of these individuals play a key role in supporting our students as they meet their power goals, reinforce reading strategies (i.e. tracking and tapping out their sounds), and progress through reading levels.



### **SENSORY PATHS AT OAKVIEW**

We are excited to have sensory paths in various parts of the building. The students are enjoying the different paths throughout the school! This is also being utilized during OT to provide the students with physical and sensory-based activities. We give the students suggestions for each section of the path, but we also urge the students to be creative and modify. We always love to see what the kids come up with!



**OPERATION BLESSING**

Thank you to all who contributed to making this year's Operation Blessing a success! Parents had a scheduled time to pull up to the back door of the high school. All the gifts and food, already pre-bagged, were loaded into the family's car by the NHS students. Even though there was no "shopping" this year, about 100 families were surely "blessed" to receive the generous donations from our community this holiday season. This is a very special way for the West Deptford Community to give back. Thank you to all who participated!



**LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES**

Below are two food pantries which are available all year to West Deptford residents in need of assistance (proof of residency required):

<b>Colonial Manor United Methodist Church</b>	<b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church</b>
56 Elberne Avenue, West Deptford, NJ 08096 The pantry is open Saturdays only 9:30am – 11:00am Phone: (856) 845-5926	330 E. Barber & Evergreen Avenue, Woodbury, NJ 08096 The pantry is open Tuesday and Thursday 9:30am – 11:00am Phone: (856) 848-8975



## **WDMS HOLIDAY CONCERTS**

Please enjoy the WDMS Holiday Concerts using the links below!

- Tuesday, 12/14/21, 7:00 pm: Grade 7/8 Band/Choir Concert: <https://youtu.be/XhmZ6qWMOb0>
- Wednesday, 12/15/21, 7:00 pm: Grade 6 Band/Choir Concert: <https://youtu.be/ThLzQQT96Co>

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

### ***Red Bank Events***

- December 21: Release of the Red Bank "Holiday" Concert
- December 22: PTO "Cookies with Santa"
- Month of December Character Trait-generosity--Project #Unselfie (students, families, and staff) takes pictures of selfless acts of generosity and share them with the school)

### ***Oakview Events***

- Month of December Character Trait-generosity--Project #Unselfie (students, families, and staff) takes pictures of selfless acts of generosity and share them with the school)

### ***Green-Fields Events***

- December 22: Santa Visit

### ***Middle School Events***

- January 26: 5th Grade Winter Concert 7pm WDHS Auditorium

### ***High School Events***

- December 20 and 21: Winter Fine Arts Festival @ 7pm in the WDHS Auditorium