

WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Gregory J. Cappello, Esq., Superintendent of Schools
Shawnequa Carvalho, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for HR & CAO
Gene Mercoli, Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Thomas N. Tucci, Director of Technology & Special Projects
Kimberly Seifring, Ed.D., Director of Special Education & Related Services



675 Grove Road · West Deptford, New Jersey 08066-1999
Phone# (856) 848-4300 · Fax# (856) 845-5743
www.wdeptford.k12.nj.us

West Deptford School District

Board Highlights - November 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 November 15, 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):

- Congratulations to our newly-elected Board Members: Brett Fetty, Zachary Kaminski, Robert Jones, and Kimberly Schultz. They will begin their terms on January 1, 2022.
- Congratulations to Dr. Carvalho and her husband Dr. Roy Dawson, Superintendent of Paulsboro, for being honored by the Gloucester County Chapter of the NAACP for being named "Power Couple of the Year."
- Welcome to our Professor in Residence Dr. Cathy Brant from Rowan University. We are fortunate to have an agreement with Rowan. This program supports teacher strategies and execution. Thanks to Dr. Carvalho and the Middle School for continuing this program.
- Middle School Fall Fest was a great success – almost every 5-6th grade student attended.
- Great Red Bank Staff Coffee with Administrators on October 26.
- Elementary Halloween Parades on October 29 were outstanding.
- WDEA Trunk or Treat on October 30 was very well attended. Thank you to the WDEA!!
- NJSIAA Winter Sports Start Dates: November 8 (Swimming and Bowling) and November 29 (Basketball, Wrestling, Track).
- National Honor Society induction December 2 - congratulations to all of the students who achieved this amazing honor.

- December 11: Operation Blessing.
- December 15: [Hot Chocolate with the Superintendent](#) (High School 6pm).
- Thank you to the Board for supporting all of these events and everything the staff and students are doing.

FALL 2021 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Click [here](#) to read about some of the exciting events happening in our District this Fall!

STUDENT RECOGNITION:

Congratulations to the WDHS Marching Band for finishing its regular season of competitions. For the 6th straight time, the WDHSMB finished the regular season with the HIGHEST SCORE IN ALL Tournament Of Bands circuit! They also won their 10TH Atlantic Coast Marching Band Competition Championship in Harrisburg PA! Also, additional congratulations to Mr. Kershaw for his 20 years of service and excellence with our programs. Great job by Mr. Kershaw and WDMB!!

2021 - 94.60 highest regular season score - 161 bands in TOB (click [here](#) to view rankings)

2019 - 95.10 highest regular season score - 228 bands in TOB

2018 - 94.50 highest regular season score - 225 bands in TOB

2017 - 95.00 highest regular season score - 209 bands in TOB

2016 - 94.20 highest regular season score - 199 bands in TOB

2015 - 95.40 highest regular season score - 195 bands in TOB

WDHS Girls Soccer fought their way to the NJSIAA Group II South Semi-Final round as the #2 seed! Final record 17-5-1. They lost to eventual champion Haddonfield in double overtime. Great season, ladies!

CONGRATULATIONS to Coach McAndrew and the entire WDHS Boys Soccer team for making it to the NJSIAA Group II South Championship Finals as the #3 seed. Although Delran won the championship 4-0, the WDHS Boys Soccer team had a tremendous season, and we are very proud of them!

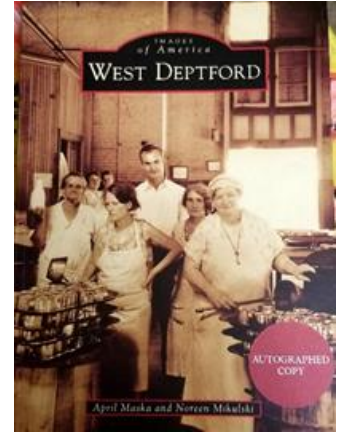
CONGRATULATIONS to WDHS Cross Country Runners Jacob Cobb and Hope Siner who qualified for the NJSIAA Gr. II State Championship Meet at Holmdel Park this Saturday. Jake will also be running this week in hopes to qualify for the NJSIAA Meet of Champions. Great job!

Published Student Work

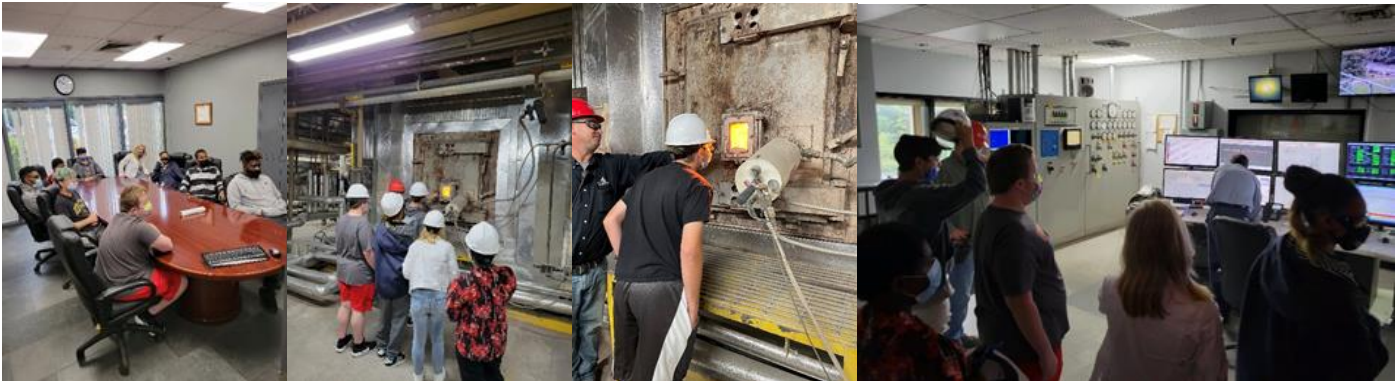
The short stories of HS French Teacher Mrs. Cepurneac's former Honors French 4 students were finally published in the National Bulletin! The National Bulletin is a magazine that is distributed to French teachers across the country. In the article, Mrs. Cepurneac gives background on the fairy tale project, provides her rubric, and showcases the students' stories. Click [here](#) to view the published Fairy Tales Article.

WDHS Community-Based Instruction (CBI) Class

Ms. McCool's CBI Class has been reading and learning about the history of West Deptford in their History Class. April Maska and Noreen Mikulski from the West Deptford Historical Association presented to the class additional facts about West Deptford's History. They took a tour of West Deptford and were able to see firsthand all the historical attributes they have been studying in class by touring their hometown and various businesses in the community.



Below are pictures of their tour of Wheelabrator. They were able to see where their trash goes each week and is turned into energy.



They then toured Riverwinds Community Center. Here they learned about all the activities available to them as a resident of Riverwinds.



Finally, they toured Shop Rite supermarket. They were able to purchase their lunch in the store's café.



Red Bank Lil' Recyclers

The character trait for November is "citizenship" and we want to make sure that even our youngest scholars learn the value of this important trait. That is why we felt this was the perfect time to roll out our brand-new recycling project. Our preschool students will each be a member of our recycling committee. On Fridays, they will be responsible for going from room to room to empty our teachers' recycling bins. Yes, this might be easy, but it is the perfect service-learning project for these kiddos. Our RB Lil' Recyclers will perform their duty for two Fridays and then another crew will get the chance to recycle for Red Bank!



PERSONNEL

- Appointments:
 - 2 Special Education Instructional Aides
 - High School Social Studies Teacher (to replace resignation)
 - 2 Middle School LTR Teachers (Maternity Leaves)
 - Middle School Non-Instructional Aide (to replace resignation)
 - District Groundskeeper
 - High School PM Custodial Leader
 - Oakview YEP Care Provider
 - Middle School Cafeteria Worker

- Substitute Cafeteria Worker
- Substitute Teachers
- Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach (High School)
- Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach (High School)
- Volunteer Assistant Boys Soccer Coach (High School)
- Volunteer Assistant Boys Basketball Coach (Middle School)
- Book Club Advisor (High School) - pilot program
- STAMP Advisor (Green-Fields)
- Resignations/Retirements:
 - Middle School Principal
 - District Groundskeeper
 - Middle School Non-Instructional LPC Aide
 - Green-Fields Cafeteria Worker
 - Oakview Instructional Aide
 - Permanent Substitute Custodian
- Change of Status:
 - Transfer of Oakview Non-Instructional Aide/YEP Care Provider to Red Bank Instructional Aide.
 - Transfer of Middle School PM Custodian to High School PM Custodian.
 - Transfer of High School PM Custodial Leader to Middle School PM Custodian.

THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING:

- Submission of the NJ QSAC 2020-2021 District Performance Review.
- Middle School Field Trip.
- High School Field Trips.
- WDHS Winter Athletic Schedules.
- WDHS Participation in College Board's AP WE Service Learning Project for the 2021-2022 School Year
- "Staff Model for the Delivery of School Health Services" for the 2021-2022 School Year.

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 Workshop Meeting on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 7pm. This date and time is subject to change.

West Deptford Schools want to say thank you to our Veterans for your service!

Middle School Band

In honor of Veterans Day, the WDMS 7th and 8th Grade Band recorded a performance of the National Anthem! To our men and women in uniform past, present and future, thank you for your service!!!

"This will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." - Elmer Davis

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHexKJkmFag>

Red Bank Honor Guard Salutes Our Veterans

Last week's Honor Guard was the lucky group of young citizens who served during the week in which Veteran's Day is observed. To share how proud we are of our little school and to celebrate those who served or are serving in our country's military, veterans from our community were invited to join us for our flag raising ceremony. Thank you to bus driver Mr. Bert Fox for proudly playing the National Anthem immediately after the Pledge of Allegiance. A small breakfast reception was held for our honored guests to thank them for so proudly serving our country.

- [Red Bank Honor Guard Salutes Our Veterans](#)

Green-Fields

An example of one of many GF Veteran's Day events, Mrs. Campana's class did a wonderful job of singing the National Anthem for us. It should be noted...*Mrs. Campana does this with her classroom every morning following the pledge with 100% participation.* It's fantastic!

- <https://youtu.be/mghaFjfKNCo>

Operation Blessing

The WD National Honor Society is hosting Operation Blessing again this year. We are looking to our families, friends, neighbors, and neighboring businesses to adopt one or more West Deptford families who could use some assistance this holiday season. Please see the two links below for more information. This is a chance to brighten the holidays of some local families in need.

1. National Honor Society

2. Key Club

Riverwinds Community Center

As most of you know, one of the many great resources in West Deptford is the River Winds Community Center (RWCC). This full service athletic facility is used by our district in many ways all year. The staff and community at the RWCC has been extremely accommodating to our many athletic programs that use the facility. We are very fortunate to work in a community that has made a facility like this a priority and opens it for our athletic team use. As the Holidays are approaching, a WDBOE staff membership is a great way to

support the community and access a world-class fitness center at a great price. Please see the following information below and the attachments from the RWCC.

As employees of the district, we have memberships available to WD BOE employees at the resident rate whether the employee resides in WD or not. All memberships are for one year, and patrons have the option to pay in full or choose the monthly payment plan via electronic funds transfer (EFT). If the monthly option is used, members must agree to pay for one year, and then the membership continues on a month-to-month basis after the 12 months have been completed. The only difference in pricing is a one-time \$10 setup fee for the monthly payments via credit card or checking account.

Membership includes the use of the fitness center and indoor track (ages 14 and older), swimming pools, rock climbing wall, and basketball courts. Any activity with an instructor has an additional cost.

Attached you will find two documents - the first is our "RiverWinds RunDown" which explains what we have to offer, and the second one is the membership application form. Additional information and membership applications can be found at our website - www.riverwinds.org.

If anyone would like to try out the facility, they should contact Greg Black (blackg@riverwinds.org) to coordinate a day pass visit.

Camden County College and West Deptford High School Partnerships

Please click [here](#) to view the partnerships between Camden County College and West Deptford High School. WDHS participates in High School Plus (Dual Enrollment), Career-Technical Education, and Transition to College programs. This partnership provides a wonderful opportunity for our High School Students.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Red Bank Events

- November 11: Honor Guard Veterans breakfast (tentative)
- November 18, 19, 22: Parent Teacher Conferences (day)
- November 23: Parent Teacher Conferences (evening)
- November 29--One School, One Book Kick-off Assembly
- December 3--CHOP fundraiser "Pajama Day"
- December 6-10--PTO Holiday Shop
- December 9: Report Cards
- December 10 and 17--Gifted & Talented Enrichment classes
- December 21-PTO "Cookies with Santa"
- December 21--release of the Red Bank "Holiday" Concert
- 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

- November 18-23: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- December 3- Pajama Day to Support the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- December 9: Report Cards
- December 13-17- PTO Holiday Shop
- December 20- PTO provides a Santa visit including milk and cookies and a wrapped book

Green-Fields Events

- November 18th, 19th, 22nd, 23rd: Parent Teacher Conference
- November 24: Picture Make-Up
- December 6-10: Holiday Shop
- December 9: Report Cards
- December 17: Virtual Holiday Concert
- December 22: Santa Visit

Middle School Events

- November 18: WDMS Music Dept. Fundraiser at Pat's Pizza in National Park
- November 22: WDMS Girls Basketball Tryouts Begin
- November 29: WDMS Boys Basketball Tryouts Begin
- November 29: Wrestling Begins
- November events with dates TBD: Door decorating contest and Operation Blessing Collections
- December 9: Report Cards

High School Events

- November 22: WDHS Powder Puff (Outdoors) 7-9pm
- November 23: WDHS heads to WDMS
- December 2: NHS Induction Ceremony
- December 4: WDHS Band Parade - Cape May
- December 7: 1st Basketball Scrimmage
- December 9: Report Cards
- December 11: Operation Blessing
- December 21: Winter Fine Arts Festival (Virtual)