

Summer 2018



LEYDEN

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 212



The cast and crew of Once on This Island. Set in the French Antilles, this vibrant production exploded with music, dance, colorful costumes, and an authentic set. The magic made possible by Leyden's talented students.

Superintendent's Corner



Nick Polyak, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Hello Leyden Family,

Another year has come and gone at Leyden. I'd like to congratulate our graduates and wish them well in their next phases of life. I'd also like to congratulate and thank all of our retirees for what they've done over the years to make a difference in the lives of kids.

We ended this year with some great news from *U.S. News and World Reports*. In their annual rankings of high schools in the United States, they awarded West Leyden a silver medal as their #52 high school in Illinois. When you consider that Illinois has 1,519 high schools that puts West Leyden in the top 3.4% of all schools.

These rankings are based on college readiness, advanced placement coursework and performance, math proficiency, and reading proficiency. The programming and efforts in these areas are happening at both East Leyden and West Leyden. Their teachers and students are to be commended for these efforts and the entire Leyden community should be very proud of this recognition from *U.S. News and World Reports*.

Remember you can follow our ongoing construction projects at www.leyden212.org/construction by clicking on "Live Look." I am always excited to share what is happening at Leyden, and I thank you again for all you do to support our students and our community!

With #leydenpride,
Nick Polyak

District recognized for outstanding budget presentation



The Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International has awarded Leyden High School District 212 the Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) for excellence in budget presentation during the 2017–2018 budget year.

The association says the district has been participating in the MGA program for four years, a reflection of the district's commitment to fiscal integrity. "The MBA serves as a gold-star designation and promotes continuous improvement—reasons districts apply year after year," says ASBO International Executive Director John Musso.

The MBA program promotes and recognizes excellence in school budget presentation and enhances school business officials' skills in developing, analyzing, and presenting a school system budget. After a rigorous review by professional auditors, the award is conferred only on school districts that have met or exceeded the program's stringent criteria.

"We are incredibly proud of the work our fiscal services team does as responsible stewards of the community's resources," says Nick Polyak, District 212 Superintendent. "This award is a reflection of the team and of the work they do every day in support of our students and our community. It celebrates all of their efforts."

This is the 13th consecutive year Voya Financial, Inc. has sponsored the MBA program. The corporation is composed of retirement, investment and insurance companies that serve the financial needs of approximately 13 million individual and institutional customers in the United States.

Founded in 1910, ASBO International is a professional organization of 5,000 members that provides programs and services to promote the highest standards of school business management practices, professional growth, and the effective use of education resources.

Leyden District 212 Board of Education

Board of Education meetings are in the East Campus Board Room.

Front row: James Lima, Secretary; Gregory Ignoffo, President; Gloria Murawska, Vice President
Back row: Marco Chaidez, Joseph Trevino, Lisa Anthony, Sandra Boehm, John Tobin, Lejla Sadikovic



30th Annual William H. Fern Awards Ceremony

Leyden students, faculty, and staff were honored at the 30th Annual William H. Fern Awards Ceremony held on Thursday, April 19. William Fern, a former Leyden teacher, began the awards program after he retired from teaching several years ago. Faculty and staff select the honorees by voting for those who have exhibited extraordinary effort, talent and dedication to their goals and work. In recognition of their accomplishments, each winner receives a monetary gift from Fern.

2018 Fern Awards and Outstanding Achiever Awards

The Patricia Schuler Award for Excellence in Art

East: Joseph Sanchez
Outstanding Achiever: Monica Rochnowski

The John Frederiksen Award for Excellence in Art

West: Shakty Granados
Outstanding Achiever: Juliet Ocon

The Ken Monahan Award for Excellence in Bilingual Education

East: Carolina Meza-Quintero
Outstanding Achiever: Brian Morales-Hernandez

The Paul Brown Award for Excellence in Business Education

East: Catherine Saponieri
Outstanding Achiever: Beatriz (Bea) Verin

The Kathy Robbins Award for Excellence in Business Education

West: Andrew Sopt
Outstanding Achiever: Jennifer Lopez

The James Callister Award for Excellence in English

East: Christopher Lingat
Outstanding Achiever: Adriana Olvera-Cabral

The James Terrill-Liesz Award for Excellence in English

West: Elzbieta Anna Wojtasik
Outstanding Achiever: Ninamarie Sansone

The Kathy Klaus Award for Excellence in Family and Consumer Sciences

East: Vicki Dahlke
Outstanding Achiever: Franco Petrucci

The Christina Williams Award for Excellence in Family and Consumer Sciences

West: Jose Cooper
Outstanding Achiever: Gia Possemato

The Dave Berton Award for Excellence in Industrial Technology

East: Riley Morioka
Outstanding Achiever: Svetoslav Zografski

The Jim Hopp Award for Excellence in Industrial Technology

West: Sergio Quintana
Outstanding Achiever: Ramon Rocha

The Joanne Corwin Award for Excellence in Mathematics

East: Madison Jedlink
Outstanding Achiever: Isabella Dillolo

The Laurie Hodgson Award for Excellence in Mathematics

West: Marco Guzman
Outstanding Achiever: Miguel Herrera

The Carolyn Dunoon Award for Excellence in Modern Languages

East: Hubert Kicinski
Outstanding Achiever: Kirsten Polen

The Marcel Lewinski Award for Excellence in Modern Languages

West: Gonzalo Carrillo
Outstanding Achiever: Anthony Aguilar

The Henry Hiorns Award for Excellence in Music

East: Joece Orbon
Outstanding Achiever: Nathaniel Mesa

The Joe Idaszak Award for Excellence in Music

West: Carlos Toral
Outstanding Achiever: Victor Alvarez

The Gary Wolf Personal Achievement Award

East: Luis Lope
Outstanding Achiever: Jose Ramirez

The John Testa Personal Achievement Award

West: Carla Garcia
Outstanding Achiever: Eric Escobedo

West Life/Bridge: Yulissa Becerra
Outstanding Achiever: Zuella Smith

The Eileen Wudel Award for Excellence in Physical Education

East Female: Julia Werynski
Outstanding Achiever Female: Hanna Schmitt

East Male: Julian Munoz
Outstanding Achiever Male: Ocean Johnson

The Tim Ruettiger Award for Excellence in Physical Education

West Female: Isabelle Ivy-Raydl
Outstanding Achiever Female: Maya Garcia

West Male: Shane Allen
Outstanding Achiever Male: Ryan Jaffary

The Jane Russell Award for Excellence in Science

East: Nathaniel Martinez
Outstanding Achiever: Isabella Lollino

The Dalia Zygas Award for Excellence in Science

West: Ivan Solis
Outstanding Achiever: Jessica Rangel-Galera

The Robert Johnson Award for Excellence in Social Studies

East: Alexis Pacheco
Outstanding Achiever: Ruben Huerta

The Larry Crippin Award for Excellence in Social Studies

West: Stephanie Herrera
Outstanding Achiever: Jacqueline Quinones

Extra-Curricular Fern Awards

The Gloria Currins Award for Excellence in Student Council

East: Joshua Strauss
West: Shivani Parekh

The Jack Leese Award for Excellence in Athletics

East Female: Tara Mackey
East Male: David Duwal

The Darle Kriete Award for Excellence in Athletics

West Female: Jazmin Santoyo
West Male: Eduardo Hernandez

The Richard Nardini Award for Excellence in Student Activities

East: Hanna Evangelista
West: Val Cruz

The Paul Schmidt Award for Excellence in Student Activities

East: Jason Kemp
West: Nathian Saucedo

Faculty and Staff Fern Awards

The Gene McCormack Award for Fine Teaching in English

East: Jeanette Gagliardi
West: Steve Marten

The Bob Swords Award for Fine Teaching in Family and Consumer Sciences

East: Nichole Sweeney
West: Alicia Kadlitz

The Thomas Masters Award for Work in Student Services

East: Arturo Martinez
West: Shaina Landau

The Reg Green Award for Fine Teaching in Art and Music

East: Lynette Rosen
West: Stacy Cunningham

The Mike Dickey Award for Fine Work in Coaching

East: Tim Stark
West: Cam Jackson

The Rosanna Andras Award for Significant Staff Contribution

East: Carolyn Dundovich
East: Michael Miceli

The Norma Thompson Award for Significant Staff Contribution

West: Louise Jarke
West: Dennis Fritz

Music Notes

Vocal Jazz Ensemble featured in DownBeat magazine

Leyden's Vocal Jazz Ensemble from the 2016-2017 school year was recently recognized by DownBeat magazine as a winner of the 41st Student Music Awards. A part of the music department's extra-curricular choir offerings, the ensemble performs under the guidance of choral director Stacy Cunningham.

The ensemble was featured in the May 2018 issue of DownBeat magazine, a Chicago-based publication that covers the jazz, blues, and music scene as well as recognizing outstanding student music throughout the United States.

"This is an incredible accomplishment, like winning a national championship," says Bryan Miller, music department chair.

The group received outstanding performance recognition in the high school blues/pop/rock category. Groups are recognized by age group, including junior high, high school, and undergraduate levels. Categories also include other vocal styles and instrument-only ensembles.

"It's a huge honor and I'm so proud of our kids and the music they make," says Cunningham, referring to the ensemble. "They earned this recognition as the ensemble wanted to



Pictured from L to R, members of Leyden's 2017-2018 Vocal Jazz Ensemble: Sebastian Nowicki, Amanda Cortez, Arian Bace, Mason Becker, Raul Rivera, Stephanie De La Cruz, Michelle Ortiz, Miranda Flanagan and Carlos Toral. The ensemble won the 2018 Downbeat Award for Blues/Pop/Rock Group.

be challenged and liked working hard on their music. They grew a lot and shared their music."

Started in 2006, the small, audition-only ensemble performs at events like the holiday, spring and pops concerts, as well as a variety of festivals.

A member of the music department for 14 years, Cunningham also is the music director for the Illinois High School Theatre Festival all-state production of *Big Fish*. The production is one of 11 theater groups nationwide invited to perform during the International Thespian Festival in Nebraska held in June.

Music Students earn Superior Division I rating at the IHSA state contest

About 200 Leyden musicians competed in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State Organizational Music Contest held at Oak Lawn Community High School on April 13.

In final competition, students in the Symphonic Orchestra, String Band, East Concert Band, and West Concert Band received a Superior Division I rating for their performances, the highest rating possible.

According to Bryan Miller, music department chair, performances are adjudicated by a panel of three career field experts who collectively have more than a century of music education experience. "This is a fantastic accomplishment, and

is especially impressive because Leyden is one of the very few schools choosing to enter all program levels in the IHSA state contest. It is comparable to freshmen playing at the varsity level and getting the highest scores," he says.

Music students go to great lengths to keep music classes in their schedule, Miller explains. They are "fiercely dedicated to the activity and loyal to each other" he notes, adding that the students' families are exceptionally supportive.

It is fantastic to see so many kids involved, and even better to see them all come together to be so very successful at such a high visibility event like the IHSA state contest," he says.

Congratulations Honor Society Inductees

During the 2017-2018 school year, academically talented students from both campuses were inducted into the following honor societies. Congratulations to all inductees for meeting the academic standards set by each society.

La Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica

(Spanish Honor Society)

East

Xavier Ahuad, Erik Flores, Michelle Hinich, Madison Jedlink, Kacper Kijowski, Deisy Leon, Dannalee Mata, Corali Medico, Carolina Meza Quintero, Julian Muñoz, Alexander Ramírez, Andre Rodríguez, Patrick Sarad, Nancy Torres, Tamara Trejo, and Abraham Vazquez

West

Dennise Arriaga, Jimmy Bui, Gonzalo Carrillo, Fernanda Casas, Kimberly Celis, Giselle Córtez, Giovanni De La Torre, Andrea García, Natalia Jacinto, Adrian Lechuga, Ángel López, Lisett López, Jacqueline Quiñones, Evelyn Ramírez, Diane Santos, and Julissa Villegas

National Honor Society

East

John Paul Aguirre, Xavier Ahead, Sandra Bevilacqua, Catherine Saponieri, Yesenia Diaz, Isabella DiLollo, Gloria Goray, Amaiya Hernandex, Cesar Hernandez, Michelle Hinich, Kacper Kijowski, Julia Kostadinova, George Linares, Christopher Lingat, Luis Lopez, Nathaniel Martinez, Dannalee Mata, Clarissa Messina, Oscar Meza-Quintero, Carolina Meza-Quintero, Carolina Michalek, Jenny Molini, Christian Moscosa, Tony Nguyen, Kamila Obrzut, Paul Payne, Gerardo Porras,

Julia Rzasinska, Jorge Sandoval, Patrick Sarad, Roger Sewell, Aakash Shah, Vivianna Tafolla, Nicole Toloczko, Adam Trzaska, Beatriz Verin, Danielle Weimerskirch, and Julia Werynksi

West

Jostin Alvarado, Kristy Bui, Omar Coronel, Giselle Cortez, Giovanni De La Torre, Carolina Duenas, Elle Engelke, Gisel Garcia, Maximus Gonzalez, Marco Guzman, Eduardo Hernandez, Stephanie Herrera, Ashlee Jimenez, Adrian Lechuga, Jennifer Lopez, Lisett Lopez, Ronaldo Melgar, Macy Michorczyk, Emily Najera, Keylany Perez, Jacqueline Quinones, Jazlynn Ramirez, Jessica Rangel-Galera, Itzel Rayo, Jasmine Rivera, Karla Rubio, Bartłomiej Saminski, Ivan Solis, Kiara Valenzuela, and Maritza Valle

National Technical Honor Society

East

Melissa Salgado, Marisa Sandoval, Aleksandra Jez, Ola Mikina, Corey Lavallais, Candy Rosales, Madison Jedlink, Victoria Dahlke, Stephani Roman, Giselle Jimenez, Alexis Gomez, and Olivia Mendron

West

Edward Louis, Thinh Tran, Mario Aguirre, Jennifer Lopez, Jeremiah Ginez, Erica Stenhaug, Jenessa Saez, Precious Bowling, Jimmy Bui, Evelyn Abundes, Juan Yarnes, Jesus Carranza, and Jessica Ortiz Hernandez

Societe Honoraire de Francais

(French Honor Society)

East

Adam Chojnowski, Maryfer Corona, Bridget Covarrubias, Yahaira Espino, Vitaliy Garasymovych, Jasia Gosanko, Lixzy Herrera, Sean Kilrairie, David Matysek, Omar Montiel-Martinez, Gabriel Skowronek, Luis Villanueva, and Wiktoria Zielinski

West

Mario Aguirre-Rosales, Alan Alaniz, Jason Alvarado, Jesus Carranza, Yahuana Colon Vazquez, Paola Corral, Oscar Diaz, Sofia Flores, Angel Gomez, Ashlee Jimenez, Andre Martinex, Nicole Mendez, Emily Najera, Giselle Rios, Laura Sanchez-Flores, Marlene Sandoval, and Jasmine Zesati

Societa Onoraria Italica

(Italian Honor Society)

Jenny Alcaraz, Sandra Bevilacqua, Daniela Corral, Stephanie Danek, Isabella DiLollo, Janet Kitova, Clarissa Messina, Jennifer Molini, Bryan Muro-Enriquez, Claire Murray, Carmine Paoletta, Jamine Paredes, Gabriella Ponziano, Catherine Saponieri, and Rosa Terenzio

Sports Briefs

Badminton: The team finished in 3rd place at the Leyden Invite.

Baseball: Catcher Matt Ozanic is the WSC GOLD Player of the Year; and John Auge, Matt Ozanic, and Nick Herrera are all-conference athletes.

Boys' Gymnastics: The varsity ended the season with a 4-1 record, and placed 2nd in the conference and at the Eagle Invite. Gabe Bahena, Firas Harb, and Alex Muniz are all-conference athletes. Bahena also was a state qualifier & IHSGCA scholarship award winner. The junior varsity placed 2nd in conference; and the frosh/soph team had a 5-0 dual meet record and are conference champs.

Girls' Soccer: The team played in the Windy City Ram Classic Soccer Tournament

Consolation Bracket Championship Game at the Chicago Fire Toyota Park Stadium, and Liliana Herrera-Reyes was named an all-tournament team member. Nine graduating seniors are all-academic athletes; Nicole Sedlacek, Angelica Perez, and Liliana Herrera-Reyes are all-conference athletes; and Liliana Herrera-Reyes also earned an all-sectional honorable mention.

Softball: Leyden softball made the Max Preps Top 10 Teams in Illinois State Ranking for the first month of this year's softball season. Currently, Leyden is 18-4 overall. The team was #3 seed in the Niles West Sectional; and the highest seed at the Maine East Regional. One graduating senior will play college softball on scholarship next year.

Girls' Track: Ten athletes finished the season with individual all conference

honors, including first place finishes in the 4x100 relay. In addition, Esther Aldana is the conference champion in the 100, 200, and long jump. The season ended with a 3rd place finish at the sectional track meet and included Aldana placing first in the long jump, 100m, and the 200m dash. She also moved on to the all-state category by finishing 5th in the long jump, placing 12th in the state in the 200, and 15th in the 100. She will be running for De Paul University next season on scholarship. This season four school records were broken: Esther Aldana in the 100, 200, and long jump, and Isabelle Ivy-Raydl in the triple jump.

Boys' Volleyball: The team finished 22-15, taking 3rd place in conference, 2nd place at the Eagle Invite, and 3rd place at the Streamwood Invite. Robert Elem and Tom Radziszewski were named to the all-conference team.

#leydenpride



Pictured from left to right: sophomore Angalina Pope and visitor Emerson Kraft, 11. Emerson accompanied her mother, teacher Sheila Kraft, to Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day held in April. She observed her mom at work and also participated in her physical science class. Using Skittles and M&M candies, Emerson learned about the atom, the smallest component of matter.



Four students won first place in the pitch competition and also were voted "crowd favorite" by Verizon corporate judges at the Verizon Innovative Learning and Design Thinking, Chicago Regional Pitch Competition held in May. Participants used the design thinking process and promising technology to create a solution for their business partners. Pictured from left to right: Kimberly Celis, Julian Balboa, Jeremy Bui, and Kiara Valenzuela.



Pictured from left to right: 2018 BRIDGE Program graduates Cesar Aguirre, Eric Lagunas, Kristyan Barron, Alyssa Garcia, Jessica Berns, Hunter Smith. Six seniors were recognized for their accomplishments at Leyden's annual BRIDGE Program Graduation Tea held in early May.



Fourteen students were honored at the Inspirational Eagle Award Ceremony held in the Nardini Library this spring. Leyden seniors who demonstrate excellence in academics, attendance, behavior, and citizenship were recognized for their achievements. The annual event is sponsored by the district and the Rotary Club of Chicago-O'Hare Foundation.



2017-2018 retirees: front row, left to right - Eileen Wilfonger, Diane Merkle and Rose Kerley; back row, left to right - Michael Bodin, Kim Gerber, Steve Marten, Randy Conrad, Tom Janeteas.

Congratulations 2017-2018 Retirees You Will Be Missed

Happy retirement to the twelve District 212 employees who retired during the 2017-2018 school year. As a group, the retirees represent 305 years of dedication and service to the Leyden community. Thank you for everything you've done to insure our students' success and to keep Leyden running smoothly.

All the best to Randy Conrad and Thomas Janeteas, administration; Michael Bodin, Kim Gerber, Stephen Marten and Diane Merkle, faculty members; Eileen Wilfonger, educational support personnel; Pamela Arnold, Rosalinda Kerley and Margie Uriostegui, fiscal services; Tammy Schwartzenberger, food services; and Rene Ochoa, maintenance.

Graduation 2018





Summer Calendar 2018

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
August		
8	Upperclass Book Pick-up East Campus Student Cafeteria West Campus Auditorium	11:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
8	Freshman Parent/Student Night East Campus Auditorium West Campus Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
9	Upperclass Book Pick-up East Campus Student Cafeteria West Campus Auditorium	11:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
9	Freshman Orientation & Book Pick-up East Campus Auditorium West Campus Auditorium	10:00 a.m.
15	First Day of School	
16	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
28	Open House Dinner East Campus Nardini Library West Campus TBD	5:45 p.m.
28	Open House East Campus Auditorium West Campus Auditorium	6:30 p.m.
September		
3	Labor Day-No School	
13	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
24-28	Homecoming Spirit Week	
27	Faculty Football Game West Campus Stadium	5:45 p.m.
27	Homecoming Pep Rally West Campus Field House	6:00 p.m.
28	Homecoming Football Game West Campus Stadium- Leyden vs. Addison Trail Sophomore Game Varsity Game	5:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
29	Homecoming Dance West Campus Field House	7:00 p.m.
October		
8	Columbus Day-No School	
11	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
12	Fall Play- <i>Harvey</i> West Campus Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
13	Fall Play- <i>Harvey</i> West Campus Auditorium	7:00 p.m.

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
October cont.		
14	Fall Play- <i>Harvey</i> West Campus Auditorium	3:00 p.m.
18	Fall Choral Concert East Campus Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
20	Make a Difference Day	
22	Institute Day-No School	
23	Parent-Teacher Conferences East Campus Field House West Campus Field House	1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
25	Fall Instrumental Concert	7:00 p.m.
November		
6	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
7	Career Fair and Business Expo	10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
8	Veteran's Day Music Concert East Campus Auditorium	6:00 p.m.
21-23	Thanksgiving Holiday-No School	
30	Winter Play - <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> West Campus Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
December		
1	Winter Play - <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> West Campus Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
2	Winter Play - <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> West Campus Auditorium	3:00 p.m.
7	Yuletide Dinner East Campus Little Theater	7:00 p.m.
8	Yuletide Dinner East Campus Little Theater	7:00 p.m.
9	Yuletide Dinner East Campus Little Theater	4:00 p.m.
10	Winter Art Show West Campus Eagle's Wing	6:00 p.m.
10	Winter Art Show East Campus Little Theater	6:00 p.m.
12	Music of the Holidays Concert East Campus Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
13	Board of Education Meeting	8:00 p.m.
21	End of Second Semester	
24	Winter Break-No School	

Leyden High School District 212 is an equal opportunity institution, committed to compliance with all applicable state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. This includes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, order of protection status, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, homelessness and marital/parental status, including pregnancy.

As required by S.B. 898, you may go to Leyden's website to view our budget at: www.leyden212.org

State law requires that we inform you of the dates when our lawn and garden areas will be fertilized. The dates to fertilize and weed and feed will be during the following week:

October 29, 2018- November 9, 2018 Fertilize

East Campus
3400 Rose Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131

West Campus
1000 N. Wolf Road
Northlake, IL 60164