



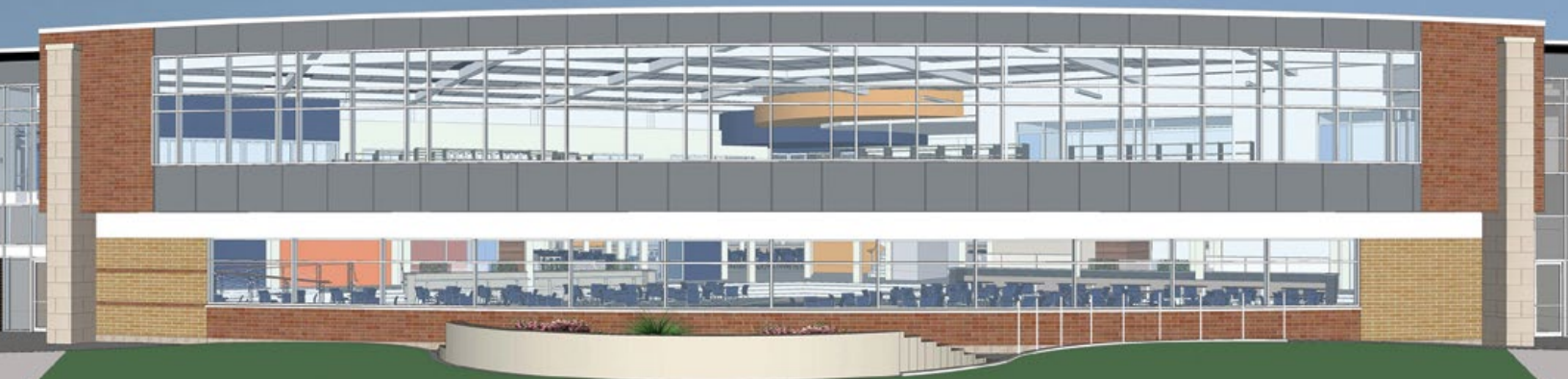
Spring 2017

LEYDEN

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 212



East Leyden: This rendering depicts the new addition that will be constructed on Dodge Field facing Calwagner Street. It is the area where bused students will enter school via a new, modern cafeteria, and commons.



West Leyden: This view is from inside the courtyard facing west. The first floor addition will have a new, modern cafeteria, and commons. The second floor addition will include a state of the art library and media center.



Superintendent's Corner



Nick Polyak, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Hello Leyden Family,

In this edition of the Leyden Letter, I'd like to update you about some exciting construction news. Beginning this May, both East and West Leyden will begin the largest construction and renovation project in the history of the district.

East Leyden High School is 90 years old and West Leyden High School is 60 years old. Both buildings were designed for a different era of education and certain aspects of each building don't meet the current needs of our students.

The focus of these projects is to enhance the educational experience for our students. Various aspects of these projects are meant to improve safety and security, promote academic opportunities, increase athletic and extracurricular programming, and make our schools sustainable into the future.

At West Leyden, we are building an addition inside a portion of the inner courtyard. The first floor will be a cafeteria/commons addition and a kitchen renovation. The second floor addition

will be a new library and media center. Renovated spaces will include new classrooms, reorganized office spaces, student support areas and more.

At East Leyden, the addition will be built on the current site of Dodge Field. It will include new classrooms and practice rooms for band and choir, a new cafeteria/commons, an enclosed inner courtyard, a preschool and daycare facility, and a new aquatic center. Renovated spaces at East will include a new wrestling room, girls' locker room, additional classrooms, and a maintenance area.

All of this work will be completed without the need for a tax referendum. Construction at West Leyden will begin in May 2017, while the work at East will begin next school year. The projects are scheduled to be complete for the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year. We will keep you updated in future newsletters. Thank you for your continued support for all we do for our students and communities here at Leyden.

With #leydenpride,
Nick Polyak

Sprint supplies free broadband to many Leyden students

Officials from Sprint, Leyden's service provider, joined Superintendent Nick Polyak, administrators, students and Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti at West Leyden on December 13 to announce the expansion of Sprint's high-speed broadband service that allows Leyden students, along with students from 16 other area schools, to have internet access at home through a Wi-Fi hot spot.

Sprint, in conjunction with ConnectEd, a White House program that seeks to connect America's students to the internet through high-speed broadband, is supplying a total of 4,200 Illinois students with the broadband service needed to help accomplish that goal. The value of Sprint's service to this point is estimated at more than \$8 million.

Superintendent Polyak notes that students who do not have access to



Sprint officials Jim Mills and James Spillane (third row) joined students and Illinois Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti (second row, center) at West Leyden on December 13 to announce the expansion of Sprint's free high-speed broadband service.

the internet at home face significant limitations regarding their capability to complete homework assignments, research next-level learning, and apply for jobs.

"Our partnership with Sprint and the ConnectEd program has helped us close the opportunity gap at Leyden

and strengthen our 1:1 teaching and learning environment," Polyak explains. "By providing Wi-Fi access to students whose families might not be able to afford it, we are giving every student the same access to information, the same tools to connect and collaborate, and the same chance to be successful."

Leyden's 2017-2018 Illinois State Scholars

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission has announced the names of the 2017-2018 Illinois State Scholars. This year, about 19,000 elite honorees are being recognized for their academic achievements. Congratulations to Leyden's 50 students who qualify as Illinois State Scholars.



Illinois State Scholars from West Leyden:

Melissa Alaniz, Carolay Alvarado, Armando Amigon, Stephanie Carreno, Erik Gonzalez, Victor Jimenez, Nicole Johnson, Noelle Lowther, Mimi Nguyen, Ivan Nunez, Kiara Psalm Rana, Oscar Romero, Lessly Salas, Alexis Salgado, Xitlalli Solis, Jimmy Vazquez, Benjamin Velez, and Grace Velez. (Not pictured: Victor Jimenez, Nicole Johnson, Noelle Lowther, and, Grace Velez)



Illinois State Scholars from East Leyden:

Michael Aiello, Artur Bak, Eula Marie Bayan, Joseph Cangialosi, Enrique Carvajal, Paulina Cylwik, Riya Desai, Damian Furgal, Gabriela Giza, Hunter Hankins, Kacie Judge, Damian Kosakowski, Martyna Kot, Alison Laton, Alberto Maciel, Mateusz Matysek, Autumn McGee, Era Meco, Krystian Misiewicz, Ian Montesinos, Hadassah Moser, Kinga Obrzut, Natalie Payne, Miriam Porras, Jason Reed, Angelica Socha, Ashley Soller, Roman Sydorchuk, Damian Szopa, Fabian Vega, Sylwia Zabiegly and Katarzyna Zyglowicz

"I applaud all of the 2017-2018 state scholars for their hard work and outstanding academic performance," said Eric Zarnikow, ISAC executive director. "Students have a lot to contend with as they move through high school, from increased testing to extracurricular activities to highly competitive college admissions. Kudos to these students and also to the teachers, parents, coaches, and other mentors who contributed to their success and helped them navigate a path towards college and career success."

Illinois' top students elect to have test scores and high school class rank sent to ISAC for consideration in the popular program. Seniors who rank in the top ten percent of the state's high schools are designated as Illinois State Scholars and receive a Certificate of Achievement for their outstanding academic performance. Selection is based on SAT, ACT and/or Prairie State Achievement Exam test scores, and/or class rank at the end of junior year.

2017 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition

District 212 art students had an outstanding showing at the 2017 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition. This year Leyden was one of seven area high schools that participated in the contest. Leyden artists accounted for 59 pieces of the approximately 150 pieces on display at the exhibit - about one-third of the entries.

Works of art are submitted in seven different categories that include drawing, painting, photography, mixed media, design, sculpture, and ceramics. Leyden

students won 11 out of 25 blue ribbons in the first round of competition. Then those pieces were judged a second time within their respective categories. Leyden artists won three of the seven Best in Category awards.

The following students were honored for their creativity and skill in the ceramics, photography, and design categories:

Giana Sansone of West Leyden won Best in Ceramics for *Horse Hair Trio*, three ceramic horse hair burned jars. **Jocelyn**

Valenzuela of East Leyden earned Best in Photography for *Giggle*, an image of her sister. **Ellisa Melon**, also of East Leyden, captured Best in Design for *Without Makeup*, a digital image.

A reception and awards ceremony for the artists was held on Wednesday, February 15, at the Triton College Art Gallery.



Jocelyn Valenzuela
Giggle
Best in Photography



Giana Sansone
Horse Hair Trio
Best in Ceramics



Ellisa Melon
Without Makeup
Best in Design

Teatro Leyden selected to perform at Illinois High School Theatre Fest

Teatro Leyden's Spanish-language cast performed *Historia de una escalera* at the Illinois High School Theatre Fest held January 5 through January 7, at the University of Illinois in Urbana. About a month earlier, Teatro Leyden had been invited to participate in the prestigious three-day event that showcased Illinois' best and brightest theater students.

According to Teatro Leyden director Bill Mitchell, the annual festival accepts submissions from Illinois schools in what he describes as "a formidable process." Each application that is submitted is adjudicated and accessed by a panel of judges. Based on the panel's recommendations, 23 theater troupes were selected from schools across the state to perform at the event.

For the past four years Leyden has staged productions that accommodate the community's Spanish-speaking population. Teatro Leyden cast members performed both English and Spanish versions of *The History of a Staircase/Historia de una escalera* at East Leyden in November. At the Illinois High School Theatre Fest, the Teatro Leyden production was performed in Spanish only, affording it a unique presence at the event.



The Spanish-language cast of Teatro Leyden: pictured from left to right; Front row: Homer Vazquez, Allison Irizzary, Italya Tentory, Alberto Maciel; and back row: Hilda Mendoza, Lorena Bravo, Lisandra Ruiz, Dulce Garcia, and Kat Avila.

The theme of this year's festival was "Find Your Truth: Discover, Uncover, Reveal." Leyden thespians were among the 4,500 student performers, teachers, and directors who participated in this year's festival.

Students Earn Gold Key Award at Scholastic Art Competition

Jorge Gutierrez, Xitlali Hernandez, and Andrea Ledesma each earned a Gold Key Award, and Bart Saminski earned two Gold Key Awards at the Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Competition held last month. More than 4000 works of art were submitted to compete in the regional contest. Of that number only seven percent earn the Gold Key Award.

Scholastic art panelists judge the artwork on originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice. Jorge Gutierrez was named a winner for his painting, *Fractal*; Xitlali Hernandez

won for her photograph, *Splash the Blue*; and Andrea Ledesma earned the honor for her photograph, *Aqua Ochre*. Bart Saminski captured two Gold Key Awards for his photographs, *Untitled* and *Water Lilies*. In addition, five Leyden artists earned the Silver Key Award, and nine students were recognized with the Honorable Mention Award.

The four Leyden students who won at the regional level qualified to compete at the national level. The results for that competition will be announced later this spring.



Bart Saminski
Untitled
Photography



Jorge Gutierrez
Fractal
Painting

Andrea Ledesma
Aqua Ochre
Photography



Bart Saminski
Water Lilies
Photography



Xitlali Hernandez
Splash the Blue
Photography

18th Annual Elmhurst College High School Art Exhibition Winners

District 212 students exhibited more than 150 pieces of artwork at the 18th Annual Elmhurst College High School Art Exhibition held during January in the Frick Center at Elmhurst College. Leyden was one of ten area high schools that participated in the competition.

Student artists from both Leyden campuses earned a total of 25 awards. Two of those awards included a renewable \$2,000 Purple Ribbon Special Scholarship Award to Elmhurst College. The skilled art students who won the scholarship award are **Jorge Gutierrez** of East Leyden and **Tania Corona Gutierrez** of West Leyden.

Jorge Gutierrez's entry, *Rainbow Flowers*, is an oil pastel drawing of two flowers with subtle, multi-colored petals. Tania Corona Gutierrez's creation is a technical, colored pencil portrait titled *Skin Deep*.

An artists' reception was held on January 18th at the college.



Jorge Gutierrez
Rainbow Flowers
Special Scholarship Award



Tania Corona Gutierrez
Skin Deep
Special Scholarship Award

First Annual Writers Week

In mid-January, Leyden hosted its first Writers Week, a program created to showcase writers and encourage the art of self-expression. The three-day marathon featured professional writers, staff, and student writers. The participants presented a collage of original work all designed to inspire audience members.

Modeled after programs at area high schools, Writers Week became a reality under the direction of John Rossi, Leyden's English department chairperson. "I thought the event would be an extraordinary educational experience for our students and a unique opportunity to hear professional, staff, and student writers share their stories," Rossi recalls. "All students and staff were invited to experience the event with the goal of making us more connected to each other and expressing our own voices."



More than 30 students from each campus presented original works during Writers Week, a three-day celebration of the writing craft.

Eleven professionals, including novelists, journalists, performance poets, filmmakers, songwriters, and radio personalities visited both campuses to talk about and demonstrate their craft. In addition, and "more importantly" Rossi notes, about a dozen staff members and more than 30 students from each

campus presented their original works.

"This is where the magic of Writers Week came to life. We heard from and connected with those who make up our Leyden family. Participants talked about their own progress as writers and read selections of their work," he says.

District Honors 2017 Outstanding Students at CTE Breakfast

Twelve District 212 seniors representing both campuses have been selected as the 2017 Outstanding Career and Technical Education Award Winners. The students were honored at a breakfast held on Tuesday, February 17, in the Eagle's Wing at the West campus.

"This breakfast is held to recognize four years of hard work and exceptional talent exhibited by the students in business education, family and consumer sciences, and industrial technology," says Frank Holthouse, Leyden's Director of Careers. "Only two seniors from each department at each campus are selected for this high honor. It is a great time to reflect and honor the successes of these students."

Holthouse adds that the honorees share common traits including acting as positive role models, strong leaders, motivated students, and good citizens. Upon graduation from Leyden the students will continue to explore their areas of interest including culinary and pastry arts, accounting, and finance; and manufacturing and engineering.

The following Leyden seniors were honored at the event.

Family and Consumer Sciences: Roberto Alatorre, Hannah Allen, Kathy Gacek, and Rose Leon.

Business: Valerie Delgado, Erik Gonzalez, Ryan Langer, and Eric Tapia.

Industrial Technology: Ray Coello, Edward Dymitrowicz, Cody LeGrand, and Rodolpho Mendoza.

Parents, department teachers, and administrators were in attendance to help celebrate the students' accomplishments.



Ryan Langer



Valerie Delgado



Eric Tapia



Eric Gonzalez



Rose Leon



Kathy Gacek



Hannah Allen



Roberto Alatorre



Cody LeGrand



Ray Coello



Edward Dymitrowicz



Rodolpho Mendoza

The 2017 Career and Technical Education Award Winners.



Leyden High School District 212
3400 Rose Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131

Spring Calendar 2017

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
March		
12	Daylight Saving Begins	
13	Jazz Night West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
15	Winter Instrumental Concert East Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
16	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
20 - 24	Safe Celebration Week	
20	US Navy Band Concert at West Leyden Field House	7:00 p.m.
27	Spring Break - NO SCHOOL	
April		
3	Classes Resume	
13	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
14	No School	
20	Fern Awards Ceremony East Leyden Little Theater	4:00 p.m.
24	East Spring Art Show East Leyden Little Theater	6:00 p.m.
27	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
27	West Spring Art Show West Leyden Auditorium Lobby	6:00 p.m.
27	Incoming Freshman Athletic Parent Night East Leyden Field House	7:00 p.m.
27 - 28	Spring Play - <i>Bleacher Bums</i> West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
29	Spring Play - <i>Bleacher Bums</i> West Leyden Auditorium	3:00 p.m.
May		
3	Spring Sports Awards Night East Leyden Auditorium	6:30 p.m.
16	Pops Concert West Leyden Field House	7:00 p.m.
18	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
23	East Leyden Commencement Rosemont Theatre	6:30 p.m.
24	West Leyden Commencement Rosemont Theatre	6:30 p.m.
24	End of Second Semester	
29	Memorial Day	

Leyden District 212 Board of Education Board of Education meetings are in the East Campus Board Room.



Front Row: Mr. James A. Lima, Secretary; Mr. Gregory T. Ignoffo, President; Mrs. Gloria Murawska, Vice President
Back Row: Ms. Noelle Lowther, Mrs. Lisa Anthony, Mr. Joseph Trevino, Mrs. Sandra Boehm, Mr. Jack Tobin, Ms. Vanessa Gallegos

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:

March 27, 2017 - April 7, 2017 Weed and Feed

East Campus
3400 Rose Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131

West Campus
1000 N. Wolf Road
Northlake, IL 60164