

WASHINGTONVILLE



WVZ

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

As we prepare our students for the career and college pathways ahead of them, I find our goals and the mission of Project Lead the Way (PLTW) are well-aligned: To empower students to thrive in an evolving world.

Our district offers inventive and challenging STEM curricula through PLTW that foster critical thinking skills, creativity, and innovation, all in the context of solving real-world problems. The courses, developed by high school and collegiate level educators, along with professionals in the engineering and biomedical fields, provide hands-on, project-based learning that invites students to explore subject areas they otherwise may not. Additionally, our teachers love the flexibility for cross-curricular learning that is integrated into the courses we offer.

This year, we added two new PLTW electives. Mr. Brown teaches Computer Science Essentials, which focuses on teaching students coding. Ms. Acosta teaches Essentials of Engineering. Both courses help students develop a sound knowledge base and "proven path to college and career success" in the STEM-related fields that interest them.

On the next page, you will read about our Esports program. Our district is a local leader in esports development, and proud to be one of only a few sanctioned competitive gaming programs in the county. We also offer a related course of study, Esports & Video Game Production. These represent a unique social and academic cross-pollination, and yet another technology-based way we offer our students to explore, connect, and engage.

Dr. Larry Washington
Superintendent of Schools

GREAT JOB, HONOR ROLL STUDENTS!

Washingtonville High School and Middle School have announced the names of students who achieved Honor Roll status for the second marking period. Congratulations, everyone.

[Check the WHS list here.](#)

[Check the WMS list here.](#)

HONOR ROLL



BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

The United Cultures Club and Washingtonville Steppers hosted an evening of poetry, art, dance, fashion, and reflection to celebrate Black History Month. The event was attended by students, their families, and neighbors from the community, and included a fashion show of African styles, a step performance, and a potluck soul food buffet. [Read and see more from the evening here.](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICIANS GO FOR IT AT OCMEA ALL-COUNTY AUDITIONS

Middle School musicians put months of prep and practice to work at the Orange County Music Educators Association All-County Jr. High auditions! Students must play a prepared piece, then sight read and perform scales. Students selected to the All-County ensemble will spend a weekend rehearsing with a guest conductor and perform a concert in May.

[Read more about the auditions here.](#)



WIZARDS LEVELING UP THEIR ESPORTS GAME

The Washingtonville Esports Club began as a popular after school club in 2013. At the time, it was a group of enthusiastic gamers who met to play on district-owned, classroom-quality PCs. Students were even bringing their own consoles from home. Since then, the group has grown to include 30 core gamers and more than 100 unique student sign-ups.



The gamers' passion for their pursuit (matched only by that of their advisor, English teacher Kevin Calderin) quickly evolved esports from a strictly extracurricular social club to a competitive team and a high school elective called Esports & Video Game Production.

"One of the greatest things about this club and this team is how they have grown from a social club to become part of our curriculum, largely because of our students' energy and advocacy," said Mr. Calderin. "It's an engaging inroad to areas of study that prepare these kids for all kinds of technical and creative college and career pathways."

The club/team added three gaming PCs and officially joined the High School Esports League (HSEL) a few years later, and by 2021 had tripled its number of gaming pcs. The team even competed remotely during covid, and their early progress is what inspired the esports class. As always, student safety is paramount, and the district's Director of Data Management & Technology and Data Protection Officer Joe Catania worked with Mr. Calderin to make sure students use games and programs compliant with NYSED privacy and security guidelines.

"My team ensures the esports lab has the equipment needed and is configured in a manner that emphasizes cyber security," said Mr. Catania, adding that he and Mr. Calderin have been invited to share their model for high school esports growth at state and regional conferences. As one of just two competitive esports programs in Orange County, the Wizards are on the leading edge of a trending activity at the cross-section of education and recreation.

Watch out for them this season, and if you're wondering what kind of college and career paths a gamer might choose, [check out this infographic.](#)

BGTV IS ON THE AIR!

Watch weekly episodes of BGTV - Blue & Gold TV!

Every episode is produced completely by Washingtonville high school students, with focus on events, issues, and interests around the high school community.

[Watch the February 10, 2023 edition here.](#)

[Subscribe to the BGTV YouTube channel here.](#)



WHAT'S UP IN WIZARDS NATION

Washingtonville senior Samantha Mynio became **#1 in the USA** in the girls 1500 meter race walk! Her time of 7:13.02 broke the previous school record of 7:15.56. Congratulations, Samantha!

Congratulations to the **Boys Indoor Track & Field team** for being the Section IX Divisional Champs for the 2023 season!

And good luck to our **Boys Swimming** qualifiers competing in the Section IX swim championship on February 18! Thomas Bertocchi, Tyler Briceno, Craig Brown, Owen Dwyer, Jeromy Finnigan, Ryan Godfrey, Justin Gonzales, Brian Hitnariansingh, Nolan Nemeth, Matthew Rudzinski, Joseph Ryan, Luke Sanchez, Owen Sliwinski, Majed Watad, and Cooper Wright.

[The Washingtonville Wizards Fall 2022 Season Recap is available online! Check it out here.](#)



Spring Sports begin on Monday, March 13. Go Wizards!



BOARD OF EDUCATION MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD



There are many teachers, aides, drivers, safety officers, and other staff who make a difference in the lives of our children every day. The Board of Education has begun recognizing these special folks.

[See the monthly recipients here.](#)



UPCOMING DISTRICT DATES

February 20 - 24, 2023

- February break, no school

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

- TF PTA Mtg (7 pm)

March 6 - 10, 2023

- Round Hill Book Fair
- Taft Pick-a-Reading-Partner Week & Book Fair

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

- Elementary early dismissal

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

MS & HS parent/teacher conferences

March 9 - 11, 2023

WHS Spring Musical

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

- WVH band concert

Thursday, March 16, 2023

- BOE work session (7 pm)

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

- MS & HS parent/teacher conferences

Thursday, March 23, 2023

- BOE business meeting (7 pm)

Remember...

- Spring Break (No School)
 - April 3 - 10, 2023

USEFUL LINKS

[District Website](#)

[District Calendar](#)

[Little Britain Calendar](#)

[Round Hill Calendar](#)

[Taft Calendar](#)

[WMS Calendar](#)

[WHS Calendar](#)

