

Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools



A critical aspect of the district's referendum information efforts is to provide clarity and details regarding the anticipated reductions for the next two years without additional funding.

There are several programs affected by the referendum question, including the length of our school day (8-period day), academic and mental health assistance, activity programs, and athletic programs. The information on this page focuses on the anticipated activity and club reductions.

We have a wide variety of activities and clubs that allow students to participate in their areas of interest, while empowering them to feel more connected to school in general. These activities support our students' social and emotional needs. **Without additional funding, the district is planning to eliminate some activities and clubs over the next two years.**

Over half of the students at WTHS are involved in our student clubs and organizations. They not only offer opportunities for our students, but also provide wonderful service and pride for our WTHS community.

Specifically, for the 2022-23 school year, the district is planning the reduction of 13 staff positions. One of these positions is expected to be a band director position, without which our band programming is greatly reduced. This includes the elimination of our competitive marching band. The Board is allowing the district to restore band staffing and programming, to the greatest extent possible, if a successful referendum occurs in June 2022.

Get the Facts about the
Referendum Question at
www.d121.org/referendum

Get the Facts About the Referendum Question: Investing in our Students

Restoring and Protecting Activities and Clubs

Warren Township High School recognizes that participating in extracurricular activities is an important part of the educational experience. Our Athletic and Activity programs offer opportunities for students to learn the values of teamwork, responsibility, competition, diversity, and a sense of culture and community. Extracurricular activities provide a channel for reinforcing the lessons learned in the classroom, giving students the chance to apply academic skills in a real-world context. Our goal is to provide opportunities that make students more well-rounded and create a sense of pride about having what it takes to be a Blue Devil.

Competitive Clubs	We have several competitive activities, which are those that often require a tryout or audition process and are very time intensive. These activities travel throughout the conference, region, state and sometimes nation to compete. • Scholastic Bowl (Academic Team) • Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) • Mathletes (Math Team) • Mock Trial • Science Olympiad • Speech Team • Youth and Government
Cultural Based Activities	These are groups that run activities and events that contribute to or enhance the aesthetic, artistic, historical, intellectual or social development or appreciation of members of the school district and general public. • AVANZA • Black Student Union (BSU) • French Club • International Club • Muslim Student Association (MSA) • South Asian Student Organization • Spanish Club • Unite and Inform
Drama and Fine Arts	Drama offers an array of opportunities for students interested in performance, design and leadership. Through rigorous training and a spirit of collaboration, our students produce compelling works of art that move audiences to think, feel, and re-imagine the world as they know it. The Fine Arts Department seeks to help students find their strengths and foster all students' creative and artistic instincts. Covering three curricular departments (Art, Band, and Choir) and a wide variety of extra-curricular programs, Fine Arts provides each student a unique opportunity to develop creativity and purpose. • Art Club • Band • Choir • Drama Club • Fall Play • Spring Musical • Fall Dinner Theater • Giggles and Bits • Children's Play
Honor Societies	The purpose of our honor societies is to reward high academic achievements and promote high standards of scholarship, stimulate a continued interest in those areas of study, create enthusiasm for other cultures, and be a contributing member to our community and society. All of our honor societies also have a community service requirement. • French National Honor Society • National Honor Society (NHS) • Spanish National Honor Society
Publications	Students involved in these clubs assist in the preparation of creating yearbooks, magazines, online newspapers, and other works that get published and shared throughout the community. • Creations Magazine • Newspaper: Scratch Paper • Yearbook
Service Organizations	These clubs are dedicated to volunteering and promoting responsible citizenship and good government, along with community, national, and international welfare. • Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) • Mother Earth's Concerned Students (MECS) • National Honor Society (NHS) • Students of Service (SOS)
Specific Interest Clubs	We offer approximately 20 clubs focused on advancing a specific area of knowledge, learning or technology where members cooperate to affect or to produce solutions within their particular field, and may communicate, meet, and organize special events for the school district and community. Some of these clubs are listed below: • Anime Club • Astronomy Club • Christians in Action • Future Doctors of America • Health Occupations Student Assn. (HOSA) • Pride Club • Red Cross Youth Club • Student Athletic Trainers • Student Council • Table Top Gaming • Tech Team • Warren eSports League • Warren Wellness Ambassadors