

# Learning at...

# WALLKILL

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Elementary News Network	2
An Important Message from the Superintendent of Schools	3
Smart Schools Bond Act Update	4-5
Capital Project Update	6-7

## Wallkill CSD Technology and Capital Project Updates



## *Elementary News Network*

*Under the direction of Elementary Library Media Integration Specialist Stephen Cabarcas, a new program is up and running at each of the elementary schools this year. Using TouchCast Studio, students in each building have been producing morning newscasts for their building that include current events, weather reports, sports and trending topics. All newscasts are recorded using iPads.*

*To view recent episodes, visit the homepage for each school and follow the links for the building's News Network.*



*Above: Members of the Plattekill News Network team, from left to right: Alexa Mirabal, Kendall Albrechtsen, Aaliyah Gaston, and Will Jablesnik*

*A special thank you to members of Mrs. Murphy's journalism class at the Wallkill Senior High School, who were responsible for interviewing teachers and students about the new technology and Capital Project updates for this issue of Learning at Wallkill. Their work is featured on pages 5 and 7.*

*Pictured from left to right, journalists Milana Pla, Grade 10, Nick Wallingford, Grade 11, Andrew Strobach, Grade 11 and Brooke Lundgren, Grade 11.*



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## **UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

**March 16, 2017**  
Ostrander Elementary School

**April 19, 2017**  
Leptonddale Elementary School

**May 17, 2017**  
Plattekill Elementary School

## *An Important Message From the Superintendent of Schools*

*Spring 2017*

*Dear Wallkill Community,*

*It has been a great start to the 2016-2017 school year including, but not limited to, the implementation of Phase I of the Technology Initiative and the completion of Phase I of the Capital Project.*

*Grades K-6 classrooms have received interactive whiteboards (SMART Boards) and one-to-one devices. The teachers are incorporating the technology into their lessons, resulting in students being fully engaged in the learning process. This engagement should translate into deeper learning opportunities where our students will become better critical thinkers and problem solvers. Phase II, which will be implemented in 2017-2018, will include adding one-to-one devices for grades K-3 and 7-8, and interactive whiteboards for grades 7-8.*

*Phase I of the Capital Project is complete and we are very pleased with the outcome. At the end of September we opened up the new multi-purpose field with a Homecoming celebration that included current and former students of the Wallkill Learning Community. Our new camera systems and generators have already been put to great use. We lost power in several buildings over the last couple of months; however the generators prevented the interruption of the school day and our families from being inconvenienced. Furthermore, the camera systems have enhanced security measures in our facilities. The baseball and softball fields are near completion and should be ready for the Spring 2018 sports season. Since the project came in under budget, the District is planning on doing additional work this summer (see page 6).*

*This issue of Learning at Wallkill highlights the wonderful opportunities we are providing to our students.*

*Thank you for your continued support to our learning community!*

*Sincerely,*



*Kevin Castle  
Superintendent of Schools*



## Wallkill Central School District Smart Schools Bond Act Update

In the Fall of 2015, New York State made grant money available through the Smart Schools Bond Act to school districts for the implementation of technology. The Wallkill Central School District was awarded \$2,640,175 from this grant. Throughout the last two years, the District has planned with the Technology Committee and surveyed our parents, teachers, and students to help determine how we would utilize these resources to improve student learning. We then submitted our plan to the State and it was approved on June 20, 2016.

Once approved, we began to purchase laptops for the Grades 4-6 classrooms and interactive white boards for all classrooms in Grades K-6. We also put together a summer institute of professional development for our teachers so that they would be ready to hit the ground running in September. At our High School and Middle School, we have teachers piloting new technologies to determine what would work best for our secondary students.

It is our goal that as students progress through the grades, they will complete projects and participate in technology-based programs that are more complex. Research, inquiry, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) will be a focus for the district. The District's vision for the future is to assist students in developing technology literacy skills and dispositions through collaborative inquiries, utilizing 1:1 devices and online social media tools. In addition, our school library media specialists have worked this year on building a digital literacy curriculum designed to teach students how best to conduct themselves while working online.

In future years, we will continue to roll out devices in the classrooms and provide professional development to our teachers focused on how best to utilize technology to assist in student learning. In the fall of 2017, our grades K-3 will have classroom sets of laptops or tablets, and our middle school will have interactive white boards and 1:1 devices. The High School is scheduled to receive 1:1 devices and interactive boards beginning in the fall of 2018.

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### *WCSD Technology in the News*

*Two recent articles in the Times Herald-Record featured some of the new technology and technology initiatives in the District this year, including interactive SMART Boards and computer coding instruction:*

<http://www.recordonline.com/news/20161108/tech-upgrades-improve-education>

<http://www.recordonline.com/news/20161218/plattekill-elementary-students-get-taste-of-computer-coding>

## *How is the new technology helping you in the classroom?*



*"Technology is a bridge between the classroom and home."*

*Mrs. Pelosa,  
John G. Borden Middle School*



*"I use Chromebooks and iPads every day to use TypingClub."*

*Abigail Martino, Leptondale*



*"We can play on MathPlayground which makes math fun to learn."*

*Daniel Lang, Ostrander*



*"I made a Fakebook for Muhammad Ali and the Chromebooks helped me look up information about him."*

*Marilyn Velazques, Plattekill*



*"All lessons are online and show us what to do, and my teacher uses the microphone so we can hear her better."*

*Christopher Bobell, Ostrander*



*"I believe that it's made me a better teacher and the students learn more by being so engaged with the technology."*

*Mrs. Davis, Leptondale*



*"We use the Chromebooks to go on programs like IXL and Prodigy, where you use math to fight monsters, which is fun. I also like typing more than writing."*

*Keegan Sochocky, Plattekill*



*"It's easier to see, better than the computer lab, much easier to learn, and there are more things you can do with a Chromebook."*

*Abenet Lammers,  
John G. Borden Middle School*



*"I can work from home and read what I did in class every day, and my favorite thing is being able to watch videos at my own pace during class."*

*Victoria Papaleo,  
John G. Borden Middle School*

# Wallkill Central School District Capital Project Update

Below please find an update on the Capital Improvement project that began in Spring 2016.

## Phase I

### SECURITY UPGRADES

COMPLETED

- High Tech Interior/Exterior Security Camera System Upgrades (all schools)
- Safety Window Film on all first level windows and exterior doors (all schools)

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

COMPLETED

- Emergency Generators – in all school buildings
- High School Auditorium - Stage, Sound & Stage Lights
- Middle School Auditorium - Stage & Curtain



### ATHLETIC FACILITIES UPGRADES

COMPLETED

- Conversion of the football game field to a multi-purpose synthetic field
- Tennis court reconstruction
- New lighting at the main game field
- Weight room upgrades
- Creation of a new baseball and softball field—IN PROGRESS



## Phase II

(Contingent upon New York State Education Department approval)

**Anticipated Completion: Summer 2017**

- Irrigation system at new baseball field
- Bathroom facility at multi-purpose field
- New press box at multi-purpose field
- Refurbish existing bleachers at multi-purpose field
- New walking path and stairs at multi-purpose field
- Door replacement at large venue locations

*The District will be replacing gymnasium and cafeteria doors at the three elementary schools and the middle school. Gymnasium doors will be replaced at the high school.*



## *What do you think about the Capital Project and the new technology in classes?*



*"I think the front sign makes the school look more put together, and more unified as a high school, and the technology makes it easier to get work done more quickly."*

*Caroline Murphy, Grade 11,  
Wallkill Senior High School*



*"I think it makes a better representation of Wallkill sports and increases school spirit, bringing students together. It also makes people want to go watch more games. Also, chorus and instrument players feel more appreciated with the new stage."*

*Caroline Frank, Grade 11,  
Wallkill Senior High School*



*"I think the new scoreboards and the field look really cool, especially under the lights at night. The new baseball fields look like they're coming along nicely as well. The new technology in the classes makes getting homework submitted to a teacher much easier."*

*Samantha Zawacki, Grade 12,  
Wallkill Senior High School*



*"The new stage for drama and music is really nice and the sound systems are great too. I like the new technology in the classes too, because we can do group assignments more easily on Office 365, and having the Chrome-books makes doing online assignments in class easier compared to having to go to the computer lab."*

*Patrick Piescor, Grade 12,  
Wallkill Senior High School*







*The Annual Wallkill Central School  
District Budget Vote will take place on  
**Tuesday, May 16, 2017**  
from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.*

*The following buildings will serve as  
polling sites:*

*Wallkill Senior High School  
Leptondale Elementary School  
Plattekill Elementary School*

***Thank you for your continued support!***