Learning at...

Wallkill

WINTER 2025

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Juniors Ben Dortort (left) and João Santos work together for an assignment in Wallkill Senior High School's Intro to Teaching course. Students in this class take part in classroom learning and fieldwork where they observe high school, middle school, or elementary school teachers, and complete a write-up for every observation.

Intro to Teaching Course Gives Students Valuable Insight and Experience

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN TEACHING ARE ABLE TO TAKE THE NEW INTRO TO TEACHING CLASS AT WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (WSHS) with teacher Brian Vegliando this year. This course is offered in conjunction with Mount Saint Mary College, and students are able to earn three college credits through the program.

The course covers the history of education in general, the different types of education systems in the United States, and the various types of schools that exist. The class also looks at the budgeting process, and how different types of schools are funded.

In addition to learning in the classroom, students will complete more than 10 hours of fieldwork. During their fieldwork, they observe high school, middle school, or elementary school teachers, and complete a write-up for every observation. Students are required to interview teachers a few times throughout the year and will learn about lesson planning and how to teach a class.

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Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Wallkill Community,

Over the next couple of months, we will be developing our 2026-2027 budget with the goals of preserving programs, staying within the tax cap, and increasing extra-curricular activities for students. In May, we will be presenting our budget to the community in preparation for the May 19, 2026 Budget Vote. We are so fortunate to have a community that supports the education we are providing to our students. We will continue to make every effort to improve upon what we are offering students, as well as being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers.

I would like to thank our parents for the high level of engagement at our open houses, parent forums, athletic events, and music concerts. Together, we will continue to offer the best educational experience to our students. This issue of *Learning at Wallkill* highlights some of the great academic programs and instructional practices in our District.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Anthony White,
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Intro to Teaching Course Gives Students Valuable Insight and Experience

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There are guest speakers every Friday. Teachers come in and talk about how and why they became a teacher. They also give advice, sharing information that will be useful for any student planning to enter the field.

The concept for this class was first put forth by former WSHS Principal and current Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services Brian Masopust last year. After he held conversations with representatives from Mount Saint Mary College, the course was added to the Elective Expo held in February.

Some students jumped at the chance to start their career path early. "I've wanted to be a teacher pretty much my whole life," says Milie Whalen, Grade 11. "So I was super stoked to be able to get my foot in the door early when it comes to my teaching journey and also get credit for college."

Other students looked at the class as more of an exploratory opportunity. "I had no intentions of being a teacher at first," says Gianni Bailey, Grade 11. But as he started to learn more about what it takes to be a teacher, hearing stories from his teachers as well as about education-related things like school budgets, he had a change of heart. "I think it is something I might consider," he says.

Many students were amazed by all that goes into formulating a school budget and how much money it takes to run a school district. The observation hours are a favorite of several students, as the observations allow them to form a new perspective on what goes into a teacher's school day. One student commented that the hands-on aspect of the course was really appealing to her.

Mr. Vegliando is also a fan of the hands-on learning that goes on in the course. The curriculum, he notes, is evolving as the course progresses. "I joked with the kids on day one of the classes that it's like building the airplane as we're in the air, because it's our first year doing it. The students have been tremendous to work with and know their role in everything we do."

The program's first field trip was a half-day visit to Ostrander Elementary School in mid-December, and there are more visits to other schools in the District planned for the remainder of the year. There are already many faculty members in the Wallkill Central School District that are alumni, and this program may provide a head start for a few more.

Tech Students Soar with Air Racer Challenge

The hallway outside the cafeteria became a testing ground for the Grade 8 Technology class air racers in early November.

Students measured and meticulously cut and folded card stock to create, craft, and launch them via a rubber band and paperclip device. Some racers zoomed straight down the hallway, some looped sideways in dramatic fashion, and others surprised their creators with record-approaching distances.

In the beginning, most air racers only achieved a few feet or even inches of distance before crashing. But with the right adjustments to weight and to air intake slots, they were landing 70 or more feet away. While observing not only their craft's trajectory but those of their classmates as well, students discussed what worked, what didn't work, and how small design changes made big differences in performance. The activity gave them a meaningful glimpse into real-world engineering and how testing, revising, and problem-solving are part of every successful design. This year's longest distance was 99 feet!

Wallkill Central School District Superintendent Anthony White stopped by to admire the students' hard work during one set of distance trials. "I remember one year, there was one that went all the way to the stairwell," he said, recalling the all-time record-setting flight of 105 feet.

This project was a hands-on example of math and engineering in action. Creativity came into play, too, as the air racers were personalized with each student's choice of artwork.

Local Heroes Inspire Pride and Respect at Plattekill Elementary School

In honor of Veterans Day, members of the Wallkill American Legion visited Plattekill Elementary School (PES) to share lessons on patriotism, service, and respect for the American flag. Classroom teachers also held lessons focusing on the branches of the military and recognizing the many students who have family and friends who are veterans or who are currently serving our country.

The visit by Jim Scali (Army), Barry Schnipper (Navy), Raymond Bedford (Air Force), and Paul Eurich (Army 82nd Airborne), from the American Legion Town of Wallkill Post 1181, reminded students that freedom is something to cherish and protect. In addition to sharing their personal stories about why they served, they discussed the many ways students can help and volunteer in their own community.

The veterans, dressed in their American Legion uniforms, demonstrated proper flag etiquette, and explained the significance behind the stars, stripes, and colors of the flag. They also showed the proper way to fold the flag and played the bugle call "To the Colors." The students then peppered the visitors with questions, including ones related to the military draft, the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day, and the kind of training they had received.

Principal Nicole Parete expressed how meaningful it was for students to hear from those who have served. "The lessons our veterans share reach far beyond the classroom," she said. "They teach our students about honor, gratitude, and the importance of community."

Mrs. Parete also took part in a lesson on the military and Veterans Day in Breanna Friedman's Grade 3 class. Students spent time discussing the six branches of the military and the various monuments in Washington, D.C. that recognize those who gave their lives in service to our country. Students were interested in the history of the armed forces and had many questions for Mrs. Friedman and Mrs. Parete.

In Melissa Space's Kindergarten class, students created a Wall of Heroes. Each student colored in a military figure for members of their family who are serving or have served our country. Each branch of service had a special figure dressed in uniform that students meticulously colored and hung on the wall outside their classroom.

Whether it was in the gymnasium, where students stood and sang Lee Greenwood's "Proud to Be an American" during an inspiring assembly, or in the hallways of PES, which were full of Veterans Day tributes, the pride the school has for our veterans was on full display.

The Wall of Heroes created by Melissa Space's Kindergarten class. The figures represent members of students' families who are serving or have served our country.

Members of the Wallkill American Legion demonstrate proper flag etiquette to Plattekill Elementary School students.

PES Principal Nicole Parete joined Breanna Friedman's Grade 3 class as they learned about branches of the military in honor of Veterans Day.

Students were able to ask the visiting veterans questions about the presentation and their military service.

Team Math at Leptondale Elementary School Builds a Strong Foundation

THE KEY TO STRONG MATH SKILLS IS HAVING A SOLID FOUNDATION, AND AT LEPTONDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (LES), Math teacher Monica Hanke and Math AIS (Academic Intervention Services) Assistant Deirdrea Reis-DeSantis have created a program called Team Math to build that solid base.

The program, which is in its second year for Grade 5 students, is expanding into Grades 4 and 1 this year. Mrs. Hanke has created all of the materials for the program herself, and Mrs. DeSantis grades the daily assessments. As a Math teacher, Mrs. Hanke knows that data is key, and she uses the progress shown on assessments to drive the direction of the program.

The Team Math program is in addition to the regular classroom Math time. During "tier time" on F days, students are divided into three classrooms based on test scores from last year as well as from the beginning of this school year. Mrs. Hanke also uses a progress-monitoring system in coordination with assessments to gather as much information as possible to make the best placement choice for each student.

While in their Team Math class, students go over their daily review sheet. "The goal of this program, whether it is fifth grade, fourth grade, or first grade, is to keep it as simple as possible for the teachers," says Mrs. Hanke.

The Grade 5 program is geared towards State test questions. These are organized by topic to get students used to the language and the rigor those questions use. Since the Grade 5 teachers are already familiar with the program, they are able to run it independently while Mrs. Hanke gets the lower grades acclimated to Team Math.

"We have already seen great success with this program," says LES Principal Scott Brown. "Last year the Grade 5 Math scores on the State tests went up tremendously, nearly doubling!" The District's goal is to add more grades each year until the program is functioning independently, without Mrs. Hanke's support, in Kindergarten through Grade 6.

Mrs. Hanke visits the Grade 4 students when they meet, since this is the first year their teachers are taking part in the program. Mrs. Hanke created all the materials being used, including the *I Heart Place Values* workbook. At this level, the program focuses on place values and addition and subtraction skills. Students go over 10 questions, each of which relates to the number of the day. Students also go over the daily review sheet, taking turns to show their work in front of the class.

"Mrs. Hanke works with us," explains Grade 4 teacher Jonni Dispensa. "She's able to meet with all of the teachers individually and also meet with students outside of these groups, which is really nice. This program helps us when we are working in our regular Math class because we're able to identify areas where students need our support. Mrs. Hanke then helps us with that support, both in and out of the classroom."

Grade 4 teacher Jenn Warren guides students through the questions in the "I Heart Place Values" workbook as part of the Team Math program at Leptondale Elementary School.

Students enjoy the I Heart Place Value lessons. "This makes learning Math kind of fun," says Grade 4 student Nora Bowman. Fellow classmate Leah LaBrada adds, "I like learning new things in Math."

For Grade 1, the program uses fun activities with a theme that has a story and games to establish number sense and reasonableness along with a knowledge of place values on a 100 chart. The October lesson was 10 Timid Ghosts. "It's a fun activity," says Mrs. Hanke. "Students draw a haunted house and are given ghosts. Then they get bags that have beans in them to use as counters. We read them a story, and then they got to play with it."

November's lesson uses a numbers chart and coloring instructions that result in a turkey picture. "We go very slowly with first grade right now," Mrs. Hanke explains. "It's all brand-new stuff. My hope is by helping them go slow and understand, when they get to third, fourth, and fifth grade, they'll know the system and have that good foundation to build on."

The program seems to be working on many levels. When asked what he likes about the Team Math program, Grade 4 student Sebastain Torres says, "Watching people being happy doing Math."

Ostrander Elementary School Honors PAWSitive Students of the Month

EACH MONTH AT OSTRANDER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (OES), teachers and staff are on the lookout for students who are demonstrating "the positive trait of the month" and thereby following the school's PAWS Promise.

The PAWS Promise—"I will have a **P**ositive attitude, **A**ct respectfully and responsibly, make **W**ise choices, and keep myself and others **S**afe"—is based on the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) expectations.

Each month, the school highlights a specific positive character trait, such as helpful, responsible, enthusiastic, respectful, friendly, honest, kind, patient, or ambitious. Morning announcements remind students which particular trait is currently being spotlighted. In the classroom, teachers discuss how their students can be helpful, enthusiastic, or respectful at school, for example, or what being patient looks and sounds like. Teachers are also being provided with a list of books and other ways to integrate this topic into their classwork.

November's PAWSitive Student of the Month, Nataly Martinez (Grade 5), poses with Noah Sgroi (Grade 2), October's Student of the Month, in front of the PAWSitive tree display at Ostrander Elementary School.

Students are nominated by classroom teachers, special area teachers, and support services. They select students who best demonstrate the highlighted character trait. About 30 students are recognized monthly. Their names are announced at the beginning of the month on the morning announcements, and they receive a certificate and a "brag tag" to wear at school. In addition, their photos are displayed on the branches of a beautiful tree that has been painted on the hallway outside the cafeteria by the school's very talented library assistant, Tina Smith.

To conclude the celebration, these exceptional students gathered for a special treat with the principal. The inaugural event took place on December 5, recognizing PAWSitive students from September, October, and November. They enjoyed a well-deserved reward, "Deserving Donuts," generously donated by Modena Hannaford.

OES Principal Anita Hoyt believes that this program opens up opportunities for students to receive recognition beyond just academic success. "November's trait was enthusiasm, which is one of my favorites because it shows up in so many different ways—especially in an elementary school," the principal shared. "Sometimes the child who is bursting with excitement to learn and participate isn't always seen as the traditional role model. This celebration gives those students a chance to shine."

"I showed my certificate to my Mama, and she was really happy," said Grade 1 student Wyatt Quick. He wore his brag tag to school for several days and showed it to Mrs. Hoyt with pride.

"I was excited, happy, surprised," said Nataly Martinez, Grade 5, talking about when her name was announced as a PAWSitive Student of the Month." Grade 2 student Noah Sgroi said that his family was excited to hear about his achievement, and he felt very happy about being recognized.

This year, the school culture committee chose the theme "**O**ne Team, **E**veryone **S**ucceeds," and that spirit shines through in both our student and staff celebrations! The PAWSitive program doesn't just recognize amazing students, it extends to staff as well. Staff can nominate a colleague who goes above and beyond to make others feel part of the Ostrander community. Mrs. Hoyt says, "Delivering these notes is amazing. It's awesome to see the surprise and smiles when someone realizes they've been recognized!" All the positive notes are combined into a certificate for display, and the staff member with the most nominations earns a special pin and keychain as our "Staff Member of the Month." Just like our PAWSitive students, these recognitions remind us that no matter your age, it feels incredible to be appreciated. It's all part of making sure everyone has a chance to shine.

School Resource Officers are Part of the Plattekill Elementary School Community

Plattekill Police Officer Lee Rywalt is a School Resource Officer at Plattekill Elementary School. He is often a guest reader in Renee Wilcheck's Kindergarten class, and is a favorite with students.

At Plattekill Elementary School (PES), the School Resource Officers (SROs) are more than just a safety precaution; they are also part of the school's community. Officers Lee Rywalt, Robert Riley, and James Nelson are longtime members of the Plattekill Police Department who have undergone special training to become SROs. In fact, at all of the schools in Wallkill Central School District, you will find specially trained officers from one of our local police departments.

Officer Riley has 34 years of police experience and is also the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer for Leptondale and Plattekill Elementary Schools. Officer Nelson has been carrying out police work since 1998, while Officer Rywalt has been doing so since 2000. In addition to their policing knowledge, these officers bring decades of life experience.

This is Officer Rywalt's sixth year at PES, and he beams with pride as he talks about students who were just in Kindergarten when he started and are now in Grade 5. Officer Rywalt also volunteers his time to be an advisor to the school's Safety Committee. "With his training, he is often able to assess our procedures and processes through a lens of safety," explains Principal Nicole Parete. "We talk it through a lot of times with the SROs."

Their job involves more than just keeping students safe. Officer Rywalt's time at PES, for example, often includes stopping in to read a story with Renee Wilcheck's Kindergarten class, and the students love it. This is just one of many ways the SROs are building positive relationships with students.

Officer Nelson is also a member of the Modena Fire Department, which adds another valuable community first responder connection.

Mrs. Parete is grateful to have the SROs as part of the community. "Having local officers in the schools is really nice," she says. "Our families know them. They know our families. They know the kids. It's just really wonderful." Mrs. Parete adds, "We thank our School Resource Officers for their commitment to keeping our school safe and for the positive, supportive relationships they build with our students."

The students and staff of Wallkill Central School District had the profound pleasure of attending the "Emotion into Art" performances with a talented artist, Tom Varano. Mr. Varano's captivating artistry, combined with his powerful message of dreaming B.I.G., practicing self-care, and embodying kindness, deeply resonated with both students and staff.

Mr. Varano's unique approach to performance art involves creating stunning, large-scale portraits in mere minutes, all while sharing inspiring stories and messages that encourage individuals to pursue their dreams and treat others with compassion. The event not only showcased his incredible artistic talent but also left a lasting impression on everyone in attendance, reminding them of the importance of dreaming big and being kind.

Middle School Students Visit Local Manufacturer

Field trips like this one expose students to the modern world of manufacturing, which in many ways looks very different than it did when their parents were their age.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL MANUFACTURING DAY IN EARLY OCTOBER, Grade 8 Technology students at John G. Borden Middle School took a field trip to a local manufacturer to learn about career opportunities.

Students walked the three blocks from the Middle School to Fair-Rite Products Corporation, where they took a tour of the facility. They also met with some of Fair-Rite's engineers, learning about the work they do and the training and/or schooling that got them to where they are today. The trip is one of many valuable experiences the students will have during their time at Wallkill.

Technology teacher Adam Seelig explains that many of the students who go into technology and manufacturing fields have a relative who is employed in that industry. Yet many other students are not aware of the variety of careers and employment opportunities that are available in the manufacturing and technology sector today. Field trips like this one expose students to the modern world of manufacturing, which in many ways looks very different than it did when their parents were their age.

""Our partnership with Borden Middle School on Manufacturing Day is about more than showcasing machines and processes—it's about inspiring the next generation of makers."

- CHRISTINE VAN DE MARK, FAIR-RITE'S DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Prior to the visit, Mr. Seelig shared Fair-Rite's website, leading the students to express amazement over the number of common household items that Fair-Rite's products are used in. "It's crazy how much they produce," said Cam Dickson, Grade 8. "They make everything with their products."

Fair-Rite produces products containing ferrites (magnetic oxides), a naturally occurring mineral used predominately in three areas of electronics: low-level applications, power applications, and electromagnetic interference (EMI) suppression. Fair-Rite's focus is on the EMI suppression market, and the company is known for manufacturing ferrite products, which are used in the medical, lighting, automotive, communication, aero defense, smart energy, and industrial markets.

This family-owned company, which has been in Wallkill since it began in 1952, is led today by President Rachel Parker, daughter of Richard and Carole Parker, the company's founders.

Meeting with people that work at Fair-Rite, including engineers, was part of the experience. The company employs various types of engineers, including mechanical, electrical, and chemical engineers.

"It has been a great partnership the last two years with Borden Middle School," says Fair-Rite Director of Human Resources Christine Van De Mark. "Our partnership with Borden Middle School on Manufacturing Day is about more than showcasing machines and processes—it's about inspiring the next generation of makers. By opening our doors to students, we help them see that manufacturing is not only vital to our community but is also full of opportunities for creativity, innovation, and problem-solving. Investing in young minds today ensures a strong, skilled workforce tomorrow and that's essential for the future of manufacturing."

High School Transfer Student Committee Welcome Breakfast a Success

BEING A TRANSFER STUDENT HAS ITS CHALLENGES, BUT THE NEWEST CLUB AT WALLKILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (WSHS) AIMS TO HELP SUCH STUDENTS OVERCOME THOSE CHALLENGES.

The Transfer Student Committee is made up of Panther Orientation Program (POP) Ambassadors, some of whom transferred to the District themselves at one point. The ambassadors, who are matched up with transfer students during orientation, are committed to helping to introduce the new students to WSHS.

The program kicked off at a New Student Orientation session held back in August. "We had a table for our POP ambassadors where they could meet some of the transfer students," says WSHS Principal Alyssa Greany. "The POP Ambassadors also gave guided tours of the school."

The Transfer Student Committee held a welcome breakfast on October 31, with 16 transfer students and 13 POP ambassadors in attendance. The breakfast gave the students time to get to know each other better, now that the school year was in full swing.

The Transfer Student Committee held a welcome breakfast on October 31. Students enjoyed this opportunity to get to know each other better. Members of the Transfer Student Committee shown here are (back row, from left to right) Tamara Brand, Anya Dunkley, and Miranda Padilla, and (front row) Kamara Buddal.

Mrs. Greany explains that the goal of this committee is to provide support for transfer students, whether it's academic or social.

"We noticed that, although some transfer students were doing well academically, there was also this social piece that was missing," says School Counselor Voleile Derisse. "They weren't making connections to other students at school."

Speaking about the Committee, Grade 10 student Edward Smith says, "They made everything a lot easier for transfer students because it is always hard to make new friends or stay in contact with old ones left behind."

"This is my first time transferring schools," Edward adds. "Through the breakfast program I met Santino, who I now talk to all the time. So it's already proven to work."

Edward's new friend, Grade 10 student Santino Gonzalez, appreciates how the program has made it easier to approach, and make connections with, other students. "It's easier to be more outgoing when you are talking to someone else who has just transferred too," he says.

Senior Gracyn Cadden echoes this sentiment, saying, "Personally I am outgoing, so getting involved isn't as difficult for me, but they made this program so that it is easier for students who are more reserved to meet people and get involved." She has transferred twice so far since starting high school and speaks from experience. "I think they made this program so that kids could get more involved in sports and stuff and have friends that are already involved."

"Part of the reason that I wanted to be a POP Ambassador was because a bunch of my friends are actually transfer students," explains Miranda Padilla, Grade 12. "I feel like through the different programs, we're able to kind of connect with people we might not talk to, and the transfer students might feel more welcome by talking to people who have been in the District for a really long time. I really like the concept of just meeting new people like that."

Another aspect that students brought up is the fact that technology and procedures often differ from one school and one school district to another. Having someone who can guide you through these differences can be a huge advantage over trying to figure everything out on your own.

Those involved with the Transfer Committee are inspired by seeing new students becoming more at ease talking to and becoming friends with their peers. One ambassador suggests that her only regret is that as a senior, she can only participate for one year. "I wish I could have been part of it for a little bit longer to see what the program developed into," she says.

First Season of Unified Bocce Ball is Filled with Fun and Friendship

This was the first season of Unified Bocce Ball at Wallkill Senior High School (WSHS), and whether it was practice or a match, everyone enjoyed having fun with friends. "Practice was the highlight of the day for me," says Coach Hunter Andrews. "Meeting with the students and seeing them just have fun learning the game was really cool."

According to the Special Olympics website, "Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding."

Bocce Ball is a Special Olympics sport that provides people with special needs the opportunity to have social contact, develop physically, and gain self-confidence. At WSHS, the Unified Bocce team practiced two days a week until matches started and then devoted one day per week to practice and one to compete with other schools. The team played seven matches this season at WSHS and at other schools.

Members of the Wallkill Unified Bocce Ball team included (back row, left to right) Alexis Snell, Olivia Martino (helper), Sage DeGroat, Jaidan Wentworth, and Arman Snell as well as (front row, left to right) Elijah Horton, Gianna Raia, Jewel Palmateer, and Isabelle Ferranti. Not pictured are Madison Auger (helper), Sydney Drackett, and AJ Rodriguez-Casanova.

> "We have a beautiful court that our school maintenance [staff] built. We also painted some courts in our old softball field, which was awesome, just to have the students spread out so that everybody's playing a bit more."
>
> - COACH HUNTER ANDREWS

"We have a beautiful court that our school maintenance [staff] built," says Mr. Andrews. "We also painted some courts in our old softball field, which was awesome, just to have the students spread out so that everybody's playing a bit more."

"My favorite part is that anytime you show up to one of their practices, they're just so welcoming," says WSHS Principal Alyssa Greany. "The team is happy to have you join no matter who you are, what your skill level is, even if your skill level is zero." Student Jaidan Wentworth, Grade 12, says, "My favorite part is how I just have fun with my friends."

"Throwing the pallino is one of my favorite parts," says Gianna Raia, referring to the small target ball that is thrown at the start of each round. The students took the first couple of weeks to learn the game, including how to throw the pallino, the different ways of knocking someone's ball out of the court, and how to score a point.

It was also fun because the coaches encouraged the students to introduce themselves to the other teams. Some of them already knew students from other schools and were happy to visit with their friends.

"The administration was really super supportive of getting the program off the ground last year," said Mr. Andrews. He also coaches Unified Basketball, which Wallkill has participated in for the last two years. "I've coached some of these students in Unified Basketball but for those that didn't play basketball, this was an awesome introduction to Unified Sports," he added.

Pop-Up Lunch Events Add Something Special to the Menu

On October 30, students at Wallkill Senior High School were treated to a special pop-up event in their cafeteria, featuring Handsome Devil BBQ.

While the school district purchased all of the products used that day, the team from Handsome Devil was responsible for the event's devilishly delicious offerings. The BBQ business parked their smoker in the lot outside the cafeteria doors and pulled pork directly from there to serve at the cafeteria counter. The menu featured pulled pork, homemade coleslaw, homemade cornbread, tater tots, and corn on the cob.

"Ed Randolph, the owner of Handsome Devil, was able to work with us," said Assistant Superintendent for Support Services Brian Devincenzi. "He was able to use his barbecue equipment and skills to create an unique event for the students."

A pop-up event featuring fare from Handsome Devil BBQ was a hit at Wallkill Senior High School.

Students enjoyed a menu featuring pulled pork, homemade coleslaw, homemade cornbread, tater tots, and corn on the cob.

According to Mr. Devincenzi, this was just the beginning, as additional pop-up events featuring local restaurants and chefs will be taking place throughout the school year at schools within the District. "We're trying to create some different things for the kids in the schools and are working with our Whitsons Culinary Group, our food service contractor, and our food service director, Marilyn Digregorio, to make these special events happen."

The visit by Handsome Devil BBQ was well received. "I walked into the cafeteria that day, and I couldn't even see a student who didn't have barbecue in front of them," said High School Principal Alyssa Greany. "It felt as though every single person who walked in there took advantage of it, and they were so excited."

Adding to the party atmosphere were themed decorations, upbeat music, and special T-shirts that had been made for the Food Service staff. Beyond just bringing a delicious lunch to students and brightening their day, events like this one are also partnerships that connect local businesses with potential new clientele. "This may give some students a chance to experience something new, a food they might not have had an opportunity to try before," explained Mr. Devincenzi. If future events are anything like this one was, they are sure to be a hit!

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Leptondale Elementary School.....845-895-7200
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Plattekill Elementary School.....845-895-7250
John G. Borden Middle School.....845-895-7175
Wallkill Senior High School.....845-895-7150

The Wallkill Central School District does not discriminate. Our Non-Discrimination Statement can be read in full on our website www.wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us. A copy may also be requested by contacting Brian Devincenzi, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services, by phoning 845-895-7102, emailing bdevincenzi@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us, or writing to 1500 Route 208, PO Box 310, Wallkill, NY 12589.