



# The Journal

## Working together to get through challenging year

by Brian White  
Board of Education Trustee



Happy spring! It is hard to believe that the 2020-21 school year is soon coming to a close.

As I look back at this school year, I think about all the challenges our students, staff, and families faced during this global pandemic.

I realize this school year has been like no other we have ever experienced and no one knew what to expect, but I am super proud of how far we have come as a district.

Throughout this school year, I have been truly amazed at the perseverance of our students and the dedication of our teachers. Everyday our teachers are online and in the classroom connecting with our students on so many levels. I enjoy hearing and seeing through social media and our district website, the various things going on in our classrooms and in our students' homes, such as science experiments, book reports, physical education, computer programming, art projects, plus so much more.

I am very thankful to the WCS families for their tremendous patience and support of our district during these uncertain times. I am grateful to the moms, dads, grandparents,

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## WCS to offer summer extended learning opportunities for students



This summer, WCS is pleased to offer a large selection of summer extended learning opportunities for students to regain what they may have lost this past year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The district will offer the traditional summer school program for students in grades K-12, as well as K-8 Special Education programs.

"It is extremely important to keep our students engaged during the summer down-time," Superintendent Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D. said. "Our Office of Curriculum and Instruction team has gone above and beyond in crafting a summer literacy plan to support students who may have struggled the past year and to help them be ready for school in August."

WCS will offer elementary literacy and math (by invitation), where students will engage in literacy through thematic units, as well as math concepts and daily SEL checks and activities. Lessons and activities will focus on core content, remediation, and reconnecting students to the school community.

At the middle school level, Math Mindset (by invitation) will be offered where students engage in grade level content while learning about the brain research necessary for a growth mindset in mathematics which incorporates open, creative, and visual thinking. Middle School Literacy is also available for students to take part in daily reading and writing.

Our K-8 Special Education programs (by invitation) consist of Cognitively Impaired Summer Learning Classrooms, Emotionally Impaired, and Cross-Categorical.

WCS will offer 9-12 Credit recovery for students who need to recover credits. Students will engage in flexible synchronous and asynchronous courses.

NEW this summer, WCS will offer a variety of FREE extended learning opportunities for students to explore and engage in activities of their choice.

From literacy and math programs, to STEM exploration, SAT prep, computer coding, theatre and film classes, art, painting, gardening, creative writing, and sports fitness, there is something for every student to rebuild this summer and get ready for the next school year.

All programs are taught by highly qualified WCS teachers and are offered free of charge to students. Classes and programs will be offered at every grade level.

For more information on summer school and extended learning opportunities, log on to: [WCSKIDS.net/Summer21](http://WCSKIDS.net/Summer21).



WCS will offer a variety of FREE learning opportunities for students to explore this summer.

## WCS to offer Virtual Academy

As Warren Consolidated Schools prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, the district is proud to offer a Virtual Academy to students, taught by Warren Consolidated Schools highly qualified teachers.

Although WCS will be back to in-person learning full-time next year, the district realizes not all families are or will be comfortable returning to school at this time and would like a virtual option.

The Virtual Academy will be a full day of school, five days per week, with a full schedule for students at all grade levels. A hybrid/part-time option is not available at this time.

Students enrolled in the Virtual Academy must remain in the program for a minimum of one semester/trimester.

Some WCS programs, such as CPC, WCSPA, MSVPA, MS2TC, MMSTC, and Transitional Kindergarten, are structured to be taught in person, have limited staff available to them, and are not available on a virtual platform. Students who hold seats in these programs who choose the Virtual Academy will not lose their spots. Some courses students express interest in may not be available in the event there is not enough enrollment in a course.

WCS will follow the district's published school calendar for the 21/22 school year, which includes full day instruction Monday through Friday, with the exception of previously scheduled half days.

A typical day for a student in the Virtual Academy would be balanced between virtual instruction from a teacher and independent practice on learning activities.

See **VIRTUAL ACADEMY** page 4

## Summer learning opportunities benefit students

by Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D.—Superintendent of Schools



As we prepare to close the 2020-21 school year, I would like to thank our community for their support during this challenging time in education. I also ask you to join me and acknowledge our teachers, principals, and support staff, regardless of the work they do, for remaining extraordinarily devoted to our students throughout the year. I know it has not always been easy, but please know, I sincerely appreciate the team effort and for always keeping our students best interests in the forefront.

To prepare for the 2021-22 school year, the WCS Board of Education and I feel it is extremely important to keep our students engaged during the summer down-time. Our Office of Curriculum and Instruction team has been working on a summer literacy plan to support students who have struggled the past year and to help them be ready for school in August.

This summer, Warren Consolidated Schools plans to offer K-12 extended learning opportunities for students. A variety of sessions will be offered for students to explore, such as, book clubs, STEM, arts and leisure, healthy cooking, SAT prep, fitness and wellness, outdoor experiences, theatre and film, social emotional

programs, plus much more. The district will also offer K-8 summer school options to students looking to brush up on certain skills. Elementary Literacy and Math, Middle School Math Mindset, Middle School Literacy, K-8 Special Programs such as cognitively impaired summer learning classrooms, emotionally impaired, and cross-categorical, plus the 9-12 credit recovery program will be among the courses offered.

Additional information regarding our summer literacy programs and summer school options can be found throughout this newsletter and on the district website WCSKIDS.NET. I do hope you take some time to learn about our literacy options and consider registering your child for one or more of the opportunities.

I would also like to remind our community that WCS offers extensive early childhood and kindergarten programs, including free and tuition based pre-school, transitional kindergarten for students who are not quite ready for a traditional kindergarten experience, kindergarten, and early childhood special education. Program information and online registration is located on the main page of our website.

Once again, thank you for your continued cooperation and support this school year. Please continue to stay safe and be healthy.

## District purchases new air purification system

WCS buildings will be equipped with a new Global Plasma Solutions air purification system to fight against COVID-19 and various other pathogens.

Needlepoint bipolar ionization from GPS is a patented technology that safely cleans the air by introducing ions into the space via airflow in a ventilation system, eliminating particulates, odor, and pathogens.

GPS's needlepoint bipolar ionization is an air cleaning system intended to reduce the volume of infectious pathogens by deactivating them and improving the efficiency of filtration solutions.

Installation is currently in progress and is expected to be complete by the end July and ready for school to start in August.

## Greaves named School Social Worker of the Year

Paige Greaves, district social worker, was recently named the 2021 Macomb County School Social Worker of the Year by the Macomb Intermediate School District.

Greaves has been with Warren Consolidated Schools since 2016, serving students at Willow Woods Elementary and Community High School.

She received her undergraduate degree in social work from Eastern Michigan University and her graduate degree in social work from Wayne State University.

Before joining WCS, Greaves worked at a domestic violence shelter as a children's counselor, the Children's Center in Detroit, at Maple Lane Elementary, and Arts Academy in the Woods.



Paige Greaves

Besides her work at WCS, she is also a Field Instructor with Wayne State University, supervising graduate level school social work interns, as well as works with the YMCA and a private practice.

Greaves enjoys working with students and their families' year-to-year watching them make positive gains in their skills.

## New faces in new places

The Board of Education approved the following administrative appointments at the April 21 meeting.

**Chief Human Resources Officer**—Jennifer Grigg will join the WCS team on June 1, as the district's Chief Human Resources Officer. Grigg is currently serving as the Director of Human Resources and Employee Relations at Bay City Public Schools.

**Cousino High School Principal**—Andre Buford was appointed Principal of Cousino High School. Buford served as interim principal following Principal Brad Perkins retirement. Prior to serving as interim principal, Buford served as assistant principal at Cousino for five years. Buford started his career as a 9th-11th grade English and history teacher.

**Carter Middle School Assistant Principal**—Stacey Ary was appointed Assistant Principal at Carter Middle School after serving as Interim Assistant Principal. Ary has been with the district for the past 16 years. She worked as a 3rd grade teacher at Green Acres, 7th and 8th grade English Language Arts teacher at Carter and served as a district Content Specialist.

WARREN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

### NOW HIRING

### JOIN OUR TEAM

- Custodial
- Nutrition Services
- Lunchroom Supervisor
- Skilled Trades
- Latchkey
- Bus Drivers

Visit [WCSKIDS.NET](http://WCSKIDS.NET) or call 586.698.4521 for employment opportunities

## Around the District...

### Grissom Mindfulness Center open for students and staff

Grissom Middle School recently held a dedication ceremony of the Grissom Mindfulness Center.

The Mindfulness Center is a place where students and staff have access to mindfulness-based tools and trained staff to help facilitate the management of stress and achieve emotional well-being by activating the body's relaxation response.



Grissom Mindfulness Center

The center consists of various stations and spaces to facilitate the practices. There is journaling/writing center, a coloring/crafting center, a large-group space for meditation and other group activities, and a small group conversational center. The room is painted with colors

from the suggested calm classroom palette and is adorned with calming and motivational pieces.

The Grissom Mindfulness Center was made possible through funds provided by the family of former student, Anu Bedi, a grant from Extra Credit Union School Employee Grant Program, and the vision of the Grissom team.

Bedi was a student at Grissom when she, her mother, and her brother, were killed in the Air India Flight 182 tragedy on June 23, 1985. Mr. and Mrs. Bedi have been generous supporters of Grissom.



Members of the Mindfulness Center planning team, representatives from Extra Credit Union, and Mr. and Mrs. Bedi.

### WCS hosts employee vaccine clinic

In an effort to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to employees, WCS partnered with Rite Aid Pharmacy at 12 Mile Rd & Dequindre in Warren, to administer the 2-dose Pfizer vaccine to all interested WCS employees and family members at the district's Performing Arts Center. More than 275 employees and family members received the vaccine.



More than 275 employees and family members participated in the vaccine clinic.

### Students participate in work based learning

Students from Ms. Annette LaBelle's class at Sterling Heights High School assisted with food packing and distribution during Gleaners Mobile Food Pantry at Lean Elementary, as part of the work based learning program. Work based learning in the community gives students a taste of what a real job is like.



### CTE students awarded

For the past 30 years, the Macomb Career and Technical Education Administrators Association (MCTEAA), has honored Macomb county's most outstanding career and technical education students during its annual MCTEAA Awards Breakfast.

During this year's virtual event, MCTEAA honored WCS students Sam Marsolais and Maryam Yousif; and community partner Mary Stathopoulos.

**Sam Marsolais**, student at

Warren Mott High School and the Career Prep Center, was awarded Outstanding CTE Student. He is studying computer information systems (CIS) and wants to be a computer programmer.



Sam Marsolais

**Maryam Yousif**, student at

Sterling Heights High School, was awarded Outstanding CTE Senior. She is a student in the Career Prep Center dental program and plans to study Dentistry at University of Detroit Mercy.



Maryam Yousif

**Mary Stathopoulos** was awarded Outstanding CTE Business Partner. Stathopoulos is the owner and head chef at Ms. Mary and Pete's Too. She has partnered with the CPC Culinary program for years.



Mary Stathopoulos

### White—continued from page 1

aunts, uncles, neighbors, and all those involved with supporting your children day-in and day-out during this pandemic. I know it is not always easy, but please know, it does not go unrecognized.

I also thank our Superintendent, Dr. Robert Livernois, for his leadership, our administrators, teachers, and all of our support staff, for their flexibility and willingness to always go the extra mile to serve this community.

Since the start of this pandemic, our Nutrition Services department has packed and distributed one million plus meals to families throughout the district; our Technology department has set-up and distributed more than 9,000 laptop computers for student use; the custodial/facilities staff continue to clean and sanitize our buildings; and our Transportation department is busier than ever safely transporting our students to and from school.

It has been a challenging year, but our WCS community has accepted the challenge and we became stronger together. I am so proud to serve on the WCS Board of Education and work for the citizens of this community. I wish you and your families continued health and safety.

### 2020-21 Calendar

**May 31**—NO SCHOOL; Memorial Day

**June 1**—Classes resume

**June 4**—K-12 half day - No AM ECSE; PM reports in AM

**June 5**—Graduation Ceremonies

**June 15**—Half day High School only; High School exams

**June 16**—Half day High School only; High School exams

**June 17**—K-12 half day - No AM ECSE; PM reports in AM - High School exams

## Warren Consolidated Schools

31300 Anita Drive  
Warren, MI 48093  
**1.888.4WCS.KIDS**  
**WCSKIDS.NET**

### Board of Education

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### Commitment to Equal Access and Opportunity

Nondiscrimination Statement: In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, it is the policy of the Warren Consolidated Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes") be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chief Human Resources Officer: 31300 Anita, Warren, Michigan 48093, (586) 825-2400, ext 63110.

## Stay connected...



## Register TODAY: Early Childhood and Transitional Kindergarten classes

Warren Consolidated Schools is proud to offer high-quality preschool and transitional kindergarten programs.

WCS is currently accepting registration for these programs which focus on kindergarten preparation.

The programs focus on early childhood objectives for development and learning including: social-emotional, physical health, language, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, the arts, and English Language Acquisition.

The following Early Childhood programs are available:

### Transitional Kindergarten—

- FREE full-day program
- Five days per week
- For students who are 5 and are born between September 1 and December 1, who would benefit from an additional year of growth between preschool and kindergarten, or who have limited early childhood experiences
- A program that combines academics with critical social and emotional development standards for students not quite ready for traditional kindergarten

### World of Fours—

- Must meet income eligibility guidelines and be a Macomb County resident to qualify
- Half-day and full-day programs available
- Must be 4 years old on or before September 1

### Tuition-based Preschool—

- 30 week program
- Classes held at Siersma, Susick, and Wilde Elementary Schools

- For students who will be 3 years of age on or before September 1; Class meets two days per week for two hours
- For students who will be 4 years of age on or before September 1; Class meets four days per week for three hours

### Early Childhood Special Education—

- Special Education preschool program for children ages 3-6 with a current IEP
- Offers half-day programs and one full-day program
- Classes taught by a certified special education teacher with one paraprofessional per classroom
- Skills taught include: communication, behavior training, fine motor, gross motor, and preschool academics individualized to the student

### Project Find—

- Concerns about your preschooler's communication, behavior, physical or cognitive skills?
- Concerns that your preschooler is developmentally delayed or might have autism?
- Call 586.698.4129 to request a Project Find preschool-age child screening today

For more information on the district's Early Childhood programs, call 586.698.4046 or visit WCSKIDS.net.



Students in the Transitional Kindergarten program go to school five days a week and work on academics and social and emotional development. The program is FREE for students.

## VIRTUAL ACADEMY—continued from page 1

Students who receive special education services are eligible to register and take classes through the virtual academy.

The district must determine, for each Special Education student, how to provide "Free and Appropriate Public Education" (FAPE) services.

The district would determine through the IEP process, whether, with special education related and supplemental services, the virtual program can provide the student's FAPE services.

Students enrolled in the Virtual Academy will have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities at their home schools.

Schoology will continue to serve as the virtual learning hub. Using Schoology allows parents to log into a single site and have access to all of their student's coursework information, regardless of how many children they have.

For more information on the Virtual Academy, visit WCSKIDS.net.

## WCS Spring Concert Series



Join us for a socially distant, outdoor concert series at our middle and high schools:

**Carter**—May 24 @ 6:30 pm

**Grissom**—May 25 @ 7 pm

**Warren Mott**—May 27 @ 6 pm

**Carleton**—May 27 @ 6:30 pm

**Beer**—June 1 @ 6 pm

**Sterling Heights**—June 10 @ 6 pm