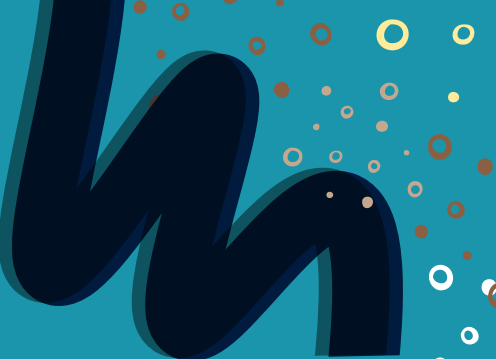


NEWSLETTER



Alumni Spotlight

Our schools are proud of the students who once walked our halls—and the many paths they have taken since. Each month, in this newsletter, we will highlight two past graduates whose stories reflect the values, opportunities, and experiences that help shape success beyond graduation. Additional highlights may be included in other projects as well.

The Alumni Spotlight celebrates former students who are making a positive impact through their careers, service, leadership, or contributions to their communities. We invite families, alumni, staff, and community members to help us recognize these stories by submitting a nomination. Together, we can honor our past while inspiring our current students.



February Alumni is Mariel (English) Willetts!!

Class of 2012

Current City: Pittsburgh, PA

Recognized for: Career or professional accomplishments

Schools Attended: WAHS/Pennsylvania State University (University Park)

Major: Advertising and Marketing/Minor in Business and the Liberal Arts

What I do now: I'm the Director of Marketing for a large commercial real estate brand where I lead brand strategy and support offices across the country with marketing tools, resources, training, and company events.

How education helped me get to where I am: The biggest thing my education taught me is that what you put in is what you get out. In high school, I wanted to be prepared for college, but that mindset ended up preparing me for my career too. The discipline to show up, be prepared, and keep going (even when it's hard) pays off over time, far beyond a single job. I always loved reading, and it stretched my thinking and exposed me to different points of view. Math and science were not my natural strengths, but they helped round out my education and made me more confident in business settings. In college, I stayed focused on why I was there: to get an education and build a path toward a good job. I chose a major that worked with my strengths and interests, which kept me motivated to actually go to class, and my business minor helped me better understand how organizations actually operate. Great professors can help you see what a real career looks like, and group projects teach you how to work with people who think differently than you do. That skill carries as much weight as any technical knowledge, in my opinion. I didn't fully realize it at the time, but those years built the foundation I still stand on. What you learn and the habits you build do not end at graduation. In the real world, effort shows. You cannot shortcut it. What you put in eventually comes back to you. So lean in and make it count!

From the February 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

Strengthen Staffing and Stability

- New position request for an Elementary Instructor
- Volunteer and bus driver approvals
- Certificated and Support Staff approvals

Improve Academic Achievement, Positive Behavior, and Social-Emotional Well-Being

- Ukeru crisis intervention training
- School-Based Access Program billing reconciliation
- Mental Health grant applications
- Unified Sports Agreements for Bocce at BWMS and Track at WAHS

Ensure Effective Instruction

- Pearson Education textbook purchase for Trigonometry and Statistics
- Woodcock-Johnson Assessment purchase
- Newsela/Generation Genius instructional resource purchase
- DECA, FBLA, and SkillsUSA student recognitions

Ensure Fiscal Responsibility and Sustainability

- Supplemental Equipment Grant for Automotive Technology
- PCCD School Safety and Mental Health Grant applications
- Ready to Learn Grant

Foster Collaborative Partnerships to Strengthen School, Family, and Community Engagement

- Remake Learning Days approval
- All-County Musical Support



**Alumni
Recognition
Submission
Form – Fill
out form**

NEWSLETTER

SPOTLIGHTS



Support – Kayla Dalrymple (EMHS)

Mrs. Kayla Dalrymple always has gone above and beyond at Eisenhower Middle High School. Ever since she was a young girl, she's enjoyed assisting, babysitting, and teaching kids, while watching their skills develop. She was a true asset at Youngsville Middle High School, and that dedication continues here at Eisenhower. Kayla is highly adaptable and able to assist students, while demonstrating strong content knowledge and flexibility. Her advice would be, "Ask for help. No question is stupid, someone else probably had the same question but was too afraid to ask." Her true understanding of kids is unmatched. Raising two kids is especially something she's proud of, raising them to be "good people who are productive members of society." She makes a difference each day.

Administrator – Amy Stimmell (YEMS)

Ms. Amy Stimmell should be recognized for her steady commitment to doing what is best for her building, staff, and students. Amy's parents always thought she would be a teacher, as she always played school as a kid and made worksheets for her "play" students to complete. As she earned the Epstein Scholarship from Sheffield Middle High School, it helped pay for her college funds/loans. Her advice given would be, "Set goals early in your high school career and throughout your life and continue to work toward those goals. You can achieve remarkable things if you work hard toward your goals!" Her communication is out of this world, along with her support of their gifted teachers and students, overall she strengthens the success of the gifted program.

Teacher – Mike Noe (WCCC)

Mr. Noe became interested in education as he was told he might actually be good at it, during the time he worked at the 911 Center. He is always working hard, and showing kids that its important to always try your hardest with the task you've been given. Among his many professions, he genuinely enjoys being a role model. His advise to students and those considering going into education is, "Always strive to be the best at the job you're tossed with. Let accomplishments tell the story of who you are." Mr. Noe truly has lived life to his fullest, with not only teaching and assisting others, but also saving people's lives day and night.

Teacher – Rayme Scalise (WAEC)

Mr. Rayme Scalise deserves this recognition as an outstanding educator. Rayme has rolled out the Enhanced Core Reading Instruction (ECRI) program as part of our SPEL grant. Rayme has wanted to be a teacher for as long as he can remember—long before he even knew what school truly was. He's always been drawn to "the world of learning." At an early age, he stood in front of his imaginary classroom; now, his lifelong dream has been his reality. Earning his Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and his Masters as a Reading Specialist is the reason why he accomplished his goals. His advice to those reading this is, "If you choose and work hard for a career you love, you'll never work a day in your life!" He does an exceptional job at making sure kids of all kinds are noticed, making them feel welcomed, accepted, and free to be their true selves.

Upcoming Dates

No School – March 9

**All County Musical
The Wizard of Oz – March 12-14**

PSSA

ELA (grades 3-8) April 21-23

Math (grades 3-8) April 28-29

Science (grades 5 and 8) April 30-May 12-14

Dear Warren County Families and Community Members,

As we move through the school year, I want to take a moment to share some genuinely positive news about the great work happening across the Warren County School District. I have had the opportunity to spend time in our schools, talk with students and staff, and see our programs in action—and I am excited about what I am seeing.

Most recently, I have been visiting our elementary classrooms with a focus on reading and language arts instruction. I can say without hesitation: our teachers are knocking it out of the park. Over the past several years, the district has implemented new, research-based reading and language arts curriculum called CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts) and ECRI (Explicit, Systematic Reading Instruction). These programs are now firmly in place, and we are seeing the payoff.

CKLA is a curriculum that helps students build strong reading skills while also growing their knowledge about the world. Students don't just learn how to read, they read and learn about science, history, health, and literature at the same time. In Grades K-2, ECRI complements this by providing very clear, structured instruction in phonics and reading skills. Teachers explicitly teach how sounds work, how letters connect to those sounds, and how students can apply those skills when reading and writing. Together, these approaches ensure that students have a strong foundation early on, which is critical for long-term success.

I am incredibly excited about what this means for our students. This is not a short-term fix, it is a systemic, district-wide approach that will have a powerful impact as students move into the upper grades. In the coming weeks and months, I will be sharing more information about our reading progress and the successes we are seeing.

At the same time, we recognize that not every student learns at the same pace. That is why we have implemented tiered supports across all grade levels. In Grades K-2, we use ECRI Intensification, and in Grades K-5, students may receive targeted instruction with a reading specialist. At the secondary level, we utilize Read 180 as a Tier 2 intervention, and Reading Acceleration Programs (RAP) serve as a Tier 3 support for students in Grades 3-12 who require more intensive reading intervention. These programs provide structured, targeted instruction to help students strengthen foundational skills and build comprehension as they progress through school. Together, these supports ensure that students who need additional help receive it, and we are seeing positive growth among students who may not have fully mastered essential reading skills earlier in their academic journey.

Another area worth celebrating is the Warren County Career Center. During a recent audit we were told we have one of, if not the best, career centers the reviewer has visited. The teaching spaces are thoughtfully designed, the equipment and resources are outstanding, and the programs offered to students are exceptional. Our instructors bring deep knowledge and real-world experience into their classrooms, creating meaningful and relevant learning opportunities.

The addition of our STEM Academy and STRIVE programs has further strengthened offerings for students at the career center. None of this would be possible without the significant investment that the Board of Directors have continually made in the career center over the years, and the incredible support we receive from local business and industry partners. Their involvement and investment truly set our Career Center apart and make it a special place for students across Warren County. We owe them a sincere thank you.

I also want to address a topic that has been on everyone's mind this winter: weather-related delays and school closures. This has been a particularly tough winter, and the weather has been a real stinker. Please know that decisions to delay or close school are never made lightly. Early in the morning, we drive the roads. I then consult with regional superintendents, transportation supervisors, PennDOT, law enforcement, and our transportation contractors. There is no fixed timeline for these decisions because conditions can change quickly. Snowfall amounts, road conditions, and the ability to clear both main and secondary roads all factor into the decision. We make our calls in the same general timeframe as surrounding districts and always with one priority in mind: safety. If we can safely get students to and from school, we will be in session. If not, we will delay or cancel until it is safe to do so. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

There have also been a number of important curriculum updates across the district. Our science curriculum has been updated to align with Pennsylvania's new STEELS Standards (Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy and Sustainability), which place a stronger emphasis on hands-on learning, critical thinking, and real-world problem solving. Students are not just memorizing facts, they are asking questions, conducting investigations, and learning how science connects to everyday life.

At the elementary level, our math curriculum has undergone a significant overhaul. Just as we did with reading, this work focuses on building strong foundational skills. i-Ready Mathematics is a research-based program designed to build deep conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and problem-solving skills. The philosophy of i-Ready Math centers on helping students understand the *why* behind mathematical concepts, not just memorizing steps or procedures. Instruction emphasizes rich tasks, mathematical discourse, visual models, and purposeful practice so students can make connections and apply their learning in meaningful ways. We fully expect to see the same types of gains in math that we are now seeing in literacy.

Our STEM programming has been updated for students in grades K–12. This is our second year offering STEM as a K–5 year-long special, and we are already seeing meaningful growth in the Technology and Engineering strand on our science benchmark assessments. Benchmark scores in this strand are twice as high as those in the other science strands measured on the assessment. These results indicate that the K–5 STEM special is having a strong, positive impact on student learning. Technology education course work has been expanded at the 9 – 12th grade level to incorporate modern skills and practice.

We are actively looking at ways to add more instructional time and opportunities for music within student schedules. Additionally, we are pleased to share that agricultural programming will be added at Eisenhower next year, with more details coming soon. Student scheduling for next year is already underway, and we are encouraged by the increased access to courses and the thoughtful curricular improvements taking place.

This spring, I will be working closely with district administration and the Board of School Directors on the district budget. Our goal is to present a balanced, well-planned budget by May. Each year, we carefully review spending and look for ways to reduce costs while still meeting the needs of our students. I encourage members of the public to learn more about how school budgets work and the requirements districts must meet. It is easy to suggest cuts in theory, but when we understand the complexity of running a school system today, we can engage in meaningful and productive dialogue. School funding remains a major challenge statewide, especially for rural districts like ours, and we will continue working creatively and responsibly to plan not just for next year, but for the future of the district.

Finally, I want to highlight a legislative item worth watching, as it could impact our students.

Statewide Cell Phone Use in Schools – Senate Bill 1014

This bill would require all public school districts in Pennsylvania to prohibit student cell phone use during the school day, with limited exceptions. The WCSD Board has already expressed interest in reviewing our current cell phone policy. If this bill becomes law, it would require policy changes and limit local discretion. Until the legislative process is complete, the district will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Thank you for your continued support of the Warren County School District. There is a lot to be proud of, and even more to look forward to. I appreciate the partnership we share as we work together to support our students, staff, and community.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Weber

Superintendent

Warren County School District