



Watchung Hills Regional High School District

Newsletter

March 2019

From the desk of the Superintendent



While we are all eager for the last of the snow to melt and for spring to arrive, there is no better time to celebrate the dazzling accomplishments of our students and staff during the winter months, which you will have the opportunity to read all about in the following pages. Whether they are in our classrooms, on our stage, on our athletic fields, or out in the community, our students continue to exceed our expectations and soar to new heights. Academically, our students continue to win accolades for their achievements, earning WHRHS a place on the College Board's AP District Honor Roll for the third time as well as earning the first ever College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science courses. Artistically, our students are among the top in the state, drawing crowds that filled our PAC to capacity for our holiday concert performances and, for the first time, producing music in our new Music Technology Lab. And, our students embrace community service. Five of our athletic teams volunteered at the Autism Think Tank, NJ's annual holiday party to help provide a special celebration for children with special needs.

I eagerly anticipate the coming spring, as with it comes our Arts Festival, our spring sports season, and many other schoolwide events including TEDx and our Hack-a-thon. Finally, as we keep an eye on the present and plan celebrations for the graduating Class of 2019, we also will keep our eye on the future as we prepare to welcome the incoming Class of 2023! Past, present, and future - how exciting it is to be part of the Watchung Hills Regional High School community, a place that helps students pursue their passions and makes dreams a reality!

Warm regards,

Elizabeth C. Jewett, Ph.D.
Superintendent



Music Tech Lab

The new Music Tech Lab at Watchung Hills Regional High School and the new Music Tech Lab Teacher, Christopher Wyatt, are looking forward to bright

Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pa., and before that, he a graduate of East Stroudsburg Area North High School, Dingmans Ferry, Pa.

McCullen also formally introduced Wyatt to the audience toward the end of the concert, welcoming him to the WHRHS Music Program, while he also



horizons over 2018/2019 the school year.

Students are saying they have discovered the wonders of the still new Music Tech Lab. If testimonials from some of the students in his music tech class are any indication, the lab is an answer to a musical itch the students have had for a while. Some of the itches they knew they had, and they've been meaning to explore, they said. Other itches they never realized they had, and now can't wait to explore them.

So far, the Music Tech Lab curriculum is home to five kinds of classes: Guitar, Piano/Keyboarding, AP Music Theory, Music Theory, and Music Tech, according to WHRHS Arts Supervisor Dan Bertelli. By the end of the year, Bertelli estimates, some 300 students will have been enrolled in Music Tech Lab classes.

Wyatt brings his experience as a vocal, instrumental and music technology teacher to WHRHS, after having been an elementary music teacher at Newton Street Elementary School, Newark, and a music teacher at Community Charter School of Paterson. He is a graduate of



He also works in the Instrumental Music Program, helping Instrumental Music Director Paul McCullen as Assistant Director of the new Freshman Concert Band. Wyatt took turns with McCullen conducting the Concert Band on two of the band's five numbers at the Winter Instrumental Concert on Thursday, Dec. 13. He conducted "The Red Balloon," and "The Cambridge Carol." During those numbers, McCullen played with the band's Tuba section. When McCullen as conducting, Wyatt played with the Band's Trumpet section.

Earlier in the concert, he accompanied Choral Music Director Angela DiIorio Bird as she played Harpiscord on one of the numbers performed by the String Orchestra.

named the handful of other local sending district music teachers and guest adult musicians who sat in to assist the students at the concert.

Wyatt explained that the initial goal of classes at the Music Tech Lab is to see an end product of some of these classes for the students to develop introductory knowledge on keyboard, guitar, and the tech skills. The theory classes are intended to explore theory, uses, and endless new possibilities of using and bending technology and music theory to create new music, sounds and sound combinations. They are also thinking about how to compose with conventional and new theories of instrumental, choral and solo voice music. They are also exploring how to act as recording producer, sound mixer and composer for all kinds of music, conventional and new, Wyatt said.

"The beauty of this lab is that we may be able to reach students who have not been attracted to either the instrumental or choral music programs here, but are interested in studying other, non-instrumental or voice parts of music," Wyatt said. "They and others

Music Tech Lab (Cont'd)

may be skilled or interested also in guitar or keyboard music, not necessarily the instruments of the string orchestra or wind or percussion emphasis of concert band or marching band. They may be interested in DJ work, or Rap-inspired work, or they may be just tech-lovers. They may want to learn how to record, or compose, or explore music theory. Now they have an outlet.”

There are many jobs in the music industry other than performing, Wyatt added. There are sound engineers, mixers, producers, and folks interested in the electrical engineering aspect of recording and performing.

“Some of the most lucrative jobs in music industry are the professionals who master these tech skills and can help artists draw out new and innovative theories, recordings and performances,” he said.

In addition, there are some confirmed performers on instruments and/or voice who may want to add to that knowledge base, and production knowledge or skills, to be able to better control their own fate, better supervise their tech partners, or just be better able to converse with their tech partners exactly the one-of-a-kind creative break-through effect they can hear in their mind’s ear. They may want to hear it manipulated, recorded, and integrated with other instruments as a piece of performed or recorded music.

Students in Music Tech Lab classes, bring a variety of levels of musical skill and interest to the Lab classes, as well as their own sets of goals they hope to achieve.



The Joy Prescott Humanitarian Award—United Against Hate

Watchung Hills Regional High School students in Freshman World History Classes had the added benefit of having their lesson titled, “United Against Hate,” guest-taught by New Jersey State Sen. Tom Kean Jr, former Somerset County Sheriff’s Department Chief and K-9 Unit officer Tim Pino, and four student leaders representing the WHRHS Diversity Club and Black Student Union.

The lesson on Wednesday, Nov. 28, at the school was for classes taught by WHRHS Social Studies Teachers Jamie Lott-Jones and Mary Sok. They are also faculty advisors to the WHRHS student Diversity Club. November is designated as “United Against Hate” month, Lott-Jones said.

In addition to Sen. Kean and Chief Pino, World History students heard a slide presentation by WHRHS seniors Stella DeMizio and Eshika Kaul, who are co-presidents of the WHRHS Diversity Club, and Aaliyah Bouza and Nya Venson from the WHRHS Black Student Union.

Embedded in Sen. Kean’s portion of the class was his presentation to WHRHS senior DeMizio of the “Joy Prescott Humanitarian Award for Student Leadership and Dedication” from Kean University. The award is presented every year to a “student leader committed to human rights and the pursuit of social justice,” Sen. Kean said.

The Joy Prescott Humanitarian Award was created to honor a former Kean University employee on the occasion of her retirement. Prescott dedicated more than 30 years of service to students and educators through her passion for diversity training, community building, and Holocaust education, according to Kean University literature.

The winners of the award were announced at the Student Leadership

Conference at Kean University on Nov. 16. Nominees had to have been students in a public or private secondary school and have demonstrated evidence of



leadership roles, community involvement, or activism.

In presenting the Prescott Award to DeMizio at WHRHS in front of the World History students, Kean recalled DeMizio’s achievements as a high school student:

“Stella DeMizio is an upstander,” Kean said. “As Co-President of the Diversity Club, she has served as a leader and role model and worked diligently to create a culture of upstanders at Watchung Hills Regional High School. For the last four years, she has been a tireless crusader for human rights and social justice causes making a significant impact on her peers.

Stella is a star among stars, an amazing young woman with so many talents. Her Diversity Club legacy includes the following achievements: Advocating for changes to the Watchung Hills Warrior Mascot to reflect the culture of the Leni Lenape; Creating, directing and producing a documentary video, titled, ‘We are Watchung Hills,’ that explores identity, gender, race and ethnicity at the high school; playing a vital role coordinating the anti-bully ‘White Out’ event and teaching an anti-bullying lesson to freshman health classes; and constructing a lesson on race and privilege for World History classes. Thank you for your vision and commitment to Watchung Hills.”

Kean, has been the New Jersey State Senator representing the 21st Legislative District since 2003, after having represented it in the General Assembly from 2001 to 2003. Kean has served as the Senate Minority Leader since 2008. Kean’s district represents, among other towns in Morris, Somerset, and Union Counties, Warren Township and Watchung in Somerset County and Long Hill Township in Morris County. Green Brook Township is in the 22nd Legislative District, represented by State Sen. Nicholas Scutari.

Founded in 1855 as Newark Normal School in Newark, Kean University now in Union Township, Union County, is named to honor the Kean political dynasty. For many years named Newark State College, the school moved in 1958 from Newark, to the Kean family estate in Union Township. The university is located at the ancestral home of the Kean and William Livingston families at Liberty Hall, a National Historic Landmark on the Liberty Hall Campus of Kean University. Newark State College was renamed in 1973, Kean College of New Jersey, in honor of the Kean family, and the school attained university status in 1997. The Kean family, led by Sen. Kean’s

The Joy Prescott Humanitarian Award—United Against Hate (Cont'd)

father, former N.J. Assembly Speaker, Governor, Drew University President, Chair of the 911 Commission and History teacher, Tom Kean Sr., maintain close ties with Liberty Hall and Kean University.

In introducing Sen. Kean, WHRHS Social Studies Teacher Lott-Jones reminded students that Kean played a pivotal role in having the WHRHS created word, “upstander,” recognized as a new word that is now included in the Miriam-Webster Dictionary.

“One of the ways to change history is by changing the common language,” said Kean, whose undergraduate degree in History was earned at the Ivy League school, Dartmouth College.

Students at WHRHS have been as active as any in the anti-bullying movement that has spread throughout the country during the past decade. Among the many things they did, WHRHS students helped coin the new word, upstander. The word refers to someone who is not merely a “bystander,” but rather someone who, in effect, “faces history,” and tries to do something about it. An upstander is someone who speaks or acts in support of an individual or a cause, particularly someone who intervenes on behalf of a person being attacked or bullied.

Sen. Kean has been an ally in the WHRHS effort to have the term accepted

as a word, according to WHRHS teachers Lott-Jones and Sok. He even led the effort to have a proclamation in the New Jersey Legislature that acknowledged use of the word. That official recognition, and the fact

tred, racism and bullying; reaching out to and speaking to local middle school students in the WHRHS sending districts; and requesting and receiving guest appearances before the municipal governing bodies in Warren Township, Watchung, Long Hill Township and Green Brook Township.

At the governing bodies, the WHRHS students outlined for the local lawmakers their myriad efforts to overcome bullying. They wore T-shirts they designed, bearing the slogan, “Stand up, Speak Up, Stop Hate.” They lobbied the WHRHS Athletic Department, to hold an annual “White Out” Game against Bullying as an annual event on the Football Season home-game schedule. As in other years, the White Out Against Bullying night this year was held in conjunction with the always popular Homecoming Game.



that the state legislature discussed the word, were important achievements along the road to having dictionary officials agree that the new word “Upstander” had entered the popular lexicon, and was worthy of inclusion in the dictionary.

Reviewing the past student efforts, Lott-Jones and Sok said other activities pursued by WHRHS upstanders over the years have included: Creating documentary videos; creating lessons about diversity, acceptance and overcoming prejudice, ha-

WHRHS Named to AP District Honor Roll

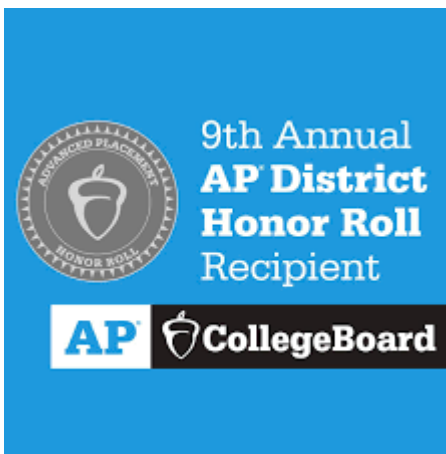
Watchung Hills Regional High School is one of 373 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 9th Annual AP[®] District Honor Roll. To be included on the 9th Annual Honor Roll, Watchung Hills Regional High School had to, since 2016, increase the number of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. Reaching these goals shows that this district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for AP.

“This is our third time being named to the AP Honor Roll. Our students continue to exceed our expectations. All of our faculty members have played a key role in expanding access to AP coursework as well as improving student achievement on AP Exams. It is truly a collaborative effort that begins years prior to a student's enrollment in an AP course and spans all disciplines,” said Elizabeth C. Jewett, superintendent of Watchung Hills Regional High School.

“We're very pleased that our school has been recognized for a third time. The AP results show what can be accomplished when a dedicated faculty and staff and a hardworking group of students believe in a growth mindset. As we continue to embrace excellence and equity, new opportunities for learning are taking shape each day,” said George Alexis, principal of Watchung Hills Regional High School.

National data from 2018 show that among American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half are participating. The first step to getting more of these students to participate is to give them access. Courses must be made available, gatekeeping must stop, and doors must be equitably opened. Watchung Hills Regional High School is committed to expanding the

availability of AP courses among



prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

“Success in Advanced Placement is a combination of students' own motivation and the opportunities educators provide for them,” said Trevor Packer, senior vice president of AP and Instruction at the College Board. “I'm inspired by the teachers and administrators in this district who have worked to clear a path for more students of all backgrounds to earn college credit during high school.”

Helping more students learn at a higher level *and* earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors. Many districts are experimenting with initiatives and strategies to see how they can expand access and improve student performance at the same time.

In 2018, more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the admissions process. Inclusion in the 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on a review of three years of AP data, from 2016 to 2018, looking across 38 AP Exams, including world language and culture.

The following criteria were used.

Districts must: Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4% in large districts, at least 6% in medium districts, and at least 11% in small districts; Increased or maintained the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students taking exams and increased or maintained the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students scoring 3+ on at least one AP Exam; and Improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2018 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2016 percentage, *unless* the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70% of its AP students earn a 3 or higher.

The complete 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found here: <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/score-reports-data/awards/honor-roll>

“Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”

Malcolm X

Thespians Society Induction

Twenty-two Watchung Hills Regional High School Drama student actors, singers, and crew members were inducted into the International Thespians Society during a ceremony Thursday, Dec. 6, in the school's Drama Program Classroom.

Musical, "Fiddler on the Roof," with scheduled performances on Thursday, March 21, Friday, March 22, and Saturday, March 23, in the WHRHS Performing Arts Center. Performances are open to students, parents and family

Barrientos, Massai Shuler, Claire Vickery, Julia Celeste, Dana Wasserman, Maddie Johnson, Angie Carrano, Melissa Miketen, Emma Giordano, Maddie Leong, Will Broder, and Portia Rowley.

They join another 14 students who were inducted last year into WHRHS's chapter of the society, titled Troupe 236. WHRHS Drama Teacher and Play Director Douglas Eaton is Troupe Director.

The International Thespians Society is an honor society for high school and middle school theatre students. It is a division of the Educational Theatre Association. Thespians troupes serve students in grades 9-12; Junior Thespians troupes serve students in grades 6 through 8. Among its most famous alumni are Julie Louis-Dreyfus, Val Kilmer and Tom Hanks. Nearly 5,000 schools have members, and since its founding, more than 2 million students have been inducted.

Membership provides students in drama education, as well as the drama education programs themselves, access to information about festivals, workshops, scholarship auditions, and drama education publications. Students can also list their membership on their resume of high school achievements when applying to colleges, fellowships, internships and at auditions.

The newest members of the WHRHS Drama Program are currently looking forward to the WHRHS 2019 Spring

member, and the general public.

The students inducted for the 2018-2019 School Year are: For the Executive Board, Anchal Dhir, who has been selected Troupe President; Brianna Caetano, Vice President; Christine Tanko, Secretary; Kayla Martins, Historian; Rachel Krouk and Jacob Lesser, Junior Representatives; Juliet Leary, Treasurer; as well as Sophia Patti, Nina DiNorscio, Lucas Mammone, Sara



In welcoming the audience to the induction ceremony, Junior Representative Lesser pointed out that the Thespians Society recognizes the contributions of not just actors, singers, dancers who appear on stage, but also students who support the on-stage performers as crew members, completing countless tasks off stage.

Also, apropos of a ceremony for recognition of drama students, the parents and family members who attended the induction sat at cabaret-style tables, and were treated to singing performances by students, Melissa Miketen, Christine Tanko, Kyra Anthony and Giovanna DiSanto.

Wellness Day Health Fair

Faculty, administration and staff at Watchung Hills Regional High School were offered a range of information about a variety of local health and wellness vendors, health screenings or wellness offerings during the lunch-time Wellness Day Health Fair, sponsored by the Healthy Edge Initiative, at the school, Friday, Jan 11.

Gathered in Room 107, adjacent to the North Cafeteria, were representatives from health insurance companies, dental services, pharmacies, and even a local full-service supermarket, which was represented by a registered dietitian.

There was also a neuropathic physician, who answered questions about Naturopathic approaches to health. The Warren Township Rescue Squad had an entire squad of EMTs, many of whom are graduates of WHRHS, at the Wellness Day. They were offering blood pressure readings, as well as other health information, and information about how to volunteer with the rescue squad.

A masseuse provided mini massages in a private room off the Media Center, and representatives from the Optical Academy of Clifton offered screenings in a nearby classroom.

The Wellness Day Health Fair was organized by the team of volunteers on the WHRHS Healthy Edge Wellness Committee, organized by WHRHS Health and Physical Education Teacher Jill Gleeson.

Gleeson said the idea of holding Wellness programs for students, staff and parents grew out of the multi-year effort to provide nurturing and nourishment for the mental health and well-being of students, parents, teachers and staff. This on-going effort rose out of the work of the Wellness Committee and the Teen Action Group, two of the many committees and subcommittees developed with input from a broad group of WHRHS Board of Education members, administrators, teachers, students, parents and community leaders and volunteers, back in 2014. They were then, and many still are now, working to identify and implement the goals and objectives of the WHRHS Strategic Plan 2015-2020.

Gleeson said the committee plans to hold other Healthy Edge/Wellness programs later in the school year.

Coming up, Gleeson said, the Wellness initiative is planning a parent/community night on Tuesday, April 2, featuring with nationally acclaimed Prevention Expert, Timothy Shoemaker. He will focus on addiction, raising drug-free teens, detection tips and strategies to learn the most common concealment techniques of teenagers. Shoemaker will also bring an extensive hands-on display. His presentation will unveil dozens of deadly new drugs and drug use techniques that are currently plaguing teens, and he is expected to discuss Vaping in depth, Gleeson said.

In addition, Gleeson's team is also planning a community showing of "Angst," a documentary centering around anxiety in teenagers and how to handle and manage stress with positive coping skills. The date has not yet been determined, Gleeson said, but she expects it to be determined soon, and it will likely be during the Spring.

Earlier this year, in November, a program geared primarily for parents called

"Vaping: Clear the Air," Tuesday night was organized by the Healthy Edge Committee and the WHRHS PTO.

Then, on Dec. 4, about 100 students, teachers and community volunteers participated in the annual and dynamic Challenge Day, a nation-wide, self-empowerment and values-affirming program geared for students. Through small group discussion groups and large group ice-breaking and time-honored values-clarifying activities, students learn that they if they have issues and challenges and excess stress to overcome and cope with: They are not alone; they have both peers and trained staff who can help; and they are valued for who they are as well as who they aspire to become. Challenge Day has been offered annually to students at WHRHS for years.



Winter Choral Concert

More than 200 choral music students at Watchung Hills Regional High School demonstrated their skill, knowledge base and showmanship in exploring a broad array of musical genres and styles, from tender remembrances to rock-and-roll anthems and empowerment statements, at the annual Winter Choral Concert, Thursday, Dec. 20, in the school's Performing Arts Center .

The students even tackled the sometimes difficult task of getting laughs from numbers intended to be funny. They did so during the Select Vocal Ensemble section of the program: When a predominantly girl's ensemble, plus one brave "Latte Boy," really sold the humor in "Taylor, the Latte Boy;" and later, when a boys ensemble did likewise, showing hutzpah singing the zany treatment of "The 12 Days of Christmas," as arranged by the professional a cappella group originally a student group out of Indiana University, "Straight No Chaser."

The WHRHS Choral Program, under the direction of Music Teacher Angela DiIorio Bird, is comprised of three main choirs: The Watchung Hills Choir, with 80 student singers; the

Watchung Hills Advanced Choir, with 166 students, and a third choir, the Combined Choir, which gathers all the singers together to fill the stage with voices, singing in four-part harmony, with multiple solo singers walking off the risers and coming to the front of the stage to periodically punctuate the songs for musical and dramatic effect, while giving the soloists a living-learning/empowering experience.



The Concert Program notes indicated that two WHRHS students, from the WHRHS Choir Arshia Agrawal and from the Advanced Choir Summer Stuart, were named to the

Central NJ Region II Choir, having been selected through auditions earlier in December. Earlier, three singers had been selected last Spring for performance this year by the New Jersey All-State Choir. They are: Christine Tanko, William Broder and Stuart.

The program also indicated that the WHRHS Choral Music Program has been planning an educational trip to Disney World in Florida from Jan 17-21, DiIorio Bird said. There, students will have the opportunity to meet, work with and learn from Disney music, performance and entertainment professionals.



Winter Instrumental Concert

The audience at the 2018 Winter Instrumental Concert on Thursday, Dec. 13, in the Performing Arts Center at Watchung Hills Regional High School bore witness to how four bands of student musicians comprised of some 130 student musicians explored an ambitious lineup of nearly 22 compositions.

The students make up four distinct musical groups: The Symphonic Band, for Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors, with 60 student musicians; the Concert Band for Freshmen, with 40 student musicians; the String Orchestra, with 36 student musicians; and the Wind Ensemble, with 43 student musicians.

Toward the end of the concert, WHRHS Instrumental Music Teacher and Conductor Paul McCullen took the opportunity to introduce a new addition to the musical teaching staff this year, WHRHS Music Teacher Christopher Wyatt. He is the Assistant Band Director, the Assistant Choral Director, and the Music Tech Lab teacher. During the performance of the Concert Band, Wyatt conducted two of the compositions, while McCullen conducted the other three. When they weren't conducting, Wyatt joined the student musicians in the Trumpet section, and McCullen joined the student musicians in the Tuba section.

"Mr. Wyatt does a terrific job with the freshmen, and with the students in the Music Tech Lab." McCullen said.

McCullen also acknowledged the presence of four other adults who played with the student musicians at the concert. One was WHRHS Choral Music Teacher Angela DiIorio Bird, who played Harpsichord on one number with the Orchestra. It was the multi-part, nuanced, and intricate piece, "Fall," from "Four Seasons," by Italian composer Antonia Vivaldi (1678-1741). Wyatt accompanied Bird, turning the multiple pages of sheet

music. He also played keyboards with the student musicians during the concert for the 8th Graders from the sending districts at the annual concert for the Future Class of 2023. The performance on Friday morning, Dec. 21, lit up the PAC, and was the last major event in the PAC before the start of the Winter Vacation.

Likewise, McCullen thanked Vincent Sorenson, the Instrumental Music Teacher at Green Brook Public Schools, Joelle Varner, Instrumental Music Teacher at Long Hill Township Public Schools, and WHRHS Security Officer Bonnie Burgdorf, who all sat in with the WHRHS student musicians at various times during the Winter Instrumental Concert. For decades, Burgdorf has worked with the WHRHS Music Program, adding her talents on Trumpet. Among the many ways she contributed to the program was as the director of the "Brass in Black" student jazz musical ensemble.

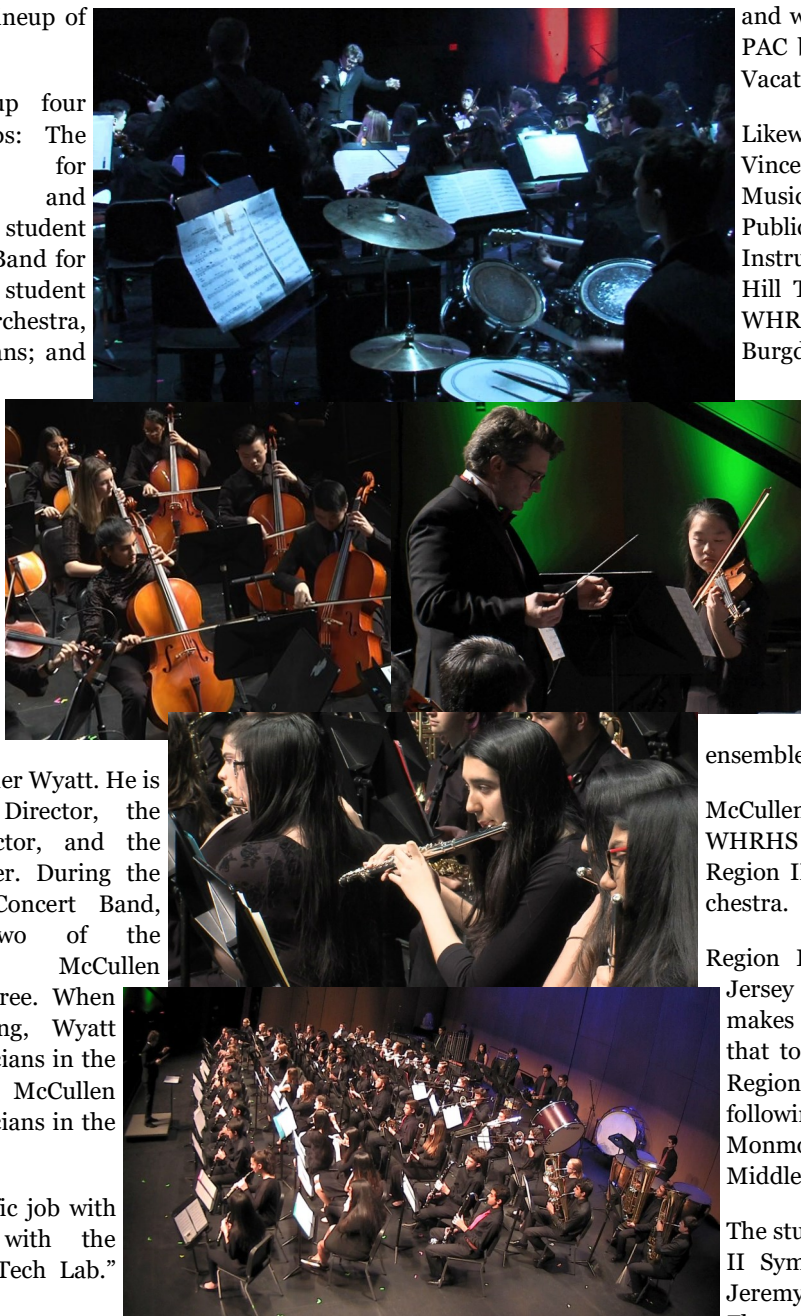
McCullen also announced that some 16 WHRHS student have been selected for Region II Band, Ensemble or Orchestra.

Region II, organized by the Central Jersey Music Educators Association, makes selections based on auditions that took place earlier in December. Region II covers schools of the following counties: Hunterdon, Monmouth, Mercer, Somerset, Middlesex, and Union.

The students selected are: For Region II Symphonic Band, Cathleen Luo, Jeremy Cui, Daniel Zeng, Daniel Zhang, Ben Watkins, Shiv Goel, Cristina Sarrico and Andrew Muller.

For Region II Wind Ensemble, the following WHRHS students are: Katie Tan, Alan Wang, James Narayanan, Matthew Schaefer, and Ryan Branco.

And, for Region II Orchestra, the WHRHS students are: Dave Ki and Tyler Wu.



English Department Coffee House

A variety of performances marked the 2019 English Department Coffee House, Wednesday, Jan. 16, seeing roughly a dozen acts use the intimate setting of the WHRHS Performing Arts Center "Small Stage" to showcase talent of personal expression using poetry, song, guitar, piano as well as saxophone and trombone.

An audience of students, parents and teachers enjoyed the coffee house-style tables and portable chairs, in an atmosphere influenced by blue lighting, and the bare bones ambiance of exposed stage rigging and red brick walls. It was all designed to soak up the heartfelt offerings of the performers.

Light after-dinner snacks were available buffet-style, and at the end of the evening, students from the "Folio" student Literary Magazine distributed to anyone who was interested the just-off-the-press 2018-2019 Winter Edition. Inside the magazine are nearly 20 submissions of creative writing poetry and prose, as well as offerings of fine art. Students and faculty are welcomed to make submissions, which are reviewed by the editorial staff, according to the magazine. Students are working on the next edition now.

The Editorial Staff of the Folio includes Gabriella Pontoriero and Megha Saju. The Executive Board includes Megan Vetter, Benjamin Vishnevetski, Adrian Jackson and Sophia Formisano. Faculty Advisor is English Teacher Katy Corrigan.

The English Department Coffee House was organized by English Teacher Maggie Violette-Birnberg and English Department Supervisor James Aquavia.

Among the English Department Teachers

in the audience at the English Department



Coffee House were: Michelle Germinario, Courtney Griffin, and Lynn Raimondo. Also in the audience were: Social Studies Supervisor Anita Falvo, Director of Operations Kris Byk, Director of Curriculum and Instruction MaryEllen Phelan, Vice Principal Terry MacConnell, and Principal George Alexis.

The performances on the night were:

The English Band, featuring English Teachers Kristin Czajka on vocals, Mike Porter on piano and acoustic guitar and vocals, and Ira Horowitz on electric guitar. They played: "Rikki Don't Lose That Number," the 1974 hit recording by Steely Dan, sung by Porter, accompanying himself on piano; "I Don't Do Sadness/Blue Wind," a duet from the 2006 Broadway Musical, "Spring Awakening," featuring Czajka on vocals and Porter on vocals and acoustic guitar; and "Stop Dragging My Heart Around," the 1981 hit recorded by Stevie Nicks and Tom Petty, featuring Czajka on vocals, Porter on vocals and acoustic guitar, and Horowitz on electric guitar.

Student Adrian Jackson played on piano,

"Mixed-Up Rag," the 1928 ragtime composition by William Ezell (1892-1963).

Student Becca Baitel read her original poem, "Shower Thoughts."

Arts and Co-Curricular Activities Supervisor Dan Bertelli sang two original songs: "Keys to the World," a song he said he wrote after hearing the news that TV personality, celebrity chef, author and travel documentarian Anthony Bourdain had taken his own life last summer; and "Hee-Haw," a song he said he wrote when he was 18. He accompanied himself on guitar.



Student Lola Constantino read an original poem, "Cannibal."

Student Isabella Zhou danced to an instrumental version of "Speak Softly Love," one of the songs from the 1972 film, "The Godfather." The song was made into a hit, sung most famously by Andy Williams.

Student Paul Riedler sang the 2015 hit recording, "Stressed out," the Rap hit by Twenty One Pilots.

Student Nora Lange read her original poem, "Broken Glass Doll."

Student saxophonists Vijay Subramanian and TJ Horvath played a duet arrangement of "Two-part Inventions, Numbers 3, 4, 10," by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

And student trombonists Ryan Britten, Omar Lateef, Cristina Sarrico and Emily Thompson played trombone quartet arrangements of: "Somewhere Over The Rainbow," the iconic song from the 1939 legendary film, "The Wizard of Oz;" and "Autumn Leaves," the 1945 popular song and jazz standard.

Winter Cabaret

The Watchung Hills Regional High School Drama Department's Script and Cue program sponsored its 2019 Winter Cabaret on Tuesday, Feb. 5, in the intimate, coffee-house-inspired "Small Stage" configuration of the school's Performing Arts Center.

Several of the WHRHS cast members of "Fiddler on the Roof," the 2018 Spring Musical, "Fiddler on the Roof," were among some 15 student performers at the Winter Cabaret. Fiddler on the Roof will be performed at 7 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 21, 22, and 23, and at 2 p.m., and Saturday, March 23, on the big stage in the WHRHS PAC. At the Winter Cabaret, they exhibited their range of skill, singing a variety of songs as soloists and in duets, some accompanied by music, others A Cappella.

The general public is invited to join with students, staff, parents and families at one or more of the performances, of Fiddler on the Roof, which premiered as a Tony Award winning Broadway Musical in New York in 1964, and as an Academy Award winning Hollywood movie in 1971.

Students Kayla Martins and Francesca Infante-Meehan acted as hosts for the evening. They also thanked student Giovanna DiSanto, who is the promotional officer for Script and Cue, for being so instrumental in organizing the event.

The line-up of performers at the Cabaret were:

Paul Reidler, singing "Sunflower," by recording artist Post Malone;

Giovanna DiSanto and Nina DiNorscio, singing "For Good," from the Broadway Musical, "Wicked;"

Christian Takleszyn, singing "Perfect," by recording artist, Ed Sheeran;

Massai Shuler, singing "I Met a Girl," by country music recording artist, William



Michael Morgan; and

Giovanna DiSanto, singing "Fly Into The Future," from the Broadway Musical, "Vanities."

After an intermission, the House Band performed two songs, "Moondance," by Irish recording artist, Van Morrison, and "I Saw Her Standing There," by the legendary British recording artists, The Beatles. The House band this night included, Ben Kosokowski, William Broder, Thomas Dardis, Altay Kabukcu, Sam Bouffard.

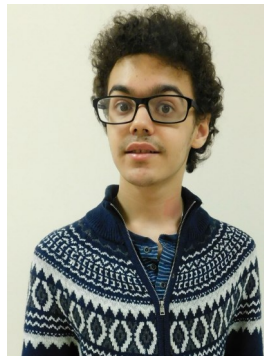
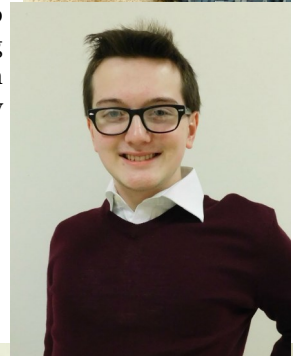
Kayla Martins sang "So Big So Small," from the Broadway Musical, "Dear Evan Hansen."

Dana Wasserman sang "Happy To Keep His Dinner Warm," from the Broadway Musical, "How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

Summer Stuart sang "My Daddy's

Son," from the Broadway Musical, "Ragtime."

And Olivia Kider and Jack Melillo sang "Falling Slowly," from the Broadway Musical, "Once."



Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction

Some 16 new student members and another 22 returning student members were inducted into the Watchung Hills Regional High School Chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society during a ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 31. The ceremony took place in the school's Performing Arts Center (PAC).

Parents, siblings and well-wishers in the audience also listened to the inspiring words of guest speaker Helen H. Cha-Pyo, CEO, who is a leader in Arts Ed NJ, and is in her first season as Artistic Director of the Wharton Institute for the Performing Arts, and Conductor of New Jersey Youth Symphony, Berkeley Heights. She is also a Visiting Professor of Orchestral Studies at Montclair State University, Montclair. She

encouraged the students to believe their music can change the world.

The newly inducted student members of the honor society are: Anjali Blow, Ariya Blow, Samuel Boffard, William Broder, Giovanna DiSanto, Anisha Jackson, Madeleine Johnson, Miah Manning, Hannah Marszalek, Andrew Muller, James Narayanan, Enzo Ruta, Emily Thompson, Vijay Subramanian, Benjamin Watkins, and Maylin Zhu.

The returning members are: Ishika Agrawal, Kyra Anthony, Shoili Banerjee, Catherine Cai, Jeremy Cui, Anchal Dhir, Stella DeMizio, Dania Elsheikh, Madelena Goffredo, Taylor Hestvik, Tyler Horvath, Francesca Infante-Meehan, Timothe Iroudassamy, Ben Kosakowski, Lucas

Mammone, Jack Melillo, Cristina Sarrico, Matthew Schaefer, Spencer Shao, Summer Stuart, Katie Tan, and Christine Tanko.

The 2019 student Executive Board are: Kyra Anthony and Ishika Agrawal, presidents; Francesca Infante-Meehan, vice president; Katie Tan, secretary;

proficiency, such as the students and teachers inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

As might be expected at a Tri-M Music Induction ceremony, three returning student members provided a musical welcome to audience members as they arrived and awaited the start of the ceremony.

Ishika Agrawal played a selection of classical solo arrangements for flute, and Vijay Subramanian and Tyler Horvath played a selection of classical duet arrangements for saxophone.

The guest speaker, Cha-Pyo, is a graduate of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. High School, and while in high school, she also studied piano and organ in the Pre-College Program at The Juilliard School, New York City. She holds an undergraduate degree in Music-Organ

Performance, from Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Oberlin, Ohio, and a master's degree in Music-Conducting and Organ Performance from Eastman School of Music. She won conducting fellowships at the Aspen Music Festival, Aspen, Colo., and Yale School of Music, New Haven, Conn. For 16 years, she was the music director and conductor of the Empire State Youth Orchestra (ESYO). She has performed as guest conductor at numerous orchestras across the country.

Cha-Pyo spoke to the students twice: Once before the audience arrived, with the students seated on stage, in a more intimate conversation; and then, after they moved off stage to sit in the audience, as part of her remarks to all in attendance.



Jeremy Cui, treasurer and Taylor Hestvik, historian.

WHRHS Choral Music Teacher Angela DiIorio Bird is the WHRHS Tri-M Music Honor Society chapter advisor.

The student executive board members acted as hosts for the induction ceremony. As part of their presentation, students explained the honor society's name. Tri-M stands for "Modern," "Music," "Masters:" Modern, which in the music world refers to current; music, which is the art of sound that expresses ideas and emotions in significant forms through the elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, and color; and masters, because in the arts, the custom has been to give the title of "master" to those who have achieved a high degree of

Autism Think Tank Holiday Party

The Autism Think Tank, NJ held its annual holiday party for children with autism and special needs and their families at the Bridgewater Sports Arena in Bridgewater on Sunday, December 23. Volunteers from our football, cheerleading, boys and girls lacrosse, and ice hockey teams all helped guide the skaters around the rink.



*Photos Courtesy of
Sheri A. Marino
Executive Director
The Autism Think Tank NJ*

Spring Musical “Fiddler on the Roof” - March 21, 22, and 23

The 2018 Spring Musical, “Fiddler on the Roof,” was performed at 7 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 21, 22, and 23, and at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 23, in the Watchung Hills Regional High School Performing Arts Center. Several of the WHRHS cast members of Fiddler on the Roof were performers at the “Script and Cue’s 2019 Cabaret.” It was held on the PAC’s “Small Stage Coffee House” configuration, Tuesday, Feb. 5. There, and along with other performers not in the cast, they exhibited their range of skill, singing a variety of songs as soloists and in duets. Some accompanied by music, others were sung A Cappella. After the last performance, they gathered off stage, along with their director, WHRHS Drama Teacher Douglas Eaton, first row left, to strike a dramatic and triumphant number-closing pose.





WHRHS Wrestling Team
Somerset County District 15 and
North 2, Group 5 State
Sectional Champions

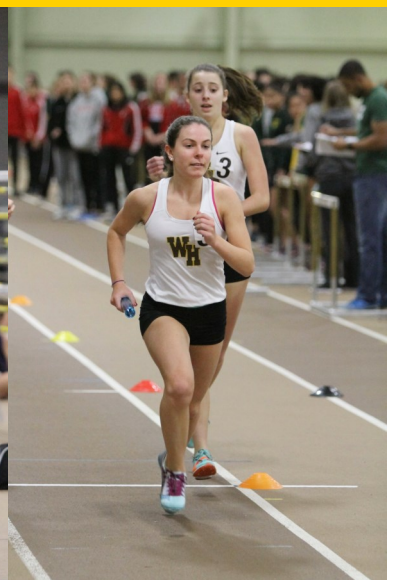


James Huff
2019 District Coach
of the Year

The Hills Roundup

- ◆ The Speech and Debate competition took place on Saturday, January 5 at Hunterdon Central. Junior Roopa Irakam placed first in Congressional Debate and freshman Moha Trivedi placed third. Junior Deepa Irakam placed third in Extemporaneous Speaking and sophomore Achyuta Murli was the top scoring novice competitor for Original Oratory. Overall, the team placed 7th among schools with 15 or fewer entries.
- ◆ We had two perfect scores in the December New Jersey Math League Competition attained by Daniel Zhang and Kevin Fu. Three perfect scores in the November New Jersey Math League competition, Mayur Sharma, Kevin Fu, and Daniel Zhang and Jagdeep Bhatia and Jay Fu received a perfect score in the October New Jersey Math League contest.
- ◆ Nina Iyer and Jordan Ginsburg represented Watchung Hills very well in late November at the JSA Fall State Convention, both winning best speaker awards elected by their peers for their performance in their respective debates.
- ◆ The Marching Band held their annual end-of-season banquet on November 26 celebrating a season of many achievements as follows:
 - October 6: 1st place - Group IV and all captions
 - October 13: 1st place - Music; 2nd place - Group IV
 - October 20: 1st place - Group IV; 1st place - Music and Percussion
 - October 28: 3rd place - Group V
 Congratulations to our Marching Warriors.
- ◆ The Watchung Hills Mock Trial Team competed in the NJ Bar Foundation's High School Mock Trial competition at the Somerset County Courthouse in Somerville, advancing to the county semi-finals. In the opening round on January 3, our defense team lead by attorneys Megan Gerges and Moh Trivedi, defeated Bridgewater, while our plaintiff's team, lead by attorneys Ian Martin and Phillip Ding, lost a close decision to Montgomery. Senior Elizabeth Wood was named best witness in this round for her performance as the plaintiff's expert orthopedic witness. In the semi-finals, attorneys Ian Martin and Moha Trivedi competed against Mount St. Mary's. Although they did not qualify for the county finals, sophomore Adithi Adusumilli was named best witness in this round.
- ◆ On Thursday, January 26, hypnotist Vincent Mendoza performed in the PAC for our students and community. Vincent hypnotized approximately 20 Watchung Hills student volunteers and asked them to perform a variety of tasks. Vincent had students listening to the music coming out their shoes, forgetting how to count their fingers, and barking like dogs. The audience enjoyed the performance. This event was sponsored by the freshman class.
- ◆ Eighth-grade parents attended Curriculum Night on Monday, January 28, 2019, in the PAC. Supervisors presented information on the required ninth-grade courses, placement criteria, and elective selections. They also shared co-curricular opportunities. We received positive feedback from parents. The PowerPoint is on the WHRHS website as a news item and under each department webpage.







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