

Celebrating



Fifty Years

OUR ROOTS, OUR HISTORY

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•A SPECIAL THANKS•

TO ALL OUR VETERANS, ROGER BELL, ABBY CARMODY-WALLACE, BILL GERSHEY, DORIS GOERLITZ, SHANE GRODACK, JANE PEET, GRACE PICONI-AUGELLI, KURT REED, GAYLE SAUERS, BETTY STONER, SANDY SUMMERS, & FRANK & HELEN WARD

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WELCOME

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are honored to present this publication in celebration of 50 years of Western Wayne High School! As a tribute to a half-century of black and gold pride, this magazine showcases the memorable milestones and moments of our beloved school from the years that led to its opening in 1973 up to today. To commemorate our roots, we have made it our mission to uncover artifacts that date back decades. History is written by its victors, who tirelessly worked to lay the foundation that has created the honorable structure in which Wildcats have learned and grown for generations. From the one-room schoolhouses to the sprawling campus of Western Wayne High School, all ages of students share the memories and traditions of being a Wildcat. Students—past and present—have demonstrated PRIDE within our school by exhibiting Preparedness, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and by being Extraordinary. As Nelson Mandela famously quoted, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” This year, we appreciate and observe the great traditions that have had a longstanding place in our Alma Mater, and we also look to the future as Wildcats carry their PRIDE from these hallowed halls to the world that awaits them.

A NOTE

FROM OUR ALUMNI TEACHER & VETERAN

In this issue of celebrating Western Wayne High School's 50 years, I would like to share the history of Veterans Day at Western Wayne School District. The Veterans Day Program at Western Wayne started in 1982 at the Robert D. Wilson Elementary School under the direction of Principal Ellis Collins. He appointed faculty members John Gaudenzi, a veteran of the U.S. Army and Marie Casper to organize the first program in the district. Mr. Gaudenzi and Mrs. Casper ran the program at the elementary level, until the opening of the middle school in 1991. The Veterans Day Program in the fall of 1991 was expanded for the middle and high schools, and since then has run continuously for the past 31 years. In 2008, Mr. Gaudenzi and Mrs. Casper retired. As a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and new faculty member, I was asked by middle school Principal Peter Chapla, a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran to help guide the program.

Most recently, the program presents an assembly for both the middle school and high school that invites veterans from our community to participate. Western Wayne, in its commitment to our veterans, made the decision to rename the auditorium in the high school the Veterans Memorial Auditorium in recognition of the place our community celebrates their veterans.

This past year our students prepared questions for our veterans in an interactive question and answer portion of the assembly in which the veterans shared their unique experiences and stories with those in attendance. The students in the school band and chorus performed patriotic songs for the veterans. The students who are in our student ambassadors program acted as our welcoming committee guiding the Veterans around our campus, and many of our culinary arts students provided a delicious continental-style brunch for them.

Overall, the Western Wayne School District prides itself with the recognition of our veterans in our community for the past 40 years and will continue to do so into the future. On behalf of Western Wayne, I would like to salute and thank all of our veterans for their service and sacrifice.



Shane Grodack
Middle School History Department
Class of 1995

OUR ROOTS, OUR HISTORY

THE CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS IN LAKE, SALEM, & STERLING TOWNSHIPS

By Lizzie Washine
& Justin Hayden

In the fall issue of our 50th-anniversary magazine, we explored the topic of one-room schoolhouses. Our winter issue takes a look at how those one-room structures dissolved as the Consolidated Schools took their place and eventually the formation of school districts we attend and work out of every day.

The Lake Ariel Schools

There were many one-room schoolhouses throughout our region. Lake Ariel, formerly known as Jonestown, became the central area for various schools over the greater part of the 20th century.

The Lake Ariel Grade School, built in the summer of 1897, officially opened in September 1897. A few years later in 1900, Lake Township established a high school within the graded school building. The School Board consisted of President Reuben P. Jones, Henry Shaffer, Charles W. Shaffer, John W. Andrews, Sabine Swingle, and Jasper Black. Mr. Montgomery M. Fryer was then elected the first principal, who was later succeeded by Mr. John D. Storm in 1906. The first graduating class of 1902 consisted of three girls and one boy- Norma Cobb, Elsie Howe, Ethel Headley, and Morton Moore. With the building's addition in 1910, student enrollment increased rapidly.

In 1916, the Smith-Hughes Vocational Act was passed, providing the establishment of Vocational Schools. At this time, the State Department began its search for places to establish a series of Vocational High Schools and they decided on Lake Ariel. Wayne County Superintendent J. J. Koehler, Mr. Storm, and the Lake Ariel school board members- President Harry R. Samson, Elmer Chapman, Harry Chapman, and Aaron Black- saw an opportunity to broaden the work of the school and succeeded in founding the school. Lake Ariel High School was renamed and became a vocational school

the same year. The newly developed curriculum at Lake Vocational offered coursework which was half academic and half vocational during the first two years of the four-year coursework. Juniors and seniors were allowed to choose an area of study whether it was academic, agricultural, or homemaking. Some classes included horticultural studies, science labs/classes, and a homemaking department, which trained women to be wives and mothers in future homes, including cook, financier, counselor, house decorating, and more. With the new four-year curriculum, Lake Vocational did not have a graduating class in 1917. The first graduation of Lake Vocational school was in 1918. The building was heated by steam and had inside toilets for the girls. In 1924, five additional classrooms and bathrooms were added to the south end of the school. This was the last addition to this building before it was torn down in the late 1930s.



1917 - The Lake Vocational School basketball team. Front row, from left: Vincent Lombardi, Ernest Bell, & Russell Hazelett. Back row: Fred Lodge, Lester Bell, Jacob Curtis, Fredrick Polley, & Principal John Storm

The Consolidation of Schools in Lake and Salem Townships

Townships in our area consolidated their schools from one-room schoolhouses to larger, newly constructed buildings that offered a more consistent and comprehensive curriculum. Due to low attendance, conditions of school buildings, and better graduation and classification, a school law was enacted in 1901 closing several schools around the area. This law also further urged directors to shut down all one-room schoolhouses instead of repairing or rebuilding them. These changes, among others, which included new guidelines for transportation, pushed the schools in a more positive direction in improving school settings.

Construction for the new Lake Township Consolidated School started in the spring of 1936, behind the wooden Lake Vocational School, opening its doors in 1937. The school cost \$100,000 to construct. Later, this school would become part of Western Wayne Joint Schools in 1961. Lake Consolidated held grades one through twelve and kept its 'vocational' title on diplomas into the 1950s.

Frank Ward, a 1954 graduate from Lake Consolidated, spent his school days at South Canaan Junior High up until tenth grade. Here, he was inspired by his Vocational Agriculture teacher, Joe Parks. Parks was also the supervising administrator for Wayne County at the time. Following in his teacher's footsteps, Frank taught Vocational Agriculture at his alma mater, starting in 1958. "This program involved two parts," Frank explained. "Half, was teaching the fundamentals of metal shop, wood shop, and some welding. The other half was about livestock, poultry, fruit, field crops, gardening, along with dairy cows and production,"

Frank added how the program was similar to 4H today. "Students were responsible for home projects of raising calves, chickens, and gardening. There was a lot of biology involved which I enjoyed seeing as my background was in science."

Frank taught for four years, took a teaching job in suburban Philadelphia for six years, and then went to Wallenpaupack. There he became the middle school and high school principal, and later served on the Western Wayne School Board for 16 years.

A student of Frank's was 1961 graduate, Roger Bell, who recalls his days as a 'Laker' at Lake Consolidated. He has great memories of the various sports he played. Roger, an avid basketball player, was also crowned homecoming king during the season. "We won the championship in '61. We played against Hawley, Damascus, and Honesdale ...," he explained. This was before the districts as we know them today were formed. "The shorts we wore for basketball were very short," Roger laughed.

"Doris Bortree (Goerlitz) was one of my favorite teachers; It was easy to learn English from her," Roger recalled. "I did not take agricultural classes at Lake, I did enough of that at home on the farm," he assured.

At the same time Lake Consolidated was being built, the Salem Township Consolidated School, most commonly referred to as 'Salem Consolidated,' opened its doors in 1936. Salem School consisted of grades first through seventh. If students chose to further their education they could go to the Lake Ariel School to graduate. Starting in the early 1960s and up until 1969, students who attended Salem Consolidated had the choice to attend the Lake School or now had the option to go to North Scranton for eighth, ninth, and



1935 - Lake Vocational School. This school was demolished a few years after this photo was taken. Photo courtesy of Kurt Reed



1961 - Roger Bell #21, Lake Consolidated School

tenth grade and then either go to Central or Tech to finish earning their high school diploma.

When Western Wayne School District was formed in 1969, the merger took time. Salem was the last township to converge with the district during its formation.

"With an increase in enrollment, Salem Consolidated had to use relocatable classrooms," Jane Peet, a teacher who started at Salem Consolidated in 1966, added. In her first year teaching, Jane had 40 first graders in her class. "When I started at Hamlin, I was from Scranton. I didn't know anyone. There were so many kids."

As a new teacher out of college, Jane did not imagine having her first year with 40 students. "I am blessed to have Mary Courtright help me. She was a great mentor and angel," Jane said. "She took 20 of my students down to the gym and taught them reading skills, while I kept 20 kids in my class to teach them math. As a first-year teacher, I asked Mary what I could focus on with teaching the students. I remember her saying to build their reading comprehension. I used

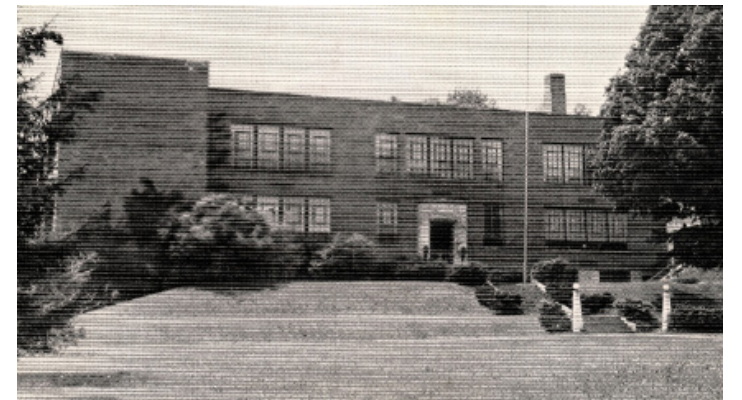
games to enhance this and made learning enjoyable." Students at this time ate their lunches in the classrooms. Salem School did not have a lunchroom for children to go to. After lunchtime, Jane was on her own with all 40 of the first-graders. "The students were well behaved and I had a lot of support from the parents," Jane added.

When the district introduced Kindergarten in 1970, construction started on the Salem building in 1971. Kindergarten classes were first taught by Helen Chumard Ward, Frank Ward's wife. Kindergarten and first-grade classes were located outside the main building in a modular classroom. AM and PM sessions were offered, much like how our Pre-K program operates today.

Helen and her husband, Frank Ward, both graduated from Lake Vocational in 1954. Originally a music teacher, "I found it very important to teach my students sensory motor skills," Helen said. "I would invite the parents to share their profession with the students. One student's father was a state trooper. The students really enjoyed checking out his patrol car," She recalled. Moving on to teach first grade, Helen taught 24 years at Western Wayne and remembers the several additions to the Salem building.

When the schools merged into Western Wayne School District, the name changed from Salem Consolidated to Hamlin Elementary. The gym, music, and art room were added to the back of the building. To accommodate the influx of students, renovations to the existing school and sixteen classrooms were added to the front of the building in 1983.

The newly renovated Hamlin Elementary Center was dedicated in October, with a message to the community by the Western Wayne superintendent, Patricia Leamy, "The goals of education and the instructional programs and social activities of the school must be realized not only in terms of what is ideal, but



1965 - Lake Consolidated School

in terms of community environment in which education functions, the attitudes of the community members, and the role of political, financial and social groups in our society.”

At this time, Hamlin Elementary housed grades Kindergarten through third grade whereas Lake Elementary (formerly Lake Consolidated/Vocational) had students in fourth and fifth grades. Grades 6-12 attended the Western Wayne High school, considered, at that time, a junior and senior high school.

After the Western Wayne Middle School opened in 1991, Hamlin Elementary then held grade levels Pre-K through second. It was also the fall of 1991 when the Pre-K program started at Hamlin and Robert D. Wilson Elementary schools. From this point on, Hamlin Elementary housed grades Pre-K to second, Lake Elementary with grades third through fifth, and the Middle School with grades sixth through eighth.

Both Lake and Hamlin Elementary Schools closed in June of 2011 when EverGreen Elementary was built.

Sterling Schools

Sterling Township is at the south end of the current-day Western Wayne School District. In gathering information and learning about education in Sterling during the early 1900s, we had the privilege to talk with Doris Bortree Goerlitz, age 91, who vividly remembers her early years growing up in Sterling. Born in 1931, her ancestors settled in Sterling, known as Nobletown, back in the early 1800s.

Doris attended a four-room schoolhouse located next to the Sterling Methodist Church. This building, known as the Sterling Consolidated School, was a large cement structure with no plumbing or electricity that Elmer Chapman built in 1909 on an existing foundation. Grades first through fourth were on the first floor, whereas, the second floor housed grades fifth through eighth.

“If the snow was too deep, we were taken to school in horse-drawn bobsled,” Doris excitedly recalled. “If we [students] brought soup for lunch, we would set our container on the wood stove to heat up during the morning hours. We finished 8th grade here, at the Sterling Consolidated School.”

Doris and her classmates completed grades 9th and 10th by attending the P.O.S. of A. (Patriotic Order Sons of America) until 1947. At this time, students in Sterling were bussed daily, attending the P.O.S. of A. which was a hall that served as a ‘high school.’

“My father, Alfred, was on the school board at this time and he voted “yes” to close the schools due to low enrollment. I was so upset,” added Doris. “I was in a class of six or seven students and was nervous about going to a larger school.” The Sterling Consolidated School and P.O.S. of A. closed in 1947.

Doris and her classmates attended the Greene Dreher Sterling School during their junior and senior years to meet their graduation requirements. This school's name has changed over time, later known as the Southern Wayne School.

Doris graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1953 with a major in Social Studies Secondary Education, and two minors: geography and English. Her first teaching position was at Lake Consolidated School in 1954. “My starting salary was \$3,000 for the year,” she disclosed. “I taught 9th-12th English and was in charge of the library and was the National Honor Society advisor.” Doris’ time at Lake School is where she met her future husband, Arthur Goerlitz, the chemistry, math, and physics teacher. “He would help me with attendance and the math end of things and that’s how we got close,” she fondly recalled.

After teaching for five years at Lake Consolidated, Doris went on to teach for 25 years at Wayne Highlands School District. Arthur became the Assistant County Superintendent for Wayne County in the 1970s.

The Southern Wayne School of Sterling Township merged with the Western Wayne jointure in 1961 and all Sterling Elementary pupils went to Salem and Lake Consolidated School.

Our consolidated schools that once made up Western Wayne School District have since been demolished, replacing them with the buildings we use today. We still hold onto the memories and experiences gathered from the buildings that offered a place for us to grow, build friendships and learn. **WW**

Sources:
The Lake Township Vocational Schools. vol. One, Lake Ariel. 1917.
The Senior Class of Lake Vocational School. The Reminder: Scranton, Republican Press, 1923.



2011 - Hamlin Elementary Center



2011 - Lake Consolidated/Elementary School



Greene - Dreher - Sterling. Class of 1949. Top row, left to right: #8 Albert Caruth. Middle row: #2 Dorothy Hinds. Bottom row: #1 Jack Ziegler, #2 Doris Bortree, & #3 Joseph Kozlovsky.



This building was once the Sterling Consolidated School. It still stands today, owned by the Sterling United Methodist Church



1946 - Lake Consolidated seniors in front of the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of Kurt Reed



1944 - Salem Twp. Consolidated School eighth grade. Standing from left: Everett Smith, Vincent Sledzinski, Lucille Kwader, Carol Shaffer, Joan McDaniel, Marie Glossenger, William Neville, & John Mathers. Sitting: Florence Fields, Lois Kellam, Louise Kellam, Dorothy Conway, & Betty Burras.



1954 - Gold plated key charm/pendant - 1"x.5"



Basketball pin from the Lake Consolidated School



1962 - Lake Consolidated Varsity Cheerleaders. From left: Hazel Frisbie, Nancy Heater, Roberta Felts, Kathy Kundla, Judy Orinick, Elaine Butler, Maryclaire McShaffery

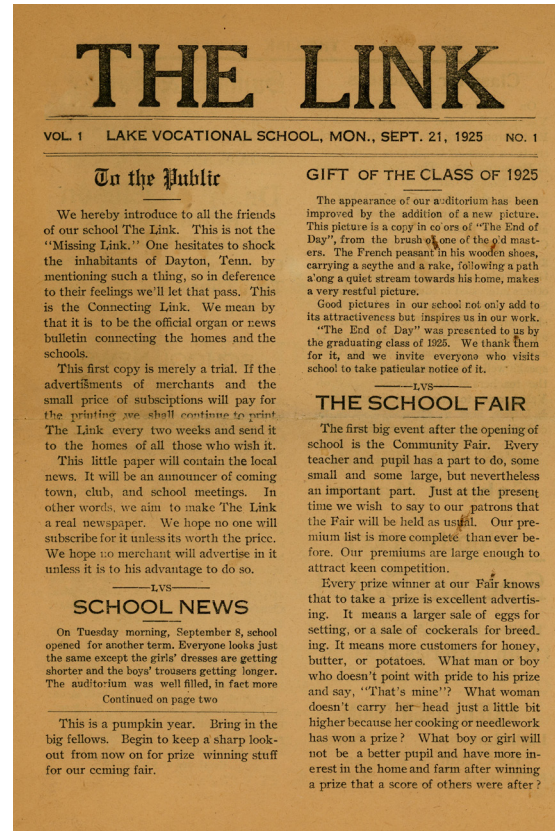
1927 - Lake Vocational School's Alma Mater from *The Senior Echo*, a publication by the Senior Class of 1927

OUR ALMA MATER.

I.
In the town of Ariel,
By a silver lake,
Stands our Alma Mater,
Noble, grand and great.
From its fount of knowledge,
Boys and girls partake
Of the lessons taught there,
Nobler lives to make.

II.
There we learn our duty,
Each to one and all,
Helping one another
That we may not fall.
From the path of honor
To an act of shame,
This our gladly mission
Gladly we proclaim.

III.
Then to Lake Vocational
Let us one and all
Lift our voice in praises
And her fame recall.
How she spurs us onward
To the highest goal,
And our lives to brighten,
As through life we stroll.



1925 - The premier issue of *The Link*, a newsletter covering school events at Lake Vocational



1946 - Lake Vocational basketball team. Photo courtesy of Kristie Zeiler



1957 - Lake Consolidated School - End of the school day

ALMA MATER

1. Near the lake of glistening water
Stands our School so dear.
Where we've spent four years of school life
Free from care and fear.
2. Years may come and years may vanish
Still our thoughts will turn,
To the years we've spent together
For whose joys we yearn.
3. Through our years of school endeavor
She has loved us true,
She's always ready to receive us
Bound to see us through.

CHORUS:
Dear Old High School, how we love Her
Long may She be blest,
Hail to Thee our Alma Mater
Hail to L.V.S.

1948 - Lake Vocational School's Alma Mater handout



1957 - Office Practice Class at Lake Consolidated School

The Art of Lake School

By Emily Brophy

Art is a form of expression and serves as an uplifting force within school environments. Art makes everything a bit more magical. Participating in creating a more colorful and inviting environment is Ms. Gayle Sauers, a former elementary art teacher at Western Wayne. She taught at both Hamlin and Lake Ariel Elementary schools and later at Evergreen Elementary for a total of 25 years.

Although Gayle did not grow up in Wayne County, she attended school in Florida, her work has touched everyone in one way or another. She is known for many of the murals within our district. She fondly recalls, "I have to give much credit to Miss Faliskie, the former principal at Hamlin, Lake, and EverGreen Elementary, who believed in me and my art, and encouraged me to paint some murals in the Hamlin Elementary school." This led to her painting the walls of the school's library as well as the gymnasium with depictions of children's stories.

Painting a mural is no small task, it requires talent and ingenuity, both of which Gayle had. Most of the murals she painted had been for the elementary



A painting of the Lake Vocational School by Gayle Sauers. Photos on this page courtesy of Ellen Clauss

schools, but others were for our school musicals. "I painted the background scenes for *Tom Sawyer*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Bye Bye Birdie*. Each of those murals was 16 feet tall by 40 feet long," Gayle added.

Following this, she was then asked if she would paint a mural at the Lake Ariel school. It would be a depiction of historical Lake Ariel and would include, "a historical overview of the old schools and the amusement park." She also shared, "[It] was a lot of fun too, because I interviewed some long-time residents, and they shared stories, information,

and pictures with me to help complete that project. I also learned a lot about the area's history, and it was very enjoyable in all ways."

These experiences would only inspire Gayle to share her creative ability further painting more murals and sharing her creative process. As a way to plan and prepare for the size of the murals, she utilized many different techniques. "For some of the paintings I started off with free-hand pencil sketches on the wall. For the larger images, I drew them out first onto large white paper, and then transferred the drawings into a larger scale using a grid system," Gayle explained.

The magic of her murals was seen by students and community members for years up until the closure of Lake Ariel Elementary and the Hamlin Elementary schools in the spring of 2011. The tearing down of the buildings destroyed Gayle's work, but it's not lost to time as photos of the murals still exist today. She reflects, "When the buildings were torn down, of course, we had moved into EverGreen Elementary by then. Honestly, I didn't feel bad or sad, I was just



happy to have had the opportunity to paint them, and share them with the children and the community. It was a very special moment in time, and hopefully, they were enjoyed and remembered by those who had the experience."

Gayle's work will never go unappreciated by the student body, faculty, or community as she helped to create a welcoming and uplifting environment for everyone when they needed it most. The last mural she created for our district was a project she worked on with fifth graders and was an idea presented to the school board. The project resides on a wall overlooking the rooftop garden at EverGreen Elementary. She described it beautifully, "It is of a tranquil flower garden, with butterflies and birds, and serves as a quiet reflective area of nature." **WW**



One of the many murals Gayle painted. This painting is an aerial view of Lake Ariel in 1938 that included an amusement park, beach, train, & much more.

Photos on this page courtesy of Brian Sledzinski



"I feel like a part of me has died seeing my grade school being demolished. So many childhood memories. This field is where I learned to play ball. The same field is where we all played countless hours of kickball during recess. I can't begin to count the number of games of basketball played on the courts here. I can't even begin to list all of the amazing teachers—some rest in peace—that were so passionate and made such a mark on all of our lives."

-Brian Sledzinski



Pieces of Our Past

By Edith Sheehan

Abby Carmody-Wallace, a Western Wayne alumni, showcases a brilliant collage for her 2011 senior project to commemorate the Lake and Hamlin Elementary Schools while celebrating the new EverGreen Elementary School built to replace the other two buildings. When specifically asked why she chose that project, Abby answered that she was "passionate about sustainability and reusing materials." When she heard the Lake and Hamlin Elementary Schools were closing their doors forever, she had mixed emotions about knowing that generations of memories would be lost, while the new EverGreen School was trailblazing the way for sustainable schools in the United States. "I thought 'How can I marry the three schools together with honor?'

This piece was the answer to that question!"

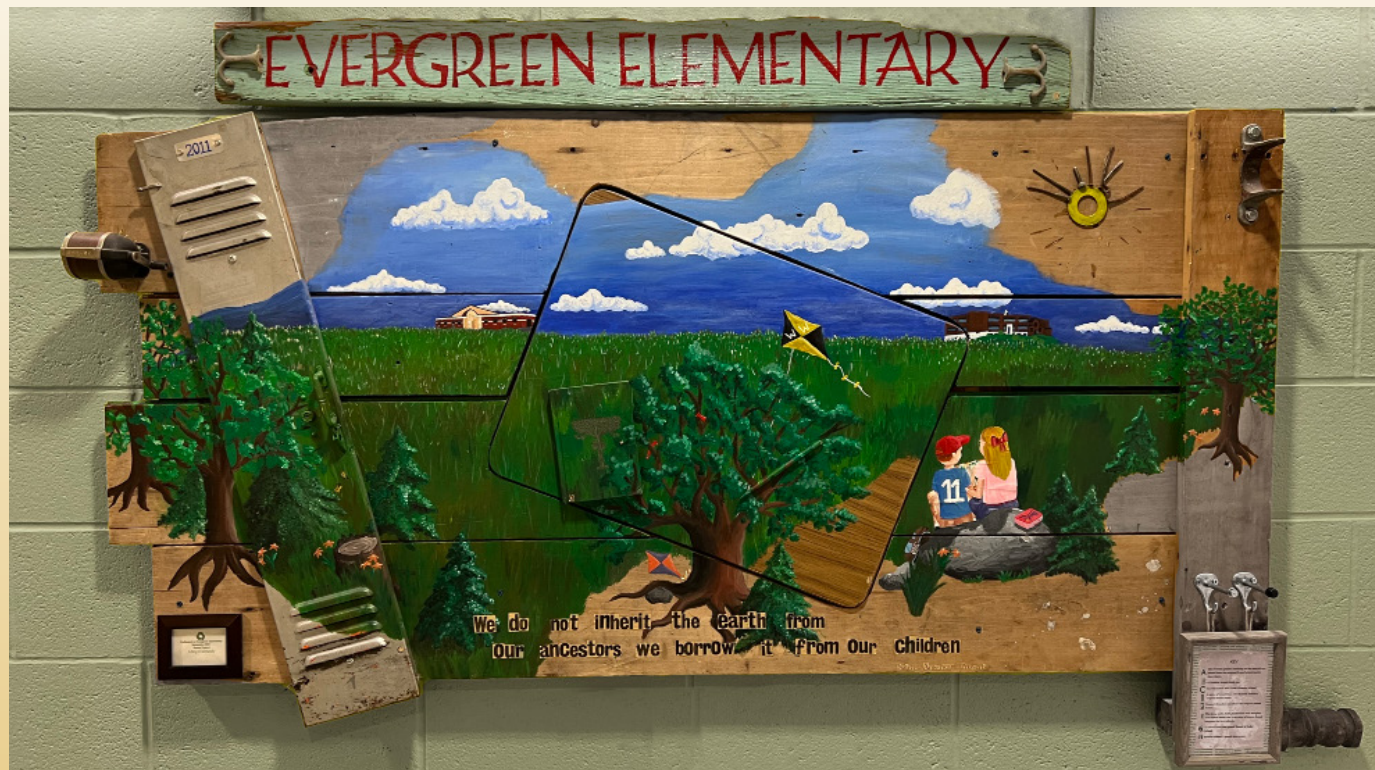
Tapping into her artistic talents, Abby created a time capsule of paint, wood, foam, locker doors and other various items found within the schools—taking on the challenge of preserving items from our past. She relays in her interview that this was "... the best part of the project!" Abby had permission to search in the forbidden closets and dark basement corners to find artifacts and objects from the past. Her goal was to find anything that she could potentially build into a surface to paint on. Some items she collected include:

- An old riser from the Lake School used in music class probably when it was still a high school (the wooden panels featured in most of the mural.)
- The seafoam green board that reads "EverGreen Elementary" was believed to be from Lake School's teeter-totter from the early days.



Abby Carmody-Wallace
WWHS Class of 2012

- The rectangle cutout in the middle of the mural is a desktop from Hamlin Elementary.
- An old-fashioned pencil sharpener in the top corner.
- A locker door from Lake School.
- A book or journal from one of the dusty closets.
- And a bunch of rusty nails removed from the riser to create the sun.



Senior Project donated to EverGreen Elementary in September 2011 by Abby Carmody-Wallace

Abby also shared how she quoted a famous saying by using newspaper clippings, "We Do Not Inherit the Earth from Our Ancestors; We Borrow It from Our Children," a Native American proverb and an Amish saying that commemorates not only the schools that are closed but also the schools that remain open and all the children who grew, learned, and trekked those halls for so many years.

These gems that Abby discovered were a tremendous help to her. However, the spirited collage that is proudly displayed today could not have been created without Abby's unique wit. Her playful intellect is illuminated through the empathy she displayed when revealing her thought process in relation to the project's meaning, even using her own attachment to enrich the final product.

"I envisioned there being a quirky placement of artifacts with a painting of the Lake and Hamlin Schools in the background, while the foreground would be a boy and girl looking at the past, but accepting there would be a new school built in the field they are currently sitting in," Abby described.

"I loved growing up in those schools, specifically the Lake School. You couldn't get away with anything because those floorboards creaked every step you took down the hallway. The classrooms were homey and small, the lobby was my favorite with the mural paintings on the ceiling, recess games like two-hand touch football, and I loved being able to walk home with the Ingaglios when my parents let me!" Abby reminisced.

With the amount of sentimental value now encapsulated in one art piece, it is

easy to draw the conclusion that a great deal of pressure was mounted on Abby. However, this was not the case. Abby describes her experience of making this project as "... a blast" and an opportunity to "let loose."

With an unburdened conscience, Abby could facilitate many joyful memories with the help of this project as opposed to most others. One particularly vibrant experience Abby shared was about the presentation day of her senior project. "That is a funny story!" Abby laughed. "I remember I had three big things that Tuesday in September. I needed to present my project to three teachers during school to meet the graduation requirement, then I had a BIG cross country meet that evening, followed by presenting my project once and for all to Evergreen at their first Open House. Unfortunately, it rained that evening so the cross country race was pushed back which meant I couldn't go home and shower before my presentation at Evergreen. In fact, I quickly washed the mud off my legs in the girl's bathroom right before I went on stage in my cross country uniform. Something I still laugh about today!"

Abby's art experience and journey at Western Wayne was by no means limited to just that one project. She had many accomplishments and made her mark in every classroom. Abby's years in art left no small impression. She related that many jovial memories were crafted in Western Wayne's very own Justin Hayden's classroom. "I remember being able to draw and color for hours. And that is what I miss most about being in high school, time was

slower then, nothing was pulling you in 7,000 directions, and you could just sit and create. In class, at home, outside ... wherever. That is what I miss most now being an adult and balancing everything with life."

Abby continued, "I felt challenged when we did the portrait modeling lesson at the end of the year, but it was a lot of fun. And of course, I loved creating my senior mural and building an elaborate, carnival-themed display at the high school's annual art exhibit!"

Abby lives now as an adult who encourages time and space for art in her life. She had no shortage of fun with her art and continues to follow that motto today. "Art is my life," Abby proudly exclaimed. "From the way I dress to the way I feel, to the way I express myself, to the way I decorate my house. Growing up indulged in fine artists and now in my career, I have become a designer, photographer, filmmaker, etc. I am part of an artist initiative where we host artist gatherings to coordinate with other artists of all kinds and ages. I have been trying to get back into drawing and colored pencil pieces outside of work. And lastly, the new thing I want to try is woodworking, wood burning and carving!"

Her passion won her a career and a life full of joy and wonder. Abby understood the playful and entertaining nature of art as well as its fluid yet unchallengeable ability to persuade and dissuade. To enlighten and ensnare the mind's eye. She spoke with and through her art to connect generations through time. Abby Carmody is a shining example of the students that learn and grow at Western Wayne and live out their aspirations. **WW**

COMMUNITY: OUR VETERANS

Western Wayne Celebrates Veterans Day

By Jessica McLaughlin & Emily Brophy

As a tradition for many years, Western Wayne administration, faculty, staff, and students joined together on Thursday, Nov. 10, to celebrate veterans in the community with a special in-school event that featured music from the high school band and chorus, wise words from a veteran guest speaker, and this year the event had the added component of a question and answer session with local veterans. These guests included Harry Howell, Navy; George Schaffer, Air Force; Nicholas VanLeuven, Army; Eston Brooks, Army; Katherine Rickert, Air Force; Don Wilmot, USMC; Elwood Merring, Army; Tara Jordan, Army; Kevin Coker, USMC; Jennifer Buckman, Air Force; Robert Kessler, Army; Gary Sereno, Army; Melissa McWilliams, Army; Anna Maria Coughlin-McAleer, Navy; David Simmons, Army; Doug Wylie, Air Force; Clay Cole, Air Force; Ed Erb, USMC; Bill Wagner, NYPD; Jack Best, Navy; Dale Pepper, Army; and John Gaudenzi, Army. Within our faculty, Shane Grodack, USMC; Ted McDonough, Army; Brian Hodorawis, Army; Tom Lodini, Army and Paul Semmler, USMC are among our veterans.

Many local veterans attended the presentation at Western Wayne. Some of which had special connections to Western Wayne



WWHS 2012 graduate, Nick VanLeuven stands at the entrance of the WWHS Veterans Memorial Auditorium and the painting titled, *Service & Sacrifice*

students. Sergeant Gary Sereno, an Army veteran, attended the event to spend the day honoring veterans with his granddaughters Cailey and Mikayla Fullone. Sereno served in Vietnam from 1966-1968 in the 25th infantry division.

Sereno was shot and wounded on his 28th day in the field. He remembers that moment vividly. He explained that what kept him going in the army was his new bride Marsha Sereno, who he married a month and a day before he went off to war.

"We would write letters to each other daily," Sereno explained. "I remember that I was holding a letter to send to her when I was shot."

Sereno went to two different Army hospitals after being wounded and then was sent home to further recover. He

recalls later in his Army career that he served in a basic training camp as a supply sergeant in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

"During this time I got to work with some soldiers who were away from home for the first time," Sereno said. "I got to talk to them and help them through."

He then went on to work for 55 years with special needs individuals in a vocational setting in New York. His wife worked for a newspaper for a time. Throughout their marriage, they continued to write letters to each other no matter if they were apart or together. It was a special way they communicated.

"Loving someone is a choice you make every day," Sereno said. Sadly his wife of 55 years passed away recently. However, his love for both her

and his country remains strong.

"I love my country," Sereno said. "We soldiers do what we are told and we do it well."

Navy Seaman Harry Howell also had a special story to share of his journey after his time in the service. In 2018, the Western Wayne School District gave Howell his diploma after he earned his GED 50 years after he was first in school. This was such a special occasion for Howell because the same year his granddaughter Ella Patackas received her high school diploma from Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Philadelphia. Howell is extremely proud of his granddaughter's accomplishments. She recently graduated from the University of North Carolina in the top 60 of her class with a degree in biology.

Howell served as a seaman for six years. The carrier he was stationed on was the USS Essex. He traveled the arctic circle twice before his Navy career was over. In addition, Howell would go on to serve for eight years on the Western Wayne School Board. Today, Howell is a member of number 80 Sweeney Post in Hamlin.

"I enjoy spending time with the veterans at my post and at events such as this," Howell explained. "It is nice what the administration and kids do to honor us."

Another veteran who was grateful to be honored by the school was Melissa McWilliams of Lake Wallenpaupack. McWilliams was an Army sergeant who served five years and was a paratrooper. Before she joined the military and spent time in Afghanistan, McWilliams started her nursing degree at Old Dominion University

and then would go on to finish it, after she served at Texas A&M University.

McWilliams works with a variety of Western Wayne students through her job at Wayne County Drug and Alcohol. She is a prevention specialist and offers services at local middle and high schools for students who are struggling socially and emotionally. "I like to encourage them and let them know that what they are going through won't be a part of their lives forever," McWilliams explained.

McWilliams spoke at the question and answer session to the middle school and high school student body and especially encouraged the young ladies in the audience.

"It is mind over matter," she said. "You can get through it if you want to join the military."

Another proud female veteran in attendance at the event was Tara Jordan, former Army specialist. She served from 2006 to 2010. Jordan's children attend Western Wayne. She was thrilled to be there to see her son Zach Jordan play with the Western Wayne Band for the event.

"It's nice to see so many coming together to celebrate veterans," Jordan said.

Highlights of the event included some beautifully performed patriotic pieces by the Western Wayne High School chorus and band. The veterans also were treated to a lunch prepared by students in Mrs. Stephanie Zoppi's culinary classes. Western Wayne's Student Ambassadors also welcomed and assisted the veterans.

"I really enjoyed learning the history of the veterans

themselves and what they experienced," Khloe Mistishin, 9th grade student ambassador said.

The guest speaker for the event was First Lieutenant Nicholas VanLeuven.

VanLeuven graduated from Western Wayne High School in 2012. He lettered in varsity football as well as track and field. He participated in FBLA and TSA.

He went to Millersville University on a 3.5 year ROTC scholarship where he earned a bachelors of science in chemistry with a concentration in biochemistry. He also studied military science and in 2016 and was commissioned into the United States Army serving in the PA Army National Guard. He graduated in the top 5% of the commissioning class of 2016 for all Second Lieutenants that year. He worked for multiple years in pharmaceuticals at Eurofins Lancaster Labs after graduating college.

He was assigned to the 103D Brigade Engineer Battalion in May 2016 where he served as the chemical, biological, radioactivity, nuclear reconnaissance platoon leader for the 103D BEB at Fort Mifflin, Philadelphia. While serving as a platoon leader, he successfully conducted a rotation at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin California. He also served as the Battalion Chemical Officer.

He was the Officer in charge of COVID operations in Philadelphia for the 103D BEB. The missions he led were constructing a field medical hospital at Glen Mills High School, Mortuary Affairs, and

Logistical Support for the local community. Shortly after that, he was an operations officer for the implementation of soldiers into Philadelphia to ensure peaceful protests after the death of George Floyd. He then later acted as the Company Commander for HHC 103D BEB during more implementations of soldiers in Philadelphia in November 2020.

His current assignment is with the 3rd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team in Fort Indiantown Gap where he has been since January 2021. He serves as the unit's Nuclear Medical Science Officer, operating a fully functional Mobile Laboratory that can conduct field analysis of unknown agents. He resides in Bernville, PA, with his wife and two sons.

VanLeuven's awards and major achievements include the following: the Army Achievement Medal, as well as the Armed Forces Service Medal, Pennsylvania Service Ribbon with Gold Star Device.

VanLeuven felt thrilled to be back at his alma mater.

"Once I knew I was coming back to speak to the students I was excited to be a role model for them," he explained. "I can so clearly remember my time as a student at Western Wayne. I'm here as an example for them. Everything I learned here at Western Wayne set me up for my future."

VanLeuven spoke highly of the jobs available for students in the National Guard and of some of the duties he carries out on a daily basis.

He explained how he had aided the community throughout the civil unrest in 2020 in

Philadelphia. He never imagined himself doing something like that when he joined the service, but VanLeuven was more than willing to help—doing his best in allowing people to safely protest ideas and concepts they viewed as wrong or that more could be done in that area.

"We were there as a presence to ensure peaceful protest," VanLeuven states. "The Pennsylvania National Guard has been nothing but rewarding to me."

Near the end of VanLeuven's inspirational speech, he encouraged students to get out in the world and explore the options the service holds. To go out and meet local veterans to ask for their stories. "Today go out and thank and shake a veteran's hand," he said. "Hear their stories. I hope my speech and today's events opened your eyes to the greatness that is the American veteran."

Following VanLeuven's speech, Mr. Grodack lead the assembly by moving on to a Veterans Day question and answer panel. Students had asked a variety of questions, allowing veterans to provide real answers about the tough conditions of combat and basic training. Not only answering questions about combat and training, they went into detail about the strong friendships made in the service. "You make the greatest friends that you keep forever," Melissa McWilliams said. This is supported by other statements made by our veterans.

Among the questions asked to the veterans, it was inquired what their favorite memory was of the service. Rather unexpectedly one of our veterans, Mr. Gary Sereno, talked about calling his wife, who has since passed on. He described how he had

left right after marrying her and that she was the first person he called after he returned home. Commenting that, "He hadn't said a word when he heard her say 'Gary.'" This memory of his wife prevented him from continuing with this question.

The veterans highly encouraged students to join the military if they were unsure of their path, Mrs. Jennifer Buckman particularly encouraged the female students. They explained that students could serve first, then they would be able to choose from a wide array of careers within the military. Alternatively, they have the option to go back to school and study a course of their choice with the cost of tuition paid by the military, almost as a thank-you for their service. VanLeuven continued to encourage the students to be thankful to veterans and to consider joining the service during the question and answer session.

"I loved chemistry, and I'm still doing it to this day in the service," VanLeuven explained. "I'm a scientist in the Army. If you are a natural-born leader then I truly encourage you to join and be a leader in the military. I don't think you will regret it." With this sentiment the assembly came to an end, as it does every year. Leaving seniors and other students alike with thoughts and stories of our veterans. **WW**

COMMUNITY: YOUR PHOTOS

As they say, "a photo is worth a thousand words." Here, we would like to share your photos that span decades. Please do a bit of searching in finding photos that relate to the history of WW. Thank you!

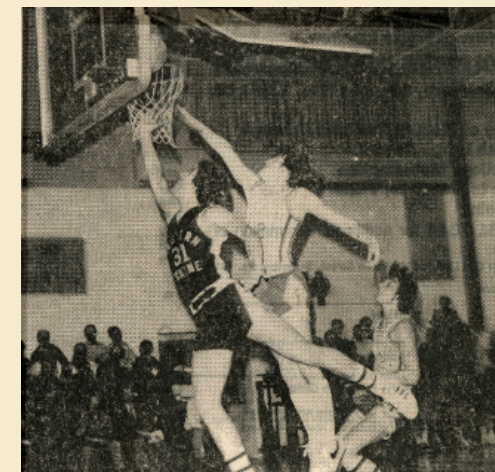


November 1979 - Instructor Robert Brown accepts Western Wayne's new driver education car from Gary Goodman, owner of Owl Chrysler-Plymouth in Honesdale. Behind the wheel is one of the new drivers who will be using the car, Carole Mele.

Photo courtesy of Betty Stoner



January 2001 - Erin Oplaka, Michelle Nolan, Lyndsey Bagdonas, Mallory Laboy, & Audra Lang at lunch after visiting the Scholastic Art Awards exhibit at Marywood University. Photo courtesy of Marie Ostrowsky



January 5, 1979 - David Andreychick helped win the Forest City Rotary Tournament against Forest City. Bob Risboskin and Bob Korty of Forest City are also in action. Photo courtesy of William Maile



April 11, 1989 - Carl Schweinsberg, senior at WWHS, organized the open house as part of a class project at the Lake Ariel Fire Company's South Canaan Station located in the South Canaan Twp. building in order to reduce the company's response time to emergencies within the township. The truck, a 1964 International, was one of two Lake Ariel truck replaced by newer equipment. Permission to publish and photo courtesy of Bob Tomaine of the

October 2006 - Marching Band: Alex Howe, Jessica Coar, Rebecca Robbins, Lauren Englert, Rory Mahan, & Frank Souza. Photo courtesy of Ray Stedenfeld



March 1989 - NHS food drive. Assisting with the distribution were Mike Samson, Bonnie Howell, Aaron Lewis, Kristen Karnish, Kendra Tonetti, & Tammy Wallace. Photo from the WWHS archives



Have photos to share?
Please email your photos related to Western Wayne's history for consideration to be included here, in our 50th anniversary magazine!

jhayden2@westernwayne.org

COMMUNITY: PERFORMING ARTS

Alumni Back on Stage

By Jessica McLaughlin



This January the Western Wayne High School Band and Chorus held their holiday concert that had been rescheduled three times due to weather conditions, and it was well worth the wait! To open the evening the sixth grade band under the direction of Mrs. Maria Arneil set the stage for a wonderful night of music. Next, the High School Chorus under the direction of Mr. Taber Starnes and the High School Band under the direction of Mrs. Elaine Ort entertained the audience with many holiday classics. As an added treat, the closing numbers of the show included band and chorus alumni who were invited to the stage and welcomed to join the current students in making music in honor of the Western Wayne High School's 50th Anniversary celebration. First, band alumni joined in for a Western Wayne favorite *Sleigh Ride*. Then chorus alumni were also invited to the stage and the whole group ended the show with a rendition of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. Mrs. Ort told the crowd she hopes to invite alumni to perform a song in the holiday concert as a yearly tradition.

Chorus alumni Lisa Eldred and Shelley Robinson were thrilled to be back on the Western Wayne Stage. "I just love the new curtains," Lisa said about the upgrades made to the curtains on stage in the last few years. Lisa and her friend Shelley remember when the stage looked very different in the 1980s when they performed in a Western Wayne production of the show *Guys and Dolls* in 1986.

"We got to perform in the show with Tom Lopatofsky in the role of *Nicely Nicely Johnson*," Shelley reminisced about her experience with Western Wayne retiree Mr. Lopatofsky who taught music in both the middle and high school along with directing numerous Western Wayne musical productions.




Western Wayne Band and Chorus alumni. Row One (top) from left: Jacob Slomian, class of 2016, band alumni; Noah Shandor, class of 2015, band alumni; Molly Nagle, class of 2017, band alumni; and B. Flannery, class of 2022, band alumni. Row Two, from left: John Kear, class of 2018, band alumni; Kristin Shandor, class of 2015, band alumni; Shelley Robinson, class of 1987, chorus alumni; and Lisa Eldred, class of 1987, chorus alumni. Row Three, from left: Erica Arre, class of 2004, band alumni; Alana Lambertson, class of 2022, band alumni; Becca Boots, class of 2022, band alumni; Hailey Felicetta, class of 2019, band alumni. Row Four, from left: Hope Jezowski, class of 1997, band alumni; and Kathy Schaffer, class of 1974, band alumni. Missing from photo: Seth Lambertson, class of 2018, band alumni; and Jeff Wilson, class of 1969, band alumni.

The band alumni also had many fond memories of their time at Western Wayne.

"It's like a family getting back together," Noah Shandor, class of 2015, explained. "I don't know many of the kids in the band now but a picture of me is still on one of the band lockers, so a lot of them recognized me when I met them."

Noah performed in the concert with his new bride Kristin Shandor, class of 2015. The two were married this past October.

"We met in Kindergarten," Kristin said. "It's such an awesome experience to get to perform on the Western Wayne stage again with my husband. It's like we never left." 



In the Spotlight

By Jessica McLaughlin

This past January, the Drama Club hosted an Alumni Cabaret Night as part of the 50th Anniversary celebration for the Western Wayne High School. Both current Drama Club members and alumni were able to participate in the event and sang to entertain their family, friends, and community members in attendance.

Alumni who participated included: Allison King, class of 2020, stage crew; Frisk Lopez, class of 2021, stage crew; Haley Strocchia, class of 2022, performer; Branda Angel, class of 2011, stage crew and performer; Kaitlyn Black, class of 2015, performer; Joanna Regalbuto, class of 2022, performer; Brandyn Black, class of 2013, stage crew and performer; Damon Martzen, class of 2020, stage crew; and Nick DeCandis, class of 2022, performer. The Press family even brought their dog Daisy to join in the alumni fun. Daisy was Sandy in Western Wayne's production of *Annie* in 2019.

Alumni, Allison King and Frisk Lopez served as the lighting and sound directors for the evening. They both worked to organize and plan the event with Mrs. McLaughlin since this past spring. Current students Nate Conway and Bobby Scramuzza served as masters of ceremonies.

"It was awesome to be able to do lights and sound one more time for a show at Western Wayne," Allison said. "It was very disappointing to miss that chance for my senior musical in 2020, and I was so happy to have this opportunity now. It was so great to be back working with all of my friends."

Frisk was also thrilled to get the chance to work with a former classmate and friend to run the show behind the scenes.

"It was very stressful to do the show my senior year for *Cinderella* with so many COVID regulations," Frisk said. "It felt great to return for this event under less stressful circumstances and to have so much fun creating



Row One (bottom): Frisk Lopez, class of 2021, sound and lighting director; Mikayla Fullone, Kenzie Kennedy, stage manager; and Dakota Douglas. Row Two: Allison King, class of 2020, sound and lighting director; Jade Wetherington, Colette Schmitt, Emily Lescinski, Julia Phillips, drama club vice president; Joanna Regalbuto, class of 2022; and Haley Strocchia, class of 2022. Row Three: Owen Obloshny, Branda Angel, class of 2011; Kaitlyn Black, class of 2015; Rosie Knecht, Lillian Maros, drama club historian. Row Four: Joey Regalbuto, drama club treasurer; Caden Wilson, Ash Mangieri, head stage crew; Amanda David, drama club secretary; and Stephanie Maxwell, costume assistant. Row Five (top): Nick DeCandis, class of 2022; Brandyn Black, class of 2013; Damon Martzen, class of 2020; Nate Conway, drama club president; and Bobby Scramuzza, drama club public relations officer.

the lighting and sound for it."

Fellow stage crew alumni, Damon Martzen was also happy to return to help out for the cabaret. "I'm just so excited to be here now," Damon said. "My favorite memory was sharing my ideas with others in stage crew, even though the musical didn't actually happen in 2020. I was very grateful that I got to enjoy helping out and being a part of the stage crew before I had to leave high school. I have not forgotten about this place, or the musical program, and I am proud to see that it is still as huge and supportive as it was back then."

Alumni participant Branda Angel, class of 2011, participated in both the stage crew and as a performer in high school. She was in the ensemble for *Anything Goes* and *Into the Woods*. For *Once Upon a Mattress* she was a part of stage crew, set design, and played the role of the Minstrel. In addition, she was in choir for 15 years and was in her first musical in fifth grade called *Rodeo Time*.

"I love ALL memories I have from high school," Branda said. "Being around such beautiful and loving people and teachers made high school worthwhile. The Sherman Awards was probably the most fun I had

my senior year!"

Alumni, Haley Strocchia, class of 2022, also has special memories from her time in Western Wayne musical theater, especially because she did shows with the group during COVID times. Her past roles include: July in *Annie*; Lady Lucille in *Once Upon a Mattress*; Queen Maisie in *Cinderella*; and the interviewer in *Little Shop of Horrors*, along with being a dance captain for all shows she participated in.

"Although this isn't my all-time favorite memory, it's definitely one that helped shape my love for theater and drive my passion to continue performing: my first, in-person rehearsal during *Cinderella*," Haley recalled. "I had been quarantining the majority of my junior year and had only been able to attend online rehearsals, so I had to work on all of my blocking, choreo, lines, and songs primarily on my own. It was a struggle with the small space I had to work with at home and with the uncertainty that my parents would allow me to follow through with the role with COVID continually affecting our lives. The first time I was able to attend an in-person rehearsal, it was a little more than a month before the show. I just have to say, that even though I hadn't been able to step on that stage in a year's time, the joy that moment brought me was amazing; I felt this major piece of me I had been missing had been restored to my soul. It was so natural to translate everything I had been working on in my bedroom to that stage, almost like I had been there all along. Although I wouldn't realize until years later, that one rehearsal would completely change the course I wanted to take in my life because I wanted to be able to feel the sense of purpose, belonging, and accomplishment those stage lights gave me that Saturday afternoon."

Fellow alumni who participated in shows during the time frame that Haley did also feel like their time on stage was even more meaningful due to the year they missed their musical performance in 2020. One such alumni is Joanna Regalbuto, class of 2022. Joanna was a three-year member of the Drama Club. She was an ensemble member and featured dancer for *Once Upon a Mattress* and *Cinderella*. In addition, for her senior year she played the lead role of Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*.

"I loved my experience with theater at Western Wayne," Joanna said. "I also was able to serve as a student director my senior year and really enjoyed collaborating with my friends to create our final production as students."

Fellow classmate, Nick DeCandis, class of 2022,

was thrilled to join past classmates and alumni he worked with on *Little Shop* for the cabaret. Nick was a part of the musical program for one year by playing Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*. He wishes he joined the program sooner but was thrilled to play a role for his senior year that kept him on stage for almost the entire duration of the performance in addition to having the opportunity to join his friends for the cabaret.

"I love getting to sing and act on stage with my friends and be silly both in and out of character," Nick said. "I really enjoy entertaining people."

Another couple who enjoy entertaining others on the Western Wayne stage are Kaitlyn and Brandyn Black. They both entertained the audience at cabaret night and even did a special short dance for everyone along with singing. In past shows, Kaitlyn played Gloria in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; a silly girl and salt shaker in *Beauty and the Beast*; and Agatha in *Guys and Dolls*. Brandyn also played a plethora of roles in his high school career, most notably Monsieur D'Arque in *Beauty and the Beast*, along with also participating in the stage crew. Brandyn also played a minor, yet very important, role in the opener of *Beauty and the Beast* of the bookkeeper that led to him meeting Kaitlyn during the production and going on to marry her years later.

Kaitlyn enjoys telling the story of how they met. "Back in 2013 when we just started practices for *Beauty and the Beast*, the directors were talking about how every character is important, especially in big, busy group numbers like the opening scene," she explained. "Everyone made up their own character stories such as 'I'm the baker's wife' or 'I'm the crazy woman who really needs six eggs'. At the time, the bookkeeper character pointed at me as I walked across the stage saying 'I need a wife. You're going to be my wife'. That bookkeeper and I have been together now for almost ten years and have been married since September 2021. He predicted the future, and I became his wife! Without the WW musical, I would have never met Brandyn. I am eternally grateful for the memories I have made in all of the productions, but that one is especially special."

All of the alumni and students who participated in cabaret night were excited to have the unique experience of performing and working together along with sharing many memories while making new ones. The Western Wayne musical directors hope to put on another Alumni Cabaret for Western Wayne's 55th anniversary year. **Ww**

1990 Seniors - From left: Nadia Enslin (Student Body President), Stacy Thorpe (Yearbook Editor), Julie Peet (NHS President), Donna Theobald (Art Club), Stacy Gibbs (FBLA President), Alexis Grodack (SADD President), & Emily Creedon (Volunteer Club)



1990 THEN & NOW 2023



2023 Seniors - Julia Phillips (Drama Club Vice President), Damien Russo (Studio Club Co-President), Elizabeth Wasyluk (Literary Magazine Editor), Alex Chapman (NHS President), Jaden Gregory (SADD Co-President), Marshall Davis (FBLA Vice President), Jade Edwards (Spanish Club President)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

By: Elizabeth Wasylyk



1995 graduate, Celeste Hall Donnelly, currently owns and runs Morris Kitchens & Donnelly Designs LLC in Hanover Township, PA. Her company is a kitchen and bath company, specializing in selling cabinets and countertops. She attended Marywood University, where she earned her Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree in Interior Design. In response to the question of what she loved about her job, Celeste responded, "I love meeting new people every day and working with them to design their kitchens and bathrooms or other areas of their homes."

When Celeste looks back on her time at Western Wayne, she remembers both her art classes with Mrs. Ostrowski and Mrs. Stedenfeld, and business classes with Ms. Vitovski and Mrs. Walsh fondly. She adds that FBLA was another extremely memorable experience for her, too.

Celeste wants to encourage all of today's students to "Always have fun, be serious when needed, and always be willing to learn."

2008 graduate, Joe Romanowski, is a Senior Manager at a public accounting firm. After graduating from Penn State University in 2012 with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting, he then worked toward obtaining his CPA license, which he earned in 2015. In his current position, Joe provides audit services to renewable energy companies. Joe shares that he has the honor of having the same students in his classes for up to four years in a row. He feels that the one of the best parts of his job is his coworkers and his client base. He adds, "With the renewable energy industry being relatively new, most of our clients have small accounting teams, so I really get to know them throughout the audit process. They often look to our firm to provide guidance on new or evolving accounting topics, which allows us to be advisors, in contrast to the more typical adversarial relationship people have with their auditors."



When asked to choose his favorite teacher from WW, he shared that Mrs. Paula Lamberton taught his most memorable class—Commercial Cooking—and that he got to cook (and eat!) lots of great food. He admits, "I still like to cook today and learned some important kitchen skills in that class." Joe would like to encourage current Wildcats to always do their best. He leaves the students with this: "Some days, your best will be great; some days, your best won't be very good, and that's okay."



Loriann Mullen Crotti, a 2006 graduate, shares that after she completed her Bachelor's in Biology from Temple University and her Doctorate of Chiropractic Practice from the Northeast College of Health Sciences, she became a chiropractor and business owner of Balanced Health Chiropractic in Dickson City, PA. This role allows her to work with patients at every stage of life—from newborn to elderly—and offer them an alternative to surgery or medications, as well as a chance for patients to achieve their optimal well-being. When prompted with what her favorite aspect of her career was, she replied that she most enjoys the fact that "... I can make my practice what I want it to be and make a work schedule that works for myself and my family also. It gives a good work/life balance."

As for Loriann's high school experience, she highlights her AP Chemistry class. She reflects on that class, saying that it "really opened my eyes to how much I enjoyed science, and challenged me in ways other classes didn't. Ms. Masankay held high expectations and was very encouraging to pursue a science-related degree."

Loriann would like to advise the students to be kind and to enjoy life, but to remember to make good choices. She encourages students, saying, "If you have a dream, pursue it. If you are unsure, test the waters and find something you love!"

Tomlynn Fallon Biondo is now working as the Creative Director of the Seventh Generation Company in Burlington, Vermont since her graduation in 2002. She has earned her Bachelor's degree of Fine Arts (BFA) and Master's degree of Fine Arts (MFA) from Marywood, and earned her first job as a design intern in the Marketing and Communications department for Marywood University. Tomlynn shares that she loves working for Seventh Generation because they are a company that cares about the future of the planet, and the generations of people who will inhabit it. She adds, "I also enjoy working with really talented designers, who are committed to upholding the standards of the brand. My day-to-day work is always different, and I think that's what keeps me interested. Some days, I'm laying out packaging; some days, I'm directing a photoshoot, and some days I'm working on future brand strategy."



Tomlynn reflects back on her time at Western Wayne and recalls all of the wonderful friendships and teachers that she had. She values most the memories she made on the basketball court, noting that she feels especially grateful for her former coach—Jeff West—who pushed her and her teammates to be "the best versions of ourselves." She says in regards to her time in basketball, "Winning and losing together was something that prepared me for life. I cherish those memories, the bus rides to and from games, the bonding, and the love of the game that connected us all." She also mentioned how she can relive those times through her oldest daughter's own basketball experience.

As for Tomlynn's advice to us Wildcats, she shares a quote by Nelson Mandela that she "... tries to embrace on a daily basis: 'Your playing small does not serve the world. Who are you not to be great?'"



Steven Trygar—a 2012 graduate—is a Historical Musicologist, which means that he is a music historian who doesn't limit himself to only studying the history of western classical music tradition. He focuses on how not only the people and cultures have been impacted by music throughout history, but also how music has been impacted in return by the people who create it or perform it. He did not follow a "traditional" educational path to get to this point, as he began his undergraduate career at Marywood University studying to be a K-12 music teacher, but later found his passion to become a historical musicologist. After this, he changed his major and graduated from Marywood University with his Bachelor's of Music in Music Performance, as he knew that this degree would allow him to better understand composers and artists through his own ability to perform music. He continued his education at Temple University, where he obtained his Masters of Music in Music History degree, which taught him about music and music history, among other art forms, such as cultures, philosophies, religions, and languages—to name a few. In response to the question of what he loved about his job, Steven responded, "One can discover an entire world in something as simple as a folk song: the life events, mental state, social status, philosophical/religious beliefs, and emotions of its creator(s) and the status of the society in which they belong to."

When he reflects on his time at his alma mater, he recalls that he was in every possible musically-related class or activity he could be in: the barbershop quartet, the concert choir, the concert band, and the jazz band. He recalls his senior year Spring Concert, where he shared, "We were about to perform one of our final numbers with the jazz band that night, which was going to essentially end the concert. The piece was a big band arrangement of 'Summertime' from Porgy and Bess by George Gershwin, and the vocal part was transcribed for solo trumpet, for which I was soloist. Mr. Stedenfeld, the music director at the time, turned around right before the piece was about to begin, picked up the microphone, and said, 'Now, before we wrap up the Stephen Trygar show...! That is a day I will never forget. I knew then and there that my career in music was only just beginning, and I haven't looked back since.'"

Today, Steven wants the current Western Wayne students to keep in mind that it's always okay for your passions to change. He shares with us, "Something important to you yesterday may not be as important tomorrow. One day, you may think you'll be the next in line for your favorite teacher, the next day you want to be the world's greatest conductor, then you want to put away your instrument to pick up research material, and that's ok. Follow your passions and live a life that gives you the greatest sense of fulfillment, and if you stumble, pick yourself back up."



Cameron Karnick—a 2013 graduate—is a Clinical Pharmacist working for UPMC Health Plan. To earn this position, he attended the University of Pittsburgh. There, he participated in a program that allowed him to become a pharmacist within six years of schooling—two years of undergraduate and four years graduate—as becoming a pharmacist requires a Doctorate degree. In response to the question of what he loves about his job, Cameron responded, “I love being able to talk to patients and help them with their medications while working from home.”

He recalls his favorite teacher back at Western Wayne to be his mom, Mrs. Lucchesi, with Mrs. Masankay as a close second. His most memorable experience from his high school days were “forming lifelong friendships I made during my time there.”

Today, Cameron wants the current Western Wayne students to remember that our high school experience does not define our future lives. He encourages us to “Make the most of it, but know that there is a world of possibilities and opportunities out there as long as you are willing to pursue them.”

Amanda “Mandy” Aikens, who graduated from the Class of 1999, works as the Assistant Athletic Director at Alliance University—a NCAA DII school in New York City. She also has the opportunity to teach classes in the University’s Sports Management major. To obtain this position, she earned her Bachelor’s degree in Public Relations and Speech from Mansfield University, along with a Master’s degree in Organizational Leadership from Alliance University. When prompted on what she loves most about her position at Alliance University, she replied that she loves the chance to “work with students and help them be successful not only in their athletic careers, but also in the classroom. I have two daughters, but almost 175 ‘kids’ each year that I take care of and make sure they’re doing everything they can to reach their goals while in college.”



Mandy shares that her most memorable experience was “. . . the fun we had in AP Chemistry with Ms. Houlgrave, who was also my favorite teacher.”

As for the current students of Western Wayne, she suggests taking advantage of the opportunities that are available to us and to appreciate the teachers and staff that interact with us students daily. She shares, “I am so proud to be an alumni of Western Wayne . . . When I was younger, I couldn’t wait to leave and explore the world, but as I grow older, I am able to realize how much I appreciated the education and care I got as a student at WW.”



Since her graduation in 1987, Theresa Stratton has been working in the field of apparel production for over 25 years. She began her career in Waymart at Funtime Sportswear and is now working for a company called Gentex as a sewing machine operator. She has worked through numerous other sewing plants, such as Katri, Waymart Knitwear, and BAE Systems. At BAE Systems, she worked up from her position as a sewing operator to a line lead to eventually become a supervisor. Unfortunately, this plant in Jessup closed in 2015. Following this closure, she earned her Microsoft Office certification, as well as her CDL B. She eventually made her way back to sewing and her current position at Gentex. Theresa shares, “I enjoy my job; we sew components that go into military helmets. The helmets are also made at our facility in Carbondale. Did you know Gentex made the helmet for *Top Gun*? I didn’t know that until I started working there. So cool!!!” She noted that along this journey, she has worked at the Wayne County Fair for over 25 years, where she is currently the Assistant Superintendent of the Poultry and Rabbit Barn. She adds that she loves her position here, along with her “Fair Family” and all the new people she meets there.

Theresa reflects back on her time at Western Wayne and recalls all of the memories she created, especially during her senior year. She highlights that “I have many classmates that I still keep in touch with, and we try to spend time together at least once a year.” Along with that, she mentions that some of her favorite teachers included English teacher Mr. Reed, history teacher Mr. Matechak, and business teacher Miss Vitovsky, who she “. . . truly learned a lot from . . .”

As for Theresa’s advice to us Wildcats, she says, “Don’t be so eager to hurry and graduate; enjoy your time in school. I would go back in a heartbeat if I could.”



Nick Roberts, a 2009 graduate, shares that after he completed both his Bachelor’s in Systems & Network Administration and his Bachelor’s in Information Security & Forensics from Rochester Institute of Technology, he began to work in cybersecurity. He currently started a new job working for a small startup, where he builds and runs the whole program for the new company. Along with that, he is on the advisory board for a few universities and local programs, which allow him to travel and work remotely. On this, he shares, “Nobody cares if I’m working from an office or Bora Bora. Careers in security are always in demand, and depending on what you like to specialize in, there are some crazy opportunities you would never find elsewhere.”

As for Nick’s high school experience, he responded that he was “. . . a pretty terrible student. . .” He reflects on this time, saying, “I don’t think I actually appreciated my time at Western Wayne until a few years after graduating when comparing my experiences with other folks I met while traveling.” As for his favorite teacher, he shared that “if I don’t say Mrs. Luchessi, she’ll probably hunt me down.” He added that he learned valuable skills from her, like cooking, since “. . . partners in life like someone who knows how to cook. . .”

Nick provided a wealth of advice for seniors about to graduate—ranging from gaining employment to making the most of life. He shares tips such as, “You don’t actually need to go to college to make enough money for a comfortable life and retirement. It’s all about how much money you can save, hold onto, and invest—invest early. . . If you do decide to go to college, you can take two years at a community college to save money on classes you don’t care about and transfer to another university to finish your degree. Degrees and certifications are really only useful as tools to get your first job; after that, nobody cares about anything other than work experience. Never take the first job offer; always negotiate the deal. It’s more expensive for the company to find other talent than it is to give you a sign-on bonus or additional shares/stock options. Don’t be afraid to “job hop” or change careers and companies. You can often negotiate higher pay or better benefits.” Along with these helpful life tips, he encourages students to take more chances. “Go to that party, take the trip, or get a tattoo. Mistakes are only mistakes if you don’t learn anything; everything else is a growth opportunity. We all look funny and wrinkled when we get old anyways. It’s better to be a funny old person laughing about crazy stories than lying in bed wishing you did more when you no longer can. It’s fine not to know what you want to do for a career or in life, most people don’t, just take it one day at a time.”

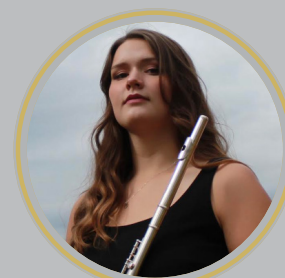


David Rosengrant is now a Campus Dean of Education, along with a Professor of STEM Education at the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg, since his graduation from WWHS in 1994. In order to earn these positions, he completed his Bachelor’s degree in Astro-Physics, along with his Masters of Arts and Teaching from the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to these degrees, he became certified to teach high school Physics along with Earth and Space Science in Bucks County, then moving on to get an Educational Doctorate in Science Education, where his research focus was in Physics Education and Educational Technologies. He shares that, “I love my career because I feel I am truly able to make a difference in education today and how we are able to teach today’s generation of students.”

As he thinks back to his own high school days, he shares, “Mrs. Stoner was always one of my favorite teachers. . .” along with Mr. Rekhap and Mr. Matoushek, among others. He notes that helping put on the school production of *Oklahoma* was another extremely memorable experience for him.

David wants all students at Western Wayne today to take note of all of the successful alumni of our school. He says, “The foundation is there for you to do great things if you want to do them. I will always have my country roots, but there is an entire world out there in which you can make an impact—which is funny because I am currently typing this from Australia!”

Have a Department Spotlight alumni suggestion?
Please email our Editorial Director, Elizabeth, at 23512@wwsd.io



Music teacher and 2017 graduate, Ellie Motichka has continued her passion for music at Fairview School District. She is a second year teacher who has the distinction of teaching simultaneously in two different states: grades 5-8 band at East Fairview Elementary in North Dakota, as well as grades 5-12 band and grades 6-12 Choir at Fairview School District in Montana. But, before her teaching career began, she studied Music Education at Mansfield University and earned a Bachelor's Degree. Through college, she grew to love and further appreciate choir, as she was only previously familiar with being a "band kid." When asked about what she loves about her job, Ellie responded that she loves helping students succeed, regardless of who they are or what their capabilities are. She also said, "Music

presents so many opportunities to meet new people, travel many places, and learn new things. I enjoy providing students with performance opportunities outside of school so that they can experience the same things I did when I was in school. I made so many good memories in my career as a music student, and it makes me happy to see other people forming those same memories whether they become professional musicians or not."

When Ellie reflects back on her time at Western Wayne, she fondly remembers her participation in the PA All-State Band during her junior year. She happily recalled how that experience gave her a sense of accomplishment, along with the delightful music that she got to encounter. As for her favorite teacher, Ellie says that Mrs. Ort was hands-down her favorite, especially considering the idea that music teachers have a very difficult job in the first place. She says, "Mrs. Ort handled so many situations with grace and displayed great leadership. ...she treated me with kindness and gave me many opportunities to grow into a better person and musician. She provided a safe space for me in the band room to practice, cry, be excited, get frustrated—just all of the above. She was the best teacher I could have asked for."

For all the musical students at Western Wayne today, she advises to never stop practicing music—whether that be playing an instrument or singing. She says, "Music is such a unique activity/art form because you can play and sing your entire life. You don't have to be a professional musician to enjoy doing it either. It's good for the soul!"

Rachel Curtis, who graduated back in 2006, is currently living in California. After studying at Wilkes University and receiving her Bachelor's degree in Biology, she attended Texas A&M University for her PhD, where she studied vector-borne infectious disease ecology and epidemiology for graduate work. She now works as a science outreach educator and public relations coordinator for a mosquito control district in California.

Rachel recalls having many favorite teachers at her alma mater, such as "...the science teachers...especially Mrs. Ebert," along with Mrs. Tylutki, Ms. Wayman, Mrs. Racht, and Mr. Stedenfeld. She shares, "I have a lot of very great memories from being in a band with lots of other 'band geeks,' and I really appreciate that experience of a big group of people working together and making some great music!" She also highlighted that she participated in extracurricular activities like PJAS, FBLA, and Envirothon—among other activities.

Today, Rachel encourages all students at Western Wayne to try new things and not focus on having an exact plan or path of what life should be like. She wants to tell the Wildcats today, "There are going to be lots of unexpected things, and being flexible and open will create lots of opportunities! Try lots of new things because you never know what kind of background or skills might make you the perfect candidate for a job or experience or making a new friend or traveling somewhere neat."



Lisa Dowse, who graduated from the Class of 1987, has been working at the Honesdale National Bank for nearly twenty-two years. To attain this position, she attended many banking courses and worked her way up from a teller to her current role as the Vice President, Human Resource Officer.

When asked what she loves most about her job, she responded, "I enjoy working for a community bank and love helping people." As for her high school days, she distinctly remembers her art teacher, Ms. Liporillo, as her favorite teacher.



THE ARCHIVES: STAR ATHLETES

BASKETBALL 1000 POINT CLUB



David Andreychik	Dec. 12, 1978
Vince Gesiskie	Feb. 12, 1980
Len Yzenas	Jan. 7, 1985
Amy Keen	Jan. 23, 1986
Jeff Shaffer	Feb. 17, 1987
Tiffany Shaffer	Feb. 2, 1989
Jenny Ambrose	Feb. 27, 1991
Stacy Gibbs	Dec. 16, 1991
Rachelle Racht	Dec. 28, 1991
Steve Verton	Feb. 26, 1993
Kari Gibbs	Jan. 7, 1995
Kevin Kromko	Jan. 17, 1998
Justin Collins	Feb. 9, 1999
Charlcie Brink	Jan. 29, 2010
Rebecca Carmody	Jan. 31, 2015
Rachel Carmody	Feb. 5, 2015
Dahlton Frisbie	Jan. 18, 2019
Zach Rovinsky	Feb. 8, 2019
Kaeli Romanowski	Mar. 2, 2021

Kaeli Romanowski (pictured below) is a 2022 graduate of WWHS. Throughout her basketball career, she was a four-time Lackawanna League First Team All Star, three-time Division 2 Player of the Year, two-time Honesdale Area Jaycee Tournament MVP, three-time WW Athlete of the Year, as well as a recipient of the 2022 District 2 PIAA Scholar Athlete Award. Kaeli helped her team clinch two Lackawanna League Division 2 and three Honesdale Area Jaycee Tournament Championships, while appearing in two District 2 AAA Championships, and making a run in the state tournament for the first time since 1993. During her senior year, she became the girls all-time leading scorer, setting a mark of 1569 points, while earning second-team all-state honors. Kaeli is currently pursuing a degree in Finance and continuing her basketball career at Elizabethtown College. Kaeli was a three-sport Western Wayne athlete that also earned All-Star and Player of the Year honors for her play on the volleyball and softball teams.



Zach Rovinsky (pictured on the right) is a 2020 graduate of WWHS. During his time playing basketball, he broke the all-time scoring record, setting a mark of 1637 points, as well as being a second-team all-state selection his senior year. He was also a part of the program's first district tournament win and state tournament appearance in 26 years. Zach is currently working towards a degree in accounting and education and coaches 8th grade basketball at Pittston Area.



Photos courtesy of Emily Romanowski & Zach Rovinsky

WRESTLING 100 WINS CLUB

NAME	WINS	YEAR
Cole Fuller	140*	2018
Mark Turner	126	2008
Morgan Fuller	119	2014
Danny Vogel	116	2006
Casey Fuller	109	2011
Tim Simansky	105	2001
Braden McIntosh	103	2018
Matt Leslie	101	2021

*110 career points

Cole Fuller (on right) is a 2018 graduate and holds the WWHS record for most wins. In the photo below, Cole is with his brothers on the day he won districts. All four brothers are WW wrestling district champions. Cole graduated from Edinboro University last May. Having spent all 4 years in ROTC, he commissioned as a 2nd LT in the Army and is joining the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum in February.

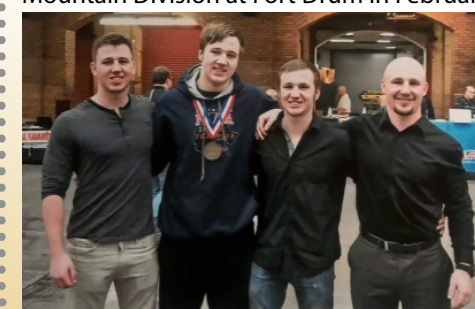
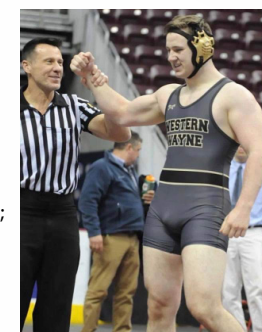


Photo on left: Beau, Class of 2013; Cole, Class of 2018; Morgan, Class of 2014; & Casey, Class of 2011 at districts. Photos courtesy of Jerry Fuller



THE ARCHIVES: CLUBS, SPORTS, & ACTIVITIES

Here, we take a fifty-year look at some of the various clubs, sports, and activities WWHS offered, many of which still exist today. Learning takes place beyond text books, and the time the bell rings from one class to the next.

1973 Photography Club



Kneeling: Cathy Oldenborg, Terri Van Orden, Carol Romanski, & Debbie Brown. Standing: Frank Pierson, Dale Butler, Jim Gershey, Mr. Myroniuk, Martha Pron, Rose Nolan, Kurt Reed, Cindy Krombel, Cindy Liptak, & Louise Merring

1975 Future Farmers of America



Sitting: Barry Krauder, Raymond Lascowski, Randy Howell, Albert Johnson, Joseph Johanes, James Yatsonsky, & Joseph Hefty. Row 2: Mr. Harteis, Keith McCurdy, Carolyn Miller, Beth Swingle, Kathy Palko, Cindy Lamberton, James Poltanis, Robert Lilly, & Jerry Van Leuven. Row 3: John Yedinak, Steve Kromko, Lee Gilby, Lynn Gilby, John Brunk, Lester Hazen, Joseph Brunk, Michael Cavage, William Ovens, & Joseph Poltanis. Row 4: David Wells, Robert Warnock, William Brill, Richard Gadowski, Richard Hemmler, Verdon White, James Smith, & Jerry Arnoldini

1974 Library Club

Standing: Carmen Lorenzo, Diane Ball, Jeanette Batzel, Peter Howe, Debbie Hollister, Debbie Loyak, LuAnn Madden, Barb McCane, Ann Atkinson, Betty Buehring, Sherry Tuthill, Martha Pron, Janet Howe, Louise Bennett, JoAnn Spudino, & Sue Bortree. Sitting: Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Howe, & Pat Lewis



1976 Thespian Society



Sitting: Pam Ostroll, Ed Zawislak, Tim Bell, Lorna Lamberton, & Ellen Willis. Standing: Mike Contorno, Kim Mader, Pat Buttros, Mark Cirelly, & Richard Seeley

1977 Audio Visual Club



Mike Marhevka, Frank Heraghty, Dean Costantino, Tim Gillow, & Mr. Shaffer

1978 Model & Rocket Club



Row 1: Tom Tyler, Doug Moyle, Steve Peterson, Richard Terrel, & Frank Lopatofsky. Row 2: Dan Stevens, Lonnie Thorpe, Leon Boots, David Roberts, & Jimmy Utegg. Row 3: Lee Cox, John Kielar, Gerald Langendoerfer, Conrad Blasko, & Kevin Bonham. Row 4: Mr. Phillips, Joe Mican, Ronnie Stevens, Scott Wilson, Eugene Hetticher, & Tom Hughes.

1979 Ski Club



Row 1: Lori Hanna, Rose Tysiak, Doris Fox, Kathy Johannes, Penny Boshinski, Jakie Stone, & Pearl Haines. Row 2: Lou Rapinesi, Ken Rosetti, Brian Bell, Kim Zawislak, Agnes Walton, Alan Gillette, Tom Tyler, & Tim Clauss. Row 3: Carole Pozza, Karen Metzgar, Sue Walton, Bob Clauss, & George Newenhouse.

1980 Gymnastics



Row 1: Denise Clemmer, Barb Mele, Kelly Franc, Grace Gevaras, & Rose Devlin. Row 2: Miss Seamon. Row 3: Elaine Bianchi, Annette Alverio, & Jeff Edwards. Row 4: Nancy Salak, Eleanore Shoemaker, Lisa Brill, & Dona Simons. Outer Pyramid: Mary Ellen Durkin, April McCaffrey, Susy Casper, Donna Farling, & Tessa Bagdonas.

1981 Future Homemakers of America



Row 1: Debbi Lamberton, Bonnie Faller, Cindy Merring, Diane, Giacobbe. Row 2: Brenda Reilly, Tian Merring, & Jill Wittenbrader. Row 3: Mrs. Chapman, Rose Robinson, Nancy Lamberton, & Audra Covey

1982 Graphics



Mike Tammara, John VanLeuven, Joel Elsworth, Jimmy Bayly, Peter Fox, & Alan Stalker



1983 Student Government

Seated: Vice President Audra Covey, President Karen Bonham, Secretary Lori O'Neill, & Treasurer Jill Wittenbrader. Standing: Adrea Karnick, Robbie Grimm, Kim Turoski, Keith Meritt, Debbie Donlick, Debbie Booths, Advisor Carl Peet, Dave Donlick, Tanya Holmes, Tammy Rhodes, Sue Boroski, & Karen O'Neill

1984 Basketball

Kneeling: Chris DeTone, Scott Podunajec, Jim Mellon, Dan Hinline, Lenny Yzenas, Arnie Berger, Jeff Shaffer, & Jim Getz. Standing: Coach Mike Ognosky, Keith Field, Steve Wayman, Jeff Pavolich, Mike Birmelin, Bob Kromko, Mark Salak, & Carl Rose



1985 American Industrial Arts Student Association

1986 Wrestling



Kneeling: Mark Cost, Steve Cost, Ron Miller, Jesse Sporer, Dominic Juice, Jim Bridges, & Troy Antoine. Standing: Donna Seeley, Michele Jarrow, Kevin Dennis, Will Gallagher, Todd Swoyer, Jerry Fuller, Jay Starens, Coaches David Zeiler & Tim Bianchi. Not pictured: Mike Curtis

1987 Field Hockey



Row 1: T. Kromko, A. Angelillo, S. Yarborough, & B. Warnock. Row 2: M. Merring, K. Zawisky, H. Dowse, T. Zintel, M. Enslin, L. Carrelle, & Mrs. Scalzo. Row 3: K. Miller, A. Warnock, K. Kashuba, L. Enclin, S. Eldred, D. Theobald, & R. Burns. Row 4: W. Bennett, R. Giacobbe, G. Barillo, J. Crock, & R. Miller.



1988 Tennis

Kneeling: L. Ream & N. Hinton. Standing: C. Snuggs, N. Enslin, K. Killiny, D. Knickerbocker, & T. Shaffer.



1989 Nature Study

S. Murphy, G. Malakin, S. Kovaleski, T. Roche, G. Hile, J. Starnes, T. Wolfe, & Mr. Klebauskas

1990 Woodworking



Row 1: B. Zintel, T. White, M. Enslin, S. Rushik
On Stairs: R. Kotchessa, N. Hazen, & J. Dec

1992 Ballroom Dancing



Back Row: Mariene Tarbrake, Beth McElroy, Melissa Camacho, Heather Scofield, & Gina Valente. Row 2: Michelle Hunter, Bobbi Jo Bronson, Amy Weins, Bernadette Francowsky, & Traci Breidenstein. Row 3: Jessica Hall, Jonathan Rushik, Caroline O'Donnell, Scott Morris, & Doris Dany. Row 4: Brandi Hill, Chris Brown, Cathy Williams, Liz Baker, & Chris Sledzinski

1991 Chess Club



Row 1: J. Lewis, B. Sheard, & W. Kay. Row 2: J. Cook, M. Kann, J. Hapersburger, M. Allardyce, Row 3: J. Miller, K. Hodorawis, J. Poncavage, C. Kulik, P. Ursich, Brooks, N. Hazen, & Mr. Rebar



1993 Leadership Club

Bottom Row: Heather Kovaleski, Amanda Kimble, Dave Ract, Megan Lewis, Beth Grandinetti, & Doris O'Donnell. Row 2: Katie Murphy, Emily Podunejec, Samantha Dennis, Jamie Howell, Jennifer Phillips, Mandy Edwards, Kari Gibbs, Maureen Kingsley, & Jill Bell. Row 3: Josh Cook, Melissa Vreeland, Shannon Shephard, Audrea Justice, Kelly Eck, Jenny Mannick, Jessica Keen, Kristen Rooney, & Shanon Mihalek. Row 5: Steve Zuber, John Lambertson, Bob Urban, Rob Ace, & Natalie Schmitt. Row 6: Doug Buchinski, Brian White, Errol Mannick, Josh La Falce, Jay Yander, Kevin Shaffer, & George Waters.

1994 Aerobics Club



M. Ernst, M. DeRosa, K. Ernst, R. Mitchell, T. Corazzi, B. Phillips, & Mrs. Urbas

1995 Stage Crew



Back Row: Andy Heuberger, Scott Palko, Ryan Wiktor, Robert Lockwood, Cathy Beuhring, Tara Wilmont, & Anthony Simone. Front Row: Dale Thomas, Jackie Poggi, Annette Du Plessis, Heather Sickler, & Charlie Stout

1996 Varsity Football



Back Row: Dale Thomas, Len Wargo, Mike Verton, Dominic Dellomo, Jason Pfister, Dennis Smeding, Dave Watson, Bryan Kromko, & Tracy Hollister. Row 2: Coach Romich, Kris Rech, Don Nelson, Matt Bush, Matt Pruss, Joe Stiles, Brent Bunting, Clint Konzman, Ian Prussia, Heidi Backo, & Coach Keller. Row 3: Coach Kent, Jason Purvis, Bill Guarino, Damon Verton, Dave Elias, Rich Bergsma, Steve Swencki, Coach Baker (absent: Joe Marinoi)



1997 Baseball

Kneeling: Matt Lemmons, Bobby Intocchia, Marty Simmion, Ryan Federico, Len Wargo, Jason Rosengrant, Matt Merring, Tim Opalka, Jeremy Snyder, & John Boandl. Standing: Kevin Considine, Dennis Smeding, Greg Martin, Mark Bell, Nick Pohle, Don Nelson, Wally Kulick, Rob Vonderhey, & Sherman Snyder

1998 Boys Volleyball



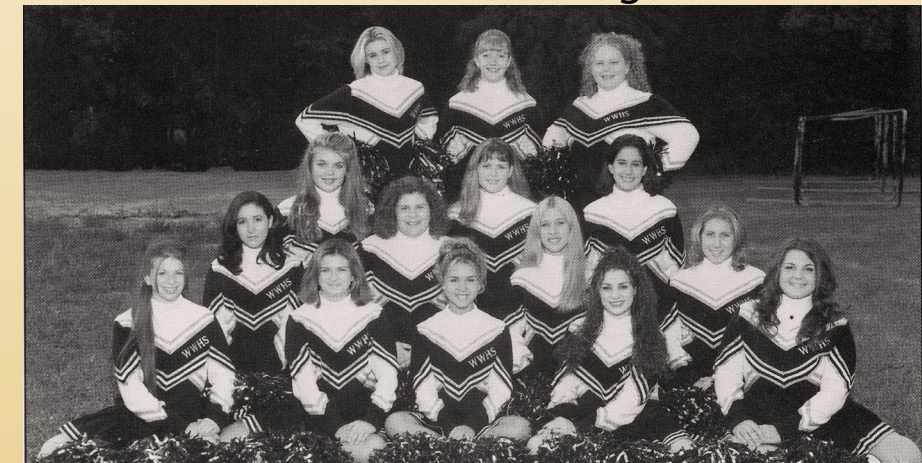
Kneeling: Jessie Lambertson, Joe Henshaw, Nick Robinson, & Ryan Bartle. Standing: Coach Box, Efran Pezez, Dave Hopkins, Scott Duplessis, Matt Shaffer, Bryan Greenwood, & Justin Robinson

1999 Softball



Kneeling: Amanda Boardl, Dawnelle Nelson, & Stacey Cummings. Row 2: Casey Kelleher, Shannon McGowan, Kelly Hopkins, & Phaedra Hall. Row 3: Coach Totsky, Shayla Gouger, Jessica Devine, Starlah Hall, Yesenia Gonzalez, Rachel Sledzinski, Katie Ravnikar, Ellen Salak, & Coach Munley

2000 Cheerleading



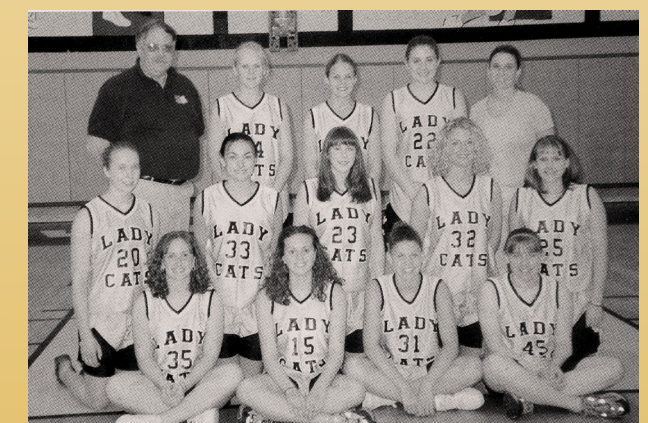
Sitting: Mary Kay Rurton, Ashley Banich, Sara Lemmons, Missy Mecca, & Bonnie Kulick. Row 2: Mallory Laboy, Jenni Hollister, Arlena Harrison, & Michelle Matthews. Row 3: Charity Garret, Jennie Shea, & Elyssa Chakiris. Row 4: Stacey Toy, Katie Muha, Geri Savage (absent: Stacy Ehrgood)

2001 Girls Track & Field



Kneeling: Laura Vonderhey, Jamie Polley, Sarah Eichner, Heather Yedinak, Lynne Reynolds, Ashley Falonk, & Kim Sheehan. Row 2: Coach Sullivan, Jessie Tasselmyer, Danielle Permuto, Reba Ronk, Erin Opalka, Ashley McArthur, Amanda Vogel, Tomlynn Fallon, Charity Garrett, Deanna Fahrenbach, Jennifer Hollister, & Melissa Walsh. Row 3: Head Coach Chapla, Tiffany Matthews, Liz Opalka, Grace Clauss, Erin Waters, Meaghan Robbins, Erin Davis, Coach Macdonough, Coach Tomassoni. (absent: Ann Laudig, Marquita Moore, Allsion Parzych, Lindsey Hoban, & Coach Toy)

2002 Girls Basketball



Sitting: Katie McConville, Jordan Covey, Kellyn Kolan, & Wendy Hollendonner. Row 2: Liz Opalka, Erin Waters, Carrie Robinson, Lauren Lubinski, Kasey Phillips. Row 3: Coach Hollendonner, Casey Kelleher, Ann Laudig, Natasha Freethy, & Coach Gibbs



2003 Marching Band & Color Guard

Left: Band Front Director
Mr. Stedenfeld
Middle: Drum Major
Cory Neville
Right: Assistant Band Director
Mr. Lopatofsky

2005 National Honor Society - Third Year Members

2004 Spanish Club



Larry Shaffer, Grace Reifler, Leigh Ann Stout,
Lydia Bagdonas, Amelia Shuey, & Sara Sledzinski



Standing: Mike Lamberton, Jennifer Lewis, Brent Hoban, Shawn Haggerty, Kevin
Dustin, Kellyn Nolan, Kayla Christopher, Wendy Hollendonner, Erica Batzel, Laura
Opalka, Jordan Osecki, & Justin Hayden. Kneeling: Jordan Covey, Natasha Freethy,
Megan Laskowski, & Grace Reifler

2006 Golf



Standing: Kevin Reimer, Marty O'Hora, Scott Kromko, Stephen Kahn,
Carlyle Merring, Steve Piotrowski, & Coach Weinberger. Kneeling: Braden
Zieler, Seven Devine, Michael Callahan, Dan Vogel, Jeff Weinberger,
William Carlo, & Thomas Labutis

2007 Mock Trial



Standing: Esther Michel, Amber Curtis, Emily Butler, Kelly Usenko,
& Ms. Wayman. Front: Ryan Souls & Jimmy Kroll

2008 Esquestrain Club



Back Row: Kristin Krayer, unknown, Christina Devine, &
Courtney Rivera. Middle: Essalee Robinson, Shanna Legner, &
Elizabeth Clarkson. Front: Kristi Farinelli & Stephanie Greaney

2010 Multi-Cultural Club



Aubrey Heaslet, Ashley Taggart, Mike Richards, Kristianna Altemier, Ms. Beers,
Rachel Bartron, Caleb Wagner, Kristina Orcinoli, Makayla Beavers

2009 Fencing Club



Ashley Lindow, Stephanie Costanzo, Richard Wheeler, Alisha Burns,
Stephen Trygar, Christian Lindow, James Linklepaugh, & Mr. Stedenfeld

2011 Planet Wildcat Newspaper



Seated: Ashley Padula & Maria Ingaglio. Standing: Katie DeVito, Sam Burge,
Lauren Clark, Christina Gabrielle, Carole Rosenbergen, & Shaun Howard

2012 Ultimate Frisbee



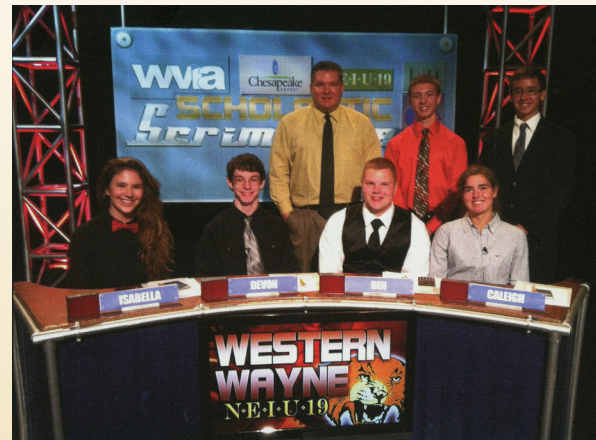
Kneeling: Sarah Hampton, Rachel Yamikosky,
Taylor McDevitt, Tyler Cohawitz, Sam Parr, &
Kristi Altmier. Row 2: Paula Grado, Tarina Usher,
Malcolm Satchell, Saphire Butler, Tyler Gale,
Tyler Butler, Rose McDevitt, Anthony Tomasetti,
Chris Tomasetti, Ronnie Mrshich, Wyatt Bishop,
Alex Tufano, Angel Cortez, Joe Chapman. Row 3:
Coach Zoppi, Ryan Johnson, Brandon Matthews,
Dakota Dilatosh, Ryan Lamberton, Adrianna
Stares, Rachel Hartnett, Sam Syrylo, Megan
Dzikowicz, Doug Jordan, & Kyle Hardy

2013 Robotics Club



Back Row: Mr. Farley, Jacob Klemovitch, Ferdando Marques, Matt Poska, & Mr. Landry.
Front Row: Doug Yatsonsny, Justin Black, Ed Harsch, & Mr. O'Hora

2014 Scholastic Team



Standing: Mr. Onder, Sam Hoch, & William Rennekamp. Seated: Isabella Esposito, Devon Williams, Ben Dyer, & Caleigh Wildenstein

2015 NAHS (National Art Honor Society)



Kneeling: Mallory DePew, Westen Johnson, Cheyenne Mikes, Alaina Legner, Crystal Marks, Zack Hall, & Cossette Orehek. Row 2: Mr. Hayden, Katie Kelch, Kayla Rosengrant, Makayla Stone, Molly Boyko, Faith Cavage, Courtney Kizer, Tylea Alpaugh, & Ms. Flynn. Row 3: Skylar Booths, Gwen Mills, Ally Mosomillo, Anastasia Maximov, Molly Langendoerfer, Cheyenne King, Naomi Smith, Bethany DeGroat, & Kaitlyn DeBeras. Row 4: Lilly Millon, Morgan Amorine, Laura Kern, Sarah Gardner, & Olivia Troiano

2016 PJAS (Penna. Junior Academy of Science)



Seated: Jillian Weston, Paige Barillo, Maya Black, & Mallory Jablon.
Standing: Elise Rush, Emily Christina, Amanda Herold, Alaina Legner, Caitlin Falloon, & Jack VanHorn

2017 SADD (Student Against Destructive Decisions)



Seated: Matthew Trygar, Amanda Herold, Theresa Hutchins, Skye Smith, & Parker Coons. Kneeling: Andrew Harsche, Jessica Berger, Mallory Jablon, Morgan Amorine, Kallie Jones, Mariah Lombardi, Emily Christina, & Paige Barillo. Standing: Korianna Burgerhoff, Caitlin Falloon, Mason Coccodrili, Chase Maisonavave, Caitlin Bagnick, Ashley Kline, Lauren Courtright, JeAnna Pavlovich, Cameron Kilgallon, Ryan Vonderhey, & Laura Booths

2018 Boys Soccer



Front Row: David Tucker, Alex Featherman, Austin Kidder, Adam Bond, Leonard Johnson, Alex Amorine, Michael Mirailh-Devore, Cameron Johnson, Carter Davis, Conner Laity, & Nicholas Curtis. Standing: Coach Moro, Daniel Peral, Lucas Scott, Thomas Motichka, Trey Wayman, Alex Curtis, Gary Geinitz, Ryan Vonderhey, Brendan Fitzsimmons, Steven Ochar, Jake Ortola, Matt Leslie, Jamie Ashby, & Coach Fitzsimmons

2020 Girls Volleyball



Kneeling: Keirsten Sopinski, Trina Barcarola, Kaeli Romanowski, Emilie McAllister, Gabrielle Ostolaza, & Trinity Foulds. Standing: Sylar Long, Sydney Krompasky, Katherine Shepherd, Sabrina Swoyer, Rebecca Klemovitch, Jada Siino, Leah Kellogg, Allsion McCarthy, & Rachel Hoch

2022 Hot Rod Club



Kneeling: Jared Goldman, Colton Geary, & Nicholas Pane. Standing: Zach Kizer, Owen Kotchessa, Weston Nugent, Dawson Wargo, & Hayden Romanaskas

Additional Active Clubs at WW:

- Drama Club
- Envirothon
- Literary Magazine
- Local History Club
- Political Science
- Science Olympiad
- Technology Student Association (TSA)
- Yearbook

2019 FCCLA (Family, Career & Community Leaders of America)



Kneeling: Leticia Matias, Victoria Kroll, Maggie Millon, Anya Rusnak, Jorge Correa, & Cori Talarico. Standing: Rachel Wertman, Abryel Johnson, Lacey Falloon, Crystal Moorthy, Alyssa Iovacchini, Sadie Nahman, Sinaea Buford, Madison Irish, Keyly-Shaye Robinson

2021 FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Juniors & Seniors



Front Row: Lena Piccolino, Gabrielle Tetreault, Caleb Hoch, & Caden Slifko. Row 2: Sarah Collins, Morgan Heenan, Rylee Sheehan, & Rachel Tuman. Row 3: Hannah Elbert, Cassidy Asinski, Alexandra Butler, Haley Estus, Lacey Falloon, Kaeli Romanowski, & Jamie Bryan. Row 4: Rachel Hoch, Sydney Hutchinson, Julia Lambertson, Ashton Fitzsimmons, Alex Iovacchini, & Kelton Slifko. Back Row: Allsion McCarthy, Alexander Hinelene, Brett Schane, Matthew Henneforth, Thomas Chernaksky, & Caleb Brungard

TEACHER TALK: ALWAYS A WILDCAT

WWHS alumni teachers talk about their alma mater as they reflect back on their high school career as a wildcat.

Interviews by Elizabeth Wasyluk



Photography by Gavin Toy



Design by Justin Hayden

Ms. Sandy Summers is not only an English teacher here at Western Wayne, but she is also a member of the 1995 graduating class. She has been teaching for a total of twenty-two years, of which sixteen years have been at Western Wayne. She has co-chaired the English Department for the past four years, co-advised the Literary Magazine for the past three years, and has hosted after-school writing workshops.

When Ms. Summers reflects on her own days as a student Wildcat, she fondly remembers her own English teacher, Mrs. Tyluki. She recalls how Mrs. Tyluki was so passionate about teaching, along with how knowledgeable she was about literature, writing, and even grammar. She shares, "She was very inspiring when I was a student and equally inspiring when I worked with her as a colleague."

Ms. Summers has always wanted to become a teacher. She recalls, "I knew since the age of five that I wanted to be a teacher. I have a younger sister and brother, and when we would play school as children, I was always the teacher."

Her return to Western Wayne as a teacher was, as she recalls, "a little strange". On this, she says, "In the beginning of my career, I did not want to teach in the district I graduated from, but I eventually changed my mind and wanted my children to be educated at Western Wayne. We have the best education in the area." She adds that when she did return, it was really difficult to call her former teachers by their first names.

Now, Ms. Summer's favorite aspect of her job is spending time with students, staff, and the various community members. She says, "I have taught at three other school districts before applying at Western Wayne and this is the place that feels like home."



2000 graduate, Mr. Tim McClure is one of Western Wayne's current history teachers. Throughout his years as a teacher, he has been an active member in coaching youth sports, such as biddy basketball and little league baseball. Mr. McClure loves not only getting to work alongside his wife, but also interacting with students and "being a part of the community we call home." He adds, "I am thankful for the great group of friends and colleagues I have here at Western Wayne. It's invaluable to have a reliable group of people with similar experiences who you can commiserate and celebrate with." He remembers his own time as a student in this school fondly. He shares, "I look back on all the time spent with many different friends, some of whom I work with here today. Though, as time goes by, it has become more and more difficult to get people together."

Returning to Western Wayne as a teacher was a very fulfilling experience for Mr. McClure. He remembers his inspiration for becoming a teacher, recalling, "One particular college history professor wrote, 'Ever think of teaching?' on one of my essays. It was absolutely not my first thought, but I respected that professor so his comment stayed with me." He adds that after he graduated from college and went on to work in the science field, he "did not enjoy the work life balance and distance from home." This led him to circle back to his professor's comment about being a teacher, along with the "people in my life who enjoyed teaching—my wife, sister, sister in law, and mother in law—and prompted me to make a change." When he changed his plans and became a teacher, his goal was to return to his alma mater to teach. He says, "Western Wayne is where I wanted to be. Teaching here was my goal, so realizing that goal was fulfilling, especially after all the sacrifices necessary to bring it to fruition."



Mrs. Kasey Phillips Gribble is a 2003 graduate and guidance counselor at Western Wayne. Mrs. Gribble's favorite part of her job is working with so many different students. When it comes to her own days in high school, she proudly remembers being involved in Student Council. She spent a lot of time with the Student Council advisor, Mr. Donald Shaffer. On this, she says, "I would come in early to meet with him to plan events and he would always bring me breakfast." Besides Mr. Shaffer, Ms. Masankay was another memorable teacher whom she had for Chemistry class. She shares, "She taught me so much then and still does!"



In her position today, Mrs. Gribble still remembers what inspired her to become a school counselor. During her undergraduate time at Penn State University, she participated in a school counseling internship, ultimately guiding her to become a guidance counselor. She maintains that this experience was very enjoyable and that afterwards she "...knew school counseling was the perfect fit for me. I love helping students, especially seniors with career plans." Upon her return as a school counselor, she experienced a bizarre feeling to work with teachers that she had as a student. She says, "It was definitely strange at first... but that was quickly pushed aside and everyone treated me as a professional."

Spanish teacher, Mrs. Sara Sledzinski Orloski, is a 2004 graduate of Western Wayne. In her many years as a teacher, she has been involved in Student Council for over a decade. Through this position, she has had the opportunity to create fun activities for students, including the Semi Formal, pep rallies, Spirit Week, and even Field Day. Along with this, she has been a Class Advisor through many rotations through 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students over the years. On this, she shares that she "...loves hosting prom and going on our class trips!" She has also worked collaboratively with Mrs. Sandrowicz, created the Spanish Club, and gave students the chance to learn more about the Spanish culture and language.

As for her experience as a teacher over the years, Mrs. Orloski shares that her favorite aspect is working with both the students and staff of the Western Wayne School District. She says, "Everybody is always so helpful, friendly and genuine. I am grateful to have so many wonderful colleagues who I also get to call friends. We are blessed to have a team of dedicated, knowledgeable professionals who are devoted to helping our students shine." When she thinks back on her own high school years, she recalls all of the wonderful memories and experiences she had. In all of her best memories, there is "one commonality: being involved!" She adds, "Spirit Games, sports, clubs, and dances all have their own place in my mind. If you aren't involved in something now, go for it! You'll be happy you had the experiences when you get to be my age!" Along with this, she remembers her favorite teachers to be her Spanish teachers, Señora Walsh and Señora Urban—now Senora Vitelli—who both had "all-in" teaching styles and personalities that "...made class so fun and memorable!" She notes, "I hope my students today feel the same way in my classroom as I did in theirs." She also shares that many of her enthusiastic teachers were her biggest inspiration to become a teacher herself, so that she could make learning fun for her students as her former teachers did for her.



When Mrs. Orloski returned to Western Wayne to teach, it was a strange, but delightful experience for her. She noted that the hardest and strangest part of the whole process was trying to transition to calling her former teachers by their first names. She shares, "I distinctly remember having Mr. Rebar tell me, 'Call me Jim!...' It took me YEARS to be able to start calling my old superiors by their first names, but some I will just never call by a first name! It just felt like I was being disrespectful to them and it was truly hard to break that mindset of student-teacher relationship. But the warm welcome that I received as they all invited me "into" the faculty was really nice and I try to welcome new faces with the same positivity." To this, she adds that although the transition back had its challenges, it was still enjoyable for her to return, as she was already familiar with both the building and a great deal of the staff. On this, she says, "I couldn't imagine teaching anywhere else and cheering for any other team. Once a Wildcat, always a Wildcat!"

Math teacher, Mr. Ted Macdonough, is a 1987 graduate of Western Wayne. After his years of teaching, he still loves the interactions he gets to have with his students. Despite many students' dislike of math, he says, "I enjoy goofing around a little and hopefully making math a little more bearable or making math easier for those students going off to college or trade school." Along with this, he is very proud to be a part of the staff that makes Western Wayne's education effective. He shares, "When I first started working here, our SAT and PSSA scores were not very good. We were in a position where we had to change things. So, we rewrote our curriculum and improved our teaching practices and changed this place into someplace that you could be proud to work at, especially knowing that the students were getting an excellent education here."

As for his own high school days, Mr. Macdonough recalls many quality teachers that he had: History teacher, Mr. Mike Ognosky, who "made it fun and interesting to be in his class" along with Biology teacher, Mr. Carl Rehkop, with whom he shared a "common interest in skiing. I still bump into him at Elk Mountain today." Mr. Pete Valtos was another teacher whom he befriended through "... our shared interest in construction..." despite not having him in class. He remembers his absolute favorite teacher to be Mrs. Cathy Decker—another History teacher who "... made class interesting and fun. She was very supportive of me, too."

Returning to teach was actually his first career choice, which he decided in his senior year of high school. One of his high school math teachers—Miss Barbara Coleman—was "... very supportive of this decision and encouraged that decision." When he entered his junior year of college, however, he felt as if it was not the right decision, but still continued on with his degree. Following his graduation, he worked as a substitute teacher while also building houses until he was hired full-time at Western Wayne in 1998. On returning to teach, he says, "I coached and supervised the weight room here while in college then I came back and substituted on and off until I was hired, so it was like I never left. When I was in high school here, Western Wayne did not have a reputation for a quality education, things were very laid back. So to be a part of the extreme changes that made Western Wayne a great school makes me very proud to be a teacher here."



Mrs. Lori Roberts Lucchesi is a 1984 graduate and current teacher for the Family Development, Child Development, Early Childhood Education, and Career & Consumer Skills classes here at Western Wayne. Mrs. Lucchesi's favorite part of her job is working with both her students and colleagues. Mrs. Lucchesi adds that she also enjoys the classes she teaches, despite how busy they may make her. She shares, "I love the content areas that I teach which are very applicable to "real life" and practical subject matter that students will encounter as they grow into adulthood. We live in a world in which the rapid change of technology, products, and ideas create a plethora of learning opportunities for my students, but makes me a lifelong learner too!"

When asked what inspired her to become a teacher, Mrs. Lucchesi said that she felt that "... there is nothing more exciting than imparting knowledge to receptive students or seeing the sense of pride and purpose on their faces when they complete a challenging project, master content, or create something original." She adds that her return in 1999 to her alma mater not only as a teacher, but also as a twenty-six year old who was expecting her daughter, was "a little awkward" due to the fact that many of her current colleagues were previously her teachers. Despite this, her previous teachers—such as Mrs. Paula Lambertson, Mrs. Nadia Walsh, Mr. Donald Shaffer, and Mrs. Marianne Morgan, to name a few, welcomed her "with open arms." Now, she highlights that she is currently working with some of her students, for example, Mr. Collins, Mr. Starnes, Mr. Olsommer, and even Principal Gregorski, and even members of the IT Department like Mr. Seaman, Mr. Sutton, and Mr. Robinson. On this, she says, "...things really have come full-circle for me ... Teaching is truly a noble profession and many people do not realize the countless hours required after 3 p.m. and during the summer months. I am very blessed to have had a long fulfilling career that I love."



1997 graduate, Mr. Brian Landry is one of the current shop teachers. Mr. Landry enjoys working here at Western Wayne because it allows him to "... be a part of something that helped me through life and be able to give that back and purpose to students I work with." He remembers his time in school, being taught by Mr. Peter Valtos, his favorite teacher. He fondly remembers Mr. Valtos being the "... moral compass I needed in my high school

years." He shares, "Funny story with him, anyone who had Mr. Valtos knows 'the talk.'" Not only was Mr. Valtos his favorite teacher, but he was also the inspiration behind Mr. Landry's current teaching position. Despite Mr. Landry's enrollment in Delayed Entry for the US Navy and being set to go to bootcamp just two days after his graduation, Mr. Valtos expressed that "... he felt I would make a great shop teacher." He adds that "... Mr. Valtos had a 'conversation' with me that would set my life's course after that. The US Navy recruiter was not thrilled to hear my change of plans, and here I am over two decades later at Western Wayne."



Returning to Western Wayne as a teacher was "an adjustment" for him. He remembers all of the different opportunities he had to teach in schools throughout Pennsylvania, but ultimately decided that "... Western Wayne's facilities involving the shop department were the best in the state, and I wanted to be part of the Western Wayne story." He shared that upon his return, he worked with many students that were not only family members, but also friends, but despite that adjustment "... it was a great experience."

2001 graduate, Ms. Dorisa Minor Ferraro, is one of Western Wayne's current art teachers. Ms. Ferraro loves "the family vibe at Western Wayne and knowing that I work with some of the best people." She remembers her time in school, especially her favorite pastime of "... spending my days in the art rooms creating art." As for her favorite teachers, she fondly remembers Mrs. Ostrowsky and Ms. Flynn, also Mrs. Karnick (Lucchesi), and Mrs. Lambertson.

Returning to Western Wayne as a teacher has been an "awesome" experience for her, too. She remembers the positive experiences from her own days of high school that inspired her to become a teacher and felt excited to "come back to teach in the classroom where I spent so much time as a student." She adds that she never believed she would return to NEPA, let alone Western Wayne to become a teacher. "I moved away, traveled, and came back because of the beautiful landscape, family bonds, and friends. I love calling Northeast Pennsylvania home and teaching at Western Wayne felt like a natural fit for me."



Mr. Patrick Farley is a 1999 graduate and current Industrial Arts teacher at Western Wayne. Mr. Farley's favorite part of his job is being a member of the Western Wayne School District community. He shares, "Many of the students I teach or interact with are the children of my friends and family. I also work with many of my friends that I attended high school with." When it comes to his own days in high school, he happily recalls many wonderful memories, especially those that happened in his auto shop class. On this, he says, "... some of the best times were working on and driving old cars in the auto shop with my buddies."



Now, Mr. Farley remembers when he first thought of becoming a teacher. He shares that his auto shop teacher, Mr. Murphy, mentioned that he should consider becoming a teacher. He adds, "I was also inspired by the teachers at Western Wayne who believed in me. I wanted to pay it forward." When he returned to Western Wayne as a teacher, he recalls having a great experience. He notes that most of the teachers that he had as a student were still teaching. "The teachers were all supportive and always helpful. Mr. R, who was my drafting and CAD teacher, still helps me on a regular basis."

UPCOMING EVENT: JOIN US!

Calling All Former Art Students!

In celebrating Western Wayne High School's 50th anniversary, the Art Department is excited to invite WWHS alumni to join us in exhibiting their artwork at our Annual Art Exhibit on Saturday, May 13, 2023, from 1-3 p.m. We welcome WWHS graduates to drop off one piece of artwork to the high school office by May 1, 2023. Your favorite piece may have been created while you were a student at WW or after graduation! Please include the following: Your name (first, maiden, last), your year of graduation from WWHS, artwork title, and medium. The entry form is included with this information for your convenience. Also, a cell phone number for contact purposes is required. Please have artwork matted and we prefer no framed pieces with glass.

If you have any questions, please contact Justin Hayden at jhayden2@westernwayne.org

100 YEARS AGO: 1923

CLASS POEM

The Seniors of Lake Vocational School
Are honored for their knowledge as a rule.
Although a small number is our sad reality,
We believe in improving our good quality;
And to set an example before our class mates
That will help them through many weary states;
That will encourage them in time of need,
To do their duty no matter how hard a deed.
The colors we have chosen we think just right,
For what could be better than royal blue and white;
For in royalty and truth do we all stand,
Each for the betterment of our native land.
The flower we have chosen is a white rose:
This stands for purity as every one knows.
Our motto is, "Not Evening but Dawn."
We realize we have life's battle to carry on,
And when this battle we have fought and won
We shall look back at L. V. S. as the place where we begun,
And thank the dear teachers for their care
In preparing us for those burdens to bear.

Gertrude Leshner.



GERTRUDE A. LESHER

Gertrude wrote this poem her senior year while at Lake Vocational School in Lake Ariel. Both, poem and photo, are from *The Reminder*—a book published in 1923 that looks back at the history of Lake High School and its years leading up to 1923.

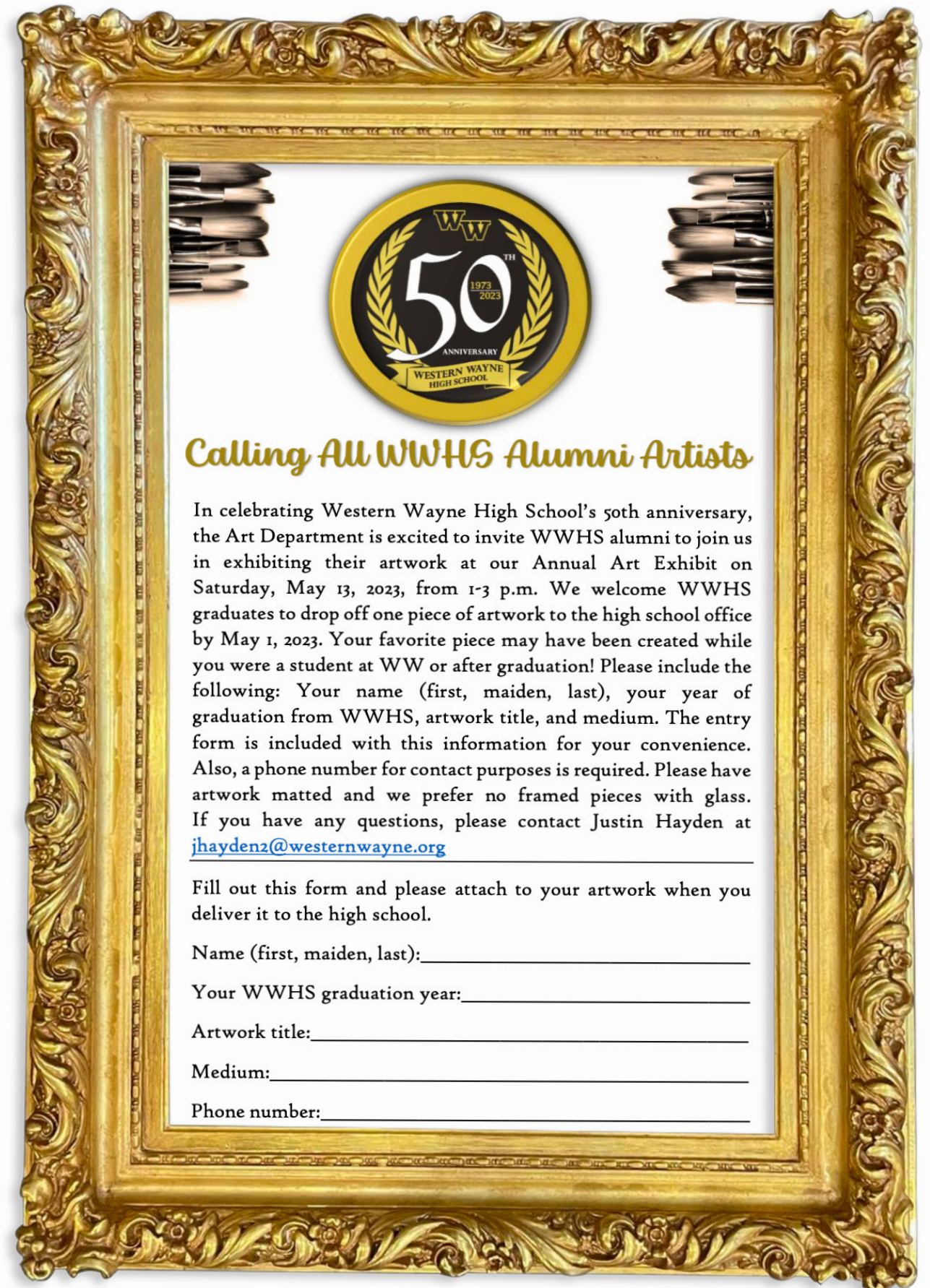
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Share your Alumni Reflections

Please email your favorite high school memory to be featured in our next issue. Please fill out this [Google Form](#) to participate.

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Fill out this form and please attach to your artwork when you deliver it to the high school.

Name (first, maiden, last): _____

Your WWHS graduation year: _____

Artwork title: _____

Medium: _____

Phone number: _____