



# Watchung Hills Regional High School District

## Newsletter

From the desk of the Superintendent

February 2020



Dear Watchung Hills Regional High School Community,

Five years ago, the Watchung Hills Regional High School District engaged in our first Strategic Planning process. After garnering feedback from our entire learning community on strengths and areas in need of focused attention for our district, a very comprehensive and robust plan resulted, centered upon the three overarching goals below:

- Create and expand programs and services that enhance the social and emotional wellness of all students within a compassionate learning community.
- Build and strengthen support structures that engage students in developing their individual potential, enable students to experience success in high school, and empower students to plan and prepare well for post-secondary learning.
- Integrate creative, innovative, and interdisciplinary learning throughout the district to empower and inspire students to succeed in a changing global community.

The actualization of these goals over the past five years has led to an expansion of supports and opportunities for ALL WHRHS students. Just a few illustrative examples include new course offerings such as robotics, music production, modern genetics, cybersecurity, a new music technology lab, homework free breaks, flex time built into our schedule, and the planned upgrade to our Media Center during summer 2020 to expand and redesign the existing space, incorporating areas for collaboration, independent study, large group instruction, experiential learning, and enhanced use of technology, including video production and virtual reality.

As we have reached Year 5 of our current plan, we are embarking on the planning phase of our next Strategic Plan. To assist us in this important process, we have retained the services of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA), a firm that specializes in facilitating strategic planning and community engagement. In the coming weeks, we will be sharing details on open forums which will provide an opportunity for parents, students, staff, and the community-at-large to share your thoughts about the strengths of our district, the challenges we are currently facing, what our longer term priorities should be, and what aspirations you have for our present and future graduates.

Your input is extremely valuable as we will use your feedback to develop our strategic goals and objectives which will set the course for the district for the next five years. I look forward to hearing your input and continuing to work together to make the Watchung Hills Regional High School District even better tomorrow than we are today!

Warm regards,

Elizabeth C. Jewett, Ph.D.  
Superintendent



## Fall Pep Rally

Seniors wearing white shirts, Juniors wearing blue, Sophomores wearing red and Freshmen wearing green gathered in the stands of Tozier Stadium on Friday afternoon, Sept. 13, at the annual Fall Pep Rally to cheer for the Fall athletic teams.

Later that night, under the lights at the same Tozier Stadium, the football team won its second victory of the season, defeating Plainfield High School, 35-12. The week before, on Friday, Sept. 6, the Warriors defeated North Hunterdon High School, 27-0, at Tozier Stadium. The next two games were away: At 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 20, at Linden High School, WHRHS defeated Linden, 23-21; and at Westfield High School, at 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28.

The annual "Homecoming" game followed versus Union High School, at 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 4, in Tozier Stadium.

Warrior Head Football Coach Rich Seubert, who was named The Lou Rettino High School Coach of the Week for Week 2 of the 2019 season by the New York Giants and Gatorade, and who played for 10 years for the New York Giants, including in the Giants' win in the 2007 Super Bowl, came out just before the Warrior football team charged onto the field at the Pep Rally, to lead "call-and-response" cheers.

First, Seubert shouted into the microphone, "Watchung!" so the students on Senior Class and Sophomore Class sections of the stands responded, "Hills!" Then he shouted, "Warriors!" so the students on the Junior Class and Freshman Class sections of the field responded, "Pride!"

Leading up to the football team's appearance at the Fall Pep Rally, a variety of the other teams, representing the numerous athletic teams, entertained the students in the stands.

Among those making appearances at the Pep Rally were:

Boys Cross Country and Girls Cross Country teams, whose runners circled the stadium together, running a lap on the track; The Boys Soccer and Girls Soccer teams, whose players demonstrated various passing, kicking and ball control skills;

Field Hockey, whose team members demonstrated their pinpoint passing and stick handling abilities; Ultimate Frisbee, whose never-stop-running boys and girls players covered the entire field, and some of the sidelines, sometimes right up to the stands, with deft Frisbee passing and spectacular catching; Tennis, whose players seized the opportunity to execute scores of soft lobs, sending tennis balls to the four corners of the stands, and to the many outstretched hands in-between, all to the delight of the students; and Gymnastics, whose competitors demonstrated their sport's array of athletic skills like cartwheels, somersaults, spins and gravity-defying leaps.

Also represented on the field were the various elements of the Music Department's WHRHS Marching Warriors and Flag Squad. To open the Pep Rally, the Marching Band performed one of its signature pieces that audiences had heard and will hear as part of halftime performances at the 2019-2020 Warrior Football Games. The Warrior Marching Band is under the direction of Instrumental Music Teacher Paul McCullen, with assistance by Music Tech Lab Music Teacher Christopher Wyatt.

The Halftime Show is titled, "Jump, Jive, and Wail," featuring the songs: "Caravan," (1936), by Juan Tizol and Jazz legend Duke Ellington; "What a Wonderful World," (1967), first recorded by Jazz legend Louis Armstrong; and "Birdland," (1977), recorded by Jazz legend Maynard Ferguson in 1978 and in 1981, and by The Manhattan Transfer in 1979, among others.

Likewise, the WHRHS Cheerleaders demonstrated their various dances, formations, lifts, trust falls and cheers that are ever-present at so many WHRHS athletic and school-spirit events.

Acting as public address announcers at the Pep Rally was All School Council (ASC) Vice President Scott Romankow and ASC Parliamentarian Jed Ober in the Press Box.

The annual Pep Rally was organized by the All School Council to honor all Fall Varsity Athletes. All School Council Advisor and





## Fall Pep Rally (Cont'd)

Head Varsity Field Hockey Coach is Maureen Kelly of the Special Services Department. She is also Co-Advisor for the INTERACT Community Service activity.

The full complement of Warrior athletic teams include:

Fall: Cheerleading, Boys Cross Country and Girls Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Gymnastics, Boys Soccer – Boy and Girls Soccer, Girls Tennis, and Girls Volleyball;

Winter: Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball, Bowling, Cheerleading Programs, Fencing, Ice Hockey, Swimming, Indoor Track and Wrestling; and

Spring: Baseball, Softball, Boys Golf and Girls Golf, Boys Lacrosse and Girls Lacrosse, Boys Tennis, Track & Field, Ultimate Frisbee, and Boys Volleyball.

Likewise, there are scores of Co-Curricular activities available for student participation. Many of them are still being formed for this school year, but among the ones that have been organized and active in recent years have been:

Academic: Academic Team, Chemistry Olympiad, History Bowl Team, Math League, Robotics Team, Science Bowl Club, and Science League;

Honor Societies: National Art Honor Society, National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Waksman Molecular Biology;

Academic - Diversified Interest: Arrowhead Newspaper, Astronomy Club, Creative Writing Club, DECA Club, Economics Club, Entrepreneurship Club, Film Club, Folio, Forensics and Investigatory Club (F.I.C.), Fusion, Future Business Leaders of America, Future Doctors of America, Kiva Microfinance, Lenape Yearbook, The Neuroscience Club, Photography Club, and Video Game Programming;

Diversified Interests: American Sign Language Club, Anime and Fandom Club, Asian Culture Club, Chess Club, Culinary Club, Computer Science Club, Linguistics, Sports Fans Club, and Tabletop Gaming Club;

Student Government: All School Council, Freshman Grade Level Council, Sophomore Grade Level Council, Junior Grade Level Council, and Senior Grade Level Council;

Performing Arts: Marching Band, Choral Ensembles, Dance Ensemble, Jazz Band Ensemble, Script & Cue, and International Thespian Society;

Public Service: Action Against Hunger, ALS Alliance, B.E.L.I.E.V. Club, CARE Club, Diversity Club, Environmental Club, H2O For Life, INTERACT Community Service Club, Peer Leadership Program, Red Cross Club, Social Justice, Black

Student Union, Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA), GLOW Club, Junior State of America, Mock Trial, Model United Nations, Speech and Debate, and Young Democrats; and

Recreation: Archery, Ping Pong/ Badminton Club, Ski and Snowboard Club, and Ultimate Frisbee.





# Fall Pep Rally (Cont'd)





## Homecoming Court

When students of the Class of 2020 at Watchung Hills Regional High School selected Trevor Schmidt and Sarah Young as King and Queen of this year's Homecoming Court, they contributed to the making of a uniquely special moment for the halftime ceremony of this year's WHRHS Homecoming Football Game, Friday, Oct. 3, at Tozier Stadium.



During the first half of the game, the WHRHS Warrior Football Team had played the highly rated and undefeated Union High School Farmers to a standstill at halftime, 14-14. The Warriors knotted the score at 14 on a dramatic "two-minute drill" drive to score seconds before the end of the half. The Union Farmers eventually pulled away in the second half, and won, 28-14.

At halftime, as the rest of the Football Team ran into the locker room for a typical breather -- recovery, and second-half strategy session -- the eventual Homecoming King, Warrior Football Player Trevor Schmidt, who plays Fullback and Tight End for the Warriors, had the distinction: Not only playing in the Homecoming Game as a major contributor of the WHRHS Football Team, but also taking part in the Homecoming Court Ceremony at midfield.

During halftime, Schmidt remained on the field, standing next to his fellow Homecoming Court members. His fellow court members wore dresses for the young ladies, jackets and ties for the young men, but Schmidt had the distinction of being crowned King of the Homecoming Court, while proudly wearing the uniform of the WHRHS Warrior Football Team.

Schmidt had removed his helmet, and in its place, he wore the Homecoming King's Crown. Pinned to his uniform where a suit's lapel might be found, was a boutonniere. He was standing tall at center field, next to Homecoming Queen Sarah Young, who wore her Queen's Tierra and a wrist corsage. She also held a dozen roses. They sported huge smiles, as were their fellow members of the Homecoming Court, who themselves wore identical wrist corsages or boutonnieres.

Standing proudly with King Schmidt, and Queen Young, at center field were Homecoming Court Members: Meghan Francisco, Roopa Irakam, Cayla Park and Christine Tanko; and Vincent Di Geronimo, Christopher Iannella, Scott Romankow and Jack White.

The Homecoming Court had been escorted onto the field by family members. A pack of photographers captured the moment, paparazzi-style, as the Homecoming Court and their families, stood shoulder-to-shoulder at midfield.

Then the selection of the King and Queen was announced over the public address system, accompanied by cheers from the crowd. The King and Queen were crowned, and then just the King, Queen and their Court were photographed for the history books.



## 2020 National Merit Semifinalists

Four Watchung Hills Regional High School students have been named to the 2020 National Merit Semifinalist List, and another 26 WHRHS students have been named to the 2020 National Merit Commended List.

This year's WHRHS National Merit Semifinalists are: Phillip Ding, Dave Ki, Jessica Young and Vivian Zhang.

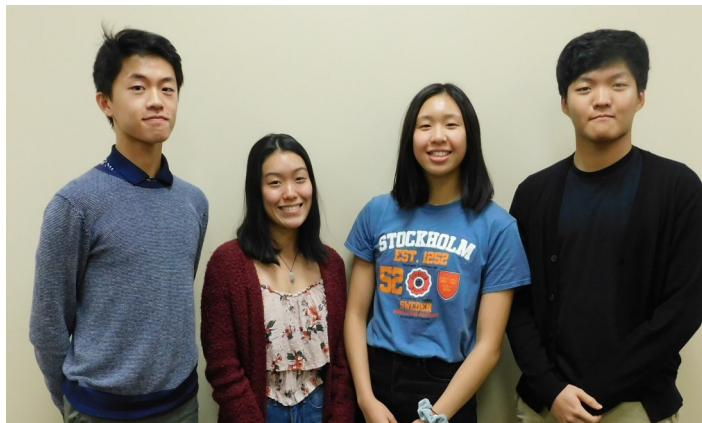
This year's WHRHS students named to the Commended List, which is the category immediately following Semifinalist, are:

Laura Baeyens, Jagdeep Bhatia, Catherine Cu, Nyna Chacko, Tina Chen, Tamara Hadzic, Jenna Hansen, Nicole Harris, Roopa Irakam, Niharika Iyer, Apurva Joshi, Stephanie Ju, Abigail Kotar, Sana Mamtaney, Aaron Marmolejos, Manthan Naik, James Narayanan, Annabell Pu, Julia Rubin, Cristina Sarrico, Julia M. Schink, Mayur Sharma, Katie Tan, Sarah Young, Maya Zhang, and Kevin Zu.

The designations are based on scores by these students on the Reading Test, Writing and Language Test, and Mathematics

test scores achieved by these students who were among about 1.5 million students who sat for the 2018 PSAT/NMSQT last Fall.

This year's four National Merit Semifinalists means that as many



as 52 WHRHS students have qualified as National Merit Semifinalists during the most recent six years. The year-to-year totals have been: Class of 2015 – 11; Class of 2016 – 6; Class of 2017 – 10; Class of 2018 – 15; Class of 2019 – 6; and Class of 2020 – 4.

The National Merit Scholarship Program reports that from among the Semifinalists will be named Finalists later in the year. A percentage of Finalists are expected to compete for National Merit Scholarships, according to the scholarship program. Taken into account for those scholarship selections will be a variety of factors, including the student's subsequent SAT scores that confirm the score in the PSAT/NMSQT, an essay, as well as an endorsement and recommendation from the student's high school, and demonstrations of leadership as well as participation in school and community activities.

## Roopa Irakam—USA International Debate Team



Watchung Hills Regional High School Senior Roopa Irakam traveled to Hamburg, Germany, on Tuesday, Nov. 12, as a member of the USA International Debate Team to participate in the first of several competitions against teams from across the globe.

Roopa Irakam is Co-President of WHRHS Speech and Debate Club with her twin sister, Deepa Irakam. The student Secretary of the club is Kaleigh Brunner, and Treasurer is Achyuta Murli. Faculty Advisor is English Department Supervisor James Aquavia. Roopa Irakam is also the All School Council President.

The USA Debate Team, comprised of just 12 students from around the country, will compete against other countries this school year. The World Schools Debating Championships will be held in Mexico City, Mexico, in July. The USA Team has finished in the top 6 at the international championship tournament, three school years running.

J. Scott Wunn, executive director of the National Speech & Debate Association, has said he has been impressed by this school year's International Debate Team. "Our USA Debate Team showcases the best and brightest high school students in our country. The 2019-2020 team features some absolutely phenomenal speech and debate competitors. I'm certain they'll continue the incredible achievements of this team."

Roopa Irakam brings a history of success in Congressional Debate to the team. Her debate accomplishments include taking first place at the Princeton Invitational, third place at the Columbia Invitational, and being named a finalist at the Yale Invitational and the Barkley Forum Invitational at Emory.

Irakam was also a member of the USA Debate Development Team, where students practice with USA Debate coaches and practice the World Schools Debate format.

The USA Debate Team, which trained earlier this year in Dallas, Texas, is coached by National Speech & Debate Hall of Fame Coaches Aaron Timmons and Cindi Timmons, who also serves as Team Manager.



## Script and Cue Cabaret

All the student performers were back on the stage on Thursday, Nov. 21, Friday, Nov. 22, and Saturday, Nov. 23, for the Fall Drama Presentation, "Almost, Maine." The play, by playwright and novelist author John Cariani, is comprised of nine short plays that explore love and loss in a remote, mythical "almost-town" called Almost, Maine.

The large PAC stage, with its likewise large audience capacity, was once again adapted for the more intimate "coffee house" for the Script and Cue Cabaret. This adaptation of the space is by now familiar to WHRHS audiences. It has been used during the past several school years for Cabaret and coffee house evenings of individual and small group performances. These have been organized by the school's Drama, Music and English Departments. In the case of this school year's first of such coffee houses, as has been the case in previous years' coffee houses, both performers and audience were confined to the main stage. They were bathed in blue lighting.

Bare brick walls and stage rigging were exposed to add the feel of a typical mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Greenwich Village coffee house. The performers sang and acted from a small, portable stage placed at one end of the stage. The audience sat at coffee house type small round tables or in rows of folding chairs.

For "Almost, Maine," and later in the school year, Dec. 12 and 19, for the Winter Band and Choral concerts, and March 19-21, for the Spring Musical, "Matilda," the PAC will be returned to its full glory as the Watchung Hills region's major performance space. The stage will, once again, be seating for thousands of students, parents, families, elders and community well-wishers. Likewise, fully utilized will be the PAC stage, whose

dimensions and versatilities can support hundreds of student singers, actors and crew members, not to mention scene settings and lighting designs, all working as a team.

Script and Cue's Student President Jack



Melillo, and Junior Promotional Officer Maddie Johnson opened the evening, welcoming the audience, while also reminding all that "Almost, Maine" will be performed on Nov. 21-23.

Junior Promotional Officer Jackie Harrison, was the first performer, singing "Riptide," by Vance Joy. She accompanied herself on ukulele.

Nina DiNorscio sang "Everlasting," from the Broadway musical, "Tuck Everlasting."

Paul Riedler sang "The Scientist" by the band, "Coldplay." He accompanied himself on guitar.

Christine Tanko sang, "Something Different," from the Broadway musical, "The Band's Visit."

Melillo returned to the stage to sing a duet

with Olivia Kider, "All I've Ever Known," from the Broadway musical, "Hadestown."

Later in the night, Ariya Blow sang "Flowers," also from "Hadestown."

Jordan Pincus and Mia Hionis sang a duet, "Secondary Characters," from the one-act musical, titled "[title of the show]." The song called for a dance routine, which they also performed.

Tanko returned to the stage to sing a duet with Giovanna DiSanto, "A Boy Like That/I Have I Love" from the Broadway musical, "West Side Story." The iconic musical is currently in revival on Broadway.

Malvika George sang, "Can't Help Falling In Love," the legendary Elvis Presley song.

Michael Banker sang "I'm Not Smart," from the Broadway musical, "The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."

Nicholas Harrison and John Doucette performed the comedy routine, "Fire Safety PSA," from "Red Vs. Blue," often abbreviated as RvB.

Melillo and Kider returned to the stage to sing "It Only Takes a Taste," from the Broadway musical, "Waitress."

Dana Wasserman sang "History of Wrong Guys," from the Broadway musical, "Kinky Boots."

DiSanto, who is the Script and Cue Vice president, returned to the stage to sing solo, "Perfect," from the musical, "Edges."

And, a three-piece band featuring lead vocal by Sam Bouffard, and accompanied by his dad, JP Bouffard, and Senior Ben Kosakowski, on guitars and harmony vocals, performed "This Boy," by The Beatles.

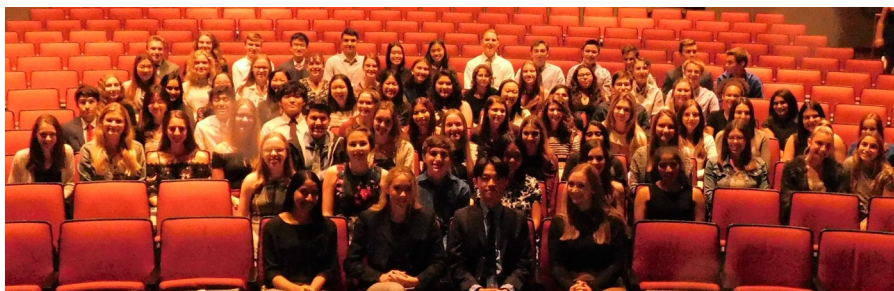


## National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

The Induction Ceremony was held on Thursday, Oct. 24, in the school's Performing Arts Center.

As part of the same ceremony, the inducted students heard from WHRHS Physics Teacher Matthew Dellibovi, who had been selected by vote of the inducted students as the 2019-2020 NHS Teacher of the Year.

Selected for the student Executive Board for the year are: Phillip Ding, president; Abigail Gallant, vice president; Samantha Moran, secretary; and Deepa Irakam, treasurer.



This year's inducted students are: Cassandra Apuzzo, Amanda Aschoff, Laura Bayens, Bryan Bartnick, Claire Beck, Jagdeep Bhatia, Zachary Bokhari, Kimberly Briceno, Haley Burton, Catherine Cai, Nyna Chacko, Michelle Chavanne, Vivian Chou, Eden DePekary, Ally Devico, Phillip Ding, Giovanna DiSanto, Marilyn Du, John Dwyer, Lauren Eknoian, Mary Elias, Owen Furlong, Abigail Gallant, Melissa Gallic, Tamara Hadzic, Kristen Hamilton, Jenna Hansen, Nicole Harris, Christopher Iannella, Lilli Iannella, Deepa Irakam, Roopa Irakam, Niharika Iyer, Apurva Joshi, Dave Ki, Abigail Kotar, Emma Kotar, Rachel Krouk, Jacob Lesser, Sana Mamtaney, Miah Manning, Aaron Marmolejos, Hannah Marszalek, Mario Martino, Olivia Matlosz, Matthew McCracken, Jacqueline Mills, Alexandria Minetti, Samantha Moran, James Narayanan, Ngocthy Nguyen, Claudia O'Reilly, Adam Orzepowski, Victor Osoliniec, Cayla Park, Apsara Rangarajan, Zachary Rieger, Scott Romankow, Teresa Rotolo, Julia Rubin, Cristina Sarrico, Kyle Schlingloff, Leslie Sena, Pramity Shah, Kevin Shen, Alexander Siegel, Ji Yoon Sim, Ariadna Sosa, Eliana Sussner, Katie Tan, Christine Tanko, Emily Thompson, Jack White, Elizabeth Wilcenski, Michael Wong, Jessica Young, Sarah Young, Maya Zhang, and Vivian Zhang.

WHRHS Chemistry Teacher Michelle Nunez, who is the NHS Faculty Advisor, welcomed everyone to the induction ceremony. She introduced the new student Executive Board members, who acted throughout the induction ceremony as MCs.

Executive Board President Phillip Ding then asked fellow new NHS student member Amanda Aschoff to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Two of the five students who provided a musical welcome to students, parents and other audience members as they assembled and took their seats in the PAC, were themselves seniors and among the students inducted that night. They are Miah Manning, who plays Trumpet and Cristina Sarrico, who plays

Trombone. Joining them were fellow brass players from the WHRHS Band Orchestra, Benjamin DeGuilo who plays Tuba, Matthew Schaefer, who plays Trumpet and Benjamin Watkins who plays French Horn.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Elizabeth Jewett, was introduced, and presented her own welcome to all in attendance.

Student Secretary Samantha Moran and Treasurer Deepa Irakam then presented some historical background

about both the NHS in general and the WHRHS NHS chapter in particular. Their remarks drew from the "History of the National Honor Society" information that appeared in the induction Ceremony's program.

Student NHS Vice President Abigail Gallant then initiated the annual "Candle Lighting" Ceremony, explaining: "We would now like to invite four of our inductees to come to the stage for the National Honor Society candle lighting ceremony. We will be lighting four candles symbolizing each of the four attributes of National Honor Society membership: Character, Scholarship, Leadership, and Service."

Speaking about what each of these attributes means to them, and to NHS members, were: Catherine Cai about Character; Roopa Irakam about Scholarship; her twin sister, Deepa Irakam, about Leadership; and Alexander Siegel about Community Service.

WHRHS Vice Principal Steven Searfoss, who attended the ceremony along with fellow Vice Principals Patricia Toubin and James Flakker, led the students in taking the NHS.

The 79 students were then all called to the PAC stage, where they were presented with their certificates of induction as well as their gold NHS cords, which will be worn at graduation with their academic caps and gowns. They were also greeted and congratulated by the Superintendent, the Principal, the Vice Principals and Faculty Advisor Nunez.

WHRHS Interim Principal Francis T. Howlett Jr. gave congratulatory remarks.

NHS Teacher of the Year

Two of this year's new NHS student members, Tamara Hadzic and Emma Kotar, who had each had Mr. Dellabovi in class, introduced him, and gave reasons for his selection.



## National Honor Society Induction Ceremony (Cont'd)

"Mr. Dellibovi was my physics teacher last year, and he quickly demonstrated his down-to-earth and helpful personality," said



Hadzic. "He is always willing to provide assistance to students both in and outside of class, and goes out of his way to make time with him fun and inclusive. I will never forget when he showed us the "Lobster Magnet" music video during the magnetism unit. Mr. Dellibovi also showed his dedication in preparing the

Physics I team for the monthly Science League exams. He helped us understand new material after school every week, provided snacks and tea, and made sure we were well-prepared and confident to take the tests."

She continued: "He even gave us Positions of Dubious Merit to make Science League more fun, such as Minister of Sleep Deprivation and Minister of War. Mr. Dellibovi also gives the best life advice. He helped me get through junior year, whether it was searching for colleges to apply to, reassuring me when I got bad grades, or just cheering me up when I was feeling down. His dedication to each student's happiness and success is why I believe Mr. Dellibovi deserves Teacher of the Year."

Kotar agreed, saying: "On paper, many students would be bored when studying physics. It requires a deep understanding of both conceptual concepts and math in order to succeed. However, Mr. Dellibovi made this challenging subject interesting and truly fun. Every day in both my junior year and senior year, I look forward to Mr. Dellibovi's physics class and the new content we are going to learn. There is never a dull day, from flying pigs to the lab data hall of fame. Mr. Dellibovi inspires the students to study and learn physics, and makes sure every student is confident in their abilities."

She continued, "Mr. Dellibovi goes the extra mile, offering extra help after and before school and truly cares for every one of his students and wants them to succeed. Mr. Dellibovi has helped me learn physics, find colleges to apply to, and learn more about myself. Mr. Dellibovi has helped me immensely as a person and a student, and I cannot express how much he deserves Teacher of the Year."

### Dellibovi Urges Students to Take Control of Their Learning

Dellibovi responded first with a heartfelt note of thanks: "I am sincerely grateful and humbled that you have chosen me to receive this honor. It means more to me than any other recognition, because it comes from you, my students."

He thanked the students for giving him their trust: "You trusted

me to challenge you and to push you to go even further, to help you back up when you fell and to tell you the uncomfortable truth when you needed to hear it. When you questioned yourself, you used me as a sounding board and valued my advice. When you were overwhelmed or frustrated, you came to me for consolation and just to vent."

Dellibovi urged seniors to resist the urge in their last semester at WHRHS to fall prey to "senioritis." Instead, he championed the plan to use that time to "take control of your learning, of your life."

He gave suggestions of how to broaden horizons: "Do something wild, unexpected and extraordinary this year just because you can. Solve every problem in your physics book. Read Shakespeare's complete works just for fun. Do independent research. Explore new ways to serve and help others. In short, take control of your own narrative. Embrace the uncertainty, the mystery, and the beautiful journey of self-discovery. Nobody says it will be easy, but it will be worth it. In fact, it's the only thing worth doing."

Beyond just exploring externally, Dellibovi urged students to explore within: "View yourself as a work-in-progress always. It never ends. The real goal is doing the work, not completing the work. If you always view yourself as an unfinished product, you will always have a purpose, will never lack of new ideas, will never stop growing."

In advocating the students to explore their passions and engage in honest self-reflection, Dellibovi quoted a poet he called his favorite, T.S. Eliot: "We shall never cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time."

In closing, Dellibovi said: "From the bottom of my heart, thank you again for honoring me as NHS Teacher of the year. I am overwhelmed by your appreciation and recognition. You are amazing individuals and I wish you all the best now and in the future."





## Warriors United Against Hate

Watchung Hills Regional High School students, faculty, family members, elected officials and residents of the communities surrounding Watchung Hills Regional High School joined together at a March and Rally Wednesday evening, Nov. 20, to pledge both newly-articulated commitments, and to re-energize longstanding commitments, to stand up to racism and to be “Warriors United Against Hate.”

The event started at 5:45 p.m. in Tozier Stadium with a one-lap walk around the track, and was followed by a rally in the school’s South Auditorium. The event was intentionally held on Nov. 20, to coincide with National United Against Hate Week, Sunday, Nov. 17, to Saturday, Nov. 23.

Numerous administrators and teachers, headed up by the Superintendent, Dr. Elizabeth Jewett, marched side-by-side the hundreds of students at the Warriors United Against Hate March and Rally.

Among the numerous representatives from the community in attendance were Warren Township Mayor Gary DiNardo, Long Hill Township Mayor Matthew Dorsi and Township Committeeman Brendan Rae, and joining the WHRHS Security Detail from community Law Enforcement was Long Hill Township Police Chief Ahmed Naga.

Among the WHRHS faculty in attendance were the Co-Chairs of the Equity Committee, Social Studies Teachers Jamie Lott-Jones and Mary Sok. All 13 members of the Equity Committee were present at the event and contributed to mentoring the kids in organizing the event.

Prominent among the students organizing the event were the members of the WHRHS Student Government, Diversity Club and Black Student Union. Among the hundreds of students who participated were the members of the WHRHS Warrior Football Team, under the direction of Coach Rich Seubert.

The reaffirmation of WHRHS commitment to its “Upstander” motto, to “Speak Up, Stand Up, and Stop Hate,” was held in response to a widely-shared photo of two WHRHS students, one in blackface and the other a slave owner brandishing a whip, pictured at an off-campus Halloween party. The photo appeared to portray a slave master and black slave.

Superintendent Jewett has said in a statement posted on the school’s Web site, since immediately after it became public, that the WHRHS School District condemns the photo, and “embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion.”



The guest speaker was Guillermo Lopez Jr., who is a consultant with Us-Squared, an organization involved in facilitating greater awareness on social justice, equity, embracing diversity and inclusion. He was selected to help facilitate communication at the rally. He believes in the importance within a community after a traumatic incident to “repair relationships, and emphasize action steps that can be taken by everyone impacted by the incident,” according to the biographical sketch of the

speaker posted in the event’s program.

Lopez introduced himself as a first-generation Puerto Rican, who was born and raised in Bethlehem Pa. He has trained and consulted with more than 20 universities and 31 communities in 14 states and on two continents.

“He was one of seven selected as a delegate to the 2001 United Nations World Conference on Ending Racism, Xenophobia, and other Intolerance in Durban, South Africa. He is director of the NCBI (National Coalition Building Institute) Latino Constituency and the Co-Director of the NCBI Law Enforcement and Community Partnership Program as well as a senior trainer for NCBI,” according to his biography in the program.

When the marchers assembled in the School’s South Auditorium, they were invited to sign the banner which was carried by students around the Tozier Stadium Track.

As the students and guests assembled inside the South Auditorium, a quote from 1960s Civil Rights Era icon, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., greeted them, projected onto the stage’s giant screen on the stage: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

Diversity Club student leaders, Co-President Amanda Aschoff, Vice President Reagan Miller, and Secretary Teresa Rotolo,



## Warriors United Against Hate (Cont'd)

opened the event, first out on Tozier Stadium over the Public Address System starting the march, and then inside, by welcoming everyone to the March and Rally Program.

Organizers dipped into the deep reservoir of the Civil Rights Era songbook to channel uplifting anthems of reconciliation, commitment making, and community hope.



Student singer Joi Langston sang solo an inspired rendition of the song, "I Know Where I've Been," Music by Marc Shaiman and Scott Whittman. The song was

originally sung by the actress Queen Latifah in the movie, "Hairspray."

Student singers Katerina Calvo, Izabella Calvo, Leanni Calvo, and Sarah Marreiros, sang the song, "What The World Needs Now," by Hal David and Burt Bacharach. The song was recorded originally by Jackie DeShannon.

Owen Furlong, accompanied by Katerina Calvo, Izabella Calvo and Sarah Marreiros, sang the universally acclaimed song, "Imagine," by John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

Student speakers included Deepa Irakam, Matthew Alarcon, Roopa Irakam, Kyle Davis and Joi Langston.

Lopez, who acted as facilitator more than as a speaker, congratulated students, thought leaders, and all who sought to improve communication and inclusion by organizing the march and rally. He encouraged students to continue trying to grow and make a difference in themselves and anyone else in their spheres of influence.

Student speakers then followed Lopez's example, encouraging their fellow students to do their part.

Class of 2020 President Deepa Irakam appealed to her class to make tackling the issues of growing greater understanding of race issues, diversity and acceptance their lasting gift to WHRHS. Make it so their class is remembered for embracing the differences in each other and recognizing that it is the differences that make WHRHS so beautiful. Stand up against hatred; stand up for inclusiveness.

Speaker Roopa Irakam, president of the All-Student Council and twin sister of Deepa Irakam, followed on this message, by invoking the notion made popular by earlier students in

response to the wave of school peer bullying. She urged the audience to embrace the notion of being an Upstander, someone who makes an active response on issues of race, diversity, and inclusiveness. She urged her fellow students to not shy away from the subject of race, but instead make discussion about it an in-class learning and an everyday living reality.

Student Speaker Kyle Davis, a member of the WHRHS Black Student Union, took up the notion of addressing, learning about and spreading better awareness about the keen sensitivity of just why, how, when, and where the use of "blackface" is so offensive. He condemned the controversial Halloween photograph.

Davis appealed to students to further understand the unique position of the African-American students, and other people of color, at WHRHS. They can't help but notice that they are in a unique position by being such a small group. He asked his fellow students to "walk in our shoes" and to imagine just how they sometimes feel. Like the other students, he emphasized how important it is for all students to support efforts at bringing about more equity and more inclusivity.

Student Speaker Matthew Alarcon, who wore his varsity Baseball jacket, spoke on behalf of the school's student athletes in condemning the Halloween Party incident. He pledged among student-athletes to commit to confronting racism and helping to create a culture of greater inclusivity.



To conclude the interactive program, Superintendent Jewett asked all the students who spoke, who sang, and who participated in organizing the Warriors United Against Hate March and Rally to join her and Facilitator Lopez at the podium. There, Jewett explained, "When we strengthened our commitment last year to making diversity, equity and inclusion a district focus around which we wanted to build our capacity as educators, we did not expect our ability to handle difficult topics to be tested so publicly and so widely so soon."

Jewett said the Halloween Party incident is unacceptable behavior. And, as the March and Rally and other responses showed, she reasserted that the district's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion remains firm. She urged all to recognize that this is a teachable moment.

"Let us not forget these mistakes, but forgive them and use them as a catalyst for progress and growth as a school community."



## Fall Drama “Almost, Maine”

Twenty student thespians in the Script and Cue Drama Program at Watchung Hills Regional High School tackled the good-natured, sometimes humorous, decidedly cerebral, but also pleasantly quirky new drama, “Almost, Maine,” giving life to its charming literary script to deliver a masterful performance.

The school’s annual Fall Drama was staged in the WHRHS Performing Arts Center, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 21, 22, and 23. The play, by playwright and novelist John Cariani, is comprised of nine short plays that explore love and loss in a remote, mythical “almost-town” called Almost, Maine.

It premiered in 2004 at the Portland Stage Company in Portland, Maine, where it received critical acclaim. In 2017-2018, it earned the distinction of being the most produced play in North American high schools, besting even “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” by William Shakespeare.

Almost, Maine opened Off-Broadway with a one-month limited engagement at the Daryl Roth Theatre in January, 2006. The Daryl Roth Theatre is a legendary off-Broadway performance space at 101 East 15th Street, near Union Square, Manhattan.

The WHRHS actors and actresses were supported by an energetic behind-the-scene team of student and professional Production Staff members. They contributed all the numerous tasks required to stage a live drama in four performances, including three evening performances and a Saturday afternoon matinee.

Matching the charming acting, script and production crew was fetching stage scenery that acted like a 21st actor. The audience was placed in the play’s eight titled scenes, plus the “Prologue, Interlogue, and Epilogue” scene trilogy. The play’s program explains that the scenes portray the various locales in the mythical town of Almost, Maine. The time is the present. All events transpire over the same 10 minutes – from around 8:50 to a bit after 9 p.m. – on a cold, clear, moonless, slightly surreal Friday night, in the middle of the deepest part of a Northern Maine Winter.”

The play examines various aspects of new, young, sometimes exasperating but ultimately charming love.

The cast, in order of appearance, included:

John Doucette played Pete and Kaelin Churchill played Ginette, in the scene trilogy titled, “Prologue/Interlogue/Epilogue,” at the opening, closing and Intermission of the play;

Act 1: Andrew Moberly played East and Christine Tanko played Glory in a scene titled, “Her Heart;”

Lucas Melo played Jimmy, Giovanna DiSanto played Sandrine, and Sydney Waddy played Waitress in “Sad and Glad;”

Ariya Blow played Marvalyn, and Jack Melillo played Steve in “This Hurts;” and

Jordan Pincus played Gayle and Nicholas Harrison played Lendall in “Getting It Back;”

Act 2: Mia Hoinis played Deena and Maddie Johnson played Shelly in “They Fell;”

Matthew Mackrell played Phil and Olivia Kider played Marci in “Where It Went;”

Jack Melillo played Daniel and Catherine Quirico played Hope in “Story of Hope;” and

Andrew Moberly played Dave and Nina DiNorscio played Rhonda in “Seeing The Thing.”

In addition, Paul Riedler and Christian Takleszyn portrayed Townspeople in several scenes.

“Almost, Maine” was directed by WHRHS Drama Teacher Douglas Eaton.

Chief Assistant Director was Portia Rowley. Assistant Director was Talia Hooke. Production Stage Manager was Alexander Martin. Set Designer was Douglas Eaton. Scenic Artist was





## Fall Drama “Almost, Maine” (Cont’d)

Kate Griffin. Costume Designer was Gail DeCicco. Lighting Designer was Chris Valenti.

Sound Designer was Rick Clark. Set Construction was Nick DiNizio. Assistant Stage Managers were Elena Celeste and Melissa Miketen. Technical Director and Set CAD Layout was Chris Valenti. Video Projections and Lighting Effects were Chris Valenti, Rick Clark and Nick DiNizio.

Prop Master was Rachel Krouk. Head of Costume was Lauren Quinn. Rigging was Zayn Khalil. Sound Board was Krystyna Leski. Special Effects was Kayley Garcell. Lighting Board Operator was Cat Teo.

Running Crew was: Jennifer Buser, Carolina Delvalle, Tyler Isherwood, Autumn Rodriguez, Crosby Sayan, Ally Valatare, Siya Wadhare, Jaimie Wu and Janice Wang. Props Crew were: Gregory Katchko, Virginia Paris, and Pavithra Ponnolu. Costume Crew was: Josette Sapia, Lydia Eberle; and Nora Lange.

Co-heads of Hair and Makeup were: Sophia Formissano and Hannah Stevens. Hair and Makeup Crew were: Julia Cornell Nathan Gennaro. Ushers were: Emily Dec, Maddie Leong, Erin Pinto, and Michael Wong.

Script and Cue Business Manager is Dianne Krutz.

The Program includes this note of thanks: “A special thank you to: Megan Krutz for designing the cover art; and Rachel Krouk for making the program.”





## Winter Concert—Band, Choir and Orchestra

An audience of students, parents, family members, friends, teachers, administrators and community well-wishers enjoyed an energetic and entertaining seasonal concert at the 2019-2020 School Year's "Winter Concert for Band, Choir, and Orchestra," Thursday, Dec. 12, in the Performing Arts Center at WHRHS.

On the bill was a program of four compositions each from the Concert Band, and the Concert Choir, as well as the Orchestra. Between the Band, Choir and Orchestra, some 156 music students performed at the concert.

For the first time this school year, the winter concerts, previously presented as an instrumental performance on one night, and a choral performance on the second were instead this school year presented a week apart: With, on one night, Thursday, Dec. 12, featuring the Concert Band and Concert Choir, along with the Orchestra; and then on another night, Thursday, Dec. 19, featuring the Symphonic Band, the Wind Ensemble and the Advanced Choir.

Then on the morning of Friday, Dec. 21, the Music Department also hosted its annual concert for the 8th Grade students in the four Sending Districts in the PAC. That concert is the one where the current student singers and instrumentalists serenaded the future Class of 2024.

The Concert for 8th Grade Students, featured the Advanced Choir presenting six selections from the Advanced Choir's program at the Advanced Winter Concert the night before, and the Wind Ensemble presented three selections from the previous night's performance.

The Winter Concert Band, Choir and Orchestra was characterized by a selection of a dozen crisp compositions.

The student musicians in the Concert Band are: Flute, Melissa Cosentino, Katalina Diaz, Samantha Emmanuel, Amber Hwang, and Jenny Xu; Clarinet, Logan Chen, Grace Guo, Isis Jorge, Kathryn Leunes, Riley McCann, Alex McEnroe, Joshua Rubin, and Daniel Shen; Bass Clarinet, Catherine Riely; Trumpet, Michael Banker, Jake Bilotti, Justin Britten, Ethan Gallic, Raymond Lavender, Ivan Nilsen, Rudra Patel, and Evan Yu; Alto Sax, Dylan Aiello, Brooke Barone, Steven Chang, Alexandra Jacobsen, Benjamin Liu, Matthew Mina, Liam Reddish, and Satvik Repaka; Tenor Sax, Ian French, and Brianna Ramirez;

Baritone Sax, Noah Paradise, and Bryan Zhang; Trombone, Akari Kondo, Dennis Lei, and Evelyn Logan; Baritone, Jasper Bontomase, and Jack Potter; and Percussion, John Calindas, Alisha Li, Harry Liu, Vansh Patel, and Kevin Yeboah.

The student musicians in the Orchestra are: Violin I, Catherine Cai, Emma Golkin, Dave Ki, Tony Liu, Ryan Long, Raphael Rivera, Tyler Wu, and Simon Zhang; Viola, Stephanie Cade, Emma Leung, Emma Selvin, Valerie Wang, and Zai Yang; and Bass, Michael Horzepa; Violin II, Grace Alto, Elli Belyarchik,

Kaleigh Brunner, Nolan Brunner, Catherine Jin, Harrison Lavelle, Stanley Liu, Meher Malhorta, Gabriella Pontoriero, Luke Vieira, Brandon Wu, Kashan Zaidi, Junning Zhang, and Andrew Zhu; and Cello, Roshni Dave, Madeline Dietrich, Ronald Leung, and Spencer Shao.

The student singers in the Concert Choir are: Soprano, Catherine Baker, Madison Cevallos, Julia Clemente, Katalina Diaz, Lydia Eberle,

Gabriela Flores, Andrea Garcia, Athena Ioannou, Abigail Kohan, Keira Larsen, Sonia McNaughton, Olivia Mendez, Marisa Piccininni, Catherine Quirico, Adeline Rees, Daniella Russotti, Shaina Sadana, Kaila Thorbourne, Danielle Toscano, and Siya Wadhare; Alto, Carly Algor, Julie Ayers, Cailene Barone, Hailie Barrios, Katie Chen, Sunny Cheng, Gianna DelNegro, Anna Duensing, Anyelina Florentin, Charlotte Friedman, Mia Giegerich, Sarai Gonzalez, Melanie Hartlieb, Francesca Irvin, Annaliese Jelmert, Savanna Magliaro, Harini Mandalapau, Alex McEnroe, and Diana Monterroso, Kayla Nunes, Katherine Palmieri, Radiya Quader, Haylee Ramirez, Sara Ribeiro, Isabella Rietze, Margaret Roden, Autumn Rodriguez, Megan Sabnani, Marissa Schipani, Isabella Simoes, Georgiana Tillinghast, Kaylee Vargas, Madalisse Vazquez, and Mei Ping Williams.; Baritone, Nikhil Ahuja, Pedro Andrade, Jose Antonio, Landon Bush, Ben Cupit, Matthew Fogarty, Ian French, John Harrobin, Jeremy Hu, Samuel Irekqvist, Tyler Isherwood, Andres Jaya Aviles, James Langston, Rohan Mehra, Vincent Miller, Jose Molina, Sebastian Nunez, Michael Olivapotenza, Nicholas Percario, Dominic Popolo, Graham Schmidt, Christian Takleszyn, Thiago Teixeira, Lucas Ventura, Willard Whitesell, Stuart Whitley, and John Williams.

Accompanying on guitar and drums were two Music Lab veterans: Tom Dardis on Guitar and Ben Kosakowski on Drums.





## Holiday Music Showcase

8th Grade Students at the four sending district middle schools assembled for the first time as the future WHRHS Class of 2024 in the Performing Arts Center, on Friday morning, Dec. 20, to be given a warm musical Warrior welcome, and big brother and big sister introduction, at the annual 8th Grade Concert.

The nine song mini-program for the 8th Grades were delivered by the 123 student members of Advanced Choir, and the 39 student members of the instrumental group, the Wind Ensemble. They sang and played their best to send the middle school students home for the Holiday Break with reasons to already feel scholastic pride in what for many, if not most, will be their very own future high school alma mater.

Likewise, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders were encouraged by enthusiastic Warrior instrumentalists and singers, as well as equally welcoming and enthusiastic WHRHS music teachers and school administrators, to give serious consideration to selecting the various Music Department classes and extracurricular activities, as well as any of the vast array of other extra-curricular and athletic teams, for their future their time, attention, and talent during their four years as Warriors.

Opening the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade concert, the Advanced Choir serenaded their special guests with the opening number from the Annual Advanced Winter Concert, held the night before. They sang, "Three Carols," a medley of iconic Christmas Carols: "Good King Wenceslas," "Deck The Halls," and "Caroling, Carling (Christmas Bells Are Ringing)." After the opening medley, they then proceeded to take their regular positions on multiple risers on stage, to sing the next five songs.

They were accompanied by various student musicians, on grand piano, and percussion instruments when appropriate, and on various combinations of other musical instruments. They included acoustic and electric guitars, electronic keyboards and drum kits. This more standard contemporary band formation and instrumentation was also a nod to the new, broader array of opportunities as students from the typical concert bands, wind ensemble, jazz band, marching band, and choral work in the music department, not to mention dramatic acting, musical theater singing, acting and dance, and theatrical production support arts. WHRHS now also has a Music Tech Lab, which offers its own array of musical opportunities, including instruction and lab work in electronic keyboards, guitars, composition and theory, and various new and experimental electronic musical adaptations of sounds, tones and musical structures.

In addition to the Three Carols, the Advanced Concert Choir program of songs offered the 8th Grade audience included: "Bethlehem, a Nigerian Carol, arrangement by Wendell Whalum; "A Celtic Silent Night," arrangement by Patrick Tierney; "Kiss Him Goodbye," recorded in 1969 by the band, "Steam;" "How Can I Keep From Singing," by J. Edmund Hughes; and "Raging Fire," by Phillip Phillips, featured accompaniment by the House Kit Band, featuring a grand piano, two electronic keyboards, two guitars, and a drum kit.



The three compositions performed by the Wind Ensemble for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade audience were also drawn from the Ensemble's program from the Advanced Concert the night before: The Third Suite, "Folk Songs from Somerset, of the "Folk Song Suite," by Ralph Vaughan Williams; the "Suite Provencale," a four movement piece by Jan Van der Roost.

The last selections from the Wind Ensemble were two from American Composer Leroy Anderson: "A Christmas Festival," which was first recorded in 1952 as a concert overture, according to a radio interview that Anderson gave in the 1960s. The overture includes themes from a variety of Christmas songs, carols and other seasonal music. The compositions sample in the Overture included: "Joy to the World," "Jingle Bells," "O, Come All Ye Faithful," "Deck the Halls," "Good King Wenceslas," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "The First Nowell," and "Silent Night."

The closing number was Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," complete with the variety of equine-inspired sound effects, including the clip-clop of a horse's hooves and the crack of the driver's whip. Anderson cleverly incorporates these sound effects, created by orchestral percussion instruments, into the composition's array of percussion elements. The final notes of the piece are the faux sounds of the whip, caused musically by the slapping two long pieces of wood, like "1 by 6s;" and a horse whinnying, produced musically by a trumpet.



## Advanced Winter Concert—Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Advanced Choir

The audience at the Advanced Winter Concert For Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Advanced Choir at Watchung Hills Regional High School on Thursday, Dec. 19, were treated to 21 compositions from three groups featuring more than 200 instrumental and choral music students, all designed to entertain, enlighten, and demonstrate musical educational achievement.

These student singers and musicians all auditioned to participate in these musical groups.

Instrumental Music Teacher Paul McCullen conducted the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. Interim Choral Music Teacher Douglas Radzewicz conducted the Advanced Choir. Assistant Concert Band Director is Chris Wyatt.

The Symphonic Band includes 50 student musicians. The Wind Ensemble has 39 student musicians. The Advanced Choir has 123 student singers.

The House Kit Band that accompanied the Advanced Choir included: Thomas Dardin and Owen Furlong on guitar, Anisha Jackson on grand piano and Cristina Sarrico and John Santucci on electric keyboards, and Ben Kosakowski on drums.

The Saxophone Quartet playing in the lobby as audience members waited on line to enter the Performing Arts Center were Wind Ensemble members: James Narayanan on

Soprano Sax, Vijay Subramanian on Tenor Sax, Rahul Verma on Baritone Sax, and Maya Zhang on Alto Sax.

The student musicians in the Symphonic Band are: Piccolo, Nicole Brunskill; Flute, Jasmine Aiello, Catherine Baker, Sarah Branco, Tina Chen, Naomi Gallic, Tamara Hadzic, Roopa Irakam, Abigail Kotar, Chelsea Kramer and Jovana Lekic; Clarinet, Marcus Bryant, Max Dublirer, Sarah Jardim, Calvin Khiddee-Wu, Tarun Loganathan, Hannah Miller, Pavithra Ponnolu, Mayur Sharma, and Justine Wang; Oboe, Kaitlyn Roth, and James Wang; Trumpet, Zachary Cashman, Jenna Hansen, Samuel Jiang, and Kevin Zu; Tenor Sax, Genevieve Rust; Baritone Sax, Alexander Martino; Alto Sax, Seth Calindas, Bryan Shangguan, and Rohit Tirunahari; Horn, Gavin Chiu and Leah Lavender; Trombone, Christopher Baker, Thomas Barca, Matthew Jimenez, Martina Lavender, Nicole LoCasio, and Dylan Singh; Tuba, Alex Lopes, Meredith Marmalejos, Stephen Scharf, and Andrew Soliman; Percussion, Alexander Azarian, Anthony Azevedo, Marc Bruno, Brennan Hector, Christopher Larsen, George Leunes, Jason Lynn, Charles Margulies, Michael Motta, and Jack Onufer.

The student musicians in the Wind Ensemble are: Piccolo, Stephanie Ju; Flute, Deepa Irakam, Olivia Kuang, and Maylin Zhu; Oboe, Erica Hwang and Kaitlin Zhang; Clarinet, Jeremy



Shamai, Katie Tan, Alan Wang, Daniel Zeng, Brenda Zhang and Daniel Zhang; Bass Clarinet, Vijay Subramanian and Paul Zatorski; Saxophones, Tenor, Kyle Merritts, Baritone, James Narayanan, and Alto, John Schmitt, Rahul Verma, and Maya Zhang; Horn, Shiv Goel, Hannah Marszalek, and Ben Watkins; Trumpet, Andrew Cuonzo, Miah Manning, Matthew Schaefer, and Kathryn Sellinger; Trombone, Ryan Britten, Omar Lateef, Cristina Sarrico, and Emily Thompson; Euphonium, Chad Huang and Emma Kotar; Tuba, Ben DeGuilo and Jack

Remington; and Percussion, Eric Peterson, John Santucci, Maxwell Schwartz, Kobe Tam, and Alexander Tortoriello.

The student singers in the Advanced Choir are: Soprano, Arshia Agrawal, Savannah Bellovin, Sophia Blanchard, Ariya Blow, Kaelin Churchill, Holly

Clare, Shannon Coleman, Sophie Conwell, Karis Cooper, Roshni Dave, Nina DiNorscio, Giovanna DiSanto, Sophia Formisano, Malvika George, Hanna Han, Olivia Hayes, Mary Alice Helgeson, Mihika Iyer, Apurvi Joshi, Allison Karski, Olivia Kider, Shirley Kreis, Madeline Leong, Janet Liu, Maahi Manek, Nevy Menon, Melissa Miketen, Jordan Miller, Ambika Muralitharan, Jessica Opoku, Zoe Peloso, Jessica Petersen, Jordan Pincus, Julia Pott, Gabriella Ramirez, Bhavya Reddy, Portia Rowley, Daniela Silva, Julianna Soriano, Ariadna Sosa, Jaleesa Soto, Hannah Stevens, Christine Tanko, Alexandra Vatalare, Simona Vitlin-Stein, Tiffany Wang, Jaimie Wu, and Nathalie Zuniga; Alto. Rhea Ahuja, Aurora Baker, Giuliana Brown, Jennifer Buser, Renee Cai, Izabella Calvo, Katerina Calvo, Leanni Calvo, Elena Celeste, Zoe Correale, Emily Dec, Caitlyn Diem, Samantha Geadar, Galyn Goldberg, Mia Hagel, Molly Hartigan, Kayla Horvaht, Hanna Houillion, Madeline Johnson, Anika Kasu, Hannah Kita, Joi Langston, Olivia Leong, Keriann Lettieri, Angela Li, Kimberly Limbo, Sarah Marreiros, Ava Melillo, Hannah Miller, Jennifer Miller, Gianna





## Advanced Winter Concert—Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Advanced Choir (Cont'd)

Olivapotenza, Skylar Paljon, Ginnie Paris, Natalia Peraza, Jessica Piegaro, Rachel Rieger, Sofia Rivetti, Jenna Rokosny, Gabriella Russo, Norah Rusul, Cristina Sarrico, Valentina Squizziato, Kathleen Strong, Catherine Teo, Gabrielle Tharp, Sydney Waddy, Rachel Williams, Michelle Yaboah, and Savera Zafar; Tenor, Angelina DiDonato, Owen Furlong, Zachary Linder, Jonathan Lopez, Matthew Mazzarisi, Erin Pinto, Scott Romankow, John Santucci, Dana Wasserman, and Abigail Wighard; Bass, Xavier Ainsworth, Samuel Bouffard, Jaiden Bryant, Casey Green, Liam Jacobs, Benjamin Kosakowski, Glent Loyola, Matthew MacKrell, Jack Melillo, Andrew Moberly, Joshua Monto, Hans Parikh Ryan Purcell, Zachary Rieger, Dylan Vaidya, and Daniel Zhang.



## Seven Athletes Sign Letters of Intent



Five student athletes in the Class of 2020 who play sports for the Warriors of Watchung Hills Regional High School announced their intentions to matriculate and play intercollegiate sports at Division I colleges, on November College Signing Day, Wednesday, Nov. 13. As part of the same ceremony, two student athletes announced plans to matriculate and play sports at Division II colleges. The seven students are: seated, from left, Kaitlyn Gully, Bentley University, Field Hockey; Sophia Cicchetti, Adelphi University, Softball; Laura Baeyens, University of Pennsylvania, Cross Country/Track & Field; Chloe Ferreira, Monmouth University, Soccer; and standing, from left, Bradley Jelmart, Arkansas State University, Track & Field; Christopher Salkowski, Coastal Carolina University, Track & Field; and Mahogany Jenkins, University of Indiana, Track & Field.



Rich Seubert  
Coach of the Year  
Mid-State 38  
Watchung Division



## The Hills Roundup

- ◆ Freshman Orientation was held on Thursday, August 29, between 7:30 and 10:30 am. The students reported directly to the PAC, where they assembled as the Class of 2023 before following their schedule through an abbreviated eight periods. The students were also able to meet their teachers.
- ◆ Phillip Ding, Dave Ki, Jessica Young and Vivian Zhang qualified as semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition.
- ◆ Students, faculty, and staff wore blue shirts on Monday, October 7, to support Stomp Out Bullying. The first Monday of October is set aside as a World Day of Bullying Prevention. Students, teachers, and communities all over the world "go BLUE" and unite against bullying. This show of respect and support also kicked off October's National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. Coinciding with this event, New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act designates a "Week of Respect" every October. This year it ran from October 7 - 11.
- ◆ Twenty-nine of our Theatre Arts students earned induction into the International Thespian Society, the honor society for secondary school theatre students.
- ◆ Mihika Iyer, a junior at WHRHS, started her own non-profit organization called Ladyship Inc. Its purpose is to empower more women to pursue leadership positions in the workplace. She launched a podcast series InspireHER and has featured guests including the UN Special Advisor to Africa, Bience Gawanas, and several women CEO's.
- ◆ The 6th Annual Robotics Open House took place on Friday, November 15 in the South Cafeteria and Room 4. The Robotics team showcased previously built robots, gave tours of the shop, and answered any questions regarding the team. Robotics advisors, members of the WHRHS faculty/staff, and The WHEAT Foundation were in attendance. They spoke about the team, STEAM subjects, and related professional fields.
- ◆ Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students qualify for state-level testing. The following students have ranked high enough on the regional qualifying test to compete at the state level. Students who win at the state level will be invited to compete nationally.
  - Megan McGee – Accounting 1
  - Jordyn Youngleson – Accounting 2
  - Andrew Cuonzo - Business Calculations
  - Chris Ianello and Ally Devico – Economics
  - Nicholas Yang - Intro to Financial Math
  - Atharva Kalyanpur and Alisha Li – Intro to Business
  - Steven Chang – Intro to Information Technology
  - Patrycja Sosniak - Journalism
  - Moha Trivedi – Political Science
- ◆ One of our former students, Peter Bosco - class of 2018, was recently offered and accepted an internship this summer with the US Embassy in Rome within their Economic office.
- ◆ Junior student Megan McGee was selected to join the Somerset County Youth Advisory Board, a peer group from county districts that focuses on substance abuse, mental health, and other community issues.
- ◆ Senior Jagdeep Bhatia has been named as one of 40 finalists in the 79th Regeneron Science Talent Search—the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and mathematics competition for high school seniors. In recognition of this achievement, Jagdeep Bhatia will receive \$25,000 and an invitation to Washington, DC for the final competition in March. The top prize for the most promising emerging STEM leader in the United States is \$250,000.
- ◆ Deepa Irakam, a senior, earned the National Speech & Debate Association's Academic All American award. This award recognizes academic rigor, competitive speech and debate success, and personal excellence. From more than 141,000 student members of the National Speech & Debate Association, fewer than 1% of students earn the Academic All American award every year. This tremendous accomplishment places Deepa among the top one-percent of all student members across the country.
- ◆ Senior student Roopa Irakam, has been selected as a member of the USA International Debate Team. Members of the USA Debate Team are required to go through an academically rigorous selection process, and being chosen for the team is an incredible honor. She will represent the United States at competitions around the globe for the next year.
- ◆ As the top 16th Recurve Archer in country, Valerie Wang, has been competing in the Olympic Trials in an attempt to make the 2020 Olympic Team as a Recurve Target Archer. She competed in stage 2 of the trials and is currently ranked 9th. She will be competing in Stage 3 in April.
- ◆ From December 5th to December 8th, 2019 the WHRHS Model UN participated in the Institution for Domestic and International Affairs Rutgers Model UN Conference – "RUMUN". The conference included hundreds of student-delegates from high schools across the United States and the world who came together to simulate the actions of the United Nations. Sixteen of our twenty students



## The Hills Roundup (cont'd)

represented Sudan in the General Assembly and Specialized Agencies while the other four delegates represented various members of Regional Bodies and Advanced Committees such as the Arab League, the Sri Lankan Council of Ministers, and the 1992 Ukrainian Cabinet. After four days of debate, numerous midnight crises, and countless hours of research, seven of our twenty delegates were recognized for their outstanding efforts in their individual committees.

- \* Jacob Weber and Arjun Singh were recognized as the Best Delegation in the UN Department of Political Affairs Committee representing Sudan.
  - \* Shiv Goel and Mihika Iyer were recognized as the Distinguished Delegation in the World Bank Committee representing Sudan.
  - \* Eliana Sussner and Vansh Harkawat were recognized as the Most Improved Delegation in the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization Committee representing Sudan.
  - \* Moha Trivedi was recognized as the Outstanding Delegate in the Arab League Committee representing Tunisia.
- ♦ The WHRHS Marching Warriors had one of their best seasons to date. During the 2019 Fall Season the Marching Warriors took First Place in Group AA Competition at Roxbury, First Place in Group 4A at Somerville, and First Place in Group 4A at Yamaha Cup. The Marching Warriors finished the season coming in Fourth in Group 4A at States this year. Additionally, the Marching Warriors took a new approach to competition using custom athletic tops and changes to the shako which added to the overall success of the ensemble this season.











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