



Warren Township Schools

Shining Brighter Every Day

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
NEWS
OCTOBER, 2016**



From the Principal's Desk Mr. Robert Comba

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 15-16 school year. By the time you read this first Principal's Newsletter, the school year will be well underway with all the school's activities moving along. The enrollment for the Middle School when we began in September was:

Grade 6 - 241

Grade 7 - 233

Grade 8 - 215

At the opening PTO meeting held on Wednesday, September 16, we welcomed Mrs. Osifchin and Mrs. Rosenfarb as co-PTO presidents. Our 1 to 1 Chromebook Initiative has gone well with all 6th, 7th and 8th graders having received Chromebooks this year. The date of the next PTO meeting is Wednesday, October 19 at 9:00 AM in the Middle School All Purpose Room.

I do wish you the very best for the school year. May it be both a healthy and academically productive one for all.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Comba



Mr. Max Achtau, Dean of Students

Max's Blurp:

On September 6th, 689 students entered the Middle School for the first day of school. It was great to see the energy and excitement displayed by our students - rejuvenated after a wonderful summer.

Some of the things we observed during our first few days of school were: Our 6th graders had to deal with challenges such as locker combinations, open seating during lunch, and finding their way through the middle school labyrinth of corridors. Our 7th and 8th graders were excited to see their friends, attend their new classes, and touch base with former teachers.

As the Dean of Students, I look forward to getting to know your children this school year. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am only a phone call or email away.



Counselors' Corner - Mrs. M. Johnson, Mrs. L. Regal, Ms. H. Scully

Welcome all returning students to Warren Middle School and all new 6th graders joining our school. We also welcome our "New to Warren" students. On August 27th we had our "New to Warren Student Orientation" - all students were given a tour of the building, explanation of schedules, and a luncheon.

This year Ms. Scully will have the 6th grade, Mrs. Johnson the 7th grade, and Mrs. Regal the 8th grade. All students remain with their guidance counselor for the three years they attend WMS. Each year guidance activities focus on different areas according to the grade. Upcoming activities include the "October Week of Respect" and "Week of Making Good Choices". Please don't hesitate to call with concerns. We are here to help the students have a successful school year.



The E2 Connection – Dr. Cooper

Keeping you connected to the exciting events of WMS Enrichment Education Programs

Welcome

Welcome back to school!! The E2 program will offer again a myriad of enrichment programs to meet the diversified needs of all the students at Warren Middle School. Watch for e-blasts and please register on Mrs. Cooper's website for updated and current information. It is sure to be a great year!!!

6th Grade E² Evaluation Process

Sixth graders are currently making a transition to the Middle School. If you have an interest in the E2 pull out program, watch for more information in early November. If any parent would like more detailed information on the E2 evaluation process for grade 6, kindly send Mrs. Cooper an email and she will electronically send the information that was distributed at Back to School Night.

7th & 8th Grade E²

Students in the 7th and 8th grade E² pullout program met with Mrs. Cooper to explore the elective offerings which will run from September to the end of December. Projects and activities include quiz bowl, mock trial, vehicles, photography, chess, math contests, leadership activities, trips, speakers and various workshops. All electives are student driven based on interest and will be scheduled on a bi-weekly calendar. Students are encouraged to watch the E2 door for updates to the schedule and for new information. It is sure to be a great year filled with challenging enrichment opportunities for all.

Continental Math

Continental Math is a voluntary national math competition that is very popular at WMS. Five times each year, students have the opportunity to take a six question math challenge. No studying is expected, and answers are provided. Students should be sure to sign up for Continental Math on the clipboards in their math classrooms. The first meet is scheduled for November. Details to follow, so listen to the morning announcements.

Chess Club – OPEN TO ALL 6th, 7th and 8th Graders

Chess Club Adventures will meet after school on Tuesdays in room 32. Chess allows students to develop and play with fellow students and high school chess team members. Chess is a wonderful way to use your mind and Chess Club Adventures promises many enriching chess opportunities. If your child is interested in Chess Club and did not sign up for it during club sign ups, contact Mrs. Cooper to see if open slots are available.

Peer to Peer Program

Dozens of eighth graders applied for the New Jersey Peer to Peer program at Warren Middle School. Twenty were chosen in preparation for a year of leadership development and service to the Warren community. Peer leaders are slated to conduct a series of outreach programs to younger peers in the district as well as run other projects that help influence children to stay away from drugs, alcohol and reckless behaviors.

Music Department



Mrs. A. Jensen, Mr. J. Seremula, Mrs. D. McCloskey, Mr. J. VanTine

Instrumental lessons, string lessons and chorus sectional rehearsals are up and running now.

If you have a student in any of these groups, please make sure that they know the dates and times of their lessons and rehearsals. All information is available from the music teachers, posted around the school in various locations and in the Student Center, on their Chromebooks, or on your computer at home. Kindly return all forms, if not done already, that have been sent home with your 6th, 7th and 8th grade music student as soon as possible.

The Music Parents 1st meeting for all parents of music students at Warren Middle School will be held on Thursday, October 20th at 7 p.m. in the Middle School Band Room, Room #33. It will last about 45 minutes and will cover needed information for the school year.

Please continue to check our teacher [webpages](#) as they will keep you up to date on all current dates and times for concerts, important messages and other performances and other groups your child may be involved with this year.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at any time. We look forward to a wonderfully musical year.



Nurse's Corner – Mrs. Lontai, RN CSN

Flu season begins in October and peaks typically during January and February. Please consider a flu vaccine, especially if your child has other medical conditions,

Such as asthma.

The flu virus is spread like any other cold virus; therefore please reinforce at home good prevention by: washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after using the bathroom. In addition, avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth, cough or sneeze into a tissue or elbow and throw tissues into the garbage. Also, avoid sharing cups or utensils with people who are sick, clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs.

Most importantly, please keep your child home when they are sick to avoid spreading the germs to others.



October 2016 Calendar

10/3	School Closed	10/19	PTO Meeting 9:00 AM
10/10/11/12	School Closed	10/21	6 th Grade Rec. Afternoon 3-4PM
10/14	7 th Grade Rec. Afternoon 3-4PM	11/1	Picture Make-Up Day



Superintendent's Corner October 2016

About a year ago, the Warren Township Board of Education embarked on a process to hire a new superintendent. In a community-wide survey, one quality emerged as the clear highest priority. The new superintendent must “listen to and effectively represent the interests and concerns of students, staff, parents, and community members.”

Since arriving in the district on July 1, it has been my mission to listen to as many people as possible. This has included meetings with members of the Board of Education, staff, students, parents, community leaders, and vendors, among others. I have committed myself to learning about the history of Warren Township and its schools and finding an answer to one pressing question: “What makes Warren Township so special?”

In this process, I learned some interesting things about the district's history. A few pieces of historical trivia:

- Central School, built in 1932, was designed to provide one centralized location for K-8 education in Warren Township and replaced a system of five, one-room school buildings scattered throughout the community.
- Woodland School opened in 1953, Washington Valley School (now Angelo L. Tomaso School) in 1959, Mt. Horeb School in 1966, and Warren Middle School in 1972.
- School-based parent-teacher organizations were first created in the 1964-5 school year. Prior to that time, there was one district-wide group.
- When Warren Middle School opened in 1972, Superintendent Dr. Angelo L. Tomaso described it as a “flexible, modern facility that can change to meet the changes required of us in the next 50 years” *That was 44 years ago!*
- The first traffic light was turned on in Warren on September 27, 1973 at Mount Bethel Road and Mountain Boulevard. *Could you imagine that intersection without traffic lights today?*
- The first school lunch program was offered in the 1977-8 school year due to a New Jersey Superior Court ruling that required it. The district contracted with a local company to provide bagged lunches to students.

More important than these interesting tidbits, I got the answer to my initial question; the people make Warren Township a special place.

During our school opening exercises, Mrs. Tia Allocco, president of the Warren Township Board of Education, joined me in welcoming back our dedicated staff and celebrating some of the unsung heroes who are so crucial to our students' success. Our secretarial staffs, paraprofessionals, custodians, maintenance workers, van drivers, and central office staff do not expect or ask for the limelight. Yet, without their commitment day after day we would not have such a highly regarded school system.

As we transition from the opening of school into the fall, from back to school nights to conferences and the holidays, let us all keep these members of our school community at the forefront of our minds.

We have one common goal - to shine brighter every day. It is my great pleasure to serve as your superintendent. Please consider attending one or more of the Coffee with the Superintendent events scheduled throughout the year. Full details and registration information can be found on the district website at www.warrentboe.org.

Best wishes on a wonderful school year!

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.