

WB – CONTACT

District Newsletter -- May/June 2023 Edition



Woodhaven-Brownstown School District

Learning and Leading for Tomorrow

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mywbsd.org

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MARK GREATHEAD --- SUPERINTENDENT

Joshua Satterfield --- Director of Curriculum

Matthew Salah --- Director of Special Services

Gregory Roberts --- Director of Human Resources

Lyndsay Johnson-LeMieux --- Director of Technology & Instructional Integration

Joshua Smith --- Director of Finance

Michael Belcher --- Director of Facilities & Operations

Kristi Stamey --- Director of Communications & Public Relations

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Jenn Padgett --- President

Mikki Bertin-Kelsay --- Vice-President

Kerri Sanders --- Secretary

Laura Berry --- Treasurer

Rob Harris --- Trustee



Thank You, WBSD Community!

On May 2, 2023, voters in the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District overwhelmingly approved the 18 non-homestead millage renewal with a 75% approval rating. We are very thankful for our community which continues to support our efforts to provide the very best education for our students.

Together, we can do great things!



WB Election Results.pdf

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Jay Vesperman Gets the Nod as WHS Principal

Mr. Jay Vesperman, who has served as an assistant principal at Woodhaven High School for the past 15 years, was recently named the new principal of the high school. Vesperman replaces Matt Czajkowski who retired at the end of the 2022/23 school year.

As an advocate for student empowerment, Vesperman is dedicated to ensuring that every student at WHS receives a well-rounded education that prepares them for future success. Commenting on his new role, Vesperman stated, "I am really excited to lead the building through a grade level reconfiguration where every student feels like they belong and are valued."

Supt. Mark Greathead also commented, "We feel the search for the next WHS Principal brought plenty of interest from some of the top educational leaders in the area. Ultimately, Mr. Vesperman's body of work and vision for the future of WHS earned him the position."

Vesperman earned a Bachelor of Science in Education in 2001 from Central Michigan University, a Master of Arts in Teaching in 2003 from Marygrove College and a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Central University Michigan in 2008. His professional certifications include a school administrator certificate K-12 (ES), Michigan Professional Teaching Certificate Mathematics (EX) and Science (DX) and Michigan Leadership Institute Superintendent's Academy.

Congratulation to Mr. Jay Vesperman, WHS Principal! The footprint of WHS is once again changing with you leading the way.

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Keith Christnagel Named New Athletic Director


 Facebook

During its regular meeting of May 9, 2023, the Board of Education unanimously approved Keith Christnagel as the district's new Athletic Director. Mr. Christnagel replaces outgoing Athletic Director, Robert Picano, who is retiring at the end of the 2022/23 school year.


Christnagel has been the Varsity Football Coach for the past 20 years. He also served as Interim Athletic Director during the winter season of 2021. Christnagel is currently a business teacher at Woodhaven High School where he has held this position for 20 years.


Christnagel has formed lasting relationships with students both on and off the field during his tenure at WHS. Supt. Mark Greathead commented ..."Christnagel has been a highly successful teacher, leader, and coach. More importantly, his relationship-building skills with our students extend beyond football; it includes the entire student body. As the new Athletic Director we look forward to Mr. Christnagel's continued positive contributions in all respects of our students' extracurricular experiences."

Christnagel earned a Bachelor of Arts with a major in business administration and a minor in economics from Alma College and his teaching certification from Eastern Michigan University. He also has multiple credits towards a master's in Higher Education and Student Affairs. Christaegel officially takes over as Athletic Director in August with the start of the 2023/24 school year.

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Jared Nicholls Steps in as Middle School Athletic Director



Facebook

As the middle school athletics program has undergone many changes in the past year, the district's commitment to the program has come full circle with the hiring of Jared Nicholls as the district's new Middle School Athletic Director. Nicholls was approved during the April 18, 2023 school board meeting and replaces Alicia Flynn, former Asst. Athletic Director, who stepped away from the position at the end of the 2021/22 school year to return to teaching.

Nicholls has been an offensive and defensive line coach with the varsity football team since 2011, working hand-in-hand with Keith Christnagel, the district's new Athletic Director. Nicholls has also coached track and field and swimming and volleyball at various levels throughout his tenure with the WBSD. Nicholls currently teaches 6th and 7th grade Social Studies at Brownstown Middle School.

Nicholls said, "I am excited to step into the new position of Middle School Athletic Director for WBSD. I have been working in the district for over 11 years as a teacher and for over 12 years as a coach for multiple sports. The last two summers I ran the summer enrichment programs, too. I am prepared to bring the wealth of knowledge to ensure a safe program for the district's athletes and teams. I am eager to bring my wealth of knowledge in athletics and leadership to help vertically align the WBSD sports programs. I look forward to working with our families, our student athletes, and coaches to continue to build a program that focuses on building individual character and sportsmanship, healthy competition, as well as community involvement, communication and commitment."

Nicholls earned a Bachelor of Science in Education in 2012, a Masters in Public Administration in 2021 and is professionally affiliated with the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP).

We look forward to the elevation of the WBSD athletics programs from our new athletic administrative team!



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On the Road to Retirement

As the 2022/23 school year winds down, the WBSD says goodbye to several long-time employees as they head off into retirement. Retirees were honored at the June 13, 2023 Board of Education meeting and presented with certificates.

Congratulations to the following employees. We wish you well in your future endeavors!

Michelle Anderson
Julie Black
Leslie Brownfield
Emilee Church
Matt Czajkowski
Lorie Holder
Martha Mandernach
Kendal Mazurek
Maureen McKernan
Jim Mulraney
Bob Picano
Jeff Theobald
Dave Waggoner



Teachers Earn Tenure

Congratulations to the following teachers who earned tenure during the 2023/24 school year:

Sara Assenmacher
Jessica Chuba
Renee Coch
Justine Darnell
Jessica Garcia
Kara Hool
Kristyn Konal
John Lees
Elizabeth Martin
Ashley McFadden
Sarah Rochon
Angela Stewart
Brian Taylor
Lauren Tefend
Shawna Williams

Gudith Elementary Student Ibraheem Ali is Sodexo Future Chef Challenge National Winner


Congratulations to Gudith Elementary student Ibraheem Ali! He competed in Sodexo's Future Chef Challenge on March 15th. Ibraheem was chosen as the winner of the District Challenge. On April 21, 2023, the District was notified that Ibraheem was chosen as a regional winner and would be one of five National Finalists for the 2023 Future Chefs Challenge.

Voting for the five candidates took place during the week of May 15, 2023. On Friday, May 19, 2023, Sodexo Area Manager Joe Uri was notified that Ibraheem won the contest and is the National winner. Tom Martin, Gudith Elementary principal was immediately notified and the news was shared with Ibraheem, who was extremely humbled by the experience.


Ibraheem's dish was served during lunch district-wide on Friday, June 2, 2023. His dish was available to anyone who wanted to give it a try.







Ibraheem Ali
2nd Grade
Gudith Elementary School
Woodhaven-Brownstown School District



Fruit Chana Chaat

Ingredients:



- 2 Bananas, Chopped
- 4 Strawberries, Chopped
- 3 Tbsp. Pomegranate Seeds
- ¼ C. Blueberries
- 2 Tbsp. Chickpeas

- 1 Cucumber, Chopped
- ¼ C. Mango Juice
- 1 Tsp. Sugar
- ½ Tsp. Chaat Masala
- Pinch of Black Pepper

Directions:

1. Place chopped bananas, strawberries, blueberries, cucumbers, pomegranate, and chickpeas in a mixing bowl.
2. Add sugar, pepper, chaat masala, and mango juice.
3. Mix well. Ready to eat! Enjoy!

Yield- (4 servings)

WHS Honors & Awards Night

On Wednesday, May 17, 2023, WHS held its annual Honors and Awards Night. Senior Scholars paid

variety of scholarships provided by the community and school-related groups.

Congratulations to the following scholarship winners:

Abed Orthodontics

Raegan Wheaton

Bates Elementary PTO

Parker Williams

Brownstown Middle School PTO

Julia Downey

Brownstown Honor Guard

Abigail Chwalek

Brownstown Lions Club

Jaya Meeks

Bryan Weatherhead Memorial

Ethan Czajkowski

Kendall Robinson

Doug Allen & Elaine Cezeski Memorial

Aiden Baron

Patrick Bond

Eva Filippi

Briceida Jasso

Matthew Sterbenz

Eric Ellerhorst Memorial

Raegan Wheaton

Erving Elementary PTO

Ethan O'Neil

Gudith Elementary PTO

Mehak Chohan

Jackie's Joy

Lauren Heard

Gabriella Hoffee

Jacqueline Coates Memorial

Dominic Leonardi

Julia Noal

Jim Bingham Memorial

Ethan Gilevich

John Webster Memorial

Teagan Fynan

Karen Szymanski Memorial

Katrina Cruz

Kimberly Michelle Gladwell Memorial

Eshal Sajjad

PHMS PTO

Jason Sax

Ray Kroc

Allen Billups

Sodexo

Cara Creutz

Emily Evans

Brooklynn Horuczi

Jaya Meeks

Abdul Nawaz

Nicolle Rozner

Wegienka Elementary PTO

Umar Iqbal

Woodhaven Administrative Association

John Martin

Woodhaven Athletic Boosters

Nathan Blaszcak

James Chwalek

Woodhaven-Brownstown Education Association

Evan Goebel

Woodhaven-Brownstown Education Foundation

Nathan Blaszcak

Elena Bodagh

Kyla Campbell

Cara Creutz

Dominic Leonardi

Linda Tu Quyen Nguy

Julia Noal

Eshal Sajjad

Woodhaven Rotary.

Ella Papas

Raegan Wheaton

Warrior Softball and Baseball on an Incredible Roll to the State Finals

After winning the Downriver League titles, both Varsity Softball and Baseball have been on a roll.

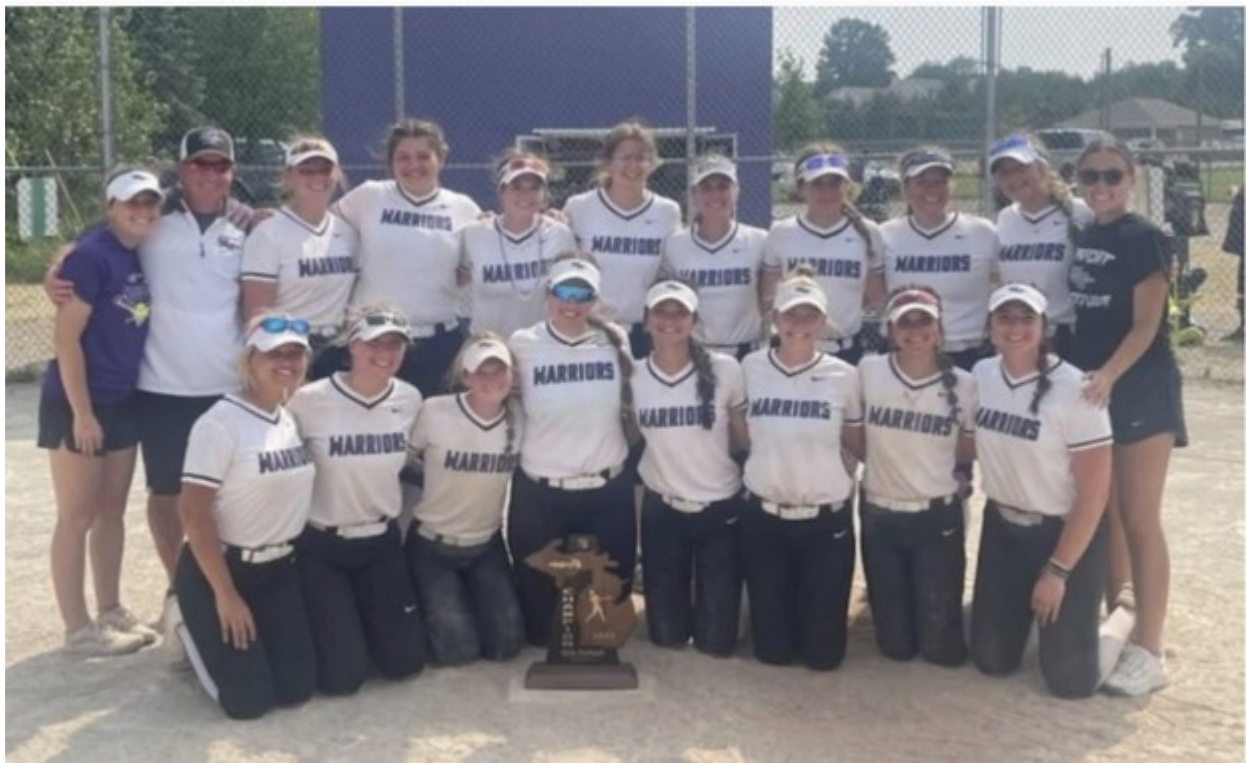
SOFTBALL

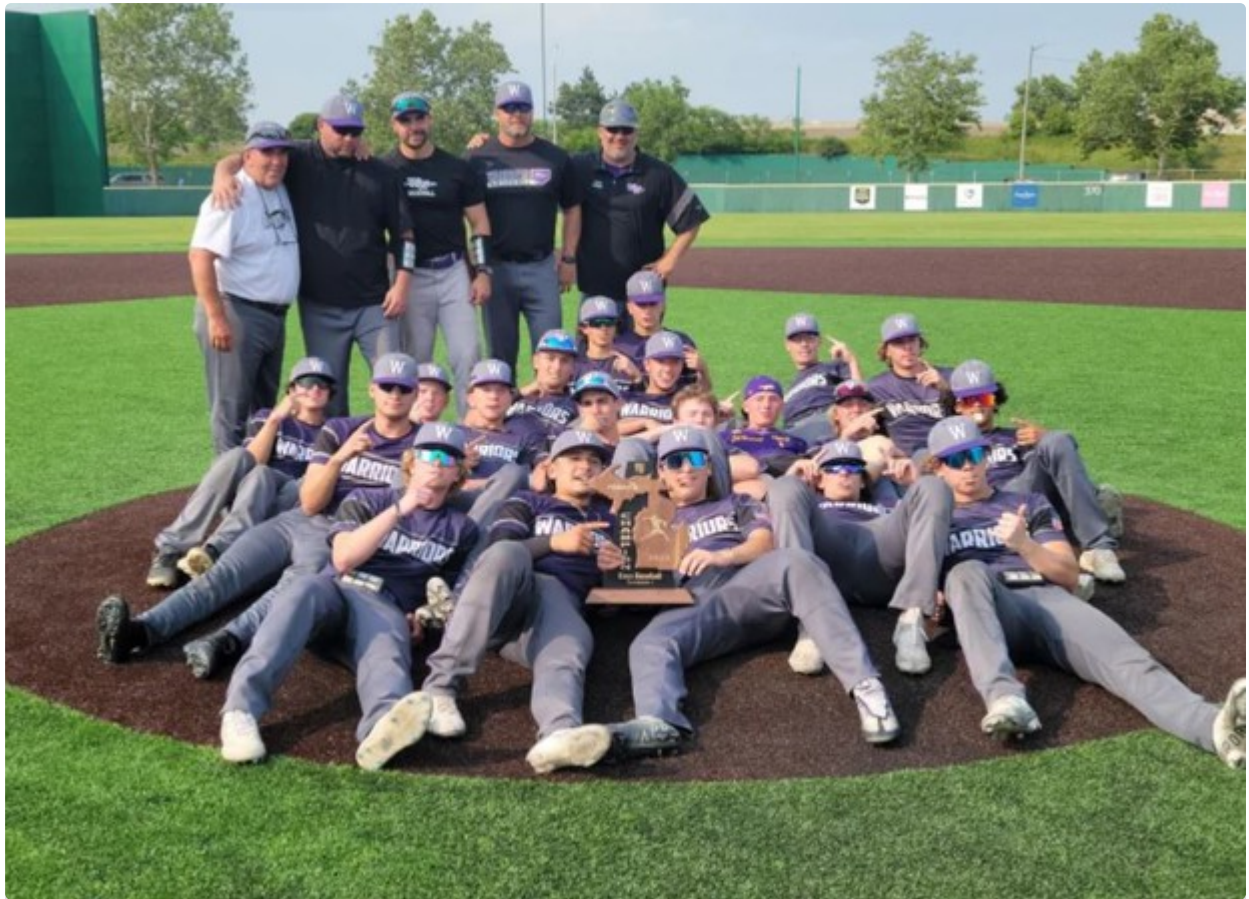
The Lady Warriors cruised into the MHSAA Districts and came out on top by defeating Bedford, giving them their second straight District title. Up next, MHSAA Regionals. The Lady Warriors then defeated Saline to move to the Regional final. With a 10-0 victory over Portage Northern, they team was crowned MHSAA Regional Champs. The girls advanced to the state quarter-finals and soundly defeated Canton 5-1. Next up, MHSAA semi-finals. Softball advanced to the MHSAA Final Four and will take on Grand Blanc on June 15, 2023 at MSU. Should they win that game, they will advance to the state finals on June 17, 2023.

BASEBALL

After defeating Southgate in the MHSAA District finals, the Warriors turned their eye to Regionals. With a 7-2 victory over Allen Park, next up was DeLaSalle. The Warriors easily beat DeLaSalle 9-2 to advance to the state quarter-finals. After defeating Grosse Pointe South, the Warriors marched on to the state semi-finals. They take on Macomb Dakota on June 15, 2023 at MSU, and a win will send them to the MHSAA state finals on June 17, 2023.

What an awesome ride this has been for both teams and a great finish for the seniors!







Warrior Athletes Shine at the MHSAA Track & Field State Finals

Our Warriors had a great showing the the MHSAA Div. 1 Track & Field state championships on June 2-3rd.

Maya Justice took home state runner up honors in the long jump with an incredible jump of 18-3.25 feet

Three female relay teams completed and placed 12th in the 4x2, 15th in the 4.1 and 18th in the 4x4.

Senior Ben Syverson capped off a stellar high school career finishing 13th in the high jump



Maya Justice, state runner up in the long jump -18-3.25 feet. Congratulations Maya!!



Congratulations to Payton Scheffler who placed 4th in the 800 meter at the MHSAA Track & Field state championships!

District Breaks Ground on New Addition to the Performing Arts Center at WHS

With grade level reconfiguration about 15 months away, additional renovations to WHS need to take place in order to make room for the incoming 9th Grade. Part of the expansion at WHS includes new classrooms and space for the band and choir programs. This addition will become part of the Performing Arts wing.

The construction team held a groundbreaking ceremony on June 14, 2023 to kick off the project. Representatives from Plante Moran CRESA, McCarthy & Smith, and GMB Architectural + Engineering were on site to facilitate the groundbreaking. They joined Supt. Mark Greathead, district

administration and Board of Education members, President Jenn Padgett and Trustee Rob Harris, for the ceremonial "first shovel of dirt." Members of the band and choir programs, as well as Marching Band Director Brad Faryniarz and Choir Director Chelsea Rize, also joined the event.

Preparations to welcome the 9th Grade are well underway at WHS. Stay tuned as more renovations are on the horizon.



Marching Band Director and band teacher Brad Faryniarz and Choir teacher Chelsea Rize join in the fun.



Board President Jenn Padgett and Trustee Rob Harris lend a hand.



Students review renderings on the new band and choir room additions to the Performing Arts Center.



Checking out the new space.

Erving Teacher Wins Contest

Written by Penni Blohm

Erving Elementary interventionist Penni Blohm entered a national contest to win books and teddy bears to support children after the pandemic. Ms. Blohm knew that having a reading buddy would bring everyday smiles to her students and would help ease them back into the learning environment. Much to her amazement, she was a winner.

Not only did her students receive teddy bears, they also received a beautiful book designed by an artist from Ukraine and the famous author of *The Mitten*, Jan Brett.

It was a total surprise to her students when they walked into Ms. Blohm's class room and saw the teddy bears displayed in baskets. Students were asked to name their bears and take good care of them.

With summer recess upon us, Ms. Blohm's students will not feel alone but have the memories of learning to read and have the joy and love of reading as they continue their educational journey.

Thank you to Build a Bear and the National Non-Profit Organization for National Literacy ... First Book.

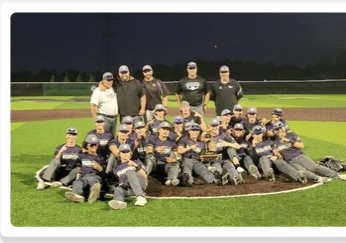


A Day in the Life of a Warrior . . .



Warrior Athletics

Congratulations to Varsity Softball who defeated Southgate to the claim the MHSAA District Champs title!



Warrior Athletics

Varsity Baseball - MHSAA District Champs



Warrior Athletics

Varsity Soccer - MHSAA District Champs!



Warrior Athletics

Tennis v. Trenton



Warrior Athletics

Soccer v. Gibraltar Carlson



Warrior Athletics

Varsity Lady Warriors beat
Allen Park



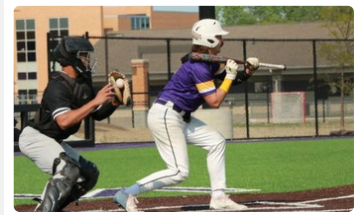
Warrior Athletics

Cinco De Mayo Quad
Champs



Warrior Athletics

Safe at the plate



Warrior Athletics

Varsity Baseball v. Edsel
Ford



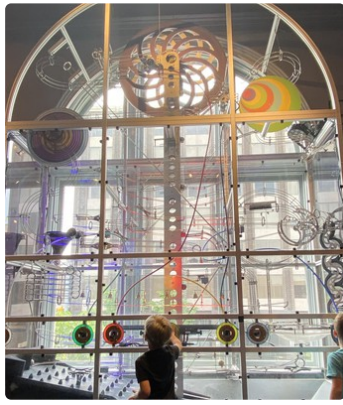
Rotary Club Fishing



Rotary Club Fishing



Rotary Club Fishing



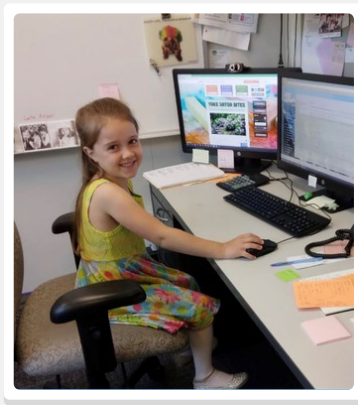
Bates Elementary

First Grade visits the Hands On Museum in Ann Arbor.



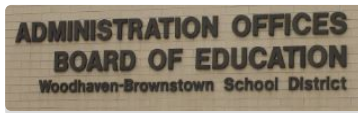
Yake Elementary

GatorBots compete in a FIRST Lego competition



Yake Elementary

Yake has a new principal, Miss Ash!



Woodhaven-Brownstown School District

 @WBSDStrong


Administration & Board of Education


Business Hours:


7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday - Friday

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