

# WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOLS

## West Deptford High School Musical The Better Together Cabaret



Conductor Chris Adams recorded the musicians separately due to COVID restrictions

With the quarantine shutting down Spamalat in 2020, the staff of the West Deptford High School Musical was determined to make something happen in 2021.

So, what did they do? They went online! For the first time ever, the spring musical was streamed online for audiences. It all

started with a directive from the director, Bill Yerkes, who

said, let's make something happen this year. So, out of the creative minds of the staff and with the help of the amazing WDHS audio visual department The Better Together Cabaret sprang to life! The cabaret was filled with fun, inspirational songs from the last sixteen years of high school musicals at West Deptford. This year, even though many things were different, the commitment of the cast and crew to create an amazing show never wavered. The cast worked hard to learn the music and choreography for thirteen songs, which highlighted the importance of coming together in order

to get through the difficult times. Songs like Sisters from White Christmas, No Matter What from Beauty and the Beast and When You're An Addams from The Addams Family highlighted the importance of Family, while songs like Put on a Happy Face and Fit as a Fiddle showed how having a positive outlook (as well as some tap dancing) can make all the difference. Also, songs like One Day More and Human Again inspired hope for the future as we continue to work our way out of the challenging times. There were some surprises too as a few familiar faces (returning seniors) returned for Always Look on the Bright Side of Life and I'm All Alone from Spamalat.

Both the cast and crew were delighted to have the opportunity to perform those pieces from Spamalat. In the end, as the kids sang We Go Together from Grease, it illustrated for everyone involved that "that's the way it should be!" Hopefully, audiences agreed!



Seniors Erika Arseneau and Libby Lebeau



## An Uprising of GOOD at WDMS!

To say the 2020-2021 school year has been atypical would be an understatement. Students and staff have had to adjust to a new version of “normal.” While enhanced technology has gradually impacted education over the course of two decades, the pandemic redefined education in less than one year. WDMS has seized the opportunity that this year has presented to demonstrate our sense of community, resilience, and commitment to excellence!



*Homeward Bound Pet Adoption Center Social Media Takeover*

In October, one of our 8th grade Language Arts classes took over the Homeward Bound Pet Adoption Center’s social media to help stimulate pet adoptions. Students put their creativity to good use by writing creative and comical biographies about the adoptable pets, and posted them on the Homeward Bound Pet Adoption Center’s social media to showcase the adorable and loving pets! Homeward Bound posted the video created by the students on their Facebook page to announce their involvement and showcase how Middle School students are making a difference in their community.

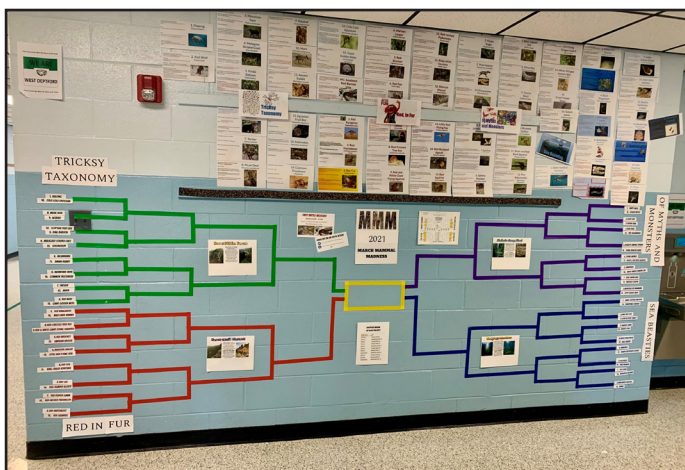


*Holiday Cards for Local Seniors*

In December, the WDMS Student Council launched a holiday card initiative, where students and community members created and/or signed holiday cards to bring joy to local seniors during a particularly isolating time. The Student Council received over 700 cards which provided holiday cards for every senior at three local assisted living facilities. The WDMS Student Council also assisted the WDHS Key Club in their food collection efforts to benefit this year’s Operation Blessing and their annual “Warm Their Feet” sock drive for the homeless.



Whether learning remotely or in person, WDMS students have been actively engaged in a variety of unique class projects. Our annual 5th grade Root Rally was completed earlier this spring. Students had to learn the meaning of 60 different roots, along with example words, and the spelling of the words containing a Latin, Greek, or Hebrew root. To test their knowledge, students were quizzed in an elimination style competition.



*March Mammal Madness*

Our 6th grade science classes have created their own March Mammal Madness! Students researched 65 species of mammals and formulated their very own brackets. As the battles occur, students earn points for the accuracy of their bracket. The student with the highest number of points wins the title of MMM Bracket Champion!



*Living Wax Museum*

Many of our 7th and 8th grade students participated in a Black History Month Virtual Living Wax Museum. The project invited students from all 3 elementary buildings in the District to visit with 19 different influential African Americans through a

virtual video conference. Each elementary class had to work together to come up with one question they would like answered by their favorite person.



*Our Undefeated 8th Grade Girls' Basketball Players*

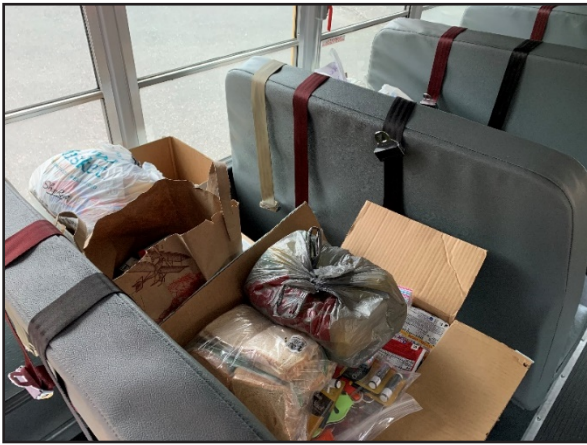
Despite delayed starts and shortened seasons, WDMS athletics have been extremely successful this year! The 2020-21 season marks the first time in school history our Cross Country team had both a boy and girl simultaneously win the Colonial Conference Championships! Not to be outshined, our Field Hockey team had another stellar season, finishing undefeated with an 11-0 record. Our basketball teams both had outstanding seasons. The WDMS Boys' Basketball Team finished the season with a much improved 5-6 record. Our WDMS Girls' Basketball Team ended their 20-21 season undefeated for the second year in a row! Facing similar challenges, WDMS wrestlers had a strong showing at all of their matches. Spring Track and Field began their season later than usual, however, we have high expectations for our runners and field participants this year!

As we continue to move back toward pre-pandemic normalcy, we are grateful for the uprising of GOOD from our WDMS students, staff, and families that was so needed during this past year.



## “Virtual” Family Service Learning Night at Green-Fields to Benefit Cathedral Kitchen

After several attempts, and multiple postponements due to uncooperative winter weather, Green-Fields successfully pulled off a somewhat historical event. Yes, our “Virtual” Family Service Learning Night to benefit Cathedral Kitchen in Camden was a huge success. After two years of in-person family gatherings, our COVID-19 protocols prevented a live version of this event. However, our Green-Fields Family came through once again to make this night of service more successful than ever.



Although we would normally make placemats, table center-pieces, and fill toiletry bags, the directions were a bit simpler this year. We asked families who wanted to participate to make either turkey and cheese, beef bologna and cheese, or PB&J sandwiches. Any type of bread was appropriate without mayo or mustard. Sandwiches were then packed in sealed baggies to be dropped off at Green-Fields the following day. Snack items were donated as well.



Well, we had an overwhelming response, and with the items that were dropped off the following day, we were able to fill a school bus with the generous donations of which we kindly dropped off to Cathedral Kitchen. We could have never attempted such an event without the help of several people. Special thanks to Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Dupper who came back to help collect the sandwiches, our instructional aides who also helped collect items and ride the bus to Cathedral Kitchen, and our transportation department who facilitated the delivery. Finally, appreciation goes out to our School Counselor, Kelly Hansbury for coordinating all of the details.

As we’ve proven over and over again throughout this past year, even at a distance, our Green-Fields Family can really come together to accomplish amazing things!

Kinder...Smarter...Stronger...Together!

## Oakview's Journey to Earn the "Promising Practice" Distinction

We are excited to share that Oakview Elementary School has embarked on a journey to earn the renowned "Promising Practice" distinction!

The Oakview Staff understands the value of the West Deptford School District's mission to develop well rounded, motivated, 21st century thinkers that will transition from competent students to productive and responsible citizens. In Oakview, we use innovative, successful initiatives to integrate character education into the curriculum. Character.org recognizes schools and other organizations for Promising Practices in character development. The Practice must be based on, or tied to, at least one of the 11 Principles. Throughout this school year, we have gathered and documented how we have implemented Character.org's Principle #5 ("The school provides students with opportunities for moral action") to apply for the "Promising Practice" award.

We feel we are soaring as a community! Through a variety of service-learning initiatives and activities that embrace a sense of belonging, the Oakview family continuously comes together to benefit the students, school, and community for the greater good. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our school community focused on making a direct impact on the needs of others. Throughout the month of December, our focused Character Trait was Generosity. We provided students, staff, and families with the opportuni-

ty to participate in Oakview's 'UnSelfie Project' to depict all the ways we are generous! The Oakview families completed selfless acts of kindness throughout the community and captured these acts in 'selfie' photos, which were posted on social media with the hashtag #UnSelfie. As a school community we demonstrated generosity when our staff created a school pantry to help alleviate the financial burden that the pandemic placed on community members that were out of work and struggling to provide for their family. We distributed food, toys, coats, blankets, and other items during the holiday season.

Through our service-learning projects, our students have a voice and choice regarding the impact they can make on their community. As our school community embraces generosity and community involvement, it unites local organizations to reciprocate such actions and model giving deeds for others. For example, the West Deptford Junior Women's Club and Amazon have graciously taken the time to come to our school as guest readers. Our service-learning projects encompass the entire school community because it is through the efforts of the home, school, and West Deptford as a community that we can truly instill the value of strong character that supports and molds personal values. Learning the value of a community as a whole is an essential character trait that is important to instill in our youngest learners to then one day transition into their adulthood.



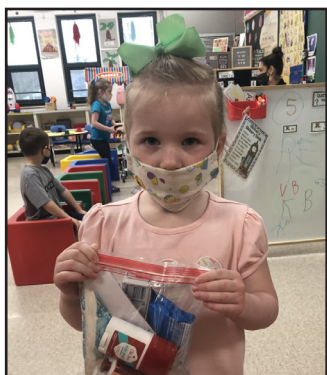
## Red Bank's First Annual "Caring Kits for Vets"

Red Bank decided to put a clear and intentional focus on the principles necessary to become a "Promising Practice" school. We wanted to provide students with opportunities for moral action. Our goal was to create school culture based on the philosophy that children need to be immersed in activities that build teamwork, celebrate responsibility, and identify and resolve community struggles. We believe that students learn best in hands-on situations where actions become meaningful through doing. Based upon this principle, Red Bank set forth on creating a



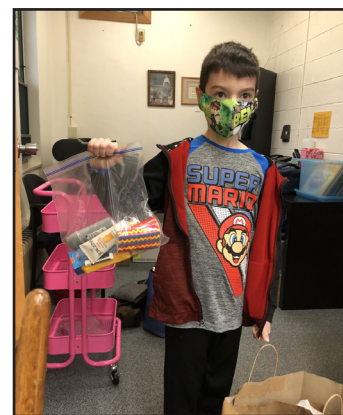
service learning project with the intention of it becoming an annual event; hence, the introduction of our "Caring Kits for Veterans" project.

The character trait for March is "responsibility," and what better way to help our young scholars develop this trait? This service learning project reflected the learning of new ideas regarding community service and was inclusive of preschool and second grade students. Students, families, teachers, and staff were asked to assemble kits that contained travel-sized self-care items to donate to the community. Some of these

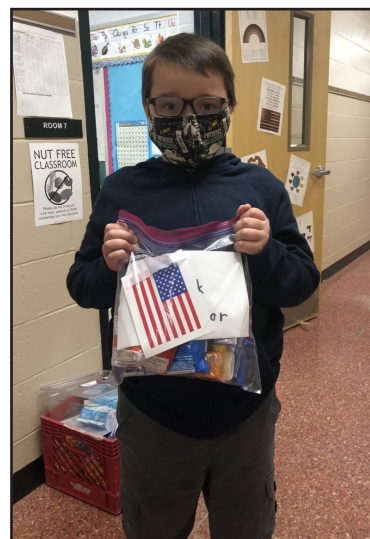


items included toothpaste, tooth brushes, deodorant, body wash, shampoo, moisturizer, lip balm, and a small individually wrapped snack.

Despite the challenge of the unusual learning environment, our families were able to donate and fill almost 200 kits. Teaching our students the value of selflessness and caring resulted in the overwhelming success of this project. Our students of all ages, backgrounds, and learning levels united as a team to give back to their community. It was necessary to adapt the project to reflect the obstacles faced during this school year. Next year, we are looking forward to when this project will bring school and families together for an evening of service learning and volunteering to help our students appreciate the character trait of responsibility.



Once all our Caring Kits were collected, a special thank you veterans note was added to each kit. The kits were loaded and delivered to the Veterans' Memorial Home in Vineland. The outpouring of gratitude from the veterans to our students was amazing. This project was a huge success and we are looking forward to next year. Thank you so much to every member of our Red Bank School community that made this learning experience so special for our students.



## Pre-K Students Soar Towards Success

West Deptford Pre-K students are soaring towards success in Early Literacy! In addition to the Literacy skills embedded in the HighScope curriculum, the West Deptford Pre-K program also utilizes Foundations, a Pre-K Activities Set. The Foundations program supports our students' emerging understanding of the alphabetic principles of letter-sound associations and alphabetical order as well as the written language skill of manuscript letter formation. In the Foundations lessons this past Fall, our preschoolers met Baby Echo, a stuffed owl puppet used to help point to cards and pictures, and to help cue the students to repeat (echo) sounds. During daily interactive and multi-modality lessons, the students spent the first few months of school learning about letter-sound correspondence through large group direct instruction activities. With our shift into the second half of the program, our Pre-K students are working on further development of letter-sound relationships in a large group setting and are also practicing letter formation skills in small groups. With exposure throughout the year paired with literacy skills within the HighScope program, our students will be well equipped in Early Literacy skills for their Kindergarten year!

West Deptford School District



### 2021-2022 PRESCHOOL

Visit the [ps.wdeptford.k12.nj.us](https://ps.wdeptford.k12.nj.us) website  
for our Online Registration Form

#### ABOUT US:

WDSO is proud to offer a tuition-free, full day preschool program. Bus transportation is also provided to select schools.

#### ELIGIBILITY:

Child MUST be 4 years old by October 1, 2021 and documented proof of West Deptford residency is REQUIRED.

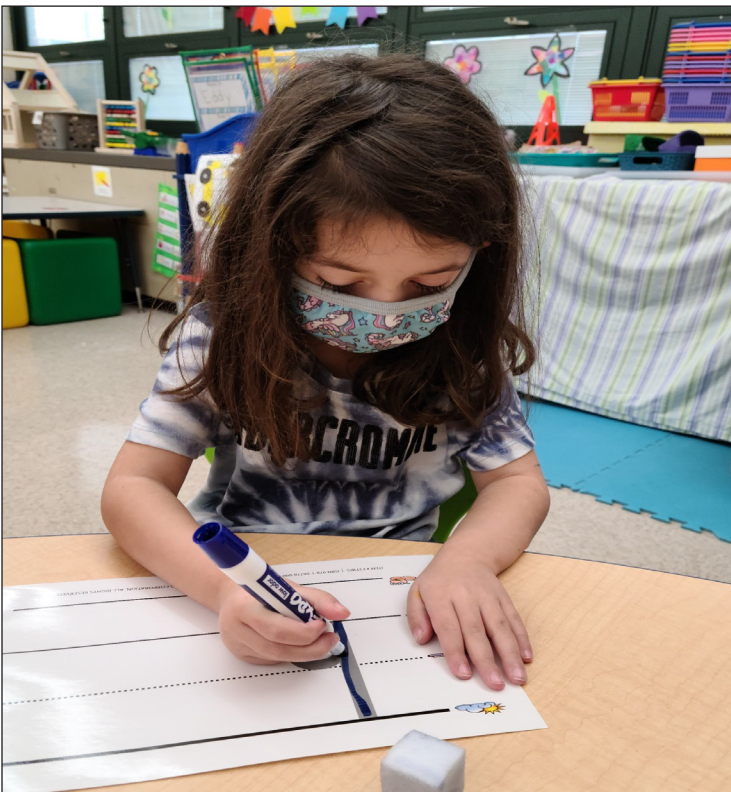
#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Limited slots available; applicants will be placed on a wait list, if necessary
- Registration appointments for submitting required documents are being conducted on 4/17 (8am-4pm), 4/21 (4-8:30pm), 4/28 (4-8:30pm), and 5/1/2021 (8am-4pm) inside West Deptford Middle School gymnasium



#### CONTACT US:

856-848-4300 ext. 6221  
[preschool@wdeptford.k12.nj.us](mailto:preschool@wdeptford.k12.nj.us)



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## Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year Recipients



**Tina Krasting – WDHS**

Mrs. Tina Krasting has been chosen as the West Deptford High School Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year. Mrs. Krasting has shown dedication, good nature, unselfishness, and love for her students in many ways. She is a very hard worker and always puts forth her best effort for the good of the students. Mrs. Krasting always comes to work and strives to

better herself as an educator as she continues to be a highly dedicated, good natured, unselfish, and a loving individual.

Her dedication is outstanding. She works extremely hard and never expects anything in return. She does this for the good of our students. Mrs. Krasting is a good-natured person who is always friend-

ly and pleasant who is open to others' views, she is always straight in her dealings, honest to the core, and helpful to one and all without any discrimination. Her belief is that this educational community has allowed her to touch lives as well as be touched by so many others. She has learned that the rewards of her effort may never include a single dime, nor a thank you, nor a good job, but the rewards are more meaningful in the form of a hug, or an endearing comment. In the end, these traits make her an inspiration for all she comes in contact with.

Mrs. Krasting enjoys her students and she makes sure that they receive a good education. Loving educators are those who practice listening to show they care not only about what happens in the classroom, but also about their students' lives in general. She demonstrates in-depth understanding of the students she works with and gets to know students individually in hopes she can understand and take steps to efficiently serve their needs. She continues to go the extra mile to connect to all students and make a difference in their lives. Congratulations, and thank you for all that you do.



**Alexis Walsh- WDMS**

West Deptford Middle School is pleased to recognize Dr. Alexis Walsh as our Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year! Dr. Walsh joined the West Deptford Middle School family in September of 2018. Dr. Walsh is a graduate of West Deptford Schools and current resident of West Deptford. She holds a Bachelor Degree from Rutgers University in Political Science, a Mas-

ter of Social Work, and Doctorate degree in Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania from the School of Social Policy and Practice. Dr. Walsh has a passion for animal-assisted interventions and attended the University of Denver's Institute for Human-Animal Connection, where she received an Animal Assisted Therapy, Activities, and Education certificate. Prior to COVID-19, her therapy dog, Visha, frequently accompanied her during counsel-

ing sessions both at Green-Fields and the Middle School.

Prior to becoming a part of West Deptford Middle School, Alexis worked for Salem County Special Services School District as an in-home Early Intervention provider conducting developmental intervention sessions with families. She also worked as an outpatient therapist in the Camden County community with a focus on children and adolescents. During her time at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Walsh conducted a study on a program based in Philadelphia which offers job skills training to youth aging out of foster care working with homeless/shelter animals. Dr. Walsh has also had the opportunity to oversee Master-level internships in this field.

Dr. Walsh truly cares for and believes in each student and family she works with. She believes each and every student has more ability than they often realize, and feels it is her job to help them see how truly wonderful they really are. Dr. Walsh has earned the respect of her colleagues, her students, and their families. Her compassion and tireless effort to help all students achieve success is what makes Dr. Walsh the perfect Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year for West Deptford Middle School!



**Elise Wajid, Ed.D. – GFES**

On behalf of the students and staff of Green-Fields Elementary School, we are proud to recognize Mrs. Elise Wajid as Green-Fields Educational Services Professional of the Year. Mrs. Wajid demonstrates the qualities reserved for those educators who make a conscious decision each day to demonstrate excellence in all they do for the students in their care.

her instructional approach with our at-risk population is beyond effective. She is the ultimate “team player” and shares her time and talent with teachers, parents, and administrative staff.

Mrs. Wajid continues to add to the instructional knowledge base within the building through her ongoing research and leadership. Her commitment in this regard is demonstrated through her life-long love of learning as well as the desire to always provide the most effective research-based instructional strategies for her students. Teachers trust her implicitly and value her input and suggestions for intervention.

Dr. Wajid has earned the respect of students, their parents, and District staff through her dedication to the children in her care, and commitment to the learning environment. She demonstrates a confident leadership style and has gained the admiration of the faculty and staff at Green-Fields as well as colleagues throughout the District. Beyond this, Dr. Wajid is a kind, warm, and friendly presence within our building, and her contagious smile makes each day better for everyone in her view. She continues to demonstrate excellence daily on behalf of her students and is well deserving of the recognition as Green-Fields Educational Services Professional of the Year.



**Lisa Miller - OVES**

Oakview Elementary School is honored to announce Mrs. Lisa Miller as the Educational Service Professional for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Miller is proud to be a West Deptford Eagle.

Mrs. Miller’s own educational experiences as an alumni from the West Deptford Schools inspired her to pursue a career in public education rooted within her

and models her love for reading to inspire her students to persevere and achieve personal goals. She raises the bar for her students and works to help them meet expectations. Mrs. Miller is a true example of a team player and is always willing to offer support and assistance to her colleagues. Her level of dedication and professionalism provides an excellent example for current and aspiring educational professionals. We are proud and honored to have Mrs. Miller as a member of the Oakview family.

own community. Mrs. Miller has been dedicated to the education field for the past seventeen years. Over the course of those seventeen years, she has channeled her passion to support our youngest learners in their educational journey. Mrs. Miller has served as an instructional aide in our special education classrooms where she continues to nurture, support, and advocate to positively impact the lives of her students. Mrs. Miller is an avid reader





**Donald Schultz – RBES**

ages and guides them through their educational journey. He works perfectly alongside the classroom teacher and

Red Bank is honored and privileged to announce Mr. Donald Schultz as our Educational Services Professional of the Year. Mr. Schultz works as a 1:1 instructional aide in our preschool disabled classroom, however every student in that room has blossomed as a result of his caring and nurturing demeanor. “Mr. Don” makes the students feel safe and confident, but with a tender push he encour-

enhances the learning experiences with his own thoughts and ideas.

Mr. Don also is a fantastic team member of our Red Bank School community. His presence in the building has positively impacted both students and staff. Everyone looks forward to his daily greetings and morning walks with his students as they push their shopping carts through the hallways making deliveries. Wherever you see Mr. Don, you are guaranteed to see a smile. His positive attitude is contagious, his caring personality is ever-present, and his influence on our students is immeasurable. The best way to truly appreciate Mr. Don’s contribution to our students is through a message sent from a parent. Her son said to her, “I go to school, mommy. I love Mr. Don and Mr. Don loves me!” Congratulations “Mr. Don” Schultz on the well-deserved honor of being Red Bank’s Educational Services Professional of the Year.

## Governor’s Educator of the Year Recipients



**Raymond Kirschner – WDHS**

Instead, it is simply the tireless effort of one man, Mr. Ray Kirschner. He can often be found at school events with a camera in hand, ensuring that there are hours of usable footage for the students fortunate enough to take his classes to edit and produce. In the past year, he has gone above and beyond, producing hours of professional-level videos to highlight and celebrate our students and athletes who might have gone without recognition due to the COVID-related cancellation of banquets and ceremonies. This entire season, Mr. Kirschner has taken the livestreaming of all of our sports to a new level, taking it upon himself not only to ensure that the infrastructure was in place for the technology to run smoothly, but also that each event was covered, whether by students or himself.

Mr. Ray Kirschner is a passionate, talented, dedicated teacher who absolutely deserves the recognition of West Deptford High Schools Governor’s Teacher of the Year. Our school has an incredible video tech program. Those outside the building would probably think that there is an entire department dedicated to the filming, editing, and production of the video content produced.

Mr. Kirshner incorporates the authentic footage back to his classroom where he has students editing highlight videos for the sport or extracurricular of their choice, cutting in music and transitions seamlessly.

Although he usually does this using the industry-standard Adobe Premiere, that was not possible this fall on the student Chromebooks. Quickly, Mr. Kirschner pivoted to make use of the weVideo software, which was new to him and something that he had to learn himself. This has not slowed his classes down one bit; no one in this District has done a better job of taking the obstacles presented to us this year and making the absolute most out of it. Through long hours, hard work, and a relentless positivity, Mr. Ray Kirschner has taken his work to new heights at this time and extended that work for everyone in the District and community to enjoy. Congratulations for a job well done and for the lifetime of memories he has captured for our school community.





**William Malone - WDMS**

West Deptford Middle School proudly acknowledges William Malone as it's Governor's Educator of the Year Honoree for the 2020-2021 School Year. Mr. Malone holds Bachelor Degrees in Elementary Education and Liberal Studies from Rowan University and is also certified in Middle School Math and Science. Mr. Malone began his teaching career in 2012 as a Math teacher at the LEAP Academy Charter School in Camden, New Jersey. He joined

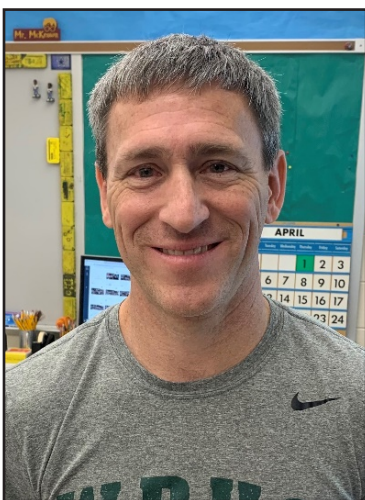
the WDMS family in 2014 where he continues to teach 7th and 8th-grade mathematics. While at WDMS, he has served as 8th-grade Team Leader and Athletic Director. Mr. Malone has led professional development on data-driven instruction in math, served as a "Tech Captain" by acting as a resource and facilitator to support our staff's technology professional development, and served as the WDHS Boys Soccer Assistant Coach, WDHS Girls Soccer Assistant Coach, and the Paul VI Varsity Swim Coach.

Mr. Malone has a natural ability to teach ALL students. He teaches both general education and special education students at WDMS and is able to teach the same content in a variety of ways to meet

the needs of all his learners. He goes above and beyond to help his students understand math content, and even created his own YouTube channel in virtual instruction. His uncanny ability to make the content relevant to his students fosters higher levels of comprehension among so many of his learners. Mr. Malone is especially attentive to using data to inform his instruction and help his students take strides in their learning.

Aside from his teaching talent, personable good nature, and leadership, perhaps the most important element of Mr. Malone is his positive impact on the climate and culture of West Deptford Middle School. Mr. Malone is incessantly upbeat and FUNNY. His positivity reverberates throughout the whole building, impacting staff, parents, and students alike. He can frequently be found in front of the school during parent drop-off in a costume, dancing to the music he plays on his boombox, and waving his traffic baton. In virtual instruction, you could find him making TikTok dances to entertain and engage his students. Mr. Malone put West Deptford on the map with his creative rendition of Bob Marley's "Everything Little Thing is Gonna be Alright," which found its way on local 6ABC News. It served as another example of how he tries to positively impact the lives of his students, even when doing so from his kitchen in the middle of a pandemic that had brought in-person instruction to a halt.

Mr. Malone exemplifies the delicate balance that all educators face in today's culture: to be encouraging, constructively critical, empathetic, supportive, non-judgmental, and trusted. West Deptford Middle School is proud to have William Malone as their Governor's Educator of the Year Honoree.



**John McKeown - GFES**

Green-Fields Elementary School is proud to recognize Mr. John McKeown as our Governor's Educator of the Year. Throughout Mr. McKeown's time in our school, he has demonstrated the unique gift of discovering the best in each of his students, and using these strengths to enhance and develop a love of learning in every child.

Mr. McKeown is the kind of teacher that parents hope their children have at least once in their educational experience.

His ability to connect with the students is amazing and he recognizes that if relationships are placed first, learning will follow. He is exceptionally skilled as an elementary teacher, and truly understands what motivates children to succeed. There is a sense of enthusiasm and joy that radiates from his classroom, and his students are truly happy to be at school. His approach to instruction is creative, and can even be described as unorthodox at times. However, the results are outstanding, and children simply grow in his presence. He purposely creates a trusting and safe environ-

ment that enables students to step outside of their comfort zone and take risks. As a result, his students reach new levels of performance and develop an enthusiasm and love for life-long learning.

Mr. McKeown has served as a regular education teacher, and in an ICR setting. He has worked successfully with his co-teachers through the years, and makes everyone around him better. It's obvious that he's a team-oriented teacher, and is always seeking to evolve based on the educational needs of his students. He has worked diligently to find innovative ways to connect with his students throughout this COVID year. In fact, he has taken on the task of acting as one of our fourth grade fully-virtual teachers, and has developed a brand-new instructional methodology based on his years of classroom experience. He took the time to investigate and learn new virtual approaches that the elementary level was not trained to use. Beyond this, he has assimilated and shared these new techniques with our staff.

Mr. McKeown also plays an active role in the community as the head coach of West Deptford High School's Boys' Basketball team. However, his influence with his players does not stop on the court. He continues to motivate his players to excel in the classroom, in the community, and even after graduation. His teams have surely learned the value of community service and the importance of making positive contributions to society.

Congratulations to Mr. McKeown for being recognized as the 2020-2021 Governor's Educator of the Year from Green-Fields Elementary.



**Tori Magsam - OVES**

success. Mrs. Magsam has been dedicated to the field of education for the past twenty-two years. We are honored to have had Mrs. Magsam as a teacher in West Deptford for twenty-one of those years as her

Oakview Elementary School is proud to congratulate Mrs. Tori Magsam as the Governor's Educator of the Year Honoree for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Magsam attended the University of South Florida to earn a Bachelor's in Science. In addition, she earned a vast array of educational certifications that expand her instructional delivery to support her students' suc-

drive and passion are continuously student-centered.

Mrs. Magsam has taught in all three of the District's elementary schools as well as the high school alternative school program. As a certified Wilson Practitioner, her area of instructional expertise is in literacy and intervention. As a valued member of Oakview's Students First Committee, Mrs. Magsam brings her expertise for differentiation to support the delivery and possible accommodations that can be implemented within all instruction. In the classroom, Mrs. Magsam raises the bar for her students and works to help them meet individual expectations. She goes over and beyond to communicate, advocate, and nurture her students so they can transition to the next grade level with confidence. When Mrs. Magsam isn't in the classroom, she enjoys spending time with her family, crafting with friends, and venturing to new places. We would like to thank Mrs. Magsam for her dedication to our school community and congratulate her on being the Governor's Educator of the Year!



**Lauren Walsh - RBES**

social-emotional learning needs of children is vital as the foundation for student success. Mrs. Walsh is a very dedicated teacher who firmly believes in the premise of individualized education. She takes painstaking care to make sure she is reaching each and every one of her students,

Red Bank is proud to announce the Governor's Educator of the Year is Mrs. Lauren Walsh. Mrs. Walsh is the teacher of our Preschool Disabled 3-year-old program, and is one of our District's most talented special education teachers. Mrs. Walsh has the task of educating our youngest learners; learners that so deeply need unconditional love and support. Quality instruction which focuses on the

despite the vast differences in learning levels and challenges in her classroom community.

In addition to her dedication to her students, Mrs. Walsh has created a positive bond with parents, families, and the community. She works consistently to stay connected, share classroom stories, and celebrate major academic milestones achieved. No words ring truer than Helen Keller's: "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." Mrs. Walsh lives by these words each day. Experiencing a child entering her classroom with limited verbal communication to leaving with the necessary social skills to form lasting peer relationships is simply amazing.

Mrs. Walsh is an exceptional teacher committed to excellence in this profession. She works tirelessly to help her students be the best that they can be. It is for these reasons and many more that Mrs. Walsh has earned the respect of her fellow teachers, administrators, and most importantly the families of our West Deptford students. Red Bank is honored to celebrate Mrs. Lauren Walsh as our Governor's Educator of the Year.

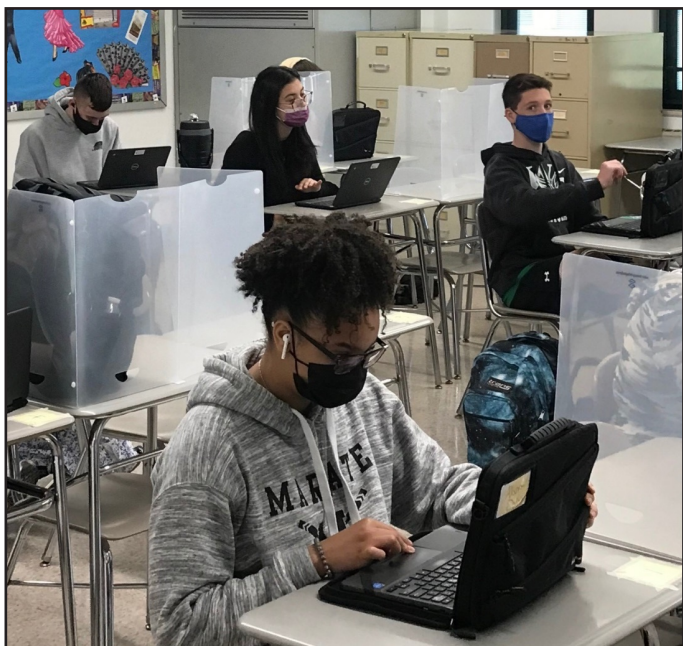


## WDHS Students Return to School Full Time By Molly Doherty '21

On April 26th, 68% of West Deptford High School students decided to come back to school full time. Those that chose not to come back continue to attend class through Zoom. With the hybrid schedule gone, and the full day schedule back, students are able to get as close to a normal school year as possible.



Students were able to kick off the end of the school year with Spirit Week. It was a way for students, and even teachers, to show off their school spirit in a fun and exciting way. Seniors can also look forward to “senior celebrations” that consist of a trip to Hershey Park, Dave and Buster’s, and Senior Picnic at the local Green-Fields Swim Club. All will take place a week after school ends as a final goodbye to fellow classmates before going off to college.



Another exciting activity for seniors to look forward to is their graduation ceremony. Dr. Gismondi said in a recent FOX29 interview that “we will do whatever it takes for our students to have a graduation.”

With COVID restrictions being able to relax a little bit, students, along with family, are now able to go to sporting events. Senior lacrosse player Avery Corino said that it is more fun and exciting to be able to hear her team being cheered for. “It’s nice having a bigger crowd of students to support us, not just parents,” she said.

Outdoor dining is a new addition to the school that offers students the opportunity to eat lunch under a big tent in the middle of the school courtyard. On the nicer days it is very popular, and all of the tables are full of students talking and laughing, gossiping, or studying.

“Students have gone almost a full school year without seeing any of their friends, so being able to see them interact with one another again is so heartwarming,” said math teacher Charisse LoPresti.

Being in school gives the students the ability to move around, talk to friends, ask teachers any questions they have, and be able to pay more attention to the lessons. Senior Elizabeth Leonard could not be more happy to be back in school. “It sure beats sitting at home on a laptop for six hours,” she said.



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## Tony Scirrotto is a Special Law Enforcement Officer for West Deptford High School

By Molly Doherty '21

Officer Scirrotto was a member of the West Deptford Township Police Department for 25 years. Now, he works as a SLEO (Special Law Enforcement Officer) for the West Deptford High School.

Over the course of the past seven years, Scirrotto was a detective in charge of Meagan's Law, Firearm applications, and the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, and felt that being a detective was "really fun." After retiring in December 2019, Scirrotto took some construction jobs in town and worked at RiverWinds Golf Course as a ranger during the spring and summer.

Now, Scirrotto starts his day at 6:45 a.m. as a SLEO officer at West Deptford High School. His main responsibility is the school's security, an important job in today's world. Scirrotto replaced Officer Michael Duffy who resigned this year.

Working as a SLEO officer is not an easy job. The officer is the first line of defense if an active shooter enters the school. Because of this threat, or any other serious threats, he or she carries the same weapons as a police officer. Some of the other responsibilities include checking the bathrooms to see if students are vaping and to address theft, bullying, fighting, and weapons as well as conduct drug searches. Fortunately, Scirrotto has never had to use his gun, "I have drawn my gun, but I never had to use it for defense," he stated.



Scirrotto has worked in the High School in the past. From 2001-2004, he worked as the District's Resource Officer. He handled any situation that needed a police officer's attention. Now, he handles issues that arise in the high school in conjunction with Officer Keinholtz, the School Resource Officer for the District.

Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, a lot has changed in schools. Instead of 900 students squeezing past each other and rushing to their next class, there are now 88-150 students a day walking through the halls. Scirrotto has noticed the difference. "The school is not as busy and loud. There's not as much drama and instances," he said.

Since Scirrotto was a former student at West Deptford High School, he knows many of the teachers who have given him a warm welcome. Mr. Morrell was one of the administrators he knew because they worked with each other in youth sports. Other teachers he is friends with include Vince Layton, Ray Kirschner, and Mark Dixon. He also lived close to the principal of the high school, Dr. Brian Gismondi.

Scirrotto has dedicated his life to the Township. He spent his younger years in Green-Fields Elementary School and the West Deptford Middle School. In 1983, he graduated from West Deptford High School. Later, he coached youth sports for 30 years. He coached football, wrestling, baseball, and basketball. Scirrotto also participated in educational activities like serving on the Board of Education for four years.

A dedicated family man, Scirrotto has five children: Anthony, Derrick, Dominic, Vinny and Michaela. He also has five grandchildren. Four out five of his children have also graduated from West Deptford High School. Three of his grandchildren will go to West Deptford schools.

Scirrotto takes great pride in his new position: "I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve the students and staff of WDHS. It's my privilege to do everything in my power to keep the children safe."

## 2021 - 2022 School Budget Highlights



The West Deptford Board of Education approved a \$52,005,806 General Fund Budget on April 26, 2021. The 2021-2022 School Year Budget reflects a 1.5% tax levy increase. This amounts to an increase of about \$42 on every home at the average assessed value. West Deptford has the 4th lowest school tax rate of the 24 School Districts that are in Gloucester County.

	Audited	Revised	Proposed	Prior Year
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-2022	Compare
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$33,959,499</b>	<b>\$34,687,347</b>	<b>\$35,207,657</b>	<b>\$520,310</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>	<b>\$801,876</b>	<b>\$812,918</b>	<b>\$660,256</b>	<b>-\$152,662</b>
<b>Total Tax Levy</b>	<b>\$34,761,375</b>	<b>\$35,500,265</b>	<b>\$35,867,913</b>	<b>\$367,648</b>
<b>Average Home</b>	<b>\$199,818</b>	<b>\$199,933</b>	<b>\$199,955</b>	<b>\$22</b>
<b>Local School Tax Rate</b>	<b>\$1.5368</b>	<b>\$1.5710</b>	<b>\$1.5918</b>	<b>\$0.0208</b>
<b>Local Debt Service Rate</b>	<b>\$0.0363</b>	<b>\$0.0368</b>	<b>\$0.0298</b>	<b>-\$0.0070</b>
<b>Total Tax (less Debt)</b>	<b>\$3,070.803</b>	<b>\$3,140.947</b>	<b>\$3,182.884</b>	<b>\$41.936</b>
<b>Tax Increase (less Debt)</b>	<b>\$72.517</b>	<b>\$70.144</b>	<b>\$41.936</b>	

In addition to maintaining all current programming, the District is hiring a new District Media Specialist. The Board of Education is making a significant investment to upgrade all school building security hardware including camera systems, access control systems, and burglar alarm panels. The budget also includes funding to begin the process of bringing West Deptford-owned buses back for the 2022-2023 school year for all local school routes.

# WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Main Highlights



❖ Hire a District Media Specialist

❖ Begin the Process of In-House Transportation



- ✓ Construct new bus garage
- ✓ Evaluate, plan and lease purchase a bus fleet
- ✓ Promote and hire NEW bus drivers (following year)
- ✓ Establish in-district procedures and protocols for bus fleet maintenance
- ✓ Seek and secure shared garage maintenance services



❖ Award, fund and complete a District wide facility security upgrade of access control systems, camera systems and burglar alarm hardware in ALL schools.



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## FOCUS ON WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOLS

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LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

## SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

A wide variety of special education programs are available for students between the ages of 3 and 21 who require specialized instruction and/or related services such as speech/language services, occupational therapy and physical therapy in order to meet their educational needs. Educational program options include: instruction in a general education class with all the necessary and appropriate supports, supplemental instruction, resource center programs, special class programs within the school district, special education programs in out-of-district public or private schools, individual instruction at home, in medical institutions or other appropriate facilities.

## PRESCHOOL DISABLED PROGRAM

The Preschool Disabled Program provides appropriate educational experiences for youngsters between the ages of 3 and 5 who experience developmental delays in the areas of speech and language, motor development, cognition and/or social/emotional functioning. The school district offers an educational program, related services, and curb-to-curb transportation at no cost to parents. The children are placed according to individual needs and developmental levels. In the preschool programs, they are encouraged to explore new materials, develop emerging skills, and interact in a social setting. Speech/language therapy and occupational therapy are offered as an integral part of the classroom program and/or on an individual basis as needed. If warranted, other services such as physical therapy may be initiated.

**If you have any questions about either of the programs described above and feel that your child may require services, please call the Director of Special Education and Related Services, Dr. Kim Seifring, at (856) 848-4300, ext. 4208.**