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Waverly Top Ten Graduating Seniors

WAVERLY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Track

Unified Sports Basketball Game
Dear Waverly Families,

I blinked, and it was Spring! I am becoming quite confident that we are finished with snow days for the 18-19 school year (I hope). WOW! What a winter. Spring is a time for both growth and change, and a lot has been happening in Waverly!

- In February four new Waverly School Board members were sworn in and one was re-elected. Welcome to the Board of Education and thank you for your service Members Chris Beasley, Alicia Guevara Warren, Amy Krause and Rhonda Sosnowski. Member Mary Ann Martin was re-elected and is now serving as Board President. To see our entire Board of Education and the new officer positions, please follow this link, www.waverlycommunityschools.net/board-of-education/.

- A team of 46 Waverly staff, parents and community members met on February 28th to kick-off an update of Waverly Comunitiy Schools Strategic Plan. The group broke into (4) four teams to work on the following goals:
  1. Teaching & Learning
  2. Safe Learning Environment
  3. Student, Staff and Community Relations
  4. Finance and Facilities

I am excited to formally update the plan, so we have a renewed focus to plan for the future and help strengthen our services to students and families. Our Waverly team is working with all members of our school and community family as we continue to make strides in the education of our Warrior students.

- Speaking of teams…. Our entire Waverly team pulled together to prepare to host the 49th Governor of our great State of Michigan, Gretchen Whitmer. Governor Whitmer held a community meeting at WHS, ITC (Library) on April 10th. We received many compliments about our polite and courteous student greeters and also how nice the building looked. Thanks team!

- Attendance, attendance, attendance. Please make every effort to ensure your students come to school on time and ready to learn. If your student is in the elementary (K-6) they will receive an attendance letter at 10, 15 and 25 absences. The third letter (25 absences) will also go to the Truancy Officer. For Waverly Middle School and High School letters are sent out at 5, 9 and 12 absences per hour. The third letter (12 absences) will also go to the Truancy Officer.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, research indicates that attendance is an important factor in student achievement and a missed school day is a lost opportunity to learn.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. Our team believes in the extraordinary potential of all of our 3000+ students. As the weather continues to warm-up, please come out and enjoy our spring sports program. Happy spring and GO WARRIORS!!

Thanks,
Kelly Blake
Waverly High School Presents:
2018-2019 Top Ten Students

**Caleb Carter**  
Parents; Darren and Jami Carter

Caleb is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Government, Black Student Union, Latinos Unidos, Theatre Club, College Ambassadors, Varsity Tennis and Varsity Cheer.

University of Miami in Miami Florida will be welcoming Caleb as he studies nursing. Caleb’s Grandma Pat has been his inspiration.

Favorite book; *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

Favorite quote; “The grass is greener where you water it.”

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**Elison Daher**  
Parents; Tanios and Cosette Daher

Elison is involved in many activities including International Student Alliance, Student Government, Spanish Honor Society and Tennis. Ms. Daher is inspired by her parent’s hard work and encouragement.

She will be a proud Spartan in the fall studying Microbiology at Lyman Briggs Honors Science College at MSU.

Favorite book; *Their Eyes Were Watching God,* by Zora Neale Hurston

Favorite quote; “It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop”. Confucius

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**Reilly Farr**  
Parent; Barb Farr

Reilly is President of the National Honor Society, she is involved in Student Government (Served as Class President for two years, Executive Board Secretary, Executive Board Vice President), College Ambassadors, Protest Co-Organizer, Town Hall Meeting Co-organizer and Master of Ceremonies, Two Time World Traveler through Mr. Lurie and Mr. Simon’s trips, Varsity Softball, Varsity Volleyball, Master of Ceremonies of MSU’s MasterCard Scholars Forum, Delta Rotary’s Student of the Month, Waverly’s Nominee for Delta Community Student of the Year. Her inspiration is Viola Davis.

Reilly will be attending Michigan State University in the fall where she is going to study Sports Business Management and Communications.

Favorite book: *The Book Thief,* by Markus Zusak

Favorite quote; “But to feel nothing so as not to feel anything – what a waste” – Andre Aciman
Grace Gillengerten
Parents; Steve and Betsy Gillengerten

Grace is active in Color Guard, Tech Society and National Honor Society. One of her inspirations is her brother Henry. Grace stated, “He has shown me what it means to work hard, to persevere and to choose what is right over what is easy.” She plans on attending Lansing Community College to complete an Associates in Biology, then attend GVSU to complete a degree in Natural Resources Management.

Favorite book: Call of the Wild  by Jack London
Favorite quote; Favorite quote: “Isn’t if funny how day by day nothing changes, but when you look back everything is different?” C.S. Lewis

Elaine Gregory
Parents; Laurie Prange and Thomas Gregory

Elaine is involved in National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Black Student Union, Student Government, Varsity LaCrosse and Varsity Cross Country. Her inspiration is Bob Ross.

Elaine is undecided what college to attend but she wishes to study dermatology.

Favorite book; Ishmael by Daniel Quinn
Favorite quote; “There is nothing wrong with having a tree as a friend.” Bob Ross

Zackary Johnson
Parent; Cassandra Dunn

Zackary is involved in the Waverly Robotic Team and Quiz Bowl. He is inspired by his sister Rebecca Taylor, his mother and Stephen Hawking. Zackary is going to attend Michigan State University majoring in Computer Science. Zachary will become a Spartan in the fall as he studies Electrical Engineering at Michigan State University.

Favorite book: Prince of Thorns by Mark Lawrence
Favorite quote: “Life would be tragic if it weren’t funny.” - Stephen Hawking
William Long
Parents: James and Cindy Long
Will is a member of the Robotics Team, Quiz Bowl, Marching Band, Swim Team, Model UN, National Honor Society and he is President of the Anime Club.
Will is attending Michigan State University to study, computer science in the fall.
Favorite Book – *Cat’s Cradle*, by Kurt Vonnegut
Favorite quote; “True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country.” - Kurt Vonnegut

Charles Martin
Parents: Michael & Tricia Martin
Charles is a member of the National Honor Society and played JV Basketball. He is inspired by Spencer Lee.
Favorite book: *The Diary of a Whimpy Kid*, by Rodrick Rules
Favorite quote: “We are most likely in a simulation, because we exist.” - Elon Musk
Charles is undecided what College or University he will be attending in the Fall but he will Major in Medicine.

Laurel Pung
Parents: Joshua Pung and Channon Mason and Melanie Kingsbury
Laurel is a member of the Marching Band, Pit Orchestra, Jazz Band, Spartan youth Wind Symphony, Lansing Symphony Orchestra, Student Ambassador, Eastern Michigan University Honors Band, National Honor Society, Waverly Cross Country Team, and Foster Kittens (Saved by Zade). She is inspired by her family, Dave Gorbe, David Klein, David Cooper, Lansing Symphony Orchestra and Joe Hisaihi.
Laurel is going to study Music Education at Eastern Michigan University
Favorite book; *The Odyssey*, by Homer
Favorite Quote; “There are two means of refuge from miseries of life: music and cats”. – Albert Schweitzer
Navpreet Singh
Parents; Gurwinder Singh and Mandeep Kaur

Navpreet is involved in National Honor Society and Robotics.

He is undecided what University he will call home in the fall but he wants to study Chemistry.

Favorite book; Hamlet, by William

Favorite quote; “Time is an illusion” – Albert Einstein

Governor Whitmer Speaks at Waverly High School

On Wednesday April 10th Waverly High School was the host for a Town Hall Meeting featuring a budget presentation by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Lansing Mayor Andy Shor lead off the evening with a short welcome, followed by State Representative and former Waverly Community Schools Board of Education member Angela Witwer. Superintendent Kelly Blake spoke to welcome the audience to Waverly Community Schools and introduce Governor Whitmer. After the Governor's presentation she answered questions from the audience and addressed the media. Waverly High School was honored to host such a significant event for our community to interact with our government.

Waverly High School Announces "Top Ten" Graduating Seniors

WHS is proud to announce its "Top Ten" graduating seniors by GPA. These students have been dedicated to meeting high levels of academic expectations and engagement in their classes. Students were honored with a celebratory breakfast on the morning of February 27th.

The Top Ten Seniors are:

Caleb Carter
Elison Daher
Reilly Farr
Grace Gillengarten
Elaine Gregory
Zackary Johnson
William Long
Charles Martin
Laurel Pung
Navpreet Singh
Unified Sports comes to Waverly High School

Unified Sports is an inclusive sports program that unites Special Olympics athletes and general education partners as teammates. Students work together to compete against other Unified teams in sports such as basketball and bocce ball. On March 27 the Unified Warriors took on the Unified Vikings of Everett High School in basketball. The whole school turned out to cheer on their Warriors to a victory! We are unified in our support and appreciation of all people at Waverly High School!

Waverly Students take in Hamilton the Musical

WHS history teacher Todd Simon applied to the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History and WHS was selected to receive tickets to see the smash hit "Hamilton the Musical" in Chicago. Students became eligible to attend by completing a special curriculum and producing their own performance piece based on historical documents. Students woke up early to travel to Chicago on the day of the performance. In addition to the play, students participated in a "Questions and Answers" session with the cast as well as performing selected pieces from participating schools on the stage.

Middle School News

Kindness Matters- One Student's Relentless Journey to Help Others

Every once in a great while, a student comes along who not only inspires, but is a game changer in terms of thoughtful planning, civic minded awareness and a true spirit of giving. Karena Short is that student. In her time here at Waverly Middle School, Karena has proven to be a force as a fundraiser and as an advocate bringing awareness to I am proud to have Karena Short as a student and I know she is just beginning her journey to accomplish great things.

Karena was born with Congenital Heart Disease. During her heart surgeries as a baby, her family stayed at the Ronald McDonald House to be close to her. Karena wanted to help other families be able to do the same. Karena met with Cheryl Frank, her National Junior Society Advisor and they coordinated with Mr. Baynes and Mr. Moreno to kick off a Pop Tab Fundraiser to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House.
During the Pop Tab drive, Karena helped to collect over 41,000 pop tabs. She also sold suckers and raised additional funds. She helped raise over seven-hundred dollars to directly help the Ronald McDonald House. Additionally, Karena sold paper hearts for Mott Children’s Hospital in Ann Arbor and sold over 150 hearts. Her efforts got her nominated for the Youth Pass It Forward Award (Y-PIF). Karena won the award and five-hundred dollars for Waverly Middle School. That money was used to form and fund a Kindness Committee with Kindness slips, lessons and Kindness bracelets given out to promote the efforts. In addition, posters were hung around the building promoting Kindness.

Karena’s efforts gained her the attention of Channel 6 Lansing and recently they did a story on her efforts and the positive contribution she has made to the school. I hope her efforts will inspire students to be kind to each other and motivate them to follow and support good causes they feel passionate about. Karena Short is an incredible student and person and we are extremely proud of her efforts. Karena makes Waverly stronger and we should all take pride that we have students like this in our schools every day.

Not far from Lansing in the small town of Parma, Michigan during the heat of July, hundreds of teachers from around the country gather for a free conference called Nerdcamp to discuss books, reading and writing. Last summer, several Waverly teachers attended including Waverly East sixth grade English Language Arts teachers Kristin Kochheiser and Debra Major.

One of the sessions--called “#classroombookaday”--intrigued Kochheiser and Major. Elmwood’s fourth-grade teacher, Joe Thornton, encouraged them to attend this session saying he had attended in a previous year and the session had positively changed his teaching practice. So Major and Kochheiser decided to attend.

They met the creator of #classroombookaday, Jillian Heise, who shared that the goal is simple: read aloud a picture book every day of the school year to students of any age so that at the end of the year, students would hear 180 unique stories.

“I remember being skeptical and doubting whether sixth graders would be interested in listening to pic-
ture books every day,” says Kochheiser. “I wondered if I would have the time, and if the benefits would be great enough to support the time necessary to read aloud a picture book every day.”

However, after listening to Thornton and other teachers detail specific benefits of daily picture book read alouds—including the building of community, empathy and identity—Kochheiser and Major decided to say yes to the challenge of reading a picture book every day for the 2018-2019 school year: 180 picture books.

“The results have been amazing,” said Major. “The #classroombookaday has added to our sense of community. Together we have so many shared stories and I frequently hear students making comparisons between picture books stories as well as making connections to the stories assigned through our Language Arts curriculum.”

Major adds that students are able to compare and contrast themes, characters, and perspectives. She notes that their sense of story has improved.

“When writing stories, I am seeing students imitating some of the techniques of the authors whose books we have read,” Major explains. “Students are also noticing similarities and differences between illustrators.”

Kochheiser agrees, “Every day students are listening to amazing authors and being exposed to new vocabulary and fabulous storytelling.”

Both Kochheiser and Major seek books that support not only the language arts curriculum, but also sixth grade social studies, science and math, too.

“We check a lot of books out from our local library. We have been working hard to find books that mirror our classrooms in terms of diversity and interests as well as stories that help students relate to their world,” says Kochheiser. “It is important that our students see characters who look like them or who share similar life challenges as they do.”

Heise, founder of #classroombookaday, encourages teachers to put up a visual record of the book covers read during the school year so that students can see the many titles of the books they’ve shared and reflect on the class’ shared reading journey. Major and Kochheiser created large book-cover tally posters to track their class’ shared reading journeys. They note that their students often check out the other class’ book titles, comparing books and looking for similarities and differences.

In addition, both Kochheiser and Major have periodically invited special guest readers into their classrooms to share favorite stories.

“At the conclusion of a picture book, students often burst into spontaneous applause or sit quietly reflecting if the story was moving in some way. When we finish our read aloud, we talk about anything students have noticed about the story…any connections they’ve made,” says Kochheiser. “The growth mindset is a daily discussion point in my classroom, along with daily reflections about important habits such as flexibility, self-awareness, courage, grit, and curiosity, for example. After hearing a picture book, students often share examples they discovered during the read aloud of how characters have (or don’t have) a growth mindset or how a character displayed perseverance or courage in the story.”
Kochheiser and Major stress that it is important for students to simply enjoy the stories, and to have some fun with them.

“The post-story conversations are a bonus,” says Kochheiser. “I let the students lead the discussions. I don’t try to push my connections on my class and I don’t plan a litany of comprehension questions. We just talk about the story the way adults talk about books. I want to hear their thinking, their discoveries and their observations. It’s about joy...joy in hearing great stories and having a shared reading experience.”

May & June District Calendar of Events

May, 2019
7  East Band/Choir Concert—6:00 PM @ East Intermediate
    WMS Band Bounce—7:00 PM—WMS Little Theatre
9  Student Technology Showcase—5:30—7:00 PM @ WHS
    WHS Band Bounce—7:00 PM @ WHS Auditorium
10  WHS Reflection’s POP’s Concert—7:00 PM—WHS Auditorium
14  WMS Orchestra Concert—7:00 PM—@ WMS Little Theatre
    Delayed Start Day – K-8 (NOT WHS) - 
16  East 6th Grade Band & Choir Concert—6:00 PM—East Intermediate
    WMS/WHS Spring Sing—7:00 PM—WHS Auditorium
20  Waverly School Board Mtg.—6:30 PM
21  WHS Orchestra Concert—7:00 PM—WHS Auditorium
29  Winans 4th Grade Celebration—6:00 PM—WHS Auditorium
30  East Pop’s Concert—6:00 PM—East Intermediate
    WHS Senior Honor’s Night—7:00 PM—WHS Auditorium

June, 2019
1  WHS Graduation—MSU Auditorium—7:00 PM
Winans kids love to read! Families are used to things being a little special during March is Reading month, but all year long we focus on learning to read, reading to learn, and promoting a love of reading no matter what level or age you are! Our high school Warriors have partnered with our first grade readers all year long, coming over at least once a week to read to our first grade readers. The older kids also listen to the younger ones read, building positive relationships through the shared thoughts on a story together. Our older Winans students are also generous with their reading time, some even writing their own stories to read to other classes! Our Job Zone students (service to our school community) have added Reading Buddies as a service – we’re so pleased to have these kids volunteer to read with younger kids too! We were very appreciative of the many special guests that visited our classrooms during March is Reading month! The positive role models and fun stories shared were all great experiences for our students. Thanks to parents for your support of our young readers at home in sharing stories and setting time aside to read together. It all makes such a positive difference for our kids as they learn to read, read to learn and love to read!
Community Partnerships and PBIS

At Elmwood Elementary, we strive to create a safe school where friendships abound and learning can be seen in all areas of our school. There are several things we do at Elmwood to make it fun, safe and full of learning. Some of those major things are 1) community partnerships, 2) parent involvement and 3) PBIS.

In our school, we look at student behavior through the lens of PBIS (Positive Behavior Supports and Intervention). In PBIS, we look at student behavior through multiple lenses, mostly through the lens of positive instruction and small rewards for positive behavior. For example, when a student helps clean up after lunch without being asked, we might reward that student with a “Golden Ticket.” This golden ticket is put into a weekly grade level drawing for a great prize, often provided by some of our community partnerships.

We have several community partnerships that help us create a great school! We have partnered with Delta Presbyterian Church, Great Lakes Christian College, Delta Waverly Rotary Club, Chick-Fil-A, Tropical Smoothie, Delta Township District Library and others. These partnerships help provide support for everything from accessibility to library materials, mentors for students, recess supporters, funds and supplies for our Golden Warrior of the week.

Finally, the PTO at our school has put on several blockbuster events this year. Our final event is coming late in May as we celebrate the end of another school year with our year end picnic and party. We always have volunteers help out at Elmwood events. They are always well attended and a great opportunity to strengthen our relationships with families throughout our local and school community.

Many thanks for all of the support that help make Elmwood a great place to learn and grow!
During March is Reading Month, the Littlest Warriors (all of pre-school) celebrates the Alphabet with an annual school parade. This event is made extra special because members of the high school band come over to lead the parade as the students march around the school in T-shirts, decorated by the student themselves with one letter of the alphabet on it. A lot of thought goes into decorating each letter shirt and during the parade, the preschoolers take such pride showing them off as they march through the halls. It is great fun for all to watch the interaction between the youngest and the oldest Warriors as the spectators ooh and ahh over the decorated letter shirts when the students pass by.

Mr. Gorbe, Waverly High School Band Director, was very excited, three years ago when he partnered with Colt ECEC to have some of the oldest of the Warriors come over to support this annual event and to be role models for the youngest learners in our District. Now, each year before the parade begins, band members introduce their instruments to the preschoolers and talk to them about the sounds that each instrument makes. The parade happens twice to accommodate both morning and afternoon preschool classes and the kindergarten students, Colt ECEC staff, and parents line the hallways to cheer for the preschoolers and members of the band as they walk by.
GIRLS TENNIS

We lost a number of three and four year players last year to graduation, but the good news is we have a number of new girls out this year. The girls are working hard and are excited to be learning a great lifelong game. Our returning players are very helpful with their new teammates which is a great thing to see. We have new courts this year and the girls are so excited to play on such nice courts. A very special thank you to the Waverly community for your support. Hope you can come out to watch the girls this spring.

GIRLS SOCCER

The Varsity Girls Soccer team is looking forward to the season with seven returning starters. Junior, Desiree Jacobson (#10) was the team leading goal scorer last season while senior Jayla Perkins (#19) has signed to play collegiately at Jackson Community College. Juniors Becky Ray (#3), Asia Young (#15), and Madison Sims (#2) are in their third year as starters while freshman Kayla Moreno (#16) and Brianna Lagunas (#8) are newcomers looking to make an impact. Junior goalkeeper Macy Garret (#1) is looking to continue playing well in the net for the Warriors.

The Junior Varsity team has incredible numbers this season with over 20 girls on the roster. Overall, both teams are looking forward to moving up into the CAAC Blue division and playing competitive soccer this spring.

BOYS GOLF

The Warriors Boys Golf team is rebuilding in 2019 with a completely new squad. With new head coach, David Schmidt, the team will focus on fundamentals and rules of the game with high hopes of growing after each match.

The Warriors are nine players strong, including Senior, Spencer Lee, Junior, Thorin Thelen, Sophomores, Boaz Overley, Max Lashbrook, Connor Blake, Isaac Estill, Dezmond Taylor, and Freshmen, Elisha Overley and Julian Velasquez. The team is looking forward to mastering the challenging game of golf.

SOFTBALL

The Waverly Varsity Softball team looks to improve on a 13-7 record last season. They will be moving into a tough CAAC Blue this year. The team has a lot of experienced players coming back and hope to contend in the Blue.

The Warriors will be led by eight returning players. Mackenzie Beauchamp (Sr.), Destiny Campbell (Sr.), Marra Allen (Sr.), Ashley Thompson (Jr.), Alex Gleason (Jr.) Peyton Mowry (Jr.), Jaily Gonzales (So.), and Molly Chorpenning (So.). The team is full of a lot of powerful hitters and will rely on that to be successful, but pitching will be the biggest to the Warriors success this season.

BASEBALL

The Waverly Varsity Baseball team has been working hard to prepare for the upcoming season. Coach Pete Sherry is excited about the prospects for the season. The Warriors return 12 players from last year’s team and look to battle for a spot in the Diamond Classic. The team is led by all-league players Jacob Hartman, Joe Botello and RJ Ostrom. Jayden Knapp, JJ Arroyo, Andrew Kerrigan, and RJ Martinez are also veteran players who Sherry thinks will have big years. As always, pitching and defense will be the key to the season. Stop out and watch the Warriors battle this season.
BOYS LACROSSE

The 2019 Boys Lacrosse team is looking forward to an exciting season this spring. With the entire midfield back from last season, this should be an experienced group that will provide a lot of fire power to the offense. Michael Talton (Sr.) and Aiden DeChelbor (So.) should both be starters on offense and defense respectively. The CAAC will be a tough league to play in, but the Waverly/Lansing Catholic team should be in contention for first place all season.

GIRLS LACROSSE

The 2018 season was a positive step forward for the Waverly Girls Lacrosse team as we complete a 5-12 season. The 2019 season is looking to be the best season for the program in recent years. We are entering the season with a strong senior class that has stepped up on competitions and their experiences have proven to be a valuable element in the success of this season.

The Warriors are in a battle this year as they are a contender for finishing third in the CAAC. Coach Bryson and Coach Tompkins are returning for their third season with the Warriors Lacrosse programs.

GIRLS TRACK

The Lady Warriors Track and Field team is coming off its fifth straight top ten finish in the state and losing six Dream Team athletes. This year’s young Warrior team is the largest ever with over 40 girls and 20 brand new freshman. The Warriors are working hard through the rough spring weather to continue to improve while having fun in the process.

The Warriors are looking to rebuild and reload for the future and qualify for the MITCA Team State Meet. Get our schedule and scores at https://www.athletic.net/

BOYS TRACK

The Warriors are looking forward to an exciting season following last year’s successes, 6th in the state at MITCA and a top ten finish at the Division 1 MHSAA state meet. They enter the CAAC Blue with a host of returning athletes. Nine of the top ten sprinters return, including Bryson Fronta who was runner-up in the 100m dash at last year’s Honor Roll. State champion Keshau Harris and all conference Ellis Trainor lead the returning hurdlers. Ellis Trainor also leads the throwers group who only lost 2 seniors. Eric James, Caleb Allen, Ciardan Hibbs, and Ezekiel Ewulomi lead a distance crew that only lost one senior to graduation. The Warriors hope to capitalize on their depth to score well in the state power rankings and true team format meet while continuing their tradition of state caliber relays and indi-
The Waverly Community Schools Board of Education meeting Calendar for the 2018-19 school year has been established as follows:

2019
May 20
June 17
Organizational Meeting—July 22

All regular meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the Administrative Center’s Board room unless noted otherwise. A special organizational meeting of the Board of Education for the 2019-2020 school year will be held on Monday, July 22, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.