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Fine Arts Fun!

Written by: Nora Keating

On Friday May 20, 2022 Spartan Singers and the Orchestra walked to the Fine Arts Fiesta in downtown Wilkes-Barre. The band went the previous day. All did a great job with their performances. After the musical groups were finished performing, they were allowed to walk around to see the art, visit the vendors, and enjoy the day. The Dallas School District Chorus was also there, so some of us listened to them sing while we ate. Their Chorus group was much smaller than our entire chorus. After the Fine Arts Fiesta we walked back and practiced for our concert that was later in the evening. Mr. Coates ordered pizza for all of us after we were done practicing. At St. Ignatius Church we sang 5 songs and listened to another group perform their songs. Then we joined the other group and together we performed "A Tribute to the Armed Forces" and "Let There Be Peace on

Earth". It was a great time and all groups did a great job.



Figure Skaters Beware!

Written by: Gianna Perillo

Attention figure skaters! Are you hidden among the halls of our school? Looking for a club to share your talent with? Come join Diamond City! We are a club welcoming new members 24/7! Our club is run by our head coach Amy Fredrick who has over 30 years of experience on the ice!

There is no age limit, and you are welcome to come watch a meet to make your final decision. We meet every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 at the Toyota Sportsplex on Coal Street. We also do fun things like parades and fundraisers and during our season we even do shows at Wilkes-Barre Penguins hockey games at the Mohegan Sun Arena! We look forward to seeing you there! Come join Diamond City Figure Skating Club!

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Spartan Singers

Written by: Caleigh Carr

What is Spartan Singers? Spartan Singers is a group made up of about 60 chorus kids. This group of kids was selected not only for their exceptional voices, but also for their good behavior in school. There were 106 kids who tried out, but sadly Mr.Coates could only select 60 kids. In the past, Spartan Singers sang in Harrisburg, nursing homes, churches, and even the Fine Arts Fiesta. This year all Spartan Singers went to the Fine Arts Fiesta, a church, and even to the high school to sing with the high school chorus. Spartan Singers meet every Saturday morning from 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Being a member of Spartan Singers takes true dedication because no normal kid would get up and go to school on a Saturday. Congratulations to all 7th and 8th grade Spartan Singers and

best of luck to all 8th graders trying out for the high school chorus.



Spring Concert

Written by: Savannah Harvey-Deluca

The 2022 Spring Chorus Concert was held on May 1st at 2:00 P.M. at Wyoming Valley West Middle School. Spartan Singers went on stage first and performed a few selections before the entire 7th and 8th grade chorus joined them. Some of the songs on the program that day were "Jubilate Deo", "Sing Cantate Domino", "Colors of the Wind", "A Million Dreams", "The Beatles Medley", and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough". They also sang happy birthday to a little girl in the audience who postponed her party until after the concert. Mr.Coates and all of his classes worked so hard on these songs to have the first concert since 2020. The auditorium was filled with family and friends. The audience seemed pleased as they honored the chorus with a standing ovation.

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WVW Band

Written by: Aleni Kaupp

The Wyoming Valley West Middle School Band classes have participated in many events in school and out in the community this school year. Ms. Schiender is the Band Director and conductor. She has worked hard to coordinate these opportunities for us to perform.

There are separate groups that are composed of many different instruments. There is a percussion ensemble made up of about 10 percussionists who practice after school. The WVW Middle School Pops also practices after school. This group is made up of some sixth and seventh grade students but the majority of students are eighth graders. The Pops includes both 8th grade orchestra and band students. Orchestra includes string players. There is one percussionist and the

rest of the band are wind players in the Pops.

Students had the opportunity to spend the afternoon at Marywood University and learn from their music education students and guest conductor. We practiced together and then learned how to improve in smaller groups. It was an amazing experience being on a college campus and seeing what college life is like. Another fun day was at the 2022 PMEA District 9 Band Fest on May 6th. Band Fest is an all-day event where about twenty schools visited Hazleton Area High School and practiced music all day. They then had a concert for family members at night. Unfortunately, this event collided with the eighth-grade dinner dance so many selected students chose not to attend; however, about nineteen Wyoming Valley West students participated. I enjoyed the event and the variety of songs we played. There was a guest conductor who had many years of experience.

The WVW Pops along with other clubs played at the Fines Art Fiesta on May 19th. They played a variety of popular songs including, "Take on Me" by A-Ha, "21 Guns" by Green Day, and "Thunder" by Imagine Dragons. The percussion ensemble and WVW Pops also

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performed at the band concert on June 1st.

Another opportunity the seventh and eighth grade band was able to do was play at sporting events. In April, we played the “Star-Spangled Banner” and “God Bless America” before the Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins Hockey game. We also played at a RailRiders game during their pre-game as well.

The pandemic has been hard for many students. It was extremely difficult to practice in a group setting with online classes, and then practicing with masks at the beginning of the year. Students did not have the same experience and opportunities as in the past. Everyone is doing incredible considering the circumstances. Overall, the Wyoming Valley West Middle School Band is a great group.



A Year Full of Band

Written by: Noah Sinkiewicz

To end the 21-22 school year the WVW Middle School Band performed in their spring concert after participating in many additional activities. On April 1st the 7th and 8th grade band had an afternoon at Marywood University. During their visit the band worked with the college students to practice their music. The band learned many new things and may have had a “few” snacks.

On April 15th the 7th and 8th grade had a family night out at the Penguins. The band played the “Star-Spangled Banner” before the hockey game and played “God Bless America” later in the game. It was a fun game to be part of and a fun game to watch.

The 7th and 8th grade band also had a family night out at the RailRiders on Memorial Day weekend. The

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band played the “Star-Spangled Banner” on home plate before the baseball game and enjoyed watching the game. There were many snacks and drinks to eat and drink. It was a good night for baseball and ended with a firework show to light up the sky.

Other events included the Philharmonic Young People’s Concert for the 6th grade band, Band Fest for select students, and the Fine Arts Fiesta where the WVV MS Pops/Jazz Orchestra played at the square in Wilkes Barre and were on TV.

Lastly, to finish the 21-22 school year the WVV Middle School Band performed in their spring concert. The concert was held on June 1 under the direction of Mrs. Schneider. During the concert the WVV MS Pops played their songs followed by Percussion Ensemble including a bucket stomp. The Elementary Band, including students from all the WVV elementary schools, played their songs under the direction of Ms. Bly. The 6th graders played their songs in their first concert and did a good job for their first time. To end the concert the 7th and 8th graders played all their songs ending with “Terracotta Warriors”. The band had a great time this year and enjoyed every event.



The 8th Grade was Through the Moon

Written by: Libby Shonk

In the past few years the eighth-grade dinner dance was unable to be held due to Covid-19. But this year, Mr. Munzing and Ms. Derwin worked with administration so that we could bring back this yearly tradition. The Student Council voted on the theme of Moonlight Magic. Our gymnasiums were transformed into a very beautiful moonlight scene with the help of Student Council volunteers who decorated the night before the dance. The evening of May 6th, everyone arrived dressed to impress and selected from many food items on the buffet for dinner. After dinner the 8th grade and chaperones danced the night away to the tunes played by DJ H to the Maxx. The students really enjoyed the event and got a souvenir Class of 2026 backpack.

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Spring Sports Extravaganza

Written by: Libby Shonk

The track season this year was shorter, but was still a great experience for those who participated in it. From the throwers to the long-distance runners, the members of the team had a good time and improved. They had many successful meets and many great memories were made. The coaches did as well as they could, especially with the growing heat and the influx and outflux of student athletes. The young athletes that stuck through worked very hard throughout the season.

Both the baseball and softball teams were amazing this season. The 8th-9th grade team won most games, along with the 7th-8th grade team performing very well. The softball team had played extremely well too. Congratulations to all who participated in any Spring sport.



NJHS Ceremony

Written by: Janet Wormenor

The National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held on May 19th. The ceremony was in the WVW Middle School Auditorium. Family and friends of the new and current members came to congratulate them on their accomplishments of maintaining a 96% overall grade point average. The ceremony was beautiful and everyone got their moment to shine for this great achievement. The new 7th grade students received certificates. The 8th grade members received plaques. Congratulations to everyone in the NJHS for working so hard to be successful in life.

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Awards Night

Written by: Aleni Kaupp

On June 6th, the Wyoming Valley West Middle School held the Annual Awards Night. At 6pm, selected students along with their families convened in the middle school auditorium to accept their awards. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students were nominated. There were many different award categories.

The biggest category was the Academic Distinction Award for sixth, seventh and eighth graders. The students who received this award were presented with a customized trophy with their name on it. In order for students to receive the English, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science awards their teacher had to personally nominate them. Also, in the Intrinsically Motivated Science

awards were Earth and Space Science nominations for eighth graders and Environmental Science for eighth graders. There were about two students per grade who received the Intrinsically Motivated subject awards.

Foreign Language awards were also given. Spanish and French awards were given to a few teacher-nominated eighth grade students. A plaque was also given to the National French Contest participants. Trimester awards were given, the art computer science and family and consumer science teachers nominated students. Select Band, orchestra, and Chorus students received plaques for being outstanding musicians and vocalists. The Technology Education and STEM awards were the Chester Vonsavage award for 8th graders, Golden Hammer award for 8th graders and Golden Gears award for 7th graders.

There were also many special awards given to students. The Spartan Integrity award, Sgt Joseph P. Derwin Character Award, the first ever Jarad Kem Memorial Award, and the Wilbur Troy "Education is the Key Award". Student Council Eighth Grade Special Awards were Phillip and Gilda Plaksin Service, the Charles R. Suppon Leadership,

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Outstanding Student Contribution,
and Member of the Year.

There was much applause for these hard working and talented students. It was amazing to see how many dedicated students. Mr. Bond and the teachers gave heart-felt speeches about how our contributions in middle school paves the way for our future. Mr. Bond also recognized previous students and their accomplishments. He recognized the retiring teachers for their commitment to teaching and inspiring young minds.

