

The Spotlight Westborough Fine Arts

Issue 5 | May 2021

Brought to you by:



WHY JOIN WFAEA ?

WFAEA represents a unique opportunity to stay involved as your student navigates through the school system and is a perfect way to experience some of the amazing opportunities Westborough Public Schools provide. If you've been feeling disconnected, WFAEA is a great way to engage with other parents and the fine arts department while we navigate through this year together.

www.wfaea.org/membership

Attend a Meeting!

Our next WFAEA meeting will be on Tuesday, June 15th at 7 p.m. We will be electing our officers for next year at this meeting.

Email us at info@wfaea.org to be included in the Zoom invite mailing

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Hello Fine Arts Friends and Families,

It's hard to believe that the Class of 2021 has only two and a half more weeks of classes and less than four weeks until Graduation. It's even harder to comprehend the resiliency and optimism that all of the students have exhibited over the last year and a half. The Fine Arts Department's hope is that we can give all of our students a more typical end-of-year experience as we head into June.

That being said, Please take a moment to review the performances we have planned at the High School Level leading up to Graduation:

- **A Cappella Night** featuring our Contemporary A Cappella Program and Chamber Singers: Tuesday, May 11th @ 6pm
 - Chamber Singers will kick off this event in the Main Lobby (ticketed entry only) and then families and friends can bring a lawn chair or a blanket and join us in the front of the building as our a cappella groups take the stage on the front steps of WHS!
- **Chamber Ensemble Concert:** Wednesday, May 12th @ 7pm
 - Join us under the big event tent next to the football field to hear our String Quartet, Percussion Ensemble, Brass Quintet, & Sax Quartet perform.
- **CenterStage's "A Night Under the Stars":** Friday, May 21st & Saturday, May 22nd @ 7:30pm
 - Each family will be given tickets to each night's event in order to ensure all family and friends can attend this theatrical showcase!
- **The following concerts will be pre-recorded during the school day and air the week of May 16th:**
 - WHS Concert and Symphonic Band Concert
 - WHS Mixed Chorus, Women's Chorale, and Concert Choir Concert
 - WHS Concert Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, String Ensemble, and String Quartet Concert

All of these events will be recorded by Westborough TV and will air throughout May
Be on the lookout for recorded performances from our K-8 musicians, as well as our Virtual Art Gallery, throughout May and June!

What a year it has been, and there is no other group of students, colleagues, and families I would rather have spent it with than those in Westborough. Thank you for making a difficult year more bearable, more meaningful, and more memorable.

I wish you a happy, safe, healthy, and more typical summer than last. Best of luck to the Class of 2021 and to everyone else, we will see you in September!

Christopher Martin



FEATURED ENSEMBLES

NAVY COHORT CHAMBER ORCHESTRA / JAZZ ENSEMBLES / A CAPPELLA

Click below to view the Navy Cohort Chamber Orchestra playing Eine Kleine Nachtmusik, mvt. 3, [Menuetto](#).



On April 28th, Band Director Evan Doyle introduced several small jazz combos who had the opportunity to show off some improvisation, a hallmark of jazz music, in front of a live audience.

[Watch the full concert here!](#)



A Cappella Performances

Upcoming Events:

May 11th:
A Cappella Night

May 12th:
Chamber Ensemble concert

Week of May 17-21
Spring Band Concert
Spring Orchestra Concert
Spring Choral Concert

May 20th:
Art Projection Installation

May 21st & May 22nd:
Center Stage's
"A Night Under the Stars"

May 25th:
WFAEA Senior Banquet

May 27th:
Mr. WHS

June 1-18:
Virtual Art Exhibition

June 4th:
Baccalaureate

June 5th:
Graduation

June 15th:
WFAEA Meeting



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Westborough Public Schools

2nd Annual Virtual Art Exhibition

Grades K-12

June 1- June 18



www.wboroartgallery.weebly.com

Featuring artwork from remote and hybrid students
throughout the district



***Looking for a way to recognize
your graduating Senior?
Dedicate a seat in the high
school auditorium!***



SEAT OF RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Recognize someone special with a brass plate on the arm of a Westborough High School auditorium seat! A perfect way to honor your graduating senior, thank a favorite teacher or leave your favorite quote behind.

Donate \$40 for a 4" x 1 ½" plate with a message of your choice, up to 3 lines of 18 characters (including spaces). Your donation will help support arts education and fund our scholarship program. \$33 of the donation is tax-deductible. Please note, donation of a plate does not reserve seating at auditorium events.

To order, go to www.WFAEA.org and complete the form on our fundraiser page.

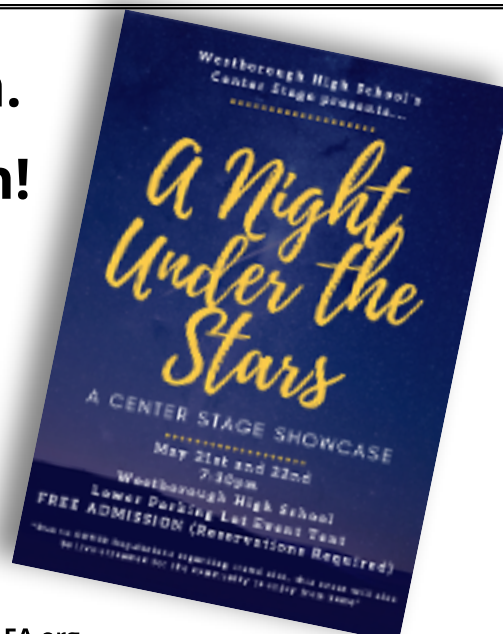
Attention Class of 2021 Parents!

**WFAEA is looking for photos
for our Senior Recognition
Night slideshow on May
25th. All photos, grades
K-12, school plays, concerts
& art shows welcomed**

**Please send your fine arts
photos to :**

seniorslideshow@wfaea.org

**May 21 & 22 at 7:30 p.m.
Ticket info coming soon!**



www.WFAEA.org

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

AP PHOTOGRAPHY

WFAEA is proud to highlight this year's AP Photography students and some of their beautiful work:



Colleen McGrath

"Hi, I'm Colleen McGrath, a senior at Westborough High. Next year, I will be attending Boston College to study Education. Although I will not continue to study photography, I know it will always be one of my favorite pastimes, and I have no doubt that I will keep carrying my camera on me. "



Nicole Levine

"Hi. My name is Nicole Levine and I'm a senior here at Westborough High. I plan on committing to Loyola Marymount University to major in mechanical engineering for the next four years."



CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

AP 3D ART

AP 3D ART Students working hard as they prepare for their AP Portfolio submissions.



Pictured above: (L-R) Laura Casten, Eva Drotch, Neha Paras, Sarah Steudal

WFAEA GRANT - CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

3D ART - PIT FIRING PROJECT

Emma Ballachino, 3D Art teacher at WHS, was awarded a grant from WFAEA to create this beautiful educational experience for her students.

This unusual year has greatly impacted 3D art students and their ability to work hands on with clay. While they were able to take some projects home to work, the logistics of transporting fragile clay pieces back and forth from home to school is risky and results in many broken pieces.



To combat this, Emma has been using remote time to educate students on ceramic techniques and artists. One of the lessons she shared with her students was a lesson on pit firing, or firing without a kiln. This technique dates back to around 29,000–25,000 BC and is still used by contemporary potters and sculptors around the world.

The process is actually quite simple. Completed ceramic work is loaded into a pit dug in the ground, or into a large metal trash can. The work is surrounded by sawdust, kindling, newspaper, and firewood, as well as organic materials like coffee grounds, seaweed, banana peels, and pumpkin rinds that can change the color of the fired work.

Once the pit is lit, the smoke and heat flash different colors across the work. Every piece has a unique surface when unpacked from the firing. Emma shared, "When I shared this with my students, the Zoom chat immediately blew up with "can we try this?!" questions."



The 3D Art class executed their first pit firing last Thursday. These photos show the students creating and maintaining the fire pits as well as the results just after the firing process was complete. The pieces will also be polished with wax to seal the surface and bring out some of the more subtle color changes.

Emma plans to continue this wonderful project for future classes enjoy. We are so grateful for her creativity and hard work which helped expand fine arts students' learning and excitement in 3D art in a year that made these things difficult!





We asked a few of this year's seniors the following question:
"As a fine arts student at WHS, what one thing do you wish you had known as a freshman?"

"Take advantage of all the opportunities around you, there are so many good things to do as a WHS fine arts student." - *Natalie Chace '21*

"It is worth doing the plays and musicals, no matter what part you get." - *Malcolm Strachan '21*

"Don't drink too much apple juice before you go on stage." - *Noah Edwards '21*

"Don't be afraid to be a nerd. Everyone in the D-Wing loves talking about music." - *Tyler Kinsky '21*

"Loud and soft have nothing to do with fast and slow but really, you get out what you put in. The more invested you are the more you will enjoy it. Don't hesitate to try out for different ensembles or try something new." - *Michael O'Keefe '21*

"Some Fine Arts classes don't count towards your GPA, like chorus, band, and orchestra. Those classes also take up a whole elective period, so make sure that you love the arts enough to possibly sacrifice being able to take other electives. One thing that helped me was that I deferred gym my junior year so that I was able to take AP Government, and then took gym twice as a senior, so it is possible to work around it." - *Isabella Binici '21*

"You don't need to be the best at everything to have fun, don't spend too much time overthinking things and just enjoy every moment." - *Daniel Hastings '21*



WFAEA WISHES A BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR OUR SENIORS!
WE WILL MISS YOU!

Musical Movie Review *by Ben Weinstein, WHS '21*

Disney's Newsies, the Broadway Musical

A jazzy spectacle that's fun for the whole family.

This new family-friendly, contemporary and uplifting musical has it all - from upbeat songs about the 1899 New York City newspaper boy strike, to slow ballads between lovers. Adapted from a 1992 movie starring *Batman* star, Christian Bale, this musical gives the cinematic story a renovation and a pop color.

Newsies was filmed at the Pantages Theatre in LA in 2012, but the show has been touring for many years with over 1,000 performances. The musical's main protagonist, Jack Kelly (played by *Supergirl* star, Jeremy Jordan), is the "leader" of the Newsies in New York. Jack leads the Newsies to go on strike in response to the publishing giant, Joseph Pulitzer, who raised the newspaper price. Back then, boys who delivered newspapers to the public paid for the papers upfront, out of pocket. When the price increased and they had to pay more, they decided to go on strike, hoping to put pressure on Pulitzer to reduce the price.

Favorite number:

My favorite scene from the musical is the song called, "The King of New York." This scene takes place at the start of Act 2 when the Newsie's master plan falls through, requiring them to find a new way to get Pulitzer's attention. When I watched this scene for the first time, it reminded me of the well-known scene from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*, "Cool." Both scenes have jazz influence and they make you want to snap your fingers. The choreography in the entire musical is exciting, but this number stood out to me due to its sly and sneaky feel.

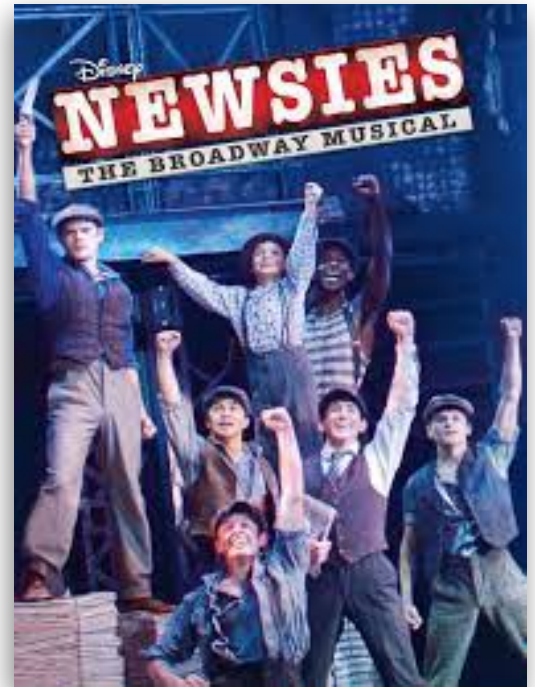
Favorite character:

My favorite character from the musical is Jack's sideman, Crutchie. While they don't reveal his actual name, he is nicknamed because he dances with a single crutch for the whole show. While Crutchie doesn't have a lot of character development, he provides comedic relief and is always optimistic even when things go south, such as when he gets arrested during a fight.

Rating: 7/10

While Disney's *Newsies* can be a bit slow and silly at times, its choreography and upbeat dance numbers are fun and entertaining. Its set design is also admirable and worth checking out - from 75-foot tall buildings to the clever use of projections.

"Disney's Newsies, the Broadway Musical", is available to stream on Disney+ now.



of



NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Michael Patterson - Mill Pond Chorus

Graduating from the University of Connecticut in 2017, Michael Patterson is a Boston-based music teacher and musician. He has taught at Mill Pond since October of last year and, given singing restrictions due to COVID, put together a remote choir program called "Choral Workshops" that gave Mill Pond students a remote choral experience when singing in-person was impossible. These workshops were held once a week after school on remote Fridays. Students worked on their singing posture, breath, and technique by learning and singing through a variety of songs spanning several different genres. When songs were well-rehearsed, students would enjoy unmuting their microphones and singing together over zoom - even if it didn't line up perfectly due to the technology used.



He is excited to lead in-person choir rehearsals at Mill Pond starting next Friday, 5/14, where students will be working on a couple of brand new songs to record at the end of the year!

Visual Projection Art Installation

May 20th: 7:30pm - 9:00pm

WHS Lower Parking Lot

This event will feature artwork from our Remote Art Students, who have learned the process of art installation using projectors with the help of clinician Evan Lukash. The artwork will be projected outside on the WHS D-Wing wall, opposite the tennis courts. Feel free to drive by and take a look at this outdoor exhibit!

This project was created by Ms. Alana Conlin, Visual Art Teacher and Emma Corman, Student Art Teacher and is being supported by a grant from WFAEA.



The following WHS Students were Accepted into the 2021 MMEA Junior Concert Festival:

Ethan Cram	Jai Khanna	Daniel Shi	Kendra Workman
Daksh Dalal	Travis Knox	Pranav Simhan	Katie Xia
William Edinberg	Aadit Krishna	Shriya Singhvi	Emily Xiao
Dilara Godfrey	Annastasia Lelacheur	Sahil Thadani	April Zhang
Naomi Gold	J. Thom Maule	Abhi Bhardwaj	Jeromy Zhong
Alexis Guadiz	Abhiram Pabbathi	Thanikella	Aaron Zhou
Juhie Jain	Sharvi Pujari	David Tian	
Diya Karthick	Advaith Puranik	Emily Wong	



CONGRATULATIONS!

**The Ranger Marching Band performed
at two home football games and
celebrated senior night in April.**

**Click the link to view the 2020-2021
RMB Show!**



Congratulations!
Class of 2021
RMB Seniors



WFAEA thanks our generous supporters

Standing Ovation(\$300)

The Pellish Family
Eric and Michelle French
Keogh Family

Encore (\$150)

The Hastings Family
The Kinsky Family
Bryan and Kelly White
The Banks-Binici Family
The Antony Family
The Datta Family

Bravo (\$100)

Pauline and Ken Sciarappa
The Niece Family
Brad and Kim Capello
The Hilfinger Family
The Crandall Family
Marc and Laura DiPilato
Jim Richards

The Henderson Family

Cheer (\$75)

Anonymous
The Cushman Family
The Chace Family
The Martin Family
The Chong Family

Applause (\$50)

The Weinstein-Dver Family
The O'Keefe Family
The Plunkett Family
The Edinberg Family
Paul and Louise Gagnon

Salute (\$30)

Anonymous
Mary Lynn Hackett
The Mintz Family
Zahid and Maria Ahmed
The Burow Family
Amy Allegretta
Brad & Kim Capello
The Pittorino Family



CASH BACK FOR YOU

While helping Raise Funds for the
Fine Arts

What is Scrip?

Shop instant eGift cards and
physical gift cards from 750+
retailers where you already shop.
Buy at face value and earn a
rebate on every card purchased.

For more information, go to
WFAEA.org/wfaea-fundraisers or
contact our scrip coordinator at:
scrip@wfaea.org.



WFAEA 2020-21 OFFICERS

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Vice President	Alyssa Dver
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Co-Secretaries	Katrina Banks-Binici