

The Spotlight

Westborough Fine Arts

SPRING ISSUE

Issue 16 | MAY 2024

Brought to you by:



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Greetings Fine Arts Families & Friends,

It is hard to believe that there are only six weeks left in the school year! This year has been successful and rewarding on so many levels for the Fine Arts Department. I am consistently impressed and proud of the creativity and artistry of our students and staff as I visit schools throughout the district.

The month of May brings the busiest time of year for all of our students. The Fine Arts Department has over 25 performances and events spanning grades PreK-12 in theater, visual arts, music, and journalism. Whether a child has their first piece of art displayed in the Town-wide Art Exhibit or is performing at Graduation, each of these events is special and memorable.

I hope to see you at one (or more of these events)!

Christopher Martin
Director of Fine Arts



Attend a Meeting!
May 7, 2024 at 7:00pm
Email us at info@wfaea.org to receive
Zoom link info

UPCOMING EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 3rd, 7pm

WHS Musical

May 4th, 2pm & 7pm

GMS Musical

May 7th , 7pm

Small Ensembles Concert

May 7th , 7pm

GMS Band Concert

May 8th , 7pm

GMS Orchestra/Chorus
Concert

May 13-15th, 6pm

Townwide Art Exhibit

Mar 27, 7pm

MICCA Chorus preview

May 16th , 6pm

POPS night

For link to full
Westborough
Fine Arts Calendar

[Click here](#)



COMING SOON!

CENTER STAGE PRESENTS

**TICKETS ARE ON SALE FOR
THIS HIGH ENERGY STAGE
ADAPTION OF THE CULT
CLASSIC FILM PRESENTED
BY WHS' CENTER STAGE
PERFORMERS!**

**THE HUMOR AND
MEMORABLE MUSIC IS ON
STAGE**

**MAY 3RD AT 7PM &
MAY 4TH AT 2PM
AND 7PM.**



**CLICK TO BUY TICKETS OR
BUY AT THE DOOR**



**CENTER
STAGE**
WESTBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL



GIBBONS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING MUSICAL



Gibbons Middle School, in collaboration with SkyRise Theater, presented the classic musical "Bye Bye Birdie" on March 1st and 2nd. The performance showcased energetic musical numbers, bringing to life the story of rock 'n' roll idol Conrad Birdie, who, before leaving for military service, selects Kim McAfee, a small-town girl, for a headline-making goodbye kiss. The event was a hit, blending humor and charm with catchy tunes. The event was a hit, blending humor and charm with catchy tunes.



POPS NIGHT: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!



It's that time of year again! Join us for an unforgettable evening as we celebrate the culmination of a remarkable year in the arts. Our End-of-Year Arts Extravaganza is the perfect way to honor our talented seniors, showcase incredible artistic achievements, and enjoy a delightful night of music, art, appetizers, and mocktails.

Whether you're an art aficionado, a proud parent, or just looking for a fun evening out, the End-of-Year Arts Extravaganza has something for everyone. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of a night filled with creativity, inspiration, and celebration. We can't wait to see you there! **SEE FLYER BELOW FOR INFO!**



Please join us for a joyful evening of pop music as the WHS ensembles present their final concert of the 2023-2024 school year!

**THIRD
ANNUAL**

POPS NIGHT

May 16, 2024

6:00 pm

Appetizers and Live music

7:00 pm

Large ensemble performances

General Admission: \$15

Students: \$5

Advance tickets can be purchased online at www.wfaea.org/product-page/pops or by sending a check in with your student payable to WFAEA by May 10. Tickets will also be available at the door on May 16th.

SAVE THE DATE!

Print out the invite below and return to school with payment!

The Westborough Fine Arts Education Association Cordially Invites
the WHS Class of 2024, Families, and Staff to the 47th Annual



Tuesday, May 21, 2024
6-8pm

Westborough High School Cafeteria

All Fine Arts Seniors are invited to attend free of charge.
Parents, family members, and guests are \$25.

PLEASE RSVP WITH PAYMENT (IF APPLICABLE) BY TUESDAY, MAY 14th

We hope you will join us for this special evening to
celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2024!

Student Name: _____

Total # of Attendees (including student): _____

Amount Enclosed, \$25/attendee:

(*Class of 2024 students are free) _____

Please make checks payable to WFAEA and turn in
RSVP and payment to Chris Martin or Fine Arts teacher by May 14th.

Any questions, please contact Jeannie Chong at jbarnettchong@gmail.com

micca

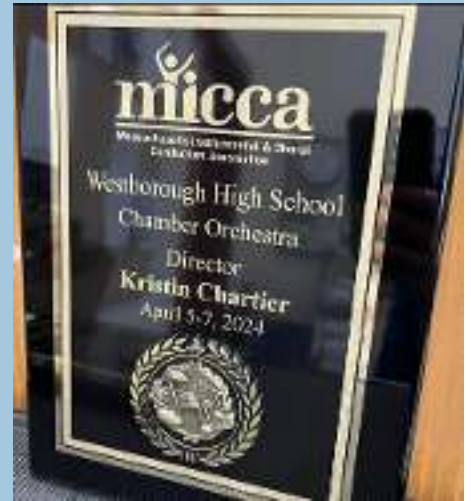
April 5-7 2024

Westborough High School hosted an incredible event the weekend of April 5-7 featuring many choral ensembles from around the state.

The event at WHS featured outstanding performances from 45+ visiting choirs, who wowed audiences with their harmonious singing. The performances highlighted the talent and skill of each group.

Meanwhile, Westborough and nearby schools' bands and orchestras also shined. They attended workshops and clinics at neighboring High Schools with expert musicians, gaining valuable advice and feedback and also performed.

We're proud of our students for their incredible performances and grateful to everyone who helped make this event a success.



WFAEA would like to thank everyone for the time and goods donated to support the 2023 MICCA event. We are so proud of our WHS fine arts community!





micca

continued....

Congratulations to the Gibbons Middle School Orchestra on a great performance at the MICCA Festival this afternoon! Their performance was followed by a clinic with James Mick from Ithaca College



WHS Orchestra groups played really well and had super productive clinics with Dr. Joel Schut from Grand Valley State University.



Great performances by the WHS Bands at MICCA! Silver medals for both groups!

WESTBOROUGH 2024 NAHS INDUCTION CEREMONY



On March 14th, the National Art Honor Society held its induction ceremony in the Westborough High School auditorium. The ceremony commenced with insightful speeches delivered by NAHS officers and an encouraging address from the Fine Arts Director, Christopher Martin. Our guest speaker, local artist Tracy Spadafora, offered her unique perspective on the profound impact of the arts. The highlight of the ceremony was the candle lighting ritual, where each of the 17 new inductees shared an inspiring artist quote, symbolizing their commitment to creativity and expression. With the addition of these talented individuals, NAHS now proudly boasts a membership of 32 dedicated artists, united in their passion for artistic pursuit and community enrichment.

NAHS 2023-24 Inductees: Helena Kilpatrick

Anvi Arora

Nicole O'Hare

Emma Calhoun

Teeghan Patch

Lauren Clark

Saloni Patel

Sarah Davis

Madison Pino

Zoe D'Elia

Hadeeqah Qazi

Kevin Goyette

Theresa Roy

Molly Johnston

Victoria Silva

Riddhiman Khatri

Megan Tibbetts

NAHS 2023-24 Officers:

Nason Hubbard - President

Sophia Winsch - Vice President

Gianna Vassilakis - Secretary

Caroline Biddle - Treasurer

Esther Antony - Historian

Seat of Recognition

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



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 \$50 for a 4" x 1 1/2" 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. \$35 of the donation is tax-deductible. Please note, donation of a plate does not reserve seating at the auditorium events.

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

2024 MMEA ALL-STATE CONCERT



A big congratulations to the exceptional band, jazz band, orchestra and chorus students who auditioned, rehearsed, and performed at the MMEA music festival at Symphony Hall this April. We are incredibly proud of all this achievement!

STRING FEST

Watch String Fest to see performances by orchestras from Mill Pond, Gibbons Middle School and the High School. Alumni were also invited to bring an instrument and join the orchestra for a rendition of "Old Joe Clark."

FEATURING...

- MPS 6TH GRADE ORCHESTRA
- GMS ORCHESTRA
- WHS CONCERT ORCHESTRA
- WHS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA



TUESDAY, MARCH 26
7:00PM
WHS AUDITORIUM



LINKS TO FINE ARTS PAGES



WESTBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL



PROJECT GRADUATION

PROUDLY KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE SINCE 1991

HELP MAKE WESTBOROUGH PROJECT GRADUATION A SUCCESS AND KEEP OUR SENIORS SAFE.

DONATE

A donation of any amount supports the college-bound seniors with financial, emotional, and academic support.

VOLUNTEER

Many volunteers are needed throughout the night of the event.

Scan QR code below for more details about the event and ways to help.



WWW.PROJECTGRADUATIONWESTBOROUGH.ORG

The Spotlight SENIOR ISSUE COMING IN JUNE!

EXPLORE ARTISTIC ADVENTURES WITH WESTBOROUGH SCHOOLS' FINE ARTS CLUBS!

Dive into the world of creativity with Westborough Schools' Fine Arts Clubs! Westborough schools offers a range of exciting extracurricular activities for students of all ages. Whether it's painting, music, drama, or more, there is a fine arts club for everyone.

WHS CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

- A Cappella Choirs
- Art Open Studio
- CenterStage
- Chamber Ensembles
- Chamber Orchestra
- Color Guard
- Fall Drama Production
- Festival Jazz Band
- Improv Troupe
- Lobby-O Online Newspaper
- Music Buddies
- Marching Band
- Musical
- National Art Honor Society
- One Act Festival
- Pit Orchestra
- Pottery Club
- Repertoire Jazz Band
- String Quartet
- Tri-M Honor Society

MILL POND CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

- Blue Heron Band
- Chamber Chorus
- Chamber Orchestra

GIBBONS CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

- Art Club
- Chamber Orchestra
- Chamber Singers
- Fall Drama
- Jazz Band
- Wind Ensemble
- Musical
- Pottery Experience

Ensemble Spotlight

Wind Ensemble



The Westborough Schools Wind Ensemble, an audition group of 30 student musicians from across grades 7-12, has been meeting weekly since November on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8pm. The ensemble members have really come together to build a fun and collaborative community where all students are thriving in their own ways. The ensemble recently took part in the MICCA Festival where they earned a very high SILVER medal and engaged in a meaningful and informative clinic with Dr. James Patrick Miller, conductor of the Wind Orchestra at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota. In preparing for the festival adjudication, we were pleased to also welcome a few additional guest teacher conductors to offer feedback in advance of MICCA. The themes of the repertoire being prepared and shared across this term include love, reflection, and overcoming one's fears. In addition to the MICCA festival performance, the wind ensemble is also performing as part of the May 8 Spring Band Concert at Gibbons Middle School.

-Craig Robbins





Hastings Music Spotlight



Musicians at Hastings School have been busy this Spring! From PreK to 3rd grade, all students should feel proud of the music they are making.

PreK musicians have been busy composing their own melodies using desk bells. They've also been spreading joy in the music room with colorful scarves!

Kindergarten and first grade students have been learning about a variety of composers, including John Denver, Antonio Vivaldi, Louis Armstrong, and Troy Andrews, also known as Trombone

Shorty! Recently, students created their own listening maps to differentiate between sections of Vivaldi's *Spring*. Additionally, students have been experiencing the magic of playing ukuleles and mountain dulcimers!

Second grade students recently finished composing their own songs with ukuleles. Students were tasked with creating original lyrics to a prompt and then got to share their creations during an in-class concert hour. Well done, composers!

Third graders have been busy with their recorders. Students are preparing for a visit from the Eine Kleine Consort, a professional recorder group that hosts enrichment programs. We have been rehearsing *Ode to Joy* and we are well prepared for our special visit! All students have been participating in Monthly Music, which is when an entire grade level gathers in the cafeteria for communal singing and folk dancing. These Monthly Music sessions have been some of the most joyous times of the year. It's always a pleasure to hear everyone's voices sing together.

Speaking of large group music sessions, our beloved Family Music Nights have been well attended! The elementary music teachers recently hosted the community at Armstrong for a night of drumming. The final Family Music Night is on May 1st at Fales school. All K-3 students and their families are invited to strum with us starting at 6:00! We've had a wonderful year of music here at Hastings. *We thank WFAEA and the Westborough community for supporting our students and the fine arts.* Here's to warm, sunny days ahead and lots of music to end the year!

Mr. Kinney



Club Spotlight

Blue Jay Beats

Armstrong has an exciting new after school ensemble called the "Blue Jay Beats". This is a group of third graders who are focused on playing xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels to make music together. Students are taught these pieces through the Orff process; where we use speech and movement first then transfer that experience to the instruments to more successfully play songs. This year, we have 20 students who are taking part in the ensemble. We have played "Welcome, Welcome" by Avon Gillespie, "Believer" by Imagine Dragons, and a few original pieces Ms. Prouty has written or arranged.

-Karin Prouty



MMEA CENTRAL DISTRICT
MASSACHUSETTS MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

CONGRATULATIONS!

On April 27th, a group of talented student musicians took part in the 2024 Central Junior District music festival, which was hosted at Blackstone-Millville Regional High School. These students had the privilege of auditioning, rehearsing, and ultimately performing in front of a live audience.

Chorus

Aiden Baer
Ava Carey
Ishani Datta
Trisha Dutta
Sarannya Gupta
Advik Jain
Ayan Kataria
Pranathi Kondoju
Jeeth Marwah
Avery McGuirk
Isabell Miller

Chorus

Gavin Miranda
Aarush Nallam
Stuti Patil
Anushka Ramesh
Teeya Rane
Vihaan Shinde
Sudiksha Vedala

Jazz Band

Cole Petri
Danica Xiong

Band

Ishita Agrawal
Dennis Cram
Emma Doyle
Marie Claire Gros
Vikram Hiranandani
Jiyoo Jeon
Melina Marouf
Aaryan Rakesh Nair
Megh Patel
Suhrud Patwardan
Benedetto Silvestri

Orchestra

Lorelei Heinrich
Ash Karthick
Stanley Lemek
Scarlett Lo
Arina Mollaeian
Victoria Murphy
Theertha Nair
Annie Shi
Snovya Song
Mandy Wong

Spring Concerts

WHS SPRING BAND CONCERT

Watch Gibbons Middle School and Westborough High School bands preview their performances before they hit the MICCA stage!



MICCA CHORAL FESTIVAL

Watch so many talented school choruses from across the state perform at Westborough High School before adjudicators at the MICCA Choral Festival.

SWING INTO SPRING

Enjoy the Westborough Middle and High school Jazz bands as they play some jazz tunes to swing into spring!



WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH WFAEA?

We are looking for volunteers to help!
There are many fun ways to be a part of
Westborough Public School Fine Arts.



JOIN US!

How You Can Get Involved:

- Become **a member for the 2024-25 school year**
- **Volunteer** to help support fine arts programs and events
- Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram**
- Come to our **monthly meetings** (2nd Tuesday of the month) include:
 - District updates from our Director of Fine Arts
 - Grant funds to fine arts programs and projects
 - Award senior scholarships to fine arts students
 - Meet other parents by volunteering

Anyone can **join** our email list to receive updates throughout the year about meetings, events and volunteer opportunities.

New WFAEA swag!



\$2 Magnet

\$1 Sticker

On sale at upcoming Fine Art events!

THANK YOU TO WFAEA'S GENEROUS 23/24 SPONSORS!



Exciting news ! WFAEA has a large screen TV and stand to be used to electronically display the logos of our Orchestra-level business sponsors as well as important fine arts news during WHS fine arts concerts and events. This provides a way for local businesses to showcase their support for the arts. Look for the display outside of the auditorium at the next event!

Become a sponsor and have your Logo presented on the new electronic display at an upcoming event.



Become a Sponsor



www.elsiekaye.com
Westborough, MA



Dairy Queen
Westborough

Mathieu
Newton

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



HCA
Your Arts Center

MATHNASIUM
The Math Learning Center

www.mathnasium.com/northborough



MUGFORD'S
FLOWER SHOPPE



PARK STREET
DENTAL
Jonathan Hoffman, DMD



WFAEA thanks our generous 2023-2024 supporters

Standing Ovation (\$300)

*Kathleen Swanson and Eric Fitch
Knox Family
Patrick and Jennifer Guadiz*

Encore (\$150)

*The Niece Family
The Datta/Dasgupta Family
Anna Leduc & Mark Zepf
Josh Gordon and Naomi Botkin
The Chong Family
Thadani Family*

Bravo (\$100)

*The Hammond Family
Chace Family
Crandall Family
Papaioannou Family
The Perry Family
The Hubbard Family
The Workman Family
The Fairbanks Family
Keogh Family
Anonymous
The Maule Family*

Cheer (\$75)

Applause (\$50)

*DeCoste Family
The Burrow Family*

Salute (\$30)



**You can also make a donation
without becoming a WFAEA member.**



DONATE

Does your Westborough student participate in...

Marching Band, Chorus, Orchestra, Visual Arts, Band, Theater, Tri-M, A Cappella Groups,
Art Honors Society, Small Ensembles, Tech crew, Pottery or Journalism?

**Consider joining WFAEA and support fine arts initiatives and events across our
school district. There are many big and small ways to get involved!**



Become a WFAEA Member

Special Events We Support:

MICCA
Choral Collage
Band-o-Rama
Senior Banquet
POPS Night
Center Stage Concessions

Membership funds support:

Student scholarships
Funding for clinicians
Replacing/repairing instruments and uniforms
Providing art and theater equipment
Need-based financial assistance for activity fees



WFAEA 2023-24 OFFICERS

President	Lisa Chace
Vice President	Jessica Crandall
Treasurer	Jennifer Niece
Secretary	Kathy Swanson