

The Spotlight

Westborough Fine Arts

Issue 7 | February 2022

Brought to you by:



Joining WFAEA is 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.

Join today!

www.wfaea.org/membership

Attend a Meeting!

Our next WFAEA meeting will be on Tuesday, Mar 4th at 7 p.m.

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

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Hello Fine Arts Friends and Families,

I hope 2022 has had a successful start for your family. After a busy first half of the school year, the Fine Arts Department has been delighted to return to in-person performances and a familiar routine with students across the district. The faculty thanks families for their flexibility and understanding as audience protocols and plans shifted throughout the last few months.

As we head into the next portion of the school year, the Fine Arts Department is looking forward to seeing students perform at the All State Music Festival and Junior Districts Festival, as well as our upcoming theater performances at both Gibbons Middle School and Westborough High School. Additionally, students from across the district will be showcasing their artwork during March's Youth Art Month.

Thank you for your continued support and we hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!

Sincerely,
Christopher Martin



UPCOMING EVENTS

EURYDICE

Thursday, Feb 10, 7pm

Friday, Feb 11, 7pm

Saturday, Feb 12, 2pm and 7pm

Upcoming Events:

WHS Winter Theater Production: Eurydice

Feb 10, 7pm
Feb 11, 7pm
Feb 12, 2pm & 7pm

Massachusetts All-State Festival

(see page 6)
Mar 5

Frozen Kids: Mill Pond /Skyrise Musical Production:

Mar 18 6pm
Mar 25 6pm

Stringfest

Mar 22, 7pm

MICCA Preview: Chorus

Mar 23, 7pm

MICCA Preview: Band

Mar 24, 7pm

MICCA Festivals

Apr 1-3

Swing Into Spring: Jazz

Apr 7, 6:30pm

Gibbons Musical: Willy Wonka, Jr.

Apr 8, 6pm
Apr 9, 6pm
Apr 10, 12pm

Gibbons Spring Band Concert

Apr 12, 7pm

WHS Musical: Les Miserables

Apr 28- 30, 7pm
May 1, 2pm

WHS Small Ensembles Concert

May 5, 6pm

Reminder: Admission is free for all Chorus, Band and Orchestra concerts this year!

"Eurydice" re-imagines the classic myth of Orpheus and Eurydice not through Orpheus's infamous pilgrimage to retrieve his bride, but through the eyes of its heroine. Dying too young on her wedding day, Eurydice must journey to the underworld, where she reunites with her father and struggles to remember her lost love. With contemporary characters, plot twists, and a script written to be a playground for designers, the play is a fresh look at a timeless love story." (Sam French, WHS Student)



Illustration by Ani Chong

For tickets, please visit www.whscenterstage.com

★ COMING SOON... ★

Center Stage presents:

Les Misérables
SCHOOL EDITION



Keep an eye out for tickets for WHS's performance of *Les Miserables* this Spring.

Students are preparing to audition for this epic musical based on the French historical novel by Victor Hugo.


Auditions to be held February 14-16


SkyRise Theater
Presents
FROZEN
KIDS

March 18th at 6pm
March 25th at 6pm

Gibbons Middle School
21 Fisher St.
Westborough, MA

Tickets: \$8 per person
Purchase at:
skyrisetheater.com/all-events

 Gibbons Theater
Spring Musical


Willy & Wonka JR.

Tuesdays & Thursdays
After School-4:30pm
Feb 15 (Auditions)- March 31 (no February vacation)

Show week April 4, 5, 7

Performances
April 8th at 6pm
April 9th 6pm
April 10th at 12pm

Tuition- (required) Activities fee through FamilyID

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/skyrisect/gibbons-theater>

LINKS TO FINE ARTS PAGES



BAND-O-RAMA

Band-O-Rama made its triumphant return to Westborough High school in November. It was wonderful to hear a sampling of what all of the bands from Mill Pond, Gibbons and WHS have been working on since the beginning of the year. It was the first performance for the 5th and 6th graders and the first full band performance since the start of the pandemic.

Music director, Karen Forest was honored at the concert as the recipient of the MICCA Paul Smith Hall of Fame award.

Click [here](#) for full performance.



SMALL ENSEMBLES CONCERT

In December, small music ensembles from Westborough high school performed selections they have been working on this year. Ensembles included the percussion quintet, brass quintet, sax quartet, clarinet quartet, string ensemble, flute quintet, string quartet and two jazz ensembles.

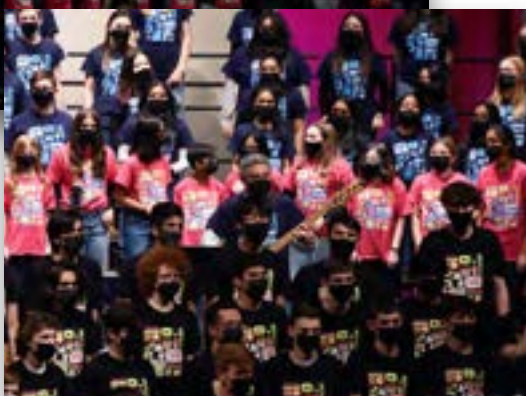
Watch the full performance [here](#).



CHORAL COLLAGE CONCERT



In January, all of the chorus groups and ensembles from Mill Pond, Gibbons and WHS came together to perform. What a wonderful evening of music! See the link to the full recording below.



MICCA



This year's Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors' Association (MICCA) Spring Choral Festival will be hosted by Westborough High School on April 1st & 2nd. The Festival hosts over 70 ensembles from around the state and the event also serves as a major fundraiser for WFAEA.

We need help running the Festival, as well as selling concessions in the cafeteria.

A volunteer sign-up will be sent out in March.

Please consider joining us!

**
April 1-2 2022**

"There are many aspects about the MICCA Choral Festival that I deeply enjoy. One includes how excited and passionate the students are about participating in this festival and their drive to prepare to create the best and most meaningful musical experience possible. What else I enjoy is the fact that our students are afforded the opportunity to hear what other schools are doing in their choral programs. Hearing and seeing other schools creates a sense of excitement in our students and enables them to deeply reflect on their choral experience in Westborough in a different way. On a whole, the festival experience allows the students in the different choral ensembles to come together and bond in a different way with this unique and powerful shared experience. I am very much looking forward to MICCA this year after two years away."

Alyson Greer Espinosa
Director of Choral Music, WHS

2022 CDMMEA Senior Festival



Congratulations to the following WHS Students who were accepted into the Central District Massachusetts Music Educators' Association Senior Festival!

High School students from all over our district submitted their recordings in November. The videos were reviewed by a CDMMEA adjudicator, who provided feedback through a standards-based rubric with written comments. These rubrics were used to determine this year's participants in the Central District Festival.

Accepted students participated in a rehearsal over zoom on January 15th and then submitted recordings of their individual parts to be combined and edited into a full virtual performance!

Those students who achieved exceptional total rubric scores were also invited to submit auditions for the Massachusetts All-State Festival to be held in March.

**Gayatri Ankalu, Voice, Alto	**Tyler Keogh, Voice, Tenor
Esther Antony, Wind/Perc, French Horn	Aadit Krishna, Wind/Perc, Perc-Snare
**Abigail Beauregard, Voice, Soprano	**Emma Kriz, Strings, String Bass
Ava Biancheri, Strings, Viola	Melissa Kuang, Voice, Alto
**Edward Chang, Voice, Bass	**Joel Lee, Strings, Cello
Siyuan Chen, Wind/Perc, Trumpet	Joyce Li, Strings, Viola
**Amy Chen, Strings, .Viola	Andrea Luo, Wind/Perc, Oboe
**Ani Chong, Wind/Perc, Mallet	**Selena Luo, Wind/Perc, Clarinet
**Mason Chong, Jazz Band, Piano	Mira McLaren, Strings, Violin
**Abigail Cushman, Wind/Perc, Flute	Kaavya Pandey, Strings, Violin
**Rounak Dey, Voice, Bass	William Plunkett, Strings, Viola
Jessica Diette, Strings, Viola	**Esha Prasad, Voice, Alto
Alaina Fernandes, Strings, Cello	**Pragna Shashidhar, Voice, Alto
Sam French, Wind/Perc, Tuba	**Jeong Min Shim, Wind/Perc, Flute
**Srinjoy Ghosh, Jazz, Band, Guitar	Kaylie Strong, Strings, Violin
**Susannah Gordon, Voice, Alto	**Xiaole Su, Wind/Perc, Clarinet
Nitya Gundamaraju, Wind/Perc, Trumpet	**Omshreya Swain, Voice, Soprano
Kaitlyn Hu, Strings, Violin	Chengwei Wang, Strings, Violin
Michelle Hung, Wind/Perc, Clarinet	**Zhouli Wang, Strings, Violin
**Utsavi James, Voice, Alto	Owen Wu, Wind/Perc, Clarinet
**Coco Jiang, Strings, Violin	**Celina Xiong, Wind/Perc, Flute
**Diya Karthick, Strings, Violin	

****All State Rec**

MILL POND BAND, CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

Mill Pond 5th Grade Orchestra Concert

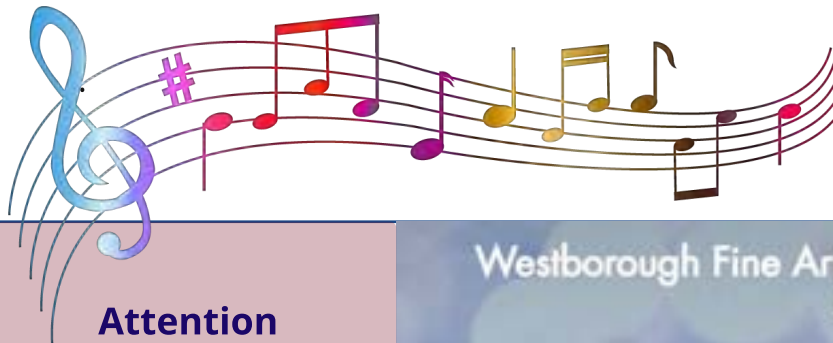


The last time these students played a "strings" concert was February 2020, when they were plucking along in the third grade! After sticking with it through a year of zoom lessons, they are loving being able to play together again this year and were really excited to perform!

Mill Pond 6th Grade Band Concert



Mill Pond 4th, 5th & 6th Grade Chorus Concert



**Attention
Class of 2022
Families!**

**WFAEA Presents
Scholarships to
graduating seniors
in the fine arts each
year**

Apply Here

Westborough Fine Arts Education Association (WFAEA) Scholarships

The Westborough Fine Arts Education Association (WFAEA) is awarding scholarships to qualified seniors attending Westborough High School.

The two scholarships offered include:

Participation in the Arts Scholarship:

This scholarship is offered to any Westborough High School student who has dedicated themselves to taking courses within the Fine Arts Department for all four years of their high school career and earned at least a "B" average in each of these classes.

Passion for the Arts Scholarship:

This scholarship is offered to any Westborough High School student who plans on pursuing post-secondary studies in the Fine Arts. The student must have a declared Fine Arts major. Student will have dedicated themselves to taking courses within the Fine Arts Department for all four years of their high school career and earned at least a "B" average in each of these classes.

Eligibility:

Qualified seniors who have participated in the Westborough Fine Arts Department throughout their four years at Westborough High School AND their parent(s)/guardian(s) have been a member of WFAEA for 2 out of the last four years.

TRI-M

MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY

Tri-M is the national honor society for student musicians. It is designed to recognize students for their academic and musical achievements, reward them for their accomplishments and service activities, and to inspire other students to excel at music and leadership. Currently, there are over 2,100 chapters in all 50 states, involving more than 84,000 students.

The WHS Chapter held its 2022 induction ceremony on January 25th. 24 new members were inducted this year.



***Congratulations to our
2022 Inductees!***

Esther Antony

Dari Bumgarner

Amy Chen

Mason Chong

Ana Claudia Monteiros da Silva

Vaishnavi Desai

Susannah Gordon

Nitya Gundamaraju

Jack Haagensen

Melinda Haagensen

Michelle Hung

Diya Karthick

Corinne Levesque

Nathan Miller

Andrew Nadar

William Plunkett

Esha Prasad

Ronald Young Reents

Pragna Shashidhar

Harshita Srivastava

Kaylie Strong

Harshitha Sunchu

Zhouli Wang

Owen Wu

Chris Martin, Advisor

To learn more about Tri-M and requirements for membership, [follow this link](https://www.WFAEA.org).

NAHS

NATIONAL ART HONOR SOCIETY

This year, WHS established its first chapter of the
National Art Honor Society.

The NAHS provides accepted students opportunities for national recognition, leadership experience, and connectivity to 50,000+ outstanding arts students worldwide. Membership benefits also include opportunities for scholarships, national awards, publication of artwork in NAEA News and various service opportunities.

On January 25th, WHS officially inducted it's first 16 members into NAHS with a combined ceremony with this year's Tri-M inductees.



***Congratulations to our first
NAHS Inductees!***

Ashley Meleski, President

Makenna Thrush, Vice President

Trisha Badrinath, Treasurer

Lillian Roney, Secretary

Lydia Alviene

Isabella Arcieri

Ava Biancheri

Camille Braaten

Margaret Graham

Isabelle Gu

Emily Hight

Chocoria Jiang

Celeste Morais

Sophia Ormand

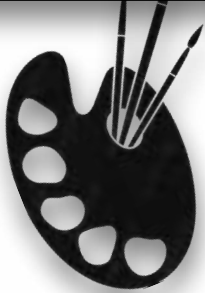
Emma Spear

Evan Vassilakis

Emma Ballachino, advisor

To learn more about NAHS, [follow this link](#).

www.WFAEA.org



Artwork by NAHS inductees on display
at the NAHS ceremony.

Taking Care of Your Instrument....

Thank you to our friends at David French Music for sharing these important tutorials

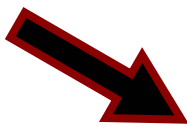


ANNOUNCEMENTS



If you have not yet, ***Please complete the PG 2022 **Volunteer Survey** to let us know which committee(s) you can help with.

*(Decorating, Fundraising, Chaperones, Memory Lane, Entertainment, Food, Publicity, Set Up, and/or Clean Up.)



We're hoping we can count on you to help us run a successful, fun, and safe

!30th! Project Graduation.

We are excited to be planning for a big comeback of the traditional chemical free event for the Class of 2022

We can only do this with lots (and lots) of volunteers!



[click here to let us know how you can help!](#)

Reminder

Annual Town Meeting: March 19th

Please attend to vote on important town and school issues

Your Vote Matters!



Interesting article by Carla Kalogeridis about the importance of music education in our schools.



*click on photo
for article*

Photo courtesy of the US Department of Education

Dr. Miguel Cardona: "We Are Underestimating the Power of Music and the Arts"

WHS
POPS 
Night!

Coming this
May!

The Spotlight
Senior & Visual Arts
Issues
COMING THIS SPRING



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

**Class of
2022**

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.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH WFAEA?

We are looking for volunteers to help!

There are many fun ways to be a part of

Westborough's Fine Arts



Shop at smile.amazon.com

smile.amazon.com

Shop at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate to your favorite charitable organization, at **no cost to you.**

We invite our local businesses to help support fine arts in the Westborough Public Schools



Find out more here:



WFAEA thanks our generous 2021-2022 supporters

Standing Ovation (\$300)

Patrick & Jennifer Guadiz
Eric & Michelle French
Marc & Laura DiPilato
Jenny & Mark Silverberg

Encore (\$150)

Marc and Mary Levesque Family
The Chong family
Eric Fitch & Kathy Swanson
Karen & Scott Henderson
Elizabeth and Kevin Dionne
Anjali and Janardhan Sampath
The Carpenter Family
The Hastings Family
Kim & Sean Keough

Bravo (\$100)

Dmitry Tylik
The Leduc - Zepf Family
The Niece Family
The Kinsky Family
The Pittorino Family
Naomi Botkin and Josh Gordon
The Cushman Family
The Chace Family
The Crandall family

Cheer (\$75)

The Martin Family

Applause (\$50)

Terry Wilper
The Desmond Family
The Biancheri Family
The Wu Family
Roberta Di Terlizzi
Anonymous

Salute (\$30)

Paul and Louise Gagnon
The THAKUR Family
The Smith / Collins Family
Anonymous



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for the Fine Arts

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shop. Buy at face value and
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For more information, go to
WFAEA.org/wfaea-fundraisers
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coordinator at:
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Questions? Email PRESIDENT@WFAEA.ORG



WFAEA 2021-22 OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Lisa Chace Elisabeth Kinsky
Vice President	Debra Cushman
Treasure	Jennifer Niece
Secretary	Jessica Crandall