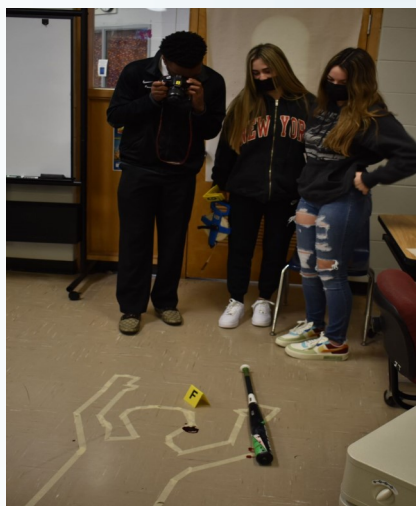




Panther Press Quarterly

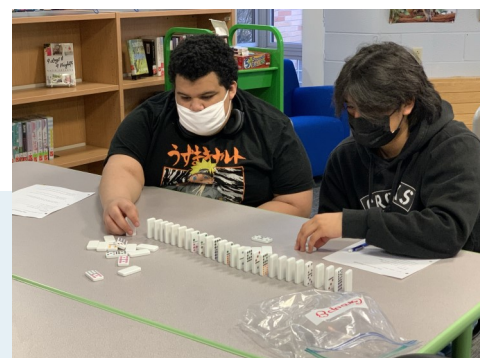
February 4, 2022
Volume 1, Issue 2



Forensics Classes Solve Murder Mystery!

This quarter, students taking Forensics had an opportunity to participate in a series of engaging labs, most recently attempting to solve a staged "Murder Mystery". Taught by Mr. Ferraiolo and Mr. Malgieri, Forensics is a science elective course open to all students who have completed the appropriate prerequisites.

In this course, students dive into criminal and civil laws that are enforced by police agencies in a criminal justice system. Encompassing biology, chemistry, physics, entomology, earth science, anatomy and physiology, as well as other aspects of science, students enrolled in Forensics can earn college credit upon successful completion via the College of Saint Rose. In the lab photos above, students can be seen processing a crime scene as well as collecting and preserving evidence. During their investigation, students were tasked with analyzing several documents and recording their findings. Even staff members participated in the activity, serving as "witnesses to the alleged crimes". Students were tasked with interviewing identified individuals to compile information necessary to work through their investigations. Lab and project-based, Forensics has proven to be not only informative and rigorous, but insightful and engaging for all participants.



Homework Assistance Lab a Valuable Resource for Panthers Paying Attention to Their Performance

Homework Assistance Lab has been a big hit! Over 125 students have accessed the program thus far, many of whom have attended multiple sessions in different subject areas.

Monday-Thursday, these after school homework labs give students an opportunity to retreat to a quiet place where they have access to a content-area specialist from 2:30-4:00 PM.

Successful homework completion has proven to correlate with stronger grade point averages and can help to prepare students for classroom assessments.

Homework Assistance Labs are offered in the four core content areas: English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Sign up on the High School Website or speak to your School Counselor for more information!

Hands-On Learning Opportunities at Ulster BOCES (Career-Tech)



Nick Keglovitz : Custom Robotic Design and Manufacturing

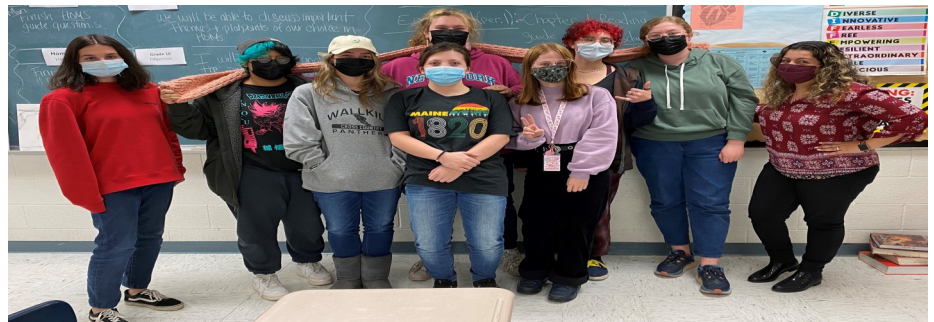
Over 140 Wallkill students participate in Career Tech, traveling to the Port Ewen BOCES campus to engage in hands-on learning opportunities. In Career & Technical classes, students regularly apply both theory and actual skill. Upon course completion, students not only know how a task should be done, they've actually done it. Many of the programs prepare students for college level courses and

in some instances, allow students to achieve enough hours to begin working in a trade professionally upon matriculation. Be sure to check out the Virtual Parent and Student Information Night scheduled for February 17, 2022!



Arieanna Serrano is enrolled in the Cosmetology Program

Literary Magazine/Creative Club



Wallkill Senior High School Clubs!

Get Involved! Join one of the clubs below:

[Drama Club](#)

[Weightlifting Intramurals](#)

[SADD](#)

[Yearbook](#)

[GSA/Youth for Unity](#)

[Leo Club](#)

[Be-YOU-tiful Club](#)

[Technology Club \(Robotics\)](#)

[Athletes Helping Athletes](#)

[Science Club](#)

[Literary Magazine/Creative Club](#)

[Odyssey of the Mind](#)

Literary Magazine/Creative Club is a place for students of all writing abilities and creative backgrounds to share a space to write, create, collaborate, and provide feedback to one another. Students who enjoy creative writing and share an interest in creating fiction, producing media, writing scripts, and/or poetry are able to share and present ideas as well as appreciate each other's craft.

"I am proud of the students who attend creative club, as they are excited and inspired to share their creations with one another and bring so many different perspectives and abilities to the table. Seeing students collaborate and give energetic feedback on creative projects has been most rewarding and encouraging," says club advisor Annmarie Lugo. "Students have especially enjoyed sharing and performing poetry, because in doing so, they are able to truly learn from one another and share experiences that form common threads as human beings."

Students just completed "Project Valentine" where they created hand-made cards and shared an inspiring note to seniors who are living in adult care facilities in our surrounding area. State senator James Skoufis' team will be distributing them in February!

"I joined creative club in my freshman year with a bunch of my friends, and it is a very welcoming environment," says Autumn Martin. "My friends and I draw things during creative club and can submit them to a folder full of art and stories. We enjoy our time in the club and look forward to every Tuesday when we meet. During COVID we met on zooms but still shared our pieces. Creative club is an accepting place where you can be creative and calm without worry. "

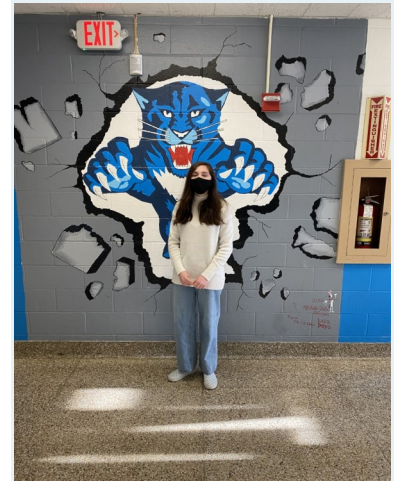
"I enjoy creative club/literary magazine because of all of the ways that we create, present, and view different pieces of writing, poetry, and art," says Sabrina Hickey. "Mrs. Lugo creates both digital and live platforms for us to collaborate by providing us with different prompts and ideas. From time to time, we even have the opportunity to enter our best work into various contests, where we can win prizes. "



Oscar Acevedo Parrra working through activities within the Electrical Construction Program at Ulster BOCES

Mr. Andrews' PBIS Student of the Month Recognizes Students for Modeling Panther Values

Each month, Wallkill Senior High School Faculty, Staff, and Administration nominate students who embody our Wallkill values. The values include but are not limited to kindness, hard work, generosity, and positivity. For December, our winners went above and beyond for our Panther Community and their peers!



Katherine Holmes



James Sanicola

Ulster BOCES Career & Technical Center **VIRTUAL PARENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION NIGHT**

Join us to learn about our
Two-Year Career & Technical Center Programs
for Grades 11-12 &
New Visions/Pre-University Programs
for Seniors

WHEN:

February 17, 2022 (Snow day Feb. 22)
Sessions begin at 5 PM & 6 PM
Visit up to two programs (one per session)

WHERE:

Via Zoom!

Visit www.ulsterboces.org/recruit22
for zoom links for each of our programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact Ulster BOCES Guidance at
845-331-6680 or email kflanagan@ulsterboces.org

**Learn more by visiting
our Recruitment webpage!**



SAVE THE DATE!

Student Visitation Day
MARCH 8
(In-person during the school day)
See your school counselor to attend



Madison Rivera Selected to the All- National Chorus!

On Wednesday, December 15, 2021, Senior standout Madison Rivera was honored by our Board of Education with the *Outstanding Musicianship Award*! Rivera auditioned and was selected for the All-National Chorus, a feat that was previously only attained by Wallkill graduates Sean Butler and Patrick Piescor. The All-National Choral Ensemble will be performing virtually this year. Madison finishes her pieces this week and the virtual showing will be made available to the public in March. Congratulations to Madison on an outstanding accomplishment!



Winter Concert Didn't Disappoint!

The *Panther Musician Ensembles* did not disappoint in our annual Winter Concert! From caroling in the lobby, to sophisticated performances, and several incidents of showmanship, all continued to be impressed by our talented students. Year in and year out, the Winter Concert has symbolized perseverance,

hope, and gratefulness. Special thanks to Mrs. Amthor, Mrs. Bardenett, and Mrs. Contzius for all of their dedication to our music program and our students! Check out our annual *Coffee House* production scheduled for February 9, 2022 at 6:30 PM in the High School Auditorium!



Panther-Cub Mentoring Program Making A Difference

"Being able to work one on one with kids through the Panther Cub Program is truly amazing. Providing a space for kids to feel supported is really important," says senior Ava Roper about the Panther-Cub Mentoring Program.

The Panther-Cub Mentoring Program unites high school students with elementary students, specifically addressing confidence building and self-esteem, fostering self worth and positive peer relationships, as well as modeling the importance of making good choices.

"I believe that the Panther-Cub Mentoring Program is a fantastic way to create connections and help the youth of Wallkill," says Panther Senior Wrestler Ben Buchalter. "The program itself can be truly lifechanging."



Ava Roper, Ava Muise, Grace Winchell, Dan Greene, Ben Buchalter

The program began back in 2011 as a trial intervention for students at Leptondale. Since then, it has grown substantially, including Leptondale, Ostrander, and Plattekill Elementary students. Mr. Andrews (Dean of Students) and Mrs. Scarano (High School Special Education Teacher) are the coordinators here at the high school, working with our National Honor Society students who volunteer to be mentors. In collaboration with elementary teachers and staff, mentorships are created where these high school students build positive relationships to help guide younger students selected at the elementary level.

"Panther Cubs is a great program where older students get to meet with younger students and be a friend and mentor to them. It helps students connect and gives younger kids a unique experience that helps them in life."

- Daniel Greene

"I think it's an awesome idea to help those who just need someone to look up to. Kids can struggle in elementary, I am glad to support someone with whatever they may be going through."

-Ava Muise

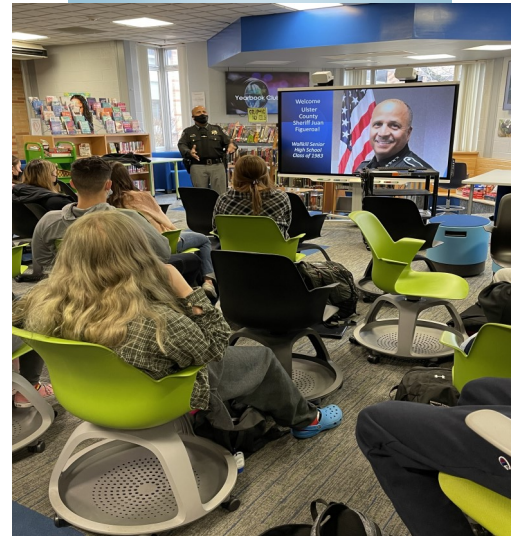
"I'm so grateful to have the chance to help others. This program will help so many kids in the future"

- Grace Winchell

Connections to the Community: Wallkill Senior High School Welcomes Local Law Enforcement

Wallkill alumni and Ulster County Sheriff Juan Figueroa came to the high school to speak to students in our Introduction to Criminal Justice class. He spoke about the role and responsibilities of the Sheriff Department in our community and how it differs from other police agencies. He discussed the challenges his agency faces and where he hopes to take it in the future.

After Sheriff Figueroa's presentation, he hosted a question and answer session with our students, including topics like job requirements, the jail, and other current issues of law enforcement. This is the 3rd consecutive year that Sheriff Figueroa has visited our school. Last year the event was held via Zoom.



Sheriff Figueroa Speaks to Mr. DerCola's Criminal Justice Class

Panther Basketball Teams Both Ranked by the New York State Sportswriters Association

Wallkill is home to two of the region's top class A basketball teams this season as both the Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball teams are ranked among the top in the state by the New York State Sportswriters Association.

The Varsity Girls, led by veteran coach and math teacher A.J. Higby, have rattled off 15 consecutive wins after falling to Warwick in their season opener. The Panthers are led by a trio of talented guards. Freshman star Zoe Mesuch has burst onto the scene, averaging 16 Points Per Game, including 27 Three-Point Field Goals. Mesuch has drawn attention from several NCAA Division I programs, including George Mason who has already offered her an athletic scholarship. Mesuch is joined by junior guard Emma Spindler, who leads the Panthers in Rebounds Per Game (6.0), Blocks Per Game (.9), and Steals Per Game (4.1) all while defending the opposition's best player night in and night out. Senior Point Guard Emma Schwarzbeck is the orches-

trator for the Panthers, averaging 3.5 Assists Per Game to go with 8.0 Points Per Game. At 15-1, Wallkill is currently ranked 7th overall amongst New York State Class A Girls Basketball Teams.

The Varsity Boys Team, led by Dean of Students Hunter Andrews, is currently 14-1 on the season, suffering their only loss thus far to rival Marlboro in a triple-overtime thriller. Senior Mat Shea leads the team in scoring and rebounding (21 PPG/7RPG) and joined an elite group of Panthers earlier this season recording his 1,000th career point in a team victory over Highland. Guard Kyle Krebs and Forward Jeremy Figueroa balance out the Panther scoring attack, contributing 11.5 PPG and 9.7 PPG respectively. Senior Point Guard R.J. Taylor leads the Panthers in dishing with 4 Assists Per Game. The Panthers are ranked 18th overall in NYS class A.

Be sure to come out and cheer on these iconic Panther Teams!



Technology Wing In Full Swing!



Wood-Turning in the Lab



Vex Robotics Preparing for Their Next Competition!

Have you ventured to the technology wing? Our technology department offers a plethora of electives from Photography, to Wood and Metal Shop, to Digital Electronics!

In the picture on the left, students are utilizing a wood-turning approach to create pens.

On the right, the VEX Robotics Club collaborates at a recent meeting after school.

Wallkill Senior High School

Principal Brian J. Masopust
90 Robinson Drive
Wallkill, NY 12589

Phone: 845-895-7150
bmasopust@wallkillcsd.k12.ny.us



Mr. Redmond with our Fierce Panther Mascot!



The Senior Celebration Parent Committee needs your help! This event is an annual alcohol and drug-free all-night party held on the night of graduation to keep our Seniors safe and off the roads. Please help by joining the parent/community committee, following us on Facebook at Wallkill High School Senior Celebration (invite your friends as well), chaperoning the night of the event, helping with sponsorship, and attending one of our upcoming fundraising events.

Next meeting: Tues. Feb 15, 7PM HS Rm 102

Contact info:

Erin Ross-845-591-5472

whsseniorcelebration2022@gmail.com.