



LEYDEN

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 212



Cheers to 2022!



Nick Polyak, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Dear Leyden Community,

As we have welcomed in 2022, I want to highlight some very good news from our annual school report card for the district. Last year, 1,568 Leyden students were able to take courses that earned them early college credit. That represents 45.8% of our student population. In 2020, that percentage was 36.9% and in 2019 it was 33.6%.

These opportunities are a combination of Advanced Placement Courses, where students take exams for college credit at the end of the year, and Dual Credit Courses, where students earn credit at both Leyden and Triton College at the same time. Either way, those course credits are generally transferable to other universities and programs that our students pursue after graduation.

The growth in these numbers are a testament to the dedication of

our students and teachers, and our partnership with Triton College. We know that when students have the opportunity to take college level coursework in high school, it helps with their confidence and their transition to whatever lies ahead.

Similarly, we have seen dramatic increases in students earning career-ready credentials in fields such as early childhood education, culinary arts, nursing, automotives, manufacturing, technology, and more. By providing a wide range of career and college readiness opportunities, we feel that our students are prepared for whatever pathways they pursue after high school.

As always, we thank you for your continued partnership as we always strive to "Do What's Best For The Kids."

With Leyden Pride,
Dr. Nick Polyak

E-Sports debut in Fall 2021

With varsity and junior varsity teams, a roster of students are competing in the E-Sports games of Overwatch and Rocket League.



District hires new principal for West Leyden

On Thursday, December 16, the Leyden High School District 212 Board of Education approved the hiring of Arturo Senteno as the new West Leyden principal, effective July 1, 2022. The hiring of Senteno is a result of an extensive search process, including a pre-screening of qualified candidates and a series of interviews with Leyden administrators, faculty, staff and students.

“After meeting with many outstanding candidates, Senteno emerged as our finalist because of his extensive and vast leadership experience, his passion for building relationships with faculty, and his unwavering support for student growth and learning,” said Superintendent Nick Polyak. “He has demonstrated throughout a lengthy and diverse career in education that he has the ability to lead West Leyden on the strong path that has been established and to help us in our efforts to continue to meet the needs of our communities.”

Senteno currently serves as the associate principal for instruction at Elk Grove High School in District 214. Prior to that, he served in numerous other roles at the district, including associate principal of student services/operations at Rolling Meadows High School, dean of students, biology teacher, and head varsity water polo coach. Senteno has served as a Captain in the Illinois Army National Guard as a medical specialist and did a tour of duty in Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Senteno earned a Bachelor of Arts in Teaching from Monmouth College, Master of Arts in Teaching from Aurora University and an Educational Administration Superintendent’s Endorsement (Ed.S) from Northern Illinois University where he also expects to earn his Educational Doctorate in December of 2022.

“The reason I come to work every day is to give every student the opportunity for personal success and I can’t wait to continue this in the Leyden community,” said Senteno. “I hope that together we can provide a support system that employs advocacy for students and maintains the rigor necessary to be successful beyond high school. My goal is to give all students the spark to light their passion because every child should be encouraged to be the best version of themselves.”

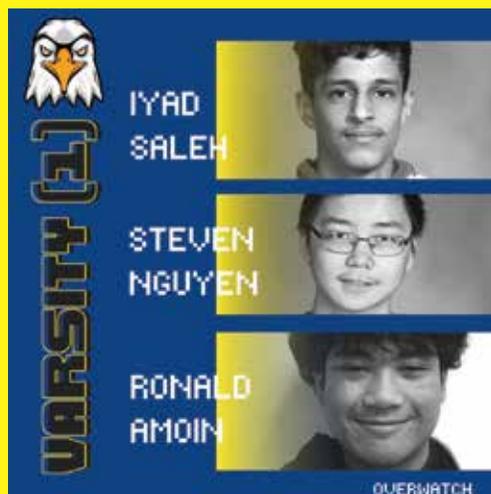
Senteno fills the role resulting from current principal, Patricia Makishima’s intention to step away from the role at the conclusion of this school year to pursue other opportunities.

“Principal Makishima has been a crucial part of the Leyden family for the past three years, and we wish her the best of luck in her new adventures,” said Polyak. “She accomplished great things during her time here, helped lead us through the pandemic, and will be missed by the entire Leyden Family.”



Arturo Senteno

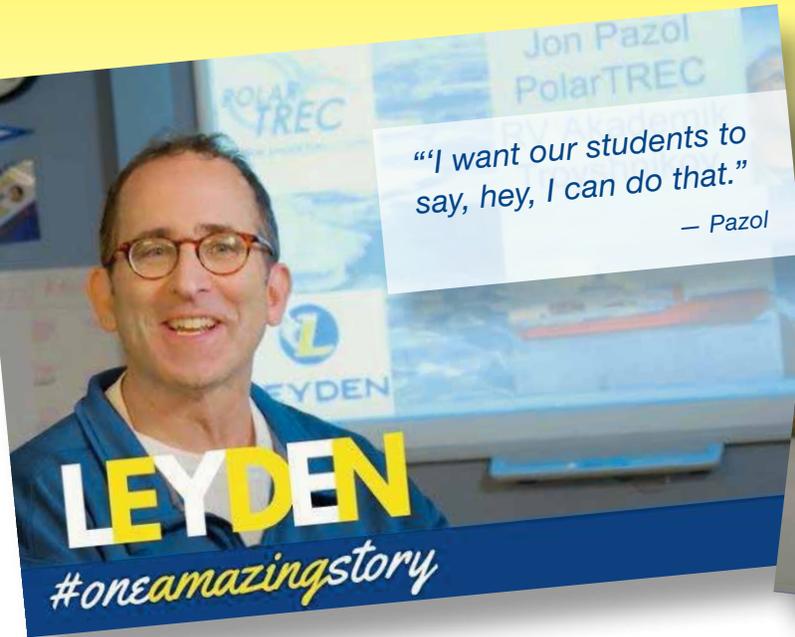
“The reason I come to work every day is to give every student the opportunity for personal success and I can’t wait to continue this in the Leyden community.”



Leyden continues One Amazing Story series

The video series launched last spring with the goal of sharing the stories of Leyden parents, students, staff and the community, one story at a time. These are meant to be stories that are unique, timely, interesting, and showcase something that might usually go unrecognized.

“The beauty of this series is that with each individual story, we are building the collective story of our Leyden community,” said Karen Geddeis, Director of Communications.



Science teacher conducts research in the Arctic

Science teacher Jon Pazol spent six weeks on an icebreaker in the arctic collecting research for environmental studies. While he was able to share his experiences with students through video chats, the real beauty was in showing his students that, “Hey, I can do that!” Pazol wants students to know what is possible in this life, and that is One Amazing Story.

Autos students build a bike to help a child in need

When engaging in a design process, we often ask, “What problem are we trying to solve?” The problem our autos students set out to address was that of a child, who due to a physical limitation, had trouble enjoying a simple bike ride like her friends. Under the leadership of autos teacher Paul Potvin, the students converted a standard bike into an eBike that helps this young lady ride in style.



Kamila Banach and Aleyda Urcino took 3rd at the State Special Olympics bowling championship this weekend.



The annual Leyden Food and Toy Drive collected more than 700 lbs of food and more than 100 toys this past season for local families in need.

A new video debuts each month, at the Board of Education meeting, and then is posted and distributed throughout Leyden’s communications channels including YouTube,

social media, and publications. Subscribe on YouTube; scan the QR code to enjoy the following fall videos:



Illinois educators conduct service projects in Dominican Republic

Superintendent Nick Polyak, Board Member Cesar Garcia, and Video Production Specialist Brandon Delgado joined other educators from across the state in the Dominican Republic last month where they conducted various service projects over a four-day period. This inaugural Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) Global Service Project 2021 was part of an effort to build relationships across Illinois, while doing meaningful work and learning and experiencing another culture.

Technical director helps student connect with theater

Technical director Victor Pilolla, now recently retired, is a true artist of many media who found his place here with the students at Leyden and ended up staying for his entire career. An engineer by trade, he paved his way through high school theater, leading state-wide conferences and productions, hundreds of shows, and recently added “world premiere debut” to his resume with “Wave” earlier this year. Pilolla retired this year and has opened a fine art gallery in Hawaii.



Leyden’s BRIDGE Special Olympics Basketball team is state-bound! In March, the following student athletes will compete in the championship in Bloomington-Normal: Gianluca Bravo, Christopher Carrera-Sanchez, Emmanuel Deacon, Jonathon Gonzalez, Alexander Juraszek, William Landy, Dominic LaRocco, Lester Martinez, Daniel Ramirez, Javier Rosado, Sammy Termine and William Torres.



The cast and crew of Wave were invited to perform at the 46th annual Illinois High School Theater Festival, January 6 - 8 at Illinois State University. QR Code: Watch Wave the documentary





Leyden is hiring! Join our team

Companies and organizations across all industries

are struggling to hire and retain employees in this current climate surrounding the pandemic and its impact on our economy.

At Leyden High School District 212, we too are experiencing the challenges of this economic impact, and have important roles in our organization that remain unfilled. Potential and ongoing openings include administrative, certified teaching, transportation, food services, maintenance, guest teaching and various support staff roles. A full list of current jobs and the online application is available at www.leyden212.org/jobs,

or scan the QR code.



New This Year Three new courses approved for the 2022-23 school year

Next year, students will have the opportunity to select three new courses including Environmental Science, Bilingual Biology and Bilingual Global Studies. These courses were recommended by the faculty and instructional chairs and then approved by the Curriculum Advisory Council. Environmental Science was recommended as a way to offer seniors another option beyond Physics and Health Sciences. Bilingual Biology and Global Studies are about helping to create a course sequence that provides an opportunity for our Spanish-speaking students to have improved access to content.

West to get a new concession stand

A new Eagle's Nest concession stand was approved to be built for the start of the 2022-23 school year. In addition to the concession stand itself, the project includes significant site work, improving water retention, plumbing and electrical components. The building footprint is scheduled to double in size and will be constructed over the spring and summer.

Water Polo teams debut in Spring 2022

It was announced at the Board of Education Meeting on October 6 that Leyden will officially have boys and girls Water Polo teams in the spring of 2022. Water Polo teams consist of six players and one goalie.

#LeydenPride Congratulations!

Teachers **Dana Jeske** and **Chris Lange** earned their National Board Certification! This is one of the highest distinctions a teacher can earn, and requires hours of dedication in a lengthy process.

Natalie Juszczuk, a sophomore at East Leyden, recently earned first place in the Polish Translation in the 2021 Illinois High School Translation Competition. Thirty-five students from 23 schools in Illinois participated in the competition and translated a 450-700-word text from either Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Polish, or Swedish into English.

Leyden students **Patty Karpiesiuk** and **Lily Dodgers**, scored their personal best in diving and Lily for setting a new school record with 333.6 points at the Fenwick Sectional meet! The Leyden girls swim team took 3rd place overall closing out the season.

Leyden District 212 Board of Education

Board of Education meetings are in the East Campus Board Room



Mr. Gregory T. Ignoffo
President



Mrs. Gloria Murawska
Vice President



Mr. James A. Lima
Secretary



Mr. Joseph Trevino
Member



Mrs. Lisa Anthony
Member

Leyden High School District 212 is an equal opportunity institution, committed to compliance with all applicable state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. This includes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, order of protection status, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, homelessness and marital/parental status, including pregnancy.

As required by S.B. 898, you may go to Leyden's website to view our budget at: www.leyden212.org



Mrs. Sandra Boehm
Member



Mr. Cesar Garcia
Member



Daniel Lechuga
Student Member



Izabella Laniewski
Student Member

East Campus West Campus
3400 Rose Street 1000 N. Wolf Road
Franklin Park, IL 60131 Northlake, IL 60164

Thank you to those who contributed photos to this edition of the newsletter.