



# LEYDEN

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 212



CEREMONY &  
RECEPTION  
SEPT. 23  
3:15 PM  
EAST LEYDEN



LEYDEN ALUMNI  
WALL OF  
FAME



## Wall of Fame

On Thursday, September 23, the Leyden High School District 212 Board of Education invites our community to join in honoring our Wall of Fame inductees in a ceremony and reception. This prestigious honor will be bestowed upon five worthy Leyden graduates who have been selected through a rigorous process. Please join us in celebrating: Daniel Czyz, PhD, Class of 2000; Michael Leiding, MD, Class of 1992; Mario Treto Jr. JD, Class of 2003; Carlos X. Treto, Class of 2004; and Nancy Jo Tobin, Class of 1963.

# Superintendent's Corner



Nick Polyak, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Dear Leyden Community,

Our sights are set on a full return to in-person learning this August, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome our students, families and communities back into our buildings!

This year, we will implement our new student schedule which includes a special block called "Eagle Time." Our goal in utilizing Eagle Time is to take two large high schools and make them feel a little smaller for our students. We want to increase our students' sense of belonging by creating an advisory cohort where they will remain connected with one teacher and a group of peers during their four years at Leyden. In addition, because of this schedule change, students will have more access to supports and interventions throughout the day.

We are able to accomplish this enhanced student experience because of the generous support of our communities. Without the need for a referendum or tax increase, Leyden was able to renovate and modernize our two schools with the ultimate goal of improving our educational processes. (Believe it or not, West Leyden is 60 years old and East Leyden is nearing 100 years old!) With construction completed in the spring of 2020, we are poised and ready to make this great change happen.

Of the many things that were reinforced this past 18 months: Leyden is built on community. We soar together and we accomplish great feats together. We lean on each other. We stand together. This is what makes us so filled with #leydenpride each and every day.

With Gratitude,  
Dr. Nick Polyak

## Business Professionals Needed: Help Leyden Students Succeed

Leyden is seeking professionals who work in marketing, business, finance, customer service, and various other industries to volunteer to coach students interested in these fields for the 2021-22 school year. Volunteers are needed to guest-teach a class in their area of expertise (in-person or virtually), mentor a student team or serve as a panel judge for various class competitions. This is an exceptional opportunity to give back to Leyden students and assist them in the journey to success. If you are interested in sharing your expertise, please scan the QR code and fill out the form and someone will contact you soon.



## Discounted Internet Service Available



The federal Emergency Broadband Benefit is a temporary program that provides discounts of up to \$50 a month for internet service at home. Participants also get a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a device (purchased through a participating provider). A household can qualify if at least one member:

- Participates in a federal assistance programs like SNAP or Medicaid;
- Receives benefits under the free and reduced-price school meal program;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
- Lost a job or experienced a substantial loss of income during the pandemic.

For more information, visit <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit> or call 833-511-0311.

## New Assistant Principal Named at West Leyden



Meghan O'Neil,  
Assistant Principal

Meghan O'Neil has been named the new assistant principal for teaching and learning at West Leyden High School. She currently serves as the special education department chair, since being hired at Leyden in 2019. Prior to that, O'Neil taught special education for five years at Lincoln-Way West. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois in Business Administration and has a Masters in Special Education from Roosevelt University and a Masters in Educational Leadership from Concordia University.

## Two New Student Board Members

Two Leyden students were appointed to District 212's Board of Education at a meeting held on May 13. The two seniors were sworn in as student representative members, continuing a tradition established in 2016. During the 2021-22 school year Daniel Lechuga of West Leyden and Izabella Laniewski of East Leyden will represent other students by gathering feedback from their classmates and presenting that information to board members. Students are nominated for the position by staff members who review the students' school involvement and contributions. Although the student members take the same oath of office as regular school board members, they do not vote on school board matters or attend closed sessions.

"Student board members have a standing agenda item every month for their reports," said Superintendent Nick Polyak. "They bring forward thoughts and concerns from their classmates, and also share some of the great things happening in their buildings and communities. Examples of input from students would be potential upgrades in the facilities, requests for new or different courses."

Lechuga was inspired to be a student on the Board of Education since starting at Leyden in 2018. "I remember attending a meeting my Freshman year and I saw that there were two Leyden students that were members on the Board and I was curious as to why they were sitting there," said Lechuga. "Fast forward two years and I was nominated for the position. I was delighted and honored to accept the position. As a person who is passionate about student involvement, I hope to create a closer bridge between the voice of the student body and the Leyden Board of Education."

## New Schedule Debuts at Leyden

### Offers students opportunities for connections and resources



A new daily class schedule will be implemented for the 2021-22 school year. The new schedule includes seven academic periods, one lunch period, and an all-new "Eagle Time" Period. School will be fully in-person, daily, 7:30 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

"The goal of the recently completed renovations and additions at East and West campuses was to create suitable spaces for us to implement a new schedule to better serve all of our students," said Superintendent Dr. Nick Polyak. "Numerous groups of stakeholders worked together to develop a schedule that optimizes instructional time, builds a stronger community, and includes time for students to access various support services available at Leyden."

For our students and families, visit our website ([www.leyden212.org](http://www.leyden212.org)) for additional details on the new schedule and the return to school for the 2021-22 school year.

# More than 100 Future Eagles Attend Leyden Student Summit

For two days in June, more than 100 kids in grades 3rd through 8th attended the Student Summit at East Leyden. This event provides learning opportunities in STEAM classes (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) such as robotics, culinary arts, drama, ceramics and video production.

“My two kids can’t stop talking about the Summit. They had an amazing time. I cannot thank you and your team enough for everything you did. Tonight, I walked into my son’s room and saw how he taped his Summit shirt onto his bedroom wall. He said he never wants to forget how great it was. What you all did is truly special. Thank you for sparking a love of learning that my kids will never forget.”

--Javier Vargas, Parent



# Summer School Helps Freshman Transition to High School



As we reach the tail end of a global Pandemic, Leyden High School students prepare to be fully in-person next fall. Returning to school after being virtual the last year and half can be a challenge but some students are taking advantage to prepare themselves by enrolling in Leyden High School's Freshman Academy and Summer School offerings. Leyden's Freshman Academy is an enrichment program offered to incoming freshmen to help prepare them for their transition into school and curriculum.

Freshman Maritza Campos, says she is confident going into the fall, "I feel that Freshman Academy is giving me the advantage of knowing the teachers, school and other students before school starts in August," she said.

Leyden High School administrators have been working on an official reopening plan for the fall to make sure all students, faculty and staff feel safe and prepared when returning into the building and resume their normal schedules.

Freshman Joel Ortiz, expressed he felt that Leyden teachers are doing a great job making each student feel comfortable returning to the classroom, "I feel safe! I think Leyden is doing a great job to make sure we are spread out and everyone is still wearing masks," he said. "They are making learning really fun and relatable for all students, I really missed being in the classroom with all my friends."

## Leyden Launches Virtual Calming Room to Improve Wellness

A group of counselors and social workers collaborated to design a virtual space to support the wellness of students, staff and families during this challenging time. The Leyden Virtual Calming Room helps to sooth and bring mental and physical awareness through activities such as coloring, exercise, mindful meditation, puzzles, games, sound, relaxation and yoga.

"The virtual nature of this offering makes it accessible to everyone, at all hours of the day or night," said Counselor Stacey Schlaud. "We hope our families and staff will find this to be an effective, useful resource now, and in the future."



# Back Together Bash!

**Leyden Township & Veterans Park District**  
Presents  
**LEYDEN TOWNSHIP**

**A Community Celebration**  
Fireworks, Food, and, Fun!  
**Friday, August 13**  
**West Leyden High School at 6:00pm**

*In partnership with Leyden Area School Districts...*

Berkeley School District 87, Elmwood Park Community Unit School District 401, Franklin Park School District 84, Leyden Area Special Education Cooperative (LASEC), Mannheim School District 83, Phoenix Academy, Rhodes School District 84.5, River Grove School District 85.5, Rosemont Elementary School District 78 and Schiller Park School District 81

It's time to get our community back together to celebrate our connections as the Leyden family! Join in the fun, festivities, food and fireworks on Friday, August 13, starting at 6 p.m. on the West Leyden Field. This event is free and open to the community.

## Three Board of Education Incumbents Re-Elected to Serve Four-Year Term



Mr. Gregory T. Ignoffo  
President



Mrs. Gloria Murawska  
Vice President



Mr. James A. Lima  
Secretary

At the meeting on April 15, the Board of Education voted to approve the canvas of votes from recent elections, where incumbents Greg Ignoffo, Gloria Murawska and Jim Lima ran unopposed. The Board then conducted its annual required reorganization meeting, where Mr. Ignoffo was nominated to continue to serve as President, Mrs. Murawska as Vice President, and Mr. Lima as Secretary.

## 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.*



Mrs. Sandra Boehm  
Member



Mr. Cesar Garcia  
Member



Daniel Lechuga  
Student Member



Izabella Laniewski  
Student Member

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

**East Campus**  
3400 Rose Street  
Franklin Park, IL 60131

**West Campus**  
1000 N. Wolf Road  
Northlake, IL 60164

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