



LEYDEN

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 212

Construction continues...

West Leyden's newly configured courtyard provides a view from the two-story addition that includes a first floor cafeteria and commons and a second floor library and media center.



A wall of windows, a well-appointed seating area, and a centrally located circulation desk will welcome visitors to the library and media center.



The kitchen and serving area are streamlined, fully equipped, and in operation.

Superintendent's Corner



Nick Polyak, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Hello Leyden Community,

On the cover of this newsletter, we've included some images from our ongoing construction projects. I thought this would be a good opportunity for me to discuss our progress at both West Leyden and East Leyden.

At West Leyden High School, the building addition inside the courtyard is nearly complete. The first floor features an expanded cafeteria and commons with a new kitchen and serving area. This space will eventually allow us to eliminate split class periods in the middle of the day and allow students more time to eat lunch every day. On the second floor, we have already opened four new classrooms and four remodeled classrooms. We will soon open the new library and media center for our students. When these new areas are open, the construction crews will move into the existing building directly behind the addition to remodel those spaces for their future uses.

At East Leyden High School, we hosted our groundbreaking ceremony on March 15, 2018,

and construction work will begin in April. Over the next 12-14 months, Dodge Field will be transformed into an addition that will include new band and choir rooms, a preschool and daycare, a cafeteria and commons, an aquatics center, and more. In anticipation of this project, we have already remodeled a number of areas including our wrestling gym, science classrooms, and other curricular spaces.

You can monitor both projects on our website at www.leyden212.org/construction through web cameras that are capturing images every 15 minutes. Click on the "live look" links. We are currently on schedule for both projects to be completed and ready for the start of the 2019-2020 school year. We cannot thank our students, staff, and community enough for their support and patience as we work through this historic construction. We are excited about the opportunities these projects will create for our current and future generations of Leyden Eagles.

With #leydenpride,
Nick Polyak

Leyden Pilots E-Learning Day

Old school: snow day. New school: E-Learning Day

District 212 students and staff weren't at school on February 9. But thanks to the omnipresent power of technology, school was in session.

After more than two years of waiting for the snow day stars to align, and after a prediction of 10" – 12" of snow, Leyden finally held its first official E-Learning Day. Faculty and students weren't in their classrooms, but that didn't prevent the school day from unfolding as everyone was connected to the internet. This is possible because the district provides each student with a Chromebook and also ensures that the 20 or so students in need of Wi-Fi have the hotspots that give them access to the internet.

During Leyden's inaugural E-Learning Day, students used their computers to complete about five hours of classwork from home. According to Superintendent Nick Polyak, teachers posted the day's coursework by 9 a.m. that day and students had to check-in by 1 p.m. to confirm attendance. Because it was considered an instructional day, students and staff won't have a snow day tacked on at the end of the school year.

"An extra day at the end of the school year is not particularly useful," Polyak says. "I believe an E-Learning Day is a better option than a snow day because learning can take place anywhere. It also gives students the opportunity to develop autonomy."

Tatiana Bonuma, principal at the West campus, says teachers were able to check their students' progress via Schoology, the online learning management system that monitors students' activities. "The practice day earlier in the year contributed to a smooth E-Learning Day," Bonuma



East Leyden senior John Auge does his classwork from home during the district's first E-learning Day implemented on Friday, February 9.

notes. "Teachers were able to engage the students in meaningful content related to current units of study. And many students shared that the E-Learning Day format allowed them to complete their coursework while being available to help at home."

Polyak is evaluating the success of E-Learning Day by reviewing student attendance and gathering feedback from teachers, students, and parents. If the results are favorable, Polyak said he and other superintendents will ask lawmakers to consider making E-Learning an option for Illinois schools.

Congratulations Illinois State Scholars

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission has announced the names of the 2018-2019 Illinois State Scholars. This year more than 20,000 elite honorees are being recognized for their academic achievements. Congratulations to Leyden's 52 students who qualify as Illinois State Scholars.

West Leyden



Illinois State Scholars from West Leyden:

Megan Michorczyk, Lilianna Gonzalez, Natalie Agoncillo, Nicholas Ippolito, Jessica Ortiz, Savannah Novencido, Ronaldo Melgar, Kathy Gonzalez, Judith Escamilla, Dmitri Marrero, Marco Chaidez, Sarah Malinowski, Armando Zavalza (Not pictured: Katherine Becerril, Omar Coronel, Jonathan Damian, Nathaniel Inumerable, and Karla Rubio.)

East Leyden



Illinois State Scholars from East Leyden:

Julia Danielle Uy, Ariana Herrera, Amy Nicholson, Joseph Longo, Leslie Arciniega, Jessica Rivas, Amal Sharaan, Giovanni Diomede, Aleksandra Jez, Ashley Chiu, Jake Schwartz, Uriel Martinez, John Auge, Rakan Alzagha, Kenia Garcia, Bartlomiej Sniezek, Moiz Araj, Dioco Reyes, Alyssa Guillu, Olga Bulka, Justyna Kowalski, Daniel Payan, Camilla Mastela, Jason Alzate, Adeline Bieniarz, Matthew Ozanic, Jacob Lawson, Isabella Pisanko, Summer Sewell, Dana Pollina (Not pictured: Sebastian Hernandez, Sunny Patel, Dylan Pedersen, and Grace Sliwinski.)

"On behalf of ISAC, I congratulate all of this year's State Scholars for their exceptional work and wish them much success in their future endeavors," said ISAC Executive Director Eric Zarnikow. "Thank you also to the teachers, parents, coaches, and other mentors who support our students, inspire them, and help them navigate a path to college. You make a tremendous difference not only in our students' lives but in improving economic prosperity and building a bright future for our state."

Illinois' top students elect to have test scores and high school class rank sent to ISAC for consideration in the popular program. Seniors who rank in the top ten percent of the state's high schools are designated as Illinois State Scholars and receive a Certificate of Achievement for their outstanding academic performance. Selection is based on SAT, ACT and/or Prairie State Achievement Exam test scores, and/or class rank at the end of junior year.

19th Annual Elmhurst College High School Art Exhibition Scholarship Winners

Leyden students exhibited more than 150 pieces of artwork at the 19th Annual Elmhurst College High School Art Exhibition held January 13 to January 23 in the Frick Center at Elmhurst College. Leyden was one of eight area high schools that participated in the competition.

Student artists from both campuses earned a total of 34 awards. Two of those awards included a renewable \$2,000 Purple Ribbon Special Scholarship Award to Elmhurst College. The skilled art students who won the scholarship award are **David Sadlo** of East Leyden and **Martin Delgado** of West Leyden. Sadlo's entry, *In the Wild*, is a digital image of a fox broken into smaller

triangular pieces. Delgado's creation is a collage of nine drawing variations of a pear titled *Pear 9 Ways*.

The exhibition highlighted hundreds of works in various media including paintings, prints, sculptures, videos, and computer art. Suellen Rocca, director of exhibits at the college, noted that there are many talented high school students that take part in the exhibition every year.

Scholarships, ribbons, and certificates were awarded at the artists' reception held in January.



West Leyden senior Martin Delgado won a renewable \$2,000 scholarship to Elmhurst College for his work *Pear 9 Ways*.



In the Wild by David Sadlo earned the East Leyden senior a renewable \$2,000 scholarship to Elmhurst College.

Writers Week and One Book, One Leyden Celebrate The Art of Storytelling

Leyden's Writers Week event and the One Book, One Leyden program recently joined forces to celebrate the art of storytelling. Held the second week in February, the Writers Week agenda featured professional writers, faculty, staff, and students who revealed their personal stories. "The students and teachers who shared their stories helped advance the purpose of Writers Week," says John Rossi, English department chair and event organizer. "Their willingness to participate in the name of creating connections and building empathy affirmed my appreciation for how special Leyden is."

The week concluded with a visit from Warren St. John, author of *Outcasts United*, the district's One Book, One Leyden 2018 selection. St. John visited both campuses to meet with and speak to students and staff about his national bestseller. He said that at its core, *Outcasts United* is a story about the power of building community and the impact one person can have on the lives of others.

Janine Asmus, One Book, One Leyden organizer and media center specialist, said the author was well received by students because his book resonated with Leyden's diverse student population.



Warren St. John, author of *Outcasts United*, spoke to students about the events, circumstances and people that prompted him to write a national bestseller.

2018 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition

This winter Leyden was one of six area high schools that participated in the 2018 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition. Leyden artists accounted for 72 pieces of the approximately 145 pieces on display at the exhibit - about half of the entries.

Works of art are submitted in six different categories that include drawing, painting, photography, mixed media, design, and sculpture. The pieces judged to be the strongest receive Blue Ribbon awards. Leyden students won nine out of 16 blue ribbons in the first round of competition. Those pieces were judged a second time within their respective categories. Leyden artists won two of the six Best in Category awards; and one student won Best in Show.

The following students were honored for their creativity and skill in the mixed media and photography categories. **Shakty Granados** of West Leyden received Best in Mixed Media for her skateboard deck titled *Flight of the Bees*. **Bartlomeij Saminski**, also from West Leyden, won both Best in Photography and Best in Show for his photograph titled *Interior*.

A reception and awards ceremony for the artists was held in mid-February at the Triton College Art Gallery.



Bartlomeij Saminski
Interior

Triton College High School Art Competition
Best of Photography
Best of Show
and
Scholastic Art and Writing Competition
National Silver Medal Award



Shakty Granados
Flight of the Bees
Best of Mixed Media

Scholastic Art Competition Award Winner

Bartlomeij Saminski earned two awards at the Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Competition held in February. He then moved on to the Scholastic national competition and won nationwide recognition for his skill in photography.

Saminski, a junior at the West campus, captured two National Silver Medal awards for his photographs, *Interior* and *Summer Vacation*. Scholastic art panelists judge the artwork on originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice.

National medalists receive certificates and medals and are considered for national exhibition, publication, and scholarship opportunities.

Bartlomeij Saminski
Summer Vacation
National Silver Medal Award
Scholastic Art and Writing Competition



District 212 Teatro Leyden Honored with Magna Award

District 212s Teatro Leyden, a bilingual approach to a high school theater program, is one of three programs honored as a Magna Awards 2018 Grand Prize winner. Sponsored by the National School Boards Association (NSBA), the Magna Awards program recognizes school districts that use original, inventive methods to promote an increase in student achievement.

A panel of judges selected District 212s Teatro Leyden as an outstanding example of equity in education in the less than 5000 enrollment category. Judges noted Teatro Leyden's unique approach to engaging underserved students and also reviewed the program's success, longevity, sustainability, and capability of being duplicated by other school districts under similar conditions.

“We came across La Gringa, a show written in both Spanish and English. We thought, why not, it couldn't hurt to try.”

- Vic Pilolla

Teatro Leyden emerged four years ago when the district's theater department noticed only a few Hispanic students were auditioning for plays and musicals. In addition, very few Hispanic community members were attending the shows.

Theater department members Bill Mitchell, Adrienne Nix, and Victor Pilolla considered the matter and realized the unintended message to students was that theater participation was limited to students who speak English.

To remedy that perception and to recruit Spanish-speaking students, the trio decided to try something different. “We were looking for ways to attract



Teatro Leyden's most recent production, ¿Es la Vida un Sueño? (Is Life a Dream?) debuted in March and included Spanish-speaking and English-speaking casts. From left to right - Abram Reyes, Michael Barajas, Paulina Walczak, and Tori Novak

members of our Hispanic student population and encourage them to participate in the theater program,” says Victor Pilolla, Leyden's theater productions manager and technical director. “We came across *La Gringa*, a show written in both Spanish and English. We thought, why not, it couldn't hurt to try.”

In an innovative move, the theater department held auditions for and staged *La Gringa*, the tale of a young woman caught between her Hispanic culture and adjusting to life in New York, as two plays with two casts, one English-speaking and one Spanish-speaking. As a bonus, some bilingual students opted to perform in both shows.

The experiment worked as more Hispanic students joined the program, and community members who had never been in Leyden schools before began attending shows. “In both cases, the message from the district is that our schools and our programs are for everyone. Teatro Leyden has become a part of the school culture. It empowers our students to get involved, and engages a broader population of community members,” says Superintendent Nick Polyak.

On April 7, district representatives will discuss program development and show images and video clips to several thousand people attending the NSBA's Annual Conference to be held in San Antonio, Texas.

East Leyden Groundbreaking Marks Historic Construction Project



Pictured from far right to left: Student board members Marco Chaidez and Lejla Sadikovic prepare to break ground with future East Leyden students at the groundbreaking ceremony.

On March 15, District 212 celebrated a historic construction project as school representatives broke ground for a new addition during a ceremony held at East Leyden's Dodge Field. The event marked the start of phase two in a renovation undertaking that includes both campuses, one that began with construction at the West campus last May.

"We're very excited about these construction projects that will benefit generations of students and enhance the education process at both campuses," said Superintendent Nick Polyak at the onset of the ceremony.

School board members, administrators, staff and community members witnessed the ceremony as local middle school and elementary students donned hard hats and joined Leyden student school board members to break ground together in a gesture that signified the district's commitment to present and future students.

Plans at East include an estimated \$55 million project that features new classrooms, practice rooms for band and choir, a new cafeteria and commons, an enclosed inner courtyard, aquatic center, preschool and daycare facility.

"Since 1927 this school has evolved into a vibrant and innovative hub for students, creating and shaping a world-class education institution," said Jason Markey, principal at East Leyden. "This new addition prepares East to move forward with new spaces that match the learning experiences taking place inside its walls."



Pictured from left to right: Jason Markey, principal at East Leyden, and retired former East Leyden Principal and Assistant Superintendent Bob Johnson, review an architect's rendering of the school's addition.

School Board President Greg Ignoffo noted that "for 91 years East Leyden has served the community well," but the school "had reached the point of functional obsolescence." He added "it was time to identify the district's needs as far into the future as possible," and thanked Polyak, and former Superintendent Kathy Robbins, for recognizing the issues that led to the construction projects.

Construction at both campuses is going forward without the need for a tax referendum or a tax increase to the public, Polyak said.



Sports Briefs

Boys Swimming

Congratulations to Kamil Gorski, Stas Karpiesiuk, Rudy Moctezuma, and Tom Radziszewski for setting a new 200 free style relay record with a time of 1:30.82 at this year's sectional swim meet.

Girls Bowling

Senior Sara Carrillo advanced to sectionals, narrowly missing the state tournament by 34 pins with a 180 average.

Wrestling

The wrestling team had five all-conference selections: Eric Aguiliar, Ryan Jaffray, Jimmy Lonigro, Charlie Quinonez, and Daniel Uribe.

Spring Calendar 2018

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
April		
3	Classes Resume	
11	SCOTY Awards West Leyden Auditorium	4:00 p.m.
12	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
19	Fern Awards Ceremony West Leyden Auditorium	3:00 p.m.
23	Spring Art Show/Artists Reception East Leyden Little Theater West Leyden Auditorium Lobby	6:00 p.m.
26	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
May		
9	Spring Sports Awards Night East Leyden Auditorium	6:30 p.m.
10-11	Spring Play- <i>Once on This Island</i> West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
12	Spring Play- <i>Once on This Island</i> West Leyden Auditorium	3:00 p.m.
15	Pops Concert West Leyden Field House	7:00 p.m.
17	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
22	West Leyden Commencement Rosemont Theatre	6:30 p.m.
23	East Leyden Commencement Rosemont Theatre	6:30 p.m.
24	End of Second Semester	
28	Memorial Day	

Leyden District 212 Board of Education Board of Education meetings are in the East Campus Board Room.



Front row: James Lima, Secretary; Gregory Ignoffo, President; Gloria Murawska, Vice President
Back row: Marco Chaidez, Joseph Trevino, Lisa Anthony, Sandra Boehm, John Tobin, Lejla Sadikovic

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

State law requires that we inform you of the dates when our lawn and garden areas will be fertilized. The dates to fertilize and weed and feed will be during the following week:

May 28, 2018 – June 8, 2018 Fertilize
October 29, 2018 – November 9, 2018 Fertilize

East Campus
3400 Rose Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131

West Campus
1000 N. Wolf Road
Northlake, IL 60164