



Fall/Winter 2017

LEYDEN

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 212

Community Service Goes Global



Twenty-six East Leyden students and four chaperones went to Peru where they helped build a home for a family living near Cusco. They also visited the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu. The group partnered with Peru's Challenge, a non-profit organization that helps people in impoverished communities.



Forty-five students and six staff members went to Puerto Vallarta where they visited with children in two orphanages and a facility for students with special needs. This was the West Leyden Service Club's fourth trip to Puerto Vallarta.

Superintendent's Corner



Nick Polyak, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Hello Leyden Family,

High schools across the country use phrases like "college-readiness" and "career-readiness" when talking about their focus for students as they graduate and move on. At Leyden, we also believe in helping students prepare for the realities of colleges and careers, but we would add the phrases "future-readiness" and "life-readiness."

We aim to provide an education rich in content. However, educational content is no longer enough when preparing students for their futures. If they want to compete in the global markets of our world, students need to be able to think critically, communicate to a wide variety of audiences, collaborate with diverse team members, and find creative ways to solve problems.

Leyden's core curriculum leads to an award-winning Advanced Placement program. Over the past few years, our staff has done amazing work to bridge equity gaps so that our students are equally represented in AP courses regardless of ethnicity or economic status. From AP Calculus to AP Studio Art, Leyden students are earning college credit in our classrooms. In addition to the core curriculum, students can take every imaginable elective course to pursue passions and hone their directions in life. Those courses range from Medical Careers to Engineering to Video Game Design, just to name a few.

In addition to earning credits toward graduation, Leyden students are able to earn certifications that can lead to immediate employment opportunities. Students are earning CompTia A+ certification and working in high-need technology support jobs. Students are earning food service sanitation and management certificates to work in restaurants and professional kitchens. Students are earning metalworking certification to work in our many local advanced manufacturing companies. Students are earning early childhood certifications in order to work with our community's youth.

Whether students take these certifications and directly enter the workforce or use those talents to launch a college education, they leave Leyden on a trajectory towards success in life. Our outstanding faculty, staff, and administration ensure that our students learn to solve relevant and authentic problems so that they understand that Math, Science, English, and Social Studies don't just live in books. They relate to and inform the world around us. I'm proud to tell people about what we do at Leyden because it is truly "What's Best for the Kids!"

With #leydenpride,
Nick Polyak

Leyden Honored as One of the Chicago Tribune Top 100 Workplaces

TOP
WORK
PLACES
2017

Chicago Tribune

For the fourth consecutive year, Leyden has been selected as one of the Chicago Tribune Top 100 Workplaces.

This year's list includes employers in various categories including

advertising and marketing, healthcare, entertainment and recreation, travel industry, and information technology.

The companies chosen for recognition as a top workplace are determined through employee surveys conducted by Workplace Dynamics, a research firm that examines workplace conditions. The company uses an anonymous survey to gather information from employees working in diverse areas such as online services, not-for-profit, legal agencies, and education.

The assessment measures qualities such as communication, career opportunities,

managerial skills, and the working environment. It also quantifies the way employees feel about their job based on work expectations, pay and benefits, and relationships with management.

Earlier this year, Leyden employees were asked to take the online survey that ultimately resulted in the district's placement on the list. Superintendent Nick Polyak says the most significant part of the recognition is that it was earned by staff members.

"Our staff makes Leyden a Top Workplace and I'm honored to work alongside them every day," he adds.

National Merit Scholarship Program 2018 Honorees

Students commended for academic accomplishments



Giovanni Diomede



Jake Schwartz



Amal Sharaan



Marco Chaidez

Congratulations to the District 212 seniors who have been named Commended Students in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. The four honorees are **Giovanni Diomede**, **Jake Schwartz**, and **Amal Sharaan** from East Leyden, and **Marco Chaidez** from West Leyden. The students received letters from the scholarship program commending them on their academic achievements.

The four are among the 34,000 students nationally who received a letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) congratulating them on their academic achievements.

Leyden's honorees participate in demanding AP and honors classes that develop critical thinking skills and prepare students for taking rigorous tests like the SAT. In addition, the students are active in co-curricular activities such as the National Honor Society, the ACCESS mentoring program, Future Business Leaders of America, UNICEF Club, and Assistant Principal's Advisory Board.

Although commended students don't continue in the competition, they are recognized as being among the top 50,000 scorers of the more than 1.6 million students who entered

the 2018 competition by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

"The young men and women named commended students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," says a spokesperson for NMSC. "They represent a valuable national resource. Recognizing their academic accomplishments, and the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation."

District 212 Sends Aid to Those Impacted by Natural Disasters

When hurricane Harvey hit Texas, students and staff at Leyden High School District 212 responded immediately by holding a Red, White, and Blue jeans fundraiser as well as a drive to collect T-shirts and athletic shoes.

With a donation of \$5.00 for the Greater Houston Community Foundation, Leyden staff could wear jeans in patriotic colors and Texas-inspired clothing. For a \$2.00 donation, students and staff could select a handmade bracelet, also targeted to support the foundation. The effort raised \$1,040.

After seeing a Tweet from University of Houston basketball coach Kelvin

Sampson, Leyden's athletic department responded to Sampson's request for school shirts and shoes by sending more than 150 items from Leyden's sports teams and clubs to the university.

More than two months later, Leyden's supply and fundraising efforts continue as students and staff respond to the needs of those impacted by recent hurricanes in Puerto Rico and an earthquake in Mexico.

"We're more than just an institution of learning," said Frank Holthouse, the district's director of careers and community outreach. "We're part of a larger global community."



Leyden's athletic department responds to Kelvin Sampson's request for shirts and shoes by sending more than 150 items.

Valarie Berger - Finalist for Illinois Teacher of the Year



Valarie Berger, family and consumer sciences teacher, received an Award of Excellence at the Those Who Excel banquet held on October 28.

Valarie Berger, a family and consumer sciences teacher at West Leyden, is one of ten finalists nominated for the 2018 Illinois Teacher of the Year award. The recognition is given via the Those Who Excel program that is facilitated by the Illinois State Board of Education.

The winner was announced at the Those Who Excel banquet held on Saturday, October 28, 2017 at the Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Normal.

Although Berger didn't win, Superintendent Nick Polyak says "she is the type of educator who connects

with kids on an individual basis, helps them find their place at Leyden and in the world, and puts them on a path to success. Although she was not selected as the winner this year, she is number one in our hearts and minds."

Regarding her nomination, Berger says it was an honor to be recognized as one of ten finalists and she is humbled by the acknowledgment. But she adds that she is not alone in her endeavors.

"It takes a village, and Leyden has many teachers

that work very hard and give above and beyond what is expected," she says. "All of us are as much students as we are teachers, and we keep learning to maximize our classroom experiences."

Currently Berger teaches culinary classes including culinary basics, pastry chef, cake decorating, cuisine chef, advanced catering, and advanced catering independent study. This school year she is celebrating 33 years as a teacher, noting that she has been at West Leyden for her entire career as an educator.

During her early years at Leyden, Berger taught food preparation and independent living classes as well as a class in building relationships. After awhile she began teaching math classes as well, and it was

at that point that she had a revelation. She realized that when she used a culinary skill to teach a math concept, the students were more motivated to learn. Armed with that knowledge, she obtained a master's degree in math education to expand her skills and put them to use in the classroom.

Then she went to work expanding the school's culinary program. Because of Berger's efforts, culinary students create menus, prepare food, and cater events for as many as 800 people. In addition, Val's students host a coffee bar during the school year. The project raises thousands of dollars for various charities while teaching students how to manage a business from inventory to marketing and accounting.

Berger, who is certified as a food service sanitation manager, also is responsible for helping students obtain a food handling license and food service sanitation manager certification.

A multi-qualified instructor, Berger earned a bachelor of science with a major in family and consumer education and a minor in mathematics from Northern Illinois University; a master of arts in mathematics from DePaul University; and a master of arts in curriculum and technology educational reform from the University of Illinois. She also is certified to teach driver's education and is a Google certified instructor.

District Seeks Alumni Award Nominations

District 212 is seeking nominations for the Annual Alumni Wall of Fame celebration that will take place in September 2018 during homecoming weekend.

The nomination criteria includes the following: the nominee must have graduated from Leyden at least ten years ago; he or she has achieved an outstanding level in his or her field and has made significant contributions to that field; and the nominee exhibits outstanding leadership, character, and service.

The Alumni Wall of Fame is established in both buildings where plaques and pictures of distinguished alumni are on display.

Nominate online by visiting www.leyden212.org, and click on "Community" and then "Wall of Fame". Nominations must be received by December 1, 2017.

For more information, call Janine Asmus, Alumni Wall of Fame chairperson, at 847-451-3162.

#leydenpride



East security officer James Soczewa, was recognized for his service to our nation at a home football game in early September. A sergeant in the US Army, he served from 1996 to 2005 as a member of the 814th Military Police Company. Soczewa was deployed twice, once to Fort Hood, Texas, in 2001-2002 as part of operation Enduring Freedom; and also to Iraq, in 2003-2004 as a member of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Students volunteered to tidy up the children's section of the Franklin Park Public Library on Make a Difference Day, a day of volunteer service celebrated nationally in October. More than 600 Leyden students participated, working on various projects including cleaning community parks, packing food for the needy, and visiting with the elderly in local nursing homes



Leyden's fall musical "Bye Bye Birdie" featured the talents of students as cast, crew, and pit members. Director Stacy Cunningham says the musical was the right choice "because it's a fun period piece with lots of characters. It's different from the last few musicals we've done - that provides a new experience for the students involved."



A Leyden homecoming tradition for a decade, the East Leyden vs. West Leyden Faculty Football Game is always a nail-biter. But this year topped the charts. Always competitive, the game ended in a tie, 31-all. A fundraiser as well, the event reaped \$3,000 for the Leyden Family Fund.

Q & A with Leyden's new Director of Curriculum and Instruction and new Assistant Chief School Business Official

After six years as an education professor at Northern Illinois University, Michael Manderino returned to Leyden this July as the new Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Formerly a social studies teacher at Leyden, Manderino's current position covers many responsibilities. He had this to say about his new post.

What are your responsibilities as Director of Curriculum and Instruction?

I am responsible for guiding, teaching, and learning at Leyden. That includes reviewing curriculum and working with department chairs as they develop courses. My office supports professional learning opportunities for teachers so we can best serve our students. This includes planning institute days and other professional development opportunities. I am also responsible for managing Title I, II, and IV grants that are related to literacy and math instruction and professional development for students.

What is your favorite aspect of the job?

My favorite part is working with department chairs, teachers, and administrators to best serve and support our students and families. It is an honor and a privilege to work closely with department chairs and teachers who interact with our students.

What are your professional goals, and how do they relate to the students?

My professional goals are to help build an

environment where students have the opportunity to pursue their passion, develop skills, and acquire the knowledge to thrive in their college and career paths after they leave Leyden.

Leyden faculty and staff genuinely care about the students. How does that impact instruction?

When students feel safe and cared for they learn. Our faculty is composed of knowledgeable and skilled educators. They create conditions for students to learn by providing a caring environment in and out of the classroom.

You are a former Leyden social studies teacher. Does that experience help you in your current position?

I was a social studies teacher for 14 years, seven of them at Leyden. It helps tremendously because I know and have collaborated with many staff members. It also helps me to better understand our overall curriculum and the opportunities we provide.



Michael Manderino

Any surprises to date, something you didn't anticipate?

I wouldn't say any surprises, but I am always learning new things that have been implemented since I was here before. We have many amazing opportunities for students and I am excited to work with students and staff to create even more opportunities.

Is there something you'd like to add?

I am so grateful and excited to have the opportunity to be back at Leyden and work with our students, staff, and the community. During my time at NIU, I worked with a number of school districts and I can say with confidence that Leyden is among the best schools in the state.

Patrick Hatfield became Leyden's Assistant Chief School Business Official on July 1 of this year. Currently he is working alongside Tom Janeteas, the district's existing CSBO/CIO/CFO/Treasurer who will retire on June 30 of next year. Hatfield will become Leyden's new CSBO/CIO/CFO/Treasurer upon Janeteas' retirement. These are his thoughts on his present position at Leyden.

What are your duties as Leyden's Assistant Chief School Business Official?

I'm responsible for the financial operation of the district and all general business and support functions. Important duties include budgeting, preparing the levy, and all related accounting activities for the receipt and expenditure of district funds.

What do you find most challenging about your position?

Undoubtedly, the most challenging part of the position is the uncertainty surrounding state funding of education.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Most? It's a tie! I enjoy the variety of tasks I work on and the people I have the privilege to work with.

Tom Janeteas, Leyden's CSBO/CFO/CIO/Treasurer, is your mentor. What have you learned from him?

Tom is an incredible source of knowledge and is always willing to offer another perspective to anything we're working on. Most importantly, he has provided a tremendous amount of insight to some of the property tax characteristics unique to Cook County.

Given your current job, what is your goal?

I have two goals that I'm working on. Tom is one of several members of a team leaving at the end of the current school year, so one of my goals is creating a plan to ensure a smooth transition of duties to the next group. The second major goal is to get familiar with as much historical data I can get my hands on to build the spreadsheets necessary to chart the district's financial future.



Patrick Hatfield

What has surprised you about Leyden's culture?

I have been most surprised – and impressed – with the feeling of “family” here at Leyden. Perhaps more importantly, there is a level of competency and professionalism that I've encountered at every level of the organization. It's a culture that doesn't just exist between employees but extends to students and the public as well. Leyden is truly a special place.

Sports Highlights



Boys Soccer

West Leyden junior Eduardo "Lalo" Hernandez has been named to the 2017 All State Soccer Team by the Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association. Hernandez, who scored 15 goals and 20 assists this season, is one of the 50 best players in the state. In addition he is a member of the Spanish Honor Society, Best Buddies, and the West Leyden service club.



Congratulations to the 2017 Boys Varsity Soccer team on winning the title of Regional Champions with a season record of 18-4-2.



Boys Cross Country

East Leyden junior Patrick Sarad ended the season as a 5th place medalist at the Illinois High School Association regional competition held at Washington Park on October 21. He covered three miles in 16:20.



Congratulations to the Boys Varsity Cross Country team on their second place conference finish.

Fall/Winter Calendar 2017

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
November		
22 - 24	Thanksgiving Holiday - No School	
December		
1	Yuletide Dinner East Leyden Little Theater	7:00 p.m.
2	Yuletide Dinner East Leyden Little Theater	7:00 p.m.
3	Yuletide Dinner East Leyden Little Theater	4:00 p.m.
6	Art Show Artists' Reception West Leyden Auditorium Lobby East Leyden Little Theater	6:00 p.m.
6	Music of the Holidays West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
14	Board of Education Meeting	8:00 p.m.
16	Student Directed Holiday Play <i>A Visit with Santa</i> East Leyden Little Theater	2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
17	Student Directed Holiday Play <i>A Visit with Santa</i> East Leyden Little Theater	2:00 p.m.
22	End of Semester	
25	Winter Break - No School	
January		
9	Classes Resume	
15	Martin Luther King Day - No School	
16	Taste of West West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
17	Taste of East East Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
18	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
January		
18	Orchesis Dance Show West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
19	Orchesis Dance Show West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
20	Orchesis Dance Show West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
February		
9	Turnabout Dance West Leyden Field House	7:00 p.m.
22	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
22	Teatro Leyden Traveling Children's Show West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
23	Teatro Leyden Traveling Children's Show West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
24	Teatro Leyden Traveling Children's Show West Leyden Auditorium	3:00 p.m.
March		
5	Casimir Pulaski Day - No School	
7	Winter Sports Awards Night East Leyden Auditorium	6:30 p.m.
9	West Fashion Show West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
10	Winter Choral Festival Grace Episcopal Church, Oak Park, IL	3:00 p.m.
14	Winter Instrumental Concert East Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
15	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
16	IHSA - Play West Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
19	Jazz Night	TO BE DETERMINED
26 - 30	Spring Break - No School	



Leyden High School District 212
3400 Rose Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131



Members of West's SHARE club (Students Helping Achieve Racial Equality), visited Alexander Calder's "Flamingo" sculpture after they volunteered at the Hot Chocolate Run held in Chicago. SHARE, and other Leyden clubs, helped set up a first aid station, and distribute water, Gatorade, and hot chocolate to those in the 15k/5k run. Funds from the race were donated to the Make-a-Wish Foundation.



A student in this photo was incorrectly identified in the summer edition of the newsletter. The following is the correction. We apologize for the error.

Members of East Leyden's Fashion Club made more than 20 fleece blankets for premature infants at Advocate Children's Hospital in Park Ridge. The blankets were delivered during the Christmas season. Pictured from left to right, Marisa Sandoval, Daniela Corral, and Julia Kostadinova.

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:

March 26, 2018 – April 6, 2018 Weed and Feed

East Campus
3400 Rose Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131

West Campus
1000 N. Wolf Road
Northlake, IL 60164