

Spring 2016



LEYDEN

HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 212

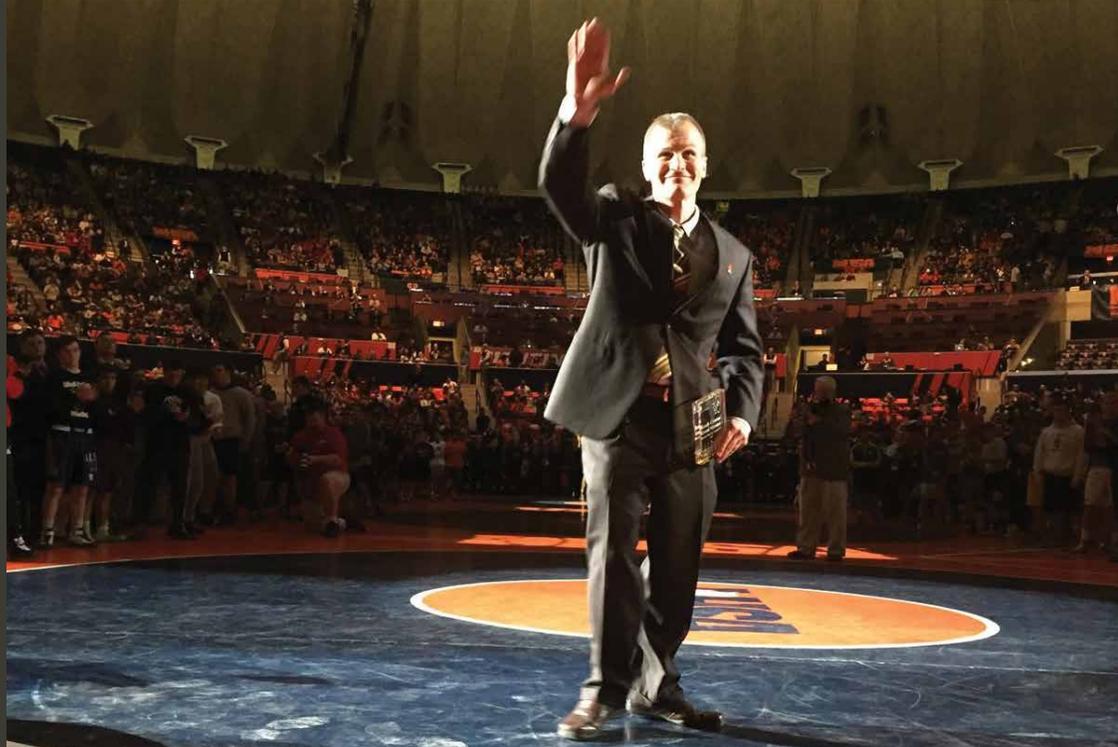


Thespians from both campuses were featured in Leyden's winter play, GEEK!



Chicago Tribune

For the second consecutive year, Leyden has been named one of The Chicago Tribune Top 100 Workplaces.



IHSA Wrestling Grand Marshall Randy Conrad, Leyden Athletic Director

Superintendent's Corner



Nick Polyak, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Hello Leyden Family,

This January, I had the unique opportunity to participate in a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. I joined 50 educators from the United States, Canada, and Brazil to build a school in a rural community called Rio Grande, located in the mountains of the Dominican Republic. During those eight days we mixed concrete and mortar, dug trenches, built block walls, and more importantly, we built hope.

As of now, students in that community go to school only until fourth grade. Starting next year they will have a building that allows them to stay in school until eighth grade. Those students have dreams of being doctors, teachers and engineers, and now they have a school that will allow them to work towards those dreams.

You can learn more about this trip at <http://bit.ly/21Ac7pD>. If you watch the video, you will see that projects like this have a profound impact not only on the community, but also on the volunteers. This trip helped me to better understand that happiness doesn't come from material possessions - happiness comes from relationships with the people in your life. In terms of monetary stability and material possessions, the people in Rio Grande are among

the poorest I have ever met. But when it comes to relationships, they are among the happiest and richest of people.

At Leyden we believe in the power of service. Our expectation is that coaches and sponsors cancel at least one practice every year and lead their students in some sort of community service. Through Make a Difference Day, we send about 500 students throughout our communities annually to tackle different projects. We like it when our students raise funds for a good cause, but we like it even more when they use their own hands and feet to give back to others.

For the past three years, West Leyden has taken part in a global service trip to Mexico to work at an orphanage and at a rural school. The students who participated have told us the experience has been a life-changing opportunity for them. We are excited to announce an East Leyden global service trip to Peru this summer. The students will be working with and helping the residents of a rural community in that country.

I am excited to share what is happening at Leyden, and I thank you again for all you do for our students and for our community!

With #leydenpride,
Dr. Nick Polyak

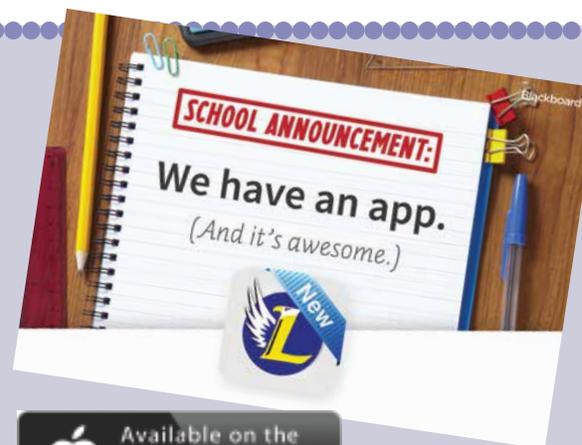
District 212 in the App Store Mobile App Affords Quick Access

The district's new mobile app affords the Leyden community with quick access to various types of information including links to other apps and push notifications sent to your mobile device. You can go into the settings to customize the app to incorporate feeds and messages from the district as well as both the East and West campuses.

Some of the features include the following: ability to track all district events; contact information regarding administrators, teachers, and counselors; and information about Leyden sports teams and the lunch menu.

You can open the MySchoolBucks app to add money to your food services account and review your purchase history. Open the eSchoolPLUS family app to access information from the Home Access Center and view the bell schedule, sign up to visit the math and writing centers, and check out books to read or listen to on your device.

To activate the new App, search Google Play or the App Store for Leyden High School District 212.



One Book, One Leyden

The Distance Between Us

Author Reyna Grande's inspirational memoir



Grande with a few of the many One Book, One Leyden student ambassadors at each campus. The ambassadors promoted the book and assisted with the two-day event.

Mexican-born author Reyna Grande's message to Leyden students and staff is very clear: Pursue your dreams. Never give up. Believe in yourself.

Over a period of two days in mid-February, Grande spoke to students and staff at the East and West campuses during four all-school assemblies. She also met with

community members at an early evening reception held at West Leyden on February 18, 2016. She was warmly received by those who had read her poignant, candid, and inspiring story as told in her award-winning memoir, *The Distance Between Us*.

In her book, Grande chronicles her life beginning at the age of two when her father left his wife and family in Iguala, Mexico, and went to El Otro Lado – the other side – with the idea of harnessing a better life so he could one day bring his family to America.

When she was four years old, Grande's mother left Iguala to join her husband in Los Angeles. She left

the author and two other children with their indifferent and often cruel grandmother. When Grande came to America, she found life to be a constant struggle as she dealt with unstable family relationships, abandonment issues, prejudice, and poverty. Yet in spite of the challenges, Grande remained focused, seeking her true identity, and fulfilling her potential.

"You set goals and you achieve them," Grande told Leyden students. "I didn't give up. I wanted to get a Green Card, own a home, be a writer, be an award-winning author, and be on same stage with Sandra Cisernos. It took me more than twenty years, but I did it."

Grande addressed several themes represented in the book including the impact of the cycle of poverty, remembering where you came from, immigration issues, forgiveness, and learning to accept people for who they are.

Referring to the strained relationship she had with her mother, Grande said when she was a child she saw her mother as the person who abandoned her. "But as I was writing the book, I

had to look at my mother as a character in the book," she recalls. "I had to research who she is and how she got that way. That helped me to take my mother for who she is, not for who I wanted her to be."

Grande dedicated her memoir to her father, Natalio Grande, and 'to all DREAMers'. "I won't forget where I came from," says the author, referring to the impoverished town where she was born. "But I also know the importance of thinking about the future and following your dreams. If I had not left Iguala I'd be working in the tortilla factory for \$45 a week. I wanted a better life."



2016 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition

District 212 students dominated the 2016 Annual Triton College High School Art Competition. This year eight area high schools participated in the contest. Leyden artists accounted for 72 pieces of the approximately 200 pieces on display at the exhibit – about one-third of the entries.

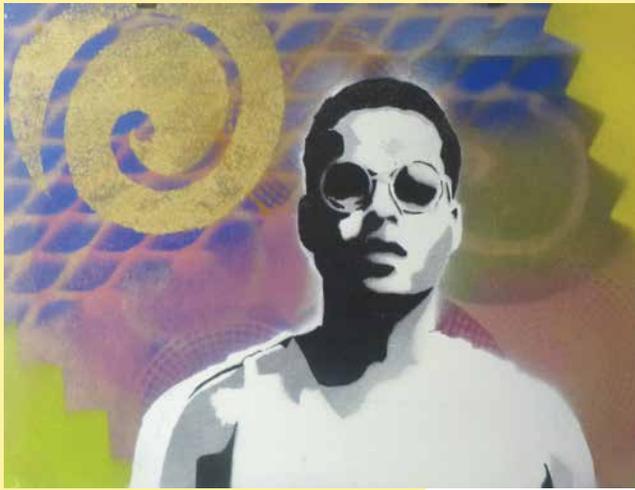
Works of art are submitted in eight different categories that include drawing, painting, photography,

computer art, mixed media, design, sculpture, and ceramics. Leyden students won 14 out of 16 blue ribbons, and five of the seven Best of Category awards. Those pieces are then judged a second time within their category.

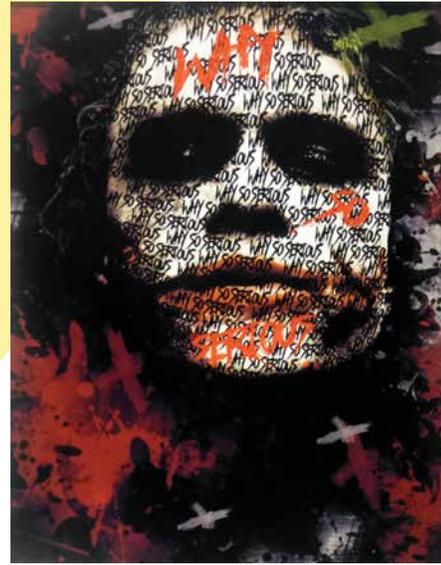
After the second round of judging, **Salma Feliciano** won Best in Painting for *Futurist*, her spray painting of a man. **Alejandro Martinez** earned Best

in Design for his digital image *Why So Serious*. **Olivia Tomal** took Best in Drawing for her detailed ink drawing of a young boy titled *Hidden*. **Vanessa Argueta** won Best in Photography for her mysterious photo *Trapped*. **Alberto Maciel** received Best in Sculpture for his realistic rodent sculpture titled *Here's Looking at You*.

Salma Feliciano
Futurist
Best in Painting



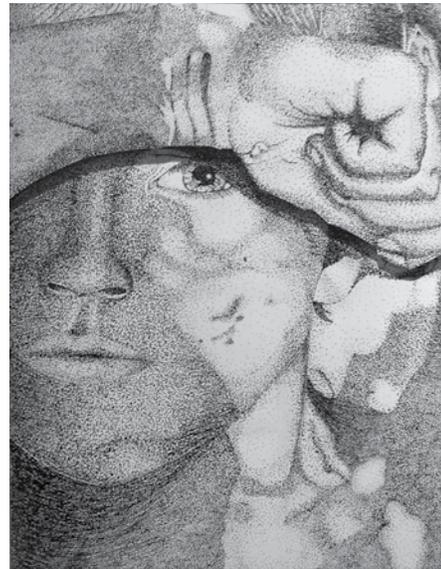
Alejandro Martinez
Why So Serious
Best in Design



Vanessa Argueta
Trapped
Best in Photography



Olivia Tomal
Hidden
Best in Drawing



Alberto Maciel
Here's Looking at You
Best in Sculpture



17th Annual Elmhurst College High School Art Exhibition Winners

District 212 students exhibited more than 170 pieces of artwork at the 17th Annual Elmhurst College High School Art Exhibition held during January in the Frick Center at Elmhurst College.

Leyden artists earned a total of 22 awards. Two of those awards included

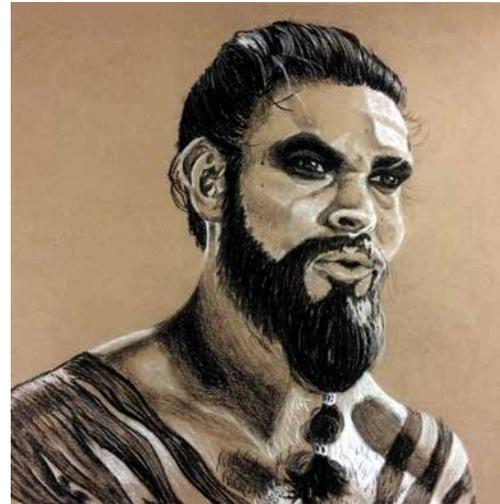
a renewable \$2,000 Purple Ribbon Special Scholarship Award to Elmhurst College. The skilled art students who won the special scholarship award are **Judah Ruiz** of East Leyden and **Imelda Romero** of West Leyden. Ruiz's winning entry, *Out of My Mind*, is a large

spray paint rendition of an astronaut who appears to be floating in space. Romero's creation is titled *Khal Drogo*, a detailed charcoal portrait of a fictional character from the book *Game of Thrones* and the TV series adaptation.

Judah Ruiz
Out of My Mind
Spray Paint



Imelda Romero
Khal Drogo
Charcoal



Students Earn Gold Key Award at Scholastic Art Competition

Jacqueline Haff, **Veronica Perez**, and **Charlie Zielinski** each earned a Gold Key Award at the Regional Scholastic Art and Writing Competition held last month. More than 4,000 works of art were submitted to compete in the regional contest. Of that number only seven percent earn the Gold Key Award.

Scholastic art panelists judge the artwork on originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice.

Jacqueline Haff won for her digital drawing, *Can I Leave Now?* **Veronica Perez** won for her photograph, *Annissa*, and **Charlie Zielinski** earned the honor with her video, *Art of Destruction*. Five

Leyden artists earned the Silver Key Award, and six students were recognized with the Honorable Mention Award.

The three Leyden students who won at the regional level qualified to compete at the national level. The results for that competition were announced in March.

Veronica Perez
Annissa
Photograph



Jacqueline Haff
Can I Leave Now?
Digital Drawing



Leyden's 2016-2017 Illinois State Scholars

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission has announced the names of the 2016-2017 Illinois State Scholars. This year, nearly 19,000 elite honorees are being recognized for their academic achievements. Congratulations to Leyden's 65 students who qualify as Illinois State Scholars.

East Leyden



Illinois State Scholars from

East Leyden: Ronahy Alzagha, Pawel Armatys, Victoria Baez, Vincent Bronge, Jordan Campbell, Mireya Cano, Hannah Cullerton, Carleen Deegan, Robert Doody, Kendall Duwal, Sarah Fiala, Ashley Franklin, Piotr Galusza, Matthew Jardine, Magnolia Klepacki, Peter Krawiec, Marissa Landa, Alyssa Laskowski, Wayllon Lu, Aneta Maczuga, Stefanija Micevic, Matthew Narkis, Kamil Ochal, Irvin Ortiz, Bartosz Podsiadlo, Natalia Purta, Gleanne Airis Rosales, Savannah Rose, Lavinia Santos, David Senk, Martyna Skorynko, Joshua Stocks, Mateusz Szelazek, Michalina Szelazek, Natalie Taborska, Blake Thompson, Yzabelle Tud, Dariusz Twarowski, Diann Ashley Villamena, Jessica Willis, Charlie Zielinski, and Adrian Ziemkiewicz

West Leyden



Illinois State Scholars from

West Leyden: Christian Arreaza, Michael Collura, Jacob Cornelius, Alexis Farias, Gabriela Gryc, Millie Hylka, Edgar Ibaraz, Kamil Michorczyk, Harry Palmer, Alexa Roman, Luis Samayoa, Lucas Schmidt, Matthew Sifuentes, Elizabeth Skylakos, Karen Skylakos, Emily Steinger-Rahl, Isaiah Tala, Caroline Thomas, Maria Torres, Kelly Vasquez, Anna Wardzala, Tomasz Wojtasik, and Samantha Ziomek

"You are among the best and brightest of Illinois high school seniors in the Class of 2016," says ISAC Executive Director Eric Zarnikow in a letter to the honorees. "The combination of your exemplary college entrance scores and record of high school achievements indicates you have a high potential for success in college."

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.

Leyden Symphonic Band Showcased at the 2016 Illinois Music Education Association Conference



The Leyden Symphonic Band was one of a select number of bands invited to perform at the 2016 Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) All-State Music Education Conference held in Peoria this January.

The Leyden Symphonic Band was one of a select number of high school bands invited to perform at the 2016 Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) All-State Music Education Conference held in Peoria in January. The conference is attended by students and music educators from Illinois and neighboring states.

Under the direction of conductors Bryan Miller and Michelle Vazquez, the 49-member Leyden symphonic band performed mid-morning on Saturday, January 30, in the historic Peoria Civic Center Theater. The performance literature included five pieces that spanned tranquil themes, spirited rhythms, Irish ballads, and youthful love.

"The auditorium was beautiful," recalls Angelica Alvarez, a bass clarinet player with the band. "It was amazing how it felt to be on that stage and play the songs we practiced for a long time. All of that practice was worth it for the experience."

Representation at the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Music Education Conference is a great honor for our students and the

Leyden community, says Miller, who is the district's music department chairperson. "This type of special experience allows our students to realize how much they are capable of accomplishing with their best and sustained efforts. In addition to the inherent reward of being recognized at such a significant event, the investment and commitment the students make together makes their journey so much more rewarding," he says.

The ILMEA All-State Music Education Association Conference format provides performance opportunities for eight bands from middle school, high school, and college ranks. To be among those selected, applicants submit a 20-minute recording of their band performing high-quality literature. The recordings are evaluated by a panel of state experts using a number system that protects the anonymity of every applicant.

"I am really grateful for the opportunity to be able to perform at the all-state conference," says clarinet player Kinga Obrzut. "I was thrilled to see all the people who came to hear us play this amazing literature."

Sports Highlights

Girls Bowling

The bowling team finished 4-4 in conference standings, winning matches against Morton and Downers Grove North high schools. Senior **Gia Paolantino** and sophomore **Sara Carrillo** were named all conference. The team placed 2nd at the regional tournament and advanced on to Sectionals.

Girls Gymnastics

The girls gymnastics team ended the season with a record of 2-3 in conference, beating Morton and Willowbrook high schools. The team finished 4th in the Gold West Suburban Conference, with **Abby Grande** placing 9th on vault.

Wrestling

The wrestling team finished with a regular season record of 16-5, going 5-1 in the conference and finishing 2nd place in the West Suburban Gold. This season, six wrestlers won 30 matches and seven wrestlers advanced to the IHSA Individual Sectional Tournament at Conant High School. **Wesam Alabed** placed 4th at sectionals and qualified for the state competition.



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

Spring Calendar 2016

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
March		
25	No School	
28	Spring Break - No School	
April		
4	Classes Resume	
14	Board of Education Meeting	
21	Fern Awards Ceremony West Leyden Auditorium	3:00 p.m.
25	West Leyden Spring Art Show West Leyden Eagle's Wing	6:00 p.m.
25	East Leyden Spring Art Show East Leyden Little Theater	6:00 p.m.
28	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME
May		
4	Spring Sports Awards Night West Leyden Auditorium	6:30 a.m.
5	Spring Play - <i>The Curious Savage</i> East Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
6	Spring Play - <i>The Curious Savage</i> East Leyden Auditorium	7:00 p.m.
7	Spring Play - <i>The Curious Savage</i> East Leyden Auditorium	2:00 p.m.
10	Pop's Concert West Leyden Field House	7:00 p.m.
12	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
17	West Leyden Commencement Rosemont Theatre	6:30 p.m.
18	East Leyden Commencement Rosemont Theatre	6:30 p.m.
18	End of Second Semester	
30	Memorial Day	

Leyden District 212 Board of Education

Board of Education meetings are in the East Campus Board Room.



Front Row: Mr. James A. Lima, Secretary; Mr. Gregory T. Ignoffo, President; Mrs. Gloria Murawska, Vice President
Back Row: Mr. Joseph Trevino, Mrs. Lisa Anthony, Mrs. Sandra Boehm, Mr. Jack Tobin

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:

June 6 through June 12, 2016 Fertilize
August 22 through August 28, 2016 Fertilize, If Needed

East Campus
3400 Rose Street
Franklin Park, IL 60131

West Campus
1000 N. Wolf Road
Northlake, IL 60164