



APR 2024

WELCOME TO OUR

Quarterly Newsletter

we're so glad you're here!



February Break

Having a week off from school can be different for everyone depending on their circumstances. Some families might go on vacation, while others stay home. Some parents might have to work and struggle with finding daycare. Some kids have things to keep them engaged while others get bored.

Community Schools Wayne MOST offered youth an opportunity to ski or snowboard at Brantling Ski and Snowboard Center, free of charge. The youth were also able to receive free ski or snowboard lessons if they needed them. There were 160 Wayne County youth who took advantage of this opportunity. Eighty youth went on February 24th and eighty youth went on February 25th.

Universal Afterschool

On March 20th I attended a rally in Support for Universal Afterschool, at the Capital in Albany. The goal of the presser was to organize support around the Senate One-House resolution proposal to direct OCFS to create a blueprint for universal afterschool in NYS.

Furthermore, the rally stressed the importance that the path to achieving universal school starts by ensuring the inclusion of the Senate's proposal in the adopted budget. Universal afterschool is an investment in working families.

Please contact your legislative representative to let them know how important this is to the youth and their families in Wayne County.

Senator Pamela Helming: helming@nyenate.gov

Assemblyman Brian Manktelow: manktelowb@nyassembly.gov



PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

Afterschool Advocacy Day



With Senator Pamela Helming

On January 30, 2024, at 5:45 in the morning, a group of youth from Sodus, Lyons, and North Rose-Wolcott boarded a charter bus and headed for Clyde Savannah. There they picked up youth from Clyde Savannah and headed to the State Capitol in Albany for the Afterschool Advocacy Day! Wayne MOST was the sponsor of this opportunity. Wayne MOST was started in 2016 to focus on Afterschool and Extended Learning and Enrichment Opportunities for kids in Wayne County “Out of School Time”.

At Afterschool Advocacy Day 2024, supporters of afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs gathered to uplift the necessity of increasing access to high-quality afterschool programs for New York’s youth and families.

On Advocacy Day, the Youth were advocating for Afterschool programs. Specifically, they were stressing the importance of proposed increased funding for state afterschool programs in the state budget, which the legislature must pass in April. This year’s budget priorities include \$219 million to increase the per-student funding rate of state afterschool programs, \$5 million for technical assistance of afterschool programs, and a \$3 million increase to the Educational Incentive Program.

The Advocacy Day schedule for Wayne MOST included legislative meetings with, Assemblyman, Manktelow, Governor Hochul, Senator Helming, and Assemblyman Meeks. The youth also took a guided tour of the Capital.



With Assemblyman Brian Manktelow

Wayne County Community Schools Theater and Arts

BY DAVID ENGLERT

JANUARY 24, 2024

Wayne County Community Schools operates on the “Collaborative ARCH” model. Through collaboration, we build Attachment (to individuals, families, and community), Regulation of self, Competence, and Health.

The Community Schools Theater and Arts program gives students (and occasionally adults) the opportunity to pursue their passion for the theater, while building skills and connections within the community. The program is coordinated and conducted by Colby Balcom. Balcom, a recent graduate of the North Rose-Wolcott School District, has been performing theater since the fourth grade. With the Theater and Arts program, he finds himself directing, writing, choreographing, designing sets, musical directing, and assuming a dozen other roles necessary for staging a successful production involving dozens of youths.

Past productions have included Suessical, Chicago, and Into the Woods. Into the Woods was performed at the Ohmann Theater in Lyons and included the parents of some of the youth actors in the cast. The theater group has also performed some original works written by Balcom.

Located primarily in the North Rose-Wolcott school district, the Community Schools Theater and Arts program is open to any student in Wayne County, including those who are schooled at home. Transportation is not provided. The program is currently taking a break from productions as they settle into their new home at the Rose Union Community Building. Balcom is also taking this time to create structures and procedures so the Theater and Arts program can be replicated throughout the county.

The next undertaking will be weeklong mini-camps at different school districts so more students can try their hands at acting and directing. Balcom is currently writing three original plays (two musicals and one drama) to supply the mini-camps with materials. All three plays will address challenges facing youth in schools today. Personalized acting and singing lessons are being envisioned for the near future.

Balcom has also started a directors’ group that meets bi-monthly to talk, learn, and support each other as they grow their directing, writing, and leadership skills.

Plans are underway for productions of Mean Girls, Mamma Mia, and Sponge Bob Junior in the spring and summer.

Interested in theater?

Anyone interested in performing on stage, working backstage, helping with lighting, costumes, makeup, sound, publicity, or helping out in any way should reach out to Balcom on the Community Schools Theater and Arts Facebook page (Community Schools Theater and Arts) or on Instagram (communityschoolstheaterandarts).

[INSTAGRAM](#)

[FACEBOOK](#)

Wayne County Community Schools Theater and Arts



DATES: May 4th, 5th, 11th, & 12th

TIME: 2:00 PM

LOCATION: Ohmann Theatre, Inc.,

ADDRESS: 65 William Street, Lyons, NY 14489

More Details coming soon – check out updates on social media
Community Schools Theater and Arts



Facebook (Community Schools Theater and Arts)



Instagram (communityschoolstheaterandarts)

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