

WINTON WOODS TODAY



WINTON
WOODS *today*

February 12, 2022

"In the face of adversity, you find out if you're a fighter or a quitter. It's all about getting up after you've been knocked down - Archie Griffin"

What Happens if Winton Woods Emergency Levy Doesn't Pass?

It's safe to say, 2021 was a groundbreaking year for Winton Woods City Schools. The district opened two new campuses designed to support 21st century-centered teaching and learning. The 2021 varsity football team became the second team in Warrior history to win the Division II football championship title. The first team that accomplished this amazing feat was the team of 2009.

Winton Woods City Schools hopes to keep the positive momentum on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, as it will have a 5-year emergency levy on the ballot. This crucial levy would generate \$3 million annually for operating expenses, which includes instructional services, maintaining all educational and extracurricular opportunities for every student. It would also provide funding for key identified areas of need including the sustainability of our 5-star preschool program and all-day kindergarten, increased enrollment while adding additional school resource officers. Please note: The last time an emergency levy was passed was 2009. It was also the last time the district requested additional funds for operating expenses.

Winton Woods newly-elected board member Brandon Smith said supporting our students' education and the children of our future is one of the greatest things one can invest in. We will all get the opportunity to see how committing our resources to our students would create a stronger, more vibrant community. "Education is key, and we have to give our children the keys to the kingdom. It is imperative that we pass this much-needed emergency levy."

"We only know what we know from our perspective," said Winton Woods newly-elected board member Debra Bryant as she spoke about the value of having health care services in all schools. "When children can't see and they can't hear or they have dental issues, they can't concentrate in the classroom. It's ironic that we expect them to perform at their

best in the classroom, at concerts, or at athletic events. We all know that would be a challenge when there are health issues that may impede their progress. It's true - some parents can take their children to the doctor; unfortunately, it is not the same for everyone. It really takes a village, and strategically, we have a district that cares. The goal is to provide clinics for all of our Warrior students, staff, and families as well as members of the community. These are attributes of a true village."

Failure to pass the levy could result in a loss of at least 45 teachers, 45 staff members, and numerous student programs. Winton Woods athletics and the fine arts department would see major cuts as well. These cuts would impact not only the student's immediate education but also their educational opportunities. Research shows, when schools cannot offer certain amenities to students, many students transfer and find those opportunities in other school districts. It is imperative that we keep all of our students engaged in project-based learning and prepare them to be future ready.

WWCS Spotlight Event of the Year 'Night of Freedom' Comes Home



Winton Woods City Schools is ecstatic to once again bring together the city of Cincinnati for its most exciting event of the year, its annual 'Night of Freedom' student project exhibition. For the first time in Warrior history, this popular extravaganza will return home and be held in our two new beautifully built campuses. The event is free and will be held on

March 10 at South Campus for our Wee Warriors and on March 17 at the North Campus for our seventh through twelfth-grade students. Students will showcase their work through exhilarating performances, a visual arts gallery walk, combined with enlightening student presentations all centered around the subject of freedom.

"Inspired by a partnership with The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (NURFC), Winton Woods City Schools embarked on a mission in 2017 to create an annual event to inspire our community by encouraging our Cincinnati community to take part in the ongoing struggles for equality, equity, and freedom," said Community Engagement Coordinator Corina Denny.

Through educational projects, the district will celebrate courage, cooperation, and perseverance, and relate this uniquely American story to the contemporary efforts of modern abolition, inspiring everyone to take steps for equality, equity and freedom today.

“Bringing the ‘Night of Freedom’ event home will provide more space for more projects and will make it more convenient for our community and students to attend,” said Mrs. Denny. “It has been three years since our students were given this opportunity to see their work on display and have impactful conversations with our Warrior Community, now more than ever we look forward to seeing what they will present.” For more information, please visit wintonwoods.org/freedom.

PHOTO CAPTION: Winton Woods City Schools will host its exciting ‘Night of Freedom’ event on March 10 for its Wee Warriors and March 17 for students in grades seven through twelve.

WWCS North and South Campus Buildings Are ‘Gold’

Winton Woods City Schools is starting the 2022 year off right. In January, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) announced Winton Woods City Schools’ North and South Campuses, as one of the nine Ohio schools, to achieve the LEED Green Building Certification and two of three schools to receive the gold status. “Our new school campuses earning the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design or LEED - Gold designation means a lot to our schools, staff, students and families,” said Executive Director of Business Affairs Steve Denny. “It also says a great deal about our community and their values as well. Over the years, the communities we serve have consistently placed a high degree of importance on green environmentally-friendly design, construction and operations and voiced this clearly during the community engagement and design process. Being energy-efficient, clean and environmentally conscious not only helps preserve our ecosystems and our future but also helps maximize valuable public funds.”

Schools are rated based on design and construction practices including daylighting, classroom acoustics, indoor air quality, sustainable building materials and energy efficiency. The OFCC Executive Director Cheryl J. Lyman said well-designed schools are proven to have an impact on student achievement, as well as health indicators among both students and staff. “Achieving this gold-level designation was a true team effort and would not have been possible without the sustained efforts of the design team from SHP, our commissioning agent Motz Engineering and our construction partners Megen Construction and Skanska Construction,” said Mr. Denny.

‘Artwork for Equity Campaign Artist’ Recipient and WWHS Aarianna Bess Sparks Change with Artwork



A talented artist and Winton Woods High School sophomore, Aarianna Bess is sparking change with three pieces she submitted for the 2021 Artwork for Equity Campaign Artist competition. It all started during the summer of 2021, when she wanted to take art more seriously and joined the Artworks summer program. Although she had been drawing most of her life, she began creating different mediums and sharing them on an art account she created on Instagram. Most of her pieces are done with her favorite utensils to use: the classic pen, pencil, and paint. During the program, she heard about the Artwork for Equity competition themed “miseducation” that was looking for youth to broadcast their stories. “I liked that they were looking for people like me,” said Bess. “People of color who were my age and willing to share their honest experiences through art.”

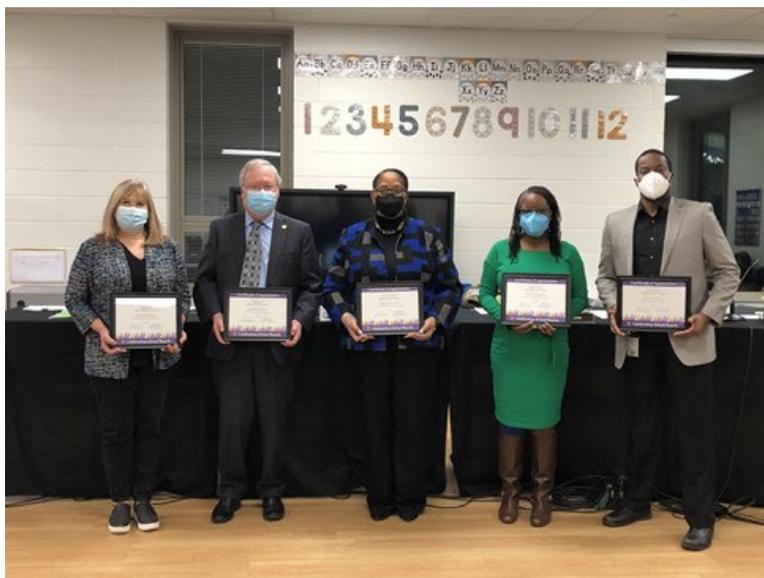
The task was to create original pieces in the form of posters promoting inclusion, equity, and liberation to bring about educational justice. Bess created three pieces through Adobe Fresco titled “If the Shoe Fits”, “What About Us?” and “Miseducation”. In her art piece “If the Shoe Fits”, there is one big foot and one small foot trying to fit into the same size shoe to show that just because something is equal, it does not mean it will help everyone. “Also, there are areas where there is enough for some people and not enough for others,” said Bess. She spoke about her friend who is disabled. “What is good enough for everyone around may not be good enough for her. If I wasn't looking closely and paying attention, I wouldn't have noticed that.”

When the COVID protocol is lifted, she will participate in a 3-week program that will allow young artists to participate in art workshops and discussions, and she will receive a \$500 stipend, CRXLAB (Creative Reaction Lab) merch, a poster of her selected artwork, and

the opportunity for her work to be displayed in a virtual exhibit. As a gift, her mom framed her artwork. “It was really touching. I would like to thank my mom for always being so supportive.” Aarianna said she’s looking forward to meeting other participants and seeing her artwork as a poster. During the process, she was and has been inspired by people of color who have been speaking out for issues that should affect everyone. Through this project, she felt like her voice was heard. “I’m glad I can share my voice through my art.”

PHOTO CAPTION: Aarianna Bess with her award-winning art piece “If the Shoe Fits”, one of the three art pieces that made her a 2021 Artwork for Equity Campaign Artist recipient. Photo by her little brother Aston Bess.

Winton Woods Board Honored During School Board Recognition Month



Every great school district has great leaders. For School Board Recognition Month, Winton Woods City Schools honored their five devoted leaders known as our Winton Woods City Schools Board of Education at January’s board meeting. Each month, these individuals come together to make decisions that support our district initiatives. Winton Woods High School student council Presidents Miranda Johnson and Lindsey Pineda presented certificates of

appreciation to President Viola Johnson, Vice President Jeff Berte and board members Debra Bryant, Paula Kuhn, and Brandon Smith. “This is a labor of love that we do,” said Dr. Johnson. “We thank you for recognizing us during this time of appreciation and appreciate those who pour into our students. It means a lot to us.”

All members were thanked and recognized for their service by Superintendent Anthony G. Smith. “The students, staff, and communities join the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) to honor the exemplary leadership service and endless hours of dedication to our district and our community.”

PHOTO CAPTION: Shown at the board meeting (l-r) are Winton Woods board member Paula Kuhn, vice president Jeff Berte, president Viola Johnson, board member Debra Bryant, and Brandon Smith. Photo by Jeanette Jordan.

Weekly Warrior Highlights

Congratulations to WWS senior Chance Gray on being selected for the girl's McDonald's All American Class of 2022 High School Basketball team! Gray is one of 24 selected in the nation to play in the infamous All American game! #GoWarriors #WarriorPride



Special thanks to our community, the Cobalt Queenz, Home Depot, and the Forest Park Fire Department who collaborated to create a care box that will be filled each week with food and toiletry items for our community. #WeAreBetterTogether #WarriorCommunity



Congratulations to our Winton Woods High School varsity girls basketball team - the 2021-2022 Eastern Cincinnati Conference Champions! #GoWarriors



WWHS Jazz Band and Clarity A Cappella have a special performance and will open for the Cincinnati Contemporary Jazz Orchestra at The Redmoor on February 17 at 7 p.m. Tickets are available now! #WarriorMusicians

**WINTON WOODS
JAZZ BAND**

Opens for the Cincinnati Contemporary Jazz Orchestra at The Redmoor

February 17, 2022 @ 7 p.m.

Jazz BAND
WINTON WOODS

TICKETS:
\$20 ADULTS
\$10 STUDENTS

Scan me

for tickets!

BEST
Cincinnati
MUSIC
EDUCATION

WINTON WOODS CITY SCHOOLS A NEW TECH NETWORK DISTRICT

Congratulations to six of our student athletes who participated in national signing day for football! #GoWarriors





Enjoy a free sweet treat from the Imagination Library! Receive free books for your child at no cost until they are 5 years old. Sign up now at <https://ohioimaginationlibrary.org/enroll>.



**Valentine's Day is so sweet,
just like the Imagination Library!**

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Winton Woods City Schools is hiring new bus drivers and bus aides for the 2021-2022 school year. To schedule an interview, please call [\(513\)619-2300](tel:5136192300).

\$1,000 HIRING BONUS
(CALL FOR DETAILS)

**BUS DRIVERS
NEEDED**



**Paid Training
Provided**

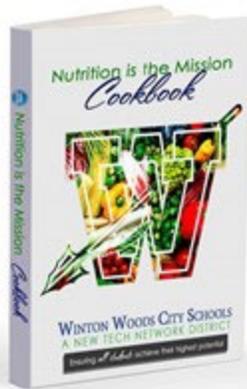
513-619-2300
WINTON WOODS CITY SCHOOLS

Our Child Nutrition Department is offering new job opportunities. To schedule an interview, please call [\(513\)619-2300](tel:5136192300).



Join us in creating a Warrior Community Cookbook! Submit your delicious, nutritious and cultural recipes for consideration at <http://ow.ly/EZXE30o5BIC>.

Júntanos con la creación de un libro de cocina. Entrega unas recetas deliciosas y nutritivas para nuestra consideración.



*** *click here* ***
EVENT CALENDAR

Winton Woods Today is a weekly (during the school year) email newsletter that reflects the district's emphasis on global education and project-based learning, as well as staff and student accomplishments. If you would like to subscribe to the Winton Woods Today email newsletter, please email [Drew Jackson](mailto:Drew.Jackson@wintonwoods.org). For additional articles, visit our website at www.wintonwoods.org/news.

[9/8/21](#)

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