# WARRENSBURG-LATHAM CUSD #11

Alumni News - December 2018 - Issue 1

# A LOOK INTO CARDINAL NATION

# 2018-19

Warrensburg-Latham CUSD #11 has seen several changes over the past several years. WL hired a full time Ag Teacher, Willow Klein, who not only teaches courses for MS & HS students in Ag but also serves as the district's FFA Advisor. Students have begun to participate in competitions as well as attended this year's National Conference. WLHS had another successful football season with a



record of 7-3. Coach Aaron Fricke and his student athletes represented WL well throughout the season.

## A Look Ahead

Mr. Ken Hatcher will retire at the end of the 2018-19 school year after serving 33 years in the Warrensburg-Latham district. We wish Mr. Hatcher the best of luck when he retires in June 2019. Mr. Jonathan Downing was recently named the WLHS principal effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Downing has served as an administrator in Decatur Public Schools and is recently working as a UniServe Director for IEA. Mr. Downing will have the opportunity to talk with and work with Mr. Hatcher to ensure a smooth transition. Mr. Downing is looking forward to getting to know WL staff, students and families prior to his July 1 start date. Beginning in the 2019-20 school year Warrensburg-Latham High School students will be able to participate in the Central Illinois CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities). The CEO program is a yearlong course designed to have students partner with businesses to create project-based experiences for students by providing funding, expertise, meeting space, business tours, and one on one mentoring.

#### **ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT**

## Eric Mason, Class of 2010

Since graduating from Warrensburg in 2010, Eric has earned a bachelor's degree in History from Bradley University and a Master's in Education from the University of Nevada. Eric is working as an academic advisor at the University of Texas at Arlington. He is involved in advising several student organizational groups on campus and mentors high school students who are applying for college. In our recent survey Eric said, "WLHS taught me the importance of making an impact in my local community and caring for others. Many of the teachers and coaches I had taught me life lessons beyond the classroom or game field. These opportunities are ones that have helped me still to this day." My brother, Kyle, still lives in Latham and works as a dentist with my dad.

## Dr. Matthew Wood, Class of 1988

Matthew is the Chair and Associate Professor of the Department of Entrepreneurship and Corporate Innovation at Baylor's Hankamer School of Business. Professor Wood received the 2018 Academy of Management Entrepreneurship Division "Best Conceptual Paper Award". Dr. Wood shared, "I came to Warrensburg-Latham in the third grade and graduated with the



amazing class of 1988. The high school years were especially formative. In the classroom, I built a base of knowledge that served me well both in business and in my graduate studies and current academic career. Outside of the classroom, participating in football and wrestling endowed life lessons that are too numerous to list. Coaches John Alexander, Ken Hatcher and Fred Burkhart had tremendous impact on the trajectory of my life by teaching the value of hard work, how to overcome failure and how to succeed with humility. I am fortunate to share my fond memories of Warrensburg-Latham with my wife of 26 years Pam (Pease) Wood who is a fellow class of 1988 graduate. We are both Cardinals for life!"

# Warrensburg-Latham Educational Foundation

Warrensburg-Latham Educational Foundation, WLEF, is a non-profit organization consisting of parents, former educators, alumni, and community members. WLEF works to expand our students' educational opportunities through classroom grants, scholarships, and recognizing our graduates' academic excellence. Many of the grants are funded to help our students become critical thinkers who are self-sufficient, skilled communicators and who are socially and emotionally competent in their community. Some of the projects funded through WLEF include:

- Lego robotics kits
- Circuit kits
- Spheros for Science and STEM classes
- Diversity awareness toys/supplies
- o Drones
- Vermicomposting
- Flexible Seating
- o Books
- Dumbbells

- o Mini electric keyboards
- Bike rack
- Screen printing equipment
- Supplies for a Future Teachers' Club
- Honor stoles and portfolios for student graduating with High Honors
- Donation towards new band uniforms
- Listening Centers

If you are interested in learning more about the Warrensburg-Latham Educational Foundation go to: <a href="https://www.wl.k12.il.us">www.wl.k12.il.us</a> or check out the Warrensburg-Latham Educational Foundation Facebook Page. If you would like to donate feel free to mail a check to: Warrensburg-Latham Educational Foundation, 430 W. North Street, Warrensburg, IL 62573.



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## **Facebook**

Warrensburg-Latham Elementary School
Warrensburg-Latham Middle School
Warrensburg –Latham High School (cardinal head is the profile picture)
Warrensburg-Latham Athletics
Warrensburg-Latham Educational Foundation
Wihs Alumni Tourn

## **Instagram**

WL Middle