

# The Spotlight

## Westborough Fine Arts

Issue 11 | FEBRUARY 2023

Brought to you by:



Joining WFAEA is a unique opportunity to stay involved as your student navigates through the school system and is a perfect way to experience some of the amazing opportunities Westborough Public Schools provide. If you've been feeling disconnected, WFAEA is a great way to engage with other parents and the fine arts department at Westborough Public Schools.

Join today!

[www.wfaea.org/membership](http://www.wfaea.org/membership)

### Attend a Meeting!

Our next WFAEA meeting will be March 14, 2023 at 7:00pm

Email us at [info@wfaea.org](mailto:info@wfaea.org) to be included in the Zoom invite mailing list.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Hello Fine Arts Families and Friends,

I hope that 2023 is off to a wonderful start for you and your family. The Fine Arts Department is proud of the students' work in the first half of the year and we are excited to see what is in store for the second semester.

March is both Music in Our Schools Month and Youth Art Month, and our students will be celebrating in a variety of ways in the coming weeks. Student artwork will be displayed at our Youth Art Month Exhibits throughout Massachusetts, musicians will be participating in multiple concerts and performances including in the MICCA Festival, and our middle and high school students will be participating in Jr. Districts and All-State Festivals. We are always so impressed with the artistry and musicianship of our students and we look forward to sharing their talents at the local and state level.

On behalf of the Fine Arts faculty, I wish you a relaxing February vacation and a fun-filled Spring season.

Sincerely,

Christopher Martin



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Mar 21st, 7pm:**

StringFest

**Mar 22nd, 7pm:**

MICCA Preview -Band

**Mar 23rd, 7pm:**

MICCA Preview -Chorus

**Mar 24th, 6pm:**

GMS Musical

**Mar 25th, 2pm:**

GMS Musical

**Mar 31st, April 1st & 2nd:**

MICCA Festival

**April 11th, 7pm:**

Swing into Spring

**April 28th & 29th:**

WHS Musical

**May 2nd, 7pm:**

GMS Band Concert

**May 9th, 7pm:**

WHS Chamber Concert

**For link to full  
Westborough  
Fine Arts Calendar**

[Click here](#)



## COMING SOON!

Please join

Center Stage

for our WHS Spring  
musical:

## **GUYS AND DOLLS**

Friday, April 28th

7pm

Saturday, April 29th

2pm and 7pm



## **Gibbons Middle School**

Friday, March 24th

7pm

Saturday, March 25th

2pm



# MASSACHUSETTS INSTRUMENTAL & CHORAL CONDUCTORS' ASSOCIATION CONCERT FESTIVAL



## 2023

This year's MICCA Spring Festival will be held March 31st, April 1st & April 2nd.

The choral portion of this event will once again be hosted by Westborough High School. The school will host over 70 choral ensembles from school districts around the state.

The MICCA Concert Festival encourages the improvement of an ensemble's musical standards by providing musical adjudication by highly qualified adjudicators. Attendance at a festival also affords organizations an opportunity to hear performances by other groups and experience the presentation of a wide variety of musical literature.

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!

### Westborough Ensemble Performance Times & Locations

*Friday, March 31st*

Gibbons MS Orchestra: 4:30pm @ Bellingham HS

6th Grade Band: 5:00pm @ Hopkinton HS

WHS Chamber Singers: 5:20pm @ Westborough HS

Gibbons MS Band: 6:30 @ Bellingham HS

WHS Soprano and Alto Chorale: 7:30pm @ Westborough HS

WHS Concert Choir @ 8:50pm @ Westborough HS

*Saturday, April 1st*

WHS Concert Band: 9:00am @ Bellingham HS

WHS Concert Orchestra: 9:30am @ Foxborough HS

WHS Symphonic Band: 10:00am @ Bellingham HS

WHS Chamber Orchestra: 11:30am @ Foxborough HS

*The public is welcome to attend performances at all sites.*

*There is a one-time admission fee which is valid at all choral and instrumental sites throughout the weekend. \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens.*

*Concessions will be available for purchase at all sites as well.*



***VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY*** : WFAEA is in need of volunteers to help run the Festival and sell concessions in the cafeteria. This is a great way to meet some people, get involved in a really fun event and hear some amazing performances. Watch for the ***SignUp Genius*** or email us at [info@wfaea.org](mailto:info@wfaea.org)

# ENSEMBLE SPOTLIGHT

## MILL POND'S BLUE HERON BAND

During the 2021-2022 school year, band teachers Sarah Harney and Karen Forrest developed an idea to offer students in Grades 5 & 6 the opportunity to audition for and belong to a new, extra-curricular band. It was a huge success with 58 students joining. This year, that number has risen to 71 musicians! The Spotlight recently caught up with Sarah to find out more about this new band.

"Auditions took place over three days in late January. Students received the audition materials about a month before their audition so they had plenty of time to prepare. The requirements of the auditions were different for fifth and sixth grade and all the materials came from their books which we use in class everyday. Many of the students expressed being nervous, however I'm very proud of everyone who auditioned because it can be



nerve-wracking playing by yourself, yet they all still took on the challenge." said Sarah.

"Auditioning, while scary at first, gets easier the more students do it. I enjoy having the students audition to be a part of this ensemble, not only so I can hear their sound by themselves, but also to give the students the experience of auditioning early on. This will eventually prepare them to take auditions for districts or other ensembles."

"Blue Heron Band members rehearse with me after school every Wednesday from 2-3. This is challenging for Mill Pond students since they have to learn three (or more) pieces of music with only one hour a week to prepare for their concert in May. This means students end up doing a lot of the learning on their own, with guidance from what we do in rehearsal.", said Sarah. "The music I choose for Blue Heron Band needs to challenge the students, without feeling overwhelming, since they will be learning a lot of it independently. I like to give the students multiple styles of band repertoire to focus on different skills (technical playing, expressive playing, balance and blend, etc.). The students seem to really enjoy the extra music making opportunity! "

Sarah continues, "The biggest benefit of Blue Heron Band is that the students are playing their instruments more! They have more exciting music to practice at home. Especially in the first few years of learning an instrument, the more students play, the better musicians they become. This band gives them an opportunity to improve their musicianship through practice and also get to do more of a class they love; band!"

The Blue Heron Band will perform at WHS at the Mill Pond Spring Band Concert on May 31st.

# SPOTLIGHT ON MILL POND STRINGS

## GMS Chamber Orchestra visits

### Mill Pond Orchestra

On January 30th, Gibbons Chamber Orchestra students visited Mill Pond to perform for the 6th Grade Orchestra. After the performance, the two ensembles joined forces on stage to rehearse a piece together.



GMS can't wait to welcome the 6th graders to Gibbons next year!



## First Concert for 4th Grade Strings

On February 15th, Fourth grade strings students at Mill Pond rehearsed with Ms. Gerratt for their very first concert as an orchestra, held on February 16th!



[Link to full concert](#)

**ATTENTION**

# Rising 5th & 6th Grade Mill Pond Families !



Thinking ahead toward summer plans yet?

The Mill Pond School Fine Arts Department is planning to offer a  
2- week Summer Band Camp

*MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!*

Monday, July 10th - Friday, July 21st 8:30am - 12:00pm at Westborough High School

This camp is intended for students who will be entering into Grade 5 & 6 in the fall and will be beginners in band. Participating students will learn the basics of how to play a band instrument from qualified music educators and high school/college music students. Students will provide a short concert at the end of camp to show friends and family the wonderful musical skills they've learned at Summer Band Camp!

More information and details to follow very soon; please save the dates if your student is available and interested!

Click on the links below to enjoy winter concerts  
by our talented elementary and middle school musicians.  
*-Brought to you, as always, by Westborough TV*



**Armstrong 3rd Grade Strings**  
*Jan 27, 2023*



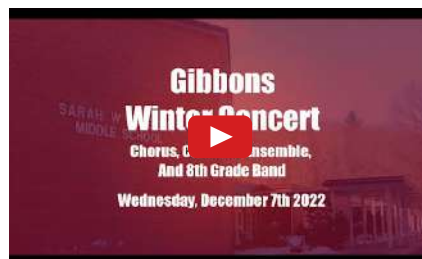
**Hastings 3rd Grade Strings**  
*Jan 26, 2023*



**Fales 3rd Grade Strings**  
*Jan 25, 2023*



**Mill Pond 5th Grade Band**  
*Dec 8, 2022*



**Gibbons Winter concert**  
*Dec 7, 2022*



**Mill Pond 5th Grade Strings**  
*Jan 25, 2023*



# WHS WINTER CONCERTS

## VOCAL POPS

The WHS Winter Vocal Pops Concert was held on December 1, 2022. It was a musical extravaganza! With a lineup of talented groups, including the Chamber Singers and the A Capella groups: Don't Panic, Harmony in Heels, Double Take, and Members Only. The concert was a treat for the ears. Each group demonstrated their vocal skill and left the audience impressed with their powerful renditions of popular songs. The lively atmosphere and outstanding performances made for a truly unforgettable night of music. If you missed this year's Winter Vocal Pops Concert, be sure to click on the video on the right and sit back and enjoy the concert!



## JAZZ BAND

On February 2nd, the WHS Jazz Band held a concert featuring two impressive bands - the Repertoire Jazz Band and the Festival Jazz Band. The talented musicians showcased their skills and delighted the audience with a range of captivating jazz tunes.

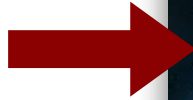
Click on video to watch the performance!



# WHS WINTER ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS CONCERT

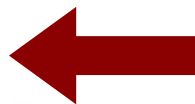
On December 12th, the WHS Orchestra and chorus performed their winter concert.

Watch the Spectacular WHS Orchestra and Chorus Concert Video Now.





# SMALL ENSEMBLES CONCERT



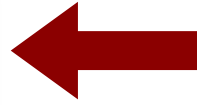
Click on video to watch the performance!

On January 18, 2023, WHS held a small ensembles concert featuring an impressive lineup of talented musicians. The concert showcased a diverse range of musical genres with performances by a string quartet, brass quartet, saxophone quartet, flute trio, percussion ensemble and a string ensemble.



# WHS WINTER BAND CONCERT

The winter band concert on December 12th was a resounding success! The symphonic band and concert band wowed the audience with their individual performances, but the highlight of the evening was undoubtedly their joint performance of "Sleigh Ride" as the mega band. The festive atmosphere and incredible talent on display made for a memorable night that left everyone feeling uplifted and full of holiday spirit.



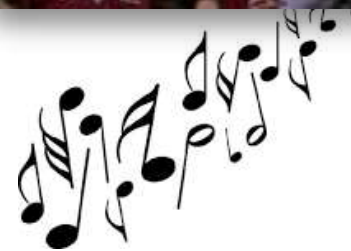
Click on video to watch the performance!



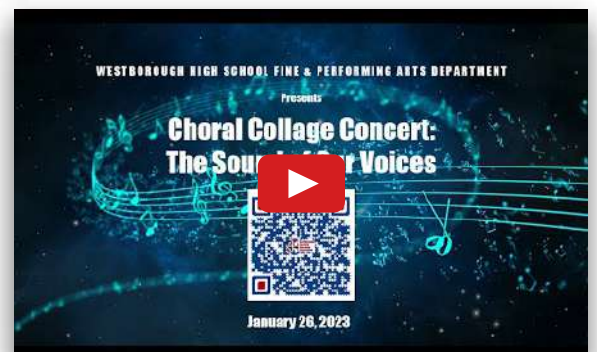
# ANNUAL CHORAL COLLAGE CONCERT "THE SOUND OF OUR VOICES"



In January, all of the choral groups and ensembles from Mill Pond, Gibbons and WHS came together to perform a wonderful evening of music! The night culminated with a beautiful rendition of Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" sung by all groups together on stage. See the link to the full recording below.



Click here to watch these amazing singers perform at the 2023 Coral collage!



# CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT

## VISUAL ARTS - PETER GLENN



The WHS Mixed Media painting class is starting their printmaking unit. Students are using linoleum to print on found and reclaimed surfaces. This project is the beginning of the reductive drawing unit, and encourages students to think about alternative drawing/painting surfaces. As students progress, they will be transitioning into traditional [Provincetown /white line printing](#). This is a wonderful opportunity for the class to learn new techniques and get creative with their art.



Exploring the art of printmaking: Check out some of the stunning pieces created by our talented students!

# WHS ORCHESTRA -TRIP TO BSO

On Thursday, February 9th, WHS Orchestra students attended a Boston Symphony Orchestra open rehearsal at Symphony Hall. Before the rehearsal began, students were treated to a Q&A session with Grammy nominated composer, Carlos Simon, during which Simon discussed his background, influences, as well as the inspiration behind his new piece. The rehearsal, under the direction of Andris Nelsons, included Simon's *Four Black American Dances* (world premiere), Bloch's *Schelomo* with solo cellist, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7*.



**CONGRATULATIONS!**



**Congratulations to the following 7th, 8th and 9th grade students who auditioned and were accepted into the CDMMEA Junior Festival!**

## Chorus

Danica Beaver  
Sriraaga Chillara  
Ishani Datta  
Brooks DeCoste  
Sudevi Ghosh  
Ruthwika Goriparti  
Kyomi Merced  
Shrishtitha Pandey  
Stuti Patil  
Malavika Pillai  
Vihaan Shinde  
Natalie Unkovic  
Sudiksha Vedala

## Orchestra

Lorelei Heinrich  
Gavin Hu  
Al Regnier  
Annie Shi  
Sahil Thadani  
Saanvi Vasisht  
Katie Xia

## Concert Band

Arnav Chinthapatla  
Dennis Cram  
Alexis Guadiz  
Vikram Hiranandani  
Travis Knox  
Sahasra Kommineni  
Aidan Lawyer  
Karan Madhav  
Aryan Rakesh Nair  
Suhrud Patwardhan  
Cole Petri  
Gerry Qiu  
Danica Xiong

## Jazz Band

Will Johnston

**Auditions were held on February 4th. Students were graded by a CDMMEA adjudicator in the areas of sight reading, scale/key knowledge and performance of a required piece.**

**Students were provided feedback through a standards-based rubric with written comments. These rubrics were used to determine this year's participants in the Central District Festival.**

**Accepted students will attend rehearsals on April 3rd and April 6th, in addition to a full day of rehearsals and performances on April 28th at Franklin High School.**

# CONGRATULATIONS ALL-STATE PARTICIPANTS

**Congratulations to the following Westborough High School Students who auditioned and were accepted into the 2023 MMEA All-State Festival !**

**It is a great honor for the students (and for our school district) to be selected from a large group of talented musicians throughout the state to take part in this event.**

**Westborough is proud to have 11 of our musicians participating this year.**



## **CHORUS**

**Ian Chace, tenor**

**Chase Crandall, tenor**

**August Duncan, tenor**

**Susannah Gordon, alto**

**Sofia Holmes, alto**

## **ORCHESTRA**

**Diya Karthick, violin**

**Joel Lee, cello**

**Sam Mattson, bass**

**Esha Prasad, alto**

**Zhouli Wang, violin**

**April Zhang, violin**

The 69th Annual Massachusetts All-State Festival and Concerts will feature more than 500 of Massachusetts' most dedicated up-and-coming musicians in chorus, orchestra, concert band, and jazz.

The Festival offers talented high school students the opportunity to rehearse and perform under the direction of nationally recognized conductors.

Students are selected to audition each year based on their individual district audition results. Only about 500 are accepted. After an intensive rehearsal process, the students celebrate their hard work and achievement with this exciting performance at Boston's Symphony Hall.

**Rehearsals will be held on March 3rd, followed by a concert on Saturday, March 4th at Symphony Hall. The public is welcome to attend.**

**Tickets can be purchased [here](#).**

# CDMMEA SENIOR FESTIVAL



Concert Band



Chorus



Orchestra



Jazz Band

Westborough had 50 students participating in the Senior Central District 2023 Festival Concert at Mechanics Hall in Worcester on January 14th.

The impressive concert was the result of hard work by both teachers and students. Our students are so lucky to have access to these outstanding educators.

**Congratulations** to all!

# MILL POND ART

In honor of Black History Month, Mill Pond Elementary students have created 2 installations



The first, created by our 5th graders, is dedicated to Martin Luther King . . . entitled "Powerful Words"



The second piece is a collaborative work created by our 4th graders. Their work is inspired by Alma Thomas, who taught in the Washington D.C. area for over 40 years and started painting, as a profession, at the age of 70. The Obamas added her painting, "The Resurrection", to the White House permanent art collection in 2015. This was the first artwork by an African American woman to hang in the public spaces of the White House and enter this collection. To find out more about Alma Thomas and her painting, watch the video below.

**VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED!**

## UNIFORM COMMITTEE

We are forming a small group of parents, students and teachers to research a gender neutral option for the musical ensembles (not marching band). Small time commitment. Please email [info@wfaea.org](mailto:info@wfaea.org) by March 1st if you or someone you know is interested in this.







## IN THE ART ROOM - WHS

The WHS Chapter of National Art Honor Society hosted a figure drawing night in January. "This fundraiser served as an opportunity for students to practice observational drawing from life and brought together a fun group of teachers and students. We are hoping to continue this event in coming months."

-Emma Ballachino, WHS 3D Art Teacher & NAHS Advisor.



The National Art Honor Society programs provide national recognition and opportunities for students who exhibit outstanding scholarship in the visual arts and for their teachers. In this time of uncertainty and potential isolation, connecting and acknowledging outstanding visual arts students is more imperative than ever. Participation in NAHS provides your students, faculty, school and community with invaluable benefits - including peer recognition, leadership growth opportunities, college and career preparation, recognition of our art program and so much more. - NAEA Website



Find out more about NAHS here!



The WHS Chapter of NAHS was established in 2021-2022 and currently has 16 members.

This year's induction ceremony will be held in the spring.

# TRI-M

## MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY

Tri-M is the national honor society for student musicians. It is designed to recognize students for their academic and musical achievements, reward them for their accomplishments and service activities, and to inspire other students to excel at music and leadership. Currently, there are over 2,100 chapters in all 50 states, involving more than 84,000 students.

The WHS Chapter held its 2023 induction ceremony on February 16th.

29 new members were inducted this year.



### ***Congratulations to our 2023 Inductees!***

Sofia Altamirano

Zainab Anwar

Finnegan Clegg

Ethan Cram

Yan An Cui

Augustus Duncan

Mayeesha Ghani

Naomi Gold

Dylan Guadiz

Sofia Holmes

Andrew Izvolsky

Diya Karthick

Dev Khanna

Aadit Krishna

Elizabeth Kudej

Samantha Lasch

Michelle Lo

Sydney McCullough

Lila Movahedi

Kayla Niece

Kaitlyn Richards

Daniel Shi

Sasha Sklar

Meredith Swanson

Kaushiki Thatikonda

Amelia Wahlers

Kendra Workman

Shaokie Zhang

April Zhang

To learn more about Tri-M and requirements for membership, [follow this link](#).



WFAEA is happy to support the Next Generation of Musicians and Artists:  
Recent Funding Requests have been approved for multiple clinician grants, Summer Band Camp and Art Supplies.



**FUNDING FOR CLINICIANS:** WFAEA offers funding to hire professional artists and musicians, who are highly respected in their fields, to come into the classroom and work with our students. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn from outside professionals to gain new perspectives and insights on their repertoire and provide valuable feedback to teachers on their rehearsal strategies. Annually, WFAEA spends up to \$3,200 for clinicians.

To date this year, WFAEA has approved spending on the following:

- Guest clinician **Dr. Lindsay Bronnekant**, from *UMASS Amherst*, to work with the WHS Concert and Symphonic Bands on March 1st and March 17th.
- Guest clinician, **Susan Memoli**, from *Wayland High School*, to work with the Gibbons Middle School Orchestra on March 7th.
- Guest clinician **Adam Boyles**, *Director of the MIT Orchestra*, to work with the WHS orchestras on March 10th and March 15th.
- Guest clinician, **Michele Adams**, *Performing Arts Center of Metrowest*, to work with the three academic choir ensembles at WHS on February 16th and March 16th.



## OTHER FUNDING:

- We are excited to share some news about an upcoming summer band camp program developed by Karen Forrest, aimed at introducing 5th & 6th grade students to band instruction just prior to the start of the school year. Karen is applying for funds from various sources to offset the cost of this camp for families. We are proud to announce that WFAEA has approved a \$3,000 subsidy towards the costs of this camp. This funding will go a long way in helping Karen make the program a reality and providing an opportunity for children to get an early start in band instruction.
- WFAEA has approved a funding request from Amy Crossin, one of our talented elementary art teachers, to purchase 18 new gelli printing plates for her classroom. Gelli plates are a versatile and easy-to-use tool for printing, with an added benefit of lasting for many years. With these new plates, students will be able to experiment with different textures, patterns, and colors to create unique prints that reflect their individual style and vision. This will enable the entire class to participate in the mono-printmaking process.



**We look forward to fulfilling many more funding requests as we continue the school year! Follow our link to find out more about what we do!**

# WFAEA BUSINESS SPONSORS



Exciting news ! WFAEA has purchased a large screen TV and stand to be used to electronically display the logos of our Orchestra-level business sponsors as well as important fine arts news during WHS fine arts concerts and events. This new addition will provide a platform for local businesses to showcase their support for the arts. We're looking forward to adding additional fun content as we move forward! Look for the display outside of the auditorium at the next event!

Become a sponsor and have your Logo presented on the new electronic display at an upcoming event.



Become a Sponsor

**THANK YOU**

**TO OUR GENEROUS 2022/2023 SPONSORS!**



*Rhythm*  
dance company



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The Math Learning Center  
[www.mathnasium.com/northborough](http://www.mathnasium.com/northborough)

 **ANDREW ABU REALTORS**<sup>®</sup>  
Integrity, Uncompromised.

# WFAEA thanks our generous 2022-2023 supporters

## Standing Ovation (\$300)

*Eric & Michelle French*  
*The Keogh Family*  
*Patrick and Jennifer Guadiz*  
*The Knox Family*

## Bravo (\$100)

*The Niece Family*  
*The Chace Family*  
*The Henderson Family*  
*The Crandall Family*  
*Anonymous*  
*Marc and Mary Levesque Family*  
*The Swanson/Fitch Family*  
*The Cushman Family*  
*Liza Hubbard*  
*The Northrup Family*  
*Roberta Di Terlizzi*

## Applause (\$50)

*The Burow Family*  
*The Plunkett Family*  
*Maria and Zahid Ahmed*

## Encore (\$150)

*The Chong Family*  
*The Kinsky Family*  
*Josh Gordon & Naomi Botkin*  
*Anna Leduc and Mark Zepf*  
*The Datta/Dasgupta Family*

## Salute (\$30)

*The Gros Family*



## Cheer (\$75)

*The Martin Family*



**You can also make a donation without becoming a WFAEA member.**

**DONATE**



## Become a WFAEA Member

### Special Events We Support:

MICCA  
Choral Collage  
Band-o-Rama  
Senior Banquet  
POPS Night  
Center Stage Concessions

### Membership funds support:

Student scholarships  
Funding for clinicians  
Replacing/repairing instruments and uniforms  
Providing art and theater equipment  
Need-based financial assistance for activity fees



## WFAEA 2022-23 OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Lisa Chace
	Jessica Crandall
Vice President	Debra Cushman
Treasurer	Jennifer Niece
Secretary	Kathy Swanson

*Looking for a way to recognize your graduating Senior? Dedicate a seat in the high school auditorium!*



**WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH WFAEA?**

We are looking for volunteers to help!

There are many fun ways to be a part of Westborough's Fine Arts



**SEAT OF RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Recognize someone special with a brass plate on the arm of a Westborough High School auditorium seat! A perfect way to honor your graduating senior, thank a favorite teacher or leave your favorite quote behind.

Donate \$40 for a 4" x 1 1/2" plate with a message of your choice, up to 3 lines of 18 characters (including spaces). Your donation will help support arts education and fund our scholarship program. \$33 of the donation is tax-deductible. Please note, donation of a plate does not reserve seating at auditorium events.

To order, go to [www.WFAEA.org](http://www.WFAEA.org) and complete the form on our fundraiser page.

[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

Shop at **smile.amazon.com** and Amazon will donate to your favorite charitable organization, at **no cost to you.**

**Attention Businesses**

**We invite our local businesses to help support fine arts in the Westborough Public Schools**

**Find out more here:**



Questions? Email [INFO@WFAEA.ORG](mailto:INFO@WFAEA.ORG)