

Wakefield High School Theatre Arts Department Awarded \$2,500 by WEF

The Wakefield Educational Foundation (WEF) recently awarded the Wakefield High School Theatre Arts Department \$2,500. Directed by Will Karvouniaris, WHS Theatre Arts produces four mainstage productions each year. This year's production calendar includes a musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, a festival-play that travels and enters a statewide competition, a full-length play, and a 24-Hour play festival. In addition, WHS Theater Arts invites professionals from the theater community to work with the students in a series of master classes. This year, the master classes included Andy Mientus, a Broadway and television actor, and a variety of technical theater staff members. These master classes allow the students to be exposed to new career fields that are not introduced within the Wakefield program of studies. Grant funds are used to help defray the costs of costuming needs, sound rentals, lighting rentals, and to provide some scholarship assistance for students who are unable to afford to go on trips to the theater.

Mr. Karvouniaris submitted a grant application through WEF's annual grant process. WEF continually encourages staff and PTO leaders to submit innovative enrichment projects for consideration. To support the grants, WEF raises funds throughout the year by conducting fundraisers such as: the WEF Wakefield Public Schools Calendar, which showcases student art throughout the system; chocolate rose sales; the WEF Annual Adult Spelling Bee and community donations. WEF will be awarding staff and PTO leaders just over \$25,500 for the 2017-2018 school year and has awarded over \$320,00 to the Wakefield Public Schools since 1989.



Shown in photo: Members of the casts of the Fall 2017 musical production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.