



### Red Ribbon Week at WREC



During the last week in October, students and staff at the West Reading Elementary Center (WREC) celebrated Red Ribbon Week, a celebration that stands for being drug-free! Every year, WREC has a different theme that represents students' initiative to stay drug-free; this year, the theme was "Everyone Needs Courage." The school was decorated with dazzling red decorations, beautiful red ribbons, and a courageous, red piece of artwork. Mr. Miller and our WREC students created a large, red lion that was displayed along the gym hallway. Students were given a prompt that said, "I have the courage to..." and responded to the prompt on small slips of red paper that were later used to create the lion's mane. Every time students, staff, or guests walked into WREC, they were reminded to have courage and to stay drug-free with the help of the extraordinary lion!

Throughout the last week of October, each day was designated for a specific activity that reflected the benefits of staying drug-free. On Monday, students and staff dressed up in outfits that reflected their future job or wore a shirt representing their dream college; on Tuesday, participants were asked to dress in all red; on Wednesday, students and teachers wore neon colors at home, and students made sure to complete a special Red Ribbon Week assignment; on Thursday, participants were "Voting for My Future to Be Drug-Free" by wearing red, white, and blue; on Friday, students and staff were sure to "Say Boo to Drugs" and wore fall or Halloween colors.

All of the school spirit at WREC ensured that in-person students were able to express their courageous acts of staying drug-free and that virtual students had the opportunity to participate as well. All students could submit photos, videos, or assignments showing their participation! Additionally, students had access to different videos that taught them about the negative effects of alcohol, drugs, and vaping. After learning about these negative effects, students submitted their own videos on how being drug-free would positively impact their futures! In a video titled "My Drug-Free Future," students' personal videos were compiled into one large video that discussed their drug-free aspirations. Many of their responses

included their goals of going to college, playing professional sports, or simply maintaining healthy, drug-free lifestyles. The participation of both in-person students and virtual students was astounding!

Not only were students excited to express their Red Ribbon Week spirit, but they were extremely proud and thankful for the WREC guidance counselor, Melissa Kramer, for organizing all of the Red Ribbon Week activities! With her hard work and extensive preparation, along with the support of fellow WREC teachers, WREC students were able to explore their future aspirations by discovering drug-free initiatives. Red Ribbon Week is always a cherished week at WREC!

---

### The WHEC Halloween Parade



This year's drive-through Halloween Parade at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center was a resounding success! Teachers and students alike came dressed in an array of spooky, fun costumes, and many of the cars that participated were decorated with signs, streamers, and paint. Students had the opportunity to vote on pumpkins that were decorated by the teachers, and those teachers did not disappoint. Pumpkins decorated as Baby Yoda, Olaf, a witch, cheese with mice, and much more lined the street. The winners of this contest were as follows: First Place, Baby Yoda by Mrs. Highdich and Mrs. D'Angelo, Second Place, Ice Cream Cone by Dr. Wengerd, and Third Place, Olaf by Mrs. Robinson. We are excited that we were able to continue with the Halloween Parade tradition at WHEC in a creative drive-by format this year! Thank you to everyone that helped to organize the event and those that participated.

---

## Career Day at the JSHS

Considering the uniqueness of this school year and the special considerations for planning events, guidance counselor Regina Barletta and our PTA Career Day Committee were determined to put on their thinking caps and develop a plan so that our students could participate in our annual Career Day event! The conventional Career Day typically includes inviting guest speakers to school, having students attend panel presentations and round table discussions with the speakers, and enjoying the phenomenal Career Day Fair. However, this year, students attended Career Day from home in a virtual format. Mrs. Barletta, the leader in coordinating the all-virtual day, worked alongside the PTA Career Day Committee, fellow guidance counselors, and high school teachers to keep the wonderful day alive for students in grades 7-12. The four guidance counselors at the Junior-Senior High School, Mrs. Barletta, Mr. Skovera, Mrs. Mayberry, and Mrs. Quinlivan, created the Career Day curriculum for each grade's students. Depending on the grade, students explored careers through round-table discussions, Naviance assignments, or specific panels of speakers. The PTA Career Day Committee, co-chaired by Lori Smerek and Laurie Waxler, recruited and contacted speakers, guided the speakers on what to present to students, and helped to facilitate a successful day for our Spartans. Speakers consisted of former graduates, students' parents, community members, and teachers themselves! With the help of the PTA committee's connections, they were able to connect with a diverse group of community members to present their intriguing occupations to students.

Mrs. Barletta and the PTA Committee are committed to having unique Career Day experiences for each grade, exposing students to certain activities that continuously build off each other every year as students grow and mature their career explorations. Mrs. Barletta explains, "the idea is to plan a developmentally appropriate sequence of events so that students explore in different ways at various ages and by the time they are graduated, have been exposed to events that help them make decisions about what they do next based on knowledge of themselves and the world around them." This year, students in seventh-grade attended Spartan Success Day on Career day, led by a team of teachers, and focused on skills needed for success at the JSHS and early-stage career explorations. Eighth and ninth-grade students attended panel presentations with our speakers and virtually toured a variety of businesses. Topics included Construction Trades, Healthcare, Sports-related careers, and many more! After students learned from the panel discussions, they completed the Career Interest Inventory on PA Career Zone or began their first steps of creating a resume on Naviance. The Career Day plans for students in grades ten and eleven were similar this year. Students interacted with presenters on Webex and completed Naviance assignments. In this model, students in the eleventh grade were in small group sessions to facilitate round table discussions and provide more flexible time for questions and answers. The one-on-one and personalized conversations with the speakers and the opportunity to ask more in-depth questions is a special experience for our juniors. Our senior class often participates in very special and important events on Career Day, related to next-steps after high school and other reflection activities. Many of these activities are best held in person, and the goal is to plan these traditional events for our students later in the Spring. We hope that by the time our seniors reach graduation, thanks to all their previous years of Career Day exploration, they have developed a wide range of skills that only enhance their ability to find a career that suits them best!

Even though Career Day looked dramatically different than previous years, it's safe to say that it was a big success! Mrs. Barletta expressed her amazement about the smooth execution of the virtual Career Day. She reported that the technology worked well, speakers had positive experiences, and student attendance was amazing. Not only was she happy for the day's success, but she was also extremely proud of the PTA committee, guidance counselors, teachers, speakers, and students for collectively making the virtual day the best it could be. She commented, "I was happy that we were able to provide some of the building blocks to help students choose how to follow their interests in life, even in a pandemic. We didn't miss this year, even though it was challenging to make everything virtual." Our high school students have nothing but appreciation for the

members who put together our virtual Career Day. Although many school events have been hindered by the pandemic, Mrs. Barletta and the rest of the Career Day team did not fail to provide one of the best virtual days for our students!

---

### The Class of 2021 Homecoming Court



To say that this school year has been anything but ordinary would be an understatement, and the Wyomissing Area tradition of Homecoming was also adjusted to fit the circumstances of the year. Saturday, November 21, was a historical day for the Wyomissing Area community for two main reasons. First and foremost, this was the first time in school history that a state semi-final football game was played on the Wyomissing Area High School's A field. Second, the school's Homecoming Court recognition took place at this game.

The Spartan football team reigned victorious in the semi-final game with a 44-14 point win over Danville's Ironmen. This victory marked the second time in school history that Wyomissing Area's football program has qualified for the State Championship and the first time in Berks County history that a football program has qualified for the state championship game on two separate occasions. Our Spartan Football program should be very proud of this accomplishment, and we are very proud of them.

After a triumphant win against the Ironmen, the Wyomissing Area community took time to honor the six lady Spartans on this year's Homecoming Court. Seniors Camille Croft, Sara Steber, Morgan Welliver, Summer Mirigliano, Lydia Botterbush, and Abigail Doyle were all honored on the 2020 Homecoming Court and handled the unique circumstances with grace and poise. At the end of the game, it was announced that senior Abigail Doyle was this year's Homecoming Queen, and Camille Croft was the maid of honor. It is safe to say that Saturday, November 21, was a great day to be a Spartan!

---

### Spartans Helping Spartans: Student Tutoring Program



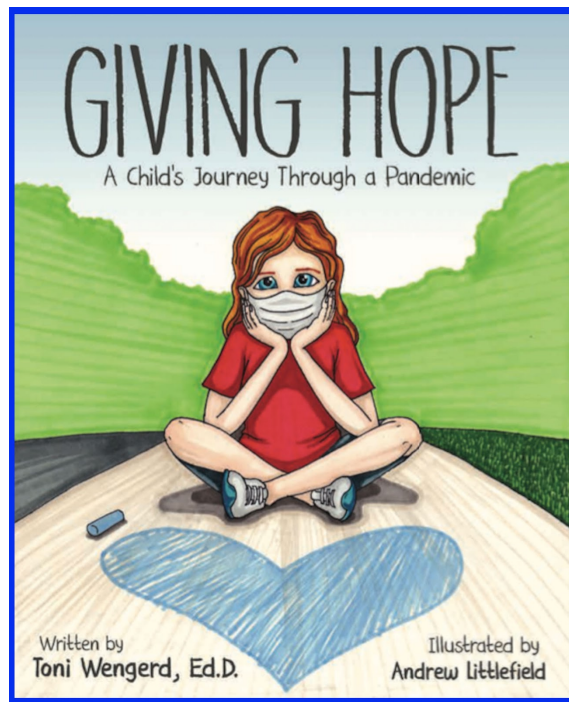
Last spring, when all of Wyomissing Area School District switched to remote learning, many students felt frustrated while trying to adapt to the new learning style, and felt isolated from their classmates. Although all grade levels had a difficult time adapting, Elizabeth Harenza, a current junior at Wyomissing Area High School, felt as though these circumstances must be especially difficult for the younger, elementary students. “I imagine this time was even more difficult for younger students who may not be as accustomed to working with technology, and not have access to the same digital communication tools that many older students use to connect with their friends,” said Elizabeth.

After thinking about what could be done to help the elementary students, Elizabeth reached out to the assistant superintendent, Dr. Melissa Woodard, asking if there was a need for a program that would help students learn some of the missed curricula. This program was also thought of as a way to fill the social and emotional gap that had formed during the quarantine. After receiving help from Dr. Woodard, Elizabeth, along with Jabrea Flowers, Tyler Lentz, and Aleko Zeppos, all current juniors at Wyomissing, began to organize a 5-week summer tutoring program. This program connected an elementary student with a high school student. It focused on strengthening math and literacy skills as well as some social skills over the course of 10 tutoring sessions, and about 60 students from both the high school and elementary school participated. Additionally, there were a few ESL students that participated, and their tutors focused on improving the language skills that the students weren’t exposed to before switching to remote learning.

The group of juniors hopes that the hard work of all student tutors pays off and proves to be beneficial towards their communication and leadership skills. They also hope that the younger students felt more confident with their math and literacy skills going into the new school year. Thank you to all the organizers and tutors who signed up, and a special thank you to Elizabeth Harenza for presenting this idea. We are extremely grateful for the time and hard work all of you devoted towards this, and are lucky to have such passionate, talented Spartan leaders in our community who are always looking for ways to use their skills to help others.

---

**Special Spartan Accomplishment: Dr. Wengerd Authors *Giving Hope***



In this holiday season, we have been given yet another opportunity to give thanks for the many talents of our teachers here at Wyomissing Area, especially Dr. Toni Wengerd. Dr. Wengerd is a STEAM Explorations teacher at WHEC who, during the quarantine last Spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, decided to focus her efforts toward writing her new book, *Giving Hope*.

With the original intent of documenting the events she experienced over the course of the several-month isolation period in the spring, Dr. Wengerd explains that “after sharing my writing with some family and friends, they encouraged me to publish.” After reworking her documents to form a story, and rewording her writing to suit her intended audience of younger children, Dr. Wengerd developed her book.

*Giving Hope* is written from the perspective of Dr. Wengerd’s 7 and 10-year-old children amidst the COVID-19 pandemic in the form of a journal. Each journal entry focuses on a specific emotion that may have been felt by her own children and children all across the world during the panic brought on this past spring. With the evolution of each emotion as the story progresses, from worry and confusion to encouragement and hopefulness, it is Dr. Wengerd’s hope that the book demonstrates the process that children undergo when faced with challenging, confusing situations like the pandemic, and so many others.

Although isolation may have brought on what feels like many, endless negative effects, we are grateful for those, like Dr. Wengerd, who used it as motivation to produce something positive. Dr. Wengerd hopes that *Giving Hope* does exactly what the title says: gives hope and encouragement to those children who struggle with the challenges of everyday life and provides a sense of relatability among her readers. She wishes for these children to be able to “recognize their emotions and process these emotions in a healthy way,” to eventually learn how to move forward from them. Dr. Wengerd even included a “dear reader” section at the end of the book. The purpose of this section is to encourage her readers to reflect on what they read by challenging them to write and even draw about what they felt during the pandemic or any other challenging event in their lives. After all, in these trying times, it is very important that everyone, especially younger children, remembers that they are not alone.

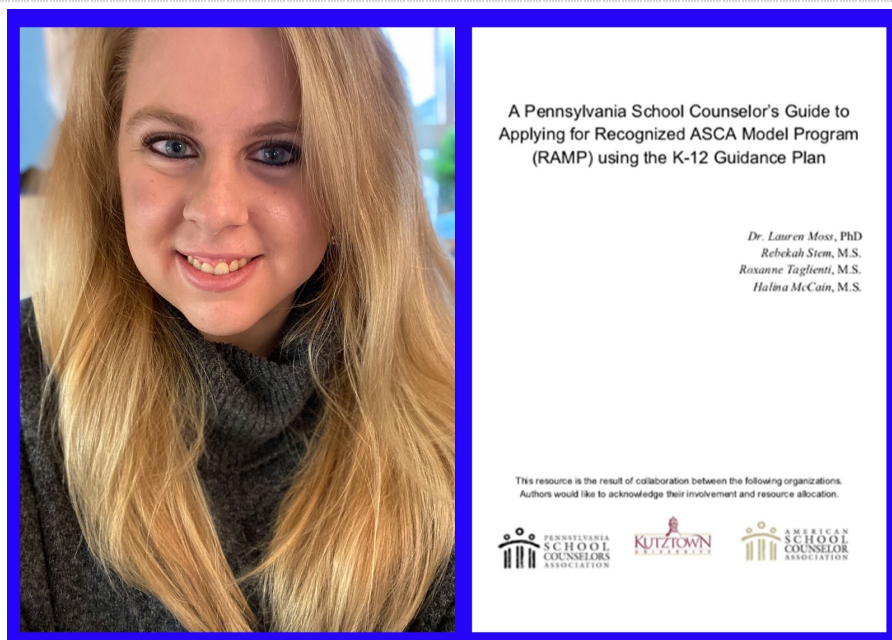
Dr. Wengerd called on Andrew Littlefield, husband of WHEC fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Jennifer Littlefield, to design the front cover, illustrations, and layout of *Giving Hope*. To place more emphasis on the intended sense of unity, the two worked to

design the illustrations and text to “appeal to all children, regardless of age, gender, race, etc.” Dr. Wengerd and Mr. Littlefield yet again remind us that we are all alike in how we feel and how we process our emotions as we face challenges.

Dr. Wengerd hopes to produce more pieces in the future, and we sure hope so as well! These days, every single effort toward bringing positivity into our world is immensely appreciated. If you are interested in reading *Giving Hope* for yourself, the book is currently available for pre-order and will be arriving in Winter 2021. You may order directly from Dr. Wengerd herself using the google form at <https://forms.gle/kiAHweSarmsWjyvMA> or through her publisher, Mascot Books, at <https://tinyurl.com/yym459on>. *Giving Hope* will be available through Amazon and other large distributors in late winter/early spring.

---

### Special Spartan Accomplishment: Ms. Stem Presents at PSCA Conference



Ms. Rebekah Stem, a guidance counselor at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center, has been working on an exciting project that she recently presented at the Pennsylvania School Counselor Association’s (PSCA) annual conference!

Every school district in the state is required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to have a K-12 Guidance Plan, which states how schools are preparing their students for future careers and post-secondary education. The association that governs school counselors is called the American School Counselor’s Association (ASCA). This association has a recognition program that school counselors can apply for called the Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP). RAMP is voluntary for school counselors to apply to, however, this recognition is very important as it identifies strengths, areas in need of improvement, and how school counseling contributes to student success. Currently, there are only 10 schools throughout Pennsylvania that are RAMP certified.

In 2018, Ms. Stem engaged in an Independent Study, partnered with fellow graduate students, to examine the similarities and differences of ASCA’s RAMP recognition and Pennsylvania’s K-12 Guidance Plan, under the supervision of Dr. Lauren Moss. “We proposed that school counselors interested in achieving RAMP recognition may be only a few critical steps away, as the

two designations overlap in content,” said Stem. The objective of their project was to cross-walk the two endorsements. The group then created a guidebook in order to disseminate their findings to school counselors, and other stakeholders, who would be able to use their information to have their school counseling programs recognized and celebrated at the national level. This guidebook was presented at the 2018 PSCA conference. Since then, they’ve been working with the PSCA to further develop the tool and presented the finished product at the 2020 PSCA conference. Now, their guidebook titled, “A Pennsylvania’s Counselor’s Guide to Applying for Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) using the K-12 Guidance Plan” will be digitally available by the fall of 2021.

Stem says “We recognized school counselors have many responsibilities, so we wanted to make this easier for school counselors to do since one is mandatory (K-12 Guidance Plan) and one is voluntary (ASCA’s RAMP)”. Stem decided to work on this project as a professional counselor as she said, “It allows me to give back to the profession, and help other school counselors take their program to the next level!”. It is her goal to RAMP-certify the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center’s school counseling program sometime in the future.

Thank you Ms. Stem for all your hard work these past two years! We are so excited for your project to become available!

---

## The Wyomissing Area Education Foundation



WYOMISSING AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
*Enriching Education in the Wyomissing Area School District*

WAEF is pleased to announce two new scholarships this year! Thanks to the generosity of two families, WAEF is able to offer two additional scholarships, each valued at \$1,000!

Sharon Luyben and her family have established the **Luyben Arts Scholarship**. This scholarship is awarded to the student who has demonstrated improvement and accomplishment in the area of Music and/or the Performing Arts throughout his or her HS career at Wyomissing Area High School and is planning to attend a post-high school education program or college. The winner will be selected from the candidates recommended by the High School Music Department educators. The WAEF Scholarship Selection Committee will then make the final determination. When asked why she wanted to establish this scholarship, Sharon wrote “I want to give back to the school district that gave me so much throughout my life. I grew up in West Reading, moved to Wyomissing in high school, and my husband and I raised our 3 children in Wyomissing Hills. I am a graduate of the Wyomissing Area School District and taught music in the Wyomissing Area Schools for 33 years of my 38-year career. I taught in all 3 buildings and all grade levels of the WASD, and for the last 29 years in various high school music courses, JH and SH Choral Music, and served as the K-12 Music Dept. Chair. I am proud to be a Spartan!” Thank you, Sharon, for your generous support of Wyomissing students through this gift to WAEF!

John and Gloria Rothenberger have established the **Wyomissing Scholarship** in support of an adult returning to education. John Rothenberger, a 1963 graduate of Wyomissing High School, credits his life accomplishments to the beautiful community



in which he was raised. Whether it was spending summers at the Wyomissing pool, ice skating at the Stone House pond, or studying and playing sports at Wyomissing High School, the foundation was laid for John's philanthropy. In 2016, WAEF honored John as the Distinguished Alumnus who has demonstrated an enormous commitment to the Wyomissing Area School District, Wyomissing Borough, the Greater Berks community, and beyond. John has lived in Wyomissing his entire life and describes it as a "special community which had a major, positive impact on my life, determining who I am today." John married Gloria in 1978, and they raised their children, Eric and Kristy, in this wonderful family environment.

As a founding member of WAEF, John writes that "We give back because we love the community, residents, friends, and all who care about and support each other and Wyomissing. The residents, employees, police officers, school officials, and teachers all make Wyomissing special. This is a community made great by the unsung people who quietly give their time volunteering without recognition." John and Gloria want to perpetuate Wyomissing for the next generation so others can enjoy it and grow to support the community and people that gave so much to John and his family. "We give because we want others to have what we did and we want to see Wyomissing continue to thrive and grow. We love Wyomissing, and the love of this community is why we volunteered and continue to support WAEF." John and Gloria want adult learners to have the opportunity to re-enter education without the barrier of financial restraints. Thank you to the Rothenbergers for their generous support for so many years!

All of WAEF's Scholarship applications are now available online. <https://www.wyoarea-foundation.org/2020-2021-scholarship-applications>

The deadline to apply is Friday, March 5th, 2021 at 11:59 pm. Please email [aknopsnyer@wyoarea.org](mailto:aknopsnyer@wyoarea.org) or [mmurrill@wyoarea.org](mailto:mmurrill@wyoarea.org) with any questions.

WAEF is pleased to have been able to support these recent grant requests submitted by WASD faculty and administrators:

1. 22 Document cameras - for use in all 3 school buildings, these devices will allow teachers to demonstrate and digitally broadcast learning activities to WAVE and hybrid students learning remotely.
2. 12 Gooseneck tablet holders - for use at WHEC, these devices will allow teachers to utilize their iPads like a document camera for read-alouds and small group reading instruction, as well as other instructional uses during virtual education.
3. 700 styluses - for use at WHEC to help with virtual learning. Students that are learning dexterity and motor skills can produce better outcomes if given the right tools.
4. Biotechnology in the Classroom - JSBS grant will fund the opportunity to bring current biotechnology techniques to the classroom in an engaging and authentic way. The project will be ongoing, and materials and equipment can be used in various biology classes as well as forensic science, reaching approximately 200-250 students per year.
5. Social-Emotional Learning books - to be used in grades 3 and 4, this is a tool to help gifted students learn about themselves and what it means to be gifted. It will guide students in exercises on how to deal with stressors and pressure as well as how to embrace one's individual strengths and talents.
6. At-home reading and learning kits - WAEF'S Spartan Fund provided support for the purchase of reading and learning materials for students in grades K-4 at the beginning of the school year.

WAEF is proud to be able to enhance educational opportunities for students in the Wyomissing Area School District!

---



**2020-2021 WAEF events**

**SAVE**  
*the*  
**DATES**

**BLUE & WHITE PARTY 05.08.2021**

**SCHOLARSHIP CEREMONY 05.17.2021**

**SENIOR DAY 05.25.2021**

**FIRE & ICE PARTY 05.22.2021**

---

### **About the Authors**

This year the Junior-Senior High School is proud to continue to partner with the internship program to include a communications internship. Students in this role work under the supervision of Communications Coordinator Meghan Tierney to gather information and updates about various district events and support the sharing of news via social media, as well as to co-author the monthly editions of the *Spartan Scoop* newsletter.



**Keira Auchenbach** chose the communications internship because her future plans include studying a field related to environmental activism, and felt that the experience with reporting, journaling, and presenting would be valuable to her. Keira is very involved with academics, clubs, and sports. Most notably, she is a leader on the Mini-Thon Committee and in Student Council but also participates in Service Club, Science Olympiad, Best Buddies, the WAEF student committee, cross country, and track and field. Outside of school activities, Keira also enjoys painting, hiking outdoors, and spending time with friends.

**Cece Banco**, a junior, is involved in many school activities. She enjoys participating in the French Club, Service Club, Drama Club, and the Mini-Thon committee. Additionally, Cece is a member of the girls' tennis team and is involved in the school's music program as part of the chorus and chorale. Cece is considering pursuing a future in media and chose this internship in hopes that it would help develop a more specific sense of the path she may want to follow.

**Emma Care** is a junior at the JSHS. She is a teammate on the girls' soccer and lacrosse teams and is a committed member of the Environmental Club, Service Club, Model United Nations Club, Mini-THON, and student tutoring group at Wyomissing Area. In the classroom, Emma strives for academic and personal excellence and loves to push herself to new limits. In her free time, she enjoys volunteering throughout the community and spending time with loved ones. After high school, she plans to attend college on a pre-law or business track and plans to use the skills from this student internship to guide her along the way. Emma values hard work in school and life but embraces the importance of excitement and fun even more. Emma is excited about working as a student intern for Wyomissing Area this year!

**Grace Diehl** is a senior at Wyomissing Area JSHS. She loves to read, write, draw, sing, and play piano and ukulele. Her interests are reflected in the activities she participates in at school including participating as a member of the Wyomissing Area Drama Club, serving as co-editor for the school yearbook, and serving as President of the school newspaper. Grace is also a member of our school's chorus and choral small group. Outside of school, she is involved with her church's youth group in many ways including volunteering at both Opportunity House and Safe Berks. Grace also volunteers at the Wyomissing Public Library and holds a leadership position there as the Secretary of the library's Teen Advisory Board. In the future, Grace would love to pursue a career in the English field. Her path may include becoming a high school English teacher or professor of literature at the college level or pursuing the idea of starting her own business or working to publish her own book.

**Julia Gehris**, a senior, is excited to reach her senior year after attending Wyomissing Area since kindergarten. She is actively involved with the school community, participating in volleyball from grades 7 through 11, as well as participating in

Environmental Club, Mini-THON, Peer Mediation, WAEF, and Ski Club. Julia was also recognized as a member of the National Honors Society during her junior year and joined the Senior High Student Council for her junior and senior years as well. She gives back to the community by volunteering with VoiceUp Berks to benefit the lives of those who lack the opportunities and privileges they need to live successfully. Some of Julia's favorite hobbies include spending time with her closest friends and family, going on walks with her dogs, and watching her favorite movies and TV shows. She is gearing up for her senior year and is ready to tackle what is to come!

**Sara Steber** is a current senior at Wyomissing Area JSHS. In school, she is involved in a wide variety of clubs; from Theater to Golf to Model UN to Quiz Bowl, she can be found almost anywhere. She is passionate about writing and excited to be publishing articles and reporting on the District for the second year in a row. Though she is unsure of where she will end up for college, Sara is planning on studying History and Philosophy to become a college professor or litigator.



**Ms. Meghan Tierney** is the mathematics Department Chair at the Junior-Senior High School in her seventh year in the Wyomissing Area School District. She received her bachelor's degree from Albright College and earned a master's degree in Teacher Leadership through the University of Delaware. Currently, she is pursuing a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction Supervision at Gwynedd Mercy University. In addition to her role as a classroom teacher, she advises the High School Student Council, and the Model UN Club, and serves as the Communications Coordinator for the school district. Meghan really enjoys the opportunities she has to work with students both in and out of the classroom and loves being a Spartan. Outside of school, Meghan enjoys spending time at the beach and being with family and friends.

**Connect With Us**



Wyomissing Area School District

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)



