



Wyomissing Area Earns College Board's AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award



Even during the trying times of the current pandemic, the Wyomissing Area School District continues to shine bright. It has been announced by the College Board that the Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School has earned the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award!

The College Board acknowledges 1,119 schools for their work toward equal gender representation during the 2019-20 school year, emphasizing the expansion of young women's access to AP Computer Science A. Wyomissing Area was one of 232 schools recognized for achieving this result in APCSA. We are so proud of our teachers for engaging more female students in computer science, as well as those female students who work hard every day in their studies to prove that gender does not determine one's capabilities.

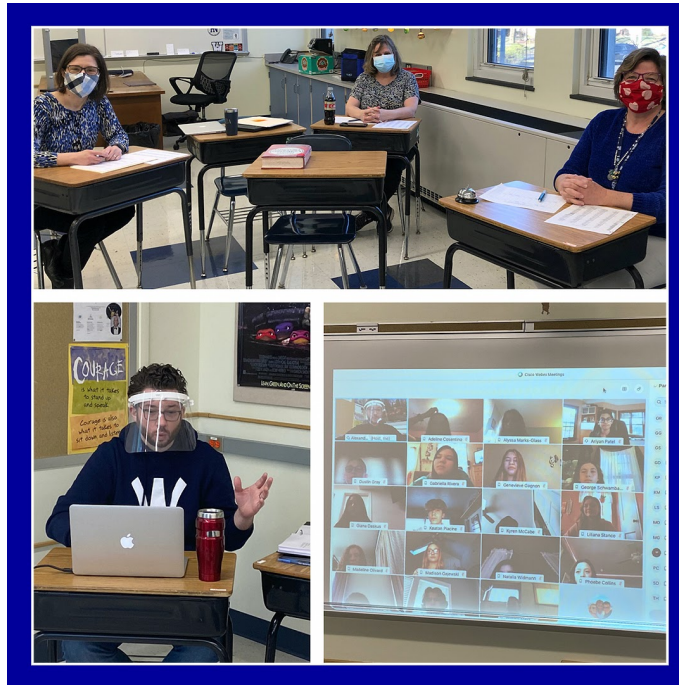
Historically, Wyomissing Area students have been introduced to computer technology courses early in their education, beginning mostly as required courses that teach how to type and other key technology skills and develop into electives that students may select to explore further interests. Mr. Miller, AP Computer Science Principles teacher, explains that a goal within the Computer Science department is to advertise the courses as best as possible to create a sense of "inclusivity and diversity" among the students.

Former AP Computer Science Principles student, Ava Gehman, explains that she felt as if "everyone had the same opportunities to make new and interesting applications in class," always leaving her feeling included and wanted as much as anyone else. Knowing this, it is fair to say that Wyomissing Area has done an excellent job advertising its computer science

courses in a way that draws the attention of all students, as well as creating a safe, welcoming environment, regardless of gender.

The receipt of this award given by the College Board is an honor that strongly demonstrates the exceptional capabilities of both our students and staff, and we wish to offer them our congratulations. Wyomissing Area continues to strive to go above and beyond and is deserving of the recognition received.

The Junior High Spelling Bee



The 41st Wyomissing Area Junior High Spelling Bee took place on Wednesday, January 20th. This was Wyomissing Area's first virtual Spelling Bee! Nineteen students in grades seven and eight participated this year, and eighth-grade student Samantha Dasika won the competition after fourteen rounds. Samantha will now go on to represent Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School in the 1st Annual PSEA NER-Council IV Regional Spelling Bee, which will take place on Sunday, March 7th. Mrs. Mangold and Mrs. Duquette organized this event and were supported by moderator Mr. Krick and judges, Mrs. Weaver, Mrs. Balatgek, and Mrs. Barletta. Thank you to all the staff involved and the students who participated! We wish you well at the Regional Spelling Bee, Samantha!

Wyomissing Area Service Club Promotes Annual Blood Drive

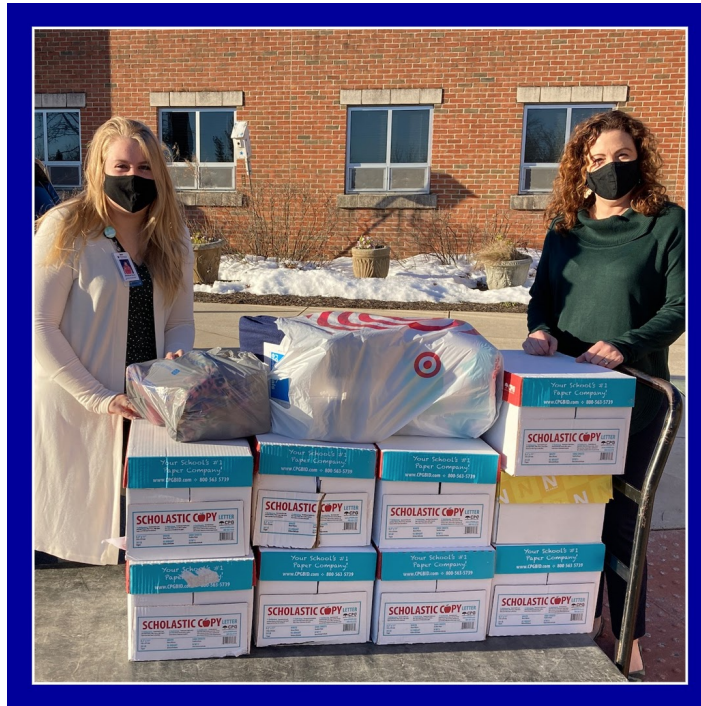
The Wyomissing Area Blood Drive has always been a special event for the High School Service Club and fellow volunteers. In past years, Mrs. Regina Barletta, the advisor of the High School Service Club, would work alongside the club's students and representatives from the Miller-Keystone Blood Center to organize, advertise, and volunteer with the blood drive. Past years' blood drives were always very successful, usually receiving 25 or more pints of blood, and the success of the blood drive would be celebrated by Service Club members and the entire school! Knowing their blood was going to save people's lives, the student and faculty donors were always astounded with the success of the drive and excited to contribute. Although the 2021 Blood Drive had to look very different from past years, Mrs. Barletta and the Service Club were sure to continue to provide blood donation opportunities to our community to help those in need!

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the blood drive this year could not be held at the Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School. Instead, the drive was held at the Miller-Keystone Blood Center and donors scheduled an appointment to donate. To accommodate appointments and social distancing, the blood drive was held on three different days: January 28th, 29th, and 30th. Despite the change in format and fewer donors than previous years, the 2021 Blood Drive still had a positive impact on our community.

Mrs. Barletta explained that the donated blood is used at several hospitals that help with accident victims, cancer patients, and all surgeries. Although the 2021 Blood Drive was affected by COVID-19, it is an incredible representation of Wyomissing Area's ability to overcome the struggles of the pandemic and shows that our community can continue to help others. As long as we can donate any amount of blood to hospitals and medical centers, our community continues to save lives. Understanding the importance of community and perseverance, Mrs. Barletta concludes, "What I like most about the drive here is that it introduces students to blood donation when they are young so that maybe they will continue to donate the rest of their lives. They understand the importance of a community being able to help each other, literally saving each other's lives." Not only can we thank donors, volunteers, and Miller-Keystone Blood Center workers, but we should give thanks to Mrs. Regina Barletta and our Service Club for organizing this year's blood drive. Mrs. Barletta and the Service Club continue to provide and serve our community through thick and thin and inspire Wyomissing Area's students, staff, and community members to behave selflessly, giving back to the community and always spreading kindness.



Cozy Kids Drive



From January 25 to February 26, WHEC collected donations for the Bethany Children's Home located in Womelsdorf, PA. This drive was organized by Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Caldwell. To go along with the theme of Valentine's Day, comfy and cozy items were requested. Students dropped off items such as coats, gloves, towels, sweatshirts, pajamas, hot chocolate, blankets, stuffed animals, and more! Thank you to everyone who contributed! The organization was very grateful for the boxes of items WHEC collected. We are so proud of our Spartan community for helping others in need.

WHEC Students Explore Entrepreneurship

Fourth grade is exploring Entrepreneurship, one of the Career Education and Work Standards, in STEAM with Dr. Wengerd. Students first have the opportunity to meet with a virtual guest presenter who is an entrepreneur and also a WHEC staff member! Then, WASD student entrepreneur Asher Botvin shares his experiences with students! After hearing about entrepreneurship from these two presenters, our fourth-grade students are tasked with developing their own business plan for a business they'd like to start as an entrepreneur. The plan must include their business idea, whether it is a good or a service, and how it is unique. Then, students must research the cost of materials in order to determine how much they would charge for their goods or service to explore the concept of profit. Last, the students need to think about the risks involved in starting a business as well as the rewards. The students have been really excited to share their interests and ideas in their business plans. We definitely have some emerging entrepreneurs at the Hills!

Special Spartan Accomplishment: Emma Seley



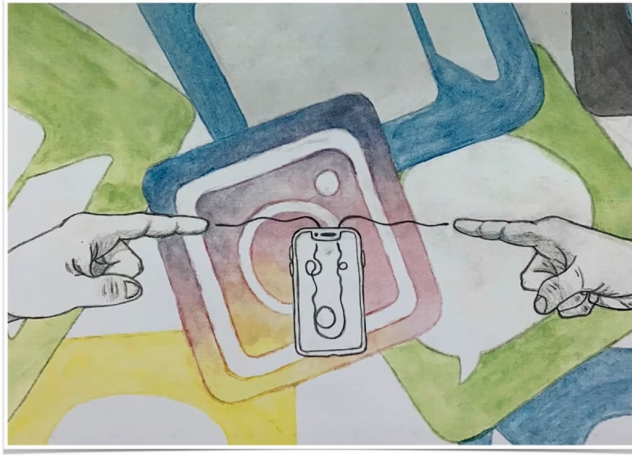
Emma is pictured here with a resident of a children's home in Tamarang, Nepal, at which she worked during a National Geographic student expedition in July 2019

Spartan junior Emma Seley has accomplished what many writers and students double her age dream of; one of her poems was published in a journal by Yale University. Emma's poem, "A Clear Shade of Color", was inspired by an assignment in her English class prompting the students to incorporate colors into literature. Emma chose to personalize the poem and make it her own as a form of self-expression. Once finished, Emma and her family decided to reach out to a friend who is a professor at Yale University. Upon reading the poem the professor knew that the piece deserved to be shared and chose to contact the editor of The Journey of the Universe blog. When asked about her use of literature and writing as an outlet for self-expression, Emma responded "I genuinely take pride in my self-expression because it's what makes me, me!" The Wyomissing Area community is extremely proud of our fellow Spartan and her accomplishments. If you would like to read more about Emma and her poem use [this link](#) to access her addition of The Journey of the Universe blog.

Special Spartan Accomplishment: Emerson Piacine



BCIU Student Artwork Showcase
Berks County Intermediate Unit
an educational service agency



EMMERSON PIACINE
WYOMISSING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

This year, Wyomissing Area senior Emmerson Piacine received first place in the BCIU's annual student artwork showcase. This BCIU award is given to one student from each school in Berks County and each student's chosen piece is displayed in the BCIU office board room for the year. Emmerson and other recipients were able to participate in a virtual ceremony to recognize the students and display all the pieces that were selected. Communications intern Sara Steber spoke with Emmerson about this special recognition, and her thoughtful responses are below.

What piece did you submit to the showcase?

My artwork for the BCIU's annual showcase was a watercolor, watercolor colored pencil, and graphite piece that was about 7"x11". It featured two pointing hands on either side which were connected by a fluid line that dipped into a drawn phone positioned in the center. The background consisted of a variety of watercolor phone app icons, all positioned so that they overlapped and complemented each other through color and layout.

What was your inspiration for the piece?

Each year for the BCIU showcase, they have a different theme that all the submitted artworks must be inspired by. The theme this year was "Keeping Connected", and they wanted students to focus on how they personally kept connected during this year despite the added difficulty of the pandemic. I chose to use watercolor and watercolor colored pencil because I believe it is one of my best mediums and I wanted to be able to showcase that in my work. I chose to focus on connection through social media, specifically the social media apps I use daily, because during the pandemic that was really the only way I was able to connect with both local friends and those who live farther away. I took some inspiration from Michelangelo's "The Creation of Adam" piece for the concept of the hands and how I was going to represent the connection between the two.

How did you get into art?

I have always been really involved in art since both of my parents do art either as a hobby or use it in their professions, but I think I really got into art after being exposed to it throughout elementary and middle school. I loved having art as a part of my school day, so once I got to the high school level I wanted to continue to learn new things and expand my skills by joining year-long art classes.

What has your experience with the Wyomissing Art Department been like?

The Wyomissing Area Art Department has provided me with the opportunity to get exposure in a variety of public and juried art shows, such as shows at the GoggleWorks, the Yocum Institute, and other organizations around the area. My art career

at Wyomissing Area has consisted of Honors Art and other year-long courses that incorporate art history and a variety of techniques and mediums in their curriculum. Through these courses, I have gotten exposure to art history ranging from Greek art and Dada art, and have gotten the opportunity to try new mediums, such as making batik pillows or weaving baskets. I think these general courses are my favorite, even though they require a little more effort, because they give you the opportunity to develop your artistic skills in a variety of mediums and give students a little more freedom when it comes to assignments.

In addition to receiving this award, Emmerson has also had two pieces selected to be a part of The Yocum Institute's juried student art show, as well as winning 1st place in the YWCA Tri-County Area's Week Without Violence Art Contest. While she does not plan to pursue art as a career, she enjoys it as a hobby and creative outlet. Emmerson will be majoring in Animal Science on a pre-vet track – she is currently President of the ZooCREW program at the Philadelphia Zoo. Congratulations to Emmerson and all the other recipients of this special recognition!

Wyomissing Area Teachers Make National Impact

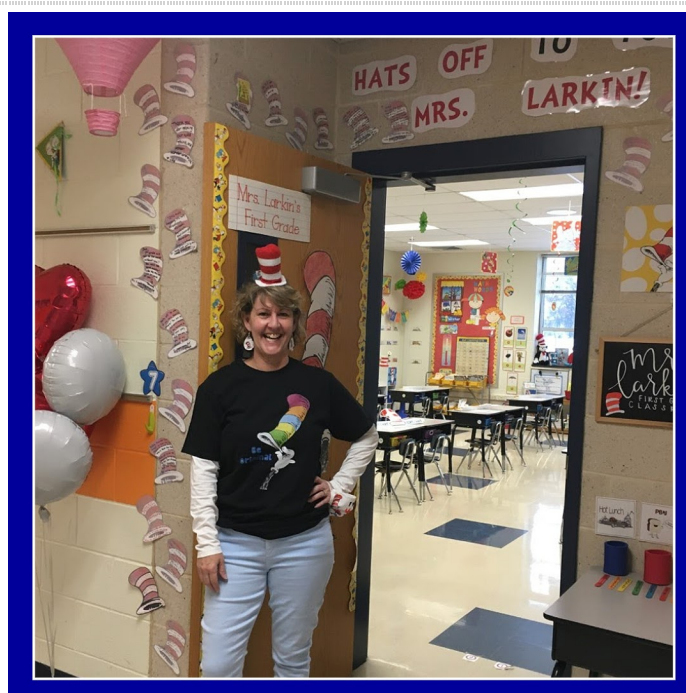
The National Math and Science Initiative works across the United States to spread the influence and availability of STEM education, and thanks to four Wyomissing Area High School teachers, NMSI's mission and outlook are spreading throughout our own school. A few years ago, Mr. William Dramby, Mr. Timothy Hetrich, Ms. Meghan Tierney, and Mr. Erik Uliasz discovered NMSI and were intrigued by the opportunities and programs they offered. Mr. Hetrich first became interested in NMSI when he reached out to the organization in 2013 with the goal of expanding beyond STEM and into social studies. The organization ended up reaching out to Mr. Hetrich after noticing Wyomissing Area's consistently high scores in his class, AP United States History. When asked what intrigued him about the organization, Mr. Hetrich responded, "I was drawn to NMSI's missions of bringing high-level and challenging instructions and materials to very diverse and economically disadvantaged schools."

Mr. Hetrich's involvement with NMSI paved the way for the other Wyomissing Area teachers to join the program and to help other students across the country. AP World History teacher Mr. William Dramby took this opportunity to spread his broad understanding of world history and excellent teaching skills with the less fortunate students in New York City. Many of the schools Mr. Dramby would visit in NYC were underfunded and the teachers were not given proper training before NMSI's involvement. Other Wyomissing Area teachers, Ms. Meghan Tierney and Mr. Erik Uliasz, soon followed and began to work in different school districts throughout the various boroughs of New York City as well, supporting students and teachers in their AP specialty areas. Unfortunately, like many aspects of life, NMSI and the 2020-21 school year faced new and unfamiliar obstacles once the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Many schools located in large cities like New York City have not been in the classroom since the pandemic-caused school closures; however, with the help of NMSI's teacher coaches, the organization was able to create online and virtual learning opportunities for these students, which our Spartan teachers continue to support.

Not only has NMSI helped our extraordinary Wyomissing Area teachers to share their skills and knowledge with a wide range of students, but it has also helped them in the classrooms of Wyomissing Area High School. AP Statistics teacher, Ms. Tierney, has used the connections from NMSI to research and create effective techniques to adapt to the unique circumstances of the year while continuing to provide students with an in-depth and proper education. Mr. Dramby has also gotten inspiration from NMSI for activities within his own classroom to help Wyomissing Area students gain a better understanding of their AP World curriculum. Teaching students from all over the country and working with the amazing professional learning community that our Wyomissing Area teachers have joined through their work with NMSI has

encouraged these teachers to try new techniques and develop student-centered lessons, all of which make them better teachers in their classrooms for our Spartans. It is a skill that takes practice to make high-level content attainable for students at a variety of levels, and this is a mission that these teachers are invested in. The involvement of our teachers in the NMSI program has not only spread the excellent education Wyomissing Area has to offer to other regions of the country but has also helped the Wyomissing Area teachers and students in our own classrooms by expanding on teacher's experiences, connecting them with other innovative educators, and putting innovative instruction and content development at the forefront of their minds.

Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center Celebrates Read Across America Week



Launched in 1998 by the National Education Association, Read Across America is the nation's largest celebration of reading. This program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources that focus on inclusivity. This week, and specifically Read Across America Day, which was celebrated on March 2, 2021, is dedicated to the love of reading and all things Dr. Seuss, a long-time Read Across America icon. When we think of Dr. Seuss at the Hills, we think of Mrs. Larkin! This year, "Dr. Seuss Week" is bittersweet for Mrs. Larkin, as she approaches her retirement at the end of the year. We celebrate Mrs. Larkin as she has made this week memorable for both students and staff alike throughout her many years here at WHEC! Hats off to you, Mrs. Larkin, and happy Read Across America week! We thank all of our teachers at WHEC for working to instill a love of reading in our Spartans and for making this a fun and special week.

The Wyomissing Area Education Foundation



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

Attention WASD faculty, staff, and the Class of 2021:

Scholarship applications are available on WAEF's website! The deadline to apply is March 5, 2021, at 11:59 pm. 18 different scholarships are available, several of which are awarded to multiple recipients.

In addition to the scholarships available to the Class of 2021, this year WAEF is offering TWO scholarships specifically for adult learners re-entering education. Here is the link: [_https://www.wyoarea-foundation.org/2020-2021-scholarship-applications](https://www.wyoarea-foundation.org/2020-2021-scholarship-applications)

Please email aknopsnyer@wyoarea.org or 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. **Giving Hope** books supplied to each WHEC classroom plus additional copies for guidance and the library - to help students with Social-Emotional Learning.
2. **Student Leadership Conference** for a 6th-grade student
3. **Table Tennis Robot** for JSHS - advanced robotics technology while providing opportunities for all students in Physical Education classes
4. **Supplies for BCTC student** to be able to participate in her courses

If you are a teacher or administrator in the WASD and would like to apply for a grant, please visit <https://www.wyoarea-foundation.org/grants>. Our Grants Committee reviews applications monthly. If you have any questions, please email mmurrill@wyoarea.org.

WAEF is proud to be able to enhance educational opportunities for students in 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

Wyomissing Area Education Foundation is pleased to announce the

2021
Blue & White Party
Saturday 5.8.2021
on the Grounds of the Reading Public Museum
Online Auction – prior to the event

WAEF's event committee is beginning to plan our 2021 fundraiser with the hopes of holding an in-person event on 5/8/2021 in the tent on the grounds of the Reading Public Museum. An online auction will run from 5/3 to 5/8/2021, and if circumstances related to COVID restrictions prevent us from being able to hold our in-person event, our online auction will then take its place entirely, as was the case last year. This event directly supports grants in our schools and is our largest fundraiser each year!

If you would like to support this important fundraising event as a Sponsor, Donor, or Volunteer, please contact Molly McCullough Murrill at mmurrill@wyoarea.org. Here is the link to the event info: <https://www.wyoarea-foundation.org/2021-blue-white-party>.

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.

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