



WYOMISSING AREA

SPARTAN
SCOOP
online

Inspiring Excellence, One Spartan at a Time!

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!





Top photo: Valedictorian Elizabeth Harenza addresses the Class of 2022. Bottom photo: Seniors celebrate their graduation with the traditional tossing of their caps. Photo Credit: Phil Marabella. Additional photos from graduation are available for purchase here:

<https://www.philmaphotos.com/Wyomissing-Graduation-2022/Graduation-Ceremony/>

The Wyomissing Area School District celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2022 at their graduation ceremony on June 3, held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. The one hundred forty-seven students that make up the Class of 2022 have grown into leaders and role models in their six years as students at the Jr. Sr. High School and have navigated new challenges and unprecedented circumstances with grit, perseverance, and compassion. As they embark on the next chapter of their journeys, each of them should be proud of what they have accomplished. Soon, this special group of Spartans will be spread out all over the country and world in places like New York City; Miami, Florida; Boston, Massachusetts; Los Angeles, California, and many more. We are excited for the students who will continue their education or enter the workforce after graduation. Each of these paths will be filled with new opportunities and we hope that the lessons learned and relationships built at Wyomissing Area have set each Spartan up for success as they continue to shape their futures. Once a Spartan, always a Spartan. Congratulations, Class of 2022. We are very proud of you!

Teacher Appreciation Week 2022



In early May, teachers and staff members across the District were celebrated as part of Teacher Appreciation Week. Our PTA planned a special week full of treats and small gifts of thanks to let our teachers and staff members know how much we appreciate all they do for our school community. Thank you to the PTA for your efforts in planning this week for our teachers, and thank you to all of our faculty and staff for your dedication to the success of our students.

Spartan Musicians and Music in our Schools



Many Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School students gained recognition for their musical accolades vocally and instrumentally this year, earning positions in various select groups. Congratulations to these students!

In addition, the Music in our Schools tradition continued this year with a video performance highlighting the musical talents of students, families, and employees. You can access this year's video [here](#).

Wyomissing Area Participates in Model Senate



Students in Mr. Kersikoski's AP United States Government and Politics class were given the opportunity to join Senator Judith Schwank on the floor of the Senate in Harrisburg to brainstorm and produce bills as "Model Senators". Juniors Olivia Tipton, Cadence Hoke, Nate Torres, and Ian Levering participated in the program during which they were assigned parties and committees, such as education, workforce, and medicine. Similar to Model United Nations, these students were asked to act like senators, sitting in on committees and caucus meetings, along with electing a governor. Governmental lobbyists and experts from Harrisburg sat in on these sessions and answered questions for our mock senators enriching the learning experience. Working with many other students from around the county, our Wyomissing Area

students learned about the process of amending and changing bills to make them more beneficial after participating in the debate.

Following the initial meetings and preparation, our students were geared up with information about making and signing legislation and were ready to take it to the capital, Harrisburg. Senator Schwank provided students with a tour of the capitol building during which our Spartans bumped into Lieutenant Governor John Federman who welcomed them and answered additional questions. Following these introductions, the students were then brought to the floor of the senate to sit in the balconies. Our students proudly and confidently argued and voted on their bills as if they were being processed through the Senate. This being Wyomissing Area's first time participating in Model Senate, Mr. K is hoping to keep joining, if invited, to provide this opportunity for more of his students.

Students at WREC Create Student Newspaper





Students at the West Reading Elementary Center have been working on service projects all year. In the beginning of the year, students Anthony DeNada, Andrew Boeger, and Max Strock wanted to find a service project that would benefit the community. After a lot of consideration, they had decided that a bench to play outside of the school was the best option. Before deciding on the bench itself, the students worked to brainstorm fundraising ideas to cover the cost. After brainstorming many options, the students reached out to WAEF to pursue a grant to fund the new bench. The students, along with the help of Mrs. Easteadt, filled out the grant application and pitched their idea to the WAEF committee, who then approved the grant allowing the students to continue with the service project. Students researched what kind of bench to get, specific pricing, and how to make a plaque for the bench thanking WAEF for their generosity. When the bench arrived the students helped to assemble it and had the opportunity to visit the STEAM labs at the high school to laser print the plaque. Thank you to WAEF for working with our students and thank you to the WREC students for your community service work!

Spartan Service Project at WHEC



Fourth-grade students at WHEC worked throughout the months of March and April to provide for an organization in need. Spartan Melanie Leshner is extremely passionate about dogs, especially after adopting her own dog from To Love A Canine Rescue. She became interested in learning more about the organization and the process of rescuing dogs after experiencing it herself. Melanie also was interested in learning ways to help the adoption league and the dogs that are housed there. After conducting research with the help of her family and teachers, Melanie was able to compile a list of the needs of To Love A Canine Rescue to determine how to help in the most effective way. After careful work on her own, Melanie found another student in fourth grade who shared the same interest and passion for animals, especially dogs and partnered with Kayla Moore for the next phase of the process. The two students decided that the most effective way to help the league would be to have a two-week-long donation drive at WHEC. To maximize their efforts in collecting donations, Melanie and Kayla worked together to create posters to hang throughout the school, decorated donation boxes, kept inventory of the donations, and shared facts each day on the morning announcements to remind the students and staff in the building why they were participating in the drive. Families, students, and staff throughout the building were able to collect over three large bins of items to donate. Some of the collected items included: dog food, treats, toys, leashes, and cleaning supplies. Melanie and Kayla were able to learn a lot through their service project efforts such as organization, advertising, bravery, and determination. To Love A Canine Rescue was overjoyed with the number of donations the students at WHEC were able to collect and were extremely grateful for the girls' effort. Thank you to all who donated and a special thank you to Melanie and Kayla for organizing such a meaningful and successful project for the school!

International Opportunities with Mrs. Gibson's Fourth-Grade Class

Fourth-grade students in Mrs. Gibson's class read a book called Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes. The book tells the story of a girl named Sadako Sasaki, who was two years old when the United States dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima. As a result of the radiation from the bomb, she developed leukemia and died when she was 12 years old. The Children's Peace Monument was built in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in honor of Sadako and others who died as a result of the atom bomb.

In Japan, there is a legend that anyone who folds 1,000 origami cranes will be granted a wish. Before her death, Sadako folded over 1,000 cranes in the hopes that she would get better. Today, people from all over the world send strings of 1,000 cranes to be placed in Peace Park at the Children's Peace Monument. Students in Mrs. Gibson's class decided to fold 1,000 cranes of their own to send to Japan as a wish for peace, and mailed their cranes to Chinobu Takami, the vice principal at Hiroshima Jogakuin Senior High School. The students in Japan took the cranes to Peace Park on our behalf. Our Spartans also decided to participate in the Peace Crane Project (peacecraneproject.org) during which they each signed a pledge for peace and folded an origami crane with messages of peace on its wings, which they sent, along with some information about themselves, to a class of third-graders at Nicolae Iorga School in Romania. The students in Romania also sent our Spartans cranes and some information about themselves in return.

Finally, as a culmination to the book and a celebration of their hard work folding cranes, Mrs. Gibson set up a Japanese restaurant for the students, where they were able to sample some of Sadako's favorite foods: miso soup, chicken and rice, an egg roll, and bean cakes, along with tea. This special project provided students an opportunity to connect with other leaders around the world to expand their study of important themes.

Read Across America

Students at WHEC met the goal of their reading challenge! The school-wide goal was to collectively read 248,000 minutes during the month of March and THEY DID IT! To celebrate their success and dedication to reading, they voted on a reward and sent Mrs. DeRenzo and Dr. K to the roof for the day! Congratulations to our Spartans for rising to the challenge and thank you to our teachers who encourage our students to read!

Wyomissing Area Drama Club Presents *Beauty and the Beast*!



Members of the Drama Club brought a fan-favorite story to life through this year's production of *Beauty and the Beast*. *Beauty and the Beast* tells the story of looking past one's physical characteristics and truly getting to know and trust someone based on their character. The production highlighted the abilities of our drama students and presented a night full of singing, dancing, and amazing acting. The cast and crew ranged from first-time Drama Club members to well-seasoned seniors who led the group to yet another successful Wyomissing Area Drama production. The play was directed by Wyomissing Area teacher Mr. Alexander Krick whose passion for the arts was well seen through the passion of the students on stage. A few key leaders of the show reflected on this journey as a drama family:

Evie (Bell): "I have never really been in a show yet so this is my first big moment and it has been really exciting. Everyone has put in a lot of hard work and it has been amazing...I don't want it to end."

Alex (Cogsworth): "A really nice senior show to end on and it has been very inclusive. Everyone is doing amazing...singing, dancing, cast, really everyone."

Upon being asked how close they all have to be in order to put on a performance of this measure: Maggie (Madam De La Grande Bouche - wardrobe): "We call it a drama family for a reason."

Jeilyn (Mrs. Potts): "We have the best cast to do this show, this is a really strong cast."

The group then shared their appreciation for director Mr. Krick, and shared that he is, "more than just a director" and had no less than extreme appreciation for all he does.

Mr. Krick (Director): "I am super proud of them, and I love what I do."

Scholarship Finalists



Earlier this year, we were proud to announce that Brooke Schaeffer, Ananya Rai, Yuan Yu Chen, and Elizabeth Harenza were selected as National Merit Semifinalists based on their performance on the PSAT. It is now our pleasure to announce that all four outstanding members of The Class of 2022 have been selected as National Merit Finalists. This

scholarship program is extremely competitive and earning this recognition is an honor well-deserved by this talented, ambitious group of students. Congratulations!



In addition to the National Merit Scholarship Program, the College Board oversees numerous other National Recognition Programs. This year, senior Charlotte Lazarchick-Oberti received the National Hispanic Scholars Award for her scholastic achievement. Congratulations!

Senior Day 2022





The Wyomissing Area Education Foundation sponsored “Senior Day” was a great success this year, full of special events to celebrate the milestone achievement of our senior class. The day began with a senior breakfast where seniors had the time to enjoy a meal with their classmates, followed by the distribution of caps and gowns and a class photo. Our seniors visited Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center where their time as Spartans began and were able to see their old teachers and reminisce on memories from their youth as students from the elementary school lined the halls and held up posters in congratulations. The Senior Walk progressed to West Reading Elementary Center to again look back on their time as a middle schooler and to reflect on just how far they have come. Upon returning to the high school, seniors enjoyed lunch and yard games together organized by the WAEF student committee. The day concluded with the Academic Awards Assembly which recognized students for their many achievements. Thank you to the Wyomissing Area Education Foundation for providing this event and sending our seniors off with such a special celebration.

Spartan Retirements



Mr. Comerford

When most Wyomissing Area students are asked about Mr. Comerford, their first comments are typically along the lines of “Mr. Comerford made me the writer I am today” or “I only understand grammar because of Mr. Comerford”; however, Mr. James Comerford’s impact as a teacher in, and outside of, the Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School transcends writing and grammar. Mr. Comerford has been a teacher for twenty-seven years, twenty of which were at Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School and teaching have been Mr. Comerford’s most rewarding career. Countless students have been lucky enough to have him as a teacher and to grow as individuals both academically and personally because of his influence.

In retirement, Mr. Comerford will miss conversing with the variety of young adults within the high school about the different books they are reading and, of course, his amazing colleagues. Some of his favorite memories include the conversations between himself and fellow teacher Mrs. Landrum, in addition to the quiz bowl van rides during the 2014-2015 season.

As he enters a new time period in his life, Mr. Comerford wants to remind the students who are also entering new periods to always look people in the eye, shake hands firmly, listen more than you speak, and always underpromise yet overperform. As Mr. Comerford enters retirement, he looks forward to walks every day with his dog, spending more time in NYC, and

no longer waking up at 3 am every morning. We at Wyomissing Area will greatly miss Mr. Comerford and we wish him the best of luck and happiness in retirement!

Mrs. Filippini

Mrs. Michelle Filippini has worked for the Wyomissing Area School District for the past twenty-three years teaching a variety of science courses for students in grades 8-12, in the area of chemistry. She is a resident of the district with her husband, son, and cavalier King Charles spaniel, Finn. Her son, Ryan, is a member of The Class of 2022. In addition to her son, she has a daughter who lives in Tampa, a stepson who lives in New York City, and a stepdaughter who attends college towards Pittsburgh. Mrs. Filippini's favorite part of working at Wyomissing Area is the connection she makes with her students. She tries to build relationships first before teaching content. In addition, Mrs. Filippini shared that she is honored to work with so many talented teachers who give many hours outside of school to ensure Wyomissing Area students receive an enriching learning environment.

Some of Mrs. Filippini's favorite memories include the ice cream activity she completes with her students at the end of the school year and the many lab activities throughout the year. She will truly miss the interactions with her students who are constantly keeping her young at heart.

While Mrs. Filippini is retiring from classroom teaching, she is shifting gears back into corporate training and development which she has done in the past. Before working at Wyomissing Area, she worked as an environmental engineer and a regulatory compliance trainer and is looking forward to transferring her skill set back to the adult audience. With this new career path comes a move to Florida in June to be closer to her daughter just before her daughter's wedding. Mrs. Filippini said, "I can't wait to bask in the Florida sunshine and relax - something I truly need." Congratulations on your retirement from public education, Mrs. Filippini. We wish you luck and thank you for your years of service to our school community.

Mr. Kozlowski

"Mr. Koz" has been a beloved member of the Wyomissing Hills community for over 17 years. Mr. Koz has an innate ability to connect with kids in a way that draws them out and makes them feel like they are valued and important. His dedication to his students goes well beyond the typical classroom day. It would not be unusual to see Mr. Koz out in the community at both sporting events and dance recitals. "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." This quote by Maya Angelou

truly represents the lasting impression he has made on each one of his students. His students will always remember his positive influence for years to come.

We asked some of Mr. Koz's students to share what they appreciated most about having him as a teacher.

"I love how we learned with him. He really helped me understand what we learned." – Riley

"It was a learning party!" -Landon

"He was so kind to us and he tried his best to give us gifts and make us learn." -Ayaat

"He spoiled us! He was one of my favorites because we made a lot of games from what we were learning." – Deanalyse

Congratulations on your retirement, Mr. Kozlowski! We wish you all the best.

Mrs. Metzger

Mrs. Danielle Metzger started with the Wyomissing Area School District 22 years ago. Over the course of these years, she has shown her dedication to the students and residents of the District in innumerable ways. While Mrs. Metzger has worked with children at all grade levels at Wyomissing Area, her role as a dedicated third-grade teacher is the one she has embraced the longest. As a resident of Wyomissing, she has long been recognized as a leader amongst not only her peers but in the community as well. Mrs. Metzger brings learning to life by engaging her students in meaningful ways. She has loved watching her students blossom and grow throughout each year, as well as developing students' comprehension skills, teaching multiplication and division, and Pennsylvania history. She is honored to have worked with her coworkers at the Elementary Center, and to have had the opportunity to impact their lives, as well as the lives of parents and students, is a pleasure she will treasure. Mrs. Metzger is looking forward to having the opportunity to learn new hobbies like fly fishing and beekeeping, and is even considering getting a part-time job as a florist. Thank you and congratulations Mrs. Metzger!

Mrs. Lehr

Mrs. Susan Lehr started working in the high school library part-time in 1993. She recalls working with the librarian to fill all the shelves with books in what was then the brand new library! In 2000 she became the Principal's secretary at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center and has been in that position ever since. A longstanding member of the Wyomissing Area community, Mrs. Lehr and her husband graduated from Wyomissing Area and will

celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary in September. Her son, Kevin, and daughter, Krystle, also graduated from Wyomissing Area.

Mrs. Lehr's favorite part about working for the Wyomissing Area School District has been the wonderful people she has been lucky enough to meet and work with. She recalled so many special memories but shared that most of all she has enjoyed watching the staff grow as people, teachers and parents. Our staff is the best! Those at WHEC share their family photos and events with her and they have laughed and cried together as a school family on many different occasions. It is safe to say that she will miss the people the most as she enters retirement.

In retirement, Mrs. Lehr is looking forward to exercising, walking, painting, and traveling. She notes that "it will be nice not to have to wake up at 4:00 a.m. to fit everything in!" We know how valuable dedicated secretaries are in keeping our school buildings running smoothly and we will miss Mrs. Lehr next year. Thank you for your many years of service to the district. Congratulations on your retirement.

Wyomissing Area Seeking Community Partners for Internship Program



The Wyomissing Area School District is seeking professionals in our community who would be interested in being a mentor for our expanding internship program.

Internships are designed to provide interested WASD 11th and 12th-grade students with professional experience in their future career choice. Internships can be paid or unpaid,

usually consisting of 1-3 hours per day for one semester or the full school year. Our students are expected to participate in activities that will allow them to gain knowledge and skills to equip them for a professional career while assisting their mentor with duties common to your profession.

If you or a colleague are interested in becoming a mentor for our internship program, please contact Dr. Brian Liskey at bliskey@wyoarea.org or call 610-374-0739 ext. 2305.

The Wyomissing Area Education Foundation



WAEF

WYOMISSING AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Enriching Education in the Wyomissing Area School District

WAEF has had a busy spring filled with events! **The Blue & White party** was held on 5/14/2022 at the Neag Planetarium and attended by close to 150 guests. The evening featured raffles, silent auction, live auction with a professional auctioneer, catering by Russo's, music by WAHS students Noah Gibney and Olivia Szor, and the recognition of the 2022 Unsung Heroes: Mary Kelly, Pam Gartner, and Jeff Mazurkiewicz. Proceeds from the event support WAEF and our ability to provide enhanced educational opportunities for students in all three school buildings next year. Thank you to the event chair, Mandy Aulenbach, our entire planning committee, and our generous sponsors, donors, volunteers and enthusiastic auction bidders for making the event a success!

Senior Day was held on 5/19 - this annual event celebrates the graduating class and features a parade of graduates through the elementary buildings followed by a picnic lunch, Mr. Softee ice cream sponsored by the senior gala committee, and yard games provided by parents. Thank you to Amy Combs and Amy Rogers for co-chairing WAEF's Student Committee this year.

The Fire & Ice party is our annual family-friendly fundraiser at Happy Hollow, held on Saturday, June 21st, and attended by more than 150 people. Families enjoyed hot dogs, ice

cream, face painting, balloon art, DJ entertainment, a raffle for a kid's electric Jeep donated by Savage Auto Group, and a visit to a Spring Township fire truck parked close by. We recognized four elementary teachers for their great work: Erin Tyrrell, Erika Homan, Regina Hart, and Robin Kline.

We honored Rachel Kuhn '90 on Monday 5/23 as this year's **Distinguished Alumna** in a small reception in the library. Rachel was recognized for her impressive work in the community, including serving on Wyomissing Area School District's board of directors and the WAEF Board. Immediately after the reception, families and scholarship donors gathered in the auditorium for our annual **Scholarship Ceremony**, where we awarded 23 scholarships totaling \$40,500 to 21 students and 2 adults. We also honored Mr. Timothy Hetrich and Mrs. Joelle Ostrich as this year's WAEF Student Committee teacher honorees.

Congratulations to the Class of 2022! We look forward to continuing the mission of WAEF for the 2022-23 school year. Enjoy your summer!









Link to Blue & White and Fire & Ice party photos: <https://www.wyoarea-foundation.org/photo-albums>

Spartan Sprouts and Kindergarten Orientation



Our first Spartan Sprouts program was held on May 25th for our rising Kindergarten Spartans. Spartan Sprouts is a program designed specifically for incoming Kindergarteners to introduce strategies and activities that can easily be done at home and will help prepare the children for school in the fall. The event includes hands-on activities and a Wyomissing Area swag bag filled with all of the materials and instructions necessary to continue to practice at home.

If your child will be starting Kindergarten this fall, you can join us for the next Spartan Sprouts event on August 4th from 4:30-6:40 by registering at the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0449a4a823a2f94-spartan>

We cannot wait to meet our future Spartans and their families at this fun-filled event! Please contact Dr. Toni Wengerd at twengerd@wyoarea.org with any questions.

Also, mark your calendars for Kindergarten "Meet the Teacher" night. Please join us to meet your teacher, see the classroom, and learn about the first days of school. Only Kindergarten students and their parents are invited to attend this event. We look forward to seeing you then!

Monday, August 29, 2022

5:00- last names A-L

6:00- last names M-Z

About the Authors



As the Wyomissing Area School District continues to develop the Internship Program, we are fortunate to have talented students work with our Communications team to develop the articles you read in each edition of The Spartan Scoop. Our students are driven and predominantly self-guided and have the opportunity to attend district events, visit classrooms and teachers, and share positive experiences and stories about the great work in our district. Passionate students like these are a great addition to our Communications team and developing our social media posts and newsletter stories is a great experience for them.

Emma Care is a senior at Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High school, and is a returning Communication's intern this year. She is a teammate on the girls' soccer and lacrosse team and is a committed member of the environmental club, service club, Model United Nations club, Mini-THON, student tutoring, NHS, and is Chief Editor of the Wyomissing Area High School yearbook The Colophon. In the classroom, Emma strives for academic and personal excellence and loves to push herself to new limits. In Emma's free time, she enjoys volunteering throughout the community and spending time with loved ones. After high school,

Emma will attend Pennsylvania State University to study international business. Emma values hard work in school and life but embraces the importance of excitement and fun even more.

Julian DiMaio is a senior that participates in football, baseball, and wrestling, and is a member of the service club. He will attend Wilkes University after high school to study business management and civil engineering. Julian chose this internship to follow the athletic department more closely and to help recognize the accomplishments of our Spartan athletes.

Olivia Fisher, a senior at Wyomissing Area, enjoys participating on the Wyomissing Area Cross Country team and as a member of the chess club after school. The Communications internship will be an opportunity for her to build skills and experience in public outreach and social media campaigning, as well as online media design and journalism. She hopes to utilize her interests in online video media, SEO, and online algorithms in an exciting way via this program. Olivia is eager to work with the other interns this year and participate in the Communications internship! After graduation, Olivia will attend St. Joseph's University to study economics, political science, and philosophy.

Jabrea Flowers is a senior and is actively involved in our school community. Jabrea serves as the High School Student Council President, a Mini-THON Chairperson, and a Class Officer for the Class of 2022. Additionally, she enjoys participating in the environmental club, service club, the WAEF Student Committee, and serving as a student representative on the Wyomissing Borough Council. Athletically, Jabrea is a member of the soccer team and runs indoor and outdoor track. Jabrea will attend Virginia Tech to study international relations and communications with a minor in sports management. She chose to pursue this internship to learn more about the Communications Department and to develop her professional writing skills. She also looks forward to getting to visit the other school buildings and seeing the other activities that are going on throughout the rest of the district and the community.

Victoria Heliodoro is a senior who enjoys playing basketball and throwing track and field. Being involved at school is something that she loves and she participates in multiple clubs including the Mini-THON committee, environmental club, service club, chorale, Camerata, dance club, Big Spartan Little Spartan, the Gay-Straight Alliance club, and the WAEF Student Committee. Next year Vicky will attend Temple University to study communications. Vicky chose this internship to help strengthen her communication skills as well as the ability to form connections with others and improve her networking skills.

Isabel Marshall is a member of the senior class and is a natural leader. She is a captain of the soccer and lacrosse teams, the Treasurer of the High School Student Council, a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society, Spanish club, and service club. Izzy will attend The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study mathematics and business. She chose this internship because she would like to explore the field of

communications, and practicing interviewing and reporting skills will only help to enhance her confidence, writing capabilities, and experiences in the business world.

Communications Coordinator, Ms. Meghan Tierney



Ms. Meghan Tierney is the mathematics Department Chair at the Jr./Sr. High School in her eighth year in the Wyomissing Area School District. She received her bachelor's degree from Albright College, earned a master's degree in Teacher Leadership through the University of Delaware, and a master's degree in Educational Administration with a focus on Curriculum and Instruction Supervision at Gwynedd Mercy University. In addition to her role as a classroom teacher, she advises the the Model UN Club and the National Honor Society, 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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