



WYOMISSING AREA

SPARTAN
SCOOP
online

Inspiring Excellence, One Spartan at a Time!

Special Spartan Accomplishment: 2021 Pennsylvania High School PE Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Jodi Reardon



In March, Spartan Physical Education teacher Mrs. Jodi Reardon was recognized for her hard work and dedication at the local level representing physical education teachers in Lancaster, Lebanon, and Berks Counties as the regional 2021 High School PE Teacher of the Year. In November, Mrs. Reardon's impact as a teacher was recognized state-wide when she earned recognition as the Pennsylvania High School PE Teacher of the Year. This is a huge accomplishment for Mrs. Reardon and shines a light on the great things our Physical Education Department does for our Spartan students.

Mrs. Reardon and the rest of our Physical Education Department stress the importance of what being physically active can do for someone's overall well-being. She notes "it is great to say that you exercise to be in shape...however, it is important to remember that exercise just doesn't keep you in shape. It boosts your mental health. It improves sleep. It can improve your performance in school." Along with encouraging students to be physically active to improve aspects of their life, many of our physical education teachers also connect with the students on a personal level which allows them to create positive relationships with the students. Mrs. Reardon believes that if a teacher makes the effort to show students that they genuinely care and are interested in their overall success, then students are likely to show the same effort and energy in return when they enter the teacher's classroom. Our physical education teachers have the unique opportunity to teach students year after year and see them grow from seventh grade until graduation. Not many teachers in the building have the opportunity to teach students multiple times and this unique perspective and consistency is valuable for students and promotes long-lasting relationships.

Mrs. Reardon highlighted how the physical education teachers try to find different units that can accommodate all sorts of students and engage them in gym class. The teachers work hard to develop units that will focus on higher cardio games such as ultimate frisbee and tchoukball while incorporating student favorites like pop tennis, pickleball, badminton, and table tennis.

Looking into the future, Mrs. Reardon and her colleagues hope to see some changes in the PE curriculum so they can better cater to students and their needs. In the last two years, the PE program has added a Personal Fitness course which allows students to have a personalized weight room routine and is geared towards personal growth. Mrs. Reardon stated that she would like to see a class that helps students learn how to properly exercise, track fitness goals, and mimic what is seen in a larger fitness center. This would continue expanding the strong PE program Wyomissing Area has and allow the students to be better served.

Our physical education teachers are extremely dedicated and strive to see excellence in the students they serve. Mrs. Reardon and the rest of the PE Department want the students to know that they are what makes the PE program so great. "We wouldn't be able to do the things we do, grow, and offer different units and courses if it weren't for the highly motivated students that go to Wyomissing Area" – Mrs. Jodi Reardon

Thank you to our whole PE department for their hard work and dedication in serving our students, and congratulations to Mrs. Reardon on her excellent accomplishment.



Career Day at the Jr./Sr. High School



The different pathways available for students for life after high school can often be overwhelming. Entering the workforce, attending a trade school or a 4-year institution, or enlisting in the military are all possible options for Wyomissing Area students post-graduation, but how do they know which path is right for them? The Wyomissing Area faculty and staff, along with a team of dedicated volunteers and community partners, work to alleviate this anxiety by coordinating Career Day giving students the chance to learn more about and explore the possible paths available.

To keep the Career Day experience fresh and engaging each year, each grade focuses on different activities and embraces different aspects of post-secondary exploration. Through age-appropriate activities, students are exposed to different careers and their bank of knowledge grows each time they participate in Career Day. Seventh through eleventh-grade students get the chance to choose from a variety of panelists to meet with throughout the course of their day. The panelists range from careers in law enforcement to restaurant management to orthopedic surgeons and more, ensuring students have a vast range of careers to explore. The panelists are selected by a PTA committee and many are Wyomissing Area parents and community members. When reflecting on her career day experience,



Students at the West Reading Elementary Center participated in Red Ribbon Week: a weeklong celebration about making healthy choices and what that looks like for our fifth and sixth grade students. In support of Red Ribbon Week, our WREC students' artistic abilities were highlighted as they decorated teachers' doors and tied red ribbons throughout the halls. Each day the students were tasked to dress according to a certain theme such as putting on their best pair of jeans to prove how "jean-ious" they are for staying away from drugs and alcohol. Each day a drug and alcohol prevention fact was included over the morning announcements as students taught one another the ways to have fun without drugs and the importance of living a drug-free lifestyle. Students were taught and discussed ways to avoid drugs and alcohol while completing activities to develop their collaborative skills with one another.

WREC student Vivian Cohen shared that "for Red Ribbon Week, we stayed after school to decorate and discussed in guidance how to make healthy choices, we made daily announcements about staying drug-free and alcohol-free and we made posters and did skits." Francesca Szor highlighted the week saying "it was really fun because we got to make door decorations which was hands-on and crafty. It was fun working together with friends and making something the whole school could see." Violet Peris shared "the whole school did a spirit week and we wore theme things to raise awareness to not take drugs. There are other ways to have fun. It was cool to see everyone taking part in something." And Melanie Leshner

concludes “we celebrate Red Ribbon Week to remind us to stay drug-free and make good choices.”

We are proud of our Spartans for sharing this important message and thank our WREC faculty and staff for facilitating the important activities during Red Ribbon Week.

WHEC Bus Love Day (*Guest Author Josephine Richter, Grade 4*)





The celebration is called WHEC Bus Love Day and it took place on Friday, October 15th. We celebrated by giving our bus drivers stoplight cookies and homemade cards from students. We did this to show how much we appreciate our bus drivers and show that we know how much they do for us. The head of transportation, Craig Sheetz, was interviewed. He said that we have 43 bus and van drivers. He also said that a good bus driver is someone who cares about kids and safe driving. Mr. Sheetz's favorite part of his job is the students. Our bus drivers are really important to us.

Grade 4 Celebrates Baby Chicks!



Our fourth-grade Spartans participated in the 4-H Embryology Program once again through Penn State University. Each fourth-grade classroom received 12 eggs to incubate. After 21 days, the chicks hatched and the students enjoyed holding and interacting with the chicks in class. Jo-Ann Ketterer with the 4-H program visited the fourth-grade classrooms once each week for four weeks to teach our students more about embryology and agriculture. Hatch day was particularly “egg-citing” for our students!

WREC Participates in "Adopt a Class" Program



Students in Mrs. Kozuch's sixth-grade class have been provided with a new opportunity with the West Reading Police Department. Early in the school year, Chief Granitz reached out about a partnership at WREC in order to create positive interactions and conversations among the WRPD and students and to provide incentives for students for hard work and stellar academic performance. Chief Granitz is providing leadership and guidance in school and throughout the community and the students will partner with the WRPD through different upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Chief Granitz visited the students in class and worked with them to create a goal for them to work toward and an incentive for the end of the program. The students, along with the help of Mrs. Kozuch and Mrs. Eastadt, decided that their goal is to maintain strong attendance because if you aren't in school, you can't learn. By reaching this goal, the students will then be rewarded by participating in a kickball game with the WRPD at WREC.

Along with the goal, Mrs. Kozuch, Mrs. Eastadt, and Chief Granitz created a class mantra for the school year, which is: "I can do hard things." The hope is that this mantra helps motivate students when they face challenges inside and outside of the classroom. To keep this mantra fresh in students' minds, sweatshirts were distributed to the students and read the words, "I Can Do Hard Things" across the front. The students can put these sweatshirts on at any point throughout the day when they feel they need a reminder to keep pushing through. Speaking with two sixth-grade students, the sweatshirts are making a huge difference. Spartan Bre'Yana Durham, says, "When taking a hard test I put it on to avoid second-guessing and when I wear this it makes me believe in myself and makes me feel that I can do anything." Similar to Bre'Yana, another student, Jazlyn Correa says "I feel that anything that's hard can be achieved when wearing my sweatshirt and it makes me feel special."

Creating a positive learning environment is the goal of teachers and leaders throughout the school and community. Thanks to Chief Granitz for coming into the classroom and initiating conversations with the students about positive learning environments and positive community relations. Through the work of this partnership, it is the goal that students can begin to feel safe and confident even in uncomfortable situations.

What's So Cool About Manufacturing?

The Jr./Sr. High School is excited to announce “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing?” (WSCM) is returning as an opportunity for our Spartans this year. This is a Career Awareness Program to help build technical talent and gives students a new perspective on STEM career opportunities that are present at local manufacturing companies. WSCM is a video-based contest where student teams will compete against each other by creating short media stories depicting accurate images of today’s manufacturing. Currently the Jr./Sr. High School is building a team to begin a collaboration with a local manufacturer and this process will continue through February 2022. After the student team training and collaboration, students will begin the video production and outreach component of the project. The final voting for the event takes place in March 2022. The overall goal of WSCM is to create awareness of careers in manufacturing, provide professional development opportunities for teachers, promote potential career opportunities to peers through video messages, create a positive relationship between local manufacturing companies and education, demonstrate a real-world job to students, and provide real-world and hands-on experience in media, marketing & manufacturing industries. We are excited for our Spartans to participate in this valuable experience.

The Annual Pops Concert

In November, the Wyomissing Area Jr./ Sr. High School music department held their first live-audience performance, the Pop’s Concert, since 2019. The purpose of the event, separate from the annual Winter and Spring concerts, is to raise funds for the music department, accepting donations and proceeds to offset performance trips taken every other year. This fall, the department was extremely grateful as the Pop’s Concert raised over \$1,000 to help reduce transportation costs for the student’s upcoming trip to historical Williamsburg, VA in March. The pieces picked for this year’s performance followed the theme of uplifting spirits and connecting as a choir, community, and group of people who are thankful to be together again as a whole.

In addition to the Pop’s Concert performance, Wyomissing Area’s music groups have been sharing their talents all over the county, from performing at the Reading Royals to spreading holiday cheer as the Camerata caroled at the Lighting of the Greens festival and tree lighting in West Reading. The music department was also excited to hold the senior high winter concert where they returned to traditions such as inviting alumni of the choral program to sing along during “Oh Holy Night.” Following the winter concert, keep an eye out for the

Wyomissing Area Musical Association's (WAMA) "Sweet Sunday" event in February. Join the music department as they continue to uplift the community with unity and music.

The Wyomissing Area Drama Club Presents "The Fall Thing"



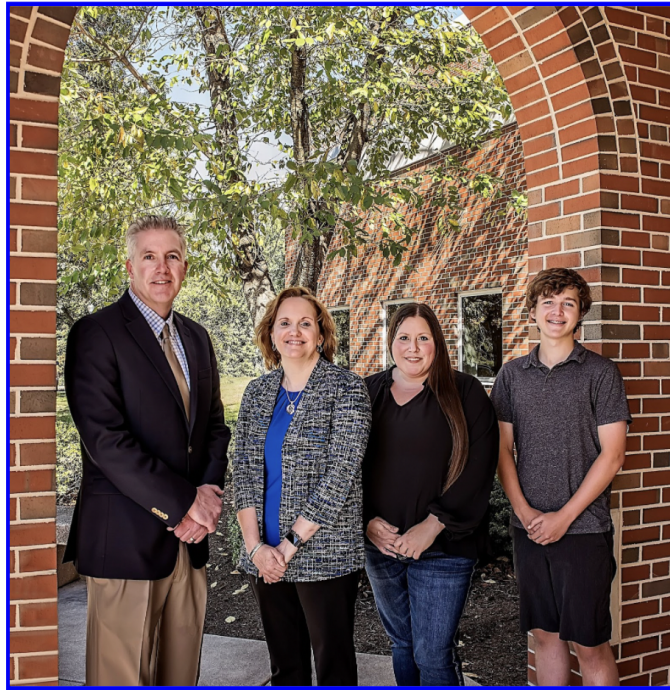
This November, the Drama Club put on their annual musical, "The Fall Thing," which offers creative and unique performances. Mr. Krick, Director of the Drama Club, explains that the theme of this year's performance "focused on our students' return to school from the pandemic and how they united to combat the pressures and perception of society during this time." Senior high students held a role in song selection, artistic direction, and choreography. The show cast students from the district from first grade through seniors performing in solos and duets. According to the President of the Drama Club, Micah Campbell, one notable performance was a musical number to The Temptations' My Girl, featuring prominent solos from senior boys Andres Herrera, Alex Kauffman, Elijah Robertson, Aleko Zeppos, and Micah, himself. In future news for the Drama Club, auditions for the spring play, Beauty and the Beast, are coming up in January. The seniors are excited to leave their legacy in Wyomissing Area's drama club and put on a grand production one last time.

Field Trip to Philadelphia



AP United States History students took a trip to Philadelphia last month to enhance their learning and create a positive learning environment. Students did a walking tour of the city and visited the Liberty Bell building, Independence Hall, Carpenter’s Hall, 1st B.U.S., 2nd B.U.S., Christ Church, the Constitution Center, and the Eastern State Penitentiary. Throughout the walking tour, students stopped to engage in an interactive conversation about each building and discussed the history behind it and how it related to their current class discussions. Small groups of students presented on a variety of topics using their class knowledge and research to educate their classmates more about the buildings right in front of them. The students had a positive educational experience walking and viewing the historical buildings, and also had a fun time stopping for “chocolate breaks” and working on AP writing which allowed them to take their hands-on experience from the day and apply it to their writing. Students discussed their answers in groups which will allow them to continue working on AP stylistic writing. AP US students appreciate Mr. Hetrich for organizing such a wonderful and educational trip that allowed them to learn in a creative way and use different outlets of learning.

Wyomissing Area Community Partners: Esterbrook Pharmacy



Right to left: Robert Scoboria (Wyomissing Area Superintendent), Lorena Lazarchick (Director of Community Life and Engagement, Highlands of Wyomissing), Michelle Esterbrook (Esterbrook Pharmacy), and Micah Campbell (12th grade, Wyomissing Area Student Representative).

Esterbrook Pharmacy has partnered with the Wyomissing Area School District to host numerous COVID-19 vaccine clinics since the vaccines became available. With additional support from the Highlands of Wyomissing for certain clinics, this partnership has provided vaccines and booster shots to employees, families, students, and community members. Superintendent Mr. Robert Scoboria shares “the Wyomissing Area School District is very appreciative of the support we have received from Mr. and Mrs. Esterbrook. They have provided countless hours of service to prepare for and hold multiple COVID vaccine clinics at our Jr./Sr. High School. Per guidance from the CDC, fully vaccinated individuals are not subject to quarantine in most exposure cases. These clinics have helped us keep our students in school and our employees at work. The Esterbrooks represent what is great about our community – dedicated people working together to support our Spartans!”

Wyomissing Area Guidance Department Community and Business Partnerships



Community Partners for Post-Graduate Employment Opportunities

The Jr./Sr. High School Guidance Department works to provide students with opportunities to learn about various post-graduate opportunities. Many colleges and universities visit the guidance office to meet with students to share about their programs and academic opportunities. However, the guidance office knows that as local businesses big and small begin to operate at increasing capacities in a post-pandemic world, openings for employment have skyrocketed. Since last year, multiple companies have approached the Wyomissing Area counselors' office offering lucrative incentives including tuition reimbursement, traditional benefits, internships, and full-time positions for Wyomissing Area seniors looking to work after high school - full-time or while enrolled in college. Contacts last year included East Penn Manufacturing, First Energy, Gage Personnel, and Morgan Corporation. Other businesses offer training, including the Center for Independent Living's programs for home healthcare aides. While the counselors' office will always support students' post-secondary education planning, it now boasts connections with diverse post-high-school options at local businesses in addition to its strong relationships with colleges. **Local businesses looking to hire Wyomissing Area graduates that would like to schedule a time to meet with students and share information about their employment opportunities can contact extension x2135 or email akendall@wyoarea.org to reach the Jr./Sr. High School Guidance Office.**

The Jr./Sr. High School Self-Care Room

The American Psychological Association reports 81% of Gen Z teens (ages 13–17) have experienced more intense stress since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the Jr./Sr. High School counselors are hoping to help reduce students' stress with the new Self-Care Center. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, self-care involves any action during the day that helps maintain a feeling of calm, balance, and wellness (e.g. setting boundaries, mindfulness, movement breaks, self-advocacy). Thanks to generous funding from

Miller Guard, Jack Gartner Guard, and Ian Levering Place Kicker, **Division 2 Second Team**

Defense: Julian DiMaio Defensive Line, Tommy Grabowski Linebacker, and Amory Thompson Defensive Back

Field Hockey.

Division 3 Honorable Mention Lael Diehl, Savannah Richards, and Kaitlyn Brunner

Cross Country.

Boys - All-Division Team 2 Blake Hettinger, Paul Monsour, David Giles, Jack Curran,

Division 2 Honorable Mention Owen Holst, Cameron Cohen, AJ Crisafulli

Girls - All-Division Team 2 Addie Cohen, Lauren Riddle, Maddie Hyde, Kylie Rosenberger, and Olivia Fisher, **Division 2 Honorable Mention** Maya Smerek and Taylor Butler

Wyomissing Area Introduces New Instructional Coaches and Specialists



Wyomissing Area School District is excited to implement new roles in our school buildings this year: instructional coaches and specialists. We are pleased to announce four instructional coaches along with two instructional specialists. Our team of instructional coaches includes Ms. Kami Fecho, Mrs. Shana Matz, Mrs. Laura Noey, and Mrs. Elizabeth Toigo. All four of the coaches are excited to provide new opportunities for teachers that will flow through to benefit student growth and continue building positive relationships and school culture. Some of the services that coaches provide are professional development sessions, co-planning and co-

teaching with teachers, and developing curriculum resources for teachers and students to use in the classroom. This year, instructional coaching is new to Wyomissing Area which means it is a learning opportunity for everyone.

While all four of the instructional coaches focus in different areas and grade-levels, their day to day schedules consist of similar responsibilities. All four coaches have stated that every day brings new adventures for them, which is part of the reason they love their new role so much. They spend time throughout their day pushing into classrooms and co-teaching, working with students, and participating in the planned lessons the teachers developed. In addition to their work in the classrooms, the coaches are taking their love of learning and engaging in professional learning to become the best instructional coach they can be. Through these professional learning sessions, the instructional coaches learn and develop more strategies they can share with teachers throughout the district to grow professionally.

Ms. Fecho is the instructional coach at the Jr./Sr. High School supporting teachers in their instructional practices. A long-standing member of this district, Ms. Fecho spent time at WHEC and then at WREC as a grade 6 writing and social studies teacher. She decided to pursue this new change in her career because the district was in search of energetic, lifelong learners that wanted to work with teachers. When asked about her new role, Ms. Fecho shared “I have always been passionate about pedagogy. Therefore, it felt like a natural fit for me.”

Mrs. Matz is an Instructional Technology Coach for grades K-6 assisting teachers at WHEC and WREC with their technological skills and incorporating technology in the classroom. Along with being an instructional coach, Mrs. Matz has been in our district for 19 years as an Innovations (STEM Course) teacher for all fifth and sixth-grade students. Mrs. Matz decided to take on this new opportunity to work with more teachers throughout the district which was a challenge she was ready for. “I truly enjoy working with all of the teachers and students as we continue to navigate this ever-changing technology path in education.” – Shana Matz

Mrs. Noey is a K-6 instructional coach and is in her third year at WHEC. Prior to starting as an instructional coach she spent two years teaching 3rd grade at the Elementary Center. Mrs. Noey has been in education for 21 years and spent 13 years teaching Kindergarten in New Jersey and five years teaching 5th grade in Kentucky before becoming a Spartan. With her background in early education, Mrs. Noey is sure to be a perfect fit for the instructional coach position at WHEC. She will continue to inspire teachers to be the best versions of themselves and pass their positivity onto the students in the learning process.

Our final instructional coach is Mrs. Toigo, who is a K-4 and 7-12 Instructional Technology Coach. This is Mrs. Toigo’s second year at Wyomissing Area as a teacher, but she has worked with the High School Drama Club for 10 years as the Technical Director. In addition to being an Instructional Technology Coach, Mrs. Toigo also teaches English at the Jr./Sr. High

School. Before Mrs. Toigo came to Wyomissing Area she worked as an Instructional Technology Coach for eight years at Lampeter-Strasburg School District. Instructional coaching caught her interest because she had always been a leader in technology no matter where she worked. "I always wanted to learn and try something new." – Elizabeth Toigo

The coaches have all stated that they are focused on getting to know the faculty this year and building positive relationships with each individual faculty member so that in future years they can provide the best coaching techniques and opportunities for the teachers, leading to the best learning experience for students.

The Wyomissing Area Education Foundation



WYOMISSING AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Enriching Education in the Wyomissing Area School District

Happy Holidays from WAEF! We hope that everyone has a healthy end of 2021 and you all have a happy holiday season.

WAEF has important dates to announce for the upcoming year:

1. **Blue & White Party** - our first in-person party since 2019! We look forward to gathering at the Neag Planetarium at the Reading Public Museum on Saturday, May 14, 2022, for our important fundraising event featuring raffles, silent auction, live auction, live music, and delicious food and drinks. Please visit our website for more information about attending, volunteering, donating an item or service for the auction, or sponsoring the event.
2. **Senior Day Parade of Graduates** - this annual tradition celebrates the Class of 2022 with a parade through the elementary school buildings followed by a picnic at the JSHS on Friday, May 20, 2022.
3. **Fire & Ice Party** - this family-friendly event will be held at Happy Hollow Playground on Saturday, May 21, 2022, and will feature fun activities for the kids.



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, 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.

Julian DiMaio is a senior that participates in football, baseball, and wrestling, and is a member of the service club. He plans to attend college after high school to study architecture

and business. 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!

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. Her future plans include attending a four-year college to double major in international business 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 hopes to attend either Temple University or the University of Pittsburgh to major in business and is considering a minor in environmental studies. 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 plans to attend college and is currently considering studying analytical mathematics, finance, or engineering. 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 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 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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