



W Y O M I S S I N G A R E A

SPARTAN SCOOP online

Inspiring Excellence, One Spartan at a Time!

Wyomissing Area Welcomes New Staff Members!





Michelle Kersikoski previously worked as a second and sixth-grade teacher as well as the RTL coordinator at the WREC building for a combined time of almost twelve years, and we are excited to welcome her back to the district as Assistant Principal of the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center. Before returning to Wyomissing Area, she was an instructional coach, MTSS coordinator, and math specialist for grades K-6 at Antietam. After growing up in the Wyomissing Area community, she is excited to be a Spartan again! Outside of school, she loves going to her three sons' sporting events as well as reading, walking, and spending time in Rehoboth Beach!

Jason Zeigler is the new assistant principal at the Jr./Sr. High School for grades 10-12. Before becoming a Spartan, he worked as a mathematics teacher, department chair, varsity baseball coach, and assistant principal at Reading High School for 15 years. He played baseball for all four years when he went to Alvernia University and was elected to their Athletic Hall of Fame twice! The tight-knit community and the reputation of both academic and athletic strength in Wyomissing Area are what made the school district so compelling.

Vanessa Macrina is a long-term substitute for first grade in the elementary building. In the past, she has worked in many school districts and in many roles. She was a substitute in the Antietam School District, worked as an instructional Aid for the Wilson School District, a special instructor with Happy Hearts, LLC in Early Intervention, and a lead preschool teacher and the Educational Specialist at SpringRose Childcare in addition to being a substitute in the WHEC building since 2021. If she is not crafting, drawing or painting, she is walking or biking around the district with her family. After graduating from Wyomissing Area herself, she is excited to return as a Spartan once again!

Cara Kelly is a new member of the mathematics department at the Jr./Sr. High School, serving students in eighth grade. Before coming to Wyomissing Area, she worked at Methacton High School for 3 years and Pottsville Area High School for 8 years. Outdoor activities, such as hiking, biking, kayaking in the summer, and playing in the yard with her kids, are an important part of her day. Because of the positive reputation the district has in the community as well as the emphasis the district puts on student involvement in extracurricular activities, she believes that Wyomissing Area is the best place to grow as an educator!

Zachary Swanger joined the mathematics department at the Jr./Sr. High School this year, following his role as a long-term substitute for Mrs. Fontaine last year as well as serving as the building substitute. Before coming to Wyomissing Area he worked in the ELCO Middle School and Cocalico Middle School. In his free time, he hunts, fishes, golfs, coaches the high school boy's soccer team, and cheers for the Pittsburgh Steelers! After experiencing the welcoming community of the school as a substitute last year, he decided that Wyomissing Area was the place for him!

Thomas Paulson is the new seventh-grade mathematics teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School. Before beginning at Wyomissing Area, he taught in the Indian River School District in southern Delaware. In his free time, he likes to go to the gym, hike, kayak, and spend lots of time with friends and family. He is excited to work within the Wyomissing Area School District because of the school's reputation for high-level academic courses that encourage all students to get engaged to help them learn and grow as people.

Erin Phillips joined our music department teaching fourth-grade band and band, chorus, and general music classes for our students at WREC. She previously worked as a part-time music teacher in the Wyomissing Area School District and is excited to join the community again! Before returning to Wyomissing Area this year, she worked at Muhlenberg and Solanco School Districts.

Frederick Schlick III teaches chemistry at the Jr./Sr. High School. Before becoming a member of the Spartan family, he taught chemistry at Reading High School and at The Hill School. He also works as an Adjunct Chemistry Instructor at Penn State Berks and Reading Area Community College. When he is not working, he spends his time cheering on the Eagles. When looking for the, "brightest scientific minds in the Reading/Berks area," he found that Wyomissing Area held the key!

Caitlin Honig is teaching kindergarten at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center this year. She started as an Autistic Support teacher at New Story in Wyomissing; however, she has since been a kindergarten Autistic Support teacher in the Wilson School District, a learning support teacher for grades 5 and 6 at Antietam's Mt. Penn Elementary Center, and a general education first-

grade teacher. In her free time, she enjoys going to Wilson soccer games where her husband coaches, going on short weekend trips and playing with her two children. After growing up nearby, she was excited to join the tight-knit Wyomissing Area community which allows her to put down deep roots and become involved in the community.

Lisa Hurleman is a new kindergarten teacher at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center. Before coming to work at Wyomissing Area, she taught preschool at Atonement Christian Preschool, was a tutor at the Children's Dyslexia Center of Reading, and taught learning support in the Exeter Township School District before raising her four children. In the past, she supervised the testing center at the Jr./Sr. High School building for two years. Being a Wyomissing Area parent herself, she has always admired the hard work and dedication shown by the teachers in the district and could not wait to join the Wyomissing Area teaching staff. In her free time, she watches her children's sporting events and enjoys traveling, reading, exercising, and taking long walks.

Britney Passerini is the new seventh-grade writing teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School. Before coming to Wyomissing Area she worked at the Renaissance Academy Charter School and Trexler Middle School. In her free time, she works in the Artistic Edge Dance Company as well as goes to the gym. After hearing about the reputation of the Wyomissing Area School District from a former colleague, she was excited to become a member of the Wyomissing Area family.

Allison Wilson teaches fourth grade at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center. Before joining the Spartan team, she worked as an elementary classroom teacher in the Exeter Township School District and as a reading specialist in the Twin Valley School District. In her free time, she enjoys reading, spending time with her family at the beach, and coaching her daughter's cheer squad. She is excited to meet and connect with her students and their families.

Catherine Nunn is a long-term substitute for biology at the Jr./Sr. High School. She graduated from Kutztown University in May of 2022, and because of the reputation Wyomissing Area has for being strong academically as well as the close community, she decided that it was the perfect place to begin her career. During her free time, she observes microorganisms in pond and lake water, and she also enjoys taking long walks and painting.

Jeff Bezler is a new addition to our English department at the Jr./Sr. High School teaching our seventh-grade Spartans. We are excited to welcome him to the Wyomissing Area School District.

Meghan Flanagan-Filoon is the new Social Development and Instructional Support teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School. She has worked for Wyomissing Area for four years— as a paraprofessional in the Autism Support and Life Skills classrooms, as a long-term substitute

see that what you are doing can make a difference.” Congrats to the WHEC SAP team on their well-deserved recognition as they continue to provide support for their students every day.

Guidance Department Wins Caron Berks County Creativity Award

The Jr./Sr. High School Guidance Department has received the Caron Berks County Creativity Award for the creation of the self-care room. Last year, a surge of students continued to access the counseling office for support in navigating academic and personal stresses, especially due to the pandemic. Many students did not necessarily want to talk, but they were looking for more of a quiet space to regroup; however, the limited amount of space available in the counseling office made this difficult. Therefore, the guidance department decided to transform the conference room into a self-care room with items like kinetic sand, fidgets, stress balls aimed to reduce stress, and posters to suggest helpful breathing techniques. The guidance department used generous funding from WAEF to make this self-care room possible. This creative use of space has been an effective option for overwhelmed students needing temporary tranquility. The guidance department received a gift card from the Caron award and they are going to use it in the counseling office to continue their efforts to improve student supports. Congratulations to the guidance department on receiving this award for finding a creative use of space that positively impact Spartans!

Meet the Teacher & Open House



Throughout September, Wyomissing Area School District faculty and staff hosted meet-the-teacher and open house nights, happily welcoming Spartan families to all three buildings. Each school portrayed a day in the life of its Spartan students, providing parents and families with an understanding of school programs and courses. In addition, families at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center were able to see the new cafeteria located in the former All-Purpose room, learn information about Cub Scouts, and purchase Spartan gear. At the West Reading Elementary Center, families got a glimpse of the new math curriculum being implemented in the district—Eureka Math Squared. Booths at the event also provided information on the Student Assistance Program and the Olivet Boys and Girls Club. At the Jr./Sr. High School teachers focused on the expectations for students to be successful in their classes and the building. Families additionally learned about the many opportunities available for high school students,

including the Internship program. An appreciative thank you to the WASD faculty and staff and Spartan families for making meet-the-teacher and open house nights great successes!

Spartan Accomplishment: Madeline Campbell

The complete
Baldwin Brass Center

introducing the 2022 awareness ornament

CELEBRATION of Peace



SAFE berks
Educate • Advocate • End Abuse

The **Celebration of Peace** is an annual event hosted by Safe Berks, the agency serving survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Berks County, PA. At this yearly event, the community gathers to celebrate Safe Berks' mission of providing a safe haven and support for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. Locally founded in 1976 as Berks Women in Crisis, Safe Berks is one of many organizations across the country that provide free and confidential services to survivors 24 hours every day of the year. Tragically, domestic violence is more common and more dangerous than many people realize. In the United States, one in four women and one in seven men experience domestic violence in their lifetime, and more than 10 million people are abused each year, according to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, help is available. Call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE.

Made exclusively for The Baldwin Brass Center benefiting Safe Berks


Ornaments are
Made in the USA


Individually boxed
for easy gift giving


50% of all sales
will be donated directly
to Safe Berks

DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT



Madeline Campbell maddiec310@gmail.com

Maddie Campbell '23 grew up in Wyomissing, PA and is entering her senior year at Wyomissing Area Junior Senior High School. She is an active member of National Honor Society, Service Club, Mini-Thon Committee, Environmental Club, Student Council and can also be found volunteering with local non-profits in the Berks County community. Maddie is a captain of the Wyomissing Area Girls Basketball Team and also plays on the volleyball team. She is a member of Safe Berks' Peace Trust and has also participated in Camp Safe Berks. In her spare time, Maddie enjoys reading, spending time with her friends and family, going to Sea Isle City and traveling. After graduation, Maddie plans to obtain a four year degree at college and then attend law school.

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Madeline Campbell, a senior at Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School, worked closely with the Safe Berks organization to create an ornament that represented the core values of the program. Campbell has been a member of their Peace Trust for several years, has donated meals, and volunteered with the organization many times. Because of how important this organization and its message are to her, Campbell was excited to offer additional support in the form of a fundraising ornament. In late May and early June, Campbell worked on her design which was met with excitement and enthusiasm from the Safe Berks organization. Each aspect of Campbell’s design corresponds with the mission at Safe Berks as well as complements the Safe Berks’ Celebration of Peace event.

When asked to explain the concept behind the design, Campbell said, “In the ornament, the ‘Peace’ is teal to coincide with the teal ribbon representing sexual assault awareness. The peace doves are the symbols of peace and the colors in the background are a combination of a celebration feel and also the all-inclusiveness that Safe Berks represents. There are also small elements such as hearts, stars, and flowers that can all have so many different meanings.”

Each ornament sold directly benefits Safe Berks, raising several thousand dollars in the past two months alone. For each one sold fifty percent of the proceeds are donated to Safe Berks. The money raised through this fundraising effort will be used to help educate, support, and house families and women who are fleeing violent or abusive situations. Because of her outstanding efforts during this process, Campbell was nominated and won the title of the 2022 Berks County Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy.

Those interested in purchasing an ornament can do so [here](#).

Total Experience Learning: Professional Development for Staff



In last year's September eNewsletter (linked [here](#)), we highlighted Wyomissing Area's partnership with the Science Research Institute at Albright College and our teacher's exploration of Total Experience Learning. We are fortunate to see this program continue to grow and to engage our entire faculty in discussions about TEL. Members of last year's TEL cohort with Albright College continued to engage in productive discussions and experiences over the summer, learning new ways to innovate with students. As part of this experience, Mr. Winson, Mr. Minich, Dr. Woodard, and Mrs. Easteadt traveled to Oxford, UK with other educators and the Science Research Institute. During their trip, they attended multiple seminars presented by members of the Oxford faculty as well as learned from many businesses and industry leaders. The seminars focused on innovative learning by providing students time to solve problems and navigate complex issues, experience productive struggle, and re-learn while developing resiliency. Teachers and administrators brought back their learning to share with the rest of our faculty on Opening Day. Mr. Winson, a Socials Studies teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School, shared "I cannot even begin to describe this partnership with Albright College and give it justice. It has been an incredible experience."

We are excited to share that the second cohort of Wyomissing Area teachers is participating in the TEL program through the Science Research Institute this year. This experience will help teachers see how our students fit into the global society and economy all while exploring new, effective teaching styles. We are excited for teachers to implement these strategies with students as we work towards increased engagement and collaboration in the classroom. During this year's professional development series, our full staff will continue to explore TEL and learn from our resident experts.

College Board Recognizes Wyomissing Area Students



AP®

AP Capstone Award Distinction

Students at Wyomissing Area received two important distinctions from the College Board in recent weeks. Eight Spartans received the AP Capstone diploma and four were Capstone certificate recipients. AP Capstone is a College Board diploma program that's based on two year-long AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. The program provides student-centered learning while incorporating performance-based assessments. Both courses prepare students for college and career success through the development of critical thinking, academic research, collaboration, presentation, and time management skills. Congratulations to our Spartans for this important academic achievement.

National Recognition Program Award

In addition to the Capstone program, the College Board recognizes students as part of the National Recognition Program which highlights students' academic achievements along with outstanding performance on the PSAT or AP Exams. Spartans Jacob Fonseca and Natividad Torres received the National Hispanic Recognition Award for their accomplishments. Congratulations, Spartans!

Wyomissing Area Seeking Community Partners for Internship Program

Wyomissing Area 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

Welcome back to school! WAEF's Board of Directors and staff wishes you all a wonderful 2022-23 school year.

Here are some upcoming events for WAEF:

2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament benefiting WAEF: Please join us on Sunday **10/9/22** at 1 pm at Saucony Creek Franklin Station Brewpub. This is an outdoor event - the rain date is 10/23/22. Teams of two \$60, individual players \$30, spectators \$15. Proceeds benefit WAEF - join us for this fun afternoon! **There will be a \$200 CASH PRIZE** for the winning team. [Visit our website for more information and to purchase your tickets!](#)

WAEF supports students and teachers in the school district in many ways, most recently by directly supporting teachers in their classrooms through our [Classroom Wishes Fund](#). We need your support in order to continue to fulfill our teachers' classroom wishes, so if you would like to [contribute](#), please email Molly at mmurrill@wyoarea.org or visit WAEF's website: www.wyoarea-foundation.org.

Another way to support WAEF is by selecting WAEF as your charity of choice when you shop on Amazon! If you are not already an **AmazonSmile** member, simply sign up at smile.amazon.com and select WAEF as your favorite charity to start generating donations, at no cost to you.

WASD faculty and staff are encouraged to apply for support from **WAEF's Grants** budget. Our committee meets monthly. The [application is available on our website](#) - please email mmurrill@wyoarea.org with questions about applying for a grant or supporting WAEF's grants budget with a donation.

WAEF funds supported programming in two different ways this summer.

- WAEF's Spartan Fund provided support for 14 WASD students to attend summer camp through Olivet Boys & Girls Club.

- In addition, WAEF's Anne McCullough Endowment Fund supported 10 students to participate in Albright SRI's summer programming.

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.

Jenna Abousaab is a senior at Wyomissing Area and is a dedicated member of the environmental club, service club, Mini-THON, student peer tutoring, peer mediation, table tennis club and NHS. Jenna loves getting involved within the community and making a difference, so the Communications internship will be a great opportunity for her to experience activities taking place in all three Wyomissing Area school buildings and to make connections with both youth Spartans and staff. In the classroom, Jenna maintains a hard work ethic and strives for excellence and outside of school, Jenna plays competitive soccer and is the Ambassador to the Commissioner of the Girls Academy, working to implement DEI policy within the league. She is eager to work in communications to strengthen her professional public speaking skills and to build stronger relationships with people throughout the community.

Maya Abousaab is a senior who is actively involved in our community. Although Maya does not play for any of the high school sports teams, she loves spending her time playing competitive soccer as she looks to play collegiately in the future. Maya is part of the High School Student Council, student peer tutoring, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Mini-THON Committee, and peer mediation while also serving as a Class Officer for the Class of 2023. She plans to attend college to major in biology, business, or psychology on the pre-med track with hopes of becoming a surgeon. Maya chose this internship to explore the field of communications as she looks forward to the benefits of constant exposure to interviewing and reporting skills. As much as Maya loves to excel in the classroom, she enjoys time with her loved ones even more.

Vanesa Aguay is a junior at Wyomissing Area High School and is actively involved in her school community. Vanesa is the junior class president as well as Spanish Honorary Society and Spanish Club president. She enjoys being a member of student council, peer mediation, peer tutoring, Model UN, environmental club, WAEF Committee, ski club, Mini-THON chairperson, member of the service club executive committee, and secretary of the Wyomissing Area math club. Athletically, Vanesa is a member of the cross country team, plays soccer, and participates in indoor and outdoor varsity track. Vanesa loves to meet new people and volunteer her time to advocacy groups. She is excited for the opportunity to involve herself in the activities throughout the district and to develop her skills within community outreach with this internship.

Kaitlyn Brunner is a senior at Wyomissing Area. She is involved in various clubs including Big Spartan Little Spartan, Wyo5Live, Mini-THON, WAEF, latin club and Best Buddies. Kaitlyn participates on the field hockey and basketball teams as well. Kaitlyn loves the close-knit community Wyomissing Area has and is excited for this school year working with the other interns as well as faculty and students for the internship!

Bianca Flowers is a senior at Wyomissing Area. She plays on the volleyball team and is also the manager for the girls basketball team. She is a member of the student council, secretary of mini-THON, in art club, service club, environmental club, and more. The communications internship is an opportunity for her to learn important life skills and develop the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people.

Communications Coordinator, Ms. Meghan Tierney



Ms. Meghan Tierney is the mathematics Department Chair at the Jr./Sr. High School in her ninth 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 and supervisory certification 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 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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