

WSPARTAN Scoop

Incorporating Interactive Learning Activities at WHEC and WREC



Students at the Wyomissing Hills and West Reading Elementary Centers are exploring new learning strategies with the implementation of new activities. At WHEC, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Wojciechowski, and Mrs. Heist-Albright created a “discovery room” which provides students with an opportunity to engage in a variety of learning activities. These activities engage students in kindergarten through fourth grade providing age-appropriate activities for all. The room recently took on a snow theme and was complete with fiction and nonfiction books, stuffed animals, the evolution of the snowshoe, building stations to make snowmen and snowflakes, STEM bins to create igloos and launchers, and a matching game for students. In addition to other fun activities, there was a graffiti wall for students to write their “notices” and “wonders” as they explored various aspects of the room. Hughes, Wojciechowski, and Heist-Albright learned

about the power of Discovery Rooms through their participation in the Total Experience Learning program with Albright College and brought the experience to life for our Spartans. These rooms help ignite student curiosity about a new topic, provide students with materials to jump-start their learning, and provide a variety of ways for them to engage with their peers while investigating new ideas.

At the West Reading Elementary Center, students in Mrs. Kozuch’s class learned about Civil Rights topics through an interactive bulletin board. The interactive activity requires students to read and summarize articles and to make connections to civil rights novels. Students can then use their knowledge of the article, novel, and personal passions to create a project explaining a specific movement or group of people during the civil rights movement. This interactive activity teaches students how to draw connections between their personal interests and historical events, as well as connecting historical movements to the modern day. Students shared that they feel the project helped them discover and explore their passions, allowing them to create something they feel proud of. Some students also feel that it allows them to push themselves to create a



presentation different from what they have ever done before.

Shoutout to our dedicated educators who used their creativity to develop these valuable learning experiences for our students! We look forward to seeing more interactive bulletin boards, discovery rooms, and discovery tables around the District!

Wyomissing Area Hosts Annual Mini-THON Fundraiser



Shoutout to our Spartan community for their overwhelming support of this year's Mini-THON event. This event, led by advisor Mr. Dramby and a committee of students, is an annual fundraiser for Four Diamonds and the fight against pediatric cancer. Students were excited to welcome members of our community for Community Hour. Community Hour is an opportunity for our younger Spartans and the Spartan community to join in the Mini-THON fun and help contribute to our fundraising goal. Families enjoyed the petting zoo, games, and delicious food! Our Jr./Sr. High School students continued the fun all night to show their support and enjoyed activities including a hypnotist, glow dance, Zumba, and more. Thank you to all of our staff, families, and community partners for your support in making this year's event a success. We do it all #FTK and we couldn't do it without your support and generosity. Well done, Spartans!

WREC Students Investigate Rainbow Trout

Mrs. Kline and Mrs. Kupiszewski have been collaborating with the BCCD (Berks County Conservation District) for the past few months to bring rainbow trout to their fifth-grade classrooms. After coming back from winter break, the students have enjoyed watching the life cycle of the fish inside their classrooms, which allowed them to experience an entirely different perspective of learning. This hands-on opportunity taught the students to observe the life cycle of these fish and carry out testing for pH levels, nitrates and nitrites, as well as ammonia to ensure that the trout are thriving in their environment. To celebrate our students' hard work and preparation, they will release the trout into our local creek in the next few weeks. This has been a wonderful opportunity and engaging experience for our WREC students, and we appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with a fantastic community partner!



WREC Students Collaborate With Local Businesses



As part of their entrepreneurship and economics unit, our sixth-grade students have been collaborating with local businesses in West Reading, organized by Ms. Eastead and Ms. Kramer. Local speakers such as Mark Ratcliffe, the former Main Street Manager of the West Reading Community Revitalization, and other local entrepreneurs visited classes to share their experiences as business owners and how economics contribute to their careers. The students picked partners and decided amongst their groups to research a few businesses along Penn Avenue. They were tasked with solving business-related problems regarding merchandise, accounting, advertising, display, and more. On February 29th, the students visited West Reading to pitch their business plans to the local store owners who collaborated with the students to bring their plans to life. The students thoroughly enjoyed the independence of this project because it allowed them to use their skills in the classroom and translate them to real-life situations. A huge thank you to our WREC staff who organized this project and brought classroom learning to life as well as our partners on Penn Avenue for welcoming our students and supporting their learning.

Wyomissing Area Students Participate in Penn State Berks Engineering Day



Wyomissing Area students (and Dr. Liskey) were invited to Penn State Berks to tour the engineering department and facilities at the college. They learned about many different types of engineering, such as electrician, mechanical, biomechanical, and system-processing engineering by participating in engineering activities and a Q&A with current students and professors. Students learned about career paths in engineering and what studying engineering is like from a college student's perspective. The day helped to immerse Wyomissing Area students into the world of engineering and exposed them to future options related to their engineering studies. This was a great opportunity to expand our student's passions and interests!

Spartans Visit Local Colleges and Universities



Students in Grade 10 participated in college visits to Albright College and Alvernia University. These visits, combined with industry tours and visits to BCTC, are part of our College and Career Readiness program to showcase the variety of post-secondary opportunities available for our students. The Junior Class visited the Alvernia College Fair on Tuesday, March 5th, and had the opportunity to interact with representatives from 4-year colleges, 2-year colleges, trade and technical schools, and several branches of the military.

Spartan Academy at WREC

Students in grades 5 and 6 were invited to participate in the Spring Spartan Academy at West Reading Elementary Center, which began on February 5 and will continue through April 16. This program has already drawn 102 eager students committed to enhancing their academic skills after school. The Spartan Academy math programs provide unique opportunities crafted to instill confidence and proficiency in math and equip our students with the tools to conquer even the most challenging concepts. Led by our dedicated teaching staff, students engage in small group sessions, ensuring personalized attention to address any areas requiring additional support. The Spartan Academy reading programs are

designed for academically driven students and avid readers interested in exploring challenging texts while engaging in small group activities. Our goal is to improve reading skills and ignite a passion for literature, nurturing fluency, comprehension, and analytical writing abilities through dynamic interactions with diverse texts. Our dedicated teaching team consists of Mrs. Homan, Ms. Faust, Mrs. Kuhn, Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Ferrandino, Mrs. Easteadt, Mrs. Hetrich, and Mrs. Kozuch. Shoutout to this team of educators and students working to develop a variety of important skills!

Model UN Competes in Washington, DC

The Wyomissing Area Model UN team, led by advisor Mr. Dramby and chaperone Miss Tierney, competed in the North American Invitational Model United Nations Conference hosted by Georgetown University in Washington, DC. This 4-day competition included over 3,000 students from around the world debating a variety of historical and contemporary international issues. Students developed skills in diplomacy, collaboration, public speaking, and more while forging friendships and making lasting memories.

Our Spartans competed in 17 different committees, earning awards for their performances in 6.



Members of the team shared their takeaways from this unique experience:

“My favorite part of the trip was getting to know other delegates from a wide range of schools, grades, and even countries. Model UN has given me a major step up in my public speaking skills. I get to collaborate with other intelligent students to solve the world's most serious issues diplomatically. During these trips, I get to rediscover my love for learning and political science.” - Harper Ostrich

“I think that this trip (NAIMUN) has realigned my priorities in life. After experiencing an event with over 3,000 other high school students, I realized how much of a small iota of the universe I am. I believe my track for the future is no longer one that achieves success or money, but rather one where I continue to experience and learn about all of the other iotas(people) in our world.” - Jonah Matteo

“The thing I love most about MUN is how immersed you get in your country, and how much hypothetical ‘power’ you hold over the future of your nation - you can be and do anything you want.” - Nehal Trivedi

“Model U.N allows me to not only grow as a student but as a person. It allows me to experience different demographics of people that I wouldn’t usually get to meet in Wyomissing. At NAIMUN, approximately 16 percent of the students were from foreign countries, so I was able to surround myself with different perspectives and cultures. By the end of the weekend, NAIMUN had not only expanded my skills as a student, but it had broadened my perception of society.” - Morgan Schuster

This was a fantastic opportunity for our students. Well done, Spartans!

French Club Hosts Cheese-Tasting Event



The French Club at the Jr./Sr. High School hosted a cheese-tasting event! Students gathered together for an interactive event as they explored a variety of cheeses and their origins immersing themselves in French culture. France is renowned for their integral role in cheese-making and cheese-tasting traditions in the country's culinary culture. To explore the cultural tradition in depth, Spartans had an opportunity to learn from an expert cheesemonger from the Say Cheese! restaurant in West Reading. She facilitated the experience and shared the origins of the artisanal cheeses and various samples. This experience was a wonderful opportunity for students to connect with a local business while exploring French culture and tradition through a unique, culinary lens. Thank you to Say Cheese! for your support and to Mrs. Minium for organizing this experience for our students bringing Total Experience Learning to life.

The event was such a hit that Mrs. Minium and Say Cheese! are holding a special event for our JSHS teachers in late March!

Heritage Month Bulletin Boards

By the end of one of the Jr./Sr. High School's longest hallways is no ordinary bulletin board. A once mundane board now serves a significant purpose: the celebration of various heritage months. Since the beginning of the school year, a new club, the Stand Together Against Racism (STAR) club, has decorated the board to highlight cultural heritage months. Heritage months are periods within the year that are designated to celebrate and acknowledge various ethnic and marginalized groups. These are times not only to celebrate, but also to educate others on various groups' histories and contributions to American History. The club hopes to celebrate diversity and enrich the experiences of students from all backgrounds and cultures at the school and also to educate all students on the significance of these cultures. This past month, STAR decorated the board to celebrate Black History Month. February was dedicated as Black History Month honoring the rich cultural heritage, triumphs, and adversities that are



part of our country's history. Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme. The 2024 theme, "African Americans and the Arts," explores the key influence African Americans have had in the fields of "visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression."

Wyomissing Area Spartans Become PIAA Officials



This year the Jr./Sr. High School introduced a coaching and officiating course as an elective course for students. In this course, students learn how to referee athletic events and can earn their certification to become junior PIAA officials allowing them to officiate Pennsylvania youth sporting events. This class provides students in the Wyomissing Area community with the opportunity to further their involvement, education, and passion for sports. Enabling students to gain knowledge in more than one area of athletics not only increases the technical knowledge of students off the field but allows them to be better players on the field as well. The course's emphasis on teamwork and respect for the other players, coaches, and officials allows students to see and understand the perspective of others during athletic events, fostering a sportsmanlike attitude towards all who make athletics possible. This year, Spartan Aliah Contreras was certified as a PIAA Track & Field and Wrestling Junior Official, Evan Blickley was certified as a PIAA Football Official, and Jordan Gwyn was certified as a PIAA Junior Football Official. Congratulations to our Spartans for taking advantage of this new and exciting opportunity!

Program Highlight: Berks Career & Technology Center

One of the great programs offered to Wyomissing Area students is the opportunity to attend the Berks Career & Technology Center (BCTC). BCTC offers 35 different programs for students ranging from Business Management and Entrepreneurship to Culinary Arts and Cosmetology. It's a great opportunity for students to learn important skills in programs that they are interested in pursuing for a future career. This year at the Jr./Sr. High School, we have a total of 74 students who attend BCTC for a variety of programs.

Notable accomplishments include:

- Asher Botvin competed at the FFA Eastern Region Nursery Landscape Career Developmental Events competition on November 14, 2023. At this competition, he placed 40th place overall! Asher also was a part of the PA Farm Show on January 8, 2024, where he earned 1st place in the succulent category (pictured)!
- Amaryllis Torres is a level 3 health occupation student and was able to work with other students to organize a Keystone Miller Blood Drive for their senior project. This occurred on October 3, 2023, and was extremely successful! They were able to raise 24 units for the community!

Congratulations to Amaryllis and Asher for these great achievements, and shoutout to all of our Spartan students exploring new fields of study at BCTC. Thank you BCTC for giving these students great opportunities to share their gifts and talents with the community and to prepare for their future career pathways!



Wyomissing Area Music Department Highlights

Our talented musicians at the JSHS have been developing their skills in their band, orchestra, and chorus classes with the help of our music teachers Ms. Barra, Ms. Rayco, and Mr. Patton! Students in grades 4-12 performed in this year's Progressive Band Concert on Tuesday, March 5th featuring music from various films.

Congratulations to our talented students who have participated in County, District, and Regional Band, Chorus, and Orchestra. Spartans Genny Gagnon and Olivia Szor will represent Wyomissing Area in the Regional Orchestra Festival in late March, and Genny Gagnon also participated in the Region V Band Festival in late February.

Community Resources: Parent Guidance Series

Wyomissing Families

join our next Mental Health Series

Establishing Healthy Boundaries with Your Kids

March 20, 2024
6:30-7:30 PM
via Zoom



REGISTER HERE:
[http://cookcenter.info/
Mar20Wyomissing](http://cookcenter.info/Mar20Wyomissing)



For the past few years, the Wyomissing Area School District has partnered with the Cook Center for Human Connection to offer a virtual Mental Health Series. These virtual sessions invite parents and families to learn about important topics impacting student mental health. Some topics covered this year include “Understanding Video Game Addiction,” “Supporting Your Child’s Mental Health,” and the upcoming session on March 20, “Establishing Healthy Boundaries.” In addition to these offerings, Wyomissing Area parents and families can also access free virtual parent coaching services through the Cook Center for Human Connection. This service provides parents and families with access to weekly calls, guided resources, and more. Mark your calendars for the next installment of the Mental Health Series on March 20th and [register here](#). You can access more information about coaching services [here](#).

Kindergarten Registration and Spartan Sprouts



Kindergarten Registration is now open for the 2024-2025 school year!

Please visit our website and click on the red banner for Kindergarten Registration. Please be sure to select 2024-2025. You can also access the registration information [here](#) as well as find information about Kindergarten Orientation.

Please note that the Pennsylvania Department of Education requires children must be 5 years of age BEFORE September 1, 2024, to qualify for kindergarten admission for the 2024-2025 school year. If your child does not meet this requirement they will not be enrolled in kindergarten for this school year.

Additionally, you can join us for our FREE **Spartan Sprouts** program at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 from 4:30pm-6pm or Thursday, May 30, 2024 from 4:30pm-6pm.

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.

We are excited to meet our future Spartans and their families at this fun-filled event!

Reserve your spot today for one of the sessions [here](#).

Questions? Contact Dr. Toni Wengerd at twengerd@wyoarea.org

SPARTAN SPROUTS

Choose one of two sessions:

SESSION 1
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
4:30-6:00

SESSION 2
Thursday, May 30, 2024
4:30-6:00

FREE PROGRAM FOR INCOMING WYOMISSING AREA KINDERGARTENERS!

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 choices. 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 Mr. RC Youse at ryouse@wyoarea.org.



Featured Employer

SIR Physical Therapy

WASD would like to thank SIR Physical Therapy for their time and dedication in mentoring two senior interns this school year, Kaya Laubach and Annie McCaffrey!



Wyomissing Area PTA



Join us!

Our goal is to bring parents, teachers, and children together to raise funds for educational programs and strengthen the school community. For as little as \$8.00, you can help support these educational programs and family activities sponsored by the Wyomissing Area PTA. Please note that joining the PTA does not obligate you to participate in, or volunteer for, PTA Committees and Events. However, we are always looking for new volunteers for our committees and would love to see new faces join us at events! For more information, please visit wyopta.org, and follow us on social media!

The Wyomissing Area Education Foundation



WAEF

WYOMISSING AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Enriching Education in the Wyomissing Area School District

We're excited to share some updates and highlights from WAEF as we continue our mission of supporting students and educators in the Wyomissing Area School District.

New Executive Director: We're thrilled to introduce our new Executive Director, Samantha Kaag! It's an honor for Samantha to join the WAEF team, and she's eager to connect with all of you as she settles into her new role. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Molly Robbins for her dedicated service and wish her all the best in her new role with BCCF!



Scholarship Applications: This year, WAEF had over \$40,000 in scholarships to award! With the application deadline passed, our Grants committee is gearing up for mid-April reviews. Notifications will be sent out by the end of April, with a special celebration planned for May 20th to honor our deserving recipients.

Classroom Wishes Fund: Mrs. Wilson, a 4th-grade teacher, recently shared her gratitude for the Classroom Wishes Fund. Thanks to your support, her students are enjoying new supplies that enhance their learning experiences. Your generosity with mini-grants for classroom materials like scoop chairs, combo clipboards/whiteboards, and chart post-its makes a significant impact on our classrooms.



Student Committee Initiatives: Our dedicated Student Committee members have been hard at work, volunteering at events like the PTA's Holiday Shoppe and raising funds through creative initiatives like chocolate sales and Tervis tumbler sales with the WYO logo. They're currently gearing up for Senior Day on May 20th and would greatly appreciate any support to make it a memorable event.

Ways to Make an Impact:

Blue & White Party: To continue enriching education, WAEF relies on community support! Our annual fundraiser, the 2024 Blue & White Party, is set for Friday, April 19th, 2024, at the Neag Planetarium, Reading Public Museum. For sponsorship, tickets, or donations, visit <https://www.wyoarea-foundation.org/2024bluewhite>.

To assist with event planning or volunteer on the night, email Samantha Kaag at skaag@wyoarea.org.

Classroom Wishes: WAEF is dedicated to providing essential support to students and teachers within our school district. Most recently, we've been directly assisting teachers in enhancing their classrooms through our Classroom Wishes Fund. However, to sustain this vital program and fulfill the wishes of our teachers, we rely on your support. If you're interested in contributing and/or volunteering, please reach out to Samantha Kaag at skaag@wyoarea.org or visit our website at www.wyoarea-foundation.org

Submit a Grant: We're actively exploring additional grant opportunities and welcome applications from the dedicated faculty and staff of WASD. Our committee convenes monthly to review submissions. The application is conveniently accessible on our website. For inquiries about applying for a grant or contributing to WAEF's grants budget, please reach out to skaag@wyoarea.org.

Your continued support is crucial in enabling us to provide these educational enhancements. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our students and educators in the Wyomissing School District. Thank you for being a part of the WAEF community!

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.

Vanessa Aguay is a senior at Wyomissing Area High School and is actively involved in her school community. Vanesa is the senior class president as well as Spanish Honorary Society and Spanish Club president. She's passionate about advocating for inequalities, as the Head of the Tech & Education Committee for the PA Advocacy Network, founding STAR at Wyomissing Area, and running her STEM nonprofit uBridge. Athletically, Vanesa runs indoor and outdoor varsity track. She is excited about the opportunity to involve herself in the activities throughout the district and to develop her skills within community outreach with this internship. She plans to keep developing her writing skills to use as she looks forward to studying biomedical engineering and business in college.

Ashley Baker is a senior at Wyomissing Area High school. She is a member of the National Honors Society, peer mediation, and is a ski club officer. Ashley is also a captain of the lacrosse team and enjoyed playing golf this past fall. The communications internship is a great opportunity to form connections with students and faculty at Wyomissing Area. "Having exposure to the realm of social media and content management is not only a wonderful creative outlet, but is extremely relevant as most brands are now using social media from a marketing standpoint." Ashley looks forward to working with fellow interns as well as building stronger relationships with the students and faculty through this internship!

Lael Diehl is a senior at Wyomissing area and loves to participate in the various clubs that our school provides. She especially enjoys participating as a member of the Mini-Thon committee, environmental club, STAR club, and National Honors Society. She is also a member of the field hockey team and participates in an indoor field hockey club team as well. She plans on attending college on the pre-occupational therapy track, which she hopes to use in pediatrics. Lael chose to do this internship because it is a good opportunity to connect and learn more about the Wyomissing Area community, as well as build up her communication skills through social media and face-to-face connections.

Christopher Grilli is a senior at Wyomissing Area High School. He is the captain of the cheer team and participates in many other clubs/organizations such as Ski Club, G.S.A., S.T.A.R., National Honors Society, environmental club, Spanish club, and cooking club. Christopher plans to attend Alvernia, where he will study political science and advocacy. He has used this internship to get experience in social media and marketing, which he can use in his future endeavors. This internship has helped him to build connections with peers, meet deadlines, work with others, and complete work efficiently and effectively.

Sullivan Wengrowski is a senior at Wyomissing Area. She participates in varsity soccer and serves as a captain on the lacrosse team as well as in various clubs including the environmental club, Spanish club, Colophon, National Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society, Mini-Thon, peer tutoring, and serves as the Class Vice President. She plans on attending college to study political science, and eventually pursue a career as an attorney. Sullivan enjoys engaging with the community through her various extracurriculars and is excited to be able to further participate in community outreach through the communications internship.

Communications Coordinator, Ms. Meghan Tierney



Ms. Meghan Tierney is the mathematics Department Chair at the Jr./Sr. High School in her tenth 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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