



WYOMISSING AREA

SPARTAN SCOOP online

Inspiring Excellence, One Spartan at a Time!

Congratulations to the Class of 2021!



Top photo: Valedictorian Ashley Dasika addresses the Class of 2021. Middle photo: Senior Class President, Camille Croft presents the 2021 Colophon to Junior Class President, Jonathan Leader.

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-2021>

The Wyomissing Area School District celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2021 at their graduation ceremony on June 4, held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. The one hundred sixty-four students that make up the Class of 2021 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; Oxford, Mississippi; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Redmond, Washington; Los Angeles, California, and as far as Milan, Italy, and Ullum, Denmark. We are excited for the students who will continue their education or enter the workforce after graduation and are equally proud to recognize the young men and women who will leave the comfort and safety of Wyomissing Area to defend our country and freedom as members of the United States Armed Forces: Samuel Arentz, United States Army; Austin Pinder, United States Marines; Abby Doyle, United States Military Academy at West Point; Summer Mirigliano, United States Military Academy at West Point; Jack Fightner, United States Military Academy at West Point. 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 2021. We are very proud of you!

Spartan Partnerships in Virtual Learning



This year, Mrs. Ferrandino at the West Reading Elementary Center and Mrs. Zechman at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center, along with their students, found a creative way to take advantage of the positive changes prompted by virtual learning. The teachers and students in these classes have built a wonderful partnership not limited by the physical distance between their classrooms by utilizing the WebEx software as a way for the students to interact. The sixth-grade students and first-grade students are matched together and they meet virtually every Tuesday to chat, play games, read stories, study spelling words, and more. This is a wonderful example of connection and community this year. Thank you to our teachers for organizing this and great work Spartans!

The JSHS Presents: *Legally Blonde*



After a year with no live performances, the Wyomissing Area High School Drama Club returned to the stage this year with their performance of *Legally Blonde the Musical*! When planning, preparation, and rehearsals for this production began in January of this year the club was fully virtual and intended to release a recorded video of the show. However, after some discussion and brainstorming between student leaders and directors, the club moved forward with in-person rehearsals and a new plan to record on stage. Not only was this show special as students enjoyed being back together and performing in person again, but it is also the first time that students in grades 7-12 joined together to produce one show. The cast stayed safe and followed all protocols by masking up, limiting large group numbers, bringing in their costumes almost entirely from their own wardrobe, and using recorded music rather than a pit orchestra. After weeks of flexibility and creativity in planning, virtual rehearsals, and navigating other challenges presented by the unique circumstances this year, the Drama Club performed three live, socially distanced performances of *Legally Blonde* with a live stream of the Saturday night show available for members of our community to view. Families and friends of our senior performers and fellow cast members enjoyed in-person viewings of the show as well. The students were extremely grateful for this opportunity and each of the shows was a success. Student leadership and directors alike are excited to integrate what they learned from this experience into future shows. Congratulations to the Drama Club!

Special Spartan Accomplishment: Noah Gibney

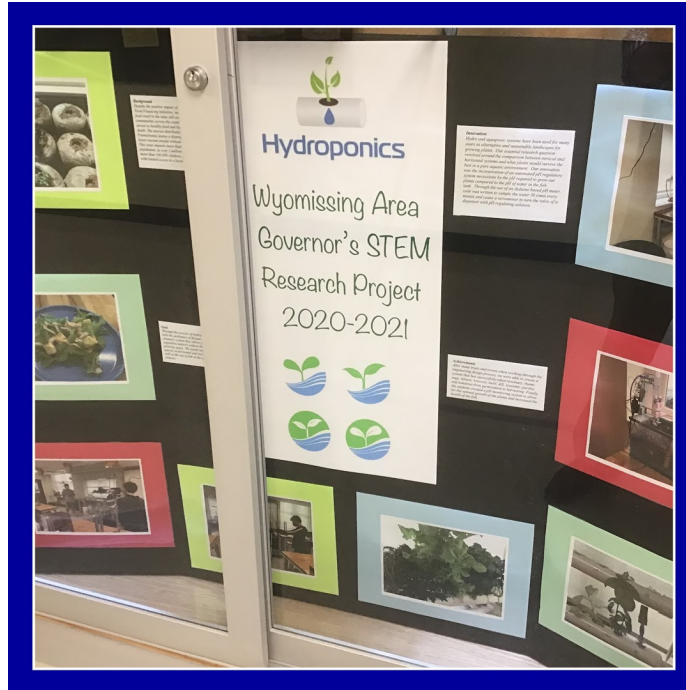


Eighth grade Spartan Noah Gibney started playing music as a young child and has been playing locally at various restaurants and in other performances over the last few years. A young musician of many talents, Noah plays all of the instruments used in the songs he creates with skill on the bass, drums, guitar, a bit of percussion, and as a vocalist. Songwriting became a focus for Noah during the time of quarantine and COVID-19 shutdowns and he welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with musical artist G. Love after connecting via social media.

After completing the songwriting phase, Noah recorded his album “The Serendipity Sessions” with Pagoda City Records at the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts. When asked what role his parents play in his musical endeavors and success he said that while neither of his parents are involved in the music industry themselves, they are very supportive of his efforts and goals. He hopes that what began as a hobby has the potential to lead to a future career path and already has his sights on studying music or attending a music school for college. Noah is proof that with support and encouragement, you can accomplish anything you set your mind to. If you are interested in following Noah’s musical journey, you can follow him on social media: @thenoah_gibney Instagram @thenoahgibney facebook noah_gibney Twitter.

His album “The Serendipity Sessions” is available on all streaming platforms: <https://li.sten.to/p9adH3n>. Contact Noah via social media for information on purchasing a CD!

Governor’s Stem Competition: Update!



The Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School received an Honorable Mention at the Pennsylvania State Governor's STEM Competition. Our team was recognized for "Contributions to Community Wellness", and Mr. Nate Miller and Dr. Brian Liskey received the STEM Advisors Award. Congratulations to the team and our dedicated faculty advisors! You can read more about their exciting work in the April edition of *The Spartan Scoop*.

Wyomissing Area Spartans Represented at Secondary Art Exhibit

The 39th Annual Secondary Art Exhibit, a collaboration between the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, the Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen, the Berks Arts, and the Berks County Intermediate Unit, features nearly 1,100 works of art from more than 550 student artists across Berks County. This year, the student artwork was available to view through a virtual art exhibit where you can browse by school or by medium. The winning pieces were then displayed at the GoggleWorks during the month of May. Congratulations to our Spartans whose artwork was displayed as part of the exhibit and special recognition to

those who received awards. You can view the artwork and award-winning pieces here: <https://www.berksiu.org/2021-secondary-art-show/>



Mrs. Donna Bottiglieri has worked as a paraprofessional at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center for 13 years and will celebrate her retirement at the end of this school year. Some of her favorite memories at the Hills include helping kindergarten through second-grade children learn their curriculum and watching them grow as children and students. After retiring, she will miss the children she has taught over the years and the friends she made, though she looks forward to spending time with her family, specifically her four granddaughters. During retirement, Mrs. Bottiglieri hopes to spend time on the bike trails with her husband enjoying her new free time.

Mrs. Amy Cruley first started working for the Wyomissing Area School District as a substitute in the cafeteria. She enjoyed her colleagues and the experience so much that she quickly applied for a permanent position. She says, "I loved working with the students at Wyomissing Area, especially my years at the high school", and that she will always remember how much the high school students loved the special t-shirts and headbands that she wore. Although she is sad to be leaving Wyomissing Area, Mrs. Cruley is excited about her plans after retirement and we wish her luck!

A high school aide, principal's secretary, administrative assistant—**Mrs. Barbara DeMoss** has done it all for the Wyomissing Area School District! Mrs. DeMoss's first role at Wyomissing Area was as a paraprofessional at the Jr. Sr. High School. She later moved to the West Reading Elementary Center in 2008 as the principal's secretary, and in 2010, she began her current role in the District Office as the Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent. In this role, she works behind the scenes to support teachers, students, and district initiatives. She mentions, "The summer months, getting ready for a new school year are usually the most hectic time of the year, but it is also an exciting time as we look forward to a new year and welcoming staff and students back. I've especially enjoyed putting together the United Way raffle we've had on Opening Day for the past several years. It's always amazing how everyone helps and it comes together in the end." Mrs. DeMoss is extraordinarily thankful for her job and the connections she has made within the district. She recalls, "The best thing about my job is the wonderful people I work with, including the administrators, staff, and students. I have enjoyed the many professional and personal relationships developed over the years." Mrs. DeMoss explains that she will deeply miss her friends and colleagues after retiring, but she will always cherish the memories she made during her 20 years at Wyomissing Area. After retiring, she is excited to spend far more time with her family, especially her granddaughter Elowen. She also plans on spending more time working on home projects and more time outside, prioritizing her time in the garden.

After 24 years of dedicated teaching, the Wyomissing Area High School says goodbye to science teacher **Mr. Joe Kollar**. Each year, students highly anticipate taking his chemistry classes, as Mr. Kollar has built a reputation of having the most awe-inducing experiments and demonstrations which he is excited to share with students. Former AP Chemistry student Sara Steber says, "Mr. Kollar was always enthusiastic to further explain a topic and would meet with all of his students 1-1 to ensure they understood everything. If we didn't, he would take the time to either do a demonstration or find a different manner in which to explain the concept. It's obvious how much he cared about our success, and his support helped me realize that I had a passion for chemistry." Once he is retired, Mr. Kollar has a number of different paths to take: start a tutoring business, become a long-term substitute teacher, work part-time in a pharmacy, be a Chaplain at the hospital, or fish in the Wyomissing Creek. Mr. Kollar says, "I will GREATLY miss the Wyo students and faculty. They have been my reason and passion to come to work for over 4.5×10^3 days." Mr. Kollar's passion for teaching has been an invaluable contribution to the Wyomissing Area community, and his kind-hearted nature will truly be missed.

Dr. Seuss-loving **Mrs. Susan Larkin** has been teaching first graders at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center for a total of 31 years. In her time here, she has grown very thankful for her amazing colleagues. She explained, "They are all such great teachers and I'm so happy to also call them friends." Most importantly, she feels the many children she has taught over the years are most dear to her, again explaining that six-year-olds will always hold a special place in her heart. Known for her love for Dr. Seuss, a treasured memory for Mrs. Larkin during her time at Wyomissing Area is the year her class wrote letters to Dr. Seuss in hopes that he would come to visit for his birthday. There is so much Mrs. Larkin will miss as she enters retirement, like seeing former students in the halls, reading stories, teaching first-graders new things, and the comradery of WHEC's wonderful staff. Congratulations on your retirement!

Mrs. Jane Lim has been a member of the Wyomissing Area School District for 16 years. During this time she has worked as a Computer Lab Assistant and the Attendance Secretary at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center. Some of her favorite memories include interacting with the students in grades Kindergarten through fourth grade and interacting with the other teachers and staff members in the district. Mrs. Lim will truly miss spending each day with amazing staff members who have become her good friends. During her retirement, she looks forward to spending quality time with her family, especially her two grandchildren. She also can't wait to travel, garden, and enjoy going on walks and dining outdoors with her friends.

After spending 22 years working as an art teacher for the Wyomissing Area School District, **Mr. Michael Miller** is preparing for the great adventure of retirement. Mr. Miller enjoys working with students who want to learn how to make their art better and different and says, "I am constantly trying to improve my own art and the way I teach it". Along with teaching, he has also helped build scenery for the school plays, coached the Junior High cross country team, been the WREC Art Club advisor, and has organized many community projects through the Public Art Workshop course at Wyomissing Area- one of his most profound and significant contributions to our school and the local community. Although Mr. Miller will miss his students, colleagues, and the overall routine of school, he will continue to live and work within the community and is excited about his future plans. After retirement, Mr. Miller plans to continue to create art and work with community organizations to help make Berks County a visually interesting place.

Mrs. Kim Tetley has worked for the Wyomissing Area School District for the past 14 years as both a substitute teacher and as the Secretary to the Principal at the West Reading Elementary Center. She has loved working in this district as it has given her the opportunity to meet and learn from so many talented and dedicated people. Mrs. Tetley is a Wyomissing Area graduate, as is her husband and her two children, and she has been so thankful for the support of the Wyomissing Area community and is proud to call herself a member of this community and of the Wyomissing School District. She plans to spend her retirement enjoying the community and helping it thrive.

Two members of our Custodial staff retired earlier this year, **Mr. Joseph Palubinsky** and **Mr. William Lerch**. Joseph Palubinsky retired in December 2020 as a dedicated member of the JSBS custodial staff, serving fourteen years with the

district. Bill Lerch also served Wyomissing Area for fourteen years as a custodial floater and later the District Foreperson, retiring in January 2021.



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

WAEF's Annual **Blue & White party** was held as an online auction for the 2nd year in a row, and we were thrilled with the participation in this event. Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and those who participated in the auction for making this event such a success! Big thanks to our committee members for their hard work soliciting sponsors and auction items, selling raffle tickets, and spreading the word about this important fundraiser: Mandy Aulenbach, Kirsten Hyde, Elissa Keeler, Letty Marshall, Erin Mauro, Davina Minton, and Missy Steber.

WAEF honored two Distinguished Alumnae at our annual event on Monday, May 24th under a tent outside the auditorium at the high school. 2020's honoree, Helene "Bunny" Zintak, was introduced by John Rothenberger and Amy Combs and recognized for her service on WAEF's board of directors as well as for her outstanding community service. Sharon Luyben, the long-time WASD Music Teacher, was selected as the 2021 honoree and was introduced by Dawn Main. Thank you to all who attended this special event!

24 members of the Class of 2021 and two adults were awarded WAEF scholarships totaling \$41,500 at our annual **Scholarship Ceremony** on May 24th in the auditorium. These scholarships are made possible by the generosity of members of our community who establish these awards in honor of or in memory of someone special to them or to encourage and recognize excellence in different categories. Congratulations to the 2021 winners!

- The Class of 1946 Memorial Scholarship \$1,500 - Emmerson Piacine
- The Class of 1959 Memorial Scholarship \$2,000 - Makdissi-Elias Louna
- The Class of 1963 First Generation College Student Scholarship \$1,000 - Chyanne Alcin
- The Amin Family Scholarships – 8 Scholarships @ \$2,000 each: Alexandra Beighley, Riley Dauber, Natilee Gonzalez, James Mahon, Steven Olexy, Owen Scargle, Daria Tilich, and Sheylimar Vasquez
- The Amin Family Nursing Scholarship \$1,000 - Taniya Moran
- The Creighton Bieber Memorial Scholarship \$500 - Elliot Cajigas
- The Customers Bank Trade and Technology Scholarships - 2 Scholarships @ \$2,000 each - Cameron Eastman and Ethan Marquez
- The Sean M. Flannery Memorial Scholarship \$1,500 - Jack Feightner

- The James R. Houck Memorial Scholarship \$1,000 - Sophia Rivera
- The Koullias Family Scholarship \$1,000 - Camille Croft
- The Samuel R. Kozloff Memorial Scholarship \$3,500 - Maher Salha
- Luyben Family Arts Scholarship \$1000 - Emerson Gagnon
- The Gertrude K. McGonigle Scholarship \$1,250 - Lance Parmer
- The Dr. Nirav Patel Memorial Scholarship \$1,250 - Nina Botvin
- Vision Mechanical Scholarship \$1,000 - Anton Esterbrook
- The West Reading High School Alumni Scholarship \$1,750 - Alex Hoffman
- The Women's Club of Wyomissing Scholarship \$1,250 - Grace Diehl
- Wyomissing Scholarship \$1,000 - Reanna Martin

The first WAEF-sponsored **Senior Day** took place in 2019 and was quickly recognized as a special event that should continue as an annual tradition. When 2020's restrictions prevented the event from taking place, we wanted to be sure to revive this event for the Class of 2021.

WAEF Student Committee members met virtually and safely throughout the 2020-21 school year to plan this event, led by committee chair, Erin Croft. The day began with all seniors donning their caps and gowns and gathering for class photos before boarding buses and traveling to the West Reading Elementary Center and the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center to parade through and around the buildings to see their former teachers and be celebrated by staff and students in each building.

After the parade, seniors were treated to lawn games at the high school and a picnic lunch sponsored by a group of senior parents.

Please take a look at the video below, which captures the excitement of the day. <https://youtu.be/QT631C4VgZE>

Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

Thank you, Communications Interns!



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.

Three of this year's interns, Grace, Julia, and Sara are members of the Class of 2021 and we wish them the best on their next adventure. Grace will be attending Elizabethtown College, majoring in English Education in order to become a high school English teacher. Julia's journey will take her to North Carolina State University to major in Business Administration and Sara will be attending Fordham University to study Philosophy and History on the Pre-law track. Congratulations on your graduation and thank you for all of your contributions this year!

Junior intern Emma Care plans to continue her work with the Communications Department next year! As we return to a hopeful "normal" we are excited to see her expand on what she has learned this year and apply it to new district events! Cece and Keira have enjoyed their time with Communications this year and are excited to explore other opportunities at the Jr./Sr. High School next year. Thank you all for your efforts!

Communications Coordinator, Meghan Tierney



Ms. Meghan Tierney is the mathematics Department Chair at the Junior-Senior High School in her seventh year in the Wyomissing Area School District. She received her bachelor's degree from Albright College and earned a master's degree in Teacher Leadership through the University of Delaware. Currently, she is pursuing a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction Supervision at Gwynedd Mercy University. In addition to her role as a classroom teacher, she advises the High School Student Council, and the Model UN Club, and serves as the Communications Coordinator for the school district. Meghan really enjoys the opportunities she has to work with students both in and out of the classroom and loves being a Spartan. Outside of school, Meghan enjoys spending time at the beach and being with family and friends.

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