



Trojan Talk

Newsletter from
Wissahickon High School



November 2021



Condolences

WHS sends love and condolences to the Lower Merion School District community and the Hughes family on the passing of Sean Hughes, high school principal.

Note from Dr. Blair WHS Principal

Happy Thanksgiving to the WHS Community! Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays because the focus is on family and on being together (and of course, food!). Far too often, the chaos of life interferes with the opportunity to push pause and hit reset on our priorities. I hope this holiday season provides you with a chance to reflect on the things that matter most to you and allows for moments of gratitude. I am very grateful for the WHS students, families, and staff – when I count my blessings this season, you'll be on my list! Be well...and enjoy too much pie!

A Safety Message from our WHS Nurse



Keystone Exams

The disruptions of the prior school years have raised some questions about who takes what Keystone Exam and when (It is all jumbled in my brain too!). Here is a summary of the Keystone testing information. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact your student's School Counselor.

Class of 2022

- No senior will sit for a Keystone Exam this year.

Class of 2023

- Biology- Any student who did not pass our Biology course in the 2019-2020 school year or did not score proficient on the 2020-2021 Spring Biology Keystone will need to retest this December.
- Algebra- Any student who did not pass our Algebra course in the 2019-2020 school year or did not score proficient on the 2020-2021 Spring Algebra Keystone will need to retest this December.
- Literature- Any student who did not score proficient on the Spring ELA Keystone last year will need to retest this December.

Class of 2024

- Biology- Any student who did not score proficient on the Spring Biology Keystone last year will need to retest in December.
- Literature- All Students will take the end of course ELA Keystone in May 2022.
- Algebra- Any student who did not pass our Algebra course in the 2019-2020 school year or did not score proficient on the 2020-2021 Spring Algebra Keystone will need to retest this December. If a student is currently enrolled in Algebra I, they will test in May 2022.

Class of 2025

- Biology- All Students will take the end of course Biology Keystone in May 2022.
- Literature- Students will complete the end of course Keystone when they complete the grade 10 ELA course.
- Algebra - Any student who did not score proficient on the 2020-2021 Spring Algebra Keystone will need to retest this December. If a student is currently enrolled in Algebra I, they will test in May 2022.



Congratulations to our WHS Students of the Month November 2021

Join us in celebrating our November WHS Students of the Month!
We are so proud of each of you!

Grace MacMahon
Science



Grace Diebold
Art and Music



Katherine Fath
Social Studies



Jamar Boykins
Language Arts



TJ Betts
NMTCC



Marco DeLuzio
Math



Alex Fedorenko
Business/Technology/FCS



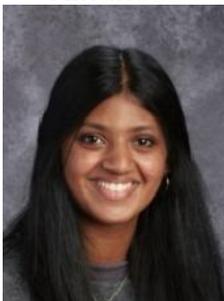
Julia Schools
Athlete



Troy Burt
Good Citizen



Carolyn Thomas
Kindness



Tanner Norpel
World Language



Yesenia Kearns
Health/PE



Quarantine Information

There is only one downside of having a very packed building – we are seeing a need to quarantine a few students, per the county guidelines, due to Covid-19. We recognize how disruptive and frustrating a lengthy quarantine period can be. Without a virtual option like we had last year and to avoid any need for our teachers to “teach to the screen”, we had to think outside of the box to develop a plan that will support our students who are on an extended Covid-related absence. The number of students in this situation is extremely low.

If a student is out of school, due to quarantine guidelines, but feels okay, the student’s School Counselor will reach out to the student to help maintain a level of connectedness to WHS. The Counselor will provide access to the Math and Writing Labs to the student from home, if the student is interested. Our teachers will post assignments and communications to the student via Schoology and will provide any supplemental resources the teacher may have to help support the student with the missed learning. The student can also arrange to meet virtually with the teacher briefly after school (at 2:35) to check-in with the teacher. Our teachers will focus on the essential content and try to minimize the overwhelming concerns that students will likely have. Additionally, upon the student’s return, our teachers will be flexible with deadlines and work with the student on a plan to move forward. We are in this together and our teachers and students and families will work together to address the Covid-related challenges of this school year.

Support Services

As a reminder, WHS offers support to students during the school day through our Math and Writing Labs located in the Library. The Labs help support our second chance learning approach and we encourage our students to take advantage of the services. Additionally, we have our Extended Learning Time (ELT) tutoring after-school. Our STARS Tutoring Program is also in full-swing. As a counterpart to our teacher-led Labs and ELT interventions, the Stars Tutoring program is an opportunity for students to support other students through a peer-tutoring model. Students can volunteer to either provide or receive help in specific subject areas. Last year, we had about 120 students participate in this great program and we are hoping to have even more students work together this year! Meetings occur at mutually agreed upon times either during Study Hall, after-school, or during I/E periods. Students interested in STARS should complete an application, which can be found in the library or in the counseling office. You can also contact Mr. McCabe through Schoology or email him at bmccabe@wsdweb.org.

Tour Date Information for Prospective WHS Students

WHS is happy to share our 2021-2022 school year tour dates/times for prospective students and families from private, public, and charter schools who are interested in learning more about being a student at WHS. Our Student Ambassadors will help guide our tours for families and our Counselors will be available to address questions about the transition. Please see the schedule information below:

Unless noted below, there are two session options to choose from per day: 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM

- o Thursday 12/16/2021
- o Tuesday 02/08/2022
- o Thursday 03/10/2022
- o Thursday 04/28/2022
- o Wednesday 05/25/2022 (1:00 PM only)

Announcement for Seniors

Class of 2022: Graduation will be here before you know it! Commencement for the Class of 2022 will be on Thursday, June 9th at 6:00PM. As a reminder, it is time to order your cap, gown, and tassel!

[Please watch this short informational video to learn how to place your order.](#)

All orders were to be completed by November 5th; if you haven’t submitted your order, please do so immediately. We appreciate the support! If you need support with the payment, please contact me at lblair@wsdweb.org. [Click here to order a class ring.](#)

Be sure to keep following our [Class of 2022 webpage](#) for more updates about the Class of 2022 celebrations!

Announcement for Juniors

It’s time to order your customized class ring! [For instructions on how to order your ring online, please watch this short video.](#)

Academic Shoutouts



Shoutout from the **Science Department**. Mrs. Falatek is happy to show off her future scientists who completed an isolation lab with high concentration acids and bases in Biochemistry. Mr. MacMinn's Physics students worked on a lab in which they predicted a trajectory of a projectile. Mr. Gotlib and Mr. Shultz are proud to brag about the work their students are doing in Forensics. They recently

learned about autopsies, including the determination of manner and cause of death, and the process of algor mortis. Instead of a medical school cadaver, the students completed a lab using butternut squash with slash wounds, a strangled zucchini with petechial hemorrhaging in the eyes, and a decapitated banana. They took the "temperature" of the deceased fruit or vegetable and determined its approximate time of death. Congratulations to our certified fruit and veggie medical examiners. Great job all around!



In our **World Language Department**, Mrs. MacDermott gives a shoutout to her French 2 Honors classes. They recently searched for the stolen Mona Lisa using clues to find codes for hidden messages to help them discover La Joconde's secret location. In addition, to celebrate National French Week, members of the Societe Honoraire de Francais (French Honor Society) made les crepes. It was a tasty celebration!



Working hard to find the clues.

Students are using a map!
Not google map, but paper one!



The winners!
They found Mona Lisa!



Ahh les crêpes!



VIDEO SPOTLIGHTS ON OUR WHS PE CLASSES

Shoutout to Mrs. Found's **PE PALS** class which incorporates student helpers from general education class with students from the Life Skills class. They recently had a great time participating in a game of Tic-Tac-Toe-Basketball and created a great video their class. [CHECK OUT THE VIDEO SPOTLIGHT!](#)



Students in **Adventure Education** created a great video spotlight where they share what they learned about the benefits of biking, bike maintenance and local places to go cycling and hiking. [WATCH NOW!](#)



Mrs. LeClaire gives a shoutout to her **Photography students**. They recently captured the beautiful autumn sunshine and foliage as they explored the trails behind WHS on a nature walk photo shoot. They applied their knowledge about rules of composition and used their new DSLR cameras. Great job!



Club Spotlights

WORLD LANGUAGE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETIES

Culture EXPLORATION FESTIVAL

Global foods, activities, and more!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

11am TO 3pm

AT WISSAHICKON HIGH SCHOOL

TICKETS ON SALE NOVEMBER 22

\$3 prepaid FOR MIDDLE/high school students

INTERESTED IN ATTENDING?

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Click the link below:

[CULTURE EXPLORATION FESTIVAL](#)

On November 12th and November 13th, our **WHS drama students** performed in the 2021 fall drama, *The Crucible*. Thank you to the cast, the stage crew, the production staff, and Director Charles McClelland for a wonderful WHS tradition that was put on hold last year due to the pandemic. It was wonderful to see our students on the stage showcasing their talents! Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication.



Our **WHS Camerata** helped honor our WHS veterans on November 11th with a concert of patriotic songs. We thank Mr. Hood, Mr. Joyce, Dr. Williamson, Mr. Heppe, Sgt. Rogge, and Mr. Siegel for their service; you are wonderful and inspiring role-models for our students! Thank you to Mr. Conahan and our student performers for being a part of this important recognition ceremony.



Our **Wiss Link club** continues to support the transition to WHS for our ninth grade students. They recently visited 9th grade homerooms and answered FAQs about Wiss life. Thank you, Wiss Link, for your ongoing mentorship. As a reminder, 9th graders, your friends in the purple shirts are here to help you with anything you need!



I am proud to highlight the work of our **Key Club**. Maddie Dixon needed pajamas and coats and in true Wiss style, the Key Club stepped up and collected over 105 items to donate. Way to go, Key Club!



Our **Science Club** students have been busy this year. They recently performed an experiment and created “elephant toothpaste”. They learned that yeast contains an enzyme called Catalase, which breaks down hydrogen peroxide into oxygen gas and water. In this experiment, the oxygen gas gets trapped by the soap, creating a foamy solution that squirts out of the top of the bottle. The students had a blast!



Our **SADD Club** is practicing healthy living. They recently hosted their first Mindfulness Morning. Ishaan Arnav, the President of the Mindfulness Club, led participants through breathing and meditation exercises. The students centered themselves and calmed their minds before starting their day. Stay tuned for information about future Mindfulness Mornings. We hope to see you there.



Want to Join a Club?

Want to learn more about our clubs? We encourage you to get involved, make new friends, and show some Wiss pride. [Check out over 50 of our co-curriculars here on our WissWatch webpage.](#) There is something for everyone!



TROJAN TRIUMPHS

Athletic Update from Jim Cairnes, Athletic Director

CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS

With the conclusion of our regular Fall Sports Season, we celebrated our Seniors and wished them the best of luck as they played on their home fields for the last time.

BOYS' SOCCER



GIRLS' SOCCER



VOLLEYBALL



FOOTBALL



FIELD HOCKEY



CHEER



MARCHING UNIT



WATER POLO



GIRLS' TENNIS



GOLF



CROSS COUNTRY



Team HIGHLIGHTS

SOCCER

After going 14-3-1 in the regular season, including a fourteen game unbeaten streak, WHS Girls' Soccer landed the sixth seed in the twenty-four team field for District 1 playoffs. The sixth seed provided the team a much needed bye in the first round of playoffs that allowed for some extra recovery time to address lingering injuries. Our second round playoff matchup ended up being against familiar foe in Hatboro Horsham. The Trojans fought hard, but came out on the wrong end of a 3-2 match that saw the Trojans hit the crossbar four times and come up just short in leveling the score several times in the last twenty minutes. Girls' Soccer has a lot to be proud of this season. We were able to win the SOL Liberty Division Championship for the first time in nine years. Also, eight different players were recognized by the SOL Liberty Division as receiving individual all-league honors:

- Player of the Year for Suburban One Liberty Division: Margaret Wilde (PA All State)
- First Team All-League: Margaret Wilde, Margo Kasenchar, Kylie Friedman
- Second Team All-League: Sage Stelzer, Anna May, Natalie Ryan
- Honorable Mention All-League: Lucy Greenstein, Olivia Lore

The Boys' Soccer team had some great moments during the course of the season. The overall record was 8-9-1. However, that does not tell the whole story of a very resilient bunch of young men. We were unfortunate to lose a few players early on in the season to injuries that did not allow them to play but this gave plenty of varsity playing opportunities for both JV and Varsity players. The two games that highlight their resilience included a visit to William Tennent where a half time score of losing 2-0 would end up at the end of 80 minutes with a 3-2 winning score line. The final two goals were scored in the final 4 minutes of the game. The other game is Senior Night against Upper Dublin where the game was heading towards a frustrating 1-0 defeat until the game turned and we were able to tie the game with 3 minutes to go. The positive response by the fans at the game led to the players continuing to step up their play which resulted in a sudden death winning goal in the overtime for a thrilling 2-1 victory. The JV program had a positive year ending the season with a record of 13-3-1 and finishing the season with a 10 game winning streak. A fun year overall!

GOLF

The Varsity Golf Team finished this season with a regular season record of 7-4 (6-4; 1-0 Non-Divisional Match). In the Liberty Division, they earned victories over Abington, Hatboro-Horsham, Plymouth Whitmarsh (2), and Quakertown (2). The only non-divisional match was a victory over Upper Moreland. The team's success can be attributed to the eight seniors that participated this season: Co-captains Christian Matt and Bella May, as well as RJ Ball, Andrew Beiter, Chuck Jones, Matt Labroli, Alex Levin, and Aidan Miller. The seniors set the tone throughout the season and were a large part of the team success. In addition to the seniors, the team had a fantastic supporting cast. These players included Juniors: Andrew Beans, Joey Carr, JT Durham, and AJ Singh, as well as Freshman Kyle Crump and Ian Yoo.

The golf team had seven of its golfers qualify for the Suburban One Championship Golf Tournaments: RJ Ball, Andrew Beiter, Joey Carr, Matt Labroli, Christian Matt, Bella May and AJ Singh. After the completion of the male tournament, WHS had two golfers finish in the top 10. Andrew Bader was tied for 10th and Christian Matt won the tournament with a score of 68 which was three under par. In the female tournament, Bella May finished in the top 10 as well. Her score of 84 awarded her 9th place. All three of these players qualified for the district tournament. At the district tournament, a cut was made after the first round and WHS was fortunate to have Christian Matt make the cut and advance to second day. On the second day, Christian was able to birdie 4 of the final 5 holes and qualify for the PIAA State finals by two strokes, as well as finish in a tie for 12th place at 4 over par for the two day event (+4: 74, 74: 148). In Christian's final round of golf as Wissahickon Trojan, he was able to shoot a 75 to finish at +4 in a tie for 18th place in the AAA Individual Boys PIAA State Golf Tournament.

In addition to the post season tournaments, we had four golfers earn All-League Recognition: Bella May (2nd Team), Christian Matt (1st Team), RJ Ball (Honorable Mention), and Andrew Beiter (Honorable Mention).

WATER POLO

The Girls' Water Polo team finished 5th in the State Tournament this season with a well-balanced and very talented team. The Trojans upset 6th seeded Governor Mifflin and 5th seeded Pennridge enroute to a third consecutive Top 5 finish. Four girls earned All-State Accolades: Sophomore Faith Pigeon and Junior Gabby Jones earned Honorable mention; Senior Maddie Frustaci earned 3rd team and Junior Maddie Johnson earned 1st Team recognition.



The Boys' Water Polo team had a great season this year ending with an overall record of 20 - 7 and a conference record of 9 - 4. During our season the boys team racked up 349 goals, 365 steals, 138 assist and 194 goalies saves. Listed below are the Boys' Water Polo players who received individual honors:

Boys' Water Polo All-State Team:

Danny Crump - 1st Team
Nate Valentine - 3rd Team
Hudson Bowers - Honorable Mention

Boys' Water Polo All-Freshman Team:

Jack Johnson
Joshua Kim

Boys' Water Polo All-Eastern Conference Team:

Danny Crump - 1st Team
Nate Valentine - 1st Team
Carmen Schoppe - 2nd Team
Hudson Bowers - 2nd Team
Alex Fedorczyk - 3rd Team

As awesome as all of these accomplishments were, one of the biggest accomplishments for the team was winning Beast of the East Tournament Flight 2. We are excited to see what is to come, as this team and season was a great building block for the future.

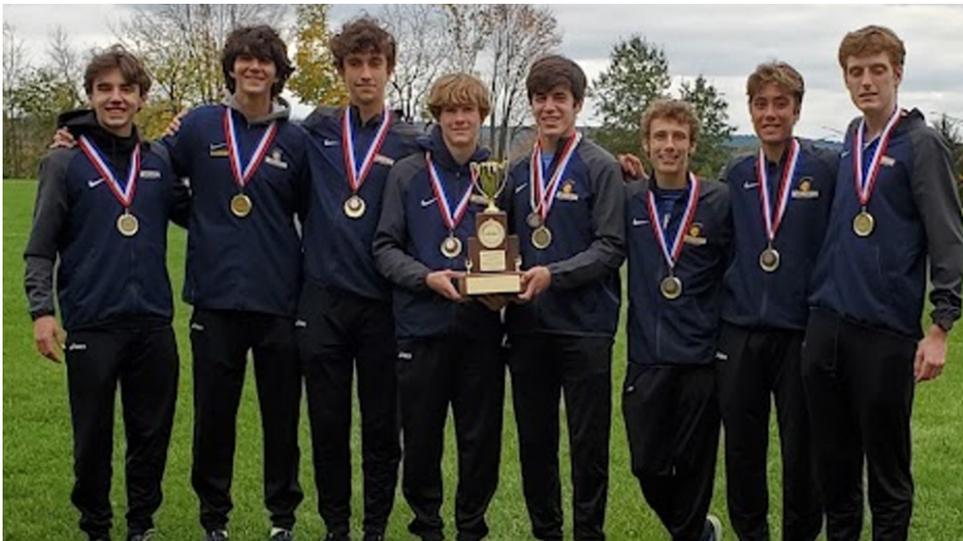
FOOTBALL

The WHS Football Team finished the 2021 season with a 3-7 record and just missed the District 1 5a playoffs by finishing as the 17th seed (Top 16 make the playoffs). While it was an up and down season, the competitiveness in a majority of the games was a treat to watch by all the spectators, home and away. Senior QB Aidan DeFeo finished his career with a few school records; Passing yards in a season (1,551), Passing TDs in a season (12), Passing TDs in a career (30), Passing yards in a career (3,801) and Completions in a Career (114). The coaching staff thanks the senior class for helping to continue to move the program forward.

FIELD HOCKEY

The Wissahickon Field Hockey Team clinched the first-place spot in the SOL Liberty Division. Our defense has proven particularly strong allowing only 18 goals in 22 games, for a goal per game average of .81. Our defenders, Faith Jampo, Danielle Ciliberto, Julia Schools, Brynne Miller and Goalkeeper Julianna Thomas have been outstanding all season long. We will miss our seniors so much. Go Wiss!

CROSS COUNTRY



Congratulations to the Boys' Cross Country Team on winning the SOL Liberty Division Championship undefeated in league play 5-0. The team also won the SOL American Conference Championship! Jake Licata set a personal record in the District 1 Championship meet and qualified for the PIAA State Championship Meet.

Pictured Left to Right: Matt Winkowski, Josh Sasson, Doug Hoyer, Brendan Tatko, Jake Licata, Grayson Ruffner, Dean DiGiovanni and Robert Matejczyk.

Congratulations to the Girls' Cross Country team for finishing 3rd in the League Championship and once again winning the Sportsmanship Award. Mila Jovanovic and Leah Dubin medaled in the championship race (4th and 5th place, respectively) which earned them 1st Team All-League Honors. Emma Reilly was 2nd Team (11th place), and Sophia Furman (17th place) was Honorable Mention. At the District 1 Championship, Leah Dubin ran her best race of the season and just missed qualifying for the State Championship.

TENNIS

Our girls' tennis finished as Suburban One League Liberty Division Champions, undefeated in SOL competition! Our team fell in the District Team Championship Quarterfinals to Spring-Ford, after defeating Downingtown West and Strath Haven. Ella Chang and YiYi Huang competed in District Singles. Senior Captain Lauren Kooman, together with partner Clair Baldasano won the Suburban One League Liberty Division Doubles Tournament, undefeated in SOL conference play. First team SOL Liberty Division All-League honors go to Ella Chang and YiYi Huang for Singles as well as teammates Lauren Kooman and Clair Baldasano for Doubles.

