



Trojan Talk

Newsletter from
Wissahickon High School



March 2022

Health and Safety Plan Update

Beginning in early March, WSD shifted to mask-optional with the updated WSD Health and Safety Plan. Our students and teachers are able to wear a mask, if that is what makes them the most comfortable. The health and safety of our school community remains a top priority and I appreciate WHS coming together in solidarity and supporting each person's individual right to choose whatever is best for them. We will be surveying our students about their feelings about returning to the Upper and Lower Cafeterias only for lunches (and no longer using the Audion and Auditorium for added space to increase distancing). We will look at the feedback from the students and make a decision that best fits our school community; we will provide whatever accommodations are necessary for everyone to feel safe at school. Thank you for your ongoing support. The students and staff at WHS continue to make me proud during this very challenging time.

MASKING IS OPTIONAL

CDC COVID-19 Community Levels:

[COVID-19 Community Levels](#) are a new tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area.

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear a mask indoors in public Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

Wiss Supports Ukrainian Relief Efforts

Our WHS community showed their compassion through a recent effort to help support Ukrainian Relief efforts. The staff raised money to help the refugees through an organization in Philadelphia. The students in our Functional Skills program used the money to purchase the most-needed items and prepared them for delivery. As the students in that class said, "We are trying to help people who have so little and are going through so much". Thank you for all of the donations and the support from our friends in A01!



Music HIGHLIGHTS



Congratulations are in order for Jeremy Luu and Olivia Seo! These two star violinists auditioned for and earned seats in the PMEA Region VI Orchestra and performed in an outstanding concert at Lower Merion High School. Jeremy is next headed to the All State Orchestra! Best of luck!



Our talented Jazz Combo recently played at the opening and awards ceremony for the PSEA Student Art Show at Montgomery County Community College. You will also recognize this talented group from the Semi-Formal at WHS!

We are so proud of Emily Dunsmore, Michael Evans, Ethan Furman, Dan Dowlin, and Andrew Lambright!



Our One O'Clock Jazz Band performed at the Temple University Essentially Ellington Regional Festival (and traveled in style!) on March 1st and then performed again at Central Bucks South on March 4th.

On March 11th, WHS hosted our very own Jazz Festival welcoming students from LaSalle, Upper Merion, Plymouth Whitmarsh, Abington, and Cheltenham high schools. The performances were outstanding! Our WHS Band was the headliner (and the best, in my humble opinion)!



Consider yourself officially invited! The local jazz festivals are open to the public. Our 1PM Band will be at Daniel Boone High School on March 18th and at Marple Newtown High School on March 26th. You can also see them at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School on March 28th or at Abington High School on April 25th. Come to all and you will earn the title of "WHS Groupie"! Thanks for your support of the arts!

Announcement for Seniors

Believe it or not, graduation is almost here! The Commencement for the Class of 2022 will be held on Thursday, June 9th at 6:00 PM. Our caps and gowns have been ordered! They will be distributed to students at their rehearsal on June 8th. Many families have been asking about tickets. We are hoping that the weather works in our favor and we can have an outdoor ceremony. In the event that it rains on June 9th, our rain-date is set for June 10th. Same time, same place! If it rains on June 10th, we will hold graduation indoors. If the ceremony is outdoors, each student will receive 10 tickets for guests. If we get rained out on the 9th and 10th, each student will receive 2 tickets for the Circle Gym. Tickets for handicapped guests will be available upon request. Tickets will be distributed to our graduates at the rehearsal on June 8th.

We are offering families the opportunity to order flowers for their graduate in advance.

[View Details](#)

BEAUTIFUL FLOWER BOUQUETS AND GRADUATION TEDDY BEARS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON-SITE AT THE WISSAHICKON HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY IN THE STADIUM ON THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022 AT 6:00 PM.
Rain Date: Friday, June 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

If you wish to preorder, please visit:

<https://www.thecommentgroup.com/wissahickon/>

Preorder website closes 8:00 PM on June 8, 2022



White, Red, Yellow, Pink Premium Rose Bouquet...\$39



Half Dozen Rose Bouquet...\$20



Graduation Teddy Bears...\$25

All Pre-orders will be set aside at a specific table to allow for pick-up in the Stadium after 3:00 PM on Commencement Day...look for the kiosk.
Apple Pay or Card Only/No Cash

Additionally, we are planning our annual Victory Laps at WMS and the elementary schools after the rehearsal on June 8th. Students will receive information about this awesome tradition in the coming weeks via Schoology – we hope everyone opts to participate! Don't miss out on the chance to wear your cap and gown and walk the halls of WMS and one of our elementary schools to celebrate with teachers and students across the district. Click here for more information for all of the Class of 2022 updates: [Class of 2022 webpage](#).

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

- Thursday 04/28/2022
- Wednesday 05/25/2022 (1:00 PM only)

Dual Enrollment Opportunities at MCCC

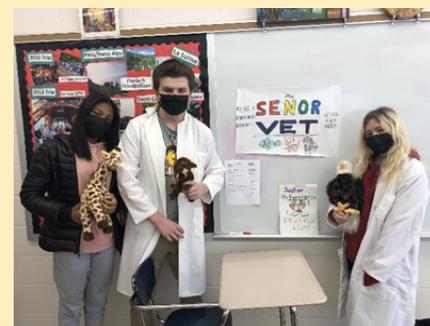
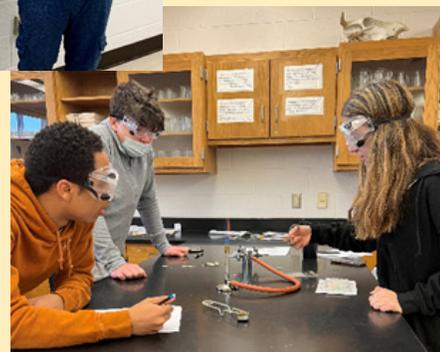
WHS offers a number of dual enrollment courses (please see the Program of Studies for a complete list and additional information). Montgomery County Community College's Dual Enrollment Team is hosting their second annual Exploring Your Student's Dual Enrollment Journey: An Information Session for Parents and Guardians on Wednesday, March 2nd at noon and again at 6:00PM. The program will be virtual. They will share information about dual enrollment, cost savings, course options, and much more! Here is a link with more information about the event: [invitation link](#).

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.

Academic Highlights

A shout-out to Mr. MacMinn's Physics students! They recently used coat hanger gongs to demonstrate to their class that sound travels better through solids than gasses. The sound is inaudible until they put the string to their ears and hear the sound traveling through the string. And, in other science news, a shout-out to Ms. Shahbazi's Chemistry students; they recently conducted the flame test in class.

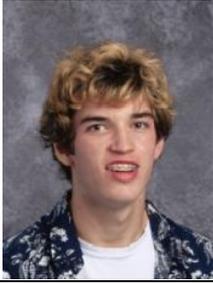


A shout-out to our Spanish 3 Honors students! They recently participated in a career fair to wrap up a unit focusing on occupations and personal characteristics. The students created fliers, sample resumes, wore costumes, and wowed their classmates with their creative application of concepts learning in class. They had a great time with this fun and thoughtful lesson!



Congratulations to our WHS Students of the Month March 2022

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

<p>Taylor Piergrossi Science</p> 	<p>Emma DeMatteo Art and Music</p> 	<p>Harrison Earnst Social Studies</p> 
<p>Serena Harris Language Arts</p> 	<p>Colin Hunter NMTCC</p> 	<p>Kendall Dugas Math</p> 
<p>Reed Bram Business/Technology/FCS</p> 	<p>Mila Jovanovic Athlete</p> 	<p>Paris Victor Good Citizen</p> 
<p>Dafry Coloch Cox Kindness</p> 	<p>Samuel Carey World Language</p> 	<p>Meenakshi Rajesh Health/PE</p> 

Staffing Update

We wish Mrs. Esposito happiness as she begins her maternity leave and time at home with the latest addition to her family! As we continue to look for a substitute, we will be covering Mrs. Esposito's classes with teachers from the Department. Mrs. Rovner will cover Mrs. Esposito's afternoon classes, Mr. Brodie will cover course 1, and Dr. Woodland-Smith will cover course 4. Until we can find a substitute, our Math Lab will be closed for sessions 1 and 4. Thank you to the Math Department for their ongoing support and flexibility.

Cultural Recognitions & Celebrations

WHS honors and recognizes the achievements and contributions of women during National Women's History Month (March). Our classroom teachers are highlighting some of the great achievements of women throughout our history. Next month, in April, we look forward to acknowledging and recognizing the achievements and contributions of Arab Americans during Arab American Heritage Month, as well as celebrating World Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd.

Student Achievements



Congratulations to Ryan O'Farrell for his outstanding academic achievement in the North American Computational Linguistics Open. Ryan placed first in Pennsylvania and 47th in the country after the first round. The second round was on March 17th. Ryan is pictured here showing off one of his hobbies – learning Toki Pona, a simple pidgin-like artificially created language based on universal human experience. The language

is designed to express as much as possible with relatively few sounds and words.

Choose Happiness!!

During the National Honor Society induction, students shared a quote tied to our WHS Choose Happiness 2021-2022 theme. Each month, we will highlight some of the quotes that the students selected. Their words make us so proud!

Avery Evy: “Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.”

Chloe Jeon: “Whatever you choose to do, leave tracks. You will want to leave the world a little better for your having lived.”

Andrew McGarrity: “You don't lose if you get knocked down. You lose if you stay down.”

After reading the March graphic novel based on the US Civil Rights Movement, Madison Wingerter, Torrey Ciliberto, and Charlie Weiss researched a modern Civil Rights issue in their US History class and created an original comic to showcase their findings. Their comic is inspiring; they shared their truth and encourage us to understand the needs of children and adults with disabilities. We are so proud of Madison, Torrey, and Charlie!



Club Spotlights

WHS Musical:

Congratulations to the Cast and Crew (and Mr. Conahan) of this year's musical production, Sondheim on Sondheim! For three nights, the Wissahickon Theatre Company triumphantly returned to the stage for live performances – and they were awesome! The students did an exceptional job bringing the stories and songs to life. It was yet another fantastic musical in the books for WHS!



Robotics Update:

Our WHS Robotics Team is excited to announce that they are hosting two open house events next week. Come out and see short presentations from coaches and students, meet the 2022 robot and its student designers, tour the workspaces, and try your hands at driving a robot! The open house events are on Wednesday, March 23rd and Thursday, March 24th. Please kindly RSVP if you are planning to attend:

<https://tinyurl.com/DaisyOpenHouse>

In other Robotics news, the Team recently embarked on their first regular season competition on March 5th and March 6th. The team had a productive and well-executed robot build season, beginning with the reveal of the 2022 game challenge, Rapid React. During this competition event, the WHS team placed 13th out of 35 teams with a record of 7-5. During the awards ceremony, at the conclusion of the event, the WHS team was honored to receive the Excellence in Engineering Award. This award celebrates the team that demonstrates a professional approach to the design process and is able to describe its robot's design element from conception. I am so happy that the team was recognized for their creativity, process, and achievements! Way to go, Team 341 Miss Daisy!

Ultimate Frisbee Update:

Congratulations to our Ultimate Frisbee Team! Ultiworld recently announced their High School Power Rankings and Wissahickon's Club ranked 20th in the nation! The team is headed to a competition in Washington D.C. at the end of the month; they will have a chance to play teams from all over the East Coast. Good luck to the Team!



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE WISSAHICKON ROBOTICS TEAM'S



OPEN HOUSE

MEET OUR 2022 ROBOT • TALK TO OUR STUDENTS • DRIVE A ROBOT • FAMILIES WELCOME



March 23 and March 24, 2022
7:30–9:00 PM
Wissahickon High School

RSVP at tinyurl.com/DaisyOpenHouse

Art Club Event:

Students from our Honors Art Club are working with Ambler EAC Earth Fest this year on the Recycled Art Show event! They would love to get the community engaged with this awesome event. The event is on Saturday, April 30th from 10:00-2:00 at the Ambler Borough Hall. Here are links about how to get involved with the event:

[Recycled Art Show - Ambler Environmental Advisory Council](https://www.amblereac.org/earth-fest)
<https://www.amblereac.org/earth-fest>



Project Lit:

Project Lit is hosting a meeting with award winning author Laurie Halse Anderson about her memoir, *Shout*. All are invited to attend on March 31st in room C-02. We hope to see you there for a chance to learn from the author about her process in writing her memoir.

Mental Health Corner



Each month, our Resource Counselor, Ms. Moyer, is going to feature information focused on mental health in our WHS Newsletter. Thank you, Ms. Moyer, for sharing your expertise with our community. Here is Ms. Moyer's message for March:

Know the 5 signs of emotional suffering so that you can notice when your child is in emotional pain and might need help.

Personality Change: You may notice sudden or gradual changes in the way that he/she/they typically behaves. They may behave in ways that don't seem to fit their values, or they may just seem different.

Agitated: You may notice your child seems uncharacteristically angry, anxious, agitated, or moody. Maybe they have more frequent problems controlling their temper and seem irritable or unable to calm down. In more extreme situations of this kind they may be unable to sleep or may explode in anger at a minor problem.

Withdrawn: They withdraw or isolate themselves from others. Instead of being socially engaged they pull away from family and friends and stop participating in activities they used to enjoy. Not to be confused with the behavior of someone who is more introverted, this sign is marked by a change in someone's typical sociability, as when someone pulls away from the social support he or she typically has.

Poor Self-Care: They stop taking care of themselves and may engage in risky behavior. You may notice a change in your child's level of personal care or an act of poor judgment on his or her part. For example letting their hygiene deteriorate or starting to engage in self-destructive behaviors that may alienate loved ones like substance abuse.

Hopelessness: They seem overcome with hopelessness and overwhelmed by their circumstances. They express feelings of worthlessness or guilt, wondering if the world would be better off without them, suggesting suicidal thinking.

WSD Parent Workshop Series

The district is hosting Zoom Parent Workshops focused on our efforts toward equity and cultural responsiveness. Ms. Keziah LaTorre, our Director of Equity and Cultural Responsiveness, will facilitate the workshop series via Zoom. The topics include: Culturally Responsive Teaching Practices, Social Emotional Learning, Sense of Belonging, The Importance of Language and Mindset, and Restorative Practices. The Zoom links will be available on the district calendar at www.wsdweb.org and each workshop will be recorded and posted to access following the session (on the WSD Resource webpage), for those who are unable to attend. [Click here for more information on the workshops.](#)

Summer Academy

Our registration for this year's Camp for Success is now open! Our 9th, 10th, and 11th graders have three options for summer programming through WHS: Pre-teaching, Re-teaching, or SAT Preparation. These courses are free of charge to our students. The registration form must be completed and returned to the School Counseling Office by April 8th. [Click here for the registration form.](#) One important note, because meeting dates overlap, students can only select one option (Pre-teaching, Re-teaching, or SAT Test Preparation) and if you select Pre-teaching or Re-teaching program, you can only select one course (e.g. mathematics, language arts, science). We hope you will join us this summer!



TROJAN TRIUMPHS

Athletic Update from Jim Cairnes, Athletic Director

WRESTLING

Nathanael Chez (172-Jr.) placed 3rd and Grayson Ruffner (113-So.) placed 4th at the District Championships advancing to the Regional Championships. Unfortunately, both of their seasons ended there.

Captain Nathanael Chez led the team this year with 21 wins followed by freshman, Tyler Prince with 20 wins.

The next three win leaders were sophomore Grayson Ruffner (17), senior Julian Memis (14) and junior Ryan Lee (12). From the 10 wrestlers who participated in the post-season 9 will be returning next year! The future looks bright for the Trojans!!



BOYS' TRACK



With Isaiah Marc and Jaylen Foster already headed to States, (Isaiah for 60 and 200 dashes, Jaylen 60), the 4x200 relay waited until the last meet (Meet of Champs) to hit the state standard enabling Chase and Rowan to join Isaiah and Jaylen in State College.

The highlight of meet was Isaiah taking 4th place in the 200 with a

personal best and indoor school record of 21.95. (Old record 22.11, Darian Williams 2016.) This came on the heels of the flat-track school record he set the week before at Lehigh. His time of 22.56 broke Williams' 22.59 from 2016. (The State Championship meet is held on a banked track making it easier to negotiate the turns, thus the differences of records.) Earlier in the meet, Isaiah hit personal bests in both prelims (7.07) and semi-finals (7.06) of the 60 dash but failed to advance.

The 4x2 competed without lead-off Jaylen Foster who slightly injured his hamstring the week before and, while making the trip, did not suit up. Although they were leading their heat to the anchor leg, a disqualification for interference and a fall ended the run.



GIRLS' TRACK

The Girls' Indoor Track Team had a successful finish to their season. At the Meet of Champions on February 18th, 5 members of the team traveled to Lehigh University to compete against the top athletes from 54 schools. Senior Lena Perlmutter finished her high school career with a 5th place finish in the Pole Vault, freshman Jessica Palish ran the 60 meter dash finishing 9th in 8.18 seconds, and junior Emma Jovanovic competed in the 400 meter dash, earning a 4th place medal and running a 1:00.32. The following week on February 27th, Emma Jovanovic competed in the 2022 Indoor Track & Field State Championship Meet at Penn State University. She finished 15th in the state in the 400 meter dash running an indoor personal best of 59.86.



GIRLS' SWIMMING

The Wissahickon Girls' Swimming and Diving Team finished 18th overall at District One Championships with all five qualifying athletes contributing points. Our 200 Free Relay (Maddie Johnson, Bernice Fu, Sarah Pickel, and Ava Walters) placed 12th and qualified for State Championships which will be held this week at Bucknell. The 400 Free Relay (Sarah, Bernice, Ava, and Maddie) dropped about 1.5 seconds to place 16th. Maddie earned personal best times in both the 200 IM (14th place) and 100 Breaststroke (11th). Sarah broke two minutes in the 200 Freestyle for the first time, placing 32nd, and moved up to 28th in the 100 Free. Ava did a personal best in the 200 Free (20th) and a season best in the 500 (13th). Bernice placed 39th in the 200 IM. At Diving Districts, Regan placed 7th earning a spot at the State Championships.



SOFTBALL

The Varsity Softball Team hopes to keep its playoff appearance streak alive this year. We have made the playoffs 3 straight years. We fully expected to make the playoffs the Year of Covid shutdown but didn't get to play. For the first time in many years the Softball Team has 4 Seniors Committed to play College Softball: CF/P Luca Penna, P/SS Danielle Ciliberto, 1b Kaitlyn Fitzgerald and C Grace Franczyk. The Coaches are very proud of these players. They have worked hard to achieve these goals. We are looking for them to lead us to the playoffs this year. Up and coming players to watch are returning Juniors Emi Fox and Emma Dutill (Em2). Emi should be our regular third baseman while Em2 will play 2nd base and pitch. We have some promising players in outfielders Meredith Walsh and Maren Carter. Meredith will play CF and RF while Maren will anchor left field. OF/INF Siena Miller and Rookie SS Morgan Risnychok showed up ready to play varsity this year and look like they are going to contribute to the Varsity playoff push. Our biggest team goal is to get a home playoff game this year.

BASEBALL

The WHS Baseball team is eager to get 2022 season underway. We will be led by our senior captains Nate DeVincent, Ben Junker and Morgan Wilson. Seniors Reed Bram and Danny Crump return to add to a strong pitching staff. The rising sophomore class and returning juniors will help round out the roster and are ready to contribute right away. The whole program put in a lot of work in the offseason and they are all anxious to see their results on the diamond. Giddy up!

ICE HOCKEY

The Wissahickon Varsity Ice Hockey team closed on a strong season last Monday in a tough game against West Chester Henderson during the first round of the Flyers Cup Regional playoffs. It has been a very successful season for the team, finishing 2nd overall in the district with a record in their division of 9 wins and 5 losses from a total of 17 games played. One of the highlights of the season was the team's 7-2 victory over Plymouth Whitmarsh, our main rival, followed by a playoff victory against PW, beating the team 6-4 to move on to the League Championship. Some other highlights include the first ever "Wissahickon Winter Classic", where we played in the open air at Spring Mountain's outdoor rink against Abington Varsity. Our team was led by our four seniors; Michael Bonanni, Nick Husa, A.J. Pounds, and Ty Schiff. We are excited for another successful season next year, and we are looking for any new players interested in joining the team. We will be losing our goalie next year as well, so we are especially interested in anyone who would like to play goaltender. Practices start in September, every Monday night at Hatfield Ice in Colmar from 6:10-7:10. If interested, please contact GM Rich Foulk at wisstrojanspuck@gmail.com for more information or registration materials.

