



Trojan Talk

Newsletter from
Wissahickon High School



December 2018

Course Selection for 2019-2020 School Year

Course selection for the 2019-2020 school year will kick-off in January. (It's difficult to think about next school year already!) As you and your student review our Program of Studies and the teacher recommendations, we encourage you to select courses purposefully. The goal is to challenge each student at their level without overwhelming them and/or causing any undue stress. We believe that balance is important and we hope that all of our students are able to have enriching academic experiences in the classrooms but also are able to find fulfillment outside of their studies, too. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your student's school counselor and/or teachers to gather valuable "food for thought" when making your course selections. Please come out to learn about what WHS has to offer during our Program of Studies Night on Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. There is a parent presentation in the Auditorium and a student presentation in the Audion. High school students and faculty will be available to help answer questions. Our current Program of Studies and other course selection materials are available on the Office of Scheduling and Grade Reporting web page of the district website.

Free, Fast and Reliable Internet in Our Community

Wissahickon High School continues to support the districtwide Achievement Gap initiative for our school community. Across our country, nearly five million households with school-aged children lack high-quality broadband access at home, which presents a challenge for students to complete their homework. This homework gap creates imbalances in performance and confidence for students. We have a number of local resources in our community that can support a need for fast, reliable internet service. Thank you to WHS Special Education teacher, Mr. Jay VanCassele, for taking the charge on collecting this information to support each and every student at WHS.

Abyss Coffee	30 S Bethlehem Pike, Ambler, PA 19002	M-Fri- 6am-8pm, Sat- 7am-8pm, Sun- 7am-6pm
Alice Bakery and Confectionary	95 E Butler Ave, Ambler, PA 19002	M-Closed, Tue-Wed- 6am-6pm, Thu-Fri-6am-10pm, Sat-7am-10pm, Sun-7am-6pm
Central Library @ Montgomery County Community College	340 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422	M-Th- 7:30am-9:30pm, Fri- 7:30am-5pm, Sat- 10am-4pm, Sun- 4pm-5pm
GIANT Food Stores- Café	1121 N Bethlehem Pike, SpringHouse, PA 19477	M-Sun- 6am-12pm
GIANT Food Stores- Café	1760 Dekalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422	M-Sun- 6am-12pm
Starbucks	1111 N Bethlehem Pike, SpringHouse, PA 19477	M-Th- 5:30am-9pm, Fri- 5:30am-10pm, Sat- 6am-10pm, Sun- 6:30am-9pm
Starbucks	936 Dekalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422	M-Fri- 5am-10pm, Sat- 5:30am-10pm, Sun- 5:30am-9pm
The Keiss Library at Gwynedd Mercy University	1325 Sumnerytown Pike, Gwynedd Valley, PA 19437	M-Th- 8:30am-10pm, Fri- 8:30am-4:30pm, Sat- 10am-5pm, Sun- 1pm-8pm
Whole Foods Market- Coffee Bar	1111 N Bethlehem Pike, SpringHouse, PA 19477	M-Sun- 7am-10pm
Wissahickon Valley Public Library	650 W Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422	M-Th- 10am-9pm, Fri-Sat- 10am-5pm, Sun- 4pm-4pm
Wissahickon Valley Public Library Ambler Branch	209 Race St, Ambler, PA 19002	M-Th- 10am-9pm, Fri-Sat- 10am-5pm, Sun- Closed

Class of 2019 Calendar

Our Senior Class Advisors, Mr. Dorner and Mr. Stokes, created a Senior Class Calendar to help families with their planning for the 2018-2019 school year. If you have any questions about the events throughout the year, please contact Mr. Dorner and Mr. Stokes for more information.

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
September 25	Senior Class Picture	IE	Circle Gym
	Order deadline for Senior T-shirt (\$15)/Hoodie (\$25)	2:35 p.m.	Mr. Stokes/Mr. Dorner Square Gym Office
October 10	Payment and permission form due for Senior Banquet (\$85)	2:35 p.m.	Mr. Stokes/Mr. Dorner Square Gym Office
October 10	Josten's Cap and Gown Assembly	IE	Homeroom/Audion
October 11	Senior Portraits- last time Lifetouch visits WHS. Seniors may contact Lifetouch at 1-800-687-9327 for retakes, but must visit the Lifetouch studio for retakes after October 11 th .	Schedule with Lifetouch	WHS Audion
October 15 & October 17	Stationery/Graduation announcement orders and money due. \$28 due for caps and gowns due.	All Lunches	Upper Cafeteria lobby
November 5	Senior Banquet	4:30 - 11:00 p.m.	Spirit of Philadelphia
November 30	Yearbook Recognition Ads (Baby Ads) Due		Jostens.com
January 22	Midterms – English & Math	7:37 – 11:05 a.m.	Assigned rooms
January 23	Midterms – Science & Social Studies	7:37 – 11:05 a.m.	Assigned rooms
February 9	Semi-Formal (\$20) Tickets on Sale January 30 to Feb 6, 2019	7:30-11:00 p.m.	Square Gym Lobby
March 29	Students interested in being the 2 nd Commencement Speaker must submit speeches by today	Due no later than 3:00 p.m.	Administrative Suite
May - TBD	Senior Class Assembly	IE	Audion
May 17	Prom (approximately \$90) Tickets on Sale May 1 through May 10, 2019	7:00 - 11:00 p.m.	Sheraton Hotel, Valley Forge
May 28, 29, 30	Modified Class Schedule	7:37 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	Assigned rooms
	Graduation Project Presentations	11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Assigned rooms
May 30	Last day of Classes for Seniors		
May 30	WHS Scholarship Night	7:00 p.m.	Auditorium
May 31	Senior Exams – Math & Social Studies	7:37 – 11:05 a.m.	Assigned rooms
June 3	Senior Exams – English & Science	7:37 – 11:05 a.m.	Assigned rooms
	Senior Awards Night	7:00 p.m.	Audion
June 4	Class Trip (approximately \$80)	7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	TBD
	Senior Make-up Exams	7:37 a.m.	TBD
June 5	Graduation Rehearsal & Senior Check-out Distribution of Graduation Tickets	7:45 a.m.	Auditorium
	Victory Laps	Following graduation practice	Elementary Schools
	All 12 th grade obligations must be cleared	No later than 3:00 p.m.	Administrative Suite
June 6	Senior Breakfast & Graduation Rehearsal	7:45 a.m.	Lower Café & Auditorium
	Prepare for Commencement	5:00 p.m. SHARP!	Auditorium
	Commencement (Graduates return to Natatorium lobby for diploma pick-up following graduation)	6:00 p.m.	WHS Memorial Stadium

Congratulations to our Students of the Month



LAURA RAMOS LOPEZ - Science

Laura is a hard-working, respectful, and kind student. She works hard and never gives up in order to achieve success. She not only excels at understanding the content, but she takes the additional time to explain concepts to others. She is a role model for her peers and an overall outstanding individual.



JARED GLASS - NMTCC

Jared is a student in the culinary program at NMTCC. In the school's restaurant, Jared is consistently welcoming and engaging. He models those same skills in our community working at Izzie's Deli! Jared's kindness and enthusiasm are infectious; he makes everyone around him smile!



JEREMY BRECHER - World Language

Jeremy is self-taught in multiple languages and never misses an opportunity for extension in his French class. He is an excellent student and models a strong level of commitment. He brings his natural ability and extraordinary effort to class every day.



JACKSON GRUENKE - Bus/Tech/FCS

Jackson is a dedicated Television Production student and TV Club member. In the classroom, Jackson is hardworking and had shown a true passion for the subject matter. As a member of the club, Jackson is an excellent videographer. He attended every football game and most other fall sports competitions, capturing great shots each time. His talent and commitment are admirable.



ESTHER CHOI - Math

Esther models both ability and determination. As a ninth grader, Esther is taking two math classes and she excels in both. Esther is organized and has a strong commitment to learning. She willingly helps students in her class when they are experiencing difficulty with a concept.



TAYLOR LEABY - Art and Music

Taylor is focused and determined in the studio. Her work is prolific and she seemingly never stops trying to make new and better forms. She is always experimenting and pushing the boundaries of what we know and typically do in the ceramics studio. Her work ethic and creativity are great examples for her peers.



KAITLIN MOREHOUSE - Health/PE

Kaitlin is a wonderful Physical Education student. Kaitlin comes prepared for class every day. She is consistently pleasant, comes ready to play, and welcomes challenge. At the end of class, she is typically the last one to leave because she is always helping to clean up, usually without being asked. Kaitlin is a true leader and role model.



JULIANA BOGGS - Student-Athlete

Juliana is a true leader on the cheerleading squad. She is a role model for all of her teammates and an extremely hard worker. Additionally, Juliana is committed to her academics, modeling what we want to see in all of our student athletes. She is very driven and goal-oriented.



JASMINE HAN - Social Studies

Jasmine takes initiative and she is motivated by her strong interest in the curriculum. She is very passionate about social studies. She consistently demonstrates kindness and mature leadership in both small and large group settings.



CHARLIE IGNATIUS - Good Citizen

Charlie is a hard-working student who always tries his best, both in and out of the classroom. He willingly takes on challenges. He is friendly, helpful, and a great role model to his peers.



SUJIN KIM - Language Arts

Sujin is an exceptional student. She is always focused in class and has never missed a homework assignment. Giving 110% each day, she is tireless in her desire to learn and broaden her abilities.



JACK QUINN - Kindness

Jack understands the importance of being a caring friend. He provides support to his peers and he is dependable. Jack is an active and committed student and is described by teachers as inclusive, kind, and motivated.

Graduation 2019 Information

Commencement for the Class of 2019 is Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Most graduating seniors have submitted payment for their cap, gown, and tassel. If your student has not submitted payment for their cap, gown and tassel, the cost is \$28.00. If your student already has a Wissahickon graduation gown, the cost for a cap and tassel is \$13.00. Payment is now past due; please submit late payments to the Administrative Suite. Students can pay with cash or check (payable to Jostens).

Many families have been asking about tickets for the commencement ceremony. If our ceremony is outdoors in the stadium, each graduate will receive ten (10) tickets. If our ceremony is indoors due to inclement weather, each graduate will receive two tickets for the Circle Gym and an additional two (2) tickets for family and friends to watch the ceremony via live feed in our auditorium. Handicapped accessible seating tickets are available upon student or parent request. Tickets will be distributed to students on Wednesday, June 5 during rehearsal with the students' caps and gowns. A decision to move the ceremony indoors will be made on Thursday, June 6.

Earlier this month, a letter was mailed home indicating how your student's name will appear on their diploma. We are ordering the diplomas in January and will not be able to make changes after placing the order.

Stay tuned for additional graduation updates throughout the year. If you have any concerns with this information, please contact our Assistant Principal, Ms. Karen Gebhardt (kgebhardt@wsdweb.org)
Congratulations, Class of 2019!

Student Highlights

Cocinar con amigos, Mit Freunden kochen

Students in Family and Consumer Science (FCS), Spanish, and German classes collaborated to create Spanish Tapas! FCS and Spanish students made Ensalada de Cebolla y Naranja, Tortilla Espanola, Patatas Bravas, Champinones Rellenos, and Pan con Tomate. The Spanish students shared the recipes and vocabulary with the FCS students and the FCS students helped the Spanish students prepare and cook the food. The students enjoyed listening to Flamenco music while preparing the food.

Students in our German 4 classes joined the Gourmet Foods class to create marzipan, traditional German sweets, in the days leading up to Sankt Nikolaus Day. The German tradition is that on this day, children put their shoes out and hope to wake up to a shoe full of treats for being "good all year."



Student Highlights

Future Business Leaders of America Compete in Regional Leadership Competition

On December 6, over 70 students from our Future Business Leaders of America club competed in the FBLA Regional Leadership Competition. Our students took tests or presented projects and competed against students from twelve other schools within the region. Some of our students will attend FBLA State Leadership Conference in April. Below is a list of all FBLA members who have made it to States as well as their competition events. Congratulations to all members who have qualified! WHS is so proud of you!

- Gabe Kessler- Agribusiness; fourth place
- Arnav Gupta- Database Design and Applications; first place
- Bobby McFarland – Economics; fifth place
- Michael O’Farell- Emerging Business Issues; first place
- Ari Sasson- Emerging Business Issues; first place
- Eshan Jituri- Global Business; third place
- Chloe Minnick- Global Business; third place
- Leo Morales- Global Business; third place
- Rebecca Dolfman- Graphic Design; first place
- Adam Bowerman- Graphic Design; first place
- Aiden Bruno- Health Care Administration; fourth place
- Evan Qiang- Health Care Administration; first place
- Vishal Sowmyan- Health Care Administration; second place
- Christina O’Farell- Introduction to Business; fourth place
- Emma Siegel- Introduction to Business; fifth place
- Ari Reiserer- Introduction to Business Communication; fourth place
- Esha Shah - Introduction to Business Communication; third place
- Christopher Suh- Introduction to Business Presentation; second place
- Amanda Brecher- Introduction to Business Procedures; fourth place
- Ben Klein- Introduction to Business Procedures; first place
- Andy Langman- Introduction to FBLA; first place
- Dylan Lynagh- Introduction to FBLA; third place
- Dora Stavenger- Introduction to FBLA; second place
- Ella Sanders- Introduction to Financial Math; fifth place
- Aditya Shah- Introduction to Financial Math; third place
- Reed Bram- Introduction to Information Technology; second place
- Alex Gindea- Introduction to Information Technology; fifth place
- Sidh Shelley- Introduction to Parliamentary Procedures; second place
- Phillip Dias- Marketing; second place
- Jake Litcata- Marketing; second place
- Dean Wolfe- Marketing; second place
- Evan Mustin- Personal Finance; fourth place
- Elizabeth Kooman- Publication Design; first place
- Corinne Lafferty- Publication Design; first place
- Brooke Shapiro- Publication Design; first place
- Josh Chaiken- Sports and Entertainment Management; first place
- Michael Licata- Sports and Entertainment Management; first place
- Bryce Miles- Sports and Entertainment Management; first place



Student Highlights

Hour of Code

On Saturday, December 8, our Robotics Team hosted their first Hour of Code, an in-depth computer science exploration. The attendees worked on either a dance party activity or a combat-themed quest. The students learned how computer science careers directly relate to the real world. Thank you to Team 341 for making this opportunity available to our community of future engineers!



Kindness Rocks at WSD

The students of the German Honor Society started districtwide campaign – Kindness Rocks. The students gathered rocks to share with middle school students taking German, who will help the honor society create the kindness rocks. Each rock has a positive and motivational message written in German. The rocks will be distributed around all of our schools. Elementary, middle and high school students are encouraged to find the rocks and then place them in other public places to spread kindness around our school community. Thank you for paying it forward!



99 Donors During Blood Drive

The Health Careers Club had very successful blood drive in November. This year, 99 people donated and we collected 66 pints of blood. One (1) pint of blood can save up to three (3) lives. Our club members worked hard to coordinate this event. They helped distribute permission forms, promote awareness, and collect the signed forms. The club members helped support the Red Cross during the event; they escorted donors to the drive, they supervised the donors after they made their donation, and they helped register the donors. We thank all of our donors and volunteers for their valuable and great service!

Academic Quiz Team Competes in Regional Competition at UPenn

The Wissahickon Academic Quiz Team traveled to Philadelphia to compete with other area schools and connect with WHS alumni who now attend The University of Pennsylvania. Our own underdog C team upset the A and B teams in the standings, placing ninth overall. We also had some strong individual performances: returning team officer, Jack Quinn placed ninth overall, followed by the leaders of the C team, Jacky Zhang and Evan Mustin. Ella Chang had a strong showing in her second tournament, as did Max Klugherz, who received recognition for his outstanding scores in the morning rounds. We look forward to several more tournaments this winter and a teacher-student or student-parent event this spring. Congratulations - this is an outstanding accomplishment!



Student Highlights

500+ Pounds Donated for Canned Food Drive

Students of the National Honor Society and Key Club donated over 500 pounds of food during the holiday canned food drive to The Mattie Dixon Community Cupboard. Additionally, the Key Club raised \$180 for UNICEF. Thank you for paying it forward during the holiday season within our own community!



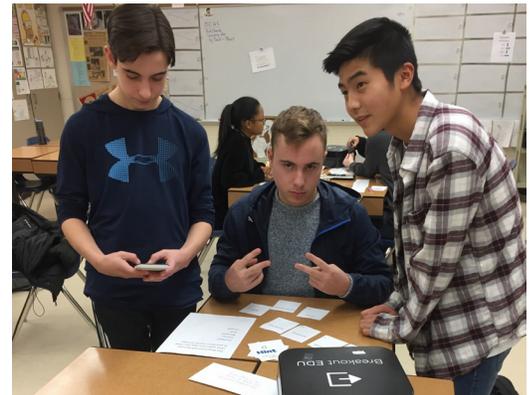
150 Bags of Clothes Donated

A huge shout out to Mr. Mogg's 11th grade English classes! The students organized a clothing drive for The Purple Heart Foundation. They collected over 150 bags of donations! Through their generosity, the students truly embraced the spirit of giving during this holiday season. Thank you for paying it forward!



Break in to BreakoutEDU

Students in Ms. Pronko's AP Seminar course kicked off the first part of their group exam last week with a series of puzzles to break into their breakout boxes. Students collaborated and learned how to utilize the strengths in their groups to solve the puzzles. In this exciting new interdisciplinary course, students explore real world, self-selected topics from multiple perspectives. The goal of the course is to build independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills.



Working Hard

Our Health and Physical Education teachers want to give a shout out to their students for their hard work and enthusiasm in a variety of different physical activities.



Student Highlights

La La Land at WHS Semi-Formal

The Wissahickon High School Semi-Formal is Saturday, February 9, 2019 in the Square Gym from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. This year, our theme is “La La Land.” Tickets will be available for sale at the end of January for \$20. The Wissahickon Jazz Band will provide music as guests arrive and a DJ will spin the music for dancing. The Junior Class Committee is currently designing and creating the decorations for the event.



Choral Students Honors 200th Anniversary of ‘Silent Night’

The Choral Department held its annual Winter Choral Concert on Tuesday, December 4, featuring seven of the high school’s singing ensembles. The students performed choral music exclusively written by living women composers. On Wednesday, December 12 the Wissahickon Camerata performed a live broadcast of holiday music on 90.1 FM, Philadelphia’s premiere Classical and Jazz Radio Station. Hosted and interviewed by WRTI personality Gregg Whiteside, the Camerata showcased a number of festive works, including two new choral pieces. The event was broadcast live and simulcast on Facebook Live, where it can still be viewed. On December 17, the Wissahickon Camerata performed at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia! This year is the 200th Anniversary of Silent Night, and to celebrate, a new choral version of the song was performed at the Kimmel Center. Over 700 people attended this event, including high school choirs, community choirs, professional vocalists, and novice singers.

Clarke Johnson ‘19 Selected as Student of the Quarter, Rotary Club of Blue Bell

Congratulations to Senior Clarke Johnson who was selected as the Student of the Quarter by the Rotary Club of Blue Bell and awarded \$500. Clarke serves as President of CASA and has helped to coordinate speakers, programs, service, and college visits for students of color in our school. Additionally, she is president of the French National Honor Society, WEOF Student Representative, Homeroom Representative for Student Council and the Event Coordinator for National Honor Society. She has also served as a hospital volunteer for several summers, volunteers with Meals on Wheels, and works at Gwynedd Estates.



Students on KYW 1060

Senior Brian Tague and Junior Alex Gelman recently completed a four-week newstudies program with KYW. At the end of the program, students write and produce a 30-second story that airs on KYW 1060 radio. Tague and Gelman participate in the WTV program at Wissahickon High School.





Trojan Triumphs

from Jim Cairnes, Athletic and Activities Director

wissahickonathletics.org

Follow us @WissAthletics

College Signing Day

We recently celebrated the college signings of four of our exceptional student-athletes. We wish you continued academic and athletic success and we are very proud of you!

- Kelly Dickson - Lacrosse - Saint Francis University
- David Goldstein - Soccer - Muhlenberg College
- Samantha Intrieri - Lacrosse - Towson University
- Carly Zlotnikoff - Swimming - University of Wisconsin – Madison



Four Student-Athletes Named to All-State

The Wissahickon High School Field Hockey team is honored to have three players named All State:

- First Team All State - Meghan Reilly (Goalie)
- Second Team All State - Grace Ball (Forward)
- Second Team All State - Hannah Havrilla (Back)

Congratulations to the players and their families! We are so proud of you!

Teacher Spotlight: Ms. Mulroy

Ms. Kelly Mulroy teaches Business Education at Wissahickon High School

Q: What is your favorite holiday tradition?

A: My favorite holiday tradition is going to Walter's Tree farm in Warrington, with my family, the day after Thanksgiving, to find the perfect tree.

Q: What are you looking forward to doing over the winter vacation?

A: I am looking forward to spending time at home while maybe catching up on a good book. I am also looking forward to cooking. I know this may sound crazy to some people, but I enjoy it! I'm that person who reads cookbooks for FUN to get ideas!

Q: If you weren't a teacher, what is your dream job?

A: I would definitely be a nurse. I feel rewarded being able to help people. In MANY years when I retire, I am going to volunteer at different hospitals.

Q: What is your favorite high school memory?

A: Being a part of FBLA. (Future Business Leaders of America). I was involved all four years of high school and I am passionate about bringing my experiences to our FBLA club at Wissahickon.

Q: What is one thing about you that would surprise most people?

A: I have a 103 year old grandfather.

STARS Tutoring

STARS is a peer-to-peer tutoring program that students may utilize during Study Hall, Lunch, I/E, or after school on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday beginning at 2:40 pm. Students can sign up to provide help as a tutor or to receive help in the different subject areas. Applications are available in the library or counseling office. Please return completed applications with parent/guardian signature to the library or to Mr. McCabe in room G-02. Meetings are arranged through Schoology. If you have any questions, please email Mr. McCabe (bmccabe@wsdweb.org) or via Schoology message.

Student Assistance Program (SAP)

The Student Assistant Program (SAP) offers support services to students experiencing concerns of mental health, issues involving substance use, behavior, and/or emotional difficulties that may pose barriers to school success. Students can be referred to the SAP team by parents/guardians, school personnel, peers or self-referrals. The SAP team is comprised of specially trained teachers, administrators, school counselors and mental health and/or drug and alcohol consultants. The goal of the team is to work with students and families to provide supportive interventions and recommendations for success. Where barriers are sometimes beyond the scope of the school, the team can provide information and help families gain access to community resources. View brochure for more information about SAP.

Academic Support Resources

We would like to remind our students of the two academic support initiatives at WHS: Extended Learning Time Program (ELT) and Math and Writing Labs. ELT is an after-school program designed to provide academic support in our core subject areas. ELT is open in the Library until 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and until 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons. Students may utilize our late buses. This is a valuable resource for our students to benefit from re-teaching and/or pre-teaching opportunities. Additionally, our Math Lab and Writing Lab are available to students during lunch or study hall all sessions of the day in the Library. Both Labs can provide academic support in content-specific areas. Please encourage your student to take full advantage of these programs to better support their goals and academic success. These resources help support our #NotYet theme. Please contact your student's teachers or school counselor for more information on this support.

"Love challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort and keep on learning."

~ Carol Dweck

Wissahickon High School Visits

Prospective students and families who are interested in learning about our programs to visit and tour the school. Please contact School Counselor Mrs. Marissa Samit (msamit@wsdweb.org) to schedule your visit.

Our upcoming tour dates and times for the 2018-2019 school year:

- February 7 at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- March 14 at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- May 1 at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- May 29 at 1:00 p.m.

