



Middle School Message

Monthly Newsletter of
Wissahickon Middle School

January 2020

WMS Career Day on Wednesday, March 18, 2020



WMS Career Day is Wednesday, March 18, 2020 from 7:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. This day provides all WMS students the opportunity to see many different professions. We are actively looking for guest speakers to share their career experiences with our students. We are specifically searching for individuals in the following professions and industries. Our goal is to provide Career Pathways among all clusters based on the [Pennsylvania Career Zone](#). If you are interested in speaking or may know someone(s) who may be interested in speaking, please contact Gus Baldassano with their name, profession, job title, employer and contact information.

- **Agriculture, Food & Natural Resource:** refuse and recyclable materials collectors, farm managers and workers, agricultural equipment operators, environmental engineers, biological technicians
- **Architecture & Construction:** construction managers, civil engineers, brick masons, insulation workers, iron workers, electrical powerline installers and repairers, carpenters, electricians, and landscaping;
- **Finance & Insurance:** treasurers and controllers, actuaries, personal financial advisors, accountants, financial analysts, insurance sales agents
- **Government & Public Administration:** financial examiners, postmasters, environmental compliance officers, occupation health and safety specialists, construction and building inspectors, tax examiners and collectors
- **Human Services:** funeral service managers, neuropsychologists and clinical neuropsychologists, psychologists, personal care aides, healthcare social workers, childcare workers, and hairdressers
- **Manufacturing:** nuclear equipment operation technicians, power distributors and dispatchers, power plant operators, industrial machinery mechanics, machinists, maintenance and repair workers

Robotics Teams Compete at the Franklin Institute

Our three robotics teams competed in the FLL Qualifier at the Franklin Institute on Saturday, December 7. Our teams are the Chocolate Cosmos, WMS Dukes, and the WMS Binnovators. The teams did an awesome job with their research projects, core values presentations, robot design, and robot games. A special congratulations to the WMS Binnovators who will compete in the regional competition in February. The Binnovators team members are Hailey Alt, Kenneth Cobbs, Matt DiGiovanni, Richard Liao, Tiffany Lui and Kevin Lobo.



Important Information: Eighth Grade Course Selection for High School 2020-2021

Mrs. Agler and Mr. Baldassano will assist current eighth grade students and families throughout the course selection process for high school. Below, these are important tentative dates to be aware of during this process.

- **January 7-9, 2020:** Mrs. Agler and Mr. Baldassano distribute course selection information and students individualized course selection sheets. We encourage students and their families to review their course selection sheets and the WHS Program of Studies to determine the best courses for ninth grade.
[Click here to view the 2020 Program of Studies and course selection documents.](#)
- **January 8, 2020 at 12:15 p.m.:** WHS administration and School Counseling Office provide an overview of the course selection process during the Home and School Association meeting in the WMS Library.
- **January 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.:** During the WHS Program of Studies Night, WHS administration, school counselors and faculty host a forum for families and students at the high school to provide information about the Program of Studies for 2020-21. Students and their families are encouraged to attend this event.
- **January 13 - 21, 2020:** Teachers will share their recommendations with students. *We ask that parents/guardians refrain from contacting teachers about their recommendations until after the teachers have met with their students.*
- **January 24, 2020:** All course selection sheets must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the WMS School Counseling Office.

L.E.A.P. - Leadership Excellence Achievement Program

Wissahickon Middle School is well-known for its numerous clubs, sports and activities available to students to meet their needs and interests. In fact, our unique Trojan Day schedule allows students to choose from a broader list of activities. The Leadership Excellence Achievement Program (LEAP) is a specialized group that meets throughout the year during homeroom and advisory periods. Students interested in joining these homerooms must be invited or recommended by teachers or staff, and then interested participants complete a formal application. Led by teacher advisor, Mrs. Tracey Rawley, LEAP provides opportunities for students of color to embrace leadership opportunities within the school and community.

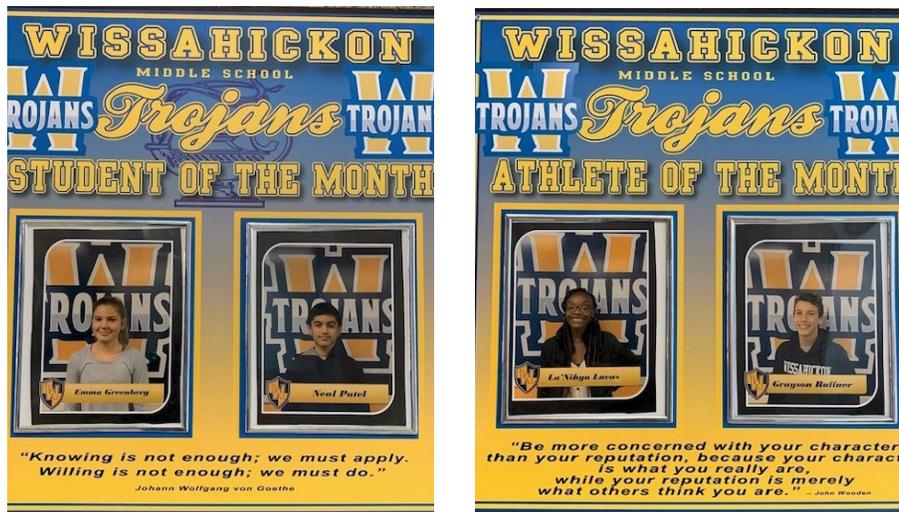
Annually, students visit the University of Pennsylvania for the Delaware Valley Consortium of Equity and Excellence Student Conference. They also participate in the production of the Black History Person of the Day series broadcasted in the Middle School's television news program in February. This year, members of the Ambler and Abington Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. teamed up with the boys of LEAP for a unique series of programming focused on mentoring. Girls of LEAP teamed up with girls from WHS for a series on self-empowerment. Students of LEAP plan to use their training to give back to the community. This year, in honor of the MLK Day of Service, LEAP is planning a clothes and toy drive for Cradles to Crayons. [Click here to learn more about the Cradles to Crayons Community Drive.](#)



LEAP students attend Delaware Valley Consortium of Equity and Excellence Student Conference at the University of Pennsylvania.

Members of the Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. share tips for success with the boys of LEAP.

Students and Athletes of the Month



This month, our two Students of the Month are **Emma Greenberg (grade 7, Owls Team)** and **Neal Patel (grade 7, Owls Team)**. Emma and Neal were selected based on their positive contributions to the middle school, strong interest in learning, involvement in school/community programs, and great character and citizenship.

Our two Student Athletes of the Month are **La'Nihya Lucas (Cheerleading)** and **Grayson Ruffner (Wrestling)**. La'Nihya and Grayson were selected based on their displays of good sportsmanship, respect, "team before self" mentality, commitment, and demonstration of outstanding character, in addition to their athletic skill levels.

Please join us in recognizing these students' positive contributions to the WMS learning community. Photos of these four students are currently on display in the Atrium hallway.

A Recap of the WMS Band Performances

December started off with the Ambler Parade and the WMS Marching Band. The students marched down Butler Avenue while playing "Jingle Bells" for hundreds of community members. This performance is always one of the most exciting of the year. The band gets to spend time with the Wissahickon High School Marching Unit before the parade begins giving middle school students a chance to talk with the high school students and instructors and learn about our amazing high school music program.

Finally, the calendar year was capped off with the winter concerts. All of our Bands, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Blues Dog Jazz Band, and Black Dog Jazz Band performed nine songs for the audience on December 18. Videos of our concerts can be found on our YouTube channel, WMS Music.

In January, the Black Dog Band will start its competition season that runs through April. They will compete in eight local competitions where they will get feedback from professional musicians. The WMS Jazz Festival is January 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the WHS Auditorium. Join us to support our WMS Jazz Bands, WHS 1 O'Clock Band, and three visiting middle schools.



Winter Sports Update

The seventh grade girls' basketball team has 12 players, many who were new to organized basketball. They learned to press, break a press, run offenses vs. man to man, run offenses vs. zone defense, learned inbound plays, and play two different style zone defenses. The team finished their season with five wins and four losses. In their most dramatic game of the season, the final game against Sandy Run went into overtime. Our gym was crowded and loud with Wiss Nation spirit!

The eighth grade girls' basketball team showed outstanding sportsmanship and camaraderie throughout the entire season. They developed their skills together in practice and tried their best in every game. While they did not win any games this season, they handled some tough losses with grace and maintained a positive attitude at every practice and in every game.

The wrestling team has been practicing since December 2 and begins interscholastic meets this week. Fifteen boys and two girls will represent the Trojans on the mats this season.

Over sixty boys participated in tryouts for the seventh and eighth grade boys' basketball teams. Twelve players from each grade will suit up in blue and gold this season. Practices started January 2, and interscholastic games will begin on January 15.

Spring Sports Begin in March

It is time to start preparing for spring sports: baseball, boys and girls lacrosse, softball, boys tennis, and boys and girls track and field begin in mid-March. All student-athletes must complete and submit a physical exam and WMS Eligibility Form by March 2 in order to participate. All physical exam and PIAA forms are available in Mr. Burke's office and on the WMS Athletics webpage. [Click here to visit the WMS Athletics webpage for more information.](#)

- New PIAA and WMS eligibility forms are available under the Forms and Information section of the WMS Athletics webpage. These forms are also available in Mr. Burke's office at the middle school.
- Section 6 of the PIAA forms requires that your student-athlete's physical must be dated on or after June 1, 2019 by their primary physician. This is important to note if your child has his/her annual visit before June 1, 2019.
- All forms require thorough and complete information with ALL parent/guardian and student signatures in order to participate at Wissahickon Middle School.
- All students trying out for a team must complete PIAA Form Sections 1 through 6. Section 6 must be completed and signed by the Authorized Medical Examiner performing the student's Comprehensive Initial Pre-participation Physical Evaluation (CIPPE) and turned in to the school. Section 6 CIPPE may not be authorized earlier than June 1, 2019 and shall be effective, regardless of when performed during a school year, until May 31, 2020.
- All students must submit a WMS Athletic Eligibility Record signed by student and parent/guardian.
- Once PIAA Section 1-6 are complete for a sports season, students trying out for a sport in a second or third sports season must complete Section 7 each season, no earlier than six weeks prior to the first day of practice. If any SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH HISTORY questions are checked YES, Section 8 ReCertification by Licensed Physician of Medicine or Osteopathic Medicine must be turned in to the school.
- All forms are also available in the WMS Atrium. Completed forms should be turned in to Mr. Burke's office area. Tryout information is communicated to students via daily announcements, the bulletin board outside the main office, and included in the WMS Weekly Update.

Staff Snapshot



Meet Amanda Blyweiss
Staff Nurse

Birthday: August 22

Years at WMS: I just started working at WMS this school year, however, I did attend WMS as a student some time ago.

Favorite color: Blue - all rays of blue.

Favorite food: Sushi, Philadelphia Rolls (salmon, cream cheese, avocado).

Favorite season: My favorite season is spring. I like growing my garden.

Favorite holiday: My favorite holiday is Christmas.

Favorite movie: My favorite movie is The Princess Bride.

Favorite superhero: Captain Marvel!

Favorite team: My favorite team is the Philadelphia Flyers.

First job: I was a server at Gwynedd Estates.

Traveled outside of the U.S.: Yes, I have been to Mexico, France, Italy, Spain, and Monaco.

Have you ever played an instrument: No, I haven't played any instruments.

Hobbies: I like to run, read, and play video games.

Nominate an Alumni for 2020 Wissahickon High School Hall of Fame



HALL OF FAME
• ALUMNI LEGENDS •

Nominate faculty, family or a community member who is a Wissahickon High School or Ambler High School alumni!

1. The nominee is a graduate of Wissahickon High School for at least five (5) years at the time of nomination. Note: all graduates of Ambler High School are eligible for selection.
2. The nominee demonstrates exemplary achievement in the areas of post-graduate career accomplishments; leadership within career organizations/industries; community service and voluntary leadership in their community; prior recognition and honors; and/or innovative accomplishments.
3. The nomination provides evidence of how this nominee will serve as a positive role model worthy of student emulation.
4. The nomination includes a thorough and complete biography of the nominee.

Submission deadline: Sunday, March 1 at 11: 55 p.m.

Learn more and submit a nomination: <https://www.wsdweb.org/our-community/alumni/hall-of-fame/>

Watch Principal Beth Bauer's Video Blog!

Mrs. Bauer talks about goal-setting
and the spring musical performances.

[VIEW BLOG](#)