





HARLEM WIZARDS EVENT RAISES \$20,164 FOR THE WASD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

After returning to Williamsport Area High School for the first time since 2018, the Harlem Wizards event raised a net total of \$20,164 for the WASD Education Foundation (WASDEF).

The Feb. 9 event, presented by Geisinger, drew some 1,500 people to the Magic Dome to watch district personalities take on the New Jerseybased entertainment basketball squad.

"The money raised this year is the highest amount the Wizards event has ever brought in for us," said WASDEF Executive Director Greg Hayes. "We're very proud of the results and thankful to all of those who sponsored, volunteered, participated or attended to make this year a huge success."

The Wizards first made their Williamsport debut in 2014, and since then, have grossed more than \$125,000 for WASDEF and averaged a crowd of more than 1,700 people over the six events held here.

"This event helps support the foundation's work in providing need-based funds or grants for innovative enhancements to WASD programs that fall beyond the scope of the district's budget," Hayes said. "We operate on a mission of creating powerful classrooms and inspiring futures, so every dollar

raised helps to remove financial barriers to provide access to unique learning opportunities and experiences that otherwise would not be available to our students."

During the 2021-2022 school year, WASDEF awarded \$212,451 in grants and scholarships and facilitated the receipt of an additional \$40,593 in grants from external sources.

"The success of this year's Wizards event is due in large part to our generous sponsors — particularly Geisinger, our presenting sponsor," Hayes said. "We're grateful for all of their support, which was huge for us this year and we can't thank them enough."

See more event photos on page 11.

"The money we raised this year is the highest amount the Wizards event has ever brought in for us."

GREG HAYES

WASDEF Executive Director

MAKING INVESTMENTS IN OUR STUDENTS

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to donors whose generous gifts make a lasting impact on future generations of WASD students. Here are two examples of WASDEF's most significant contributions to district programs this school year.



WAHS TV STUDIO UPGRADES

Drama teacher Marie Fox received \$59,956 — from both WASDEF's Annual Fund (\$7,735) and from the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania through Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) donations (\$52,221) — to upgrade the high school's TV studio with new equipment that mirrors industry standards to best prepare students leaning toward a career in broadcast communication/journalism or a related field.



MENTAL HEALTH & SUICIDE PREVENTION

More than \$15,000 was granted between Heather Way and Megan Hunter, the district's mental health and trauma coordinators. \$10,883 was used to created a "Focus Zone" room at WAMS, a space for students to self-regulate, and \$4,325 will target mental health and suicide prevention initiatives district-wide.



Williamsport Area School District Education Foundation

2780 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

Phone: (570) 327-5500, ext. 40602

Visit us on the web at www.wasdeducationfoundation.org

The WASD Education Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is the official gift-receiving entity for WASD.



NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2023

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BOARD MEETINGS

April 11 May 9 June 13 July 11 August 8

All meetings begin at 6 p.m. in the board room at the District Service Center unless otherwise advertised.

The Williamsport Area School District newsletter is published twice a year for alumni, families, friends and community. Portions of the newsletter may be reprinted without permission as long as it is credited.

The Williamsport Area School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and handicap, in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX Ed. Amendments of 2020, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures. services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped individuals contact: Anne M. Logue, Director of Human Resources Williamsport Area School District 2780 W. Fourth Street Williamsport, PA 17701, phone (570) 327-5500, ext. 40210.











ON THE COVER

Cochran Primary School kindergarten teacher Mrs. Lori Beiter leads her students through a math lesson.



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Community,

It's hard to believe we're nearing the end of another school year.

It's been a very busy and exciting year for us. I think I speak for all of us when I say that it's been a pleasure getting fully back to our normal operations, routines and school activities. As you'll see in the following pages of this newsletter, there's no shortage to the great things happening here at WASD. I'm Millionaire Proud of all the accomplishments made so far this year and I'm excited to see where the remainder of the year takes us as spring ushers in its round of concerts, celebrations of academic and athletic achievements, and, of course, graduation.

On the business end of the district, we're making progress in our facility improvements, particularly at Lycoming Valley Intermediate School. We're at the beginning stages of a complete renovation to that facility, and we're excited to share with you the vision for that project once it's further underway this summer.

Additionally, as always with each spring, we'll be hard at work on building and fine-tuning our 2023-2024 budget. We invite you to stay informed in this process as we provide presentations and updates to our spending plan during our school board meetings.

As we close out what I believe will be another tremendously successful year, I hope you'll take the opportunity to join us at any one of our many upcoming spring events. In the meantime, take a few minutes to page through this newsletter and celebrate the accomplishments and recognitions of our faculty, students, staff and administration that it highlights.

Sincerely,

Dr. Timothy S. Bowers Superintendent





CELEBRATING MILESTONES ▲ Congratulations to school board members President Lori Baer and Jennifer Lake for being recognized by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for their years of service. Ms. Baer and Mrs. Lake were each presented with certificates in January by Superintendent Dr. Bowers on behalf of PSBA for reaching their milestone years of service: 16 for Ms. Baer and 8 for Mrs. Lake.

around wasd



STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE DISTRICT honored our school board members in January for their service by presenting them each with a brand-new book for installation in their respective school libraries. The annual ceremony was brought back for the first time since 2020, and is done as part of January's National School Director

Recognition Month.

25 ESSAY-WINNING ELEMENTARY STUDENTS enjoyed a Holiday Tour of Lights on the trolley in December, thanks to River Valley Transit. After the ride, they and their families heard a story, got free books and received cookies and hot cocoa, prepared and served by WAHS culinary arts students.

FUTURE READY — From police officers to doctors to construction workers to astronauts and — yes — even a princess, students at Jackson Primary School donned the career of their dreams in January during the school's Career Day celebration!





3 WASD OM TEAMS WIN 1ST PLACE AT REGIONALS, ADVANCE TO STATE FINALS

All three district Odyssey of the Mind teams that competed in the Regional Tournament on March 4 at Pennsylvania College of Technology are headed to the State Finals — all on first-place wins.

This year's contending teams from WASD were represented by Curtin Intermediate and Williamsport Area Middle School.

Advancing to the State Finals are:
Curtin Intermediate: First Place, Division
I, "Most Dramatic Problem Ever," coached
by Amy Harpster and Kelly Campbell.
Team members: McKay Campbell, Hadley
Diemer, Piper Fox, Alexander Frank,
Haddie Harpster, Addyson Harrison and
Charlie Vanaskie.

Williamsport Area Middle School: First Place, Division II, "Most Dramatic Problem Ever," coached by April Frank and Adam Harpster. Team members: Emily Frank, Cooper Gutberlet, Brayden Harpster, Gracelyn Raker, Taylor Rockey, and Alex Vail.

Williamsport Area Middle School: First Place, Division II, "The Walls of Troy", coached by Spring Moore and Kendra Reeder. Team Members: Lynnae Campbell, Ava Carter, Cooper Gutberlet, Asher McClelland, Mason Robinson and Daniel Turner.

"The dedication, creativity and teamwork of our kids is truly inspiring," said WAHS teacher Spring Moore, who serves as the district's OM coordinator. "They are learning skills and making memories to last "The dedication, creativity and teamwork of our kids is truly inspiring. They are learning skills and making memories to last a lifetime."

SPRING MOORE

WAHS Teacher, OM District Coordinator

a lifetime.

The state tournament is scheduled for April 1st at Lock Haven University.

OM teams from WASD have been successful at the program's regional and state levels, having earned coveted spots at the World Final competitions for the last eight consecutive years. Last spring, Cochran Primary's team placed 10th in international round.

Odyssey of the Mind is a competition that blends creativity, engineering and teamwork. It is 100 percent student-directed, with adult coaches acting as guides. For more information, or to review synopses of this year's program problems, visit www.odysseyofthemind.com.

Harvard-bound WAHS Senior Named Finalist in 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program

WAHS senior **Ben Manetta** has been named a finalist in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.

anetta is one of more than 15,000 finalists who will be considered for 7,250 National Merit Scholarships. Winners will be notified beginning in March.

Manetta's academic course load includes a full slate of honors courses, such as AP Latin, AP Physics, AP Studio Art, AP English Literature, AP U.S. History and AP Psychology. He's a member of the WAHS concert and jazz bands. An oboist, he performed in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) All-State Wind Ensemble last year. He's also on the tennis team, serves on his class executive board and participates in Model UN.

Earlier this month, he was recognized as an Outstanding Student at the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce's annual Education Celebration.

In the community, he's a volunteer EMT, a member of the Williamsport Symphony Youth Orchestra, plays the piano and organ at two churches, teaches piano lessons, and organized a Make-a-Wish benefit concert last fall. He also works as a part-time server at Filippo's in South Williamsport.

Recently, he's been accepted into

Harvard University, where he plans to study Biology.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 to conduct the National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by the corporation with its own funds and by about 340 business organizations and higher education institutions that share the corporation's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

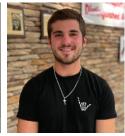
"We are excited to celebrate this achievement with Ben and his family. We couldn't be more proud of his accomplishment as a Millionaire. This recognition not only speaks to Ben's dedication to his academics but also the impact he has beyond the classroom and school building. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors."

DR. JUSTIN ROSS

WAHS Principal







EDUCATION CELEBRATION ▲ WAHS senior Ben Manetta and Curtin Intermediate School sixthgrade teacher Tricia Bower were recognized during the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce's annual Education Celebration. They were recognized among this year's cohort of Outstanding Educators and Outstanding Students. Ben was named Student of the Year.







DADDUS

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PENNINGS





WILSON

4 WAHS STUDENTS, EMPLOYEE HONORED AT 'WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE' EVENT

Four WAHS students and one district employee were among those honored at the 14th annual Women of Excellence celebration in November, hosted by YWCA Northcentral PA.

Among the evening's seven award categories — each for professionals and high school student nominees — senior Marcella Fisher was chosen in Education, senior Madeline Pennings in Advocacy and junior Ella Wilson as a Junior Rising Star. Heather Way, the district's mental health and trauma coordinator for grades 7-12, won the Education category.

WAHS senior **Brynn Broaddus** also was a nominee in the Education category.

Forty-three nominations were made and 15 awards were granted in the following categories: Art & Culture, Education, Advocacy, Health & Wellness, STEM, Sports, and Rising Star. One, Lynn Estomin, received the Wise Woman of the Year Award.



HEPBURN-LYCOMING PRIMARY WAS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED

in November as a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School. District officials were on hand to accept the award in Washington, D.C.



DURING A HOLIDAY GATHERING

of the WASD Education Foundation Board of Directors, board members had the chance to win an opportunity to gift a classroom or program of their choice with an unrestricted \$500 grant. As winner, board member Mallory Weymer selected Brooke Nenadal's third-grade classroom at Cochran Primary as this year's beneficiary of that grant giveaway.



FIFTH- AND SIXTH-GRADE
STUDENTS from both intermediate
schools spent two-weeks touring
WAHS's Career and Technical
Education (CTE) Program. Students
got a glimpse at what could very
well be their future "on the hill"
as they learned about the 15 CTE
programs that will be available to
them as high school students.



WAHS SADD CLUB WINS 1ST PLACE IN SUICIDE PREVENTION VIDEO CONTEST

A WAHS video produced to help raise awareness on mental health stigmas and suicide prevention **received first place for the second consecutive year** in a recent statewide PSA contest conducted by Prevent Suicide PA.

The video, created by members of the high school's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club, earned the top spot in the 30-second category through online votes received from both students and the broader public.

"Our students are passionate about promoting a message of hope for adolescent mental health and suicide," said WAHS health and physical education teacher Jeremy Steppe, who serves as the club's advisor. "The students spearheaded the challenge by creating a symbolic script focused on a character overcoming common adolescent struggles — 'hurdles' — and deciding to stay. This group of young leaders continue to step up and make positive changes in our school and community."

The high school's winning video focuses on a male student, played by WAHS junior Calder Diakite, who recalls when he "chose to stay" in a series of quick flashbacks as he runs hurdles.



Those responsible for the video are Steppe and WAHS SADD Club members AnnaKate Gillespie, Kennadi Godfrey, Madeline Pennings, Calder Diakite, with production assistance from Greg Hayes, the district's public relations director.

The club will be recognized for their winning production during an on-field ceremony next month at PNC Field during a Pittsburgh Pirates game.





MENTAL HEALTH PANEL ▲ A mental health panel took place in the WAHS auditorium for the senior class. Eight panelists representing the military, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Lycoming College and Center for Community Resources were on hand to answer questions from senior class moderators, Kennadi Godfrey and Michael Harry.

School Police Officers Now in Place at WASD's Elementary, Middle Schools

Last fall, the district hired three school police officers as an added layer of security across WASD's elementary and middle school buildings.

y now, you may have seen them. Whether conducting perimeter checks around school campuses, or walking the hallways of district buildings, they've officially entered the WASD scene: school police officers (SPOs).

"They're in a place to provide safety support to our schools to ensure security measures," said Dr. Brandon Pardoe, director of student services. "They are part of the school community and work with school district personnel to provide a heightened level of school security."

Last fall, the district hired three former police officers to fill the positions split between the elementary and middle school buildings: Benjamin Laurenson, Brett Herbst and Trent Peacock.

"Our SPOs have successfully completed basic training as required by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission, or have graduated from the Pennsylvania State Police Academy," Pardoe said. "All SPOs must complete the Basic School Resource Officer Course offered by the National Association of School Resource Officers."

Pardoe said their role is to serve in a community policing capacity while making sure schools are safe and secure.

"A priority for their roles is to serve as

a liaison between emergency services and the school district to ensure appropriate safety measures throughout our K-8 schools," Pardoe said.

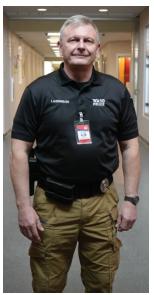
The SPOs serve in conjunction with the district's two School Resource Officers from the Williamsport Bureau of Police, which Pardoe describes as an added layer of security to district schools.

"They're in place to provide safety support to our schools to ensure security measures. They are part of the school community and work with school district personnel to provide a heightened level of school security. A priority for their roles is to serve as a liaison between emergency services and the school district to ensure appropriate safety measures throughout our K-8 schools."

DR. BRANDON PARDOE

Director of Student Services









STANDARDS OF 'STEELS' A A team of district faculty and administrators, representing each building level, was hard at work recently at the Science Leadership Collaborative, hosted by BLaST IU 17. The WASD crew was there learning about the new science standards as it relates to the next generation of what's become known as STEM: STEELS (Science, Technology, and Engineering; and Environmental Literacy and Sustainability).

21 WAHS STUDENTS EARN TOP PLACEMENTS IN REGIONAL SKILLSUSA COMPETITION

A total of 29 WAHS students competed in the regional SkillsUSA competition at Pennsylvania College of Technology in February, and, of them, 21 earned top finishes.

Twelve earned first-place finishes in the following categories: Chandra Apker in T-Shirt Design; Evan Beiter in Early Childhood Education; Samantha Carpenter, Makaylah Johnson, Leo Miller and Laila Robertson in Health Knowledge Bowl; Domonic Flory in Culinary Arts; Kristen Goodman in Electrical Construction Wiring; James Inwright in Advertising Design; Noah McKenzie in Information Technology Service; Elizabeth Ryder in Basic Health Care; and Carter Weaver in Medical Math.

Five earned second-placed finishes: **Brian Jacobs** in Auto Service Technology; **Gavin Reed** in Precision Machining; and **Jackson Holmes, Landen Miller** and **Alex Pricher** in Quiz Bowl.

Four earned third-place wins in the following categories: Jordan Downey and Jalen Parker-Keyes in Mechatronics; Aslynn Guthrie, Commercial Baking; and Mayson Kiessling in Welding.

sport shorts





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MILLIONAIRE SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM! In March, the girls won the sub-regional championship by over 100 points for first place and the boys finished second place overall.

CHEER FOR THE CHEERLEADERS

— The WAHS competitive cheer team won the State College Cheerleading Championships from among seven competing varsity teams with a score of 93.1.

ONWARD TO STATES —

Millionaire wrestlers **Cael Nasdeo** and **Carter Weaver** punched their ticket to Hershey for the PIAA State Championship.



SENIOR HAILEY MICHAEL

was selected to represent the Millionaires and the state of Pennsylvania during the annual Big 33 football game! Only 70 cheerleaders were chosen between Pennsylvania and Maryland. Hailey will

begin practices in Harrisburg starting in April to prepare for the Memorial Day weekend game on Sunday, May 28, at Bishop McDevitt High School in Harrisburg.



WASD MUSIC DEPARTMENT HOLDS 50TH ANNUAL ALL-DISTRICT CHOIR CONCERT

The district's music department presented its 50th annual All-District Choir concert in February at the Williamsport Area High School auditorium.

The program featured the talent of about 300 student singers ranging from grades six through 12, offering a strong sampling of the district's choral program.

Musical selections were played among the blend of students, culminating with

Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," a performance by the combined student ensemble.

The district's music program boasts 10 vocal groups, three bands and three orchestras. For the last two decades, the music program has earned national recognition as one of the "Best Communities for Music Education" by the NAMM Foundation.



PMEA ALL-STATE SINGERS ▲ Six members of the WAHS choir performed during the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Regional IV Choir Festival at the Community Arts Center in February. Of the six, the following five qualified for All-State Choir and will perform at the PMEA All-State Festival at Kalahari Lodge & Convention Center from April 19-22: Olivia Ciabattari, Alto 1; Lydia Hall, Soprano 1; Megan Radspinner, Alto 2 (alternate); Alanna Ramos, Soprano 2; and Sydney Smith, Alto.

2023-2024 **ENROLLMENT**

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION







MARCH 27-31, 2023

Kindergarten registration week is your chance to get an early start on the first day of school. All registrations for the 2023-2024 school year will occur from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Enrollment Center at the Williamsport Area School District Service Center, 2780 West Fourth St.

Children must be age 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2023, in order to enroll.

Please bring the following documents to registration:

- · Child's birth certificate
- Parent / Guardian photo ID
- · Proof of residency
- Child's immunization records to-date
- Record of School-Age Dental Examination and Medical Examination, if completed. Must be on file by Aug. 28.

All school assignments will be based on home address, as per school board policy.

Questions can be directed to Susan Estes, registrar, at 570-327-5500, ext. 40001.

Students registered after June 9 will not be guaranteed enrollment in their home school, and will be placed by the district.











WASD Enrollment Center

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Registration will be handled alphabetically by students' last name. To register your child, you must attend on the appropriate day:

Monday, March 27: A-F
Tuesday, March 28: G-L
Wednesday, March 29: M-S
Thursday, March 30: T-Z
Friday, March 31: Open A-Z

It does not matter how early you arrive on your designated registration day. All students will be assigned to their home area school as long as they are registered by June 9, 2023.



DON'T WAIT UNTIL REGISTRATION WEEK!

If you have Internet access at home, you can complete registration online at home and set up an appointment to complete the registration in as little as 15 minutes at the District Service Center. Please be sure to bring all supporting documentation to the appointment to ensure registration can be completed.

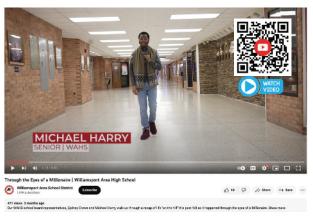
To register from home, visit: https://registration.wasd.org





THE SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAM EXPERIENCE A During

February's school board meeting, Special Education
Director Dr. Amy Wolfhope-Briggs presented on
Williamsport Area High School's School-to-Work Program.
As part of her presentation, she shared this video that
features two program participants, senior Diontay Burney
and junior Will Williams. In it, the two reflect on and share
the growth they've had as students and young adults
through the School-to-Work Program experience. Scan
the QR code above to watch the video.



THROUGH THE EYES OF A MILLIONAIRE WAHS school board reps, seniors Sydney Crews and Michael Harry, presented this video during December's school board meeting. The two worked to produce it with the help of the district's public relations department. In it, the two provide a glimpse into life "on the hill" as seen through the eyes of a Millionaire.

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO END HERE! Want more? Our online presence continues to grow! Keep up-to-date with announcements, photos, news and events happening around the district on a daily basis by following us on social media. Join the conversation and become a part of the WASD online community that has grown to more than 13,100 people!



FROM THE VAULT 🔻



The 1967 La Mémoire headline adjacent to this photo reads "Eager Sophomores Adjust and Adapt to High School Life." Celebrating its 54th anniversary this year, the Class of 1969, the yearbook reports, boasted 770 members.

The article further states: "Moving ahead with progressiveness as its theme, the sophomore class newly organized a ski club and an honor club, the first at WHS. And with summer approaching, the class

to look
into the
future."
Above, t

Above, the caption in the yearbook writes: "Lively sophomores prove to be a gregarious group before an assembly program." The inset photo: "Dr. Delgalvis, sophomore class adviser, speaks to members of the advisory committee. Members include Carol Lamey, sitting, Ted Thompson and Jenny Carey, standing."



PLANNING YOUR GIFT: WAYS TO SUPPORT THE WASD EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Financial gifts to the WASD Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, make a difference for current and future WASD students and facilitate opportunities to learn and grow through budget enhancements.

It is through the generosity of gifts like yours that our students are served by WASDEF. Below is a summary of the many ways a gift can be made or planned:

- · Outright Gift of Cash
- · Matching Gift
- In-Kind Gift

- Outright Gift of Appreciated Securities
- Bequests
- Gift of Retirement Assets
- Gifts of Insurance Policy Proceeds

Since 2004, WASDEF has been supporting students and teachers with the financial resources provided by donors. Over the last decade, WASDEF has equally generated and granted more than \$3 million to the district in support of capital projects, innovative programs and initiatives, and scholarships.













Williamsport Area School District Education Foundation

2780 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

Phone: (570) 327-5500, ext. 40602

Visit us on the web at www.wasdeducationfoundation.org

The WASD Education Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is the official gift-receiving entity for WASD.

NEW INCREASED RATES FOR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS



Join our team! The Williamsport Area School District is searching for certified and non-certified substitute teachers. For more information, email our Human Resources Department at jobs@wasd.org.



Certified substitute teachers at WASD will start at a daily rate of \$150, and non-certified substitute teachers will start at \$100 per day.

* This flyer relates to **substitute teachers only**. However, substitute aides, custodians and food service workers, etc., are always needed and encouraged to apply at www.wasd.org/employment.



ATTENTION RETIRED

TEACHERS: The PA Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) recently announced the ability to substitute without jeopardizing your pension through June 30, 2023.











