

NEWSLETTER | FALL 2022





Above, a Lycoming Valley Intermediate School student is at work on a hydroponic garden, a project funded through the foundation's Teacher Mini-Grant Program to enhance sixth-grade science. Scan the QR codes to watch short videos on the impact of foundation-funded programs during the 2021-2022 school year.

WASD EDUCATION FOUNDATION CLOSES OUT 2021-2022 WITH \$212,451 PROVIDED IN GRANTS TO DISTRICT PROGRAMS, PROJECTS

Thanks to the continued generosity of donors, WASDEF awarded 25 grants to fund a multitude of programs and projects across the district during the 2021-2022 academic year.

The 2021-2022 school year was a year of renewal and action for the Williamsport Area School District Education Foundation.

As the district began to emerge from the constraints of the pandemic, opportunities for classroom enhancements and program support once again presented themselves more fully. At the same time, the foundation's board of directors worked to create a new, five-year strategic direction.

WASDEF remained committed in its mission "to create powerful classrooms and inspire futures" by supporting 25 district programs, projects and scholarships to the tune of \$212,451. It also generated \$300,038 in total revenue from 539 unique donors who collectively provided 874 donations.

Additionally, the education foundation also helped to facilitate the reception of \$40,593 in grant support to fund unique enhancements to the district's visual and performing arts programs.



"As always, we remain tremendously grateful to our donors and thankful for their generosity in choosing to support the education foundation," said Executive Director Greg Hayes. "Each year, we're fortunate to be able to grant funding that enhances the educational experience for students at WASD. Together with our donors, the foundation is able to add value, experience and opportunity to student learning and skill development that wouldn't happen without the gifts we receive."

2021-2022 BY THE NUMBERS

\$300,038

RAISED IN TOTAL DONATIONS

\$212,451

PROVIDED IN GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

\$40,593

FACILITATED GRANT SUPPORT

25

GRANTS DIRECTLY FUNDED BY WASDEF

114

SCHOLARSHIPS &
AWARDS TO 88
GRADUATING STUDENTS

4,100+

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF STUDENTS BENEFITTED

\$5.997

AVERAGE GRANT FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

151

NUMBER OF FUNDS HELD AT WASDEF

\$2,234,335

WASDEF TOTAL MARKET VALUE AS OF 6/30/22

The data represented here reflects WASDEF activity between July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.



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 • FALL 2022

Board of Education

PRESIDENT

Ms. Lori Baer

VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Barbara Reeves

Mrs. Michelle Deavor Mrs. Cody Derr Mr. Patrick Dixon Mrs. Jennifer Lake Mr. Jamie Sanders

Mr. Adam Welteroth

Mr. Scott Williams

BOARD MEETINGS

November 1 November 15 December 6 (REORGANIZATION MEETING)

School board meeting dates for 2023 will be approved during the Dec. 6, 2022, school board meeting. 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 1972, 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.











wasd.org

ON THE COVER

Hepburn-Lycoming Primary student Aamin DeShong takes a break from his work to smile for the camera on the first day of school on Aug. 29.



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Community,

Earlier this fall, I challenged my administrative team to create a comprehensive list of accomplishments we've made as a district over the last five or six years.

What was developed was quite impressive. This information was presented to our Board of Education during our annual retreat at the end of September, where we also reviewed and discussed our goals for this school year.

What I want to focus on here is the pride we should feel as a school community for what the district has accomplished with the support of our school board and through the tireless commitment of our entire faculty and staff. From increasing security measures to enhancing educational practices to improving facilities and building new program systems and support structures, it's all been done to maximize and provide the best educational experience for our students, while remaining fiscally responsible to our taxpayers.

As I shared with my team, I believe that, in

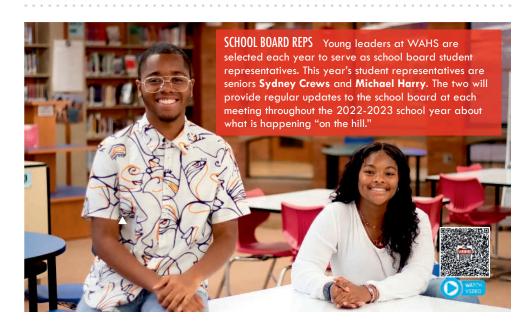
order to make progress, you have to take a look at where you've been and where you are to determine where you need to go. As we uncovered in our goal-setting sessions, we've come a long way — even as we persevered through the constraints of a global pandemic.

Sure, there's still a lot of work to be done; however, it's also important to stop to recognize and celebrate what's been achieved, while bringing "the why" back into focus, and I think you'll find evidence of that here in our latest newsletter. I hope you'll join us in celebrating these achievements and recognitions — all attained within our first quarter — that continue to make us Millionaire Proud along the way.

Sincerely,



Dr. Timothy S. Bowers Superintendent



around wasd



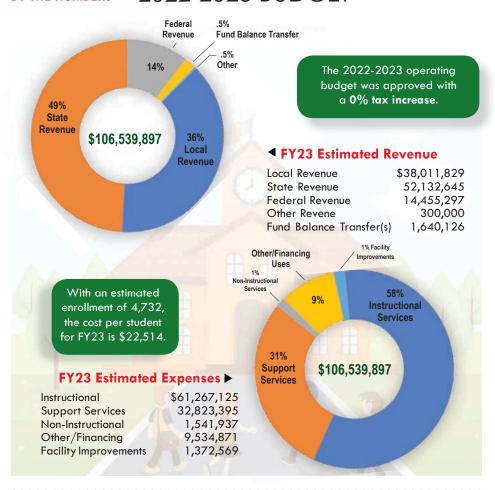
OPEN HOUSES were held across the district over a span of three nights at the end of August, welcoming students and families into the buildings to get reacquainted with or get to know their schools for the first time ahead of the 2022-2023 school year.

FROM LEARNING NEW SCHEDULES, classroom and morning routines to meeting new teachers and friends, the Millionaires kicked off the start of a new year on Aug. 29.

BOUNTIFUL BOOKS — Thanks to some generous customers, the district received a bounty of books from our local Books-A-Million through a book drive held this past summer for WASD schools. These books were given to new teachers across the district to help stock their classroom libraries.



BY THE NUMBERS > 2022-2023 BUDGET



WASD STUDENTS TO CONTINUE RECEIVING FREE BREAKFAST, LUNCH

By participating in the **Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program**, WASD will continue to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students during the 2022-2023 school year.

Families of students enrolled in and who attend district schools are able to benefit from the program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, without having to pay a fee or submit a meal application. However, households with children participating in the program will be asked to complete a Household Income Information Survey.

"Receiving free meals will not rely upon families returning the survey," said Business Administrator Wanda Erb, "but it will be important to collect these survey results, as funding to support this program is based on documented need."

Free meals will be comprised of lean proteins, healthy whole grains, and fresh

fruit and vegetables. Á la carte items, addons and snacks will remain available for purchase.





Hepburn-Lycoming Primary Named a 2022 National Blue Ribbon School

The kindergarten to third-grade primary school, with an enrollment of about 405 students, is **one of 297 schools nationally to earn the recognition** by the U.S. Department of Education.

he recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

The designation recognizes Hepburn-Lycoming as an Exemplary High-Performing School.

"It's an honor to receive this recognition," said Head Principal Michele Kunkle. "It takes our whole school community working together to have achieved this distinction. The students' achievement is the key factor, which speaks to the commitment of the faculty here and validates their hard work. I couldn't be more proud."

"I congratulate the entire faculty, staff and administrators of Hepburn-Lycoming Primary School on receiving this very distinguished recognition," said Superintendent Dr. Timothy S. Bowers. "This serves as a testament to their hard work and dedication in providing excellence in education. We are Millionaire Proud of this honor."

National Blue Ribbon Schools serve as models of effective school practices for state and district educators and other schools throughout the nation. A National Blue Ribbon School flag gracing a school's entryway or on a flagpole is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

The U.S. Department of Education recognizes all schools in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

- Exemplary High-Performing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
- Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's student groups and all students.

Up to 420 schools may be nominated each year. The Department invites nominations for the National Blue Ribbon Schools award from the top education official in all states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Private schools are nominated by the Council for American Private Education.

The National Blue Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families and communities in striving for — and attaining — exemplary achievement.

An in-person award ceremony is planned for this year's National Blue Ribbon Schools in November in Washington, D.C.

PAEA NAMES WASD A 2022 OUTSTANDING VISUAL ARTS COMMUNITY

WASD has been recognized as a 2022 Outstanding Visual Arts Community from the Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA) for its commitment to visual arts education.

This is the third time the district has received the designation.

"The supports in place within our district afford us this opportunity to be recognized and stand tall as a driving arts education force in our area," said Dr. Andrea McDonough, the district's K-12 art department coordinator. "Our entire department is grateful that our school district and Board of Education see the value in providing a strong arts education program and continue to support it."



Schools providing these opportunities equip students with visual literacy, according to PAEA. Visual literacy constitutes the new thinking and learning skills of a digital age and a creative economy. These are the types of cognitive skills young people will need to find their place in a globally competitive workforce.

"Williamsport has always had a strong arts community supporting our programming," said Dr. Chad Greevy, secondary curriculum and K-12 unified arts supervisor. "WASD attracts the highest-quality visual arts educators because that is what the community expects — the highest-quality visual arts opportunities for our students. This recognition from the PAEA as an Outstanding Visual Arts Community is the result of the commitment that the WASD art department makes daily to its students."



43 CONSTRUCTION TRADES PROGRAM STUDENTS

participated in Pennsylvania College of Technology's PA Build My Future Day in October. Participating students had the opportunity to explore a variety of career opportunities in the construction and design industries.



GIANT FOOD STORES donated more than 100 school and classroom supplies to the district at the start of the school year. Employees there provided the donations as part of the store's "Stuff the Bus" campaign conducted in August.

WAHS ALUM MICHAEL
FISHER '21 gave a fantastic
performance for Mrs. Mondell's
orchestra students during a
Millionaire Block on Oct. 7 at
Williamsport Area Middle
School. Now attending
the New England
Conservatory in
Boston, Michael also
spoke to the group about
his passion for music and
his career goals in the
music industry.



WAHS TEACHER NAMED OUTSTANDING SECONDARY ART EDUCATOR

WAHS art teacher Dr. Andrea McDonough has been selected as a 2022 Pennsylvania Art Education Association Outstanding Secondary Art Educator.

"To be selected and named by the state committee is an incredible honor and one that I will be forever grateful for," said McDonough, who has worked for 16 years at WASD as an art educator and K-12 department leader. "I am blessed and honored to be receiving this award and will continue to do the work wherever I land."

The Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA) is an organization that actively supports and promotes visual art education through professional development, leadership and service.

McDonough was selected among nominations across the state for her "creative contributions, excellence in professional engagement and dedication to service (in the field)," according to PAEA.

"Dr. Andrea McDonough's reach across the arts community speaks to the quality of arts education afforded to WASD students," said Dr. Chad Greevy, secondary curriculum supervisor and K-12 unified arts supervisor. "Her efforts to lead the district's art department is on display in all of our buildings and within all of our visual arts classrooms. Her instruction and guiding influence is consistently seen through her students' works from the public art displays at Firetree Place to the art galleries in our downtown and classrooms of our local

colleges. This award is a recognition of the quality of art experiences that she brings to our students at WAHS and beyond."

McDonough earned her bachelor's in art from Lycoming College, a master's degree in art education from Mansfield University and a doctoral degree from Drexel University. She also holds a pre-K-12 supervisory certificate in curriculum and instruction.

"I earn a salary doing what I love," McDonough said. "Not a single day goes by that I don't pause and appreciate this truth. Each student has taught me something about them and something about myself. The K-12 team I have the privilege of working with sets my students and I up for success every day and I am grateful for them individually and collectively."

McDonough also supports the art and education departments at Lycoming College, working with pre-service art educators and PK-4 certification seekers. She's been successful in grant-writing, with a passion for public art and the expansion of the visual arts experience in education and local communities.

McDonough was formally recognized during an awards ceremony at the PAEA 2022 Conference in Lancaster on Oct. 30.

WAHS Teacher Set to Publish 2nd Book Through Amsterdam University Press

WAHS Spanish teacher Dr. Inti Yanes-Fernandez is set to publish his second book, "The Cid and King Arthur as Hegemonic Myths: Political Myth-Making and Intericonicity in the Christianization of the Iberian Peninsula and Britain."

he book, which will be released in 2023, examines the formation and development of Spanish epic hero Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar (the Cid) and King Arthur as mythical units with a symbolic cultural function.

"My research interest focuses on medieval and cultural studies, among other areas," Yanes-Fernandez said. "I am very interested to understand how myths and epic figures and narratives function in and relate to the complex dynamic of power relations and identity formation. This relates to cultural biopolitics, literary analysis and cultural anthropology."

Yanes-Fernandez said the two medieval mythical figures were always his research targets.

Their myth-making and narratives linked to them show the complex genesis of Spanish and British monarchies during the Christian expansion in these territories," he said.

While targeted readership is the academic public, Yanes-Fernandez said, generally those interested in historical, literary and social studies topics also can gain a deeper understanding of the complex dynamic between language, myth and power relations.

The forthcoming book follows his

first, "Before the Chrysantems: Essays on Poetic Creation and Aesthetic," published in 2021. Additionally, he just reached a contract agreement with Editorial Casa Vacía, of Richmond, Va., to publish a third book.

A Havana, Cuba, native, Yanes-Fernandez holds a bachelor's degree in art history from the University of Havana (Cuba); a master's in Theology from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece); and a doctoral degree in Hispanic Studies with a concentration in Cultural and Medieval Studies from Texas A&M University.

He's worked in education for 25 years, having served as a faculty member at the University of Havana and Texas A&M University. He's also taught at Boston Trinity Academy and most recently at Dexter Southfield Upper School in Brookline, Mass., before accepting his position at WAHS at the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

"My first year teaching at WAHS has been excellent," he said. "It's been very rewarding. I have enriched my teaching experience with the feedback and support from supervisors, department colleagues and students."





WELCOME TO THE TEAM ▲ WASD opened the 2022-2023 academic year by welcoming 48 new members to its faculty and administrative teams.

COCHRAN PRIMARY TEACHER RECOUNTS HER FULBRIGHT EXPERIENCE ABROAD

Cochran Primary
School third-grade
teacher Brooke
Nenadal was selected
in 2020 for the
Fulbright Teachers for
Global Classrooms, a
program sponsored by
the U.S. Department
of State and the J.
William Fulbright
Foreign Scholarship
Board.



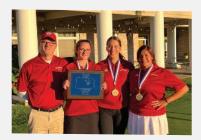
This past summer, as part of the program, she traveled to Germany to learn about the country's culture and education system. The program equips teachers with an international perspective to bring back to their schools through targeted training, experience abroad and global collaboration.

"I experienced the world through a new lens. I'm excited to bring my learning and my opportunities not only to my classroom but to Cochran Primary and WASD as a whole."

"We visited schools where we learned about their curriculum and programs, and had amazing discussions with the teachers and students there," Nenadal said. "We also had the opportunity to work with a host school. I was hosted by Marienschule Elementary School, a first- through fourth-grade primary school, where I taught some lessons, collaborated with the other educators there, and just got to know the German students a little bit better."

sport shorts

WAHS GIRLS GOLF TEAM
MEMBERS Ally Chilson, Abby
Mahon, and Maria Montoya were
named Class AAA district champs!
The three are pictured below with
Coach Dave Heller.



SIX MILLIONAIRE JUNIORS

participated in the District IV Student-Athlete Leadership Session in October, conducted by Craig Hillier, with 120 of their peers from other schools.



THE GIRLS SOCCER TEAM raised \$2,800 during its Pink Out game in October to benefit UPMC's Breast Health Center.

JUSTIN MARNON WILL TAKE
OVER as the new head girls
basketball coach this winter.
Marnon, who is a sixth-grade
teacher at Lycoming Valley
Intermediate School, replaces
Terrill Seward who coached
for the high school's last

four seasons. The 2022-2023 season marks Marnon's 18th year as a basketball coach.

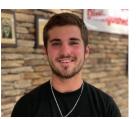
WAHS SENIOR NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALIST

WAHS senior **Ben Manetta** has been named a Semifinalist in the 68th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

Manetta, one of about 16,000 Semifinalists selected nationwide, has the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,250 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$28 million that will be offered next spring.

Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and more than half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

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.

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 is helping to

organize a student-led Make-a-Wish benefit concert that will be held on Nov. 13. He also works as a part-time server at Filippo's in South Williamsport.

While he has yet to identify his prospective colleges, he would like to pursue a degree in Biology.

High school juniors entered the 2023
National Merit Scholarship Program
by taking the 2021 Preliminary SAT/
National Merit Scholarship Qualifying
Test, which served as an initial screen of
program entrants. The nationwide pool
of Semifinalists, representing less than 1
percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes
the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

WAHS SENIOR AWARDED ACADEMIC HONOR FROM COLLEGE BOARD NATIONAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM

WAHS senior **Miah Jones** earned an academic honor from the College Board National Recognition Programs.

Recognized for her academic excellence and strong performance on College Board assessments, Jones was awarded the National African American Recognition Award.

Serving on her class's executive board, Jones also is a second-year captain of the girls soccer team and a concert orchestra member.

Her course load includes honors courses, such as AP English and AP Chemistry. She's also earning college credit in math through the Penn College NOW dual enrollment program offered at WAHS.

The College Board's National Recognition Programs grant



underrepresented students with academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications and connect students with universities across the country, helping them meaningfully connect to colleges and stand out during the admissions

process.

Students who may be eligible have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have excelled on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10, or earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP exams; and are African American or Black, Hispanic American or Latinx, Indigenous, and/or attend school in a rural area or small town.













CATCHING THE SPIRIT Homecoming was celebrated during the first week of October, ending with the traditional capstone pep rally that was held for the first time in three years! The event did its job to charge the Millionaire spirit ahead of this year's Homecoming game against Wyoming Valley West — a win for the Millionaires with a score of 38-7.

The game also featured the crowning of this year's Homecoming King and Queen, Michael Harry and Sophia Crews (pictured at left). Other senior contenders (pictured at top) vying for this year's title were: Brynn Broaddus, Alexandria Chilson, Sydney Crews, Klair Fausnaught, Jackson Fink, Alex Holcomb, Ethan Holcomb, Josh Lake, Zack Lake and Laila Robertson.









#SOCKTOBER RETURNS ▲ Entering its eighth year, Curtin Intermediate School held its annual Socktoberfest in a schedule of events on its campus on Sept. 30. With support from the Lycoming County United Way, UPMC and the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, the kickoff event launched the school's month-long sock drive to benefit local agencies that provide family support in and around the Williamsport area.



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 12,700 people!



FROM THE VAULT 🕶



Now in its 50th year, the "new" Williamsport Area High School is featured in this postcard, printed in 1978, showing an aerial view of campus and the surrounding area.

According to architectural documents, the high school, at the time, was one of the largest high schools ever to be built in Pennsylvania and was one of the "most innovative in design anywhere in the country."

The 450,000-square-foot building

(a 10-acre complex under roof) opened to 2,700 students in grades 10 through 12 on Jan. 2, 1972.

The school cost \$14 million to build. "Something of the ambience of a college campus is achieved," states a 1973 document produced by Consolidated Engineering Company, Inc. It also cites "unusual features" of the building, including a "vivarium for the biological science complex and a planetarium for teaching astronomy and space concepts."



THE FAUSNAUGHT FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED

Scholarships provided through the education foundation allow donors to provide and connect graduating WAHS students to powerful resources and opportunities.

Last spring, Wayne and Gerry Fausnaught endowed The Fausnaught Family Scholarship Fund.

Both retired Williamsport Area School District administrators, the two continue to lead an active life fueled by a passion for family, community and volunteerism.

"We want students graduating from high school to make service an integral part of their future plans," the two said. "Thus, The Fausnaught Family Scholarship will encourage students to give back to the communities where they will live. Service above self is the legacy we hope to establish."

The two are parents to three successful WAHS alumni, Tim '88, Todd '90 and Beth '92, as well as a number of grandchildren who have both graduated and still remain enrolled in



the WASD system.

"Excellent academics, stellar music opportunities, A-One athletics and a diverse student population have provided them with the ability to communicate and understand the needs and opportunities of all people," they said. "We are Williamsport Area School District proud and thankful for our family reaping the benefits of an excellent WASD education."

IMAGINE WHAT YOUR GIFT COULD DO!

If you wish to establish an enduring legacy at the Williamsport Area School District, a bequest through the WASD Education Foundation is a convenient and flexible way to achieve your goals, both charitable and personal. You can earmark your bequest for scholarships; academic, athletic or cultural programs; or unrestricted purposes so your estate will support the district's most critical needs.



The Violet Compton Estate Fund at the WASD Education Foundation was established through a bequest in 2007. Over the years, the fund has provided more than \$30,000 of support to the music program, like this Piano Lab, which opened at WAHS in 2019.





OVER THE EDGE ▶ Thanks to the bravery of 12 individuals, the WASD Education Foundation raised \$13,876 during this year's Over the Edge event in September, held in partnership with River Valley Regional YMCA and YWCA Northcentral PA. The event collectively raised more than \$75,000. Since 2018, it has raised more than \$350,000 for the three participating nonprofits. The event this year was held at the William Hepburn Highrise in conjunction with UPMC's Block Party downtown. Shown here from top left are WAHS seniors Laila Robertson, Miah Jones and Williamsport Area Little League Coach Levi Schappell as they begin their descent.





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 \ for \ was profit \ for \ for \ for \ was profit \ for \ was profit \ for \ was profit \ for \ for \ was profit \ for \ for \ was profit \ for \ for \ for \ was profit \ for \$

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.





Beginning Oct. 10, 2022, 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.









