

WHS Newsletter

Brian M. Callaghan, Principal
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December/January

*“Wisdom.... comes not from age, but from education and learning.”
~ Anton Chekov*

Principal’s Message:

Dear WHS Community:

On behalf of the entire faculty, support staff, and administration, I want to wish each of you and your families a truly wonderful winter holiday season. It’s the time of year that we can look within ourselves or back on the past year to see the good that we are and goodness that we have done. Hopefully, the calendar year can be an even better one.

Wishing you and yours a happy, merry, and peace-filled holiday season.

Joyfully,

Mr. Brian Callaghan
Principal

Athletics

The Winter Teams schedules are located at the following link: [Athletics Schedule](#)

Business & Computer Science

Central One recently spoke to Accounting students regarding their program, Road To Financial Independence. Objectives of the discussion included learning the difference between banks and credit unions, basics of budgeting, benefits of savings vs. spending, identifying types of loans, and understanding credit card basics.

Business students have also been making presentations on Modern Captains of Industry, studying the tax system in the United States, learning about tort law and competitive market models.

The Java Programming and AP Computer Science Principles classes visited the Museum of Science, to hear a talk on Cyber Security and view hands-on activities related to Computer Science. The AP Computer Science students are starting their CREATE performance tasks where they will create an original mobile app. Exploring Computer Science students have finished a Web Design unit where they created two websites.

English

Several of our classes continue to collaborate with individuals and organizations outside of Westborough High School. For example, the Journalism program is continuing its collaboration with WTV to broadcast stories about WHS, Journalism III students are collaborating with Mark Altman, a communications consultant and CEO of MindSetGo, and several classes are participating in Making Caring Common, a research study from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Additionally, a few classes have invited guest speakers to enhance the curriculum.

In addition to these collaborations, several of our classes have extended the learning beyond the classroom walls through field trips. This fall the Adventure Literature class climbed Mt. Monadnock and our English 11 Level 5 class went to Trinity Rep Theater in Providence, RI to see *Pride and Prejudice*. A few more field trips will be offered this Spring.

Fine Arts

The Fine Arts Department has had a busy Fall and we are busily preparing for the variety of events we have going on through the end of 2018 and the start of 2019.

Upcoming Events:

- Tuesday, December 11th: Winter Band Concert
- Thursday, December 13th: Winter Choirs & Orchestra Concert
- Thursday, January 10th: Marching Band Banquet
- Tuesday, January 29th: Tri-M Induction Ceremony

All Concerts Start at 7pm

Please refer to the [Fine Arts website](#) for more information, or follow the department on twitter: @WboroFineArts.

The entire Fine Arts Department wishes families a happy and healthy New Year and we look forward to seeing you in 2019!

Library

A general independent Library Orientation resource for students who have not yet had a class with Mrs. Cellucci can be found on this [Libguide](#).

All students and teachers have access to the Commonwealth ebook initiative through the WHS Library. Students can access it online via the library website or by downloading the free SORA app. Sign in is with the school designated email account. Ebooks and audiobooks are available through this initiative.

Mrs. Cellucci is available after school to assist students with research assignments, literacy projects and to help with resources.

The next Listening Lunch is scheduled for December 14. Students should speak with Mrs. Cellucci about performing.

Please contact: Ms. Anita Cellucci, Library Teacher, with any questions. celluccia@westboroughk12.org

[Find the library on Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

Physical Education/Wellness

What's going on in Wellness?

There is a lot going on in the wellness department! Our outdoor endeavors classes are outside every day learning how to tie knots and build safe cooking fires. In functional fitness, students have participated in a variety of balance and movement challenges this week. Our Yoga and Pilates classes are working through poses and learning to calm their minds and bodies through mindful relaxation. Team sports classes have been mastering the skills of team handball and our individual and target sports students have experienced spikeball and other leisure activities. Low adventure participants have been working hard solving problems and completing teambuilding exercises. In our fitness courses, students have set goals and are defining which exercises will best meet them and our freshmen classes are learning about all of the equipment in the fitness center and the key components of lifelong fitness. Net sports students are applying the strategies and skills learned in tennis to the fast growing game of pickleball. Finally in our grade 9 health class students are working on the skill of decision making so that they can apply those skills to every part of their lives.

School Counseling

School Counselors continue to connect with students in a variety of ways, with formal and informal curriculum delivery, individual meetings, and support for students progressing toward their goals. We are in the midst of individual transition meetings with each 9th grade student, providing an opportunity to get to know each other better and start conversations about ways they can thrive at Westborough High School. Sophomores recently participated in Career Exploration Workshops, in which they were able to explore their interests, skills, and personality while reflecting on how these things can impact future employment. We just completed two big programs for juniors: our annual Junior Information Night as well as Stress Management Workshops through English classes. These programs are designed to empower students with the knowledge and skills necessary to move forward confidently in their educational and personal goals, and face their challenges knowing that they have the power to reach positive outcomes. A specific resource we provided at Junior Night was the [Class of 2020 Post-Secondary Planning Guide](#), which includes broad information and specific details about options for after high school. Each junior receives their own individual hard-copy of the Post-Secondary Planning Handbook, and it is also available online. We've also continued to work closely with seniors on college applications and individual post-secondary planning throughout the fall, and look forward to working with students further in this on-going process.

Social Studies

In the Social Studies department, students continue to engage current events throughout the content areas. The recent local, state and federal elections have been a frequent topic of examination focusing on campaign strategies and media tactics and demographic trends. Some classes were able to observe the polling place set up in our gym on Election Day and were able to interact with our election officials who provided excellent insight into the logistics of casting a vote.

Students have also been frequently engaged in the use of our Social Studies lab where students examine and evaluate artifacts and documents to provide depth of understanding to historical time periods. Students in our senior electives will be complementing their studies with a field trip the International Museum of World War II; others will engage with experts in the field of law and law enforcement.

Science

On November 15th, a group of students from Mr. Fontaine's anatomy class attended the first Anatomy Academy offered through Boston Bioskills Lab. The Anatomy Academy was designed to expose high school students to the medical field through knowledge exchange and hands-on experiences. Students were given the opportunity to work with medical professionals and were exposed to a number of unique learning activities that were once reserved only for medical students. The cadaver lab was the highlight of trip!



World Language - Curriculum Highlights - Fall 2018

There are several exciting things going on in the World Language Department at WHS as teachers and students move into year two of their *Path to Proficiency*. This fall, along with the world language teachers at GMS, teachers participated in a book study to examine the high-leverage teaching practices deemed essential to world language teaching and situated in theory and research. In order to enact said practices, teachers from both schools participated in a reciprocal teacher exchange in which teachers observed each other putting this newfound knowledge into practice. This hard work is helping teachers to continue to create new units and lessons to deliver the new curriculum to their students. In order to share these successes with teachers from outside of the district, three world language teachers from the high school presented a workshop at the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association's annual fall conference this October.

Finally, world language teachers at the high school have worked to create French and Spanish libraries for sustained silent reading (SSR). Teachers have already noticed the benefits of SSR in the world language classroom. Students are enjoying reading more, their comprehension level has increased, and their writing skills have improved.

Essay Contest: Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Essay Due Date December 21st

On January 21st, 2019 at 10 AM, Westborough Connects, the Westborough Interfaith Clergy Association, and Central Massachusetts Connections in Faith will sponsor a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at the Westborough High School auditorium.

Students who attend Westborough High School and Gibbons Middle School are invited to submit an essay/poem/creative writing entry to their school. A small group of teachers will determine a winner to represent each school.

In addition, middle and high school youth from outside of Westborough are invited to submit an entry. A small group of leaders from the Central Massachusetts Connections in Faith will determine a winner from these entries.

All winners will be invited to read an excerpt from their essay at the MLK Jr. Day of Service event on January 21st. Please be sure that you can attend this event if you are the winner! Each winner will be notified the week of January 7th and will receive a \$100 donation prize, given to a charity of their choosing.

Essay Prompt:

“Our lives begin to end, the day we become silent about things that matter.”

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s speech on March 8th, 1965 in Selma, Alabama

You do not need to answer each question below. Instead, they are provided as possibilities to help guide your thoughts and your writing. You are also welcome to respond with your own interpretation of the quote.

- What thoughts come to your mind when you read this quote?
- Does this quote make you think of a specific time or event in your life? Explain?
- Have you been “silent about things that matter” before? What prevented you from speaking up?
- Does this quote apply to your approach toward life at all? If so, how?

Requirements for submission

All submissions should be no more than 500 words.

To keep your identity from the judges, **only put your phone number at the top of your essay (do not put your name)**. Also, put your phone number as the subject line in your email. In the **body** of your email please include the following information:

- Name
- Town you live in
- School you attend
- Phone number
- Email address

Please email your entry to the email address that matches the school you attend:

- MLK_contest_Gibbons@westboroughk12.org
- MLK_contest_WHS@westboroughk12.org
- MLK_contest_Other@westboroughk12.org

Important Dates:

December 7th	Half Day
December 7th	Ned's Coffee House
December 11th	WHS Band Concert
December 9 th -14th	Mid Q2 Progress Reports
December 13th	WHS Choral/Orchestra Concert
December 21 st	MLK Essay Contest Due Date
December 24th - January 1st	Winter Break
January 21st	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
January 23rd	All 7 Period - Exam Review Day
January 24th	Midyear Exams Periods 1 & 2
January 25th	Midyear Exams Periods 3 & 4
January 28th	Midyear Exams Periods 5 & 6
January 29th	Midyear Exams Period 7 & Makeup
January 30th	All 7 Period - Review of Exams

[Westborough High School Website](#)