



CHARLES H. WALSH SR. ACADEMY & CAREER TECH HIGH SCHOOL



Walsh Academy

(847) 390-3020
6935 W. Touhy Ave.
Niles, IL 60714
walshacademy.org



Upcoming Events

4/30 – May Term classes begin
5/26 – Memorial Day / No School
5/30 – Graduation @ 10:30
6/9 – ESY starts

As the 2024-2025 academic year concludes, it is a fitting time to reflect on the collective progress and accomplishments of the Walsh Academy community.

This year has witnessed significant advancements across our curriculum, notably within our career technology programs. Our building trades courses have provided students with essential practical skills, establishing a strong foundation for future careers in fields such as carpentry and electrical work. The technology curriculum has equipped students with crucial digital literacy and coding abilities necessary for success in today's evolving world. The creativity and skill demonstrated in our culinary arts program have been inspiring, preparing students for potential opportunities within the food service industry. Furthermore, our community-based opportunities have offered invaluable real-world experiences, fostering civic responsibility and engagement.

We proudly celebrate the graduation of 17 accomplished students this year. Their individual aspirations are diverse and promising, with many pursuing post-secondary educations, enrolling in specialized training programs, and transitioning confidently into the workforce. We commend their achievements and look forward to their future successes.

The dedication of our faculty is fundamental to the achievements of our students. Their unwavering commitment to addressing the academic, vocational, and emotional needs of each student is evident in their daily work. Their passion for education and steadfast support cultivate a nurturing yet challenging learning environment where all students can flourish.

I extend sincere appreciation to our Assistant Principals, Heather Lischett and Elizabeth LaMore. Their exceptional commitment to Walsh Academy is invaluable. They consistently demonstrate proactive leadership in ensuring that both students and staff are equipped for success. Their dedication to cultivating a welcoming and inclusive school community, where every individual feels valued and supported, is deeply appreciated.

The steadfast support of our Board of Directors, School Districts, Families and all our stakeholders has been instrumental in our accomplishments throughout the year. Their commitment to our mission and their belief in our students empower our continuous pursuit of excellence.

To our students, we offer our sincere gratitude. Thank you for your diligence, resilience, and intellectual curiosity. It has been a distinct honor for each of us at Walsh Academy to be a part of your educational journey and to witness your personal and academic growth.

We carry with us the positive memories of a successful year and anticipation for the future endeavors of our graduating class and the continued progress of our returning students.

Thank you & Be Safe,
Dr. Ann M. Craig, Ed.D. 
Principal / Director of Educational Services



Health Beat: Supporting Mental Health in May and Beyond

By: Tracy Mullen – School Nurse

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to highlight the importance of caring for our emotional well-being just as we do our physical health. As a school nurse, I see every day how stress, anxiety, and emotional struggles can impact students' ability to learn, grow, and thrive.

Mental health affects everyone — students, staff, and families, and it's essential that we talk about it openly and support one another. Encouraging healthy habits like getting enough sleep, eating nutritious meals, staying active, and taking time to unwind can make a big difference. So can checking in with a friend, asking for help when needed, and knowing it's okay not to be okay.

This month let's work together to create a culture of compassion and connection in our school. If you or your child ever needs support, please know that my door is always open, and there are resources available to help.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Your School Nurse, Tracy Mullen, RN



Classroom Corner

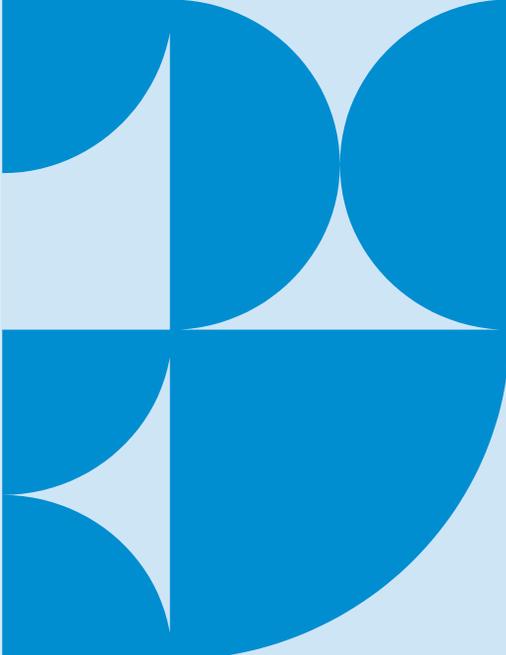
By: Natalie Greenfield – Teacher

We are flying through the year and have already arrived in May Term. This month-long term allows students and teachers to study different subjects that we may not have time for during other quarters of the year. Let's look at what different teachers are focusing on for this short term:

- Ms. L's class is offering, for the first time ever at Walsh Academy, Marine Sciences and is also continuing with their pre-vocational training courses. They are learning about the different ways our marine life affects our world and are going fishing 2 times a week!
- Mr. Justin's class is solving equations in Algebra and conducting different science experiments in Physical Science, like making homemade ice cream. Yummy!
- Ms. Natalie's class is in World History and Pre-Vocational. They are learning about World War 1, World War 2, and current events. Students are very engaged in different ways to make connections to our world in the past and today.
- In Ms. Karlesky's students are in Geometry and English. They are working on the area and circumference of different circles.
- Mr. Robert is teaching English with a focus on analytical writing. They discuss historical and cultural themes.
- In Mr. T's class they are in Health and English, reading the book *Slacker*. This particular text is relatable to many of the students, and they are really enjoying it.
- Coach is leading a Health class that is offering students the chance to learn more about their overall health in different aspects, as well as a PE class for some of our seniors who are behind in PE credits.
- Ms. Kat is teaching Personal Development to her seniors who are preparing for the next phases of their lives. They are having great discussions about what makes each of them happy and why.
- In Mrs. Beth's class they are doing Music Appreciation and English. Students and staff are really finding their rhythm in there with homemade drum kits.

Now that we are so close to summer, and the weather is getting nicer students and staff are excited to enjoy the days and learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom.





Getting to Know Us!

By: Joel Gonzalez – Administrative Assistant

This month, we're featuring a staff and student duo from one of our freshman/sophomore classrooms!

Damien is a 15-year-old student at Walsh Academy. Damien enjoys skating and connecting with the faculty and staff around campus. He brings great energy to PE class, especially when there's a chance for some friendly competition.

Mr. Justin, Damien's teacher, is now in his second year of teaching at Walsh Academy. Known for his energetic and competitive spirit, Mr. Justin brings enthusiasm to every PE class and isn't afraid to challenge his students to push their limits while having fun.



Sports Report

By: Dan Baffin – PE Teacher



As the school year approaches its end and we are nearing the end of the 2024-2025 CAAEL Season, we currently sit in 7th place in bowling. It is a close bottle neck at the top for the first 4 spots. Two of our transition students, Brandon and Marvin, were our top two bowlers this year leading the pack both with games in the 120's. With one more day of bowling left we're looking to move up one or two more spots in the standings.

Our soccer team has played their hearts out on the field in some fun and competitive matches and saw some top-notch competition. We finished the soccer season with a record of 1-4 on the season. Great job to all our student athletes on an awesome season and we can't wait to see what next year has in store for our Walsh Academy student athletes.

What is your favorite color?	
D - Blue	J - Navy Blue
What is/was your favorite subject in school?	
D - P.E.	J - Science
Have you ever had a nickname?	
D - No	J - Some of my friends call me J-Sho.
What is your favorite holiday?	
D - Halloween	J - Christmas
What is something you've done that you are proud of?	
D - Getting B Honor Roll last quarter.	J - I've never gotten a lower than a "B" in my academic career.
What is your favorite movie, show, and/or book?	
D - Menace II Society	J - My favorite show is The Office. My favorite movie is Catch Me If You Can.
If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?	
D - Teleportation	J - The ability to teleport so I could travel the world.
Tell us something interesting about you.	
D - I like to skate.	J - I've played sports my whole life and still play in a basketball and softball league with some of my friends.
What is the best part about being a student/staff at Walsh Academy?	
D - The staff.	J - Getting to know and build connections with the students at the school.



What's Happening at Walsh?

Graduation

By: Mark Trerotola – Teacher

"Spring adds new life and new joy to all that is."

As the season of renewal surrounds us, Walsh Academy is blooming with excitement and growth. This spring, we're proud to welcome five new students into our learning community—and even more proud to celebrate the accomplishments of 17 graduating students as they prepare to take their next steps.

At Walsh Academy, our mission is to equip diverse learners with the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to thrive—whether that's in high-demand, high-paying trades, culinary arts, college, or specialized training programs. Our dedicated staff work to ensure every student is prepared for a successful future down whatever path they choose including higher education, skilled employment, or continued growth through transition services.

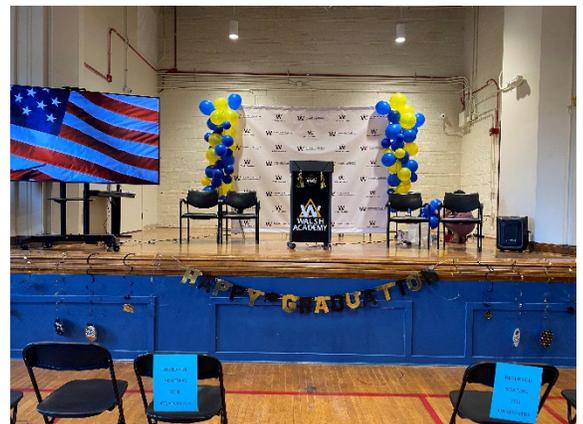
This year's graduates are a testament to that commitment. Some students will go on to universities such as Arizona State and Illinois State, while others have chosen trade school, cosmetology school, or are entering the workforce. Several graduates will remain at Walsh to continue developing their skills through our transition services program.

Here's a snapshot of our graduates' exciting plans:

- College Acceptance: Arizona State, Illinois State, Community College
- Career Preparation: Trade school, cosmetology school
- Workforce Entry: Positions in various industries
- Continuing at Walsh: Transition services for extended support
- Undecided: Exploring options and preparing next steps

We are incredibly proud of this graduating class. These young adults have shown resilience, growth, and determination throughout their time at Walsh. Their achievements reflect not only their hard work but the strong support system they've built with us. We are confident they are among the best-prepared graduates in recent years, and we look forward to seeing all they accomplish in the future.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025!



CTE Update:

Wrapping Up the 24-25 School Year

By: Raven Campbell – Paraprofessional/Job Coach

As the school year comes to a close, we're celebrating a season of hands-on learning and practical skill-building. Students spent time working on bike repair, small engines, and general maintenance which is teaching valuable lessons in how things work and how to keep them running smoothly. Our first course offerings in carpentry, plumbing, and electrical were offered this year in our new state of the art classrooms.

In the kitchen, students also got a taste of culinary fundamentals. One memorable moment was when they made omelets from scratch, which involved cracking eggs, choosing ingredients, and learning how to cook a simple, delicious meal. It was a great way to combine creativity, responsibility, and teamwork in a fun and engaging way.

In computer sciences, students expanded their knowledge in podcasting, graphic design, 3D design, and printing mediums. We look forward to expanding these courses based on student interest in the following years.

We're proud of everything our students have accomplished this year and are excited for what's ahead!

