



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



Walsh Academy

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walshacademy.org



Upcoming Events

11/13 Q2 Progress Reports

11/20-11/21 **MOVE TO NILES** *No student attendance.

11/22-11/24
Thanksgiving Break

Dear Walsh Academy community,

As we approach the end of the year, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the incredible students and faculty we have here at our school. Amidst the challenges and uncertainties that this year has presented, their resilience, dedication, and unwavering spirit have truly been an amazing gift.

During the month of November, it is a tradition for us to focus on the power of gratitude and the spirit of giving. It is often said that gratitude is the key to unlocking abundance in our lives, and I believe this holds true for Walsh Academy as well. By appreciating the efforts and accomplishments of our students and faculty, we can create an environment that fosters continuous growth and success.

Our students have shown remarkable commitment to their education, adapting to new learning formats, and embracing the challenges that come their way. Their determination to succeed serves as an inspiration to all of us, showing that anything is possible when we put our minds to it.

I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to our faculty and staff members, who have gone above and beyond their call of duty throughout this year. Their unwavering dedication to our students' well-being and academic progress has not gone unnoticed. They have worked tirelessly to provide a safe and supportive environment, ensuring that learning continues despite the obstacles we face.

A special note of gratitude to the Maryville Board of Directors for their never-ending support. Their vision, guidance, and unwavering belief in the importance of education have been instrumental in shaping the future of Walsh Academy. Their dedication to providing our students with the best possible opportunities is truly commendable.

Numerous people have worked behind the scenes, working hard to get our new location ready for our students and faculty. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed nor unappreciated.

I am thrilled to announce that our first day of classes in our new location will be November 27. This marks a significant milestone in the history of our school, and I could not be more excited to embark on this new chapter together.

Thank you all for being a part of our Walsh Academy family. Your support and commitment mean the world to us.

With much gratitude and be safe!

Ann M. Craig
Principal / Director of Educational Services



Health Beat:

Bullying Prevention

By: Kristina Seidelman Nickels – Social Worker

Fall is also recognized as a time for National Bullying Prevention month, a time set aside to educate and raise awareness about bullying prevention. Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. This behavior is repeated over time and can lead to serious consequences for students such as raising school absentee rates, decreasing student performance, and increasing students' levels of physical and mental stress. Research has indicated that bullying prevention programs can help reduce bullying at school by helping potential bullies recognize and change their behavior, as well as empower victims by giving them the support needed to face bullying behaviors. To see Walsh Academy's Anti-Bullying Policy, visit our website at walshacademy.org.



Talking Tech

By: Stavros Kouriabalis – CTE Teacher

Hello everyone! We have some exciting news for this month in our tech world. Typically, when we mention Friday the 13th, people associate it with something negative or scary. At Walsh it was anything but that. On October 13th we had our first CTE (Career Tech Education) elective class start! The class is called computer literacy. In this course students will be introduced to a broad range of tech related topics. This includes 3D printing, podcasting, silk screening, T-shirt press design and potentially even some programming.

Students right now are learning the ins and outs of 3D printing.

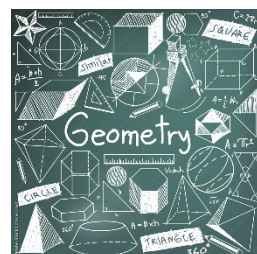


They are in the process of sketching a design and hopefully they can print their designs out. We can't wait for the rest of our elective classes to open and give students some opportunities to learn skills in a subject they are interested in. We hope you all have a fun Halloween and end of your month!

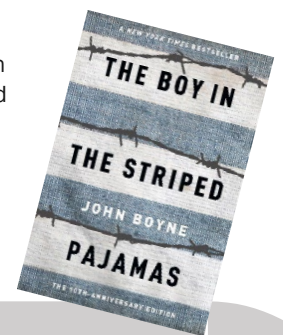
Classroom Corner

By: Mark Trerotola - Teacher

Well, the leaves are falling, so snow must not be far away. In addition to changing our clocks, Walsh Academy has just changed quarters. Some classrooms have started new classes at the start of our second quarter. In Mr. Trerotola's class, they replaced their first quarter U.S. history class with general science. Students are already cheering about how it is more interesting and wondering if we're alone in the universe. Mr. Justin's students are comparing angles in geometry while learning how to use a protractor. I'm sure many of them are good at angling for no



homework on the weekend. In their English class, Mr. Justin is illustrating an author's purpose for writing as they read *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne. The author uses a child's point of view to help younger readers understand the Holocaust at a less traumatic, however impactful, viewpoint.



Getting to Know Us!

By: Donna Hoffman – School Psychologist

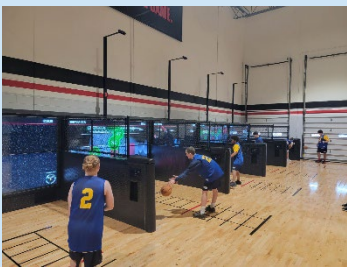
This month we feature Yamel, a transition student in Ms. LaMore’s class who is currently also taking courses at Oakton Community College in animation. And for staff, we are highlighting Ms. Mackenzie Smith, one of our new paraprofessionals/job coaches who started in August and works in one of our junior/senior classes and job coaches in the CTE Extension program.



CAAEL

By: Dan Baffin – PE Teacher/Coach

Our flag football season has come to an end as we finished with a record of 1-4. But this season wasn’t about our record. We showed tremendous growth in taking care of one another, improving our skills, making positive memories, and being leaders on and off the field. I am very proud of our students as they got better and better as the season progressed. We are currently halfway through our fall bowling season with three more dates scheduled. Our team has posted an average of 70.3 through three weeks as we continue to improve our scores week after week. One of our bowlers currently sits in 10th place for high score between all schools with a 95 individual game. Students are now improving on their Volleyball skills in PE to get ready for their next CAAEL season that will run through December.



Also, in the world of CAAEL, Walsh Academy had a great opportunity to attend Shoot 360 in Naperville during the month of October. Shoot 360 is a basketball training facility that combines state-of-the-art interactive technology with practical skill training and coaching. They combine cutting-edge science and technology with actual hands-on, one-on-one coaching. The students had a great time working with their coaches and equipment to hone their basketball skills in an all-new way.

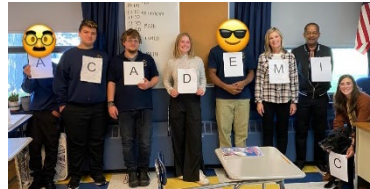
What is your favorite color?	
YH- Light Pink	MS- Green
What is/was your favorite subject in school?	
YH- Language Arts and Art	MS- English
Have you ever had a nickname?	
YH- Bibis and Vivis, my sister gave them to me when I was little.	MS- Mack, Kenz, Kenzie
What is your favorite holiday?	
YH- Christmas, I love giving and receiving gifts.	MS- I love Halloween!
What is something you’ve done that you are proud of?	
YH- I’m very talented. I’m also taking a college course.	MS- Getting my college degree and starting at Walsh Academy.
What is your favorite movie, show, and/or book?	
YH- My favorite show is Steven Universe	MS- My favorite movie is Donnie Darko.
If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?	
YH- Stop time and rewind/fast forward	MS- Definitely teleportation
What is the best part about being a student/staff at Walsh Academy?	
YH- Everyone is so supportive and kind.	MS- Connecting with students and staff

Fun Fall School Events

By: Donna Hoffman – School Psychologist

Spirit Week: 10/16-10/20

We just concluded the first official Spirit Week as Walsh Academy. This special fun week has been an annual event held each fall to promote school spirit. Our enthusiastic culture committee brainstormed new ideas for spirit days to bring staff and students together celebrating our renamed school. Each day had a designated theme and students and staff were asked to dress accordingly. Monday's theme was to represent a favorite sports team (aka Jersey Day) and many different sports



and teams' jerseys and colors were seen throughout the school. Tuesday was classroom theme day, and themes included Black-out, Taco Tuesday, Super-heroes, Colleges, and Favorite Color. Wordle Wednesday was next; everyone wore a letter and classrooms were encouraged to make words out of the letters by

standing staff and students next to one another. One class created 17 words from 4 letters! Mismatched Thursday theme encouraged students and staff to wear two different shoes. Finally, Flannel Friday was a hit as most participated by wearing flannels and jeans as a comfy end to the week.



CTE Update

By: Maysaloon Alkhafaji – Paraprofessional/Job Coach

We are grateful to increase the number of our students in the Career Tech Extension Program as we are currently at 12 students! The students are working so hard in class, working through the T'NT or "Teens in Transitions" curriculum. The purpose of this curriculum is to help students better understand their opportunities for life. We are currently working on teaching students how to transition into the work world during or after graduating from high school. We teach students to create their resume under the supervision of a job coach. The T'NT topics will increase students' ability to explore educational opportunities, gain employment, manage a budget, and live independently. Motivating high school students to find work to support themselves financially is important. It can teach the importance of budgeting and the value of money. Without a job, teenagers must rely on other people's money, usually that of their parents. Having a job gives students their own money, which fosters independence and helps them understand the true value of a dollar.



Parent Teacher Conferences: 10/23

While students had a day off, Walsh Academy staff started this Monday with a Pot-Luck breakfast, then participated in meetings/trainings the rest of the morning. Parent teacher conferences were scheduled from 1pm-6pm giving families a chance to meet with their student's classroom team and discuss first quarter grades and progress. The goal was to have conferences in person at the new location in Niles. Unfortunately, since we are still in Des Plaines many families chose to participate online, but whether in person or online, it was great connecting with all of our families!

Thanksgiving Luncheon: 11/16 (Ms. Craig's favorite event!)

Our annual celebration of Thanksgiving will be a school only event again this year, held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. In years past, we invited volunteers, donors, district representatives, and Maryville staff to celebrate with us, usually serving around 100-120 people. This halted during the remote learning days when we had to cancel in person events. Last year, we transformed a school hallway into a long dining room for all students/staff. Everyone enjoyed this intimate celebration, and since we still have one foot in Des Plaines and one foot in Niles, and are not fully prepared to return to pre-COVID Thanksgiving, the plan is to dine in the hallway again this year at our school in Des Plaines one last time.



Chef Zack will be preparing roasted turkey and gravy. Ms. Craig will be making the dressing (stuffing). Ms. Heather will continue her tradition of mixing up a popular holiday punch. And each classroom will be providing side dishes and cooking/baking them at school that week. Some traditional sides dishes include green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, corn casserole, cranberry sauce, and sweet potato casserole. A new twist to dessert this year will be introduced- mini apple and pumpkin pies. Also, a new sweet side dish will be created by Ms. Beth's class- taffy apple salad, without nuts of course! Besides enjoying delicious food, we look forward to sharing a special meal together as a school family and giving thanks for all our blessings!

