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Wooster City School District

Inspiring World-Class Academic Achievement

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Five Wooster Students Qualify as Semifinalists in 2019 National Merit® Scholarship Program

Five Wooster High School (WHS) students qualified as semifinalists in the 2019 National Merit® Scholarship Program. Seniors John Gorman, Alexandra Nolletti, Elizabeth Perkins, John Schmidt and Hailey Tennant are among 16,000 semifinalists in the 64th annual National Merit Scholarship Program held by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

Over 1.6 million juniors in 22,000 high schools entered the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Schol-

arship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). To qualify, semifinalists must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay and earn an SAT® score that confirms the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

Gorman, Nolletti, Perkins, Schmidt and Tennant will continue on to compete for one of 7,500 National Merit Scholarships in the spring, worth more than \$31 million. To advance to become a finalist, students must submit a de-

tailed application including their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstration of leadership abilities, employment, honors and awards received.

The 2019 National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. The scholarship recipients will join some 338,000 other distinguished students who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

Congratulations to these talented students!



John Gorman



Alexandra Nolletti



Elizabeth Perkins



John Schmidt



Hailey Tennant



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Promoting Empathy: Wooster Way Aligns with National Bullying Prevention Month



Empowering the heart, body and mind

This month, Wooster City Schools is observing National Bullying Prevention Month. The district tackles the issue of bullying year-round by implementing proactive and supportive practices. The Wooster Way is an extensive “umbrella” of programs and services grounded in a culture that embraces empowering the heart, body, and mind. The Wooster Way, teaches the importance of developing the whole student, which authentically leads to bullying prevention.

By defining bullying in clear terms, The Wooster Way sets in motion the expectation for positive and uplifting behavior amongst students. Through the provision of resources, students are empowered to strengthen their mental health and moral character.

The Wooster Way partners with organizations—such

as Anazao, Boys and Girls Club, The Counseling Center, OHuddle, The Village Network and United Way to make this a community-wide effort.

The Leader in Me, serves students in elementary school,

teaching healthy habits for a well-rounded life. Habit Seven is “Sharpen the Saw,” which encourages students to care for their mental health. This whole school transformational model and process will be launching at Edgewood this

fall, first beginning with staff training and incorporating students next semester.

Red Flags, is a prevention strategy that focuses on building self-esteem and empathy at the middle school level.

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Bullying Defined

CONFLICT	RUDE	MEAN	BULLYING
Occasional	Occasional	Once or Twice	Is REPEATED
Not planned; in the heat of the moment	Spontaneous: unintentional	Intentional	Is planned and done on purpose
All parties are upset	Can cause hurt feelings; upset	Can hurt others deeply	The target of the bullying is upset
All parties want to work things out	Based in thoughtlessness, poor manners or narcissism	Based in anger; impulsive cruelty	The bully is trying to gain control over the target
All parties will accept responsibility	Rude person accepts responsibility	Behavior often regretted;	The bully blames the target
An effort is made by all parties to solve the problem			The target wants to stop the bully's behavior; the bully does not
Can be resolved through mediation	Social skill building could be of benefit	Needs to be addressed/ should NOT be ignored	CANNOT be resolved through mediation

Source: Jennifer Astles, DASA Newsletter, January 2014, TST BOCES

continued from page 2

Oftentimes, bullying can stem from one student not understanding another student's situation. Red Flags educates students on the struggles of mental health with the hope that they recognize the value of treating their peers with respect. Through guidance lessons, students are learning how to identify their own struggles, along with those of their peers.

Additionally, the Edgewood staff embraces the Red Flag's mission of promoting mental health education. Through training, they have developed skills on responding to and discerning a child's needs.

Through The Wooster Way, students gain an understanding of the power of empathy and are provided continuous support where it is needed in order to eliminate bullying at the root of the problem.





Wooster City School District

Fall 2018 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, October 23

WHS: Marching Band Concert - PAC - 7:30 p.m.

Edgewood: Picture Retake Day
Board of Education Meeting - WHS LGIR - 7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 24

Kean: Picture Retake Day

Friday, October 26

Cornerstone: Make A Difference Day

Parkview: Fall Carnival - 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, October 27

WHS: ACT Test

Monday, October 29

All Buildings: PTC* - 5-8 p.m.

Tuesday, October 30

All Elementary Schools: PTC - 5-8 p.m.

Boys' Village: PTC

Thursday, November 1

WHS: PTC - 5-8 p.m.

Edgewood: PTC - 5-8 p.m.

Friday, November 2

NO SCHOOL: Release Day for Parent-Teacher Conferences

Saturday, November 3

WHS: SAT Test

Sunday, November 4

Daylight Saving Time Ends - Set clocks back one hour

Tuesday, November 6

Cornerstone: Gr. 4 Music Concert - 7 p.m.

Thursday, November 8

WHS/Edgewood: Gr. 6, 7, 8 Orchestra Concert - EWMS Gym - 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 9

WHS: Picture Retake Day

End of 1st Trimester for Grades K-4

Sunday, November 11

Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 13

Edgewood: Gr. 6-7 Choir Concert - Cafeteria - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 14

Melrose: Candid Picture Day for Yearbook

Thursday, November 15

Edgewood: Gr. 6-7 Band Concert - EWMS Gym - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, November 19

Board of Education Work Session - WHS District Meeting Room - 7 p.m.

November 21 - 23

NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday, November 27

Board of Education Meeting - WHS LGIR - 7 p.m.

*PTC = Parent-Teacher Conferences

Saturday, December 1

WHS: SAT Test

Thursday, December 6

Cornerstone: Candid Picture Day for Yearbook

Saturday, December 8

WHS: ACT Test

Monday, December 10

WHS: Rotary Orchestra Performance - PAC - 3:30 p.m.

WHS: Gr. 9-12 Orchestra Holiday Concert - PAC - 7:30 p.m.

Board of Education Work Session - WHS District Meeting Room - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 11

WHS: Gr. 8 Band Concert - PAC - 7:30 p.m.

Parkview: Candid Picture Day for Yearbook

Wednesday, December 12

Edgewood: Candid Picture Day for Yearbook

Thursday, December 13

WHS: Gr. 8-12 Winter Choir Concert - PAC - 7:30 p.m.

Edgewood: Spelling Bee

Saturday, December 15

WHS: Music Parents Pancake Breakfast - Commons - 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

WHS: Tuba Christmas - PAC - 12-1 p.m.

Monday, December 17

Cornerstone: Gr. 2 & 3 Music Concert - 7 p.m.

Tuesday, December 18

Board of Education Meeting - WHS LGIR - 7 p.m.

December 19 - 21

Cornerstone: Holiday Shop

December 21

End of 2nd Quarter for Gr. 5-12

December 24 - January 4

NO SCHOOL: Winter Break

Thursday, January 10

Edgewood: Geography Bee

Thursday, January 17

WHS: Gr. 9-12 Winter Band Concert - PAC - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, January 21

NO SCHOOL: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Tuesday, January 22

WHS Music Faculty Recital - Zion Lutheran Church - 7:30 p.m.

Friday, January 25

2-Hour Delay: Teacher In-service

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2018 Outstanding Teacher and Staff Member Awards



Jeff Bielek



Jennifer Snowbarger

Each year, two Wooster City School District employees are recognized as recipients of the Ralph R. and Grace B. Jones Foundation Outstanding Teacher and Staff Member Award. These awards recognize Wooster employees who have fully invested in their positions in order to impact the schools in a positive way. This year, **Jeff Bielek**, a custodian at Melrose Elementary, is the recipient of the Outstanding Staff Member Award, and high school mathematics teacher and volleyball coach, **Jennifer Snowbarger**, is the winner of the Foundation's Outstanding Teacher Award.

Bielek has been with the district for 19 years, where he has held many different positions. Serving currently as a custodian for Melrose Elementary, he sees his job as an opportunity to provide a clean and safe learning environment for students. Bielek is a highly respected member of the Melrose Elementary staff, where his colleagues all

agree he is always willing to help, does an exceptional job anticipating building needs and is more than willing to take on behind-the-scenes roles.

As the recipient of the Outstanding Teacher Award, Snowbarger serves the Wooster district as more than just a math teacher. She has worked both statewide and locally to develop curriculum and serves as the Math Counts Coach, advisor to the junior class at Wooster High School and coaches the varsity volleyball team. It is clear in all that she does that Snowbarger puts the students first. Snowbarger never settles for "good enough" and strives to always be a better teacher and coach for her students and teams. She brings a positively cheerful attitude to each day and is known to encourage those around her.

Each year, the Ralph R. and Grace B. Jones Foundation fund is awarded to those who exceptionally serve students and the com-

munity while demonstrating respect for their students, peers and members of the community. Recipients of the award are gifted an

unrestricted \$5,000 cash stipend.

Congratulations to both of these amazing Wooster Generals!

Wooster High School Students Participate in Wayne County Manufacturing Day

More than 140 Wooster High School students participated in the fifth annual Wayne County Manufacturing Day on Oct. 5. It is the largest program of its kind in Ohio.

Wayne County Manufacturing Day, hosted by the Wooster and Orrville Chambers of Commerce and the Wayne Economic Development Council, shows students in Wayne County the multitude of manufacturing jobs available in the county. It provides them the opportunity to see the different jobs and careers available to them out of high school and college, while explaining the importance of manufacturing jobs.

More than 600 students from 13 Wayne County schools participated this year, visiting 16 local manufacturing companies, including Akron Brass, Schaeffler and Frito-Lay.

Students selected two preferences from the participating companies and visited one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The students were able to tour the facilities, where they heard about the com-

panies and the types of jobs they offer. Time was also available for questions and answers.

We would like to thank all of the participating companies for opening up your doors to our students for the day!





Wooster's Diversity Task Force Makes Strides Toward Furthered Inclusion

The Wooster City School District's Diversity Task Force has proven to be a dynamic force in the community since its inception in the 2017-18 school year. The Board of Education established the Diversity Task Force in order to primarily advance strategies in the district to improve employment diversity, equity and inclusion in the school system.

The Task Force was also created to expand diversity of the written and taught curricula throughout the district and to offer sensitivity to diversity and implicit bias training for both employees and students.

At present, the Diversity Task Force operates with three main goals in mind:

- *Review research on successful strategies utilized in other school districts*
- *Review and recommend an effective diversity and inclusion policy*
- *Provide the Board of Education with advice and recommendations for possible program inclusion*

The Task Force consists of the following members: Superintendent Michael Tefs; Steve Shapiro and Yvonne Williams (retired College of Wooster educators); Scott Brown (College of Wooster vice president of student affairs and dean of students); John Clay (NAACP); April Gamble and Danielle Schantz (student parents); Cameron Maneese, Rachel Relle and Lawrence Walker (community members); Dave Noble

(Noble Foundation); Scott Miller (Wooster Education Association); Clay Price and Dara Wood (certified staff members); Rich Leone (district representative, Director of Secondary Education) and Karen Arbogast (district representative, Director of Elementary Education); Julianna Hammad and Ashley Bonenfant (Wooster City School District, guidance counselors); Alexis Florence and Corinne Wiles (student representatives, grades 11-12).

The Task Force's current and ongoing work involves creating a recruitment booklet to promote the district at job fairs, drafting a diversity policy titled "Welcoming Everyone," analyzing the responses from a student and staff survey on diversity, creating professional development opportunities and discussing curricula materials.

In response to the many opportunities to enhance diversity in the district, the Task Force has established three sub-committees: 1) Hiring and Recruitment, 2) Curriculum, and 3) School Climate.

"The Task Force has proven to be a thoughtful and inclusive way to unite the many voices in Wooster," said Maneese, who is the committee's facilitator. "We have seen strides in many areas, including how hiring and recruitment occurs and the number of visits that the district makes to college fairs. I hope we will come up with concrete recommendations for the Board of Education this year to make these changes sustainable."

Ellen Shapiro Natatorium Renovation Complete

Last year, the Pool Pride Committee raised nearly \$1 million for the renovation of the Ellen Shapiro Natatorium with the goal of returning the Natatorium to its original pristine condition. Renovations included:

- *New paint for the entire facility, totaling 1,500 gallons*
- *New LED lighting. (this energy efficiency measure reduced 27,500 watts from the facility, producing a savings of approximately \$3.30 savings per hour of operation)*
- *New industrial fans installed in the mezzanine for better air movement*
- *New epoxy floor in the locker rooms*
- *New finish on the deck*

- *New lockers*
- *New shower heads and mixing valves*
- *New filtration/UV system*
- *Improved water flow with new pumps*
- *Additional receptacles were added at the vanities with new vanity lights*
- *Replacing rusted/deteriorated doors and frames from local Wooster Glass*
- *30,000 sf of new Fibertight roofing material from Wooster-based Seaman Corp*

Renovations were done by Bogner Construction.

Thanks to all of the generous donations, the Natatorium looks brand new and has reopened for the community to use!



OHuddle Seeking Community Volunteers for Youth Mentorship Program



The Wooster City School District is currently seeking mentors for the OHuddle mentorship program. OHuddle, short for Odyssey Huddle, serves more than 280 students in grades K-12 in Orrville, Smithville, Triway and Wooster with one-on-one mentors.

The name, "Odyssey Huddle" is based on the idea that life is an odyssey filled with hurdles and challenges. Youth outcomes are impacted by who chooses to huddle around to raise them up. OHuddle's mission is to awaken youth to their unique value through relationship building and one-to-one mentorship. Students are nominated as candidates for the program based on their identified strengths that would be amplified by mentorship activities.

"Our vision is for each and every child to thrive and enrich their community," said Sara Reith, executive director of OHuddle.

Mentors are required to complete a background check along with a two-hour training. They are also required to commit 30 minutes each week during the school day to meet with their mentee. The goal is for the mentor-student relationship to persist from year-to-year.

New mentor trainings are held the first Thursday of even months (October, December, February and April) at the Heartland Café in Orrville from 12-1:30 p.m. and the second Tuesday of odd months (September, November, January and March) at Wooster Grace Church from 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Volunteers interested in becoming a mentor can sign up for the training at <http://goo.gl/forms/dWbpLP3SmVyOmHji2> or by emailing kmullen@ohuddle.org.

New Preschool Equipment Added to Cornerstone Playlab

Wooster Littlest Generals preschool students and Tri-County ESC preschool students have new activities to explore, including a double slide, rock wall, balance beam and monkey bars. These items make a great addition to the Cornerstone Playlab's area designated specifically for our youngest learners. The new preschool equipment was purchased through Early Childhood Education grant funds.



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Wooster City School District

Safety and Security Update



Rendering of security vestibule at Wooster High School

Last school year, the Wooster City School District hosted a community forum to discuss how to increase school safety. Many excellent ideas resulted from that meeting, and the district immediately began implementing a number of those, including:

- *Hiring another School Resource Officer*
- *Removing students from processing visitors at Wooster High School*
- *Placing a dedicated adult, full time, at the front doors of the high school*

The district has also been hard at work implementing larger security measures. We are pleased to announce that in December, the security separation project between the public areas connected to the high school (Natatorium and Gault Recreation Center) and student areas will be complete. Now, there is no way for

visitors to access the building without going through the front doors.

We are also in the process of engineering a security vestibule entrance at Wooster High School, which should be completed early next year. All students and visitors to Wooster High School will have to enter



the building at the main entrance, by the front car loop, during the hours of 8:05 a.m. to 3 p.m. The vestibule will prevent visitors from entering the main portion of the building until they are admitted by

a Wooster City School District staff member.

The safety and security of our students is our top priority, and the district will continue to review ways to enhance the security of our buildings.



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