



Wooster City School District

Inspiring World-Class Academic Achievement

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Wooster High School Students Selected as National Merit Semifinalists

Three seniors at Wooster High School have been chosen among students across the nation as semifinalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. **Colin Danch, Gabriela Hayward-Lara and Marguerite Shaya** have been selected as part of a group of 16,000 students nationwide.

As semifinalists, they have the opportunity to continue in the competition

sents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors and includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, finalists are required to have an excellent academic record, be active in school and community activities, demonstrate leadership abilities and fill out a scholarship application.

As semifinalists, they have the opportunity to continue in the competition for three of nearly 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million offered in the spring.

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About 1.5 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2014 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The nationwide pool of finalists repre-

"To be selected as a semifinalist in this prestigious competition is a high honor for our students and school," said Tyler Keener, Wooster High School principal. "All three of these students have earned a reputation for hard work and dedication to their studies and it has paid off tremendously. We are highly optimistic that they will be named in the next round of National Merit finalists."



Colin Danch



Gabriela Hayward-Lara



Marguerite Shaya



School Buses Going High-Tech: GPS and Student Monitoring Systems Planned

BY: DR. MICHAEL TEFS, SUPERINTENDENT

What does it take to administer 30 school bus routes that travel approximately 2,000 miles each day and carry 2,500 students? A lot of work, for sure, but leveraging new technologies like global positioning systems (GPS) and state-of-the-art student monitoring technologies will make the task easier, more efficient and significantly safer.

How quickly can you determine if a student is on the bus?

- Currently - 3-15 minutes
- With GPS Technology - Instantly

With new "Student Ridership," technology, administrators can see in real-time if any student has boarded or exited a school bus. "We will quickly be able to answer frequently asked questions like:

- *Did a student get picked up this morning?*
- *Were they dropped off at their assigned stop?*
- *Where were they dropped off?*
- *What time were they dropped off?*



- *Which students are on bus XX right now?*
- *Where is bus # XX?"*

said Superintendent, Dr. Michael Tefs.

The school system hopes to introduce this new technology early in 2016. Online and face-to-face trainings will be available to teach families how to view the real-time location of their child's bus through a smartphone, tablet or computer. Families will finally be able to send their child to the bus stop at just the right time, helping to avoid missed buses or long waits in freezing temperatures, pouring rain, the hot sun, strong winds or rush-hour traffic.



State Biennium Budget Impact

BY: BONNIE WEST, TREASURER

The State Biennium Budget went into effect on July 1, 2015. This legislation, which spans two fiscal years, provides the plan for how the state will spend its revenue dollars. This includes the plan for the state's funding of public schools. While the short-term bottom line appears somewhat non-eventful, it is in the long-term view where reason for concern appears.

For the past several years, there has been uncertainty regarding the state's intent to continue ongoing reimbursement to schools as a means to ease the revenue loss from the elimination of the Tangible Personal Property Tax. For Wooster City Schools, Tangible Personal Property (TPP) Tax provided roughly \$8 million toward the school district's General Fund at its peak. The reimbursement, known as TPP Reimbursement, was created to help fill the gap left by the elimination of the TPP Tax.

During the past two years, the school district was provided with a reprieve as the phase out of TPP Reimbursement stopped and was held constant at \$5.5 million. However, with the details of the newly enacted biennium budget,

the continued reduction of TPP reimbursement to schools has been ordered once again. For Wooster City Schools this will mean a future, continued reduction each year of approximately \$756,000 until the level of reimbursement reaches \$0 by 2022.

So why is this not overly alarming for the current year? For this biennium, the annual increase in basic state per pupil funding is occurring at a rate just slightly greater than the \$756,000 annual loss of TPP reimbursement. As the rate of revenue gain in one area appears to just about match the level of loss in another, Wooster City Schools finds itself in a relatively break-even position in the short term.

But what about the next state biennium budget of FY2018-2019 and beyond? What we do know is that the continued reduction of TPP reimbursement is not likely to go away. What we don't know is if the state's funding formula for schools will continue to grow enough to make up the difference.

For more information on this topic or other school funding questions, please contact me at wstr_bwest@woostercityschools.org.

Keeping Students Safe on the Internet

On a Friday afternoon, students in Mrs. Cindy Beeman's seventh grade technology class at Edgewood Middle School arrive, sit down at their computers and log in to their ePortfolio Google site. Each day, the students are journaling about how they are using technology in a safe and responsible manner.

That's just one way students in the Wooster City Schools are learning about Internet safety.



All students in grades K-6 in the Wooster City School District learn about Internet safety during a weekly technology class. In grades K-4, lessons are presented in the library using an online curriculum from learning.com. Grades 5 and 6 take a course called "Technology Integration" and in seventh grade, students can choose to take a semester-long Technology elective.

Mrs. Beeman often uses "circle time" discussions with her students to present topics and share out strategies on proper use of their devices.

On this particular Friday afternoon, students are taking her challenge to limit technology over the weekend. This lesson came about when she realized that students are on their devices even into the late hours of the evening, when they should be sleeping.

"Journal what your feelings are about this weekend. Are you happy? Do you have anxiety? What activities will you do to replace the use of technology?" she asks them during their discussion. Students then go back to their ePortfolio and journal their answers.

At Edgewood, the free curriculum from Common Sense Media (www.commonsensemedia.org) is used to guide lessons about topics such as "Digital Life 101," "Scams and Schemes" and "Cyberbullying: Be Upstanding."

Common unsafe online behavior that students see their peers using are sharing passwords, allowing strangers to follow their online profile and lying about their age to get social media accounts



before they are of age to have one. However, students report that Internet safety is something they hear about at both school and home.

"My mom has my social media accounts on her phone. My dad follows me and so does my older sister. I would never get away with misbehaving online!" says one seventh-grade student.

Others in the class report that students often lie about their age when registering for social media sites. Most sites have age requirements of 13, and students are signing up for these sites well before that age.

"Teaching our students to be safe and responsible online is very important for not only inside the school building but outside as well," said Rebecca Furlong, director of technology. "We are finding that students of all ages have access to devices and the need for learning digital citizenship starts



in kindergarten and continues throughout their school careers."

Elementary students start learning Internet safety through lessons about safe searching, texting, computer rules and not posting personal information online. The Internet safety module from learning.com offers 36 lessons and activities for the elementary students to complete.

Parents interested in learning more about Internet safety for their children can visit www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/parents.

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Say's Who? ▶



Wooster City School District

Fall 2015 Calendar of Events

All district events may be seen at www.woostercityschools.org

Friday, October 23

Kean: Walk-a-Thon

Saturday, October 24

WHS: ACT Test

Tuesday, October 27

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

Tuesday, October 27

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

Sunday, November 1

Daylight Saving Time Ends: Set clocks back one hour

November 2-5

WHS: Fall OGT Testing Make-Up

November 3-5

Kean: Book Fair

Thursday, November 5

Cornerstone: Domino Dough Night

Friday, November 6

NO SCHOOL: Release Day for Parent/Teacher Conferences

Saturday, November 7

WHS: SAT Test

Tuesday, November 10

End of the 1st Trimester (Gr. K-4)

Wednesday, November 11

Edgewood: Veteran's Day Celebration - 11:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 12

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

Melrose: Domino's Pizza Night

Friday, November 13

2-Hour Delay: Teacher Inservice

WHS: Drama Club Fall Musical - WHS PAC - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 14

WHS: Drama Club Fall Musical - WHS PAC - 7:30 p.m.

November 16-19

Parkview: Scholastic Book Fair

November 16-20

Melrose: Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

Tuesday, November 17

Edgewood: Gr. 5-7 - Concert Choir - EWMS Gym - 7 p.m.

Melrose: Book Fair

Thursday, November 19

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

Melrose: Book Fair

Friday, November 20

Parkview: Good News Assembly - 9 a.m.

Saturday, November 21

WHS: Drama Club Fall Musical - WHS PAC - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 22

WHS: Drama Club Fall Musical - WHS PAC - 2 p.m.

Tuesday, November 24

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

November 25 - November 27

No School: Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, December 3

Cornerstone: Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

Domino Dough Night

Friday, December 4

Cornerstone: Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

Saturday, December 5

WHS: SAT Test

Monday, December 7

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

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

December 7-9

Cornerstone: Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

Tuesday, December 8

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

Thursday, December 10

Melrose: Domino's Pizza Night

December 10-11

Parkview: Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

Saturday, December 12

WHS: ACT Test

Music Parents' Pancake Breakfast - WHS

Cafeteria - 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

December 14-16

Parkview: Ronald McDonald Care Mobile

Tuesday, December 15

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

Edgewood: Spelling Bee - EWMS Gym - 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Friday, December 18

End of the 2nd Nine Weeks (Gr. 5-12)

Monday, December 21 - Friday, January 1

No School: Winter Break

Tuesday, December 22

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

Thursday, January 7

Edgewood: Geography Bee - EWMS Gym - 1 - 2 p.m.

Cornerstone: Domino Dough Night

Tuesday, January 12

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

Wednesday, January 13

Kean: American Red Cross Blood Drive - 2-7 p.m.

Friday, January 15

2-Hour Delay: Teacher Inservice

Monday, January 18

NO SCHOOL: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Thursday, January 21

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

Saturday, January 23

WHS: SAT Test

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Wooster High School Marching Band Shines During Halftime

With 185 students in the Wooster High School Marching Band, each halftime show is a sight to see, with each performance topping the one before it.

"We have a group of dedicated students and staff," said Dan Adams, marching band director. "They put their hearts and souls into each performance and walk off the field knowing they've given it their all. I love seeing the students take pride in what they've accomplished."

One of the highlights of the season is the famous Script "Woo!", which is performed each year at the homecoming football game halftime show. An upper class majorette leads the script, with an upper class sousaphone player dotting the exclamation point. The band practices the Script "Woo" for approximately two weeks before performing it live.

"The marching band has been performing Script "Woo!" for more than 25 years," Adams



said. "It's a wonderful tradition and something the students are excited to perform each year."

Go Woo!

The marching band has been performing Script "Woo!" for more than 25 years

DAN ADAMS, MARCHING BAND DIRECTOR

Say's Who? Presidents and Deans!

Every year since 2002, **U.S. News and World Report** has asked college presidents and deans to name schools with outstanding undergraduate research opportunities and senior capstone programs. Only two have made both lists every year: **Wooster and Princeton.**

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Wooster City School District

Wooster Schools Accept, Accomplish Rachel's Challenge

Each school across the Wooster City School District heard the story of courage and hope about Rachel Scott, the first student to die in the Columbine High School shooting in 1999.

As one of the largest school assembly programs in America, Rachel's Challenge is designed to help administrators, parents and students create a safer environment in their schools and encourage students to achieve even more, while embracing values of kindness and compassion for their peers.

In each school, students took that message to heart. Here are a few examples of how Wooster students are making their school and community a better place:

Edgewood Middle School

The Friends of Rachel (FOR) clubs were at the heart of the success of bringing Rachel's Challenge to life at Edgewood Middle School. The fifth through seventh-grade FOR Clubs each meet once a week and formed several committees within. The Welcoming Committee holds doors, greets students in the morning and is planning a FOR Club Luncheon for all new students to Edgewood. The CIA Committee is focusing on showing love and appreciation to teachers this month, and the Marketing Committee is decorating Edgewood with positive quotes.

Cornerstone Elementary School



Cornerstone Elementary held a special event in honor of national "Thank A Police Officer Day." Students showed their support to the officers of the Wooster Police Department by making cards, writing special notes and drawing pictures, including a giant canvas mural of the Kindergarten class' handprints.

Parkview Elementary School

Parkview Elementary School students have added over 100 acts of kindness to their Rachel's Challenge Chain. Next month, the third and fourth-grade students in the Kindness and Compassion Club will start an Anti-Bullying campaign by hanging posters with positive messages around the school.

Melrose Elementary School

Just like Parkview, Melrose students are using the Kindness and Compassion Links to create a chain in the school, recognizing students who have shown acts of kindness and compassion weekly on the "KC Wall of Fame."

Kean Elementary School



Kean's KC Club took one morning to beautify the school by raking the flower beds and cleaning up the crab apples. The KC Club consists of 20 students who have volunteered

their time on Wednesday mornings to give back to the school. The school beautification day was their first project of the school year.

Wooster High School

The high school is completing a Kindness Links—which already has 200 links chain — and Shooting Stars of Kindness, which are paper cut outs in the shape of star that have positive messages written on them and are posted randomly on lockers. The high school's FOR club meets weekly during lunches.

Wooster Building on PTLW Program Over Next Five Years

In an effort to enhance Wooster's STEMM education, the district will continue building on its Project Lead The Way (PTLW) program.

PTLW focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Medical (STEMM) and will work to bring more of a pathway in engineering for students, if they choose to take the classes.

Last year, Wooster introduced Principals of Engineering, which allows students to explore a broad range of engineering topics. This year, the district added Digital Electronics and Principals of Biomedical Science.

In the 2015-2016 school year, 165 students are participating in PTLW classes.

The goal is to continue to add PTLW courses, providing students with additional opportunities in these pathways.

"As the engineering and biomedical fields continue to grow, schools must prepare their students for careers in these programs earlier," said Superintendent Dr. Michael Tefs. "By partnering with PTLW, we are creating a pathway for our students to be ready for these challenging and rewarding programs before they go to college."

Edgewood Middle School's Patricia Chelf Receives 2015 Outstanding Teacher Award

Faithfully serving the students of the Wooster City School District for more than 25 years, Patricia Chelf was recently named the recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Teacher Award, presented by the Ralph R. and Grace B. Jones Foundation.

Chelf, who is the fifth-grade Language Arts teacher, won an unrestricted \$5,000 cash stipend along with the award.

She is described as a "veteran teacher who has a dynamic teaching method and a strong ability to comprehend the needs of her

students."

Chelf has the ability to allow her students to independently demonstrate their capabilities and show how much she truly cares for their wellbeing. Outside of the classroom, she regularly volunteered with her late husband, going on mission trips where she would give her time to helping children.

In its 16th year, the Wooster City Schools Outstanding Teacher Award recognizes teachers whose performance inside and outside of the classroom goes above and

beyond the ordinary and is noticed by the greater Wooster community.

"While there are many men and women in our school and district that could win this award, Ms. Chelf has proven time and again that she cares for her students and genuinely wants to see them succeed in the classroom and beyond," said Dean Frank, Edgewood Middle School principal. "She truly is a one-of-a-kind teacher and has been a blessing to work with as a principal. Not only does she in-



spire her students, she instills confidence in her fellow educators."



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Wooster City School District

District Becomes a Part of the WeatherBug® Schools Network

The Wooster City School District has installed a new WeatherBug® weather station on top of the high school. The station is able to provide weather data for meteorological teams at news stations across the country to broadcast online and on-air.

The addition of the Weatherbug station will bring many benefits to the Wooster City School District. The school district's Earth network astronomy class will now include meteorology. It will enable the students to more effectively understand the science of meteorology.

Teachers will now be able to apply real-world conditions to help teach skills and concepts in math, science and geography. Teachers and students will have access to weather conditions from any of the 8,000 Weatherbug sites across the county.

In addition to the benefits the station will bring inside the classroom, it will also bring benefits to the athletic programs. The station will be pointed at the high school stadium and will be able to alert the district sooner if games need to be rescheduled.

WeatherBug® is the leading provider of consumer and professional weather products and services and operator of the largest weather observing and lightning network.

The app can be downloaded for FREE on iTunes or the Android market.

"We are excited to join the Weatherbug station schools network," said Superintendent Dr. Michael Tefs. "We are always looking for ways to enhance the learning experience for our students. The station

will provide teachers the ability to create customized learning activities based on current and historical weather conditions from the

WeatherBug stations and cameras located at the schools. We will also be able to report school closings more quickly."

Ohio Changes State Testing for 2015-2016 School Year

The Ohio Department of Education has changed the structure of state testing for the 2015-2016 school year, committing to the AIR Test and moving away from PARCC for its common core testing.

Now, Ohio educators will have more say in the information and will select which questions go on the tests. Each of Ohio's state tests will be shortened to around three hours long and will only be given during one window of time, rather than multiple rounds of testing.

This year, students in grades three

through eight will take English/Language Arts and Math. Fourth and sixth-grade students will take Social Studies, while fifth and eighth-grades will take Science.

As of now, each student will take the appropriate tests sometime between April 4 and May 13. For example, grades three through eight will have an online testing window of 15 days, from April 11-29. The paper test window will be 10 days, from April 11-22.

For more information about Ohio's state testing changes, visit www.education.ohio.gov.

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