NEWSLETTER AUGUST 16, 2024



Wider Horizons School

WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK

DATES TO REMEMBER

9/2 Labor Day- No School
9/13 Grandparents Day- Song Fest
9/17 Constitution Day
9/25 Technology Day
10/11 Columbus Day- No School

SUMMER FUN
WHS SUMMER CAMP included lots
of fun activities and water fun.





STUDENTS ARE BACK IN THE GROOVE OF LEARNING



Please be sure to get to school before 8:30am. Lateness causes embarrassment for the child.

Please be sure to screw the tops on drink bottles tightly. Spills make a real mess!!

Please encourage your child to try new activities and to understand some things take longer to learn. They will get it- just keep practicing!!



DEI IS A FORMULA FOR FAILURE

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Presently progressives have slid a new socialist concept into our economy. DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) will undermine the traditional American virtue of hiring the best person dedicated to doing their duties to the greatest extent of their abilities. What made America great was we did not care what race, ethnic group, or socioeconomic class you were from. Instead, it was the economic worth you brought to your employer, your own business or large corporation. It was the work ethic of the owner and/or the employee that brought success to the business.

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NOTICE:

PIZZA PRICES HAVE CHANGED AS WE ARE USING PIZZA HUT

1 SLICE \$3

2 SLICES \$4

PRESCHOOL

Ms. Wallace and Mrs. Scaglione Welcome back to our returning students. We started off the week with circle time, discussing our daily routines and the rules of the classroom and playground. We discussed the children's role in the classroom and our goals and expectations for them.

All students were given a tour of the classroom as some things have changed. We have been practicing names, going over our alphabet and numbers. We read "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein. We are keeping the tradition of starting letter "A" for apple with fun learning activities and art projects. Returning students are also getting back into their routine. I know you all have many questions regarding what is expected of your child: we will be sending home orientation information this week. Have a great weekend.

PRIMARY

Miss Finnerty, Ms. Skiff, Mr. Garrand

We would like to extend a huge welcome to all of our new and returning students and their families. The students are settling in nicely. We introduced some important school, classroom, and playground rules to ensure the safety of all students and we will continue to go over them as needed. The students were given a tour of the classroom to get themselves familiarized with the different areas of the classroom. As a Montessori classroom, we will follow Montessori principles and use manipulitaves for learning. The children are learning to differentiate between play and work time. We go outside on the playground everyday. Please make sure your child wears comfortable athletic shoes.

During circle time we played some listening games and learned some new songs. The first graders dove right back in and are helping the kindergarteners adjust and learn our classroom rules. Although being in a new class can seem daunting, the students have overcome their reservations and are happy to participate during lessons and share their knowledge. This week the students had a few lessons in practical life, such as grace and courtesy, (manners, greeting, interacting respectfully with each other, and using materials correctly.)

We use the newsletter as a tool to communicate with you, the parents, letting you know what is happening at school, what your child is working on, and any important events or days that you should be aware of. Folders will go home every Friday. Please check your child's folder for important papers from the office and work your child has completed. Folders need to be returned back to school the next school day. If you have any questions or concerns we will begin scheduling parent teacher meetings. We wish you a wonderful weekend!

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek and Ms. Russell

We would like to start off by welcoming all the returning students and all the new students to second and third grade. This week we have started off by reviewing the classroom and school rules. We are currently testing the students to see what they remembered during the summer. We are testing in reading, addition, subtraction, and multiplication.

The students have started their first writing project about what they did over the summer break. The students will make corrections and then transfer the story onto a picture of their choice. They have also written their first poem.

STUDENT EDITOR Morgan Szabo

The students have made their first Art project. They have received a lesson in language. The students reviewed the noun family in language. The students spelling list went home today. Spelling tests are every Friday and new words go home every Friday with all the spelling they have done for the week.

The students engaged in different activities outside for recess. We played dodgeball, trashcan game, Gaga Ball, relay races, and kickball. For some students, this is their first time playing these games. The rules are discussed prior to each game.

We started this year with the Montessori, Big Bang Theory, which is the Five Great Lessons. We will continue over the first couple weeks of school.

Please remember that this class does have a snack time. The students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack from home. If the students wish, they can also purchase snacks from our classroom snack basket for .50 cents. Snack time is at 9:30A.M. After lunch the students will go outside for recess. We have a microwave in the classroom the students can use. Please be courteous to other students, max heat time is 30 seconds.



UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Ms. Rooney

We would like to welcome all of Upper Elementary students back this year. It was exciting to see how much all of our students have grown in such a short time. It was great to see so many new faces this year!

We started the week assessing each student's skills in reading, writing and math. Once individual voids were identified, work was assigned to help fill in any gaps. It is especially important to build a stronger foundation before moving onto new concepts.

Anyone who has not passed the timed tests in addition and multiplication should practice this weekend. Demonstrating their proficiency in their math facts is a prerequisite to be able to take their Saxon math book home

Fourth graders were welcomed to their new classroom and introduced to all subjects. Rules and expectations for the Upper Elementary were also explained. The class had an opportunity to go through their math textbook where they went over the commutative property of addition, the identity property of addition, and reviewed the vocabulary for addition problems such as addend and sum. The students began lessons in Zoology and the five kingdoms in a three-part matching lesson. We also introduced the differences between physical and political geography through the use of maps.

Fifth graders began working in the language tower and in their spelling books. The first spelling and vocabulary tests will be held next Friday, August 23th. Some students were able to take their math textbooks home. They were introduced to Civics. Our students also explored the geography and

botany sections of the classroom as well, reviewing some common landforms and the five kingdoms.

We would like to welcome sixth grade students back to our classroom. Everyone seems to be transitioning well into the sixth grade. All subjects were introduced this week. Sixth graders explored their unit one vocabulary words and will be tested next Friday. different sections of the language textbook were also introduced. Sixth grade students should refer to their language textbook for spelling list, language homework, composition exercises and book report format. The novel, My Side of the Mountain has also been assigned, and the first book report will be due on September 13th.

All of Upper Elementary will have their first Spelling and Vocabulary tests on Friday, August 23th.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, Ms. Wheeler, Mrs. Samuels

We would like to welcome everyone back for a new year in the Junior and Senior High School room at Wider Horizons School! This year we will be joined by Mrs. Samuels, an educator from Jamaica who spent seven years teaching English in Japan. She will be teaching the students such subjects as math, Life Science, and eighth grade literature. We look forward to the amount of knowledge the children will gain from her.

We started this week by establishing rules and expectations for each class. We ask that all students eat breakfast before arriving at school as we do not allow them to eat during their classes. Please make sure all drinks are in spill proof containers to avoid messes.

IN CASE OF A STORM OR STATE OF EMERGENCY WHERE THERE IS NO POWER -SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED

All Students have been assigned their first homework and are already getting into the flow of a brand new school year. We are excited to cover new material and see how the students challenge themselves over the course of this first quarter. Have a safe and happy weekend!

AFTER SCHOOL Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

Welcome back to our new and returning students! This week during our indoor time, the children had lessons on different areas of the classroom and we also mentioned the behavior we expect from them. We are happy to have each child in the class and we are looking forward to a wonderful year.

During our outside time we went over the rules of the playground equipment, so that they can be safe and have fun. Some of the new students asked very interesting questions regarding the rules (inside and outside the classroom). The children were also reminded to share with their friends, not to be greedy, to be polite and to be helpful towards their friends, family, and neighbors.

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It does not matter what the person or group of people wants to accomplish, a DEI social system is a formula for failure. Any team that wants to win a competition strives to pick the best teammates to accomplish the goal of winning. The team does not pick teammates for diversity, equality, or inclusion. They pick those that have the best talents, or high motivation level, and do not pick just anyone who fits the DEI requirements. Obviously, they want people who can win and augment the best players giving the team the best chance at winning.

"Diversity, Equality and Inclusion" is a social goal. It is not supposed to enhance the chances of winning or even to improve the group. DEI is a goal that is supposed to improve society by increasing the diversity, equity, and inclusion in our society.

It may be interesting to live in a society that holds DEI as extremely important to their cultural value system. It would appear that diversity, equity, and inclusion would personally apply to each and every member of this society. This would substantiate that every citizen would be guaranteed equal acceptance in this type of society. The problem with DEI is not only with its over-promising but how a society accomplishes this utopian progressive goal.

This "pipedream," like all previous others, is nonsensical and needs to be rejected on its outrageous overreach. We know everyone is unique, having strengths, and weaknesses as compared to others. These factors as well as social, intellectual, economic, and family background ensures that no one will be a duplicate of another. In fact, each person is unique.

DEI can sound great but in practice would never happen nor would it be a positive for society. Presently we are free to make our own choices and follow our own decisions. Our present society promotes freedom of individual choice and hopefully will never morph into a totalitarian one that arbitrarily determines winners and losers.

DEI will fail as an experiment. What made America great is our meritocracy to ensure the quality of our economy and society.

An example of DEI going awry was seen at the near assassination of former President Trump. There were two average size women on the Secret Service team who were not able to cover the body of the president no matter how hard they tried. The men on the team had large, tall bodies and were able to do the job of protecting the larger body of the 6-foot-2- inch-tall president while the smaller women left him exposed. America has been a nation where it was not very important who you knew or what political or religious group you belonged to as long as you did the job well. The excellence of your total performance is what counted. Merit in performing ones' duties is the best overall criteria in judging a person's advancement or reason to even hold a job.

Domenick Maglio, PhD. is a columnist carried by various newspapers and blogs, an author of several books and owner/director of Wider Horizons School, a college prep program. Dr. Maglio is an author of weekly newspaper articles, INVASION WITHIN and the latest book entitled, IN CHARGE PARENTING In a PC World. You can see many of Dr. Maglio's articles at www.drmaglioblogspot.com.