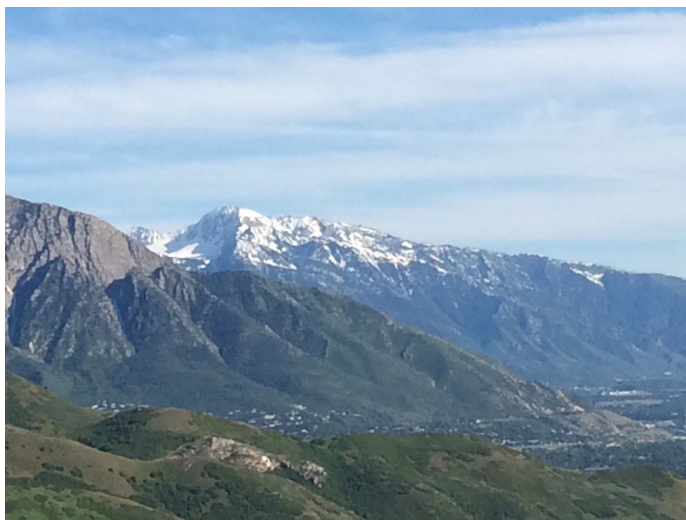


August 2019 eNews

Now that school has officially begun, summer may seem long gone. However, the beauty of summer, the opportunity to live meaningfully, continues. As the narrator, Nick Carraway says in *The Great Gatsby*, "With the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees . . . I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."

WCCHS teachers used the summer to reinvigorate, but they were also engaged in curriculum writing, collaboration, and professional development. Four English division members traveled to unique conferences and workshops throughout the country (and Europe!) to grow as educators and prepare to best serve students this year.

Wego AP English teacher **Nicole Osborne** was selected by the College Board to participate as a "reader" - or scorer, of the 2019 AP Literature exams in Salt Lake City, Utah, held in June. High school teachers and college professors throughout the country attended a variety of forums. Osborne then spent seven days scoring more than 2,000 essays based on the prompt below:



In his 2004 novel *Magic Seeds*, V. S. Naipaul writes: "It is wrong to have an ideal view of the world. That's where the mischief starts. That's where everything starts unravelling."

Select a novel, play, or epic poem in which a character holds an "ideal view of the world." Then write an essay in which you analyze the character's idealism and its positive or negative consequences. Explain how the author's portrayal of this idealism illuminates the meaning of the work as a whole. You may choose a work from the list below or one of comparable literary merit. Do not merely summarize the plot.

Ms. Osborne summarized the impact of the opportunity as "the most insightful professional development I've ever experienced." Please congratulate Ms. Osborne on being selected as an AP Reader, which is an honor for her and the district.

In July, English teacher **Kyle Etheridge** attended the AVID Summer Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota with a team of teachers from Wego. AVID, an acronym for "Advancement via Individual Determination," hosts professional development events throughout the country; the Summer Institute is one of AVID's largest. "AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society."



This professional development focused on reading strategies and disciplinary literacy, which asks students to think like active practitioners in the real world. English students can consider a counter-argument like a lawyer, envision a lede like a journalist, and craft their word choice like a novelist.

Mr. Etheridge described the sessions on reading instruction as “revelatory” because of the clear focus. Teachers were coached to plan and prepare a lesson with two guiding questions:

1. Where are you in the process? (Stages: pre-reading, vocabulary instruction, interacting, or extending)

2. What do you want your students to do? (Infer, synthesize, apply, etc.)

Mr. Etheridge reflected that the conference “challenged me to see the reading struggles that a high school student faces, rather than the narrow lens a student of English struggles with. Overall, I left feeling I had a lot more work to do rather than gaining a few shortcuts, and I’m unbelievably ok with that.”

Please join the Language Arts division in commending Mr. Etheridge on joining the high school’s AVID site team.



Also in July, Brian Turnbaugh completed his certificate of Digital Literacy at the University of Rhode Island. For the second consecutive summer, he participated in a week-long [conference](#) in Providence that featured leaderships and digital literacy workshops. Coursework from this program sparked the Wego Places Podcast- a podcast featuring the exciting career paths of former Wego Wildcats. Click here to listen: [Wego Places](#) or search on Apple Podcasts.

In August, English teacher and Wego Drama Director, **Mark Begovich**, was invited to Edinburgh, Scotland to meet with production representatives from America Performing Arts International; they planned for Wego Drama students' performance at this summer's 2020 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the world's largest performing arts festival.

Mr. Begovich traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland and worked with directors from across the United States to plan for the APAI shows to be performed at The Space UK venues.



He described the value of the festival for both the actors and the audience: “The Fringe experience is outstanding; there are performances everywhere! The entire city is a massive performance space. The performers come from around the globe and bring cultures together with the power of theatre. Our students will get so much from this experience.”

In preparation for the festival, the 2019-2020 season is larger than usual for Wego Drama including the Illinois premiere of the hit comedy *Puffs! Or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic* on September 5-7. Tickets are available online at wegotheatre.com or at the door on the night of the show.

Numerous special events and fundraisers are planned so that Wego student actors can travel overseas for this unique experience. Please support Wego Drama by giving a “Gift of Performance” at wegotheatre.com.

Now that fall is imminent and students are back in the classroom, the summer's efforts of the entire English department will benefit Wildcat readers and writers each day. Hopefully, the division motto, “Find Your Voice” will be evident in classrooms again.