

Community Link

White Plains Public Schools
Unlocking the infinite and unique potential of each student, every day.

WINTER 2023

WPHS Tigers Innovate, Invent and Inspire

Emerging Entrepreneurs: WPHS introduces INCubatoredu, an exciting and challenging new full-year elective, an authentic entrepreneurship experience, preparing our Tigers to enter the business world in a very real and practical way. Students have the opportunity to create their own products or service startup platforms, from inception to implementation. Teaming up with classmates and local business leaders to develop a business plan and product, students work to bring their products to market while gaining valuable practical insights into minimum viable product (MVP) requirements. What does it take to invent and bring a product to market? Our students are living in the experience. *"This course sets the bar for project-based learning,"* said Ms. Ashley Leblanc, INCubatoredu Teacher. *"Everything the students see, hear and do in the classroom is immediately applicable to their own startup."*

With the support and guidance of local entrepreneurs and business experts serving as volunteer coaches and mentors, collaborating with the classroom teacher, these professionals are guiding student teams through the process of creating their startup. At the close of the year, the class will culminate with a final investor pitch to a board of advisors composed of business executives and entrepreneurs. Teams will then learn of the viability of bringing their ideas to market.

So far, students have been introduced to topics such as market share sizing, competitive analysis, identifying customer segments, product branding, and creating an "elevator pitch" to introduce their ideas. They have also conducted interviews to understand who their customers will be and what they want in a product. The students are using these data points to turn their ideas into successful business models.

"The progress students have made from the first weeks, working on ideas for viable products and services, is incredible," said INCubatoredu Coach Meryl Stevens, Executive Director, Wealth Management Marketing, Morgan Stanley. *"It has been a wonderful experience for me as a coach."*

All four teams are building their product prototype and preparing for their midyear MVP pitch, displaying exceptional levels of teamwork, dedication and enthusiasm. *"I always aspired to have my own business,"* shared Rajin Hossain, a senior. *"The INCubatoredu class has furthered that dream of mine."* Fellow senior Viktoria O'Hanlon said she is *"learning about the importance of working in a team and how critical communication is to the success of a business."* We know we are going to see these Tigers blazing a bright path forward in the business world in the coming years.

Visit the District's newly redesigned website (www.whiteplainspublicschools.org), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/wpschools) and YouTube channel (search WPCSD videos) for the latest information.



AVID Steps to Success

As part of our mission to ensure all White Plains students are college and career ready, Eastview hosted its schoolwide AVID Steps to Success Program in December, in-person for the first time in three years! About 20 White Plains graduates who are now in college or the military came back to the District to talk with sixth graders about opportunities beyond high school. The visiting alumni answered students' questions about choosing a path after high school, getting ready for college, what classes and dorm life are like, and much more.



◀ Visiting graduates with White Plains staff and administrators



In Our Schools

This performance at Ridgeway is part of the Beyond Broadway Dance program for all fifth grade students in White Plains, a 5-6 week residency that will take place in each elementary school. It provides instruction in different styles of dance, which culminates in a full-fledged performance and teaches character development as students learn to learn to work together and treat each other with respect. This program is sponsored by a grant from the Friends of White Plains Public Schools.



Congratulations to the Middle School musicians who made it into the Intermediate All-County Band this year!

Eastview - Right: Eleanor Ingram, flute; Kelcie Dominick, clarinet; Maya Amir, flute

*Highlands - Far right: front - Syndney Abolafia, clarinet; Christina Domato, clarinet
back - Hayden Theall, flute; Kai Chen, French horn*

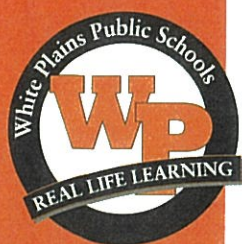


5th grade engineers at George Washington Elementary are having fun while they work during a STEM unit. Using robots they built with VexRobotics, students are practicing for their final challenge: removing "hazardous waste."



Rochambeau partners with the White Plains Youth Bureau

each month on a community service project. In January, students and staff made no-sew blankets to donate to Project Linus, a not-for-profit organization that provides blankets to babies and children in need. "It's critical that students understand the importance of giving back," said Director Paul Bratcher. "Doing good for others helps boost self-esteem and foster a sense of accomplishment."



Where Are They Now?

This new "Community Link" feature, spotlighting one of our White Plains High School alumni, will appear in each issue. To suggest a graduate for a future spotlight, email micheleschoenfeld@wpcsd.k12.ny.us.

Ryan Grafman departed for training at the U.S. Naval Academy

(USNA) the very evening he graduated from White Plains High School in 2019. This past Thanksgiving, he came back to the District to speak with current students. Ryan shared that his time in the Academy

has been the most challenging and exciting of his life, where he experienced self-realization and growth. He also says that his time in White Plains schools helped prepare him for success.

"I was able to take challenging honors and AP courses which not only helped me validate some classes at USNA but gave me experience in classes that required more time and effort in order to succeed. And, my seasons on the swimming and cross country teams directly translated to improved performance in my physical scores," he said. *"I also benefit from a strong network of peers and mentors from WPHS who have guided me through challenges. My guidance counselor, Maria Csikortos, was a huge resource to me in the application process. I continue to feel support from her and other administrators."* Once he graduates, Ryan will go to California to complete a one-year Master's degree program and will then move on to special training on nuclear submarines.

Supportive Parenting Workshops

As part of our ongoing commitment to proactively support the emotional development and mental health of our students, we are proud to host free Supportive Parenting Workshops. Sponsored by Friends of White Plains Public Schools and led by Andrus Mental Health Center, these virtual monthly events presented in English and Spanish are a balance of knowledge and strategy, providing parents with useful background about how the brain and body function and tactics that can be implemented at home.

So far this year, parents have joined us for discussions about positive parenting practices, social emotional development, mental health and wellness, tools to help children cope with stress and anxiety, effective communication, and setting limits to support healthy development.

This initiative is part of our longstanding partnership with Andrus, the local nonprofit organization that supports our school-based mental health clinics. During the pandemic, it also stepped in to provide weekly mental health support groups for teachers.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Join us on Zoom at 7pm

Meeting ID 2950812583; Passcode: 112560

March 21....*Tolerating Frustration*

April 13.....*Parenting in the Age of Technology*

May 25.....*Stress Management and Self Care for Parents*

June 8.....*Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping Awareness/Prevention*

College is Calling

We're proud to share that once again, White Plains High School students have been accepted into exceptional colleges and universities throughout the nation. More good news arrives daily!

Brown University
Clemson University
Columbia University
Duke University
Fordham University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Syracuse University
Northeastern University
Penn State

SUNY Albany
University of Arizona
University of Pennsylvania
Villanova University

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The mission of the White Plains City School District is to educate and inspire all students, while nurturing their dreams, so they learn continually, think critically, pursue their aspirations and contribute to a diverse and dynamic world.



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Familiar Faces in New Roles

We're pleased to welcome two administrators to their new roles!



Yolanda Rodriguez Delgado was appointed Director of World Languages/ENL Programs K-12. She has been a Dual Language Instructional Coach in White Plains for

the last four years and prior to that, taught at George Washington Elementary School for 10 years.



Gabriel Robles was named Assistant Principal at Ridgeway School, replacing Dr. Kimberly Crawford, who was appointed Principal in November. He is a White

Plains High School graduate and has been with the District since 2014, most recently as an elementary teacher at Mamaroneck Avenue School. He also coaches the Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team.

Welcome to the Hall of Fame

Eight new members were inducted into the White Plains High School Athletics Hall of Fame in November in a ceremony in the High School Media Center. Chuck Stogel, President of the Hall of Fame Committee, congratulated the honorees and welcomed them into this distinguished group of athletes.

The newest members are:

Elise Bronzo, *Class of 2006, Four-Year Varsity Basketball Player*

Joseph "Joe" Bullock, *Class of 1966, Football, Basketball, Track & Field Standout*

Grady Fuller, III, *Class of 1980, Football MVP*

Joshua Emanuel "Manny" Lawrence, *Class of 1957, Basketball Player*

Sand Mastrangelo, *Class of 2008, Five-year starting Softball Player*

Ted O'Donnell, *Coach of JV Softball Tigers, then Varsity for 27 seasons*

Charles "Charlie" Saunders, Sr., *Class of 1967, Varsity Basketball Player*

J. Fred Singleton, *Coach of Cross Country and Track & Field, Meet Director of the Loucks Games*

