



Wooster High School

Wooster City School District

Inspiring World-Class Academic Achievement

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

December 2nd, 2024

Principal's Message

Mr. Scott Musser

Hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving holiday! We only have 3 more weeks of school until it is Winter Break. With that being said it will be busy around here with finals and the semester coming to an end. Please take this time to touch base with your students to see how studying and grades are looking. Let's end the semester on a positive note.

With the snowy months approaching please check the website if school has been cancelled or not.

Upcoming Events

PBIS Reward Day December 13th

Winter Break December 23 - January 3

November Students of the Month

Brooklyn Nolletti (nominated by Mr. Sullivan) Brooklyn is a very kind person and cares about other people. She works hard and cares about her education.
Grade 12



Tommy Wilds (nominated by Mr. Burdine) Tommy brings a positive attitude and supportive voice everyday to class. Keep up the great work! Grade 11



News Stories

By Elli Gordon

At WHS, both the orchestra and band programs offer students the opportunity for personal growth, teamwork and an appreciation for the arts.

According to Caren Atanackovic, orchestra director, a recent highlight for the WHS orchestra was performing at Baldwin Wallace University's Conservatory for the North East Ohio String Festival. The orchestra, including select groups from the region, had the opportunity to work with professional adjudicators and clinicians, and experience performances from other schools. "It was a great day to experience music at a high level," Atanackovic said.

According to Atanackovic, the most rewarding part of working with the orchestra is getting to know the personalities of each individual. "I love working with all of the students in their ensembles, but I also enjoy getting to know the personalities of each student," Atanackovic said.

Band director Craig French describes what he enjoys most about working with the band, noting, "I love sharing music with students because music is such a big part of my life."

According to French, a recent highlight for the WHS band was the Massillon Band review. "It's always such a fun show because there are so many people in the audience," French said.

After students' time in band, French hopes students gain an appreciation of music and extend this into all areas of their lives. "I hope they develop a deep appreciation for the beauty in the world and the skills it takes to be successful in anything they do," French said.

For students in both programs, participation is centered on coming together as a group, creating something special and making memories.

Braelynn Sexton (11), a member of the WHS orchestra talks about the magic of watching a piece of music come to life. Even though everyone plays their parts separately, it's the way that everything fits together that makes it sound incredible. Sexton says, "It's amazing how something that sounds so simple can come together and sound like something out of a movie."

For Megan Armour (12), a member of the WHS marching band, the sense of belonging stands out most. According to Armour, "What I enjoy most about the band is the community," says Armour. "It's such a welcoming group where I always feel included."

Armour also shares that her love for music has grown over time, as she shares, "My already strong love for music has only grown throughout my time in the band."

The upcoming orchestra concert takes place on Dec. 10 at WHS at 7:30 p.m. in the PAC and following that, the band concert takes place Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the PAC.

By Margaret McBride

The WHS Best Buddies program has been a fast-growing program aimed at inclusion for students. The Best Buddies website bestbuddies.org states their mission is as a nonprofit organization that "creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, inclusive living, and family support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)."

Lauren Michel is the adviser at WHS and has held this position for almost three years. Michel said, "I am amazed by the students at Wooster High School. We have incredible peer members who connect with their buddies and reliably attend events."

Membership for the Best Buddies program is also increasing, with Michel reporting an increase from 30 to 78 members.

Members have the unique opportunity to make a difference in others' lives. Hailey Padden (11) is the secretary of Best Buddies and has been a member of the program for two years. "We have gained so many members this year that we have more peer members than buddies, when some schools don't even have enough peers to make one on one matches. It's so exciting to be a part of a new and impactful club because it changes the lives of more than just the buddies, but the peers as well," Padden said.

On Dec. 1, the Best Buddies Program held its quarterly auction fundraiser.

Leading the Best Buddies Program as the president is Calin Baxtrom (11), who has been a member of the program for two years. "Our main goals for this event is to spread awareness of what we do throughout our community and also to raise money. We are self-sufficient so in order to host fun events and keep our club cost free we do fundraisers," Baxtrom said.

Adviser Michel, Holly Pope and Brent Dillon organized the fundraiser and reached out to other people in the community to assist with their initiatives. "We've connected with member families and local organizations to provide raffle baskets and items for the auction. Students members have helped make the bidder paddles, share flyers, and get ready for the event," Michel said.

The proceeds of the event go to group activities and items like socks, snacks, craft supplies and funding for members to attend the Best Buddies Leadership Conference over the summer.