For the Parents, Students and Community of Winter Park High School

#### **Administrators**

Note: This list reflects the assignments as of publication date.

#### MAIN CAMPUS

**Principal**Timothy Smith

#### **Assistant Principals**

Jennifer Eubanks
Erin Vacchio
Jeffrey Sharpe
Paul Wilhite

#### **Administrative Deans**

Samantha Jones Marcia Owens Jon Zenzel

#### **School Resource Officers**

Officer Bill Branch
Officer Jimmy Angeles

Athletic Director Michael Brown

#### FRESHMAN CAMPUS

Senior Administrator Paul Maldonado

#### **Administrative Deans**

Elizabeth Kennedy
Bill Wilson

## Scho<mark>ol Resource Of</mark>ficer

Officer Murray Daniel

#### MAIN CAMPUS

622-3200 Fax 975-2434

#### **FRESHMAN CAMPUS**

623-1476 Fax 623-1485

## **Principal's Message**

Wildcats,

As we approach the mid-point of the second semester, it is important for students to be in each class, every day focused and engaged in classroom lessons. Investing time in homework and studying for tests and quizzes leads to more learning for students. Students are encouraged to continue to embrace these practices in a quest for ongoing learning and academic skill development.

In early February we introduced the Hero program on both campuses. This program is designed to have an accountability component as well as a positive reward component. Accountability factors are being on time to class, being in class, as well as completing and turning in work. Positive points can be earned for being on time to class, being on task, putting forth great effort, and turning in all assignments. Later in the semester, we plan to gather feedback about the Hero program in an effort to further improve the system. Parents are able to receive immediate communication of entries made into the program via email or an app for cellular devices. Directions to download the app are found at the Parents tab on our webpage: https://winterparkhs.ocps.net/parents/HeroK12

Many accomplishments have taken place recently. It is always exciting to hear of a senior receiving admission into a college, university, the military, or a special post-secondary program. I wish the Class of 2018 well with the process of solidifying plans for next year. A few groups of students have earned national recognition. Our girls a cappella group, Take 7, was one of 10 high school a cappella groups in the nation selected to participate in the National A Cappella Convention in Memphis, Tennessee. Our competition cheerleading team competed at the national cheerleading competition and finished in third place. Also, our eight National Merit Semifinalists announce in September have all reached the pinnacle of being named National Merit Finalists. Congratulations students!

Winter Park High School is grateful for super Wildcat students and excellent Wildcat staff members. Our hard-working, dedicated staff members are vital to the learning process and to providing valuable support services to students. Teacher of the Year Mr. David Hearn (freshman campus), Teacher of the Year Ms. Michele Gerber (main campus), Support Person of the Year Ms. Lisa Smith (freshman campus), and Support Person of the Year Ms. Aitza Mangual (main campus) represent our talented staff.

Parent involvement is greatly appreciated and is making a great difference! The Winter Park High School Foundation hosted another successful Restore the Roar on February 24th. The Foundation is having another highly productive year raising large amounts of money to provide valuable improvements to the school. We continue to have many parent volunteers actively helping the school through PTSA. The College and Career Center is a good example of how well our parents support students. The PTSA recently held a candidate forum for two school board seats coming up for election. The School Advisory Council works on a school-wide level providing support for academic and relationship programs. The School Advisory Council also reviews our school improvement plan. I am thankful for our many parent / booster organizations supporting sports, performing arts, and NJROTC. These organizations would struggle without the work and support of our parents / boosters. Thank you to all of our parents and parent organizations!

In January, Governor Rick Scott visited our Navy JROTC dual enrollment aviation program. A few years ago, Governor Scott's funding initiative for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs positively impacted the formation of our dual enrollment partnership with Embrey Riddle Aeronautical University. Students successfully taking courses in the aviation program earn high school credit, college credit, and ground certification. The Governor's visit highlighted the importance, benefits, and excitement surrounding our dual enrollment program.

Thank you for being a part of the Wildcat family. I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter. Go Cats!

Timothy A. Smith Principal



# WPHS

#### Vision

To be the top producer of successful students in the nation

#### Mission

To lead our students to success with the support and involvement of families and the community

#### Goals

Intense focus on student achievement
High performing and dedicated team
Safe learning and working environment
Efficient operations
Sustained community engagement

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#### From the PTSA Pres. Nicole Millard

The PTSA hosted Orange County School Board candidates for District 1 and Chairman at the February meeting. They talked about why they are seeking office and their goals if elected. **Get to know your candidates and vote in the Primary Election on August 28** – they are working on behalf of all families! *Photos courtesy of jenadamsphoto.com.* 



Chairman Robert Prater Candidate



Chairman Nancy Robbinson Candidate



District 1 Angie Gallo Candidate



District 1 Terry Rooth Candidate



District 1 Heather Traynham Candidate



Thanks to your membership dues, a **Wildcat Warrior Fund** was created this year in order to provide the Guidance Counselors with supplies – food, school supplies, clothes and hygiene products – to support student success for those with needs. A Warrior committee has been formed to help this fund become independent financially and to host campaigns during key times in the year, i.e. beginning of school year and long school holidays. Volunteers will be needed to take the campaigns into the community and to distribute items to students. The PTSA newsletter will provide details.

**Teacher Grants** were distributed in the Fall after review of applications. Here is what some of the recipients said:

- We are trying to create opportunities for students to make a positive impact on WPHS's student life through our daily news broadcast and student film projects.
- It will allow students to incorporate more reading in the French curriculum.
- I am excited to purchase the botanical center for my classroom.
- Your grant makes it possible for me to get the necessary readers I need to build a library of
  class sets in order to rotate novels and to have novels that better fit the needs of my students
  as they learn Spanish.

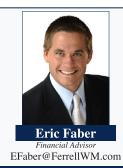
**WPHS PTSA Senior Scholarship** applications are due on April 9. \$500-1000 scholarships will be awarded. The application can be found in the PTSA weekly newsletter and in the College & Career Center.

There are many positions open for next year's PTSA committee and lots of good work to be done, so be involved. Contact Nicole Millard, nmmillard@gmail.com, if you are interested in participating.









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## **Fourth Quarter**

Dear Parents,

We have begun the final quarter of the 2017-2018 school year. Right now, the focus of your student should be on a strong finish and you can help. Your attention and involvement in this effort will reinforce the importance you place on your child's education. Please take the following steps to support your student during this critical time.

- 1. Reinforce positive and successful school habits. Attention in class, homework, test preparation, and attendance are key factors in a strong finish to the school year.
- 2. Access and review your student's class progress and testing schedules on the Parent Portal of Progress Book.
- 3. Help your student set goals and create an appropriate plan to improve current grades and prepare for final exams.
- 4. Identify tutoring and study assistance opportunities available at the school and encourage your student to attend.
- 5. Help your student to increase focus and effort. 'Coasting' is a natural, but costly tendency at the conclusion of the school year.

Your involvement is a tremendous positive factor for a strong finish. Your interest, willingness, and dedication to helping your child succeed provides an unmistakable and perhaps appreciated message. Your child will thank you for it someday. Should you or your student require any additional assistance, please let us know.

#### **Social Media**

Be sure to like us on Facebook www. facebook.com/winterparkhs.ocps and follow us on Twitter @WPHS\_OCPS for the latest news and information about Winter Park High School.





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#### **Winter Park Foundation**

Dear WPHS Foundation Supporter:

On behalf of the students, teachers, coaches and administrators of Winter Park High School, we thank you for your tremendous generosity and support of the Winter Park High School Foundation. Our 2016–2017 funding year closed with total contributions exceeding \$340,000.00. Your generosity has enabled the WPHS Foundation to undertake projects that raise the bar for our students. We have completed, or are in the process of completing, many projects to improve the high school experience for all students. Some highlights include:

- Showalter Phase II: new rubberized track
- Shade Structures: student courtyard and pool deck
- Student Athletic Center: new paint, updated trophy cases and renovate locker rooms
- Gymnasium: new lighting and major sound upgrades
- Water Filling Stations: Upgrading 6 water fountains to modern water filling stations
- Tennis Courts: completed resurfacing, new nets and new wind screens
- Ann Derflinger Auditorium: modern performance lighting
- Ninth Grade Center: new sound equipment for cafeteria and pole banners
- Numerous scholarships awarded to support students as they move on to college or trade school
- Four student organization grants were awarded
- The Richard R. DeVasto Scholarship Endowment provides scholarships to future Wildcats in perpetuity

While these are fantastic accomplishments, many needs remain that require our attention. This year our funding campaigns will focus on three capital improvement projects:

- WPHS Academic Programs: Modeling & Simulation Programs supporting STEM
- WPHS Campus Beautification: Main Campus & 9th Grade Center
- Showalter Phase III: Renovated Collegiate Level Locker Rooms

Additionally, we will continue to provide financial support through student organization grants and scholarships.

This is only possible with your continued financial commitment to support the WPHS Foundation and the students of WPHS. To date, our 2017-2018 funding initiatives have resulted in over \$290,000 in new contributions. Please help us meet our goal of \$500,000 in order to complete all our current initiatives. Your tax deductible donation can be made via our website at www.wphsfoundation.org

We thank you for ALL you do to help support WPHS and all our students. Go Cats!

Timothy A. Smith, Principal, Winter Park High School Vince Furey, President, WPHS Foundation

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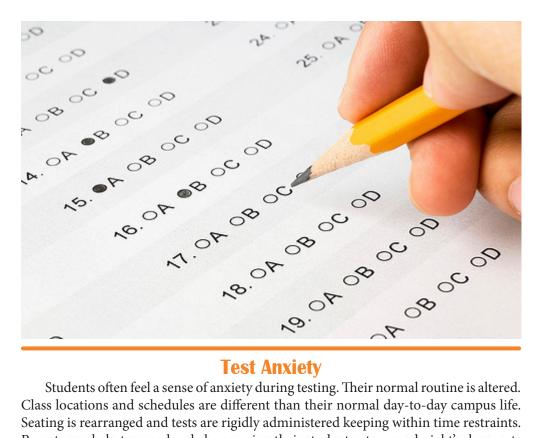
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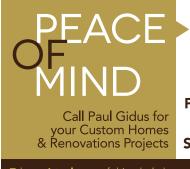
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Students often feel a sense of anxiety during testing. Their normal routine is altered. Class locations and schedules are different than their normal day-to-day campus life. Seating is rearranged and tests are rigidly administered keeping within time restraints. Parents can help tremendously by assuring their student gets a good night's sleep, eats a healthy breakfast, and arrives at school fully awake and on time.

Even those students who are well prepared can be affected by testing pressures. Parents can positively support their students by providing coaching skills that reduce anxiety and produce better test results. Sharing these tips with your student will have a positive impact and reinforce your support.

- LISTEN CAREFULLY TO ORAL DIRECTIONS. Then read the directions carefully yourself and highlight, circle, or underline key words.
- READ EACH QUESTION AND TRY ANSWERING IT before looking at the possible answer choices.
- EVEN IF YOU KNOW THE ANSWER, read all the answer choices carefully before you make a decision. You may find an even better answer.
- IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER, highlight, circle, or underline key words that can help you determine the correct answer.
- CROSS OUT ANSWER CHOICES that you know are definitely wrong.
- IF YOU'RE STILL NOT SURE, make a reasonable guess. Ask yourself which answer is true more often or makes more sense.
- DON'T SPEND TOO LONG ON ONE QUESTION. Circle the question and move on.
- WHEN FINISHED go back and complete the questions you skipped.
- DO NOT CHANGE AN ANSWER unless you are absolutely sure you made a mistake.













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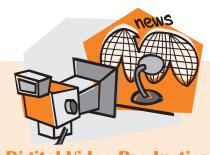
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#### SGA

The WPHS 9th Grade Center's Student Government Association recently raised over \$1400 to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Central Florida. Mr. Fussner and his team of student leaders collected "Pennies for Patients" throughout the school to benefit this worthy cause. Great work by the SGA as well as all the teachers and students who donated their spare change to make a difference in our community.



## **Digital Video Production**

Winter Park High School's Digital Video Production program, the Wildcat Network led by Michele Washington-Gerber, had nine student documentary films place in this year's "C-SPAN StudentCam" documentary competition. Following the prompt "The Constitution and You," students chose a provision of the U.S. Constitution and created a video illustrating why it's important to them. *The Wildcat Network* placed three films in the 2nd place category (\$750 prize), one in 3rd place (\$250 prize), and five in Honorable Mentions. Additionally, a \$100 prize went to another Winter Park student, the winner of "Behind the Scenes" for sharing photos of her StudentCam documentary production on social media. Congratulations to Ms. Washington-Gerber and all the Wildcat *Network* students!

### **Remaining School Calendar**

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End of 3rd Marking Period
Student holiday/teacher workday
Spring Break/Schools Closed/District Open
Start of 4th Marking Period
WPHS Prom Night
WPHS Baccalaureate
Memorial Day holiday/Schools Closed
WPHS Graduation at UCF Arena
End of 4th Marking Period
Post Planning for Teachers

### **Long Wednesdays - No Early Release**

The following dates are "Long Wednesdays." Schools will not have early-release on these dates due to testing:

- Wednesday, March 28, 2018 (FSA ELA Reading Retakes)
- Wednesday, April 18, 2018 (FSA ELA Grades 4-10)

#### From Your School Nurse

#### Monthly Topic: FLU FACTS AND PREVENTION

- Flu symptoms include fever, headache, chills, body aches, tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, and nasal congestion
- Flu is spread when a person who has the flu coughs, sneezes, or speaks and sends the flu virus into the air.
- The virus enters the nose, throat or lungs of a person and multiplies. Flu spreads less frequently when a person touches a surface that has flu viruses on it.
- If you get the flu: rest, drink plenty of liquids, and avoid alcohol and tobacco
- Antibiotics like penicillin will not cure the flu. The best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu shot. Over-the-counter medications may relieve symptoms of the flu. Acetaminophen (Tylenol) is recommended for children; aspirin or acetaminophen for adults. Do NOT give aspirin to a child or teenager who has the flu. Decongestants, cough suppressants, and use of a humidifier can provide symptomatic relief.

In addition to flu shots, three antiviral medications are available by prescription that will help prevent flu infection: Tamiflu, Flumadine and Symmetrel. Doctors also can prescribe antivirals for flu, but treatment must begin within 2 days of the onset of symptoms for it to be effective.

Things to keep in mind... Wash your hands frequently using soap and warm water for 15-20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth. Schools should be extra-vigilant that ill students be excluded from sports activities, choir or any activities that may involve close contact, since transmission of the flu may be easier in these situations. And remember, it is never too late in the flu season to be vaccinated!



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On Friday, January 12, 2018, Governor Rick Scott visited our Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (NJROTC) classroom at the main campus of Winter Park High School. The purpose of the visit was for the Governor to see our dual-enrollment, aeronautics program which operates in partnership between our NJROTC program and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. A few years ago, Governor Scott earmarked funds to go towards Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education programs in the State of Florida. Our aeronautics program represents a product of the funding initiative.

Winter Park High School NJROTC students are able to learn various aspects of flight and earn high school credit, college credit, as well as ground certification. The partnership between Embry-Riddle and our NJROTC program is outstanding, and our students benefit greatly from the aeronautics courses.

We thank Governor Scott for his STEM initiative instituted a few years ago. We also appreciate Governor Scott for taking time to visit our program to see the STEM initiative providing students the opportunity to learn about aeronautics, engage with flight simulation in the classroom, and practice flying drones in our new drone practice cage.

There are many fine establishments who advertise in our newsletter so please be sure to patronize these businesses whenever possible. Support them as they support us!!!!



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