



Wyomissing Area School District

Insight

Wyomissing Area Welcomes New Superintendent



Robert L. Scoboria, Superintendent

Robert L. Scoboria was appointed as Superintendent of the Wyomissing Area School District and began his duties on September 29, 2017. Mr. Scoboria was selected by the Board of School Directors following a search that included support from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and feedback collected from community members. Prior to his appointment at Wyomissing Area, Mr. Scoboria supported students as an assistant superintendent, director of pupil services, learning support teacher and basketball coach.

During his first few weeks as Superintendent, Mr. Scoboria began meeting with staff members, parents and community members to learn about the Wyomissing Area School District. The information collected will be used to identify Dis-

trict strengths as well as opportunities for improvement. Utilizing this information, Mr. Scoboria plans to work with the Board of School Directors to develop goals and a budget to help Wyomissing Area continue to pursue excellence in all areas.

Sharing initial thoughts regarding his entry to Wyomissing Area, Mr. Scoboria noted that he is honored to serve the Wyomissing Area community as Superintendent and that the District has “talented students, dedicated employees and highly supportive community members” and views his role “to ensure WASHD continues to provide the support needed for all students to achieve success both in school and with their chosen career path.”

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It is “Full STEAM Ahead!” for the Wyomissing Area School District. STEAM education is an approach to teaching and learning that integrates the content and skill of science, technology, engineering, the arts and

mathematics. STEAM education is a unique approach to teaching and learning that fosters collaboration, communication, creativity and innovative thinking in all students.

Every job within the 21st Century

is likely to require some amount of skill in science, technology, engineering, art or mathematics. The integration of engineering and technology within the mathematics and science curriculum makes instruction more meaningful and

STEAM Innovation cont'd

engaging as well as provides students with critical skills needed for success in the 21st Century.

In order to prepare for STEAM, during the 2016-17 school year, Board members, administrators and teachers visited numerous STEM schools to learn from other educators who have implemented STEM programs. A STEAM Ad Hoc Committee comprised of Board members, administrators and teachers was formed. This committee completed the Carnegie STEM Excellence Pathway Self-Evaluation of the six STEM learning components (teacher development, curriculum, instructional practices, assessment and demonstration of skills, family engagement and real-world connections).

The committee identified three priority areas: Professional Development, Inquiry-Based Teaching, and Peer Mentoring and Coaching of Teachers. For the 2017-18 school year, the STEAM Ad Hoc committee planned professional development focused on inquiry-based instruction.

Wyomissing Area School District implemented the technology infrastructure to support STEAM K-12 as well as ongoing professional development to enhance teacher knowledge and understanding of inquiry-based learning theory. Additional instructional materials to support inquiry-based instruction and hands-on in-service trainings incorporating the use of new instructional materials are being implemented. In August, the District launched the STEAM page on the website to communicate the progress with STEAM initiative to staff, parents and community members.

At WHEC, resources have been identified to outfit the STEAM Design Center. Professional development training has begun for a planned mid-year deployment of student devices. Grades K-2 will share class sets; grades three and four will have individual class sets.

WREC expanded the use of iPads to a full 1:1 implementation. The computer lab was transitioned to a STEAM Design Center. Office

Depot identified storage and furniture needs and the school board recently approved the purchase of collaborative desks, chairs, furniture and two digital displays and stands for the center. Teachers are receiving ongoing training on how to incorporate STEAM materials provided by WAEF and other donated materials into instruction. These materials are also available for classroom use. Lesson plans and activities will support the use of STEAM materials.

The JSHS currently has over 25 courses incorporating STEAM-related content offered as part the Program of Studies. Course offerings are being reviewed to align to a STEAM Instructional Framework. Architect renderings of the STEAM Design Wing were reviewed with a teacher focus group.

Ongoing development of STEAM will focus on the instructional framework, curriculum development, staffing needs, facilities improvements, technology integration and opportunities for community engagement.



STEAM in Action

Students in second grade are working to crack the code of a Monster Mash Breakout activity.

During professional development days, teachers are being trained in Breakout Box STEAM activities.



Meet our New Professional Staff for 2017-18



Amanda Budwash, Learning Support, JSHS

Budwash joined the District as a mid-year hire in February. She earned her B.A. from Shippensburg University; her Elementary and Special Education certifications from Alvernia University; and her Master's degree in ESL through the University of Turabo at Penn State Berks. She was previously employed by the Reading School District.



Jennifer Foo, 4th Grade, WHEC

Foo received her B.S. in Elementary Education from Millersville University. She was formerly a teacher in Ohio and the Reading School District.

Mindy Devlin, Autistic Support, WHEC

Devlin earned a B.S. in Elementary Education Early Childhood from Kutztown University and her Special Education certification from Alvernia University. She was previously an Autistic Support teacher for School District of Lancaster.

Julie Gulling, French, JSHS

Gulling received a B.A. in French and Liberal Arts from St. Vincent College and her French certification from Albright College. She taught French at Berks Catholic High School.



Back Row: Sally McAvoy, Lauren Kern, Mindy Devlin, Julie Gulling, Dr. Brian Liskey, Alexander Krick. Front Row: Kara Highdutch, Alexandra House, Mary Kelly, Kelli Kilhullen, and Katherine Wheaton.

Kara Highdutch, Autistic Support, WHEC

Highdutch earned her B.A. in Psychology from Shippensburg University; her Special Education certification and M.S. of Exceptionalities from Bloomsburg University; and her Elementary certification from Alvernia University. She previously taught in Oley Valley and Reading School Districts.

Alexandra House, LTS Special Education, JSHS

House received her B.S. from West Chester University with certifications in Elementary and Special Education; her Master's from St. Joseph's University and is a certified Reading Specialist. She served in our ESY program last summer.

Mary Kelly, Nurse

Kelly earned her BSN from Penn State. She has worked as a staff, triage, and charge nurse in an emergency department and as a nurse administrator.

Lauren Kern, Science, JSHS

Kern graduated with her B.A. in Middle Level Education: Math and Science from Alvernia University. She completed her student teaching at the JSHS.

Kelli Kilhullen, Kindergarten, WHEC

Kilhullen graduated from Penn State-Berks with a B.S. in Childhood Education and Early Adolescent Education. She was an LTS in the District last year.

Alexander Krick, Math, JSHS

Krick earned his B.S. in Mathematics Education from Penn State and his Master's from DeSales University in Educational Technology. He was most recently employed by the Antietam School District.

Dr. Brian Liskey, Chemistry, JSHS

Liskey received a B.S. in Secondary Education, Chemistry from Kutztown University, a Master's of Education, Chemistry from DeSales University, and a Ph.D.

in Educational Leadership from Alvernia University. Before his teaching career he was a Polymer chemical engineer. He has taught internationally, in the Governor Mifflin and Oley Valley School Districts, and was an adjunct instructor for Penn State-Berks.

Sally McAvoy, Autistic Support, JSHS

McAvoy earned her B.S. in Early Childhood and Special Education from Bloomsburg University. She was previously employed by the Danville Area School District and served the District as an ESY teacher.

Katherine Wheaton, Kindergarten, WHEC

Wheaton graduated from Kutztown University with a degree in Elementary Education, certification in Grades PK-4. She was previously employed by the Reading School District.

Years of Service Recognized

5

Deirdre Emes
Lauren Gockley
Susan Kroninger
Kristin McLaughlin
Donna Putt
Colleen Reinecker
Douglas Shuey
Royden Lee Snyder

10

Wendy Brent
Suzanne Herbst
Glenda Jarrett
Ashlynnne Khaldouy
Jennifer Kohler
Robert Kucharczuk
Andrea Kupiszewski
Jessica Lengle
Bernadette Lis
Julie Miller
Joseph Palubinsky
Jodi Reardon
Jeannie Reid
Leland Steinmetz
Mary Reinert
Dawn Weidner

15

James Comerford
Jessica Godek
Walter Holt
Diane Kaag
Danielle Metzger
Nathaniel Miller
Sheila Nestro
Brenda Phillips
NancyLee Schlegel

20

Erik Uliasz
Bethanne Mitchell
Christopher Blickley

25

Daniel Smith
Curtis Minich

30

NancyLee Chaiko
Timothy Hetrich
Gail Latham

Creating an Art Walk

The Berks History Center celebrated education through the arts with a Collaborative Public Art Installation and Community Celebration in the Centre Park Historic District.

The Berks History Center partnered with award-winning mural artist and JSHS art teacher, Michael Miller, the Wyomissing Area High School Public Art Workshop class and Reading High School to design and create a permanent piece of artwork that was installed on the walkways and street between the Berks History Center Museum and Research Library buildings.

The art installation, or “Art Walk,” was painted directly on the sidewalk and street surrounding the Berks History Center using a series of repeating stencil patterns, which were designed and created by the students. Reflecting the Berks History Center’s role in preserving Berks County’s cultural heritage, the stencil designs are inspired by Berks County’s historical crafts and iconic images such as fraktur, the distelfink, quilt work, Berks County redware, and city landmarks. The installation also serves as a neighborhood beautification project that will enhance the Centre Park Historic District and the surrounding neighborhood. Mural artist Michael Miller, led the project. Miller explains, “Over the past several years, I have worked with several groups of people to create some interesting projects that work with stencils. We often think that images can only be

made with paint and brush, but stencils allow you to create complex images on most any surface. The project at the Berks History Center allowed us to focus on some rich traditional crafts and patterns.”

The students volunteered their time throughout two weeks in October to install the Art Walk culminating in a community celebration and ribbon cutting.

Public Art Workshop students prepare the stencils during class.



Stencils are placed on the ground and painted directly on the sidewalk.



One of the Pennsylvania Dutch inspired patterns is depicted on the walkway.

Advanced Placement Scholars

AP Scholar—Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

Bryce Anderson
Keila Arredondo
Ana Beam
Julia Bell
Matthew Blanchet
Matthew Bui
Kayla Busack
Megan Conlin
Benjamin de Belle-Mitton
Nicholas Fischetti
Dominic Flowers
Lauren Gechter
Wright Harvey
Joanna Helm
Shelby Hinsey
Emma Hopler
Alexandra Jadie
Sahar Kariem
Caroline Kearney
Jade Kowalski
Andrew Kwitkowski
Maxwell Moyer
William Oberti
Joshua Pendergast
Jessica Prague
Avery Schaeffer
Lauren Schrufer
Christian Scott
Xiaoru Shi
Nicholas Smerek
Benjamin Stokes
Charles Stratton-Brown
Anna Williams
Samantha Zechman

AP Scholar with Honor—Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Ricardo Aznar
Sidney Barrer
McKenna Brower
Nina Cardi
Amy Endy
Elizabeth Howard
Sophia Ortiz
Andres Rodriguez
Samer Salha
Erin Stephen
Carly Tomczak
Nathan Wang
Emily Waxler

AP Scholar with Distinction—Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of three or higher on five or more of these exams.

Elizabeth Allen
Kristy Bell
Matthew Benusa
Samuel Botterbusch
Veronica Bristol
Emmanuelle Camile
Michelle Chau
Brian Cibulsky
Bennett Croft
Joseph Cullen
Thomas DiCarlo
Matthew Driben
Karim Ellaisy
Faith Ellington
Abby Goldberg
Samantha Heliodoro
Julia Herb
Samuel Hopler
Chiara Huber
Jesse Kaufmann
Talia Kowalski
Sydney Lentz
Patrick Mahon
Leah McAvoy
Travis Melcher
Collin Messenger
Hana Mitchell
Carter Moll
Emma Nugent
Christopher Poon
Connor Quinter
Sophia Reck
Wesley Rosenberger
Sarah Rothfleisch
Charles Schroder
Tylor Smock
Joliet Stallone
Tori Stembridge
Shelby Theisen
Benjamin Williams-Morril
Andrew Zhou



National AP Scholar — Granted to students in the United States who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of four or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Matthew Benusa
Matthew Driben
Michelle Chau
Talia Kowalski
Joseph Cullen
Christopher Poon
Thomas DiCarlo
Shelby Theisen

National Merit Scholarship

The Wyomissing Area School District is pleased to announce that [Samuel Botterbusch](#), [Joseph Cullen](#), [Matthew Driben](#), and [Abby Goldberg](#) were named as semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program and have applied to be finalists. In addition, the following students received letters of commendation: [Christopher Poon](#), [Nathan Wang](#), and [Andrew Zhou](#).

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Our Mission:

Inspiring Excellence One Spartan at a Time

Our Vision:

The Wyomissing Area School District aspires to be the preeminent public educational institution; as we:

- *Prepare students to excel in a highly complex global community*
- *Offer rigorous academics, cutting-edge technology and enriching extra-curricular opportunities*
- *Attract and retain the best team of administrators and staff; and*
- *Create a culture built on respect, trust and integrity.*

Best Wishes to our Retirees



Gail Latham served the District for 30 years in two different capacities. She was a food service worker and a crossing guard at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center.



Bernadette Lis worked at the Jr/Sr High School as a paraprofessional for 10 years.



Kathleen Rohm served the District for 17 years as a paraprofessional at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center.