

# Wider Horizons School

## NEW MATERIALS IN LOWER ELEM

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

10/17 Report cards go home  
10/31 Bio Fair (Early Release)  
11/10 Veterans Songfest 9am  
11/12 George Washington's Tent Museum at WHS

LOWER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ENJOY USING THEIR NEW CLASSROOM MATERIALS.

Vann is using the multiplication board to memorize the times tables.



Grace is using Montessori materials to make large numbers and establish the place value of the numbers



ALL OF US ARE IMPACTED BY THE BLURRING OF WHAT IS PROPER AND MANNERLY  
By Domenick J. Maglio PhD

We are living in an anything-goes era. Doing "your own thing" has become a basic tenet of our modern culture. Instead of conversing with each other at dinner family members are on their phone to communicate with someone else or to play games. Everyone seems to want to appear to be youthful at all costs including massive cosmetic surgery. Teenagers dress like adults and adults dress like adolescents. Our language no longer follows grammatical rules, vocabulary is shrinking as the f-bomb is constantly used as an adjective and people do not follow logical thinking. Our feelings are more important than reality. We are driven to act and look different from others but since everyone is doing the same thing we wind up conforming to a uniformity of nonconformity. Adults attempt to act like empty-headed phony Hollywood celebrities to appear chic. There is little talk of virtue and morals.

Everyone including children talk too much and express opinions with little knowledge of facts. Diversity of thought is limited to a very few. Behavior is out of control. Children are grazing instead of sitting down to a meal and eat directly from their hands instead of using utensils. Many middle-aged people are wearing their baseball caps backwards to show they are youthfully carefree. This style of wearing hats backwards was begun in prison so criminals must be those to emulate.

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Jacob completes large number problems using new Montessori materials.



## PRIMARY 1

Mrs. Wallace and Mrs. Tejeda

Hello everyone! This was a short week, but we still learned a lot.

In language, students continue to read Bob Books. Congratulations to Avalon and Henley for moving up to the next Bob Book. Some students are learning to find the missing letters at the beginning of words. Others are learning sentence structure and how to take single words and create a sentence. They are also learning sentence sequencing and practicing their spelling words. Congratulations to Erwin and Zoha for moving up to level two vocabulary words.

In math, students are matching numbers and counters. This helps them build their sequencing skills and learn to count quantities. We also introduced the decimal system to our new students. This is where they learn units, tens, and hundreds.

In science, we are discussing pumpkins, how they grow, and what we can use them for.

In Sensorial, we introduced three new lessons. The first one helps the students with their gripping skills by picking up items through a spider web. The second lesson is on learning to hold cups properly in their hands, and the third lesson involves matching the right cups to the colored saucers.

In the afternoon, the students are practicing for the Biography Fair and doing a great job. Do not forget Fridays are our show-n-tell days. We hope you have a great weekend!

## PRIMARY 2

Miss Finnerty and Mrs. Nieves

Although we had a short week, the children worked diligently on completing their work and participating in fall and Halloween activities. Students are consistently receiving lessons on numbers and letter sounds. Most of them continue to challenge themselves during work cycle and try new materials that they originally avoided. These lessons

continue to be shown to give exposure that will give students more autonomy in the classroom. This builds confidence and makes students keen to learn and embrace challenges.

In art, students are making halloween themed crafts. We are impressed with how well they follow instructions when they are completing crafts.

In language, students worked on capitalization of letters as well as punctuation. Younger students are working on letter sounds "b-j". This week we also asked students to challenge themselves to answer a writing prompt. Our hope is to get students thinking and become independent in their writing.

Math lessons consisted of the Tray of Nine and adding and subtracting using the decimal system. Some students also worked on their squaring books.

We began to practice for the Biography Fair. Please send in a copy of your child's speech, in first person, so we can help them with their facts. We are working on standing straight, making eye contact, and speaking loudly and clearly. Please practice at home with your child. The more they practice, the better they will do in front of the judges.

Congratulations to August for completing the Bob Book series and beginning our comprehension work.

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek, Mr. Garrand, and Mrs. Morphew

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a relaxing three-day weekend. This week, the students continued to practice reciting the Ten Amendments. They also have been learning about music, including different types of musical instruments and how they sound. This week, they reviewed percussion instruments and have started learning about woodwinds.

## STUDENT EDITOR

Gia Betz

Congratulations to Silas, Grace, Bryan, Vann, Nathan, Juliet, Emme, Yvnicka, Ashley, and Amianna for moving up to the next time tables. Congratulations to Payton and Annabelle for moving up to mixed time tables. Congratulations to Vann for mastering his addition facts 1-10. Congratulations to Wendy and Bryan for mastering their addition facts 11-20.

In history, the students continue to work on different regions of Native America.

In spelling this week, the students created spelling words with beans and tissue paper, used word webs, and practiced writing their words on chalkboards. They also completed a spelling worksheet.

In language, the students continued to learn about punctuation and completed worksheets. They are also learning how to write an address correctly.

In math, the students have started learning about dimes. They are continuing to work in their booklets and story problems. The students are also still working on improving their clock reading skills.

In science this week, the students learned about the butterfly's life cycle and wrote creative short stories describing and illustrating the different stages. They also continued working on vertebrae animals.

In geography, they have been completing worksheets that illustrate the major cities and landmarks in each state. So far they have completed Washington, Oregon, California, and Nevada. They are also continuing to work on learning the solar system and information about each planet. Have a great weekend!

## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Miss Bandini, Mrs. Russell

Rough drafts for the Biography Fair research paper were due this Friday. With only two weekends left before the Biography Fair, all students are encouraged to practice their presentations for the big day. We will begin practicing in class next week; and everyone should be prepared to present. Focusing on memorizing important facts, projecting their voices and maintaining eye contact are important factors in achieving higher grades. While display boards are not required for this fair, if a student is using one, it must be incorporated into their presentation, so they should practice using their board as well.

Fourth graders were given a lesson on how to write their research paper for the Biography Fair. In math, students learned how to identify fractions from a number line. In geography, students are studying Arkansas and its major cities.

Fifth graders are continuing to work in the language towers. Some are learning to classify adjectives and adverbs. While others are exploring the materials on the encyclopedia. They are also learning the different classifications of nouns: common, proper, collective and abstract.

This week sixth graders have continued their exploration of the periodic table and the classification of its elements. They also learned to identify the properties of metals and nonmetals. After sixth graders are done with this unit, they will adopt two elements and make a

poster illustrating the many uses of these elements. Sixth graders completed their second unit test in vocabulary this week. These tests require more study time because they are a culmination of three lessons; therefore after every three lessons there is a unit review test.

The second quarter began this week and report cards go out today. If there are any questions or concerns please contact the office. Scorecards are sent every week by Tuesday; please make sure to sign and return them as soon as possible, so new grades could be updated.

## HIGHSCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Youse, and Miss Wheeler

The first quarter is now officially behind us. Report cards went home with the students today. All students now know where they stand in their classes and if they need to maintain their momentum or increase their efforts the rest of the school year.

Completed first drafts of the Biography Fair papers were due today. Students should also be preparing their presentations, thinking about what they will be wearing, and deciding what they want to include in the required speech itself. We will begin practicing in class next week so that everyone will have plenty of experience delivering a presentation in front of the class.

This week, teachers spoke to the high school students regarding preparing for college. Ninth and tenth graders were encouraged to get their first attempt at the SAT and/or ACT under their belts as soon as possible. As different students might perform better on one test or the other, it is suggested that they take each at least once. This is especially important information for the tenth graders. They were notified of upcoming test dates in November and December. They may take these exams more than once in an attempt to

IN CASE OF A STORM OR STATE OF EMERGENCY WHERE THERE IS NO POWER - SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED

achieve the highest score possible, so it is important to put together a plan for when and where they intend to take these tests.

## AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs. Brewer and Miss Wallace

This week during circle time, we read a book called "Flowers And Trees". As we have mentioned before, the children are anxiously waiting for the weather to get cooler, so that they can start working in the garden. They are excited to start planting some flowers and small trees. One of the questions a child asked was why do plants die without water? It was explained to the children that people need water and food to be strong and healthy, and plants need the same thing. Otherwise, they will wilt and die. Another question asked was if plants and trees breathe. Technically, they do! Their leaves and stems have tiny holes that are too small to see. The children look forward to gardening again soon.

This week while on the playground, some children were pretending to be looking for a "monkey" that escaped from the zoo. They had to catch it before it got hurt (what an imagination). The other children were busy in the sandbox or using the swings or the slides.

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Lying, cheating, stealing, even knockouts where a gang member hits an unknown person for absolutely no reason except for "kicks" has become almost acceptable. This goes beyond the bounds of not proper or mannerly, it is approaching cultural free fall.

Almost anyone and everyone is now equally important in their own minds. They incessantly take "selfies" and communicate with the social network what they are doing by the minute as if the world revolves around them. Their delusional existence has a lot to do with this psychological high self-esteem and the PC movement that denies anyone being critically honest. Giving your personal opinion is now considered intolerant even when it is correct.

In the past, straight, honest talk gave a person a clear and valid picture of how others saw him. Most of us without this direct feedback were more prone to a life of deceit. This is especially true in this virtual existence where we can post anything and everything on a site that makes us appear too good to be true. We can describe ourselves as slim, beautiful, smart, and socially brilliant when we are not even close to these descriptions. People have become celebrities in their own minds. The only limiting factor to how a person can present himself to others in the virtual world is lying creativity.

Without knowing what is proper and mannerly there is no way to accurately evaluate one's behavior. The ignorance of moral values and virtues by many is produced by not giving appropriate consequences, which encourages us to participate in self-destructive addictions and thinking. When "followers" or voyeurs replace family and personal friends, all actions become more acceptable. Without loving and caring feedback a person's ability to negotiate reality becomes dangerously limited.

When someone cares enough about you to keep you on the right track you have a legitimate loved one. Telling someone honestly what you see is one of the greatest gifts you can give to another person. At the moment he receives a valid criticism no one jumps for joy but eventually understands the value of this accurate assessment. "You are obnoxiously drunk." "You were a glutton today by eating so much." "You do not look natural by defiling your body with piercings and tattoos." "The drugs you are taking are changing your behavior." "You are disrespectful." "You don't care about anyone but yourself." "You cannot go to church dressed like that." Only when people know what is proper and mannerly will you have a behavioral compass to judge your own behavior.

When everybody looks and acts similarly it does not make them stand out as exemplary people or even appropriate. The tattoos, piercings, self-mutilation, CEOs dressing down to be hip and fashionable drug consumers does nothing to increase a person's social abilities or actions. It does place the participants in a significantly large group following the lowest common denominator of appearance and behavior. Converting large numbers of youth to this movement allows an individual to feel he is not being weird or slovenly but it does nothing to improve the person's spiritual and social standing.

The superficial similarity in appearance gives many Americans the delusional belief that their appearance and actions are not being judged. The ignorance of proper behavior does disguise some of the differences but does not eliminate them. People have a right to know where they stand to better themselves. We should have these rules and standards of behavior to make ourselves more efficient, harmonious, and a socially united society. We should again be given a clearer picture of what is socially appropriate and inappropriate. Eliminating these cultural norms leads to an over-whelming number of disjointed subculture groups that weaken the cohesiveness of society.

There are families who understand reality and are training their children to join the ranks of being dignified. They are teaching their children manners and proper behavior. They are preparing them to be authority figures that can teach others the importance of how to act. Our culture can only be revitalized by parents and other authority figures demanding standards and expectations of proper and mannerly behavior.

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