

Wider Horizons School

WHS Success Stories

DATES TO REMEMBER

12/13 Gift Giving
12/22 Carol Sing (2 P.M.)
12/23- 1/8 *Christmas Vacation*
1/9 Return to School

The Hasan family started at Wider Horizons School when Aarish was three in 2004. They continued with us for 16 years until Haaris graduated in 2020. Dr. and Mrs. Hasan were always great supporters of WHS and we are happy to say all four of the graduates are doing very well. See their stories below.



Aarish is currently doing orthopedic surgery residency in Ocala, Florida and has one more year left. After this, he plans on doing a hip and knee fellowship. He graduated from WHS in 2010.

Eesha - After graduating from USF, she worked at Oak Hill Hospital and later NYU Langone as an infection preventionist. She's now taking a break to take care of her newborn baby boy. She graduated from WHS in 2014.

Faris graduated in December 2022 from USF and is starting medical school next summer. He's currently attending interviews and has been accepted to Kansas City University and Des Moines University. He graduated from WHS in 2019.

Haaris is currently at the University of Florida and completed a Capital One internship last summer where he was offered a full-time software engineer position. He will start at Capital One in Spring 2024. He graduated from WHS in 2020.

MATH: THE SUBJECT THAT IS ESSENTIAL FOR COLLEGE

By Domenick J. Maglio Ph.D

In preschool some students gravitate to language arts and others to math activities. In the higher elementary grades more disciplined study than other subjects is demanded in math to develop a strong foundation in that area. These other academic disciplines are broken into particular topics that are not interconnected material but are more separate and isolated subjects.

Addition, subtraction and multiplication facts have to be memorized for immediate recall. This presents a student with the first significant challenge to memorize a block of facts. The student either learns it or does not. There are no excuses for not learning the material. The student's determination to spend time and concentrate on memorizing the material demonstrates to the child it takes pure effort to gain certain types of knowledge. Some students apply themselves willingly and easily to memorize it. Others could care less and have to be prompted and bribed to even start the process. These students regrettably fight each step of the way to their own detriment. Some will win the battle and lose the war where many schools allow the student to count on his fingers instead of putting the information into his mind's memory bank.

PRESCHOOL
Mrs. Bermudez

This week in preschool, we continued learning about the holidays from around the world. The students have learned about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, and Christmas. The students are having lots of fun singing traditional holiday songs, listening to stories, and making crafts.

In math, the number cards for the Number Rods were introduced. The purpose of this material is to associate the numerals from one to ten with the actual quantities, as well as seeing the number rods and numerals in their proper sequence. They had lessons again with odd and even numbers, 1 to 10, the Teen and Ten boards, The Short Bead Stairs, the Decimal System, and the 9-Tray Decimal System. Some of the students are adding with the decimal system or subtracting numbers. The purpose of the short bead stairs is to assist the children in memorizing the colors of each bead bar and its associated quantity. This is a preliminary activity necessary for more advanced work. The decimal system is to help the child become familiar with the quantities and hierarchies of the decimal system.

In language, the children had another lesson with the Metal Insets. The purpose of this equipment is to prepare them for printing, to teach them how to hold their pencil properly, to sit down correctly when writing, and to help improve their fine motor skills. We are also working with sound repetition and blending sounds together while others are working with the pink series, or spelling words with the Movable Alphabet. The purpose of the movable alphabet is to prepare children for spelling, writing, and reading.

We would like to say thank you to all the parents for coming in and working with their child during National Education Week. The children took pride in showing what they have learned and

enjoyed spending time with you in the classroom.

PRIMARY
Miss Finnerty and Ms Wallace

This week in primary, students received lessons on holiday and winter themed work such as the parts of poinsettias, types of arctic animals, and the dreidel game. Students continue to work hard on their holiday craft that will be sent home the week before break.

We are practicing our Christmas carols everyday. Families are encouraged to come and enjoy the school-wide Christmas caroling on December 22nd at 2 P.M.

Spelling words for the next two weeks will be winter and holiday themed words and will not be as challenging. There will be no spelling tests until after break. We will continue to utilize spelling in daily work and continue to play the Sparkle Game. This game helps the students spell words as a class and is a fun way to practice.

In addition to our holiday crafts, all students made holiday cards for the National Guard and thanked them for all they do to keep us safe.

Congratulations to Cora for completing the series books and moving onto GPS reading comprehension. Congratulations to Ezra for completing the Bob Books and moving onto the series books.

LOWER ELEMENTARY
Ms. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

Congratulations to Stefan, Riley, Carter, Aryanna, Nova, and Michael for moving up in their times tables. Congratulations to Leighton for mastering addition 1-10. Congratulations to Michael, Caden, and James W for mastering addition 11-20. Congratulations to Jace, Carter, Chad, Alexander, and Adelina for mastering subtraction 11-20.

STUDENT EDITOR
Chase Ghingher

In spelling this week, the students worked in their packets.

In math, the students worked on booklets, applications, geometry cards, and had a lesson on learning how to read a graph.

In language, the students continue to learn about syllables and work from the language tower.

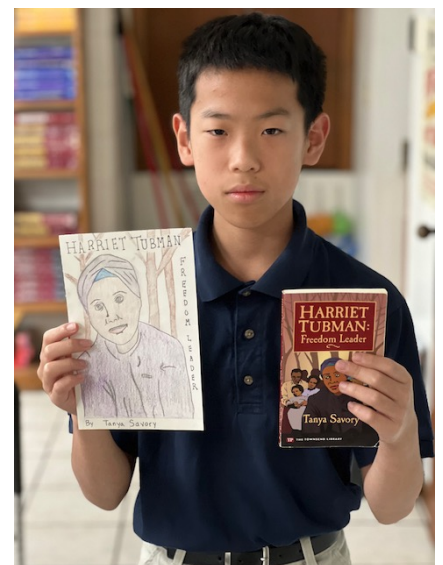
In art, the students are working on Christmas crafts.

In history, the students are working on finishing the different regions of the United States that they had lessons on.

In geography, some students are finishing the animals of the continents and the Solar System. They are learning about different states. Reminder that states are in the prongs of their homework folder and need to stay there.

In science, the students are working on completing the external parts of vertebrates.

Matthew made a cover for his book that he read for a book report



UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Ms Russell

We are all counting down the days until the Christmas break and everyone seems to be very excited about the upcoming holidays. There are many important dates coming up next week. The gifts for the Christmas Angels should be in by Wednesday morning, December 13th. Please remember to label each present.

Each child has randomly picked a name from the class and will be presented with a handmade gift from their Secret Santa on the last day before Christmas break, December 22nd. Students will be allowed to bring in board games to play with their classmates on this date. The entire school will also gather on the 22nd at 2:00 P.M. to sing Christmas carols with family and friends, so please join us.

Fourth graders were assigned realistic fiction for their book report due on December 15th. Students also reviewed ways to identify simple and complete subjects and predicates. In math, we reviewed place value with regards to decimal numbers and how to write them as fractions. In zoology, they continued to learn about the external and internal parts of the Cnidaria.

Fifth graders worked on their volcanoes for geography, and made bird feeders in botany. For their book reports, students were assigned Old Yeller. They also wrote a letter to the U.S National Guard.

Learning to distinguish subject pronouns and object pronouns was the focus in language this week. Sixth graders completed the unit this week with a test to demonstrate their mastery of pronouns. They were asked to

choose a short book for the next book report due on the 15th. This book report will be completed in class on December 15th, so we can review the important elements of a book report.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, Mrs. Sanchez, Ms. Wheeler

In a blink of an eye, week 8 of the second quarter has come to an end. Grades for the second quarter close on the 15th. The binders are due on the 13th. This opportunity is to help boost math grades with an additional 2 points. It is highly encouraged for all students to complete their binder.

Our class has begun bringing in presents for our sponsored foster children, We want to thank those who have purchased gifts! We would like to remind everyone that gifts are due on the 13th for both foster children and secret Santa. Our class has also begun practicing for the song fest on the 22nd.

The Junior High and High School class is having its annual Winter Dance on the 15th. Money is due on the 13th. We hope to see everyone there!

AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

During circle time we discussed the various ways different cultures celebrate holidays this time of year. A few we discussed this week were Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We had this discussion because some children were under the impression that we all celebrate holidays the same way. We also talked about the meaning of Christmas with the children. Some simply said "we get presents". Well, that is true but it's not only about Christmas trees and exchanging gifts. It's more than that, it's the time we get together

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

with our family and loved ones, we should also think about others whom are less fortunate than us. After that we sang Christmas songs.

Once outside, some children were hopping around like reindeers, while others were making Christmas trees using dried sticks. They have great imaginations! Once inside, they started working and painting Christmas wreaths and several other ornaments to take home for their own Christmas trees.

Have a great weekend!

Parents please do not enter the after school classrooms. Please knock and your child will be sent out once they have cleaned up any activities they were using. Thank you for your cooperation.

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This reluctance to get tasks done that are not attractive to the student is troubling for the student's future learning. There are many subjects in our schools such as grammar, spelling, history; science terms that seem to an immature youngster to be boring and unimportant but are building blocks of knowledge and skills. Not everything can or should be sugar packaged to the interest of every student. They have learned to "take their medicine" and do the things they do not want to do to become a stronger student. This certainly will be the case in higher education.

Many modern students are addicted to doing what they want instantly. It is the age of instant gratification. The Internet and social media often enhance their ability to self promote and express themselves to show what they want to be not what they really are. Social media consumes a large portion of daily activities, thought process and has even become a lifestyle for many youth. This leaves little time to do things that have to be mastered to be a well-educated person.

Our school grade inflation has been the opium for students and their parents to feel their child is doing well academically. The reality is too many are well below the level of competent students in this country and students in foreign nations. The giving of high grades to students who have not earned them is stifling learning. Students need to compete with themselves and others to be challenged to produce quality work. The poor academic achievement of modern American students is being compared negatively with past generations and current foreign students.

When students take comprehensive achievement and college entrance exams their deficit is exposed to the parents often for the first time. In too many cases they have to take remedial courses without any college credit or are unable to remain in the college program they chose. Too many students are delusional about their ability and prospect of succeed in college.

The one subject that is usually the litmus test for student success in higher education is mathematics. It is nothing more than logic that builds on itself. It is almost impossible to be a consistently good student in math without a solid foundation.

The student has to be precise, checking his own work after showing every step of the process including the type of units to arrive at a correct answer. It is a learned skill that requires focus and discipline in solving the problem. This activity is learned by reading the lessons thoroughly several times to fully understand the concept that is being shown. This procedure is necessary to develop the mental set needed to become a proficient math student.

Math is the area of study that separates the conscientious student from a casual, passive, "just get by" student. The subject of math cannot be faked. It is right or wrong. There is no subjective middle ground no matter how the material is presented.

Mastering math to an adequate level of proficiency is essential for earning almost any higher degree. It is a difficult subject for many students as it takes self-discipline to overcome obstacles and appreciate the positive logical thinking patterns that math teaches. Learning to think logically is necessary in higher education. More importantly it is a fundamental thinking skill that should be used in any career and is necessary to cultivate wisdom in one's life.

Domenick Maglio, PhD. is a columnist carried by various newspapers and blogs, an author of several books and owner/director of Wider Horizons School, a college prep program. Dr. Maglio is an author of weekly newspaper articles, INVASION WITHIN and the latest book entitled, IN CHARGE PARENTING In a PC World. You can see many of Dr. Maglio's articles at www.drmaglioblogspot.com.