

# Wider Horizons School

## Welcome Back for a Great New Year

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

9/5 Labor Day- no school  
9/8 Grandparents Day  
9/15 Constitution Day

### REMEMBER LAST YEAR?



Wider Horizons School begins another year. This is the 40th year from 1983-2023.

Students are already starting their day and doing their work.



Seventh graders are adjusting to their new classroom, new schedule and work.



### THE CELL PHONE STRUGGLE CAN BE OVERCOME BY LOVING DISCIPLINE

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD.

Every generation has had unique historical events that complicated the raising of one's children. These include WWI, the advent of the radio, the roaring 20s, the depression, WWII, the Korean War, television, Elvis Presley, the 60s sexual revolution, peaceniks, drugs, feminism, homosexuality and the transexual movement. This is a short list that continually expands with changes to our culture making being a parent more difficult.

As society continues to adjust to past events, there will be new unexpected social upheavals and devices that will capture the attention of the youngsters influencing their thinking and behavior. The parents' position is to train their children to act as the parents require in various situations and not accept their defiant and obnoxious behavior. Cellphone monitoring is causing immense problems for parents as children are using their phone while they are supposed to be sleeping.

The cellphone has caused problems for parents around the globe. Many children from an early age now possess cellphones. parental approval during all hours of the night. This has put many parents in a quandary as they have little power over what their children are doing. They feel powerless.

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PRESCHOOL  
Mrs. Bermudez

Welcome to all of our new students and welcome back to our returning ones. We started off the week with circle time, discussing our daily routines and the rules of the classroom and playground. We discussed the children's role in the classroom and our goals and expectations for them.

The new students were given a tour of the classroom in order for them to familiarize themselves with the different work areas, as well as taking notice where the bathrooms, tissue boxes, and waste baskets are located. They were given different lessons in the Practical life area. These activities are uniquely purposeful and calming. They appear very simple and repetitive, but these skills and characteristics are essential to a child's progress in a Montessori classroom. They will help develop a high level of concentration; a developing sense of order; pride in their work; taking responsibilities for any necessary clean up; an increasing sense of independence through care for themselves and their environment; respect for their community, classmates, and teachers; and in the development of fine motor movement.

Our returning students are doing great getting back into their routine. They are also showing our new students where to locate things in the classroom.

I know you all have many questions regarding what is expected of your child. We will send home orientation information next week.

Have a great weekend!

PRIMARY  
Miss Finnerty and Ms Wallace

We would like to extend a warm welcome back to our returning families and our new families.

Just to answer a few questions, we are a multi-age classroom. We have kindergarteners and first graders

learning side-by-side. Younger children observe higher lessons and get excited about the next level. Older students confidently guide the younger students. Children progress at different rates in varying areas. Ms. Wallace and I are looking forward to a successful school year.

We spent our first week of school getting to know the children, establishing some safety rules; like walking in the classroom, sitting properly on a chair and in circle, and using a quiet voice inside the classroom. We will continue to reiterate them as needed.

The students were given a tour of the classroom to help them get familiarized with the different work areas. This week, the students had a few lessons in practical life, such as grace and courtesy, greeting, interacting respectfully, and using materials correctly. They are also getting lessons in taking care of themselves and their environment. These lessons help the children gain independence and confidence as they adapt to the classroom.

Have a great weekend!

LOWER ELEMENTARY  
Ms. Urbanek and Mr. Garrand

I would like to start off by welcoming all the returning students and all the new students to second and third grade. This week we have started off by reviewing the classroom and school rules. We have given a few lessons this week. We are currently testing the students to see what they have remembered during the summer. We are testing them in different areas such as spelling, reading, addition, subtraction, and multiplication.

The students have started their first writing project. The writing project is about what they did over summer break. The students will make corrections and then transfer the information on new paper.

The students have made their first art project. They have received a

STUDENT EDITOR

Chase Ghingher

lesson in Native American, science, language, and geography. The

students reviewed the noun family in language. The students first spelling test will be next Friday.

The students engaged in different activities outside for recess. Some of the games we play are dodgeball, trashcan game, capture the flag, relay races, and kickball. For some students this is the first time playing the games. The rules are discussed prior to each game so the students have a better understanding of the concept of each game.

The students have started on penmanship and will continue to do so every morning. Some students will need a refresh with their cursive, while others will need a lesson.

Please remember that this class does have a snack time. The students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack from home. If the student wishes, they can also purchase snacks from our classroom snack basket for .50 cents.

We would also like to let you know that we have a microwave in the classroom. The students who do not know how to use it will have a lesson on it. We ask that if you send food that needs to be heated, that it take ONLY 30 seconds to heat as to have respect for other students that need to heat food.



## UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Ms Russell

We would like to welcome all of Upper Elementary back this year. It was exciting to see how much all of our students have grown in such a short time. It was great to see so many new faces this year!

We started the week assessing each student's skills in reading, writing, and math. Once individual voids were identified, work was assigned to help fill in any gaps. It is especially important to build a stronger foundation before moving on to new concepts.

Anyone who has not passed the timed tests in addition and multiplication should practice this weekend. Demonstrating their proficiency in math facts is a prerequisite to being able to take their Saxon math book home.

Fourth graders were welcomed to their new classroom and introduced to all subjects. Rules and expectations for the Upper Elementary were also explained. The class had an opportunity to go through their math textbook where they went over the commutative property of addition, the identity property of addition, and reviewed the vocabulary for addition problems such as addend and sum. The students began lessons in Zoology and the five kingdoms in a three- part matching lesson. We also introduced the differences between physical and political geography through the use of maps.

Fifth graders began working in the language tower and in their spelling books. The first spelling and vocabulary tests will be held next Friday, August 25th. Some students were able to take their math textbooks home. They were introduced to Civics. Our students also explored the geography and botany sections of the classroom as well, reviewing some common landforms and the five kingdoms.

We would like to welcome Sarah to our classroom. She is transitioning well into the sixth grade and has already made new friends. All subjects were introduced this week.

Sixth graders explored their unit one vocabulary words and will be tested next Friday. The different sections of the language textbook were also introduced. Sixth grade students should refer to their language textbook for language homework, composition exercises, and book report format. The novel My Side of the Mountain has also been assigned, and the first book report will be due September 15th.

All of Upper Elementary will have their first Spelling and Vocabulary tests on Friday, August 25th.

## JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Youse, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Wheeler Welcome back to our returning families and a warm welcome to our new families.

The students received their schedule with their classes. We covered some basic ground rules and expectations for a successful year.

The older students have been very welcoming and helpful to the newly arrived 7th graders and the new students.

In Civics this year, we will be using a wonderful program called iCivics. Students will use computers to complete readings, assignments, and educational activities. Our hope is that by using the computer program, the students will become increasingly comfortable with technology as an educational aid.

The first sport the students will learn and play in Physical Education this year is softball. Students will learn the rules, position, and equipment incorporated in the game. During the Computer class, the Jr. High were introduced to coding. For Art, the students created their own bookmarks to use in their novels.

We are excited for an exciting and successful school year!

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

## AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer / Ms Wallace

Welcome back to all our new and returning students! During our indoors time, the children had lessons on different areas of the classroom and also mentioned the behavior that is expected from them while inside the classroom. For example... walk don't run, don't shout, raise your hand when you have a question, and especially be kind and respectful to one another. After that, the children had the chance to work on and/or play with any activity or puzzle of their choice.

While on the playground, the children were all given lessons on the boundaries of the playground area. Some children played in the sandbox, others were using the slide and the rest were playing Hide-and-Seek.

We are happy to have each child in the class and we are looking forward to a wonderful year.

Have a wonderful 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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They spend time on apps like TikTok without parental approval during all hours of the night. This has put many parents in a quandary as they have little power over what their children are doing. They feel powerless.

There are many causes why parents are not able to keep their children off their phone at night to prevent them from seeing things they should not see. Also, the children's lack of sleep makes them irritable, short-tempered and poor in their studies. Government schools are becoming more lax in expectations of academic work, ignoring violent behavior, and accepting of students not following teachers' directions. Even school police officers are friends and not feared. Many young children rule inside and outside of the home. This permissiveness started with parents being frightened that their child will not love them if they have strict and old-fashioned demands.

Anytime the parent tries to put their foot down the child rebels by not following the parental decrees. The parents speak to other adults and even professionals who tell them there is little they can do except to be their friend. This usually means the parents need to do something with their child that will make them happy. Appeasing the child, not confronting them is easier in the short run but can lead to disaster in the long run.

Teenagers often do not listen as they were not trained earlier to do as they were asked to do. The untrained child does not know or care that they are ignoring the parents because they never received consequences for this behavior.

If the child was not trained early, the parent's power can be asserted later but it will be slower and harder to do it. If the child drives a car or motorcycle recklessly, the parent can take the vehicle away to establish the fact all the liberties can be withdrawn. Once parents start on this course, they must be willing to remove the freedoms until the child learns who is the boss. When the child starts listening then the parent knows they have gotten their attention. Only by the parent standing strong does the youngster learn the lessons necessary to make better mature, healthy decisions.

The problem with modern society is parents have forgotten the ultimate role of being the child's teacher. Today's parents have stepped down to the level of the child to be their equal instead of demonstrating to them how to reach a more mature level of thinking and behaving. They can reach the level of becoming a young maturing adult when they realize their parents have the right and power to make their adolescent's lives miserable. When they are choosing self-destructive actions and the parent give them more freedom as they demonstrate mature decision making the family is on the right course.

Only by parents using their power to shut down their adolescent's arrogant lifestyle will the child realize they have no way to win the battle with their parents. This will only take place when the youngster feels the pain of losing their privileges and freedom.

The battle of who is boss is not won by the parent's bribing their children with more positive experiences or more freedom. Giving too much to a child while they have not earned it. The parents have received too little which is not a good bargaining position. Only when the parents assert their power by closing the "toy box," that their children assume will always be there, will the child begin to listen. By parents beginning to cancel their child's privileges and freedoms will the child realize he has a lot to lose if they continue to be disobedient and disrespectful. Parental strength, not weakness, is the way to gain a child's gratitude and ensure they take the right path in 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](http://www.drmaglioblogspot.com).*

