

Wider Horizons School

EMPHASIS ON HANDWRITING

DATES TO REMEMBER:

9/5 Labor Day **NO SCHOOL**
 9/9 9 AM Grandparents Day (Songfest)
 10/10 Columbus Day **NO SCHOOL**
 10/12 PSAT Testing



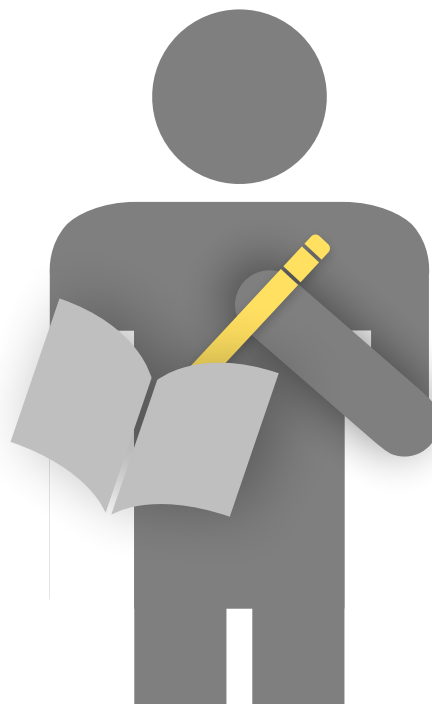
Students across all grade levels build skills to help improve penmanship. This helps for legible and beautiful handwriting that is easy to understand.



Wider Horizons School has made handwriting an important part of the curriculum. This skill is developed starting in preschool where correct pencil grip is taught. In primary, students learn to properly write the D'Nealian alphabet and numbers. This writing style is a precursor to cursive writing. The letters can easily be incorporated into cursive writing as many of them have tails to connect.

Second grade is where cursive writing is introduced to children who have developed good manuscript writing. As soon as a student has learned to write in cursive the rest of their work is done in cursive.

Students in the upper grades continue to write their work in cursive. Beautiful penmanship is the goal for all students.



PARENTING IS MORE THAN BEING A FRIEND

By Domenick J. Maglio PhD. Traditional Realist

Many Americans have been indoctrinated by intellectuals, Hollywood, and the media to believe that being a buddy to a child is the best formula for being a good parent. According to this philosophy a parent who is viewed as a friend will raise a better adjusted and less defiant child.

A mother on the beach was the recipient of her 5-year-old daughter throwing a lump of sand directly at her face. She responded with nothing more than a confused look. In a restaurant a shouting 10-year-old child is ignored by everyone around him. A toddler runs away from his father who responds with pleading, "please stop." A father with two daughters less than 8 years-old tries to get them into his car without success. At best these friendly parents might be able to gift negotiate with their child or just accept their outrageous behavior.

Parents have no concern that the inappropriate behavior will metastasize into severely destructive behavior affecting others and the child. The responsibility to train children for the future has become a thing of the past. The main concern of most modern parents is their acting appropriate in social situations when they are present not like past generations who demanded appropriate behavior even when they were not there.

Today parents are more concerned that they appear to be "nice" to the children rather than appear to be old fashioned, mean parents who were strict but got the job done. Acting as a relaxed jovial parent is more important than teaching one's child lessons that will be lifelong parameters to keep the child on the straight and narrow path to a successful life.

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PRESCHOOL

Mrs. Bermudez, Miss Brown

This week in the preschool classroom, we have finished our discussions on the parts of trees and apples. The children had fun painting, coloring, punching out, and singing about apples. The children have begun to learn about continents. At the art table, the students made their own planet earth.

In language, the children had a lesson with Metal insets. The purpose of this equipment is to prepare them for printing, to teach them how to hold their pencil properly, to sit correctly while 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 moveable alphabet. The purpose of the moveable alphabet is to prepare children for spelling, writing, and reading. Congratulations to Jacob and Nathan, they are reading Bob Books now.

During circle time the children had lessons on the number rods (1-10) and about the meaning of zero, they had another lesson with the Spindle Boxes. The purpose of this equipment is to reinforce the concept of zero. To see the numerals 0-9 in their correct fixed sequence, and to match them with the correct number of loose spindles. Some children received a lesson on the Short Bead Stair material. The purpose of this equipment is to assist the children in memorizing the colors of each Bead Bar and its associated quantity (1-9). This is a preliminary activity necessary for more advanced work. The Teen Board was also introduced. With this equipment the children associate the numbers eleven through nineteen with the symbols 11 to 19.

For science, we did lessons on living and nonliving things. This includes differentiating between mammals, reptiles, insects, vertebrates, and invertebrates.



Primary students helped in the garden by pulling weeds and helped maintain the beauty of the school.

PRIMARY

Mrs. Youse and Ms. Lundmark

It has been a busy week in our classroom! The students have been hard at work learning new lessons. They are enjoying the myriad of activities that contribute to their learning process. They are adapting more to a routine and seem to be more comfortable in the classroom.

For language, the kindergartners are working on an array of things: letters and their sounds, penmanship, reading, writing, and we have a few that began spelling last week and took their first spelling test this week. As the students demonstrate their ability to write and read, they will start spelling as well. We want to ensure that the students are more than ready to advance to more challenging work. Our mission is to set them up for success, not failure.

For math, lessons consisted of the Teen Frame, Snake Game, and number puzzles 1-100

In Science, we began with lessons about the Four Seasons. We discussed what each season has to offer.

Outside, we enjoyed playing Gaga Ball. We did a bit of gardening. The students pulled some weeds and we noticed some of the things growing in the garden from the past year. We will continue to work on beautifying our garden.

Enjoy your long weekend!

STUDENT EDITORS

YANNEISY FERRER

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Urbanek, Miss Bennett, and Mr. Garrand

This week students are learning the structure of the classroom. Not only the rules, but how to be independent and organized. Students are responsible to come in prepared and start their daily work. They have times table homework every weekend.

The students wrote and learned about acrostic poems. This allows the students to think and be creative.

In spelling the students worked in a packet and wrote their spelling words on a chalk board two times. New spelling words go home every Friday.

In language, the third graders had lessons on abbreviations, homophones, homographs, and homonyms. Second graders finished learning about alphabetizing and had a lesson on animal young and animal sounds. Animal young is matching the adult with the correct young. They are learning how to write it correctly on paper as instructed.

In math students had lessons in math booklets. Second graders are using the Montessori Materials. While some third graders are reviewing what they may have forgot over the summer. The students also had a lesson on applications, which is story problems, and how to correctly write them on graph paper. The students are continuing odd and even numbers.

In science, students had a lesson on the tree and its different parts.

In history, the students had a lesson on personal time lines and filled it out.

In geography, the students are working on landforms 1,2,3 and water forms 1.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Bandini, Mrs. Poole

Upper Elementary students have been practicing daily to prepare for the Grandparent's Day Songfest. Grandparents are invited to join us next Friday as the whole school pays tribute to them.

The fourth graders this week passed their second spelling test. In addition they have reviewed plural nouns and pronouns from the language tower. They have refined and rewritten their beautiful compositions about how they honor their grandparents and have been preparing many songs to sing for our celebration of our grandparents on September 9th. In math they are learning about ordinal numbers, how to write the months/day and year, counting by 6's, 10's, 5's, etc. They completed lesson 5 in the Saxon math book and have been working on mastering multiplication facts. In the afternoons the students learned Spanish, some Florida history and they drew pictures of the life forms in the five kingdoms and wrote half a page on each of the kingdoms in their zoology notebooks. They also began learning about taxonomy, how living things are categorized. Before we clean up to go home, students work on geography. This week they learned about the earth, the hemispheres, longitude and latitude lines, a little about the seven continents, and the major oceans on our globe. At the end of the week they made stained glass art. We had a fun week and we are looking forward to more fun next week.

Fifth graders worked on identifying the prefix, root, and suffix of particular words this week. Understanding the meanings of these prefixes will help students with future unknown words. In math, students are working independently in their Saxon math book and most have taken their first test. In geography, students finished their lesson on coastal landforms with a quiz and we have moved on to the anatomy of the earth. In Botany, students continued to learn about the Plant kingdom and helped to set up Upper elementary's garden. When weather permitted, students helped to pull weeds. Students were also able to choose a book for their book report due September 15th.

Sixth graders had their first series of tests this week. Some did very well, but others did not. Some subjects are more challenging than others and require more time to prepare for the tests. Science is one of those subjects and

sixth graders may need to begin to study their terms and notes a few days before the test to be sufficiently prepared. Those students who did not do well on their science test can complete extra credit on page 37. This must be completed by September 5th to receive the credit.



Upper Elementary is working on their language packet, which helps enhance their grammar and handwriting.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Parks, Miss Finnerty, Ms. Sanchez

This week, students continued to dive into each subject and find their groove. As they have settled in, we have reminded them of the importance of working at their optimal level.

The ninth graders participated in a measuring matter lab in physical science. They were asked to use various lab equipment to find mass and volume to determine density of random objects. This helped them to conceptualize key concepts moving forward.

Students have been notified to start thinking about who they want to use for Biography Fair. They must have their selections made by September 28th, 2022.

Our students have also been preparing for our "Grandparents Song Fest." We hope to see you grandparents on Friday September 9th at 9 AM!

With the long weekend ahead of us, we would like to remind the students that they are expected to have two math sets completed and turned in Tuesday morning when we return.

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. Bennett

This week in after school the children played Chair Ball, Night at the Museum, and Hello Judge while indoors. We also played Dodge Ball and Gaga Ball when we were able to make it outside. The children also had free play outside.

During our time indoors the children had a chance to paint. The children each had a chance to make a scene of what their favorite part of their summer was. They were given a lesson on how to play Monopoly Deal. We also introduced Tic Tac Toe to the shelf. During cooking the children made Jello Jigglers, which they had for snack on Friday. As usual, time was given for each child to work on their homework. Some of the children took advantage of this time.

Have a wonderful weekend and enjoy your Labor Day.

PRESCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Brewer

This week, during circle time, we discussed different subjects. For example, what makes them feel angry, upset, sad, afraid, or shameful. We discussed how to handle their emotions. The feedback from the children was very interesting. We also discussed about being greedy. It was explained to the children that it is very important to treat other people the way they want to be treated. The children also worked with numbers and shapes in a sensible manner. The children were shown either a shape or numbers. All the children had a turn and did great.

During our time outdoors, some children sang The Wheels on the Bus and one child was the driver. Some children collected worms and moved them to the garden so they could be safe. Other children played in the sandbox and others played on the playground equipment.

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The concept of children being respectful to others when the parents are not with them is no longer important. Modern parenting is concerned with here-and-now appearances. Parents are not preparing the child to be an appropriate, successful adult with strong moral values, thinking skills and the ways to prevent developing vices.

Another wrinkle to not being a strict parent is in the child rearing philosophy of “permissive materialism.” The parents are instructed to ignore or allow inappropriate behavior in a public setting. When a child wants some expensive material item and demands it by crying or screaming, they believe it is better to walk away rather than deal with the child that may escalate into a yelling match. If the child said they passed by whatever attracted them, the parent is supposed to buy them the item they desire if they calm down. The parents win peace, but the child loses the opportunity to learn positive ways to behave in the public arena.

Parents are the primary teachers of proper socialization of their children. Without their invaluable lessons, a child cannot become compliant. Often the child that has not received these lessons, will probably not be “normalized” but labeled by friends, relatives, neighbors, school, and the mental health community. Having a serious social problem will cause them to be shunned. When parents only play the role of friend, they limit their child’s future.

Presently in our culture some unionized teachers are stating they are the primary teacher of their students. Many teachers have sadly inherited some aspects of the role of the parent. Too many parents have withdrawn from their primary role as the teacher of their child in the parent’s pursuit of their extended adolescence. Too many parent’s schedules are overloaded with work and socializing with their peers. This puts the child on the bottom of their list of priorities.

It is true too many parents are abdicating their duty as parents. The parental obligations have been passed on to government agencies from preschool to high school. This permissive-materialistic approach to childrearing has been a colossal failure. Our government schools, administrators and teachers cannot pretend they can fulfill the role of lazy or unwilling parents. The American parents need to return to being actively involved with their children as they are the backbone of our society. A free nation can only exist with healthy families as role models who make good choices while behaving in a godly manner.

Raising children well is not a parttime job. It is the most privileged duty adults who are blessed with a child can accomplish in their life. Raising a child is not easy. It takes love and an incredible amount of effort to do it well. Saying “no” to a child or taking a stand with a child is not easy or immediately rewarding although it is vital to create a productive and healthy adult.

Being a parent is much more than being a friend. It is being a loving but strong role model that teaches children the reasons and manners of being an exemplary citizen.

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.