SPARTAN Secondo

Wyomissing Area Welcomes New Staff Members!



Abigail Berger is a Learning Support Teacher at WHEC this year. Before joining us at Wyomissing Area, she taught at East Juniata High School as a 7-12 Learning Support Teacher and at Ephrata Area School District as an Emotional Support Teacher and Learning Support Teacher. She received her undergraduate degrees in Elementary/Middle-Level Education and Special Education from Lock Haven University and her Master's Degree in Educational Psychology from Edinboro University. When the school day ends, she values being active and experiencing the world through a whole new lens as her son, Browen, gets to experience everything for the first time. "Truthfully, I love everything about working here! It's a fantastic place to teach and for students to learn and grow." We're so excited to welcome you to our staff Mrs. Berger!

Hunter Beane is a 2016 graduate of Wyomissing Area and returns to WASD as a fourth-grade teacher this year. He studied at Penn State University and taught in the Schuylkill Valley School District before returning as a Spartan. He enjoys coaching football at Wyomissing Area, playing disc golf, and spending time with his fiance Brooke, and dog Barley. He is excited to be coming back home to Wyomissing Area and joining the amazing teachers who helped mold him into the person he is today. Welcome, Mr. Beane!

Alexandra House is thrilled to be back at Wyomissing Area as a Learning Support teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School. She attended Delaware County Community College for her Associate's Degree in the art of education, West Chester University for her Bachelor's Degree in Education,

and Saint Joseph's University for her Master's Degree in Education where she also attained her Reading Specialist Certification. Outside of school, she enjoys a variety of different activities such as hiking, listening to music, reading, and enjoying autumn evenings by the fire. "I'm appreciative of the guidance the staff provide as I rediscover Special Education within the Wyomissing Area School District." We are happy to have you back, Ms. House!

Katelyn Gianotti is a new member of the Special Education department at the Jr./Sr. High School. She graduated from Walden University and currently is pursuing her Master's of Education in Special Education through Eastern University. Previously, she spent a few years teaching Special Education at the John Paul II Center for Special Education in Mohton. Her favorite hobbies include hiking and hanging out with her two boys. She is excited to be a part of the wonderful Wyomissing Area community both as a parent and as a professional. Welcome, Ms. Gianotti!

Anthony Gresoi, a new Social Studies teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School, came to us from Maine where he taught for three years after graduating from Bloomsburg University. After school, he enjoys spending time with friends, going to the gym, playing video games, and making Spotify playlists. Mr. Gresoi has appreciated the incredible amount of resources and support from fellow teachers and students so far. "I am looking forward to getting to know more staff and students at Wyomissing Area and if students have any good music recommendations, I'm always interested." We're happy to bring those recommendations! Welcome to Wyomissing Area, Mr. Gresoi!

Olivia Gage, a new first-grade teacher at WHEC, is coming to us from Utah! She's worn various hats before coming to Wyomissing Area including working as a camp counselor, as a Child Development teacher at a hospital, and working in schools as a reading group teacher during her time at Southern Utah University. Mrs. Gage enjoys hiking, cooking, and exercising in her free time and enjoys the supportive Wyomissing Area community. We're lucky to have you on the East Coast!



Lori Hu is joining us from the BCIU this year as a member of our Science department at the Jr./Sr. High School. During her three years at the BCIU, she worked as a School Psychologist, traveling to different districts in Berks County to evaluate students for special education services. She graduated from Westminster College, New Wilmington with a major in Molecular Biology;

Mount Sinai Medical School with a Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences/Genetics; Millersville University for her Master's of Science School Psychology; and Albright College for her Teaching Certificate. During the first few months at Wyomissing Area, Dr. Hu has noted the sense of community and school spirit, particularly during spirit week in October, and looks forward to helping each of her students have a productive high school experience. Welcome to Wyomissing Area, Dr. Hu!

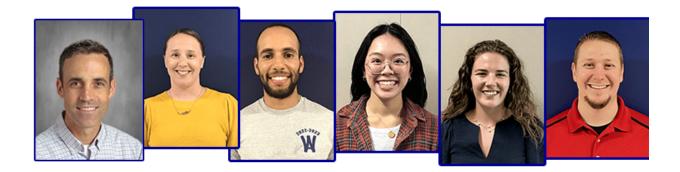
After two previous years of teaching kindergarten and first grade, **Rebecca Holley** is now an Autistic Support Teacher at WHEC. She graduated from Cabrini University with a major in Elementary Education PK-4 with Special Education PK-8 and has her Master's in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. When she isn't at school, she may be traveling with her 7-year-old nephew, Xavier, or playing with her newly adopted puppy, Aurora. Ms. Holley is grateful for WHEC's "warm and happy" environment and for all the staff who have welcomed her transition to Wyomissing Area! Welcome to the team Ms. Holley!

MaryBeth Kemp is a new member of the Science department at the Jr./Sr. High School. She attended Kean University for her Bachelor's in Biology, and Wilkes University for her Master's in Education, after which she went on to teach biology for 15 years. So far at Wyomissing Area, she's admired her students' work ethic and positive attitudes as well as the welcoming faculty. Outside of the classroom, Ms. Kemp enjoys teaching ballet, traveling, cleaning, and trying out new recipes. We are thrilled to introduce Ms. Kemp to the district!

Isaac Kulp joins us as an English teacher at the Jr./Sr. High School. He graduated from Alvernia University and is currently pursuing his Master's in English from Millersville University. After teaching at Governor Mifflin for the past five years, he looks forward to getting to know the students and faculty here at Wyomissing Area. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Kulp can be found rock climbing or mountaineering. He's climbed in five different states and has recently accomplished 280 feet of adrenaline-fueled vertical fun in the Shawgunk Mountains! We're thrilled for this new addition to our staff!

Kara Love is joining our team at the Jr./Sr. High School as an English Teacher. After discovering her passion for teaching, she transferred from RACC to Millersville University where she completed her degree this past May. Ms. Love most appreciates the tight-knit and welcoming community; "Everyone has gone out of their way to make me feel welcome, which is something I was nervous about when I first began this job!" When she's not at school, she's likely spending time with friends and family, reading, trying out a new coffee shop, or keeping up with her fantasy teams. We're thrilled to have you for your first year!

Kirsten Lebo started this year as the new junior high Guidance Counselor. She attended Moravian University for her undergraduate degree in general science and secondary education and completed her graduate degree in school counseling at Kutztown University. Before becoming a Guidance Counselor, Ms. Lebo taught science for five years. Ms. Lebo enjoys the tranquility of the outdoors as she spends much time outside of the classroom hiking or reading on her porch. She appreciates that the school counseling office is a place for all students and shared that Wyomissing Area's welcoming and tight-knit community has made her transition here all the more enjoyable. Happy to have you, Ms. Lebo!



William (Bill) Galvin is joining our Spartan team at WHEC as a fourth-grade teacher. After serving in the US Army, he transitioned to business, and then to teaching fourth grade at Exeter. He received his bachelor's degree from the US Military Academy, his MBA from Webster University, and his Teaching Credentials from Albright College. On the weekend, Mr. Galvin enjoys hiking and camping with his four kids: Will(10), Eli(7), Henry(5), and Ivy(22 months). He appreciates the amazing community and constant support as he transitions to WHEC. Thank you for your service and we look forward to getting to know you better throughout the year!

Franklin Ramirez joins us as a member of the Physical Education department at the Jr./Sr. High School. We are happy to welcome him to Wyomissing Area!

Samara Rayco is the new Orchestra teacher for the Wyomissing Area School District. Outside of teaching, she enjoys curating Spotify playlists, watching movies, and exploring new places with family and friends. While attending Penn State, she student-taught K-12 General Music and middle school strings, while additionally teaching private lessons. We are excited to have Ms. Rayco for her first full-time teaching position this year! "Everyone has been very welcoming and inviting, so it's been a very nice transition thus far!"

Grace Schillinger, a long-term substitute for first grade, will be joining us this year at WHEC. She graduated from Saint Joseph's University and taught for three years near Philadelphia before coming to Wyomissing Area. Outside of the classroom, Ms. Schillinger enjoys exercise, yoga, and of course the Eagles. She loves the sense of community at Wyo - "Everyone is so wonderful and kind!" We're looking forward to our year with you Ms. Schillinger!

Robert Youse is the new Internship Coordinator at the Jr./Sr. High School. Before joining us at Wyomissing Area, he worked as a job coordinator for disabled students, the School-to-Work Coordinator, and the Diversified Occupations Coordinator at BCTC. He received his bachelor's degree at Millersville University, studied workforce development at Penn State University, and received his master's degree from Alvernia University. Outside of the classroom, he enjoys traveling and teaching Conrad Weiser's marching band, indoor percussion, and color guard ensembles. Mr. Youse appreciates Wyomissing Area's welcoming atmosphere and looks forward to working with and getting to know the students and staff! We're looking forward to expanding our horizons and growing our internship program with his leadership!

Families Visit for Back to School Night and Open House!













Throughout September, Wyomissing Area School District faculty and staff hosted meet-the-teacher and open house nights, happily welcoming Spartan families to all three buildings. Each school portrayed a day in the life of its Spartan students, providing parents and families with an understanding of school programs and courses, as well as important community resources. An appreciative thank you to the WASD faculty and staff and Spartan families for making meet-the-teacher and open-house nights great successes! We look forward to future opportunities to connect with our Spartan families.

WHEC Celebrates New Book Vending Machine

This past September, WHEC hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their new "Book Vending Machine" which now has a home in the Elementary Center's lobby. Teachers award students with tickets for good behavior which can be submitted and drawn at Spartan Spirit assemblies to win coins specifically used for the vending machine. These coins are also handed out on students' birthdays so they can choose a "birthday book!" Thank you to WAEF for such an exciting new addition to the school!







Jr./Sr. High School Students Attend the Annual Club Fair







At the beginning of every school year students at the Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School have the opportunity to explore the various clubs that they can participate in by attending the annual Club Fair. During this event, all of the clubs that the Jr./Sr. High School offers for students are represented by student leaders in the gym. Throughout the day, students visit the Club Fair to see all of the great opportunities that they have to get connected within the school community! This year was very successful! We love seeing students find new opportunities to get connected at school and thank our student leaders and club advisors for making the Club Fair possible. We are excited to see what all of our clubs accomplish this year as they build community at Wyomissing Area!

WHEC Artwork Inspires Teachers and Artists Nationwide!

International Dot Day and the twentieth anniversary of the book "The Dot" by Peter H Reynolds was the theme for this year's collaborative piece at WHEC. All students K-4 made a dot in Art class to contribute to the wonderful artwork. When we shared this beautiful artwork on social media, it inspired teachers and artists across the country and was viewed over three million times! Kudos to Mrs. Heist-Albright and our talented students at WHEC!



Walk with Wyo!



The Wyomissing Area "Walk with Wyo" event supports the Wyomissing Area PTA. Money raised with this fundraiser directly supports all three school buildings. Students at WHEC participated in the event which is a fantastic way to promote health and wellness within the community while also raising money to support important school events and activities. Jr./Sr. High School student leaders visited WHEC to support the event and our elementary Spartans had a fun day! Thank you to all who donated!

The JSHS Celebrates Homecoming and Spirit Week

Spirit Week is an annual highlight at the Jr./Sr. High School. Students and teachers come together in a fun, spirited, and competitive way. The week is celebrated with gradespecific hallway decorating to match the color of their grade and theme of their choice, along with themed dress days throughout the week. Students fostered school spirit through annual including Knockout, events Academic Challenge, Inferno, and Spirit Games. The seniors showed their talent with the annual "senior dance" and finished the week as the Spirit Week 2023 Champions! Additionally, students in grades 11 and 12 competed in the Powder Puff ultimate frisbee game and students enjoyed dancing and snacks in the new gym, along with a great DJ for the Homecoming dance! We were also excited to celebrate our Homecoming Court during Spirit Week as well. Spirit Week is always one to remember and is fun for all! Thank you to the Student Council for their work in planning the week of special events.



Bob Wolfrum Field Dedication



On October 14, the Wyomissing Football Stadium was renamed "Bob Wolfrum Field" in honor of Wyomissing Area's head football coach. This fall marks Coach Wolfrum's fiftieth season as a member of the Wyomissing Area Football coaching staff. Coach Wolfrum became Wyomissing Area's head coach in 1987 and led the Spartans to their PIAA class 2A state championship in 2012. Additionally, Coach Wolfrum has coached the team to twelve PIAA District 3 championship titles, having forty-nine winning seasons throughout his career. Thank you Coach Wolfrum for all you've done for Wyomissing Area!

"My Jersey, Your Impact"

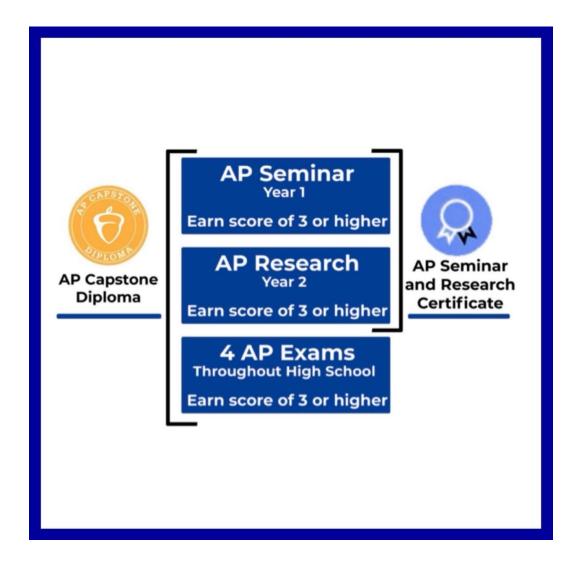


Senior members of the football team recognized members of our faculty on "Jersey Day" during Spirit Week with a new tradition, "My Jersey, Your Impact." Seniors chose a member of the faculty who impacted them during their high school career to wear their jersey on "Jersey Day." What a special addition to Spirit Week! Shoutout to this fantastic group of Spartan athletes and educators.

Grand Opening of the "Wyo Cafe" and "Coffee Cart"

WREC celebrated the Grand Opening of the WYO Cafe and students at the Jr./Sr. High School have begun a coffee cart. Students prepare and deliver coffee/tea to the teachers around the building. The cafe will run every other Friday and it benefits the Best Buddies club that supports the Spartan Challenge. The grand opening was a great success!





Last year during the 2022-2023 school year, nine students received the AP Capstone award. This includes current seniors Mackey Lentz and Sophie Lentz, as well as Wyomissing Area Alumni Olivia Tipton, Ayumi Best, Madeline Campbell, Benjamin Primack, Kathryn Masano, Annika Gernert and Eleanor Folga. The AP Capstone Award is an award given to students who take AP Seminar and AP Research, receiving a three or higher on both exams. In addition, students must earn a three or higher on four other AP exams throughout high school to qualify.

In AP Seminar, students use critical thinking and research to create multiple cohesive arguments throughout the year. This class works to help students produce and defend arguments based on prior research, and through this class, students identify and research many important global and local issues. In AP Research, students conduct their own research projects and experiments exploring real-world problems or issues. AP Research expands on the topics learned by students in Seminar and guides them in developing a formal academic research paper.

Both of these Capstone courses, along with the other AP classes offered at Wyomissing Area, help prepare our students for college-level coursework. Congratulations to our Spartans on this academic accomplishment.

Jr./Sr. High School Students Recognize Hispanic Heritage Month





Our Spartans at the Jr./Sr. High School celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month which celebrates the histories, culture, and contributions of those who are from or who have ancestors from countries where Spanish is spoken. Vanesa, Natalya, and Karla created an artistic board in the hallway to educate students about Hispanic Heritage Month, highlighting influential Hispanic individuals as a part of the STAR Club. In addition, our Spanish Club and STAR Club collaborated to host a fiesta where Spartans celebrated by sharing ethnic food, singing karaoke in Spanish, and with art.











Red Ribbon Week is a national week of drug prevention awareness observed each year in October. The West Reading Elementary Center embraced a multitude of activities to share this important message with their students. Throughout the week students and staff at WREC celebrated multiple themes including "Give Drugs the Boot"; "Say Boo to Drugs"; "Red-y to be Drug Free,"; and "Team Up Against Drugs". For the week, classroom doors were decorated with drug-free messages as well. The outstanding effort by both students and staff at WREC to promote this positive message and to encourage our students to make healthy choices is so very appreciated.





On Veterans Day, students and staff at the West Reading Elementary Center and the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center honored our service members. WREC honored our veterans with a special Veterans Day event. Students invited veterans in their lives to visit WREC for the morning. The veterans mingled with students in homerooms, celebrated with breakfast in the library, and then had the opportunity to speak with the students, share their experiences, and answer any questions students had. WHEC families were invited to honor a Veteran with a special message. Those messages were made into tags, and staff members at WHEC helped to place flags around "Veteran Circle" and the school property. Veterans Day will always be an important part of learning for the students at WHEC and WREC. Each year, we plan to show our gratitude and appreciation for those who sacrificed so much for us. Thank you to all members of our military for your service!

Career Day at the Jr./Sr. High School















Career Day is an annual event for students in grades 8-12 to explore possible careers and post-secondary pathways as they begin to think about their futures after high school. Planned and executed by a committee of dedicated parents and community volunteers, with support from teachers, the counseling office, and other school staff, Career Day focuses on age-appropriate activities that encourage students to expand on their career exploration year after year. Each grade participates in different activities throughout the day with guidance from speakers and panel presenters from a variety of careers. For example, after attending panel presentations on careers that interest them in the morning, ninth-grade students toured local industries (in partnership with BBEC) to learn about various businesses. These students will also visit BCTC and a local college/university this year for full access to the many high schools and post-secondary pathways available to them. Students in grades 10 and 11 engaged in a panel presentation with local human resources representatives who spoke about employment during

high school and the qualities managers look for during the hiring process. Eleventh-grade students also participated in round table discussions where representatives from various colleges/universities discussed education requirements and the careers possible with certain degrees. Our seniors participated in a service project and walked through a financial reality fair exploring salaries and loan scenarios based on possible education and career pathways. This day would not be as successful as it's been for the last many years without the support and participation of many presenters who are willing to share their knowledge with our Spartans. We thank them dearly and are grateful to provide students with the opportunity to explore various careers and interests for the future.

Instant Decision Day

INSTANT DECISION DAY





Local colleges and universities visited Wyomissing Area this fall to participate in Instant Decision Day at the Jr./Sr. High School. Admission representatives reviewed student applications and decided on the spot! This experience provided students with face-to-face feedback from college admission representatives and helped relieve the stress of college applications. This was the first of an annual tradition at Wyomissing Area. Congratulations to our Spartans who were accepted into college during Instant Decision Day and thank you to our Guidance Counselors who support our students through the college and career process.

Wyomissing Area Drama Club Presents "The Fall Thing" & "Six The Musical: Teen Edition"



This fall, WyoDrama brought two productions to the Wyomissing Area stage! In October, junior high and senior high came together for the yearly "Fall Thing": a musical revue directed by junior high drama director, Heather Troxell, strung together with an original storyline and script written by director emeritus, Faye Warmkessel. At the end of November, WyoDrama performed the Berks County premiere of *SIX: Teen Edition*. Six Spartans worked for months to create the most unique musical in WyoDrama history. A glorified pop concert, the *SIX* queens collaborated with senior high drama director, Mr. Krick, on choreography, blocking, character development, hair and make-up, and costume design. Both the Fall Thing and *SIX* saw packed houses with well-deserved standing ovations! WyoDrama will return this spring with the Junior High Musical *Disney's Newsies, Jr.* on February 23 & 24 and then the Senior High Musical *Mamma Mia!* on April 26 & 27.



Wyomissing Area Internship Program

Wyomissing Area Internship Program

The Wyomissing Area School District is seeking professionals in our community who would be interested in being a mentor for our expanding internship program.

Internships are designed to provide interested WASD 11th and 12th-grade students with professional experience in their future career choices. Internships can be paid or unpaid, usually consisting of 1-3 hours per day for one semester or the full school year. Our students are expected to participate in activities that will allow them to gain knowledge and skills to equip them for a professional career while assisting their mentor with duties common to your profession.

If you or a colleague are interested in becoming a mentor for our internship program, please contact Mr. Robert Youse at ryouse@wyoarea.org.

Wyomissing Area PTA

Join us!



Our goal is to bring parents, teachers, and children together to raise funds for educational programs and strengthen the community. For as little as \$8.00, you can help support these educational programs and family activities sponsored by the Wyomissing Area PTA. Please note that joining the PTA does not obligate you to participate in, or volunteer for, PTA Committees and Events. However, we are always looking for new volunteers for our committees and would love to see new faces join us at events! For more information, please visit wyopta.org, and follow us on social media!

The Wyomissing Area Education Foundation



WYOMISSING AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Enriching Education in the Wyomissing Area School District

Happy Holidays from WAEF! So far this year, WAEF has supported requests from teachers to fund exciting grants such as an Electric Vehicle for engineering students to build, as well as a greenhouse project that will involve students in biology, STEM, science and engineering classes. WAEF's Spartan Fund has supported youth basketball registration fees for two families as well as supplies for the nurse's office at WHEC to support their students. WAEF Student Committee members participated in the first volunteer opportunity of this school year, helping Dr. Toni Wengerd paint items used in the outdoor STEM area that WAEF funded last spring.

WAEF is unable to provide support to our district without your help! If you are in a position to give, please consider donating to WAEF this holiday season. https://www.wyoarea-foundation.org/give-a-donation



About the Authors



As the Wyomissing Area School District continues to develop the Internship Program, we are fortunate to have talented students work with our Communications team to develop the articles you read in each edition of The Spartan Scoop. Our students are driven and predominantly self-guided and have the opportunity to attend district events, visit classrooms and teachers, and share positive experiences and stories about the great work in our district. Passionate students like these are a great addition to our Communications team and developing our social media posts and newsletter stories is a great experience for them.

Vanesa Aguay is a senior at Wyomissing Area High School and is actively involved in her school community. Vanesa is the senior class president as well as Spanish Honorary Society and Spanish Club president. She's passionate about advocating for inequalities, as the Head of the Tech & Education Committee for the PA Advocacy Network, founding STAR at Wyomissing Area, and running her STEM nonprofit uBridge. Athletically, Vanesa runs indoor and outdoor varsity track. She is excited about the opportunity to involve herself in the activities throughout the district and to develop her skills within community outreach with this internship. She plans to keep developing her writing skills to use as she looks forward to studying biomedical engineering and business in college.

Ashley Baker is a senior at Wyomissing Area High school. She is a member of the National Honors Society, peer mediation, and is a ski club officer. Ashley is also a captain of the lacrosse team and enjoyed playing golf this past fall. The communications internship is a great opportunity to form connections with students and faculty at Wyomissing Area. "Having exposure to the realm of social media and content management is not only a wonderful creative outlet, but is extremely relevant as most brands are now using social media from a marketing standpoint." Ashley looks forward to working with fellow interns as well as building stronger relationships with the students and faculty through this internship!

Lael Diehl is a senior at Wyomissing area and loves to participate in the various clubs that our school provides. She especially enjoys participating as a member of the Mini-Thon committee, environmental club, STAR club, and National Honors Society. She is also a member of the field hockey team and participates in an indoor field hockey club team as well. She plans on attending college on the pre-occupational therapy track, which she hopes to use in pediatrics. Lael chose to do this internship because it is a good opportunity to connect and learn more about the Wyomissing

Area community, as well as build up her communication skills through social media and face-to-face connections.

Christopher Grilli is a senior at Wyomissing Area High School. He is the captain of the cheer team and participates in many other clubs/organizations such as Ski Club, G.S.A., S.T.A.R., National Honors Society, environmental club, Spanish club, and cooking club. Christopher plans to attend Alvernia, where he will study political science and advocacy. He has used this internship to get experience in social media and marketing, which he can use in his future endeavors. This internship has helped him to build connections with peers, meet deadlines, work with others, and complete work efficiently and effectively.

Sullivan Wengrowski is a senior at Wyomissing Area. She participates in varsity soccer and serves as a captain on the lacrosse team as well as in various clubs including the environmental club, Spanish club, Colophon, National Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society, Mini-Thon, peer tutoring, and serves as the Class Vice President. She plans on attending college to study political science, and eventually pursue a career as an attorney. Sullivan enjoys engaging with the community through her various extracurriculars and is excited to be able to further participate in community outreach through the communications internship.

Communications Coordinator, Ms. Meghan Tierney



Ms. Meghan Tierney is the mathematics Department Chair at the Jr./Sr. High School in her tenth year in the Wyomissing Area School District. She received her bachelor's degree from Albright College, earned a master's degree in Teacher Leadership through the University of Delaware, and a master's degree and supervisory certification in Educational Administration with a focus on Curriculum and Instruction Supervision at Gwynedd Mercy University. In addition to her role as a classroom teacher, she advises the National Honor Society and serves as the Communications Coordinator for the school district. Meghan really enjoys the opportunities she has to work with students both in and out of the classroom and loves being a Spartan. Outside of school, Meghan enjoys spending time at the beach and being with family and friends.









Wyomissing Area School District

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