



CHARLES H. WALSH SR. ACADEMY & CAREER TECH HIGH SCHOOL

Walsh Academy

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walshacademy.org



Upcoming Events

12/13 – End of Q2
12/20 – Last day before
Winter Break, no CTE – all
students dismiss at 2:15
1/6 – Classes Resume



Season's Greetings from Walsh Academy!

Dear Families and Community Members,

As we approach the end of another year, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support of Walsh Academy. Your partnership is essential to our mission of providing exceptional education and care for our students.

This year has been marked by significant growth and achievement. Our dedicated faculty has worked tirelessly to create engaging learning experiences, fostering academic and social emotional development in each student. We've also made strides in offering our students a variety of vocational trade subjects, including Basic Construction, Introduction to Plumbing, Small Engines, Bike Repair, Culinary Arts, Computer Literacy, and Video Podcasting. Together, we have celebrated milestones, overcome challenges, and witnessed the incredible potential of our students.

The holiday season is a time of joy, reflection, and giving back. We are excited to share the festive spirit with our community through various events and activities. Our CTE-Extension program recently held their annual Toys for Tots shopping event, where students purchased gifts within a given budget. One classroom even came in under budget by a mere 98 cents! This wonderful activity not only fosters a spirit of giving but also incorporates valuable lessons about budgeting and contributing to the community.

As we look forward to the new year, we remain committed to providing an inclusive and supportive learning environment. We are excited to continue to explore new initiatives and opportunities that will enhance our students' educational journey.

Wishing you and your family a joyous and peaceful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Thank you, be safe,

Dr. Ann M. Craig, Ed.D.
Principal / Director of Educational Services



Health Beat: Healthy Holidays

By: Tracy Mullen – School Nurse

Through the holiday season, it's essential to prioritize our health and wellbeing amidst all the festivities. This time of year is often filled with joy, celebration, and delicious treats, but it's also a period when our routines can be disrupted, leading to unhealthy habits. As your school nurse, I would like to help you and your family stay healthy during this cheerful yet busy time.

Firstly, maintaining a balanced diet is key to staying healthy throughout the holidays. It can be tempting to overindulge in sweets and rich foods, but try to incorporate more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains into your meals. Remember, moderation is key!

Additionally, don't forget to stay active. The holidays often lead to a more sedentary lifestyle as we gather indoors and enjoy holiday movies. Engaging in family activities such as ice skating or even a walk around the neighborhood to admire festive decorations can help keep everyone moving. Physical activity not only benefits your body but also lifts your mood and reduces stress.

Lastly, let's talk about the importance of sleep. In the hustle and bustle of the season, it can be easy to sacrifice sleep. However, adequate rest is crucial for maintaining our immune system, especially during winter when colds and flu are prevalent. Aim for at least 7-9 hours of sleep each night, and try to maintain a consistent sleep schedule, even on weekends.



By focusing on healthy eating, staying active and getting plenty of rest, you can make the most of this holiday season while keeping your wellbeing in check. Wishing you all a season filled with happiness, health, and cherished moments!

Thank you, Tracy Mullen, RN

Classroom Corner

By: Natalie Greenfield – Teacher

Happy December and happy holidays! As we approach the end of the year, let's reflect on all the good this year has brought us. This month brings us snow, cold, and the biggest meteor shower of the year! If you looked skyward on the night of December 13th you may have caught a glimpse of the Geminid meteors. Now let's see what our star teachers are bringing this month:

- Mr. Trerotola's class is looking at short stories from around the world. This exposes students to different cultures while also keeping them engaged.
- Ms. Mackenzie's class is working on calculating future expenses in a budgeting class. They will also be welcoming a new teacher to their room this month. Welcome, Ms. Tyler!
- Mr. Steve is looking at physical science, teaching about matter. I wonder what matter they are getting into.
- The students are learning about big stars like Elvis in Ms. Karlesky's music appreciation class. They get to watch a lot of cool documentaries about these different icons.
- In consumer math students are learning about online shopping and comparing prices for different items purchased in Ms. Natalie's class.
- In Ms. L's class they are looking at apartment leases and independent living in pre-vocational.
- Mr. Justin's class recently completed an incredible mural in the chill spot for their fine arts class.

Keep an eye out for our star students and the stars that will be soaring across the sky this December.



Getting to Know Us!

By: Joel Gonzalez – Administrative Assistant

This month we will be highlighting senior and December graduate, Yaritza, and one of our longer tenured paraprofessionals, Mr. Vince.

Yaritza joined Walsh Academy last March, but it feels like she has been a student here for years! She is outgoing and friendly with everyone, often making rounds in the building in the morning to greet everyone. She is also one of our best student news anchors! Yaritza will be graduating this December, and we all wish her congratulations on her accomplishment!



Vince has been with Walsh academy for 10 years, mostly working with our seniors. He came to us from the residential programs at Maryville and still helps out there on evenings and weekends. He enjoys playing and watching basketball and helping his coworkers and students. Mr. Vince will be embarking on a new professional journey in the new year. His Walsh Academy family wishes him nothing but the best in his new adventure!

Giving Back

By: Heather Lischett – Asst. Principal for Student Services

On Friday, December 6, a group of 15 staff and students cascaded into the local Target to shop for Toys for Tots. They were divided into 4 teams and were each assigned an age group and were given a budget of \$157.50 to shop. Groups perused toys, read labels, discussed the merits of games for multiple people versus puzzles for one individual, and imagined the children who would be receiving these gifts. While some of our students may have been on the receiving end of similar charities in the past, very few of them have been able to be on the giving end. The team that came closest to the budget without going over won the privilege of dropping the purchased treasures off at a Toys for Tots collection site at the Niles Police Department the following Monday. It was a wonderful way to spread some holiday cheer and help our students get in the spirit of giving. This annual field trip tradition is a Walsh Academy favorite!



What is your favorite color?	
Y - Violet	V - Midnight Blue
What is/was your favorite subject in school?	
Y - I like Math.	V - Science, specifically chemistry. There's something fascinating about how everything in the universe is made up of tiny particles reacting to each other.
Have you ever had a nickname?	
Y - Yari	V - My family calls me Vin-Vin. It started when I was little, and I guess it stuck.
What is your favorite holiday?	
Y - Christmas	V - Thanksgiving. It's all about the food, family, and the fact that no one judges you for eating too much. Plus, I like the idea of taking a day to reflect on what we're thankful for.
What is something you've done that you are proud of?	
Y - Finishing High School early	V - I bought a house and am currently fixing it up myself. It's been a wild ride, a lot of trial and error. Still, every time I finish a project, I'm like, "Yep, I did that."
What is your favorite movie, show, and/or book?	
Y - Shameless	V - Movie: Interstellar; TV Show: The Wire; Book: Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates
If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?	
Y - Read minds.	V - Teleportation would be an amazing superpower because it lets you travel anywhere instantly, without wasting time or getting stuck in traffic. It would also let you escape danger quickly or visit cool places all over the world in just a second!
Tell us something interesting about you.	
Y - I enjoy drawing/painting. I love making new friends and helping others. I enjoy putting smiles on other people's faces and being outgoing.	V - I've been a DJ since I was 3 years old. Seriously, I couldn't even read, but I could pick out songs and artists like it was nobody's business. Music's been in my veins since I was in diapers.
What is the best part about being a student/staff at Walsh Academy?	
Y - The opportunity to learn new skills.	V - Helping students, offering guidance, and being part of their journey to success. It's a rewarding experience seeing them grow, find hope, and realize their potential. Plus, the staff support here is top tier. It's like a team where everyone wants the best for each other.

What's Happening at Walsh?

Student Created Murals

By: Mark Trerotola – Teacher

The art talent of Walsh students can be seen throughout our building. The small additional areas of beautification are like hidden gems to be discovered by staff and visitors as the year progresses. As of recently, Mr. Justin's class incorporated music and art into a whole class project in our first-floor chill room for students. The mural consists of images that cover theatre, film, art and music. The image choices along with the colors were agreed upon by the entire class. Class projects like this one help to foster creativity and imagination in students who may otherwise struggle to participate in class discussions of subjects they have a hard time with. Another benefit of school murals is that they can promote inclusivity and acceptance among those students.

When children see artwork representing various ideas and interests, it helps them to understand and accept others who may be different from them. These influences can lead to a more tolerant and inclusive school environment where all students feel welcomed and respected. Walsh Academy is one of those environments that allows students to freely express themselves for others to notice.



CTE Update:

New Plumbing Class - Building the Future, One Pipe at a Time!

By: Vincent Irvin – Paraprofessional/Job Coach

At Charles Walsh Academy, we're thrilled to offer our brand-new plumbing class, providing students with the essential skills needed to succeed in one of today's most in demand trades. This hands-on program is designed for those who want to dive into a career straight out of high school, offering an alternative to college while setting students up for success in the competitive job market. Whether they're interested in residential or commercial plumbing, our program equips them with the practical knowledge and real-world experience needed to thrive. With skilled trades like plumbing in high demand, our students are gaining a head start, preparing for rewarding careers with job security and excellent earning potential.

In the plumbing class, students are learning everything from the types of pipes and materials used in plumbing systems to the fundamentals of water pressure, flow, and troubleshooting common issues like leaks and clogs. They are also gaining hands on experience with basic plumbing tools like wrenches, pliers, and pipe cutters, learning to use them safely and effectively. One of the key assignments teaches them the proper techniques for joining pipes using primer and cement, ensuring a secure and lasting bond. This practical approach not only builds technical skills but also instills confidence in students, preparing them for real world projects and plumbing challenges. We're excited about how well the program is going and encourage more students to join. The demand for skilled plumbers is growing, and Walsh Academy is here to help our students build the future they deserve.

