



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

Walsh Academy

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Greetings and Happy New Year!

We hope you all enjoyed a restful holiday season. As we embark on 2025, we at Walsh Academy are eager for the exciting opportunities that lie ahead for our students.

Academic Focus:

- **Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Scheduled for February 28th.
- **Family & Friends Open House:** We will be hosting an open house to showcase recent improvements to our school building.
- **Second-Quarter Honor Roll Ceremony:** We are thrilled to celebrate the academic achievements of our students at the upcoming ceremony.
- **Upcoming Testing:** Students will be preparing for upcoming MAP testing and state-required assessments this spring.

Beyond Academics:

- **Career Technical Education:** Students will continue to have valuable opportunities to explore our diverse vocational programs, including electricity, culinary arts, and computer technology. These hands-on experiences provide invaluable insights into potential career paths.
- **Social-Emotional Learning:** Social-Emotional Learning remains a key focus, fostering a supportive and nurturing environment for all students.
- **School Culture & Growth:** We are committed to cultivating a positive and inclusive school culture. Our building is undergoing exciting transformations, with student and staff contributions enhancing the learning environment.

Staff Updates:

We are delighted to welcome three new exceptional special education teachers to the Walsh Academy faculty. This valuable addition to our team will allow us to enhance support for our diverse student body and strategically grow our student enrollment.

We look forward to a productive and rewarding year at Walsh Academy!

Thank you and be safe,

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



Upcoming Events

1/6 - Classes Resume
1/20 - MLK Day; no school
1/28 - Q3 Half-Way Point

Health Beat: Surviving the Cold

By: Tracy Mullen – School Nurse

As we head into the colder months, it's important to stay safe and healthy during winter. Here are some tips to keep you protected and feeling your best:

1) Bundle Up for Cold Weather

Make sure you're wearing warm, layered clothing to stay comfortable in low temperatures. Don't forget hats, gloves, and scarves to protect extremities from frostbite. Wear waterproof boots if possible to keep feet warm and dry in the snow conditions.

2) Winter Physical Activity

Winter can bring slippery, icy sidewalks, streets and parking lots. Be cautious while walking outside and wear appropriate safety gear if participating in winter activities.

3) Preventing Colds and Flu

Cold weather can contribute to illness, but washing hands frequently and using cough/sneezing hygiene (cough/sneeze into a tissue or your elbow) can help prevent the spread of germs. Also avoid touching your face.

4) Stay Hydrated

Cold dry air can lead to dehydration, so remember to drink your water!

Be Safe!!

Thank you, Tracy Mullen, RN



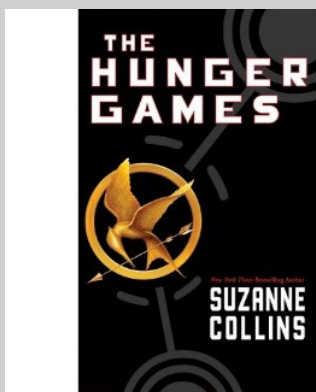
Classroom Corner

By: Natalie Greenfield – Teacher

Welcome back and happy new year! Students returned to school Monday, January 6th and slid right through the week after the icy storms we had. Did you know it takes 3 weeks or 21 days to form a habit, but most people stop their new year's resolutions within 2 weeks of the new year. Let's look at our teachers' new year and new quarter classes.

- Ms. L's class is reading *The Hunger Games*; I'm sure students are excited to watch the movie and compare it to the book once they finish.
- Mr. Justin has a science class that is learning about mass. I wonder what big or small things they will discuss.
- Mr. T's class is looking at the first settlements in U.S. history. They've talked about Jamestown and the importance of that settlement to U.S. development.
- Ms. Natalie's class is doing general applied math. Students are working on subtraction with regrouping and simple algebra to grow their math skills.
- One of our new teachers, Ms. Tyler, is teaching geometry to her students.
- Mr. Steve's class is looking at mythology around the world. They have talked about Chinese and European mythology!
- Our other new teacher, Ms. M, is teaching consumer math and really focusing on budgeting/real life math situations.
- Ms. K's class is focused on cells in biology. What a great thing to learn during the cold months.

After a long break students are struggling slightly to get back into the swing of things, but they are happy to be back and ready for a great new year to come!



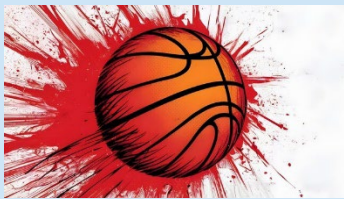
Getting to Know Us!

By: Joel Gonzalez – Administrative Assistant

This month we will be highlighting a staff and student duo from one of our transition teams!

Michael is working on finishing his remaining PE credits to meet graduation requirements while gaining some valuable transition skills out at job sites.

Ms. Natalie joined Walsh Academy last school year and took over the transition classroom for Ms. Beth. She and her team have built relationships with community partners in Niles and helped her students to earn their food handling certificates to make themselves more marketable to employers.



Sports Report

By: Dan Baffin – PE Teacher

A new year brings a slew of new CAAEL sports and activities for our students to look forward to. First up is our always anticipated basketball season with our first game on January 24th. Our students will also be preparing and competing as a team in a spelling bee and an academic bowl as we settle into the new year. The bowling team is also looking to improve on their strong end to the fall league as the spring league will start in March. Then as the 2024-25 school year starts to wind down our softball team will look to score some runs come April. Lots to look forward to in 2025 CAAEL sports. Good luck this year Walsh student athletes!



What is your favorite color?	
M – Purple/Dark Green	N - Purple
What is/was your favorite subject in school?	
M – Gym and Reading	N - Science
Have you ever had a nickname?	
M – Deangelo (my middle name)	N – Nat or Greenie
What is your favorite holiday?	
M - Halloween	N - Halloween
What is something you've done that you are proud of?	
M – Take care of my family	N – I've trained my dog to do over 12 tricks.
What is your favorite movie, show, and/or book?	
M – Scram and Trick	N – Movie: <i>Shrek 2</i> ; Show: <i>Yellowjackets</i> ; Book: <i>The Cellar</i> by Natasha Preston
If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?	
M – Invisibility and Speed	N – Animal Transmutation (the ability to change into any animal)
Tell us something interesting about you.	
M – I know how to box, and I'm good at it. I'm fast and strong. I know how to wrestle.	N – I am the only red head in my entire family.
What is the best part about being a student/staff at Walsh Academy?	
M – It gives you an opportunity to see your future.	N – All the amazing staff and students I get to work with every day.

What's Happening at Walsh?

School Improvement

By: Mark Trerotola – Teacher

The idea that there's always room for improvement seems to be an ongoing theme at Walsh Academy.

In our last bulletin, you read about the chill spot mural that Mr. Justin's class completed for their art unit. During art club, students have also begun painting a second mural in our main stairway. It's a work in progress, but it's looking great so far!



Our latest area that saw a facelift was the gym. This long-awaited improvement to this frequently used area of the school occurred over our winter break. The old wooden floor was replaced, lines painted, Walsh Academy logo placed proudly at center court,

and finally varnished to a shiny glow. It looks so beautiful! Despite having to wait a week for the final coat of varnish to cure, the students are so happy to be starting basketball season on the new floor!

Stay tuned to find out where other improvements are taking place!

CTE Update:

Lighting Up the Future!

At Walsh Academy, we believe that providing high school students with hands-on experience in the electrical trade offers invaluable skills that set them up for future success. By teaching electrical vocational training, students gain not only technical expertise but also critical thinking and problem-solving abilities that are essential in today's workforce. With the growing demand for skilled electricians, introducing students to this field at an early age helps them develop a strong foundation for future career opportunities or further technical education.

Thanks to the generous support of Aldridge Electric, our students are equipped with state-of-the-art trainers that allow them to work on real-world electrical systems in a controlled, safe environment. These engaging projects enable students to apply theoretical knowledge while honing practical skills, such as wiring, circuit design, and troubleshooting. Through these hands-on activities, students experience the complexities of the trade and build confidence in their ability to succeed in a technical career path.

