



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



Walsh Academy

(847) 390-3020
6935 W. Touhy Ave.
Niles, IL 60714
walshacademy.org



Upcoming Events

5/3-5/30 – May Term
5/31 – Graduation and
Early Dismissal
(noon for all students)
6/3 – Snow Day Make-up,
student attendance day
6/10 – ESY starts

Dear Walsh Academy Community,

This month marks a momentous occasion for our school community – our first graduation ceremony in our new building! As we witness our graduating class embark on their next adventures, a profound sense of pride fills me.

Graduation is a time of reflection and celebration. Nelson Mandela beautifully captured the essence of this milestone when he said, *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* Our graduates are now armed with the knowledge, skills, and experiences to forge their paths and make a positive impact.

To the graduating class of 2024, congratulations! You have persevered through challenges, embraced new opportunities, and grown into remarkable young adults. We are incredibly proud of all you have accomplished and excited to see what the future holds.

While we celebrate our graduates, we also look forward to welcoming students back for summer school! Classes will begin on June 10th and offer a chance for students to catch up, get ahead, or explore new areas of interest.

This month also brings a bittersweet farewell. After a remarkable career dedicated to our students, our beloved School Psychologist, Ms. Donna Hoffman, will be retiring. Ms. Donna has been with Walsh Academy since its inception, offering invaluable support and guidance to countless students throughout the years. Her dedication, compassion, and expertise will be deeply missed. We wish Ms. Donna all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

As the school year draws to a close, I am filled with gratitude for our entire school community. On behalf of the entire Walsh Academy team, I would like to thank you for your continued support. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and engaged community.

Be Safe,

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



Health Beat:

Mental Health Awareness Month

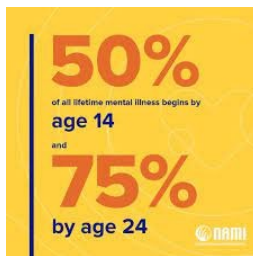
By: Kristina Seidelman Nickels – Social Worker

May is recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month, a national observance that started in 1949 by Mental Health America in order to bring attention to the importance of mental well-being. Throughout the month, individuals and organizations raise awareness of and help address the challenges faced by people living with mental health conditions. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is one such organization that is dedicated to ending stigma, extending support, increasing public education, and advocating for policies that prioritize the well-being of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

The theme of this year's awareness campaign is called "Take the Moment," and encourages people to open dialogues, cultivate empathy and understanding, and share resources to support individuals and families on their journey towards mental well-being. This continues to be an important topic to raise awareness about because many Americans still don't have access to the high-quality treatment and care they need. According to the National Council for Mental Wellbeing: 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year, only 47.2% of U.S. adults with mental illness received treatment in 2021, and 50% of all lifetimes mental illnesses manifesting by the age of 14, and 75% by the age of 24.

Some important resources to be aware of to help support individuals with mental conditions include:

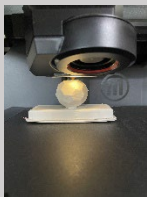
- NAMI (www.nami.org) has an array of signature community programs
- SAMSHA National Helpline (www.samsha.gov/find-help/national-helpline) is a 24/7 treatment and referral information source 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (<https://988lifeline.org>) offers 24/7, confidential support for people in distress
- The Trevor Project (www.thetrevorproject.org) provides 24/7 crisis support services to LGBTQ+ young people



Talking Tech: 3D Lab

By: Stavros Kouriabalis – CTE Teacher

As we kick off the last term before summer, the students in our Computer



Literacy class are starting to create 3D projects. The students in the computer class were learning the basics on how to create 3D models using different software.

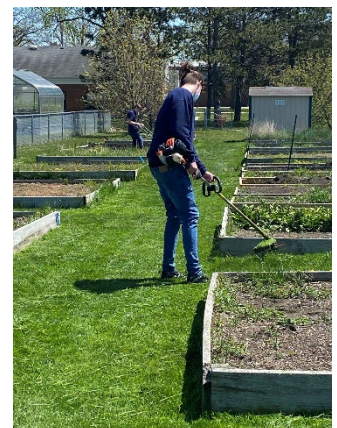
The designs that they made are incredible, including a model of a soccer ball [pictured above] and dinosaur models [pictured right]; they show immense amounts of creativity and imagination. We were amazed at how quickly they were able to learn how to use the software. We are happy to see our Computer Literacy course unlock some interest in our students, and we hope they gain a lot of knowledge out of it.



Classroom Corner

By: Mark Trerotola – Teacher

April showers are said to bring May flowers, so watch for all the new ideas blooming in Walsh Academy's final term called May Term. May Term is a unique offering at Walsh Academy. It is a 4-week term that only includes two classes and offers opportunities for credit recovery. Some of those aforementioned blooms might be discovered in classes studying Earth Science this term. With the nice weather predicted, classes should be able to experience some topics firsthand in garden boxes on both our existing and former campuses. Then there are a couple of classes that will be teaching psychology in their May Term curriculum. Teachers will try to give students perspective on or meaning to some basic questions, "What makes you tick?" and "How do you see the world?" Exploring emotions, thoughts, dreams, personality types and perception are all ways for students to think about themselves among the world around them. Our physical education instructor, Coach Dan along with Nurse Tracy will be teaching health to students who still need that graduation requirement. Valuable lessons on diet, exercise, first aid and personal hygiene will be explored. Here's looking forward to the home stretch in the 2023-2024 academic year being a productive one!



Getting to Know Us!

This month we are again featuring newer members to the Walsh Academy family; student, Sakinah Khan, and counselor, Anthony Passi. Sakinah is a 17 year old student that joined us at the start of second semester and she is interested in pursuing a career in nursing. Mr. Anthony joined us last summer and has done an outstanding job getting to know students and being an advocate for them. Walsh Academy is lucky to have both of these individuals!



CAAEL

By: Dan Baffin – PE Teacher/Coach

Spring has officially arrived and with that brings CAAEL softball. Students have been having a great time learning the intricate rules of softball while also working on sportsmanship and teamwork. Regardless of the score students have been having a blast playing and cheering on their teammates, especially when they get a hit. Our record currently sits at 0-2-1, and we have had one rainout. We have two games remaining on the year as we hope to even up our wins and losses at 2 a piece. Let's go Walsh!



What is your favorite color?	
SK - Blue	AP - Blue
What is/was your favorite subject in school?	
SK - Science	AP - History
Have you ever had a nickname?	
SK - Cece	AP - Passi
What is your favorite holiday?	
SK - Halloween	AP - Christmas
What is something you've done that you are proud of?	
SK – How far I've come from my past.	AP – Getting my Masters in school counseling
What is your favorite movie, show, and/or book?	
SK – Vampire Diaries	AP – Movie: The Godfather; Book: Mind Gym
If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?	
SK - Teleport	AP - Teleport
What is the best part about being a student/staff at Walsh Academy?	
SK – I like everything about this school.	AP – The best part of being a school counselor at Walsh Academy is getting to work with students every day. This allows me to get to know their personality and help them achieve their goals, academic and SEL.



What's Happening at Walsh?

Walsh Academy Graduation 2024

By: Donna Hoffman – School Psychologist

As we wrap up the 2023-2024 school year, we are looking forward to one of our favorite annual celebrations- Graduation. This year the ceremony will take place on Friday, May 31st at 10:30am in the school gym. Our Class of 2024 consists of seven high school graduates and one graduate from our transition program. Whether or not they choose to participate in their home school graduation ceremonies, we are pleased to provide a more intimate school observance at Walsh Academy with school peers and school staff, as well as each graduate's families and invited guests. The ceremony includes special addresses to each student delivered by their teacher, a slide show featuring pictures of the graduates, commencement speeches given by school administrators, and graduates walking across the stage in Walsh blue caps and gowns to receive their diplomas. A short reception for the honorees and their families will be held afterwards with cupcakes and punch as we celebrate and take pictures with graduates. Dismissal will be at noon on that Friday for **all students**.

This year will be extra special as we honor the **very first graduating class of Walsh Academy** and hold our first graduation ceremony at the new school. We are extremely proud of all the progress this year's graduates have made toward earning their diplomas and preparing for life after high-school. We know they all have the tools to be successful. We extend our best wishes to our graduates and their families as they embark on this new phase of life. Lastly, we hope to hear back from our alumni from time to time as once you become a Walsh Academy student, you are always part of our family!

CONGRATULATIONS to Arturo, Jesus, Gilberto, Marquand, Yousef, Max, Corey, and Juliza- the CLASS of 24!



****Do not forget, there is a make-up school day on Monday, June 3rd which marks the official end of this school year. This is a student attendance day. Dismissal for all students will be at 2:15 this day, there will be no CTE.****

CTE Update:

Achievements of the First Year in the New Building in Niles!

By: Maysaloon Alkhafaji – Paraprofessional/Job Coach

As is the case every year, we can mention the abundance of student achievements in the CTE Extension program, especially in our new building with expanding opportunities for work experiences. This year, the staff and students of CTE started a weekly student news segment, which included school and world news, weather forecasts, sports, and staff interviews. The 3D printer site expanded, and students worked on designing new Walsh Academy swag and giveaways. Another achievement is that the cooking classes have doubled which was made possible by the fancy new teaching kitchen space and has added to the joy of cooking [first picture below]. We can also be very proud of the noble service initiatives that have taken place including shopping for Toys for Tots [second picture below] and ramp building for those in need in the community; both projects which helped reinforce the importance of kindness, acceptance, and selflessness. Finally, the bike repair workshop is back, where students learn how to repair and care for donated bicycles for use by students or staff [bottom picture below]. Students who do not have access to bikes outside of school, and who are in need for transportation, can work with staff to fix one for themselves to keep. The new building has allowed for a lot of firsts and new or better sites and experiences for our students, and we are so excited to see what next school year brings!

