



# 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

10/15 - Q2 Begins  
10/25 - Parent/Teacher  
Conferences  
11/27-11/29 - No School  
for Thanksgiving Break

### Greetings and Happy Fall!

As the leaves change color and the air begins to crisp, we're excited to share updates on what's happening at Walsh Academy.

As we approach the end of the first quarter on October 14th, it's important to reflect on our students' progress and achievements. This quarter has been filled with exciting learning opportunities and growth. We encourage parents and guardians to review their child's report card and discuss any questions or concerns with their teacher during our Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress. We will also be hosting an open house and tours. Please reach out to your classroom team to schedule a conference time to meet and tour.

Regular attendance is crucial for student success. Missing excessive class time can hinder a student's ability to grasp important concepts and participate fully in classroom activities. Please be aware that students who miss over 85% of class time may not receive credit for the course. If your child is experiencing attendance issues, please don't hesitate to contact your child's classroom team for support.

Get ready to show your Walsh Academy spirit! We're excited to announce our Spirit Week, which will take place from October 28th to November 1st. Each day will have a different theme, so be sure to dress up and participate in our planned fun activities.

We want to remind our students and families that vaping is illegal for minors and poses serious health risks. Vaping can lead to lung damage, addiction, and other health problems. To ensure a safe and healthy learning environment, Walsh Academy will install vape detectors in all restrooms. Students caught vaping will face appropriate consequences, including disciplinary action and potential involvement with community resources. Our goal is to educate students about the dangers of vaping and help them make healthy choices.

We deeply appreciate your continued support and partnership in your child's education at Walsh Academy. Your involvement is integral to our school community, and we encourage you to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We're here to support you and your child every step of the way.

Thank you & Be safe,

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



# Health Beat:

## Anti-Bullying Month

By: Tracy Mullen – School Nurse

As we step into October, known as Anti-Bullying Month, I want to take a moment to highlight the vital importance of creating a safe and supportive school environment for every student. Bullying, whether physical, verbal, or emotional, can have long-lasting effects on a student's well-being, and it's something we all must work together to combat.

Let's start the month by focusing on kindness, inclusivity, and empathy. Together, we strive to foster a culture where every student feels valued and safe. Here's how we can contribute:

- 1) **Open conversations:** Encourage your child to talk about their experiences. This can open doors for understanding and support. Ask them how their day went and discuss what kindness means to them.
- 2) **Model kindness:** Let's be role models for our students. Small acts of kindness, such as complimenting someone or helping a friend, can create ripples that encourage others to follow suit.
- 3) **Know the signs:** As parents and guardians, it's essential to recognize the signs of bullying. Changes in behavior, physical injuries, or sudden avoidance of social situations can be indicators that your child may need support or intervention.

By working together—students, parents, and staff—we can build a nurturing environment where everyone feels empowered to rise against bullying. Remember, kindness is contagious, and your example can inspire a wave of positivity throughout our school community.

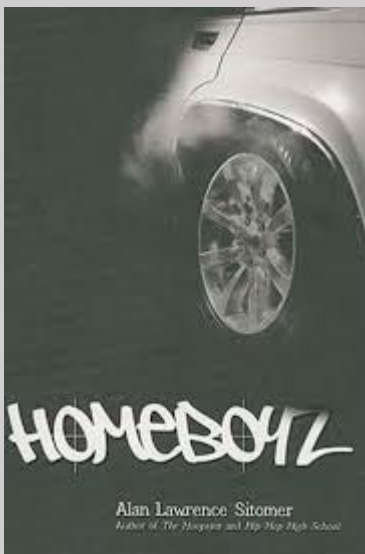
Thank you, Tracy Mullen, RN



## Classroom Corner

By: Natalie Greenfield – Teacher

Sweatshirts and long sleeves are already being worn by students as we start to get into the full swing of fall. It's the beginning of October and we are really getting into the feel of spooky season with classrooms being decorated for the widely popular holiday of Halloween. Did you know that 1 in 5 adults pretend to not be home on Halloween? Let's see what tricks or treats are happening in classrooms this month. Ms. Kris's class is reading *Home Boyz*. This story is about a young boy who loses his sister to gang violence; he chooses the path of revenge and must face the consequences. Ms. Mackenzie's class is learning about the writing of the constitution in U.S. History; this helps them understand how and why certain parts were written and how they impact us today. Ms. Natalie's transition class goes to the Niles Family Center to help them with cleaning and organizing. This helps students learn the appropriate skills when working at a job. Mr. Justin's class is looking at physical sciences, more specifically motion. Speaking of motion, let's get moving on to Ms. L's class. They are learning all about important life skills in their pre-vocational class, such as budgeting, housing, and transportation! Mr. Steve is managing varying math levels and abilities by reteaching math concepts and skills through geometry units, to meet his students' different needs. Continuing with math classes, Mr. Trerotola is working on angles in geometry. These are great foundational skills for the students who are interested in our vocational courses later in their high school career. So much learning going on as we wrap up first quarter!



# Getting to Know Us!

By: Joel Gonzalez – Administrative Assistant

This month we will be highlighting Carter, a 17-year-old student here at Walsh, and Ms. Anna, a social worker in her second year at Walsh Academy.

Carter enjoys spending time with classmates and getting to know the faculty and staff at Walsh. During his free time, he likes to watch movies and hang out with friends and family.

Ms. Anna is currently in Mr. T's classroom alongside Ms. Maysaloon, supporting 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students at Walsh. Ms. Anna enjoys music festivals and spending time with her family and dog.



## Sports Page

By: Dan Baffin – PE Teacher/Coach

We are off to a busy start with our CAAEL seasons as we are focused currently on our flag football and fall bowling seasons, and we also participated in the first academic bowl of the year at the end of September. Our students have been having a great time learning the ins and outs of flag football and giving it their all. Their sportsmanship, passion, and communication with each other have been a treat to watch so far this year. As for bowling, our students get better with every week that passes. The three high scores so far this year are 125, 110, and 103. The way the students cheer each other on after a successful spare, strike, or pick up has been so much fun to watch. Last but not least, we had the highest turnout for an academic bowl so far with six students. They worked together to answer some truly tough questions. They rallied big time during the second grouping and did a fantastic job during the lightning round to bring home second place! We're all so proud of all that our students are accomplishing. Go Wizards!

**What is your favorite color?**

C - Purple

A - It always changes but it is currently sage green!

**What is/was your favorite subject in school?**

C - English

A - English

**Have you ever had a nickname?**

C - CJ

A - Anna Banana, of course!

**What is your favorite holiday?**

C - Christmas

A - Halloween

**What is something you've done that you are proud of?**

C - Making it to 17.

A - Being the first person in my family to graduate from college and get a masters!

**What is your favorite movie, show, and/or book?**

C - My favorite show is Power and my favorite movie is Friday.

A - My favorite movie is ET; my favorite show is Parks and Recreation; and my favorite book is *Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath.

**If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?**

C - I would try to be super-fast, like the Flash, or have the ability to turn invisible.

A - I would love to be able to teleport!

**Tell us something interesting about you.**

C - I have been through a lot in my life for only being 17.

A - Speaking of Halloween coming up...me and my family used to make a homemade haunted house in our backyard every year for the neighborhood!

**What is the best part about being a student/staff at Walsh Academy?**

C - The teachers and staff.

A - I love the ability to be with my students all day and to form close relationships with them. It is also awesome to see the growth students have over the school year!



# Meet Our New Staff

By: Mary Nelson – Paraprofessional/Job Coach

Walsh Academy is happy to welcome three new staff members in the role of paraprofessional/job coach to the Walsh Academy team! Martha Machuca Camargo is a return hire, and we are thrilled to have her back with us. Ms. Martha received her associate's degree in early childhood from Elgin Community College. Since then, she has worked with kids of all ages. She previously worked at Jen School from 2019-2023. She currently coaches her 6-year-old's soccer team, and in her free time, she likes to read and listen to podcasts. She is always looking for recommendations!



Andrew Leckie was born in the Northwest Suburb of Streamwood, IL. He looks forward to motivating our students towards a healthier and happier lifestyle using his master's degree in Sport and Exercise Psychology from Illinois State University. His passions are music, sports, cooking and eating!

Mary Nelson has previously been with the archdiocese of Chicago for 22+ years as a Director of Religious Education for several large parishes in the area and is excited to learn new ways to serve others. In her free time, she is an avid reader and is trying to learn to cook...sort of!

## CTE Update:

### Birdhouse Bonanza!

By: Vincent Irvin – Paraprofessional/Job Coach

This month at Walsh Academy, our carpentry students took their first swing at building birdhouses, and what a blast it was! Armed with hammers, drills, and plenty of enthusiasm, they learned the proper techniques for cutting, assembling, and painting their creations for our feathered friends, all while gearing up for competitive employment in vocational fields after graduation. The classroom buzzed with laughter as students navigated power tools (with only a couple of nail mishaps!) and showcased their creativity with vibrant paint designs. Not only did they craft cozy homes for birds, but they also developed essential skills that will help them stand out in the workforce.

Check out our gallery of masterpieces and prepare to be amazed! Who knew birdhouses could be this much fun? Keep an eye on the skies; our future carpenters are ready to attract some winged visitors.



**Parent / Teacher Conferences will be held on Friday, October 25 from 1:00-6:00pm. You should be hearing from your student's classroom team to schedule. That morning will be a staff in-service day; there is no student attendance on Friday, October 25.**

## What's Happening at Walsh? Visitors from Partner District 214

By: Mark Trerotola – Teacher

Thousands of alternative schools exist throughout the U.S. with different approaches and missions. Alternative schools tend to fall into two categories: those offering a unique curriculum and those that focus on behavioral issues. Here at Walsh Academy, we address both. Knowing that not every student learns the same way, public districts in the area have taken notice of the Walsh Academy mission as a possible alternative for their struggling students. In late September, we were lucky enough to host members of District 214 which includes high schools in Arlington Heights, Mt. Prospect, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows, Wheeling, Buffalo Grove, and Elk Grove, and share with them more about the vocational classrooms in our new facility and how those programs are serving their students. Those that were on the tour included Meghan Muldoon Brown, Ed.S, NCSP, Director of Special Education; Kara Kendrick, Associate Superintendent of Student Services; Alva Kreutzer, Board of Education President; and Mark Hineman, Board of Education Member. Walsh Academy administrators were thrilled to show off the new facility, highlighting the CTE classrooms that have been made possible by the move, and were humbled by the compliments given by our gracious guests. Let us know if you or a school district in the area would be interested in seeing how we can help students that might benefit from our programs!