



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



Walsh Academy

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Greetings and Happy New School Year!

We are thrilled to welcome you back to school for the 2024-2025 academic year! As we embark on this new chapter, we are excited to be settled into our brand-new, state-of-the-art building. This modern learning environment is designed to foster creativity, collaboration, and academic excellence.

Our tech classrooms are nearing completion, and we can't wait to see our students explore the exciting possibilities of these innovative spaces. We are confident that these cutting-edge resources will provide our students with a competitive edge and prepare them for success in the 21st century.

We encourage you to mark your calendars for our Parent/Teacher Conferences and Open House, which will be held on October 25th. These events offer a wonderful opportunity to connect with your child's teachers, learn about their progress, and gain insights into their academic journey.

We are committed to providing a supportive and nurturing environment where every student can reach their full potential. Together, we will create a vibrant and engaging learning community that fosters a love of learning and a lifelong passion for knowledge.

Thank you & Be safe,

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



Upcoming Events

8/19 – Students Returned
9/2 – Labor Day, No School
10/14 – Q1 ends
10/25 – Parent/Teacher
Conferences

Health Beat:

Start the Year Off HEALTHY!

By: Tracy Mullen – School Nurse

Welcome back...Here's to the start of the 2024-2025 school year!

As the new school year starts, we are facing challenges in many ways: emotional, mental and physical, and I want you to know that as always, we will place the health and wellbeing of your child as a top priority.

We are ready to treat and care for all conditions and illnesses that your child may encounter, but we are asking that our families consider some of the following tips and recommendations to help aid in the health promotion of all our students:

- Monitor your child daily before school for any signs or symptoms of illness such as fever (100.5 or higher), cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.
- Keep the school up to date regarding any current health conditions or medications.
- If you are called to pick up your student for an illness, please pick them up in a timely manner to prevent further contact and spread of their illness to others. And please keep your contact information updated.
- Students may return to school 24 hours free of fever, vomiting and diarrhea without medication.
- Students out 5 days or more with an illness will need a doctor's note to return.

These recommendations will greatly help to reduce the spread of illness throughout our student population. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at any time.

Thank you, Tracy Mullen, RN



Classroom Corner

By: Natalie Greenfield – Teacher

The halls are filled with smiles and excitement as a new school year begins at Charles H. Walsh Academy. Students began August 19th and are settling nicely into the 2024-2025 school year. Did you know that there are over 8 million teachers in the United States? Let's look at what some of our teachers are doing for the start of the year. Ms. L's class is working on science, English, and vocational activities with their transition students. They are currently

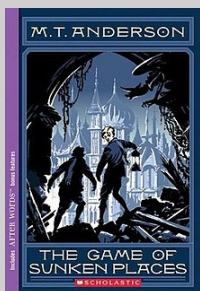
reading *The Game of Sunken Places*. Sounds like an exciting book to keep students engaged!

Mr. Justin is teaching Algebra, Physical science, and reading skills. In Algebra they are working on solving multistep equations. Mr. Trerotola's class is working with Ms. Mackenzie's class in geometry. They are doing a great job collaborating to get the best education for both groups of students!

Mr. Steve is teaching English, history, and geometry. He really focuses on history and the way that it affects his juniors and seniors in their everyday life. This really keeps the students engaged in each lesson. Ms. Karlesky's class is working on consumer math, history, and literature. In consumer math they are learning about budgeting. These are skills that they can use for the rest of their lives.

Ms. Mackenzie's class is doing geometry, English, and history. They are just now entering the angles unit in geometry and are reading short stories by Stephen King, great for getting into spooky season!

Ms. Natalie's transition students are learning consumer education, pre-vocational, and reading strategies. In consumer education, students are learning about their resources and how to use them. It's shaping up to be a bright year of learning for students at Walsh!



Getting to Know Us!

By: Joel Gonzalez – Administrative Assistant

This month we will be highlighting Diego, a 16-year-old student going into his junior year, and Ms. Kristina, a veteran social worker of 16 years at Jen School/Walsh Academy.

Diego enjoys being a part of Walsh Academy and during his free time, he enjoys listening to music, old and new, and improving his DJ skills.

Ms. Kristina is currently supporting in Ms. K's classroom alongside Ms. R, working with Walsh Academy sophomores and juniors. Ms. Kristina enjoys spending time with her family and cheering on her kids at their sporting events.



Sports Page

By: Dan Baffin – PE Teacher/Coach

As the new school year begins and we all get settled in, CAAEL is getting underway for our students. CAAEL stands for Chicago Area Alternative Education League, and this program provides our students with opportunities to participate in sports that they enjoy, allows them to try a new sport they haven't played before, and provides experiences in various fun academic competitions. The month of September is a busy one as it begins both our flag football season and our fall bowling league. A team of 5 students will also have the opportunity to show off their academic prowess with the academic bowl at the end of the month. Throughout the year students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports including flag football, bowling, volleyball, basketball, and softball. I love having our students participate in CAAEL because they get to participate against other schools, meet new people, and learn how to become better student athletes and leaders. Eligibility for CAAEL activities is week to week and students must meet certain criteria to participate. This criteria includes but is not limited to good school attendance, appropriate behavior in all settings, and maintaining good grades in the classroom. We're all excited for the first week of activities for our students to kick off what we are sure will be a great year!

What is your favorite color?	
D – Dark Blue	K - Purple
What is/was your favorite subject in school?	
D – Music Class	K – English and Science
Have you ever had a nickname?	
D - Chaparrito	K – My mom called me “Tina Weeze” when I was little.
What is your favorite holiday?	
D - Christmas	K – Halloween or Thanksgiving
What is something you've done that you are proud of?	
D - Becoming a good DJ	K – My education and my children
What is your favorite movie, show, and/or book?	
D – Grown Ups	K – I prefer reading to movies and TV shows, but I can't pick a favorite book – there are too many!
If you were a superhero, what powers would you have?	
D – To be able to go back in time	K – I would like to be able to time travel
Tell us something interesting about you.	
D – I have a passion for music.	K – I have owned three different all black cats as pets throughout my lifetime.
What is the best part about being a student/staff at Walsh Academy?	
D – The help you get here.	K – I enjoy the relationships with the students and staff members.



CTE Update:

Exciting Firsts in the Career Tech Ed Class Offerings at Walsh!

By: Vincent Irvin – Paraprofessional/Job Coach

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new Intro to Carpentry I course, marking the first year of our comprehensive trades classes. This initiative is designed not only to introduce students to the craft of carpentry, but also to equip them with essential skills for competitive employment in the field. Our curriculum places a strong emphasis on safety and precision. Students will learn proper tool use, with a focus on handling each instrument carefully and safely. Engaging shop safety videos will provide foundational knowledge to help students establish good habits and avoid common mistakes before they become embedded.

In the wood shop, students will master key techniques such as reading measurements with a tape measure, using a hand saw at a precise 45-degree angle, and understanding the correct orientation and direction to plane boards. They will also appreciate the natural beauty of growth rings in wood, which contribute to the unique grain patterns in their projects. Our goal is to prepare students not only for hands on success, but also for competitive employment in the carpentry industry. We're excited to guide our students through this innovative course and help them develop skills that will set them apart in the job market.



What's Happening at Walsh?

New Donor Wall

By: Mark Trerotola – Teacher

Lon Watters once wrote, "School is a building that has four walls with tomorrow inside." At Walsh Academy, our four walls may seem normal from the outside, but constant changes (and improvements) are always taking place on the inside. Over the summer we made some minor adjustments, like paint touch ups and spot cleaning, as well as some major upgrades, like new flooring on the first and lower levels.

One of the exciting additions that was added over the summer is our new donor wall, titled 'Magic Makers', just outside Dr. Craig's office. On it reads, "This donor wall celebrates the generosity of our champions, whose support empowers our Wizards to thrive. Through your contributions, you have woven spells of opportunity and hope, igniting the potential within every student. Thank you for enchanting our journey with your kindness."

The wall contains plaques made of various materials and colors that acknowledge each school donor and, if applicable, the specific trade program that they sponsored. This is just one way that our Walsh Wizards hope to acknowledge and thank our essential donors in the year to come!

