



Fall 2020

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Wooster City School District

Inspiring World-Class Academic Achievement

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Teaching and Learning During a Pandemic



The Wooster City School District kicked off the 2020-2021 school year operating under three educational options for families due to the global pandemic.

"Although this has truly been a year unlike any other, we are proud of our staff members and community for uniting. The grace and patience has been so greatly appreciated," said Superintendent Dr. Michael Tefs.

The district has conducted a number of parent, staff, and student surveys in order to develop

the district's COVID-19 Recovery Plan. This plan was presented at the June 30 Board of Education Meeting. Community members were then given the opportunity to provide their concerns or feedback at a number of virtual town hall meetings.

The district returned to school on August 24, providing three options for students.

Option A1:

This option offers students a blended approach to engagement with teachers. Students



report to their school two days per week and three days per week at an alternative education center.

During the time spent in the school buildings students are required to practice physical distancing, wear a face covering, and receive instructional support from their teachers.

During the time spent at the alternative education center, student work through their learning management system with assistance from trained staff members

and have a "day-camp" type experience.

Option A2:

This option offers students a blended approach to engagement, similar to Option A1. Students report to their school building two days per week but work from home three days per week. While at home



Continued on page 3



Infectious Disease Teams

As part of the district's COVID-19 Recovery Plan, the planning committee consulted with Akron Children's Hospital to ensure that the plan met all health and safety best practices in combatting the spread of COVID-19 in district buildings. Based on research and recommendations, Infectious Disease Teams (IDT) were formed to ensure that over the course of time the district continues to review practices and policies, making changes as needed based on monitoring and feedback from our schools, families, staff and community members.

The purpose of the IDT is to monitor practices and daily routines to ensure that all safety protocols are front and center and always intentional to keep everyone safe. These teams have gathered data and made changes to protocols or procedures that allow for better communication and more intensive practices. Staff members in many buildings have a team they can turn to if they have questions, concerns or suggestions surrounding the "new normal" we are facing.

"We are impressed with each IDT and the hard work they are

putting in on a weekly basis to keep their students, staff, and community safe," said Director of Student Services Heidi Haas. "Because of their hard work and dedicated effort, we are able to take comfort in knowing that we are providing healthy learning environments for our students."

The team utilizes a weekly protocol to assess the fidelity and integrity of implemented best practices. The IDT also uses monthly, a more comprehensive protocol to assess practices.

Each building has a dedicated IDT Team comprised of a school nurse, teacher, administrator, custodian, and secre-

tary. Each team meets weekly. Additionally, the teams have a planning session once a

month that goes over a more extensive checklist, compared to the weekly checklist.

Save the Date



December 9
@ 6 p.m.

Virtual Community Town Hall Meeting

Wooster City School District community members are invited to attend a virtual town hall meeting to discuss the district's plans for continuing operations during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

As Wooster City School District community members, your input is important to us. We want to hear your feedback!

More information and details on how to join the meeting will be distributed the week of December 1.

During this meeting, we will discuss:

- Recent survey results
- Next steps and planning
- Community feedback and questions.



WOOSTER COVID-19
EDUCATION RECOVERY PLAN

Teaching and Learning During a Pandemic - cont.



student's work on their learning management system.

Option B:

This option is known as our Generals Academy. This experience allows students to have the ability to work at home, online, five days per week. Students work through a learning management system with personalized learning options and assistance from Generals Academy dedicated staff members.

"Offering a number of options that allow our students to learn in a setting that they are most comfortable in was an important factor while developing this

plan," said Dr. Tefs. "As the year progresses and the prevalence of the spread of the virus changes, we will continue to evaluate these educational models. The health and safety of our students and staff members will always be our top priority and we will make the adjustments to ensure that we are meeting the physical, emotional, and social needs of every student in the district."



Dr. Kristina Boone Named to Wooster School Board

Last month, Dr. Kristina Boone became the newest member of the Wooster City School District Board of Education. As a Ph.D. and assistant dean and director of the Agricultural Technical Institute, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, at The Ohio State University, she is highly qualified for the role.

"I am very excited for this opportunity and hope to bring more awareness to the importance of diversity and inclusion in all of Wooster City Schools," said Dr. Boone. "I will work tirelessly to ensure that all of our students and families feel included and valued, especially during these difficult times. While I am relatively new to Wooster, only moving here 3.5 years ago, I am proud to be a member of this community and look forward to serving the families, teachers, staff members and students all while bringing a fresh perspective to the board."

Dr. Boone has an extensive background in agriculture, communications and education. She began her educational career as a graduate research associate for agricultural education at The Ohio State University in 1990 and worked her way up to an instructor at the School of Natural Resources for The Ohio State University in 1993. After working as a water quality extension agent, she moved to Kansas in 1995 to become an assistant professor at Kansas State University. She then became the department head for Communications and Agricultural Education at Kansas State University in 2005 and stayed there until 2017, when she found her way back to The Ohio State University in her current role as assistant dean and director. In addition to her career accolades, Dr. Boone completed the Wooster Citizen Leadership Academy in 2019.

"We are honored to have Dr. Boone join the Wooster Board of Education," said Superintendent Dr. Michael Tefs. "Her varied background and experience brings a unique viewpoint to the board. I know she will be a valuable member to the team."





Fall 2020 Calendar of Events

October 19 - November 13

Kean: Food Drive

November 9-22

Kean: Virtual Book Fair

Parkview: Virtual Book Fair

Monday, November 9

All Elementary Buildings:

PTC - 5-8 p.m.

Edgewood: PTC - 4-7 pm

Parkview: Gionino's Pizzeria Night

Tuesday, November 10

All Elementary Buildings:

PTC - 5-8 p.m.

WHS: PTC - 4-7 pm

Wednesday, November 11

Edgewood: PTC - 4-7 pm

Kean: Gionino's Pizzeria Night

WHS: PTC - 4-7 pm

Thursday, November 12

Kean: Gionino's Pizzeria Night

Friday, November 13

End of 1st Trimester for Grades K-4

NO SCHOOL: Release Day for PTC

Monday, November 16

Edgewood: Fall Picture Retakes

Edgewood: Gionino's Pizzeria Night

Board of Education Work Session Meeting

- 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 17

Edgewood: Fall Picture Retakes

Thursday, November 19

Melrose: Domino's Pizza Night

Kean: Domino's Pizza Night

Parkview: Domino's Pizza Night

Thursday, November 24

Board of Education Regular Session Meeting
- 7 p.m.

November 25-27

NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday, December 1

Cornerstone: Gionino's Pizzeria Night

Kean: PTO Meeting - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 2

Melrose: Gionino's Pizzeria Night

Monday, December 5

WHS: SAT Testing

Monday, December 7

Board of Education Work Session Meeting

- 7 p.m.

December 8-10

Parkview: Holiday Shop

Tuesday, December 8

Parkview: Group/Candid Picture Day

Parkview: PTO Meeting - 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 10

Kean: Gionino's Pizzeria Night

Parkview: Gionino's Pizzeria Night

Monday, December 14

Parkview: Gionino's Pizzeria Night

Tuesday, December 15

Board of Education Regular Session Meeting

- 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 16

Edgewood: Gionino's Pizzeria Night

Thursday, December 17

Melrose: Domino's Pizza Night

Parkview: Domino's Pizza Night

Friday, December 18

End of 2nd Quarter for Grades 5-12

December 21 - January 1

NO SCHOOL: Winter Break

Monday, January 4

School Resumes

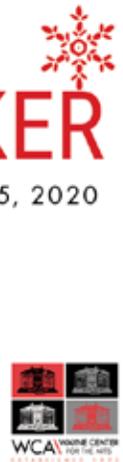


THE NUTCRACKER

WAYNE CENTER BALLET - DECEMBER 5, 2020

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One Wooster High School Junior Named Semifinalist and Five Seniors Recognized as Commended Students in the 2021 National Merit® Scholarship Program

Congratulations to **Madeline Altland**, a junior at Wooster High School, for qualifying as a semifinalist in the 2021 National Merit® Scholarship Program. She is among the top 1% in the 66th annual National Merit® Scholarship Program held by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

"Madeline is a great student and steward of Wooster City Schools, and we are all very proud of her for this accomplishment," said Wooster High School Principal Tyler Keener. "She always goes above and beyond whether it is in academics or extracurricular activities. She has earned this recognition, and we all wish her luck as she continues on in this competition!"

Approximately 1.5 million juniors from more than 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 National Merit® Scholarship Program by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

As a semifinalist, Altland is eligible to compete for more than \$31 million in scholarship awards. However, she must first submit a detailed application to become a finalist. About 90% of semifinalists are expected to advance to the finalist level, and more than half of those finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

There will be three types of National Merit Scholarships awarded in the spring of 2021, including 2,500 National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state-representational basis, about 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards, and about 4,100 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

"I would like to express my sincere congratulations to Madeline for receiving this hard-earned recognition," said Dr. Michael Tefs. "This is such an honor! Best wishes as she continues on in the National Merit Competition and in all of her

future endeavors!"

The 2021 National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 353,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

Additionally, **Sierra Dewald, Jingchao Yang, Lena Wiebe, James Lyons** and **Benjamin Haven** have been named as Commended Students in the 2021 National Merit® Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented by Tyler Keener, principal of Wooster High School, to these scholastically talented seniors.

"It is my honor to be recognize Sierra, Jingchao, Lena, James and Benjamin as Commended Students," said Wooster High School Principal Tyler Keener. "It is a rec-

ognition that they truly deserve. All of them are hardworking, dedicated students who have excelled on their academic journey. They are wonderful role models and great assets to Wooster High, and I look forward to hearing about their success in college and beyond."

The five Wooster High School seniors are among about 34,000 people from across the nation that are being recognized as Commended Students for their exceptional academic promise.

"On behalf of the Wooster City School District, I would like to congratulate Sierra, Jingchao, Lena, James and Benjamin for receiving this honor, and although they are not going further in the competition, I know they will be successful in all future endeavors because of their tremendous commitment to their academics, their determination and their outstanding work ethic," said Dr. Michael Tefs. "Thank you all for being great students and a wonderful asset to the Wooster family!"



Madeline Altland



Sierra Dewald



Jingchao Yang



Lena Wiebe



James Lyons



Benjamin Haven



Wooster City School District Names 2020 Outstanding Teacher and Outstanding Staff Member

While the COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on last school year, it also gave teachers and faculty members a unique chance to adapt and shine. The Wooster City School District is excited to recognize two employees who went above and beyond in their roles as recipients of the Ralph R. and Grace B. Jones Foundation 2020 Outstanding Teacher and Outstanding Staff Member Awards.

These awards recognize Wooster employees who went above and beyond and made a positive impact at their school. **Sandy Gasser**, a first-grade teacher at Melrose Elementary, was named this year's Outstanding Teacher honoree, and the Outstanding Staff



Sandy Gasser

Member award recipient is **Diane Hackett**, a paraprofessional at Wooster High School.

Throughout her nearly 30-year career, Gasser has focused on educating elementary students while also being a friend and mentor to her colleagues. Those who nominated Gasser noted that she always looks for innovative ways to differentiate her teaching for each student and treats them all fairly and with respect. She gets to know them as individuals, and in return, they show her the same respect she shows them.

Beyond the classroom, Gasser also gives back to the community. She volunteers her time at the Northeast Ohio Women's Prison leading a bible study group. Additionally, she spent a majority of her summer lending her insight to the COVID-19 Recovery Action Planning team for the Wooster City School District.

"Sandy is a tremendously hard worker and very well-respected throughout the district," said Superintendent Dr. Michael Tefs. "She is as passionate of an educator as you'll find. She is wonderfully cognizant of her stu-

dents' background and teaches to the whole child. We love her lens for equity."

As a specialized paraprofessional, Hackett has spent a number of years dedicated to the emotional disturbance unit at Wooster High School. She has proven successful in dealing with some difficult situations and helping these students achieve their goals, academically and emotionally. Her nominators say she has a "special positive energy" that has a great impact on the students she works with every day and the district as a whole.

Hackett also enjoys volunteering her time. She sells tickets for home sporting games and volunteers with the Boys and Girls Club students after school.

"Diane is a tremendous asset to the high school," said Dr. Tefs. "Her students and colleagues respect her, look to her for guidance, and truly appreciate her presence. That is a testament to her commitment to her role and her service to this district. This is a very well-deserved award for Diane!"

Each year, the Ralph R. and



Diane Hackett

Grace B. Jones Foundation fund is awarded to those who exceptionally serve students and the community while demonstrating respect for their students, peers and members of the community. Recipients of the award are gifted an unrestricted \$5,000 cash stipend.

"On behalf of the district, we would like to extend our sincere congratulations to both Sandy and Diane!" said Dr. Tefs. "They both represent the Wooster Way, and we are honored that they have chosen to dedicate their careers to our district and be a part of the Wooster family."

Kean Elementary Named 2021 Hall of Fame School by Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators



Kean Elementary, a school in the Wooster City School District, is excited to announce that it has been selected as a 2021 Hall of Fame School by the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators (OAESA). The award includes a \$1,000 prize to be used at the current principal's discretion.

"Our teachers and faculty are extremely dedicated to our students, their families and our community as a whole, and it shows in the pride they have for Kean Elementary; they deserve this recognition especially after such a difficult year," said Molly Richard, principal of Kean Elementary. "They really came together and excelled during the spring shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic and

worked together to provide our students with the best educational experience possible. We are honored to be named a Hall of Fame school!"

The Hall of Fame School Award recognizes schools that engage faculty, students and the community to provide a quality educational experience. To

be considered for the Hall of Fame, staff members from Kean Elementary submitted an extensive application that documented the effectiveness of their educational program in several areas. Hall of Fame schools were selected by commit-

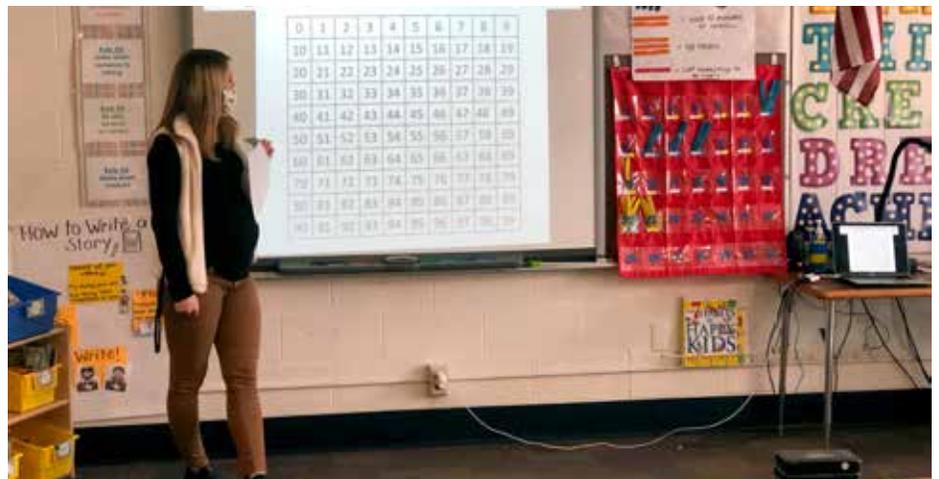
tees of OAESA members.

"Kean Elementary and its leadership, staff, teachers, and students are shining examples of the Wooster City School District, and I would like to congratulate all of them on this honor and thank them for their continued hard work, dedication, and excellence!" said Dr. Tefs. "While I believe all of our Wooster City Schools are Hall of Fame-worthy, to have Kean receive this recognition is amazing and inspiring for all of us!"

Hall of Fame award winners will be recognized during the OAESA Professional Conference, which is expected to be

held June 16-18, 2021 at Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center in Lewis Center, Ohio, depending on state health and safety guidelines due to COVID-19. Past Kean Elementary Principal Brandon Cobb and current Principal Molly Richard will receive the award on behalf of the school.

OAESA, located in Columbus, serves Ohio's pre-K, elementary, middle level and central office administrators by providing professional development, legal consultation, professional publications and networking opportunities.





Wooster City School District

New Virtual Tours on District Website

Visit the district website to check out the new virtual tours of Wooster High School and Edgewood Middle School! These videos offer families and community members a glimpse into the programs and offerings of each building. The district plans to develop videos for all of the building in the near future.

Visit woostercityschools.org to take a peek at what's happening in our schools!



Virtual Board Meetings

Stay informed! Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, all Board of Education meetings have occurred remotely, and will continue to do so. In order to

keep community members engaged and informed, all board meetings and district community meetings are broadcasted via live-stream on the District's

YouTube Channel.

To watch the live stream, visit woostercityschools.org and select 'Virtual Board Meeting' from the top bar. Here you will find:

- Link to live stream meetings
- Form to submit comments/questions for public participation

- All previously recorded meetings dating back to April 2020

Look for additional updates and information regarding upcoming Board Meetings and Work Sessions.

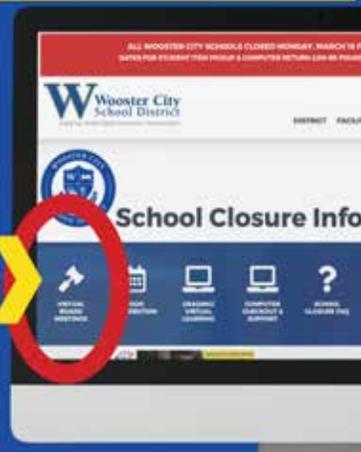
Upcoming Wooster City School District Board of Education Meetings

Nov. 16 @ 7 p.m.
Work Session
Watch the board at work!

Nov. 24 @ 7 p.m.
Meeting
Public participation welcome!

Click the **Virtual Board Meetings** icon on the district home page to view the meeting and submit questions/comments for the public participation portion of the Nov. 24 meeting.

To attend the meeting or more information, please visit, woostercityschools.org



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