



insight

March 2013 | Volume 44, No. 3

Julia R. Vicente, Superintendent

WREC Student to Send Experiment into Space



Back Row L to R:
Jaison Dasika,
Joseph Ambarian,
Max Moyer,
Luke Cibulsky,
Rose Sneeringer
Seated L to R:
Erin Drebusenko,
Emma Hopler,
Samantha
Zechman,
Emily Weidner

Rose Sneeringer, sixth grade science teacher, found a contest that she thought would help ignite students' imagination in science. The contest, *Send Your Experiment Into Space*, is offered to readers of a Scholastic magazine called *Science World*. With the help of **Kristin Allen**, teacher of gifted students, a group of students was selected to participate in the activity.

Sneeringer invited **Dr. Uday Dasika**, a cardiothoracic surgeon and father of a participant, to visit her classroom and help the students brainstorm ideas. The session was a college-like seminar that the students truly enjoyed and found beneficial. The young scientists were asked to identify an idea for their experiment, assemble it, and write a 300-500

word essay that explained their experiment. The challenging part was that the students were required to build the experiment so that it would fit into a ping pong ball! The finished experiments were sealed in padded envelopes and sent to *Science World*.

Sneeringer was notified by e-mail that sixth-grade students **Emma Hopler** and **Max Moyer** were selected as two of twenty winners. Emma's experiment was based on the question: "What happens to the polystyrene peanut, commonly known as a styrofoam peanut, when it is sent into space which has low pressure?" She predicts that the peanut will expand based on evidence that when styrofoam is sent to a high

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Mark Your Calendar

If you have any questions regarding any of the information in this publication, please contact:

Julia R. Vicente, Superintendent
610-374-0739, ext. 1106
jvicente@wyoarea.org



School board members, back row, from left to right:
Scott Painter, Gregory Portner, Julia Vicente, John Larkin, Michelle Davis.
Front row, left to right:
Anne Seltzer, Angel Helm, Lesa Butera, Karen McAvoy, Carolyn Bamberger

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The Wyomissing Area School Board's annual reorganization meeting was held on Monday, December 3, 2012. **Lesa Butera** was elected president and **Angel Helm** was elected as vice president. **Gregory Portner** was appointed to the office of treasurer to complete the term vacated by Helm. **John Larkin** was appointed on December 10, 2012, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of **Lawrence Fitzgerald**. **Corinne Mason**, Director of Business Affairs, is the board secretary.

Mrs. Butera announced the following board members were committee chairs:

Curriculum – Karen McAvoy
Technology – Gregory Portner
Personnel – Anne Seltzer
Policy – Scott Painter
Finance – Angel Helm
Facilities – Carolyn Bamberger

Development Advisory Ad Hoc chair is **Michelle Davis**.

SCHOOL BOARD reorganized

Remaining committee meetings for the year have been tentatively scheduled as follows:

Curriculum – 2:30 p.m. > Mar. 13, Apr. 10, May 8, June 12, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13.

Technology – 12:00 p.m. > Mar. 20, Apr. 24, May 22, June 26, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 27.

Finance/Facilities – 12:00 p.m. > Mar. 6, Apr. 3, May 1, June 5, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6.

Personnel/Policy – 5:00 p.m. > Mar. 5, Apr. 2, May 7, June 4, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5

In the event a committee meeting is cancelled, notice will be posted on our website, www.wyoarea.org under the School Board tab, Committee Assignments as well as on the district building doors.

Each month, there are two public board meetings unless otherwise noted. Business Meetings with Committee Reports will be held the second Monday beginning at 6 p.m. Business meetings begin at 6 p.m. on the fourth Monday. Meetings are held in the Community Board Room of the Jr./Sr. High School. Residents are invited to attend.



“Celebrities” Visit WREC

On January 4, celebrities lined the walls in West Reading Elementary Center’s gymnasium as the sixth grade

WEST READING ELEMENTARY CENTER

students presented their Wax Museum. The event was coordinated by **Michele Hetrich** and **Bridgette Kozuch** as a culminating activity for the biography unit in their language arts class. Students were given the task of researching a person who has made a significant contribution to the world. Each sixth-grader then planned a script, costume, and props to enhance their wax museum presentation. Teachers, students, par-

ents, and community members were invited to come and experience the WREC Wax Museum. Each student had a box where visitors could drop pocket change to make the student come to life and tell the character’s story. In just 45 minutes the students raised \$1,132 which was donated to the IM ABLE Foundation, an organization, founded by Chris Kaag, that promotes active lifestyles for people with disabilities. Sixth-grade math teacher **Kelly Ferrandino** marveled at how even the quiet kids in class prepared for this activity. She said, “It’s just a whole other side of them that you don’t normally get to see.”

Grace Gleason as Coco Chanel
Noah Heslop as Leonardo DaVinci
Michael Pham as Elvis
Vittoria D’Addesi as Hatshep
Emma Hopler as Julia Child
Samantha Zechman as Marilyn Monroe
Alexandra Jadic as Queen Elizabeth
McKinley Morris as Sally Ride

Below: A packed gymnasium of onlookers at the WREC Wax Museum.



WHEC Brings the Outside In!

On January 25, the Hills came alive with a presentation on motion and machines and a weather show. The two traveling science shows were sponsored by the Wyomissing Area PTA.

WYOMISSING HILLS ELEMENTARY CENTER

Grade 4 was treated to the “*Motion and Machines*” show that demonstrated how simple machines such as the lever, wheel, pulley and inclined plane overcome forces to get objects to move. The traveling scientists used rubber balls, bricks and wooden blocks to introduce Newton’s Laws of Motion that explain the motions students see and do every day. The youngsters realized that seesaws and even arms are actually simple machines.

Grades 2-3 were fascinated with “*How to Build a Storm: The Weather Show.*” The traveling scientists revealed the science of weather to the extreme. They explained where weather comes from, and what factors make it a sunny day or a blustery one. They made a cloud and explored thunder and lightning. The show ended with a demonstration on the power of a tornado. The students had a lot to talk about with weather fresh in their minds as snow moved into Berks County later that afternoon!

Grade 4 students **Alexandra Beighley** and **Javon Adams** demonstrate the power of a simple machine.



Grade 3 students **Joshua Arredondo** and **Isabella Curbelo** create a weather balloon with the Franklin Institute traveling scientist



ASHLEY H. SMITH



The Wyomissing Area School District is pleased to announce that Ashley H. Smith assumed duties as principal of the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center on January 22, 2013.

Mrs. Smith holds a B.S. in Music Education and an M. Ed. in Special Education with a concentration in Classroom

Management from West Chester University. She is also working on her doctorate in Educational Leadership. She has 10 years of teaching experience at various levels and served most recently for two-and-one-half years as assistant principal at Conrad Weiser Middle School.

In her free time, Smith enjoys playing the piano and cello, music, dance and choreography, and reading. She and her husband Frank reside in Shillington with their boxer, Murdock. Citing her favorite quote, she said, "To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart."

– Eleanor Roosevelt.



West Reading Merchant Honors Coaching Staff

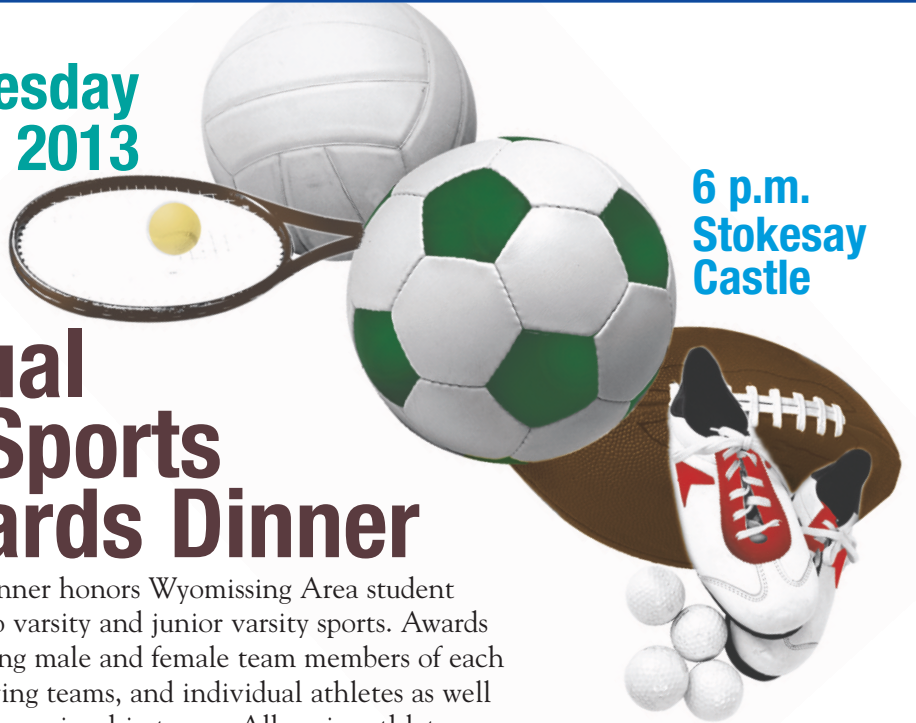
At the January 11, 2013 Board meeting, Athletic Director **Corbin Stoltzfus** presented head football coach **Robert Wolfrum** with an award honoring the coaching staff for their State Championship. The statue, compliments of **Tom McCarthy** co-owner of Awards and More, was engraved with the message, "Congratulations to Head Coach Bob Wolfrum and the Entire Wyomissing Football Coaching Staff, presented by Awards and More, PIAA PA Class AA 2012 State Champions, Wyomissing vs. Aliquippa 17-14."

McCarthy is no stranger to the realm of champions. Before opening Awards and More, as a founder of Berks Gymnastics Academy he spent three decades coaching many gymnastics champions including serving as a coach on the 1984 U.S. Olympic team that included gold medalist Mary Lou Retton. Awards and More, located at 530 Penn Avenue in West Reading, is a provider of trophies, plaques, cups and other keepsakes. Various vendors supply molded statues, metal plates and wooden bases; McCarthy does the engraving himself.





Wednesday
May 29, 2013



6 p.m.
Stokesay
Castle

41st Annual All-Sports Awards Dinner

This community-sponsored dinner honors Wyomissing Area student athletes for their dedication to varsity and junior varsity sports. Awards are presented to the outstanding male and female team members of each sport, district and state qualifying teams, and individual athletes as well as county, district, and state championship teams. All senior athletes are specially recognized. Trophies and team plaques are purchased by the All-Sports Booster Club. The Nancy M. Hemmerich-Franklin E. Poore III All-Sports Scholarships and the LeRoy "Pro" Nelson Awards are presented.

Approximately 500 student athletes, family members, friends, coaches, school administrators, and special guests attend the Wyomissing Area All-Sports Awards Dinner. This volunteer effort raises funds to allow each Wyomissing Area athlete in grades 9–12 to attend the dinner free of charge and honors student athletes for their participation in varsity and junior varsity sports.

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DINNER TICKETS: \$30/person _____ Tickets x \$30 = _____

HAPPY AD: \$10/each (15 words or less) The deadline is Friday, May 17.

ALUMNI RECOGNITION: \$15 contribution

Alumni _____ Year _____ Sport(s) _____

Sponsored by _____

TAKE A SPARTAN TO DINNER: \$30/student

_____ Sponsors x \$30 = _____

Your name _____ Address _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: WAHS All-Sports Booster Club.

Return completed form with payment to: Kathryn Magrane, c/o WASD Athletic Dept., 5 Goldfinch Dr., Wyomissing, PA 19610

SEVENTH GRADE science FAIR

Does dropping food on the floor for five seconds or more affect the amount of bacteria that grows on the food? That was the common myth seventh-grader **Emmanuelle Camille** tested in her science fair project. **Alex DeBelle-Mitton** examined the effect on

WYOMISSING JR./SR.
HIGH SCHOOL

seed germination when two different types of seeds are planted side by side.

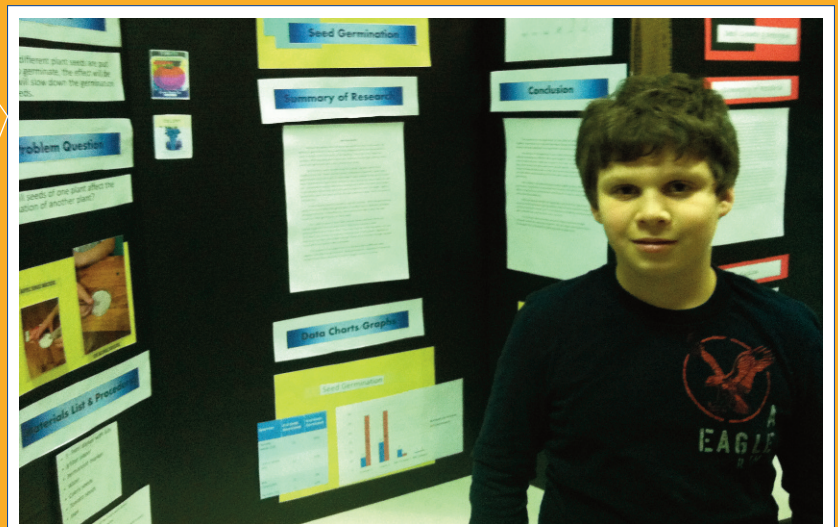
The 7th grade science fair exhibited the work of approximately 160 students on January 16, in the Jr./Sr. High School cafeteria. Students began their investigations in early November. Project topics included subjects that were being covered in the first semester Life Science curriculum: microbiology, plant growth and development, molds and yeast, and human brain function/psychology. Students used the steps of the scientific method to solve their problem-question. These steps included researching their topic and writing a research paper, forming a hypothesis, running an experiment to test their hypothesis, collecting and organizing data, analyzing and presenting their data, and forming a conclusion. The English Department assisted in teaching researching skills and the actual writing process for a research paper. The 7th grade science teachers **Brenda Phillips** and **Mary Kate Adelizzi** guided and facilitated the process culminating in the exhibition of the projects which served as the students' midterm grade for the first semester.

Emmanuelle Camille and her mother in front of the "Five Second Rule" project Emmanuelle created for the fair.



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Alex DeBelle-Mitton stands in front of his seed germination project at the 7th grade Science Fair.



Let's Show Some RESPECT!



The Wyomissing Area PTA has been hard at work planning opportunities for our students to learn more about how their behavior, personal choices and respect for each other and the environment can lead them on the road to success.

“What’s the Golden Rule?” A crowd full of hands went up as students at both WHEC and WREC eagerly awaited to be called on with the answer. This past January, WHEC and WREC both hosted J.P. Mascaro’s assembly, the Respect Program.

Focusing on respect for oneself and others, property and the environment, the program challenged students to think through questions ‘Family Feud’ style. What are the top five ways of earning/showing respect? What are the top seven things or people that you should respect? Discussions regarding self-control and how to practice it, appropriate behavior versus inappropriate behavior, and effective problem-solving and decision-making skills were emphasized in a carefree-environment where the kids were learning while having fun.

Another key component the students learned was the importance of caring for the environment and being green. They realized how important it is to take care of our planet because it is the only one we have! What are the top

four ways of showing respect for the environment? What are the four most common recycled materials? Students tried their hand at slapping the buzzer first to get the top answers. Probably the most eye-opening was the Trash vs. Recycling Relay. Students learned how imperative it is to recycle at home and at school so that we keep our planet healthy for generations to follow. As Earth’s keepers, they have the power to make sure a plastic water bottle goes into the recycling container, not the landfill – where it will NEVER decompose! Their mouths dropped open, their eyes went buggy – never!?

We hope that our students left that assembly keeping the ending message in their hearts and everyday-life decisions: Respect Everything So Planet Earth Can Thrive!

Students in grades 2-5 are eligible to submit a poster for the contest “What does Respect mean to you?” where they can try to win a laptop computer. For more information, please visit the website: www.therespectprogram.com.





congratulations!

to the following students
for their achievements...



Cosmetology II:
Diana Cruz



Welding Technology:
Nick Galiyano



Culinary Arts:
JaQuan Gordon

BCTC: Students of the Quarter

Each quarter, BCTC instructors select a student from their program whose attitude, skills, and knowledge gained during that particular quarter exceeded the standard. The student shows initiative and integrity in performing their tasks and is, overall, the best student for that quarter.

Wyomissing Area students recognized for this honor for the first quarter were **JaQuan Gordon** in Culinary Arts and **Nick Galiyano** in Welding Technology. **Diana Cruz** in Cosmetology II received recognition for the second quarter. The students received a certificate of recognition and were honored as a group at a breakfast reception for the morning students, and the afternoon students were honored at a luncheon reception. The students were also photographed and their portrait is displayed prominently throughout the BCTC campus they attend.

continued from front cover

WREC Student to Send Experiment into Space **continued**

pressure area, like the ocean, it shrinks. Max's project was based on the question: "Would a magnet still hold its force after being exposed in space?" Their experiments will fly on the top rack of the JP Aerospace April 2013 PongSat launch. The ping pong ball "satellites" are flown to the edge of space by balloon or launched in sounding rockets. They are then returned to the student. The Pong Sat project is a do-it-yourself space mission that allows anyone to be a scientist.

Spelling Bee

On February 4, 2013 the 33rd Annual Wyomissing Area - Reading Eagle Company Spelling Bee was held. The top six spellers in grades 6, 7 and 8 competed on the Jr./Sr. High School stage in front of their peers, family and staff. Eighth grader **Nate Menon** was the overall champion and seventh grader **Joe Cullen**

finished second.

Both spellers from the competition will advance to the Berks County Championship Spelling Bee on Monday, March 11, at 7:00 p.m. in the Miller Center for the Arts at Reading Area Community College.



First Place Winner:
Nate Menon



Second Place Winner:
Joe Cullen

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

2012-13

NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Emma Bittner | Austin Kuhn |
| Samuel Blanchet | Kevin Kusmierz |
| Christina Bowers | Amit Lift |
| Ian Brackbill | Scott McAvoy |
| Danielle Carabello | Lily Moran |
| Justin Causa | Rachel Ohnsman |
| Morgan Dougherty | Caroline Pattillo |
| Christopher Eaton | Robert Pattillo |
| Caroline Edelman | Alexander Radaoui |
| Alexander Fisher | Samantha Ross |
| Emma Fogel | Daniel Sweitzer |
| Erica Gleason | Elizabeth Tonneslan |
| Greta Koch | Katherine Weidner |
| Stephanie Kotula | Najiba Zaidova |
| M. Brock Kovach | |

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Matthew Benusa | Jason Kusmierz |
| Julia Kate Brackbill | Travis Melcher |
| McKenna Brower | Nathaniel Menon |
| Michelle Chau | Mariah Pease |
| Brian Cibulsky | Danielle Simons |
| Thomas DiCarlo | Henry Smychynsky |
| Jack DiCintio | Sonia Spadafora |
| Faith Ellington | Joliet Stallone |
| Shelby Hinsey | Erin Stephen |
| Jesse Kaufmann | Shelby Theisen |
| Talia Kowalski | Emily Waxler |

A REMINDER TO RESIDENTS

YOUR LOCAL EARNED INCOME TAX RETURN FOR 2012 MUST BE FILED BY APRIL 15, 2013.

Anyone, who has earned income, regardless of age, for the year 2012, must file a tax return if they lived in the Wyomissing Area School District. Even if your employer has withheld and paid your tax, this return must be completed. This obligation is incurred by anyone who is a wage earner, farmer, unincorporated business (including partnership and individual proprietorship) and ALL OTHERS who received earned income or profits for services rendered.

Failure to file on time will result in a penalty and interest charge of 12% per annum and additional costs of collection. Regulations also provide for a \$500 fine for refusal to file.

Residents of the Wyomissing Area School District are required to file a tax return, **EVEN IF THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED A FORM THROUGH THE MAIL.** Forms may be obtained by contacting the: Berks Earned Income Tax Collection Bureau, 920 Van Reed Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610; Phone: 610-372-8439; Toll Free Phone: 1-855-372-8439; Fax: 610-372-1102.

Website: www.berkseit.com



Website Translation Available (Sitio web de traducciones)

Google Translate has been added to the District website. Translation of the entire website is available in Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Polish, Russian and Vietnamese. By selecting a preferred language from the drop-down menu at the bottom of the home page and clicking on “Go,” the entire website will convert to the chosen language. Residents are encouraged to share this information with neighbors who they know would benefit from this service.

Kindergarten Registration

The Wyomissing Area School District will conduct its 2013-14 kindergarten orientation on **Wednesday, April 3, Thursday, April 4, and Friday, April 5**, at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center. Orientation sessions will be conducted from 9:00–10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., and 1:30–2:30 p.m. A parent and eligible kindergarten child must attend one session. **Children who reside in the district and will be five years old on or before September 1, 2013, are eligible for kindergarten.**

In addition to attending an orientation session, parents must register their child with the District Office prior to the start of school. Please contact **Linda Bentz** at lbentz@woyarea.org or at 610-374-0739, extension 1115, between April 8 and May 24 to schedule an appointment. Registration materials will be available online at <http://www.wyoarea.org/registration> on March 12, 2013, and **MUST** be completed prior to scheduling an appointment.

Jr. High Drama Presentation

Oklahoma
Friday, March 1, and
Saturday, March 2; 7:00 p.m.

Sr. High Drama Presentation

Once Upon a Mattress
Friday, April 26, and
Saturday, April 27; 7:30 p.m.

Jr. High Concert

Tuesday, May 7; 7:30 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High School
Auditorium

WREC Spring Concert

Thursday, May 9; 7:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High School
Auditorium

Sr. High Concert

Tuesday, May 14; 7:30 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High School
Auditorium

Annual Art Show

Tuesday, May 14 –
Thursday, May 16
5–8 p.m.

Jr./Sr. High School
“Old Gym”

Grade 4 Concert

Thursday, May 16
6:30 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High School
Auditorium

Grade 3 Concert

Tuesday, May 21; 6:30 p.m.
Jr./Sr. High School
Auditorium

2013

spring

ART, MUSIC &
THEATER





mark your calendar

March 11-15
PSSA Testing – Writing;
Grades 5 & 8

March 18-22
PSSA Testing –
Writing Make-ups

March 25
School in Session -
Snow Make-up Day

March 26
Spring Break or Snow
Make-up Day #4

March 27
Spring Break or Snow
Make-up Day #5

March 28-29
Spring Break
(School Closed)

April 1
School in Session –
Weather Make-up Day

April 3-5
Kindergarten
Registration

April 8-19
PSSA Testing –
Math and Reading;
Grades 3-8

April 22-26
PSSA Testing –
Science; Grades 4 & 8

April 29 – May 3
PSSA Testing –
Math, Reading and
Science Make ups

May 13-24
Spring Keystone Exams;
Grade 11

May 17
School Closed –
Staff In-service

May 27
Memorial Day
(School Closed)

June 6
Baccalaureate at
Reformation
Congregation
Oheb Sholom;
7:30 p.m.

June 7
Commencement;
6:30 p.m.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LESA I. BUTERA
PRESIDENT

ANGEL L. HELM
VICE PRESIDENT

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TREASURER

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KAREN R. MCAVOY

SCOTT C. PAINTER, ESQ.

ANNE P. SELTZER

JULIA R. VICENTE (EX OFFICIO)

Our Mission:

The Wyomissing Area School District, in partnership with parents and community, is committed to:

- educate all students to their fullest potential
- provide all students with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills to be successful in the 21st century
- encourage all students to be productive, responsible citizens and lifelong learners.