



Weston High School

Trojan News

September/October 2020

One of our goals for the 2020-21 school year is to create and sustain a more inclusive school climate that values and supports all students and does not tolerate discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or other perceived differences. The Weston Education Foundation has partnered with us on this important work by funding the purchase of texts that represent culturally diverse voices. Through this contribution and that of the Board of Education budget all students will refine and strengthen their critical reading skills through text analysis of multicultural titles.

Another component of this school wide goal is to form a social justice advocacy group comprising students and teachers. Every student was invited to apply with over forty student volunteers to date as well as seven teachers. English Teachers Ms. Opidee and Ms. Holmes are co-facilitators of this group. Teachers include Physics Teacher Mr. Walker, Spanish Teacher Ms. Mattera-Arcamone, Social Studies Teachers Ms. Swezey and Ms. Klein, and School Counselor Ms. Sullivan. The entire staff will work with consultant Dr. David Nurenberg author of *What does Injustice Have to Do with Me?* in the area of identities, implicit bias, and culturally responsive teaching.

We encourage you to read our 2020-2021 WHS Action Plan, which is posted on our website and can found via the following link: [click here](#). Our Events List is also on the [WHS website](#), and you may subscribe to our calendar. All cohort days and periods are listed for quick reference.

On September 30, teachers posted course videos on their Canvas platforms for our first virtual Back to School. In addition, the administration hosted the first monthly virtual Q&A for parents that evening. The next Q&A will be held on November 4 at 9:00 a.m. The Zoom link is posted on the Event List on the [WHS website](#).

SCHOOL COUNSELING

COVID-19 and power outages couldn't stop our school counseling department from holding the second annual Camp College summer application workshop in August. Under the organization of College and Career Counselor Ms. Green, our counselors and admissions representatives from Bowdoin College, the University of California at Irvine, Eckerd College, Michigan State University, and Villanova University worked virtually with 105 rising seniors on their college application process.

On Tuesday, September 15, our school counselors held a virtual Senior Parent Coffee to review important information related to the college application process. One hundred parents were in attendance, and the link to the recorded session was posted on Naviance.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Writing Center is open for virtual conferencing with more than 48 conferences and four virtual class visits in the month of September. Teachers worked with students on an array of tasks including college essays, scholarship applications, contest entries, and class assignments. Appointments can be made via the following link: [click here](#).

The Math Lab is open and offers both in-person and virtual appointments. The purpose of the Math Lab is to provide a resource room where students may meet with a teacher to work on any content with which they are struggling. Appointments can be made via the following link: [click here](#).

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS



On Friday, October 9, students took part in the first ever "Virtual Club Fair." In order to make this new event a success, student club leaders came together to develop webpages for each of their organizations, which can all be accessed on the new Student Activities page. During their advisory, students had the opportunity to browse through over 55 club offerings and sign up for those in which they were interested. From performance groups, to student-run publications, to academic teams, and service groups, students had an array of clubs from which to choose.

ATHLETICS



Words we never thought would represent high school athletics are being used multiple times each day - cohorts, masks, distance. In August, local and state athletic and health leaders discussed, planned and strategized on whether or not Connecticut could have a fall season. We are very proud to have been part of that collective conversation and plan to bring sports back to

WHS. The daily mission of our athletic program is to give our athletes the best opportunity to play. Our coaches diligently record daily health templates and enforce social distancing and mask requirements. In the last week of September and after weeks of training in cohorts, scrimmages began for our athletes after weeks of training in cohorts. There are over 325 fall athletes participating in football, volleyball, soccer, cross country, swim and dive, and cheer programs.

RECOGNITION



Our WHS Awards Ceremony is an annual tradition typically held in the spring. With last year's school closure due to COVID-19, this awards ceremony was postponed. On Tuesday, September 29, and Tuesday, October 5, award recipients who were underclassmen during the 2019-2020 school year were

honored at two outdoor celebrations. Awards included college book awards, Weston departmental awards, and awards from various community groups within Weston. The two ceremonies honored the achievements of 34 exceptional students across disciplines. Congratulations to all of the award winners.

Congratulations to our 2021 National Merit® Scholarship Program Semi-Finalists: Ronan Duffy, Byron Hart and Colleen Moore. The semifinalists are part of approximately 16,000 high-school seniors that will go on to compete for the scholarships that will be offered in the spring. We are pleased to announce that Jillian Belluck has been recognized as one of the ten Teens to Watch in Fairfield County by Westport, Weston & Wilton Magazine.