

The Week At WHMS
(parent edition)
 Week of April 25, 2022



Thought for the week: APRIL IS POETRY MONTH

"I'm Nobody! Who are you?
 Are you – Nobody – too?
 Then there's a pair of us!
 Don't tell! they'd advertise – you know!

How dreary – to be – Somebody!
 How public – like a Frog –
 To tell one's name – the livelong June –
 To an admiring Bog!

– Emily Dickinson

Weekly Calendar:

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Sat/Sun</u>
4/25	4/26	4/27	4/28	4/29	4/30-5/1
Day 2	Day 1	Day 2	Day 1	Day 2	
9:30a – Cerrone field trip	7:55a-9:55a – NYS math exam (modified 9- period bell schedule)	7:55a-9:55a – NYS math exam (modified 9- period bell schedule) 1:15p – PST meeting Club Meets: Comic Book & Graphic Novel; Dignity & Tolerance	Club Meets: Science & Robotics; Student Council 6:30p – Family Literacy Night at HS auditorium	Q3 Report Cards Viewable on PowerSchool 1:15p – PST meeting	

Instructional tips: (from *Kellogg Insight*) – corporate research that can apply to schools & classrooms

Better Decisions Through Diversity by Bunkhuon Chhun (excerpts)

Expanding diversity in the workplace is often seen as a good way to inject fresh ideas into an otherwise stagnant environment, and incorporating new perspectives can help members tackle problems from a number of different angles. But few have looked into exactly why or how this is so.

New research finds that socially different group members do more than simply introduce new viewpoints or approaches. In the study, diverse groups outperformed more homogeneous groups not

because of an influx of new ideas, but because diversity triggered more careful information processing that is absent in homogeneous groups.

The mere presence of diversity in a group creates awkwardness, and the need to diffuse this tension leads to better group problem solving, says Katherine Phillips...[and] that while homogenous groups feel more confident in their performance and group interactions, it is the diverse groups that are more successful in completing their tasks.

Diversity in the Workplace Can Produce New Ideas

Though people often feel more comfortable with others like themselves, homogeneity can hamper the exchange of different ideas and stifle the intellectual workout that stems from disagreements... In diverse settings, people tend to view conversations as a potential source of conflict that can breed negative emotions, and it is these emotions that can blind people to diversity's upsides: new ideas can emerge, individuals can learn from one another, and they may discover the solution to a problem in the process.

In their study, the researchers focus on whether the newcomer to the group agreed or disagreed with established group members, or "oldtimers" as Phillips refers to them.

After completing an unrelated task, the oldtimers were brought together and were given twenty minutes to come to a consensus on the most likely murder suspect. Five minutes into the discussion, a newcomer joined the group. Their task remained the same, but now they had to take the newcomer's views into consideration. After the discussions were finished, each member rated their confidence in the group's decision on the murder suspect, their feelings on how effective the group discussion went, how each person felt they fit into the group, and who they believed really committed the murder.

The Out-group Advantage

But the biggest discovery was the sheer advantage an out-group newcomer gave a group—and this advantage was even more pronounced when the newcomer did not bring in a new idea. Diverse groups with out-group newcomers guessed the correct murder suspect with far greater frequency, while in-group newcomers hindered the groups' accuracy (Figure 1). And though out-group newcomers increased group accuracy and performance, these groups reported much lower confidence in their decisions.

Homogeneous groups, on the other hand, were more confident in their decisions, even though they were more often wrong in their conclusions. In non-diverse groups, Phillips says, "often times the disagreements are just squelched so people don't really talk about the issue. They come out of these groups really confident that everybody agreed when in fact not everybody agreed. There were new ideas and different opinions that never got discussed in the group."

"When a newcomer comes in, it interrupts the group. It changes the flow of the process and makes people stop and pay attention to the person," Phillips says. Whether they stop and pay attention to the newcomer is up to the group. But if they do, the pain will probably be worth the gain.

For full article see

https://insight.kellogg.northwestern.edu/article/better_decisions_through_diversity

Items of importance:

- With spring upon us, starting Monday, 4/25, we will resume outdoor line-up in the mornings. Students will need to remain outside until 7:40 unless they are getting breakfast or attending extra help. Thank you for understanding.
- Please see the letter mailed home on 3/30 regarding important footwear and cell phone reminders. The letter can also be found on our APP or website at: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9a4ves>
- We have noticed that some students are taking their Chromebooks home at the end of the day. Chromebooks may not be removed from the building. Please check with your child and ensure that they return any Chromebook or charging cable they may have brought home. Thanks!
- **Have you downloaded the West Hempstead App yet?** It is available in the App Store and Google Play, just search "West Hempstead." This will let you keep track of everything happening in our school and access documents such as this "Week @ WHMS" newsletter.
- *Let me know when you have exciting learning taking place that I can tweet out and be sure to tag @WH_MSRAMS if you tweet yourself*

Items of interest:

- Our club calendar is available on the website at: <https://www.whufsd.com/o/whms/browse/221769>. Students should listen to AM announcements for the most up-to-date information about meeting dates and locations.
- The **extra help schedule** can be found at: https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/1553808/Extra-Help_Schedule_MS_21-22.pdf. Students should take advantage of teachers' availability to do their best work.
- The Homework Center is open after school on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. See details below:

Homework Center Information: 21-22

Homework Center is open 2:45-3:45 on the following days

<u>Day</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Monday	Ms. Elezi	257	Support available for any subject, or just a quiet place to work after school.
Wednesday	Ms. Geiger	17	
Thursday	Ms. Rogan	16	

"COVID Corner" Information:

- NYS has removed the “mask mandate” from public schools and the decision to wear a mask is a personal/family choice. We will ensure that regardless of your family decision, students are treated with dignity and civility.
- ESPECIALLY in light of the reduced mask use, I cannot say how vital it is that **if your child, or anyone in your home, feels sick, your child MUST REMAIN HOME FROM SCHOOL.** Call the nurse or Mr. Murray for advice on when it is okay to return to school.
- **Please send your child to school with a refillable water bottle.** Our water fountains are “COVID-safe” and only the water bottle filler function is available.

Looking ahead:

Monday, May 2: *Day 1*

- Interdisciplinary teaming committee, 3:00pm

Tuesday, May 3: *Day 2*

- Faculty meeting, 3:00pm
- Board of Education Meeting, 7:30pm @ HS VCR

Wednesday, May 4: *Day 1*

- PST meeting, 1:15pm
- SEPTA meeting, 7:30pm @ Cornwell

Thursday, May 5: *Day 2*

- Happy Cinco de Mayo

Friday, May 6: *Day 1*

- RTI meeting, 8:45am