

Our Path to First Choice No.2
2019/20

Everyone,

This is the first Path Note for this school year. The Path Note will usually be sent out each Wednesday, but sometimes it may be a day or two late. The note will have a topic about our direction as a district, some of the initiatives we are doing as a district, school or department, or just for us as people.

Our Path Topic

Last week the Path Topic outlined our strategic plan. One strategic objective in our plan is for our students to realize his/her First Choice of career or post-secondary school plans.

The high school is working toward that objective by establishing career clusters. The US Department of Education has recognized as many as 16 career clusters with a little less than 80 career pathways. Career clusters provide students with a map for studying traditional academics and learning the skills specific to a career, and provide schools with a system for organizing or restructuring curriculum offerings and focusing class design such as interest. A career pathway is a way to provide a transition from school to the workforce. Finally, a career ladder provides a worker or student with a way to progress or as a promotion to a higher position of rank, pay and/or responsibility. WASHS is trying to develop all of these opportunities for students.

The high school First Choice Team has developed six career clusters. Natural Resources Agriculture, Business-Management-Technology, Health Services, Arts & Communication, Human Services, and Industrial-Engineering-Technology. There are several to many occupations that fall under each of those clusters. The high school will be developing a structure that will align courses, programs and internships with those clusters and pathways. Although the career and academic areas are only two of the three areas of First Choice, these are critical to a student's success.

Board Information and Policy Updates

- Next School Board Meetings
 - September 9th is the next Policy Committee Meeting.
 - September 10, 2019 is the next regular board meeting.

You may check out District policies by going to this site:

<https://www.boarddocs.com/pa/wayn/Board.nsf/Public>

A Challenge for You

What is the South Central Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board?

Teacher Advisory for 2019/20

Over the last two years, we have held a Teacher Advisory. A representative from each building was part of a team that meets with the superintendent to discuss issues and concerns regarding the education of our students. It is not a meeting to discuss personnel or collective bargaining issues since there are other venues for those concerns. It is strictly about how to improve student learning and achievement.

If you are interested in being on the advisory, please let me know. The group meets once per month from about 3:45 pm to around 5 pm. Each year, a newly selected group of representatives serves on the Advisory. A number of outcomes have occurred from these advisories. Most recently, the Inspire classrooms and the “Relationship Day” at the high school are just two examples. The group has had influence on policies, safety concerns, and curriculum. The notes from the meetings are shared with administration and various board meetings as committees.

If you are interested in serving on the Teacher Advisory this year, **please let me know by emailing me.** It has been a truly superb opportunity for feedback and input.

WellSpan Get Fit Classes offered.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgxwDqnhdlxrmBjHGCGZLSPIRNjNs>

Piece of the Puzzle

This year the Piece of the Puzzle will change slightly. Although we know, we have departments and groups that certainly meet the criteria of going above and beyond, this year the Piece of the Puzzle must be one individual. After the individual is announced in that week’s Path Note, a gold puzzle piece pin will be sent to that individual. Please wear your pin proudly, because we are proud of you.

This week’s Piece of the Puzzle is Mrs. Kelly Price of Mowrey Elementary School for being the first person to respond to a car that crashed into the high school last weekend. She notified Mr. Pappas immediately, so the situation could be dealt with appropriately. Thankfully, no one was hurt, and the ball is in motion to repair the façade damage to the building.

*Challenge Answer (Important to Know)

The South Central Pennsylvania Workforce Investment Board was a product of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. The purpose was to increase employment, retention, skills and earnings of workers. The South Central PA Workforce Investment Board provides up to date workforce data of jobs in need, salaries of those positions and how many are available.

Final Thoughts

- *A successful economic development strategy must focus on improving the skills of the area’s workforce.*—Rod Blgojevich.
- *Clearly, apprenticeships are a win-win: They provide workers with sturdy rungs on that ladder of opportunity and employers with the skilled workers they need to grow their businesses. And yet in America, they’ve traditionally been an undervalued and underutilized tool in our nation’s workforce development arsenal.*—Thomas Perez.
- *Research indicates that workers have three prime needs: Interesting work, recognition for doing a good job, and being let in on things that are going on in the company.*—Zig Ziglar.
- *We can help struggling families meet their basic needs like hunger or shelter while also widening access to workforce development and job skills vital to creating sustainable, lasting careers.*—DeeDee Smallwood, President for Bank of America.

Enjoy the rest of your week!

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