

Our Path to First Choice No.6
2019/20

Everyone,

Here's Our Path note. Thank you for all you do for our students!

Our Path Topic

Many things are going on in WASD this year to help make the vision of *First Choice* a reality. Whether elementary, middle, high school or support services, things are moving to create *First Choice*.

Under the leadership of Mr. Pappas, Mr. Wetherald, Mrs. Kopco and the staff, WASHS has begun its path to First Choice. Although a number of these initiatives and programs began prior to this year, the structure is becoming clearer. Below are some of the programs and initiatives the high school has established for First Choice for the 2019/20 School Year.

The high school has created Six Domains of First Choice.

1. Personalized Course Selection
 - a. Updating and Redesigning Course Selection Guide
 - b. Career Clusters (6 Clusters)
2. Internships, Work Experiences, and Certifications
 - a. WASHS Career Expo
 - b. 73 WASHS students involved during the 1st semester of the 19/20 school year.
 - c. In Progress: CDA (Childcare), AOPA (Aviation), and JROTC (Military).
3. Early to College and College in the High School
 - a. Harrisburg University (College in the High School) (20/21 school year)
 - b. HCC/Essence Program (College in the High School)
 - c. PSU Mont Alto (Early to College)
 - d. Shippensburg University (Early to College)
 - e. HCC (Early to College)
 - f. College Advisor
 - i. College Visits
 - ii. Recruiters at WASHS
 - iii. Decision Day
 - iv. FAFSA Night
 - v. Financial Aide Night
4. Flexible Cyber
 - a. WASHS courses are offered online and in-house
5. Early Graduation
 - a. Students have the opportunity to graduate at the end of their junior year, at the end of the summer before their senior year, or in the middle of their senior year.
 - b. As of September 2019, we have ten WASHS students planning to graduate early (Commencement 2020).
6. Career Exploration

- a. College and Career Readiness Course (Business); Students must take this course in either 9th or 10th grade.
 - b. Utilization of Smart Futures
 - c. Local Business Advisory Meetings
 - d. Local professionals speaking in classrooms.
- 7. First Choice Friday Videos
 - a. Interviews with WASHS student-interns and with their supervisors
 - b. Videos are posted on WASHS Facebook Page and we are working to get them onto the WASHS website.
- 8. First Choice Relationship Day
 - a. September 17, 2019 (Another date TBD)
 - b. Relationship Team: Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Herb, Mr. Null, Mr. Schreiber, Mr. Preisler, and Mr. Crider.
 - c. WASHS students do team/relationship building activities throughout the day with their peers and their teachers.

Kudos to Mr. Pappas, his administrative team and his staff for their work on implementing a *First Choice* approach. This work will have great benefit to students over time.

Next week, we will look at what the middle school is doing to implement *First Choice*.

Board Information and Policy Updates

- Next School Board Meetings
 - o October 8th is the next Regular School Board Meeting

You may check out District policies by going to this site: <https://www.boarddocs.com/pa/wayn/Board.nsf/Public>

WellSpan Clinic Update

WellSpan is moving into the Early Learning Center (formerly D Wing of WASHS) today and tomorrow. They plan to be up and running by early October.

A Challenge for You

What is the most critical time span to establish a child's learning potential and growth?

Piece of the Puzzle

Senior class counselor, Amanda Raudabaugh, is our Piece of the Puzzle this week. Amanda constantly takes work home for letters of recommendation and other necessary paperwork that comes with being the senior class counselor. She is here long after her normal work hours on a consistent basis and truly takes time out of her day at any point to talk with any of her students that need help. Her students love her. Let's congratulate Amanda for being this week's Piece of the Puzzle!

*Challenge Answer (Important to Know)

The first 1,000 days of life from about conception and one's second birthday is the period of opportunity when the foundations of optimum health, growth, and neurodevelopment across the lifespan are established according to research. 1,000,000 plus new brain connections formed per second in the first years of a child's life. By age 3, a baby's brain has reached 80% of its adult size. The quality of experiences during the first 1,000 days of life establishes either a strong or a fragile foundation for everything that follows. Healthier and more successful children mean reduced government spending on health care, criminal justice, and welfare. Academic success and higher graduation rates create a direct pipeline of talent to the workforce, increasing employee productivity and wellbeing.

Final Thoughts

- *A new baby is like the beginning of all things-wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities.*—Eda J. LeShan.
- *The littlest feet make the biggest footprints in our hearts.*—Best-baby-gifts.com.
- *Baby—a little bit of heaven sent down to earth*—sayingimages.com
- *The first thousand days of a baby's life are likely to determine the rest of her life-whether she grows up to be healthy or not, both physically and emotionally.*—Madeleine M. Kunin.

Enjoy the rest of your week!

Tod