

Our Path to First Choice No.7
2019/20

Everyone,

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

Our Path Topic

As stated last week, 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 Aaron Taylor, Eric DeAngelis, and Jamie Zimmerman and staff, below are some of the focus for supporting our First Choice vision.

Career Pillar

1. Sixth Grade—First Choice Related Arts Course
 - a. Focusing on initiating and creating Individual Student Pathway in Smart Futures, Introducing/research of Career Clusters, beginning to assess interests in Smart Futures (Myers Briggs or Harrington O'Shea types of assessments), begin to assess abilities using Smart Futures, and beginning to assess learning styles/modalities using Smart Futures.
2. Seventh Grade—First Choice Related Arts Course
 - a. Focusing on career values, job applications, resumes, and conflict resolution in the workplace.
 - b. Adventures in Careers Trip—focus-allowing students to select two career cluster choices, visit locations of career choices and interact with people within these fields (career cluster and trips).
3. Eighth Grade—First Choice Related Arts Course
 - a. Wrapping 9th grade course selection process into First Choice Course utilizing each student's career or learning pathway in Smart Futures.
 - b. Adventures in Learning Trip—Focus on allowing students to discover the career cluster pathway of their choice. Trips to Shippensburg University, Career Tech, and additional options.
 - c. Analyze Move Up Day as another opportunity for course selection and introduction to pathways or clusters.

Whole Child Pillar

1. Tier I Level
 - a. First Choice First Friday Lesson—teaching nine whole child lessons (one per month) to student body. Topics based upon young adolescent development as well as middle school data. Topics—Positive Routines-conflict resolution, organization, hygiene, sleep, exercise, healthy eating. Essential Question-How do I establish positive routines in my life?
 - b. Braves Bucks—Awarding WAMS cash to students for positive behavior-each student starts the school year with five Braves Bucks. Students paying Braves Bucks for lower level classroom items as forgetting locker key, not charging one's Chromebook. Economy set up for students to utilize Braves Bucks throughout for the school year-lunches from local restaurants, movies during lunch, purchase dance and movie night tickets.

- c. Targeted Behaviors or Areas within the building—specific behaviors or areas will be targeted based upon student discipline data. Students will receive targeted behavior bucks for special events/drawings.
- 2. Tier 2 Level
 - a. Instructional Support Teacher process (IST), community mentor program, Laurel Life Therapy, Check & Connect (based upon attendance, 15 total missed days or 3 unexcused/illegal days, student attendance improvement plans (SAIPS), and WIN (What I Need) sessions with school counselors, social workers, SAP, and Healthy Communities Partnerships. Topics—conflict resolution, incarcerated parents, and anxiety.
- 3. Tier 3 Level
 - a. INSPIRE classroom, FBA/PSP Plans. Teaming/Middle School Concept.

Academic Pillar

- 1. Development of student preferred learning modality (style)
 - a. Each learner in the building will develop his or her preferred learning modality through Smart Futures. Staff will offer multiple learning/assessment options for students to choose for each lesson. Focus on real life/problem solving examples embedded within curriculum.
- 2. Development of Accelerated and Remediation Courses
 - a. Accelerated Math Courses—Pre-Algebra in 6th grade, Algebra in 7th grade with high school credit, Geometry in 8th grade (HS credit), and Algebra II in 8th grade (HS credit at WASHS).
 - b. 8th grade World Language (HS credit)—Spanish, French, and German.
 - c. 8th grade Accelerated ELA (HS credit)
 - d. Remedial Courses—Conceptual Math 6, Conceptual Math 7, and Conceptual Math 8.
 - e. Elective WIN Courses for Social Studies and Science.
 - f. STEM Devices allowing for students to demonstrate mastery of content through alternative projects. Makebot 3D Printers and Push Button Recording Studio.
 - g. Mastery Learning/Assessment/Standards-Based Grading

Finally, WAMS has developed SMART Goals and other measurements to provide evidence of success or falling short of goals. You have seen what the high school has developed with the end in mind, and now with the middle school as the step prior to the high school. Next week, we will look at what the elementary schools are doing to build the Path to *First Choice*.

Board Information and Policy Updates

- Next School Board Meetings.
 - o October 8th is the next Regular School Board Meeting
 - o October 7th is the next Policy Committee Meeting
 - o October 21st is the next Facilities Committee Meeting

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

The 2019/20 Teacher Advisory

This year's Teacher Advisory meetings with the superintendent will start on October 22nd. Listed below are the members of the team. Each building has a representative. One

person this year is a repeat (occurs due to not having a new rep volunteer). The advisory is not a personnel or employment type of group, but a time to share concerns, issues and positive feedback on what is impacting learning for the children of this district. The group has had a voice and influenced many initiatives and changes. Not everything happens that members ask for, but many things do. A big thank you to this year's volunteers!

WASHS—Brian Fisher

WAMS—Yvonne Yoder

HV—Cara Curry

FV—Melissa Mitchell

SV—Lauren Grove

MW—Sharon McIlquham

A Challenge for You

What are the *First Choice* Friday videos?

<https://www.facebook.com/233029810177554/videos/vb.233029810177554/490572041502554/?type=2&theater>

Piece of the Puzzle

This week's Piece of the Puzzle is Lisa Stepler in the Student Services Office. Lisa was nominated for her undying willingness to go above and beyond her job duties. She comes in early, and stays beyond her required hours. She tries to get the answers for people for really tough or impossible questions, and does it with a positive attitude. As special education's requirements become more and more demanding, Lisa becomes more and more understanding and patient in working with families and staff. Her professionalism and commitment to WASD is relentless. With those attributes, she is our Piece of the Puzzle for this week. If you see Lisa, congratulate her on being this week's Piece of the Puzzle.

*Challenge Answer (Important to Know)

The high school's own Steve Pappas produces weekly videos about his students' internship experiences, and the impact on the involved. Check out the First Choice Friday videos.

Final Thoughts

- *Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.*—Dr. Suess.
- *You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, you can achieve.*—Mary Kay Ash.
- *Do not go where the path may lead; go where there is no path and leave a trail.*—Ralph Waldo Emerson.
- *We are all a box of crayons. Each of us unique but when we get together the picture is complete.*—Shane DeRolf.
- *I'm not telling you it's going to be easy. I'm telling you it's going to be worth it.*—Art Williams.

Enjoy the rest of your week!

Tod