



The Tattler

WHITING HIGH SCHOOL

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Rolling with the Changes: The 2019-2020 School Year



Aracely Serna
Reporter

Welcome back to the 2019-2020 school year, Oilers! This year not only is WHS welcoming all of its students back to the Oiler community, but it is



Above, Jack Lowry, James Fernandez and Nick Mendez are ready to begin senior year.

also welcoming new staff, including our new principal, Mr. Jonathan Chance.

“I am excited to come back because I started my career here at Whiting, and I am excited to work with the staff members who I used to work with and help students meet their goals,” said Mr. Chance.

In addition to Mr. Chance, WHS also welcomes Ms. Tiera Simpson who is teaching business classes, and Ms. Lizette Munoz who is teaching math.

Besides changes in staff, one of the major changes is the switch from semesters to trimesters.

“Our switch to trimesters will allow students to earn an additional credit, making it a total of 15 credits for the year,



Above, New WHS Principal Mr. Jonathan Chance meets with the freshmen on the first day of school.

made changes. New staff includes Mrs. Kelly Greer as Athletic Director and Ms. Amanda Blackwell as Assistant Athletic Director. Mrs. Greer briefly outlined some of the changes.

“There are some changes, but mostly behind the scenes kind of stuff. Although, a visible change is the new football jerseys! We now also offer girls golf. There are currently seven girls on the team. The hope is that over time students gain more interest,” Mrs. Greer said.

As the students and staff head into the fifth week of the school year, they seemed to have adjusted to the changes well. Let’s make it a great year, Oilers!

as well as more opportunity to take different classes,” said Ms. Selene Giron, WHS counselor.

New classes added this year include AP Computer Science Principles, AP Macroecon and Digital Design.

The WHS Athletic Department has also

Welcome Back to WHS, Mr. Chance!



Elena Cheek
Reporter

Welcome back to Mr. Jonathan Chance! Though for many Mr. Chance may be a new face, for those staff members who have been at Whiting High School for eight years or more, the face is familiar,



Above, Mr. Chance has returned as WHS principal.

but his position has changed. Once a WHS teacher, Mr. Chance has now returned as principal. This being his first year in this position, Mr. Chance has set the expectations high and knows for a fact that the community of students at Whiting are eager to do the same.

Mr. Chance has al-

ready made an impression by greeting the students in the morning when walking in to school and making himself visible in the halls during passing periods, at lunch and after school.

Mr. Chance began his teaching career at WHS in 2012, worked at Gavitt

(See Welcome, p.2)

Meet the new teachers: Ms. Munoz and Ms. Simpson



Maya Franciski
Reporter

As we begin this school year, there are many new additions, and not just students, but two new teachers as well. Being new is never easy, but it can be enduring when you are surrounded by people who are helpful and supportive. Two new teachers who joined the WHS staff this year are Ms. Lizette Munoz, the Integrated 2/Math PSAT teacher, and Ms. Tiera Simpson, the DAR/Personal Finance teacher.



Ms. Munoz

Ms. Munoz graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington with a degree in Secondary Education in Mathematics with an ENL license addition. Ms. Munoz teaches Integrated 2A, Math PSAT, and is also the freshman class co-sponsor. This is her first year teaching and her goals for this school year are for her students to learn math, be able to think of math differently and to make math more enjoyable for kids. Her thoughts on Whiting thus far are that is enjoyable; the other staff members are helpful and friendly, and the students are great. Lastly, Ms. Munoz wants to make sure that her first year is a good year and hopes that all goes well.

Ms. Simpson graduated from IPFW (Indiana Purdue University of Fort Wayne), with an MBA degree (Master of Business Administration). Ms. Simpson teaches Digital Responsibility and Personal Finance. She currently does not



Ms. Simpson

sponsor an extracurricular, but would like to in her future years. This is her third year teaching and has previously taught at Merrillville High School. Her goals for this school year are to lead by example and to have successful students. Her thoughts on Whiting thus far are that it has a welcoming atmosphere. She is very excited for what's to come with school year.

Welcome to WHS, Ms. Munoz and Ms. Simpson!

(From Welcome, p.1)

and most recently worked as assistant principal at Griffith High School prior to returning to Whiting.

"I have worked in education for seven years as a business/technology teacher, team leader, coach and as an assistant principal. I earned my bachelor's degree from Calumet College of St. Joseph in Business Management and completed their Transition to Teach program shortly after. Most recently I earned my master's degree from Ball State in Educational Leadership. I grew up in Northwest Indiana, so believe me when I say that I have a great deal of pride work-

ing for a school that I am familiar with from my time growing up," said Mr. Chance.

Though some attribute the change from semesters to trimesters to Mr. Chance, trimesters were going to be implemented prior to his arrival.

"The trimesters were actually decided before I got here to Whiting. They do, however, help offer and provide more opportunities for students," Mr. Chance said.

Mr. Chance is very pleased to be back and looks forward to his new role as principal. His main goals for this year are

to create a team atmosphere and work together with all the staff and students at the high school so that students reach their goals for the school year while rising to expectations.

"It was very exciting to come back; I knew about nine staff members from when I began teaching. I also know the school and community that Whiting is," Mr. Chance said. "I enjoy it; we as a school just have to get into and continue the habit for high expectations," Mr. Chance continued.

Best wishes to Mr. Chance as he begins this new chapter of his career!

What are your goals for the school year?



Leslie Lara
Reporter



“My goals for this year are to make the honor roll and keep a 3.0 GPA or higher.” **Isabel Ornelas**, junior



“My goals for this year are to have a 4.0 GPA and to focus on my mental health.” **Jasmin Lavine**, sophomore



“My goal is to keep my grades up and throughout the year start looking at colleges so I can plan for the future.” **Christian Quiroz**, junior



“The most important thing for me this year is to enjoy myself, but I also want to work hard in Science Olympiad and basketball.” **Lucas Zelkin**, senior



“My goal is to pass my AP exams this year.” **Olivia Olson**, senior

Making the move from semesters to trimesters



Renee Patton
Reporter

This year Whiting High School has gone through some major changes, one of which included moving from semesters to trimesters. Trimesters had been talked about all last year, and in May the decision was finalized to make the move for this school year. Trimesters have many benefits that the administration took into consideration when it made this change to Whiting High School’s schedule. Mr. Chance, new principal of Whiting High School, spoke on some of the benefits of trimesters.

“Trimesters provide quite a few benefits including more credits for students, and they can take more classes in what they are interested in. This system is still new and in working progress, but we expect it to work

out smoothly for the rest of the year,” said Mr. Chance.

WHS Counselor Ms. Giron concurs.

“With this being the first year on trimesters, I expect this to be a learning year for us. Throughout my time here, we have never been on trimesters, so it is certainly an adjustment for everyone,” said Ms. Giron. “My hope is to take what we have learned and make improvements as needed for the years to come. On top that, our switch to trimesters will allow students to earn an additional credit making it a total of 15 credits for the year, as well as more opportunity to take different classes,” Ms. Giron added.

Many countries, states, and local schools are currently on trimesters or have experimented with a trimester schedule. In a trimester schedule, the

school year is divided into three groups, instead of the usual two, with each group being about 12-13 weeks long. Usually these groups are split up over the seasons with one in the fall, winter and spring. However, most schools still offer a summer program that still makes it closer related to the semester program we used to have.

Instead of four nine-week grading periods per year, WHS will have six six-week grading periods.

Like anything new, shifting to trimesters will take some adjustments, but the key is to remain hopeful and positive.

“Although change in the beginning may be difficult, our students have done great at adapting to change, and I know this will be no different,” said Ms. Giron.

Meet the seniors: Josemiguel Haro & Jenna Mercer



Leslie Lara
Reporter



Josemiguel Haro

What's your nickname?

I don't really have one, but some people call me Jose or JM.

Who is your favorite music artist?

Daniel Caesar, Frank Ocean and Justice Der.

What's your dream college?

My dream college is Purdue West Lafayette. I hope on getting into the Honors College as well as the School of Engineering.

What is your favorite food?

The Duane Pervis Burger from Triple XXX in West Lafayette. Peanut butter on a burger is just.. **chef's kiss**

What is your favorite TV show?

Trailer Park Boys is quite possibly the funniest show ever created.

What is your most embarrassing moment?

During my sophomore

year, I accidentally got a medium-sized hole in my pants when I got up really fast for the morning pledge. I wore a transparent clown mask the rest of the day.

What is your biggest pet peeve?

People who complain about every single little inconvenience and expect others to fix their problems.

Describe yourself in three words.

Genuine, ambitious, versatile

What's your worst habit?

I tend to fall asleep at inconvenient times.

What are you most excited about for senior year?

Saturday morning meets with the cross country team, late nights with the band, long Saturday competitions for Science Olympiad, and baseball games. Oh yeah, and graduation.

Favorite song at the moment?

Cyanide or Love Again by Daniel Caesar are two songs always on repeat.

What's your biggest fear?

Large, open bodies of water.

What do you do to relax/destress?

Candle-lit showers, for sure. People think it's weird, but it's so peaceful to just relax and listen to calm music as there's hot wa-

ter running.

Favorite hobby?

I really enjoy hanging out with my friends to do literally anything, running (sometimes), and vibing out to some good music.

What do you advise to the underclassmen?

Get involved and talk to people, especially staff. The connections you make might not seem much in the moment, but they'll mean a lot in the long run and may even work out a situation in your favor. Also, take your college exams early! Don't wait until the last minute.



Jenna Mercer

What's your nickname?

Jennifer

Who is your favorite music artist?

Calboy or Lil Durk

What's your dream college?

I would like to go to Ball State.

Favorite food?

Chicken with hot sauce

Favorite TV show?

Power

Most embarrassing moment?

When I fell on my butt during a basketball game without anyone touching me.

Biggest pet peeve?

When people chew with their mouths open

Describe yourself in three words.

Funny, athletic and caring

What's your worst habit?

Using bad language

What are you most excited about for senior year?

I am most excited for basketball season, dances, spirit weeks, and our senior trip.

Favorite song at the moment?

RN4L by Lil Durk

What's your biggest fear?

Losing my parents.

What do you do to relax/destress?

I listen to music or take a nap.

Favorite hobby?

Basketball

What do you advise to the underclassmen?

Work now so senior year will be easier and get involved with things in school.



NEWS BRIEFS

The National Honor Society and sponsor Mrs. Marina Klochan in conjunction with the American Red Cross hosted its annual **Blood Drive** on Tuesday, August 27, in the Middle School Gymnasium. Students, staff and community members donated enough units to nearly fulfill their goal. Thanks to those who donated and gave the gift of life! And thanks to Mrs. Lovasko who helped facilitate the drive.



Seniors Dulce Zacarias (left) and Ariana Jeronimo (right) give the gift of life during the Blood Drive sponsored by NHS and the American Red Cross.



Congratulations to New Booster Club Officers

President Anaiz Hernandez, Vice President Lea Zorich, Secretary Mia Urbietta and Treasurer Maya Urbietta. Welcome, Ms. Blackwell as new booster club sponsor!

HOME COMING PREVIEW 2019

WEEK OF 9-30 through 10-5 THEME: Music

EVENTS:

Monday-Friday: Dress-up Days

Monday: Hallway Decorating (after school)

Wednesday: Float Decorating (City Barn)

Thursday: Parade & Community Pep Assembly

Friday: School Pep Assembly & Game

Saturday: Dance Memorial Gym 7 p.m.

THE TATTLER STAFF

Elena Cheek

Leslie Lara

Aracely Serna

Maya Franciski

Renee Patton

Leylani Zamora

Parker Jennings

Destinee Salazar

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Lady Oilers volleyball team sets goals for season



Destinee Salazar
Reporter

The Lady Oilers are diving into their 2019 season with confidence! Coach Stephanie Almaguer is coaching her second year of varsity. "I feel confident about this season. We only lost three seniors last year, so we have a lot of returning players that have already played varsity," said Coach Almaguer.

This year's varsity consists of six seniors: Abby Edwards, Abby Toth, Ashley Shrader, Jessica Ramirez, Maya Urbieto, Olivia Olsen; two jun-

iors: Lea Zorich and Makenzy Crocker; one sophomore: Dyllin Banik; and two freshmen: Camila Cabrales and Julia Olson.

At this time, the Lady Oilers' current record is 7-7. They showed many signs of improvement, beating Griffith in a quick three matches.

"I am confident that my girls are going to keep improving. We beat Griffith in three games this year and last year we lost to Griffith in three games. They have definitely come a long way from last year, and I think our season is only going to get better," said Coach Almaguer.

Team leaders include Crocker,

most kills; Toth, total blocks; Olson, serving aces; Zorich, digs and receptions; and Shrader, assists.

"Yes, we have practiced long and hard throughout the summer. We did conditioning to prepare ourselves for the season. Right now we have a strong team, and I know moving forward with more hard work and dedication we can have an amazing team. I so badly want to beat Bishop Noll and take a sectional championship," said Crocker.

Come out and support your Lady Oilers as they take on Morgan Township at home on Wednesday, September 18, at 6:30 p.m. Go Oilers!

Cross country team: Young team with a bright future



Parker Jennings
Reporter

A new school year brings another new season for the WHS cross country team! Coach Allison Buell has returned for her eighth consecutive year of coaching at Whiting, with the help of assistant coach, Pat Ramirez. After losing only four seniors from last year, both the boys and girls teams are ready for the season ahead.

The boys team consists of seniors: Adam Servin, Josemiguel Haro, Parker Jennings, Sergio Hernandez and Christian Valdez; juniors: Kevin Torres, Salvador Ayala, Rigoberto Gomez, Adrian Santana, Thomas Virden and Israel Alcalá; sophomores: Emiliano Macias, Andrija Bes, Jorge Navarrete, Gabriel Torres and Eron Herrejon; and freshman: Jayden Orange.

The girls team consists of senior: Theresa Ruiz; juniors: Evelyn Olmedo, Adrianna Alvarez, Monzerrat Gomez, Renee Patton, Stephanie Gonzalez, Isabel Ornelas and Eliana Huizar; sophomore: Jasmine Garcia; and freshmen: Victoria Huizar, Annie Semancik, Mailee Quiroz, Daneli Alvarez, Angelina Lancaster, Yolanda Esparza, Esmeralda Garcia, Josie Vega, Angelica Rodriguez and Vanessa Gonzalez.

"I'm excited about how young we are. We have a lot of underclassmen, and we are building for the future," said Coach Buell. "I feel confident that our core of seniors will continue



Above, The cross country team has a mix of dedicated new and experienced runners.

teaching the younger runners how to train and race," Coach Buell added.

Last year the girls added another regional title under their belt, now having qualified for the past five years.

"This season is different than previous seasons because it being my junior year, I only have two more seasons to improve as much as I can. Now it's time to give 110% and make the most out of these last years; it makes me more motivated than ever before!" said Monzerrat Gomez, captain of the girls team.

Last year Hernandez and Servin qualified for regionals, but they are wanting for something much more this season.

"I have high expectations for our team this year. We have really solid runners for the boys this year who are willing to make the difference. I'm proud to be working on the same team as them," said Servin.

This year the team saw many new faces, most of which consisted of

freshmen; they've had no problem getting used to the family environment.

"I'm most excited to become friends with everyone on the team and working harder with them to improve at running!" said Mailee Quiroz.

The season is looking bright thus far, the team competed in their first meet at Wheeler High School on Saturday, August 24 and the results were nothing less of successful! Jasmine Garcia placed eleventh and Adriana Alvarez placed fifteenth, with both girls earning a medal.

"After winning the medal with Adriana I felt super accomplished and proud of both of us for starting the season off strong!" said Garcia.

The team is definitely in good shape this season. Best of luck to Coach Buell and all of the runners! Go Oilers!



Above, Jasmine Garcia and Adrianna Alvarez proudly display their ribbons after the Wheeler Invitational.

First-ever WHS girls golf team hits the fairway

Ms. Hylek

Guest Reporter

This summer, before school even began, the first-ever Lady Oilers golf team was in full swing. Led by boys golf coach Mr. Marty Furiak, the team members include senior Rachel Davis; and freshmen: Sasha Adams, Viviana Arceo, Nayelli Campos, Yarelli Campos, Ayleen Campuzano, Miranda Davis and Emily Strezo.

Though the team had a 1-6 record at the time of this writing, the team has been gaining experience and personal success as the season has progressed. R. Davis has improved her 9-hole average by 10 strokes, and on September 5, the team competed in the GSSC Conference Golf Tournament. The team had a great time playing all their first 18 holes, but it was a long day of walking, teeing off, chipping and putting. Overall the team placed fifth out of the nine teams competing. R. Davis came up one stroke more than fifth place title holder; she tied for sixth place.



Above, Members of the golf team include Miranda Davis, Emily Strezo, Rachel Davis, and Sasha Adams.

Photo Courtesy Karla Davis

“My goal is to get the team acclimated to team competition and learn the etiquette and the values that go with the game of golf,” said Coach Furiak.

And the girls are responding well and are honored to be part of Whiting sports history.

“For me, being on the golf team has been the best part of high school. I started golfing when I could walk and had taken so many lessons with the First Tee. When I

was little, my dream was to be on the golf team that they always talked about and that finally came true,” said R. Davis. “Being on the team is amazing; we have a tight, close family with all the girls on the team. If you are an underclassmen and want to join next year, I would; it is never too late to try something new,” Davis continued.

“When I was little, I was in the First Tee program at Lost Marsh. It was my goal to be on the high school golf team, and I hope that I can achieve more in golf,” said Strezo. “I’m honored to be on the first girls golf team, and I’ve learned a lot so far,” Strezo added.

And the team’s dedication is paying off in the eyes of their coach.

“I am proud of the team’s hard work and persistence,” said Coach Furiak.

Good luck to the Lady Oilers as they head in to the homestretch of their first season!

Congratulations, Regional Baseball Champs!



Photo Courtesy Coach Adam Musielak

Oilers have high hopes under new head coach Jennings



Leylani Zamora
Reporter

As many know, Mr. Jeff Cain was the head football coach for quite some time here at Whiting High School, 24 seasons to be exact! Now, Coach Brett Jennings has transitioned from assistant to the head football coach position.

“The transition has been relatively smooth,” said Coach Jennings. “There are a lot of non-football related tasks that take up more time, but I’m adjusting,” he added.

The players are also adjusting to having a new coach, and the seniors on varsity have the most respect, but also have the most change and work to put in this season.

The seniors on this year’s varsity roster include Steven Connelly, Ernesto DelReal, Isaiah Almarez, Nathaniel Terrazas, Emiliano Rodriguez, Diego Malagon, Ruben

Silvas, Jacob Kempke, Nicholas Mendez and Erick Sacramento.

“Coach Jennings is a guy who has Whiting in his heart and wants the best from us (players) to not only make us great, but responsible and respectful young men,” said Terrazas.

In addition to the change in head coach, the team as a whole is also adjusting to the loss of 16 seniors from last year.

“Anytime you lose 16 seniors it’s a huge adjustment. We have a lot of guys who don’t have a ton of experience and were trying to work out some of those hiccups,” Coach Jennings said.

Regardless of the small hiccups, the team and coaches all have a common goal this season: to win sectionals. They all know that hard work must be put in to win a sectional championship. This is going to be the key for success for the Oilers this season.

“I expect to compete for a sec-

tional championship. We aren’t quite there yet, but we are working hard to get there.” said Coach Jennings.

“I hope to win the rest of our games and to go far into the season and win another sectional title,” Rodriguez added.

The team’s record is currently 2 -2. They beat Clark 27-20 to win the Battle of 119th Street and won against Gavit, 26-8. They suffered losses against Evansville and Calumet New Tech. With their season now in full swing, the team hopes to continue to gain experience and improve as they move toward the postseason and fulfilling their goals.

Come out and support your Whiting Oilers this Friday at River Forest. This season is going to be quite the journey; be there for it. Good luck to the coaches and team!



Above, The seniors lead the team on to the field to kick-off the season.



Above, Coach Jennings talks to his team after the win against rival Clark—Jennings’ first win as head coach of the Oilers.

Battle of 119th Street Champs!



Above, The Oilers proudly display the Battle of 119th Street trophy after defeating Clark.