



# WILLIAMSPORT

## AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWSLETTER | FALL 2023



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CHERRY + WHITE APPRECIATION NIGHT | OUTSTANDING VISUAL ARTS COMMUNITY | HOMECOMING





## WASD Education Foundation Holds 1st ‘Cherry & White Appreciation Night’: A Night of Celebration, Inspiration

Held at Lycoming College’s Trachte Music Center on Sept. 21, the evening, dedicated to WASD educators, was marked by the induction of this year’s WAHS Distinguished Alumni and a presentation by keynote speaker Michael Bonner.

“On behalf of the education foundation board of directors, I want to express our appreciation to the educators in this room and for recognizing us as a vehicle by which to help enhance the educational experience,” said WASDEF Executive Director Greg Hayes.

Hayes reported the education foundation provided \$172,000 in grant support to district programs and scholarships in the 2022-2023 school year, benefiting an estimated 4,100 students. Additionally, it received nearly \$215,000 in contributions from more than 400 donors.

Over the past five years, Hayes added, WASDEF has granted nearly \$1.2 million to programs and scholarships, while also securing about \$1.7 million in donations.

“These numbers embody more than just the data displayed on the screen behind me,” Hayes said. “They symbolize the driving force that brought to life programs, expanded access or created opportunities, and they represent



ECK



HODGE



REEVES



SIEMINSKI

your colleagues’ vision for an enhanced learning experience and passion for the work you do. Your dedication shapes the lives of thousands of graduates who go on to achieve remarkable success, like the individuals we’re about to honor.”

WASDEF President Dr. Brooke Beiter presented this year’s Distinguished Alumni: **Alan Eck '87, Ruth Perry Hodge '54, Jerah Reeves '16, and Mary Sieminski '61.**

Eck received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. Excelling in the field of accounting before retiring as the senior tax manager for a prominent \$5 billion construction company, he has made a name for himself as an NFL football officiator,

earning significant recognition in the sports world.

Throughout her career, Hodge, who received the Distinguished Alumni Humanitarian Award, dedicated herself to public service, working at the US Army War College and the US Army Military History Institute. She also played a crucial role in preserving and celebrating the contributions of African Americans during World War II.

Reeves received the Distinguished Young Alumnus Award for his significant impact in the field of leadership development, particularly in higher education, by pioneering the Transformational Leaders Program and founding Level Up Gen-Z, an information and technology company focused on empowering young people.

Sieminski received the Distinguished Alumni Service Award for being a passionate advocate for women’s rights and for playing

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**Williamsport Area School District Education Foundation**

2780 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

**Phone:** (570) 327-5500, ext. 40602

**Visit us on the web at [www.wasdeducationfoundation.org](http://www.wasdeducationfoundation.org)**

The WASD Education Foundation, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, is the official gift-receiving entity for WASD.



NEWSLETTER • FALL 2023

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- Mr. Patrick Dixon
- Mrs. Jennifer Lake
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- Mr. Scott Williams

**BOARD MEETINGS**

December 5

*The 2024 school board meeting schedule will be approved during the Dec. 5 meeting and posted on the district website.*

*All meetings begin at 6 p.m. in the board room at the District Service Center unless otherwise advertised.*

The Williamsport Area School District newsletter is published twice a year for alumni, families, friends and community. Portions of the newsletter may be reprinted without permission as long as it is credited.

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wasd.org

**ON THE COVER**

Cochran Primary School student **Zhyimir Jones** is shown working last spring in Mrs. Beiter's kindergarten classroom.



COURTESY OF THE WILLIAMSPORT SUN-GAZETTE

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Community,

It's hard to believe we're already a few months into another school year. The beginning of this academic year has been a busy and exciting time for all of us.

In this fall edition of our newsletter, you will find a wealth of information showcasing the remarkable events and achievements taking place at WASD in just a short span of time. We're thrilled to share the incredible progress we've made so far this year and anticipate the exciting developments that lie ahead.

On the administrative front, we've been moving forward with our construction projects, with a particular focus on the renovation of Lycoming Valley Intermediate School. While we're still in the early stages of this transformation, we're excited on its progression and ultimate scheduled completion at the end of 2024.

Additionally, our budget planning season is upon us. We'll soon be hard at work fine-tuning our 2024-2025 budget. We invite you

to stay informed about this process as we provide presentations and updates during our school board meetings throughout the course of the winter and spring.

As we look ahead to what promises to be another exceptionally successful school year, I encourage you to take the opportunity to join us at any of our upcoming events. In the meantime, please read through the following pages and join us in celebrating our many Millionaire accomplishments.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Your dedication is crucial in making WASD a place of excellence and pride.

Sincerely,



**Dr. Timothy S. Bowers**  
Superintendent



**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES** ▲ Young leaders at WAHS are selected each year to serve as school board student representatives. This year's student representatives, pictured here from left are seniors **Faye Moore**, **Cyn-sere Coney** and **Muireann Tran**. The three will provide regular updates to the school board at each meeting throughout the school year about what is happening "on the hill."



# around wasd



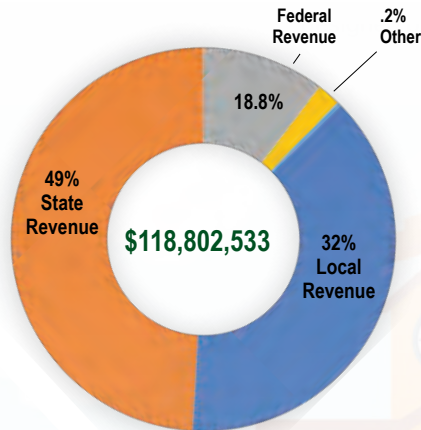
**KINDER CAMP** was held ahead of the new school year to get incoming Millionaires a jumpstart on what to expect when they begin school. From learning routines to fun activities, campers were able to familiarize themselves with their building to make the transition into school that much easier.

**SOCKTOBERFEST** — While the rain kept it indoors, Curtin Intermediate held its annual #socktoberfest on Sept. 29. Each year, the event marks the start of the school's month-long sock drive for local agencies that provide resources to families in Williamsport and the surrounding areas.

**WELCOME BACK** — The high school's Class of 1973 returned to campus ahead of this year's Homecoming game to kick off their 50th class reunion celebration. They walked down memory lane, touring the building to take a look at what's changed and what remains the same, all while remembering those unforgettable high school days.



## BY THE NUMBERS > 2023-2024 BUDGET



The 2023-2024 operating budget was approved with a **0% tax increase**.

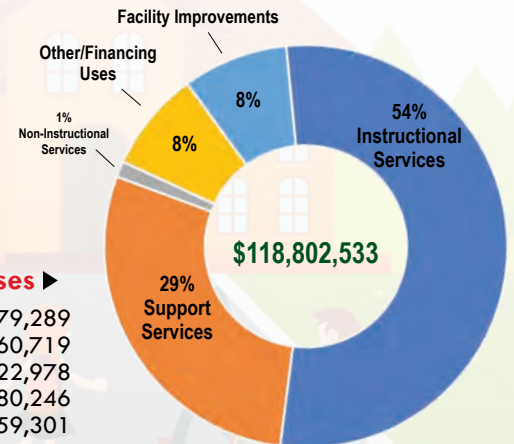
### ◀ FY24 Estimated Revenue

Local Revenue	\$38,162,112
State Revenue	58,162,751
Federal Revenue	22,177,670
Other Revenue	300,000

With an estimated enrollment of 4,750, the cost per student for FY24 is \$25,011.

### FY24 Estimated Expenses ▶

Instructional	\$63,679,289
Support Services	33,960,719
Non-Instructional	1,522,978
Other/Financing	9,580,246
Facility Improvements	10,059,301



## WASD BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR ELECTED AS VP OF ASBO INTERNATIONAL BOARD

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) recently announced that Williamsport Area School District Business Administrator Wanda Erb was elected as its Vice President for 2024 and slated to become President in 2025.

She was sworn in at the 2023 Annual Meeting and Expo of ASBO International in National Harbor, Md., on Oct. 20. Her term as Vice President officially begins on Jan. 1, 2024, and as President Jan. 1, 2025.

"I am excited and inspired by the journey ahead," Erb said, "and I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues around the world to provide our members with the tools necessary to adapt and respond to an ever-changing education



**ERB**

environment to ensure that every student has an opportunity to receive a quality education."

ASBO International, a global network comprising school business professionals from across the United States and around the world, is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of school business management, fostering professional growth, and promoting the effective utilization of educational resources.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)





COURTESY OF ALBRIGHT STUDIO



COURTESY OF ALBRIGHT STUDIO

# 2023 MILLIONAIRE HOMECOMING



**CATCHING THE SPIRIT** Homecoming was celebrated during the last week of September, ending with the traditional capstone pep rally! The event did its job to charge the Millionaire spirit ahead of this year's Homecoming game against Central Mountain — a win for the Millionaires with a score of 47-13.

The game also featured the crowning of this year's Homecoming King and Queen, **Waylon Dauber** and **Elizabeth Stoica** (pictured at left). Other senior contenders (pictured at top) vying for this year's title were: **Tre Brown, Nevaeh Cary, Niquise Coleman, Cyn-sere Coney, Angelina Erby, Emlyn Kinley, Quentin Mazzante, Natalia Mills, Nataliya Mills, and Thomas Takach.**







**FALL FUN** — Our elementary buildings typically welcome fall with festivals and other annual traditions. Right on schedule, Cochran Primary students worked hard at the beginning of October to put together their scarecrows for their annual display along the front of the building.



**THANKS TO WAHS ALUMNUS Rachel Fatherly '12** for stopping by Lycoming Valley Intermediate School in mid-September! The shot-put standout is training for the Olympics and brought with her a message on discipline, motivation and goal-setting to students at the school.



**THE U.S. ARMY'S STEM MOBILE EXHIBIT** visited WAHS in October. Classes got to experience the high-tech trailer filled with exciting virtual reality adventures and eye-opening impaired/distracted driving simulations. The visit was also an interactive look into the cutting-edge technology the Army uses, and a sneak peek at the career possibilities within the military branch.



## WAHS SENIOR WINS PRESTIGIOUS RENSSELAER MEDAL AWARD

Already named a Commended Student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program, WAHS senior **Sam Radulski** was selected to receive the Rensselaer Medal Award, a scholarship opportunity worth \$160,000.

If he opts to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), based in Troy, NY, next fall, Radulski will be guaranteed to receive the merit scholarship at a value of \$40,000 per year for four years.

The Rensselaer Medal Award, first presented in 1916, holds two purposes: to recognize the superlative academic achievement of young men and women, and to motivate students toward careers in science, engineering and technology, according to the institute.

"I'm honored to receive this award," Radulski said. "I'd like to thank all of my teachers, particularly those in the math and science departments — and especially my parents — for helping me get this far."

The son of Steve and Stephanie Radulski, he was also recently named a

Commended Student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Speaking on behalf of the math and science departments, who nominated Radulski for the award, WAHS science teacher Andrew Paulhamus said, "Sam represents the very best of what it means to be a Williamsport Millionaire. He has excelled as an athlete, artist, musician and scholar during his time at WAHS. The math and science departments are incredibly proud of Sam and felt his efforts and achievements in these areas were worthy of recognition."

While he has yet to commit to where he'll attend next fall, RPI is among his top four choices. Wherever he chooses, he aspires to pursue a degree in engineering or engineering technology.



**'HOPE SQUAD' PRESENTS** ▲ Members of the middle and high school's newly organized Hope Squad presented to the Kiwanis Club in October. Hope Squad is a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program. Members are nominated by their classmates and trained by advisors. The program reduces youth suicide via education, training and peer intervention.

# For the 4th Time, PAEA Names WASD a ‘2023 Outstanding Visual Arts Community’

WASD has been recognized as a 2023 Outstanding Visual Arts Community from the Pennsylvania Art Education Association (PAEA) for its commitment to visual arts education.

This is the fourth time the district has received the designation since 2019.

Districts that receive the endorsement demonstrate the importance of their visual arts programs by meeting the following criteria:

- Rigorous and inclusive programs: Arts programs demonstrate rigor using standards-based curriculum taught at every level by highly qualified and certified arts educators.
- Highly accessible programs: Art programs are offered to all students at every level of education with a sustainable budget for the visual arts.
- Highly visible programs: Schools and districts identify their programmatic accomplishments, curriculum for all levels, art staff, mission statements, and arts events using their school websites and social media.

“Being recognized, once again, as an Outstanding Visual Arts Community is a testament to the love and dedication that our team of artist educators pours into their work each day,” said Dr. Andrea McDonough, the district’s K-12 art department coordinator. “From the abundance of smiles that fill the primary

art classrooms to the determined focus of our college-bound senior artists in the high school studio spaces, it’s clear that we have something special here at WASD.”

Schools providing these opportunities equip students with visual literacy, according to PAEA. Visual literacy constitutes the new thinking and learning skills of a digital age and a creative economy. These are the types of cognitive skills young people will need to find their place in a globally competitive workforce.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector is a \$699 billion industry, which represents 4.3 percent of the nation’s gross domestic product. Technology innovations such as big data, data analytics, and visualization will simply increase the importance of visual and spatial learning skills.

“We’re incredibly proud of our teachers and this accomplishment,” said Kristin Takach, secondary curriculum and K-12 unified arts supervisor. “Our students benefit from the art curriculum as well as the endeavor of being creative across all academic areas. We’re grateful and fortunate to have such a talented group of dedicated art educators.”



## HIGH INDUSTRIES MAKES \$10,000 EITC CONTRIBUTION TO WAHS WELDING PROGRAM

High Industries Inc. recently made a \$10,000 contribution in support of WAHS’s welding program.

The donation was made through the state’s Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program via the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (FCFP).

“We are very grateful for our relationship with High Industries and for their generous contribution to our programming,” said Matt Fisher, director of the high school’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program. “These funds will provide our students with enhanced resources and invaluable hands-on experiences to help prepare them for thriving careers in the welding industry.”

Welding is one of the 15 workforce development courses made available to WAHS students through the high school’s CTE program.

Created by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, the EITC program allows companies to reinvest dollars directly back to local communities. It provides tax credits to eligible companies that do business in the state when they contribute to scholarship organizations, educational improvement organizations and/or pre-kindergarten scholarship organizations. Businesses that donate through the program may receive a tax credit equal to 75 percent of its contribution or 90 percent for a two-year commitment.

EITC funds for WASD are held at and administered by FCFP.

Last school year, FCFP received more than \$50,000 in EITC contributions designated for WASD in a combination of funds received from C&N, First National Bank, High Industries Inc., M&T Bank, UPMC Health Plan and Woodlands Bank.





# sport shorts



**OUR WAHS CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS** had successful seasons. Boys were 17-2 on the year and girls were 15-4. The team advanced four runners to the PIAA state championship meet in Hershey. Senior **Pence Kieser**, junior **Owen Trump**, and freshmen **Isabelle Sanders** and **Madeline Sanders**.



**THE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM** finished the regular season with a 15-3 record, winning their final 12 matches in a row, to earn the No. 2 seed for the District II/IV Class 4A playoffs. The team defeated Hazleton 3-0 in the semifinal round and lost a close match in the championship, 3-2 against Delaware Valley.



**SENIOR FOOTBALL KICKER AND SOCCER PLAYER CONNER POOLE** kicked eight field goals during the season, including three from over 40 yards and one for a new school record of 50 yards in a 33-0 win over Tunkhannock on Oct. 27.



**CONSTRUCTION UPDATE** ▲ The renovation and construction projects at Lycoming Valley Intermediate School are well underway. The project, which started last spring, involves the renovation of classrooms, upgrading systems, and the construction of a new secure entry office vestibule. It also includes the construction of baseball and softball fields with artificial turf, dugouts and concession stand. The project is expected to be completed in December 2024.



## WASD BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR ELECTED AS VP OF ASBO INTERNATIONAL BOARD

**(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)**

Throughout her tenure as Vice President, she will continue in her role as Business Administrator at WASD.

Having been a dedicated member of the ASBO board since 1995, she boasts three decades of active participation in the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO), during which she has contributed to both organizations through various committees. Her commitment to service is further highlighted by her presidency of PASBO in 2015-2016.

She becomes the 10th ASBO President from Pennsylvania since the organization's inception over a century ago.

Erb joined the WASD administrative team in 2018, bringing with her a wealth of experience gained from 30 years in public education, including her previous role as the business manager of the Northern Tioga School District.

Beyond her contributions to public education, she serves as an adjunct

professor in the Wilkes University School Business Leadership Program, where she has shared her expertise for the past 14 years. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Mansfield University and a master's degree in School Business Leadership from Wilkes University.

WASD Superintendent Dr. Timothy S. Bowers expressed his support for Erb and acknowledged her contributions to the school district.

"Wanda's financial expertise and strategic guidance have been instrumental in leading our district to a very healthy state financially," Bowers said. "Through her leadership, we have been able to allocate resources efficiently, invest in our students' education, and provide a solid foundation for our district's continued growth and success. She has not only strengthened our financial position but also helped to enhance the educational opportunities for our students."



# WE'RE HIRING SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS



**Join our team!** The Williamsport Area School District is searching for **certified and non-certified substitute teachers**. For more information, email our Human Resources Department at [jobs@wasd.org](mailto:jobs@wasd.org).



**Apply today at  
[wasd.org/employment](http://wasd.org/employment)**

Certified substitute teachers at WASD will start at a daily rate of \$150, and non-certified substitute teachers will start at \$100 per day.

*\* This flyer relates to substitute teachers only. However, permanent and substitute aide and custodian positions are also available. Apply at: [www.wasd.org/employment](http://www.wasd.org/employment).*



**ATTENTION RETIRED TEACHERS:**  
The Williamsport Area School District is a PSERS Public School Employer with approval for substituting in the 2023-2024 school year.



Williamsport Area School District  
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570-327-5500 • [www.wasd.org](http://www.wasd.org)







**IT DOESN'T HAVE TO END HERE!** Want more? Our online presence continues to grow! Keep up-to-date with announcements, photos, news and events happening around the district on a daily basis by following us on social media. Join the conversation and become a part of the WASD online community that has grown to more than 13,100 people!

**'THIS JUST IN'** ▲ Last school year, WAHS's TV Productions program received nearly \$60,000 in grant funding between our district's education foundation and the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program. **Scan the QR code** above to see how that funding elevated the high school studio to provide students with state-of-art technology to give them a hands-on, real-world learning experience in broadcast journalism.



**IN THE FIELD** ▲ Several WAHS seniors from Liz Manetta's Engineering and Robotics class went to Pennsylvania College of Technology in September to participate in a seminar sponsored by PPL entitled "Careers in Energy Management." The students toured the PCT classrooms and enjoyed three different classes facilitated by PCT faculty and a representative from Paradise Solar Company.

**FROM THE VAULT ▼**



In the forward of the 1941 La Memoire, it states the theme of the edition was to focus on the achievements in sports and music, "because, in this time of national crisis, the courage and fighting of America's youth, and the ability of music to stimulate it, will have more than a subtle application to the future of the United States of America."

The 1941 La Memoire was the high school's 21st edition.

That year's graduating Class



Teacher, Miss Ethel Collier, wrote in her published letter of the class: "Since you have 'entered to learn,' now you 'go forth to serve,' it is my sincere wish that your service will redound to your own benefit and that of your community, and to your country."

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sign up using our  
online form.



# WASD Education Foundation Holds 1st 'Cherry & White Appreciation Night': A Night of Celebration, Inspiration

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

a pivotal role in preserving the history of local women through her work with the Lycoming County Women's History Project.

A dynamic keynote speaker and advocate for self-care and leadership development, Michael Bonner has made a significant impact on the field of education. His journey, featured on national platforms like "The Ellen Show" and "NBC Nightly News," showcases his ability to empower leaders and educators to build genuine relationships, foster positive organizational cultures, and enhance team development.

His message left educators in attendance inspired and feeling motivated to create positive changes in both their professional and personal lives.

"Such an incredible night," said Brooke

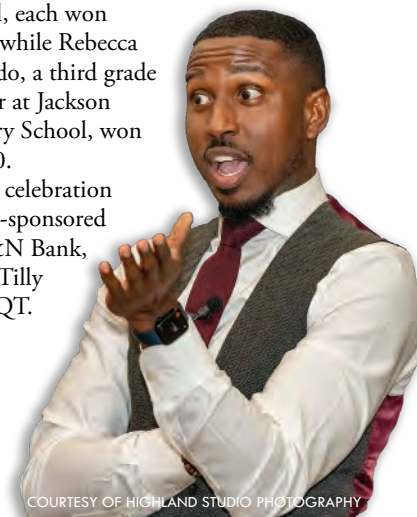
Nenadal, a gifted enrichment teacher at Cochran Primary and Curtin Intermediate schools. "The teachers who were there felt a renewed sense of purpose, energy and appreciation. I hope the foundation continues to do these types of things because word was spread and it was felt in the hearts of us who needed it the most tonight."

From Jennifer Wright, a music teacher at Williamsport Area Middle School: "Tonight's speakers, the Distinguished Alumni and Mr. Bonner, were a shot of adrenaline to continue on with passion, purpose, diligence and relationships."

WASDEF also gave away \$2,000 in classroom grants as prizes to the following winners: Kelsie Buckwalter, a special education teacher at Cochran Primary School, and Linda Snyder, a Title 1 reading

specialist at Jackson Primary School, each won \$500, while Rebecca Loffredo, a third grade teacher at Jackson Primary School, won \$1,000.

The celebration was co-sponsored by C&N Bank, Baker Tilly and EQT.



## HARLEM WIZARDS TO RETURN TO THE MAGIC DOME JAN. 17; TICKETS ON SALE BEGINNING NOV. 20

The Harlem Wizards are set to return to the Magic Dome at WAHS in a fundraiser benefit game for the WASD Education Foundation on Jan. 17, 2024.

The game, presented by Geisinger, will begin at 6:30 p.m., with doors set to open at 5:30.

From crazy slam-dunks to three-man alley-oops, the New Jersey-based organization promises a night of spontaneous humor and excitement in "basketball wizardry on the hardwood."

The education foundation is in the midst of coordinating all aspects of the event and is finalizing its "Millionaire Magicians" team, comprised of teachers, principals, staff and students from across the district who will go up against the Wizards.

"We're excited to bring back an event that's proven to be family-friendly for the community, and one that ultimately benefits our students through the foundation," said

WASDEF Executive Director Greg Hayes.

The event made its debut in 2014, and since then, it has raised over \$100,000 for the education foundation. After a five-year hiatus, the Wizards returned last school

year to help WASDEF raise over \$20,000.

**Tickets will be available online through the education foundation's website at [www.wasdeducationfoundation.org](http://www.wasdeducationfoundation.org) beginning at 8 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 20.**

Tickets are \$15 for students and \$20 for general admission. Children 3 and under are free.

"Each year, the event surpassed our expectations, and each year, it's been hugely successful," Hayes said, adding that the average audience attendance over the five-year span was about 1,700 people. "We make every attempt to bring back this event with as much impact as possible. We are very grateful for our sponsors who have stepped up to help make that happen, particularly to Geisinger, who has returned as our presenting sponsor this year."



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*"It's important to come to school, because I like math, reading tests and trick words — and I like to read books."*



**NA'SAAD MCCRAE**  
2ND GRADE  
JACKSON PRIMARY SCHOOL



**BE PRESENT**

**SHOWING UP TOGETHER**  
2023-2024 WASD ATTENDANCE CAMPAIGN