

Board Report
November 2024
September 26, 2024- October 30, 2024
Dr. Anne Clark Interim CSA

Student Attendance

August	September	October
85.73%	78.4%	74%

Staff Attendance

August	September	October
88.76%	87.82%	79.9% with 3 Openings

Discipline

August 26, 2024-November 4, 2024

	Office Referrals	Incidents Resulting in Suspension	Incidents Resulting in Expulsion	Total Days of Lost Instruction
8/26/24-9/25/24	18	2	1	18
9/26/24-11/4/24	19	9	0	26
Total to Date	37	11	1	44

Interim CSA: Dr. Anne Clark

**Board Report from Dr. Anne Clark, Interim CSA (Chief School Administrator)
Westinghouse Academy Performing Arts Charter School
October 2024**

Overview

As **Interim CSA** of Westinghouse Academy Performing Arts Charter School (WAA), I am pleased to provide an update on the key developments and initiatives driving operational excellence, academic growth, and a safe, inclusive environment at our school.

1. School Operations Audit and Foundation Assessment

In September, we began a comprehensive audit across operations, including safety protocols, academic programming, and administrative functions. This foundational review aims to streamline processes and pinpoint areas needing immediate enhancement, laying a strong foundation for our academic year goals.

2. Enrollment Strategy

Enrollment remains a focal point, with a target of adding 50 students by October 31, 2024, and another 50 by February 2025. Our 'Rise Up Our WAA School Family' competition has generated enthusiasm, with students competing to bring in new enrollees. The winning student will be awarded an iPad. Alongside this initiative, our Marketing and Admissions Coordinator, Christina Branch, is amplifying our efforts through targeted marketing strategies.

Additionally, we're preparing to showcase our unique programs with the documentary *The Science of Art & The Art of Science*, produced in partnership with NASA's "Growing Beyond Earth" project. Scheduled for an April premiere at the year-end symposium, this documentary is a promising avenue to attract interest and enrollment.

3. Academic Performance and Staffing

We are currently reviewing academic performance data to highlight key areas for improvement, particularly in core subjects. Our English teacher is covering additional classes following a recent staff departure, ensuring consistency in instruction while we work to fill this position. Leadership training sessions have commenced, aligning with our goals for professional development and operational success.

4. Safety and Security Enhancements

Safety is a top priority. As construction begins on the roof, we've implemented fencing around all work areas to secure the environment. In alignment with East Allegheny School District's safety system, we are adopting the *I Love You Guys* Standard Response Protocol. A training led by Chief Farrally and EMTs on October 11, 2024, will further bolster our emergency preparedness. Additionally, our insurance broker's safety team is scheduled for a site visit to advise on further security measures.

5. Facilities and Aesthetic Enhancements

We are actively working to enhance the visual appeal of our school, both inside and out. Currently, we are receiving quotes for painting the exterior of the building to improve its curb appeal. Inside, our efforts to enrich the environment include completing one mural, with two additional murals underway. These artistic updates contribute to a vibrant atmosphere that reflects our commitment to the arts and inspires our students daily.

-Bucci and Sons Plumbing is preparing a quote for the final repair and installation of new drinking fountains on the 2nd and 3rd floors.

6. Leadership and Governance

We've developed task lists for key roles, including the Business Office/HR Coordinator, Business Coordinator/School Operations, Food Service Manager/School Facilities Director, School Nurse, Special Education Director/Student Service Director, Dean of Students and Operations, and Assistant Principal. These outlines support accountability and enhance our operational structure.

7. Staff Communication and Development

We continue to support staff development by working on ACT 48 credits to keep our team compliant with professional development standards. Additionally, we have completed three emergency certifications for staff, ensuring we meet instructional needs while actively filling vacancies.

8. Community Engagement

To strengthen community ties and keep families informed, we are launching a dedicated Community Page on our website. This page will feature a regularly updated newsletter, a full calendar of events, and downloadable flyers for upcoming activities. This new resource will serve as a go-to platform for parents, students, and community members to stay engaged and up-to-date with the latest happenings at WAA.

8. Next Steps

Looking ahead, we'll continue to:

- Finalize safety protocols with local authorities and insurance.
- Strive to meet the October enrollment goal.
- Complete a review of academic data for goal-setting.
- Expand leadership training sessions.
- Prepare for the NASA documentary launch.

Business Office: Amber Hinkle, Adam Barbee, and Dr. Anne Clark

-Audit Information: We are supplying the audit team with information for the 22-23 SY audit. After this, we will tackle the 23/24 SY audit.

-We will be starting the 23/24 Child Nutrition Fund Reporting.

-We are working with Dr. Clark and Jill Regan on reducing debt. We are keeping current and trying to take any savings to chip away at the old debt.

-Revisiting current vendors to reduce costs.

-By the end of November, we will have new copiers and all teachers hooked up to the copiers. This will allow them to print to the printers on their floor. The Wilson Group will be the new vendor and they have committed Chromebooks and support, in order to help the students.

-We are speaking with the current snow removal service and the Borough to come up with a snow removal plan.

Current Quotes:

- **Tech to School** quote for Chromebooks and Peripherals needed for one-to-one learning.
- **Dave Davis Communications** quote for setting up Computer Labs in 302 and 306.
- **Overhead Doors of Pittsburgh** quoted to repair Office Doors and Vestibule Doors.
- **Bucci & Son Plumbing** quoted us to order drinking fountains for the 2nd and 3rd floor; repair piping and drain issues; installation of fountains; and disposal of damaged fountains.
- Presentation of the September 2024 Financials
- Ratification of payroll and the bills to be approved for September. [Financials Nov24 Mtg](#)

Academics: Dr. Lehew, Anna Very, and Dr. Anne Clark

Safety and Security: Dr. Lehew, Anna Very, Officer Frank Gardone, and Dr. Anne Clark

- We are currently working with three groups in order to upgrade security. As we apply for grants, we can work with each of them to add some additional precautions. The additions of cameras, upgrades to doors and lighting.

Special Education and Student Services

Special Education and Student Services has been working hard to support all of our students with IEPs and 504's in the classroom and in support areas. We are also working to ensure that all data is accurate in eSchools for all of the students in the building. Additionally, we have mailed home report cards on October 30th along with Keystone scores and attendance records for all students. In addition, we have set up Parent/Family/Teacher Conferences that are scheduled for November 7, 2024 from 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM. We have streamlined scheduling and offered resources to our parents and families as well to help them feel comfortable with these conferences.

Homecoming was a tremendous success for all! Thank you for all of your support for the event as well. We have a balance that will offer start up monies for next school year.

We are collecting for our Thanksgiving Food Drive, and we would love to have any of you the day we pack and distribute the bags. If you want to donate goods, we would appreciate that as well. Please let us know. Packing and distribution will be on Friday, November 22, 2024 first thing in the morning.

We continue to work with our PIMS Support from Charter Choices on reports and previous reports to be submitted. We are checking data as things are requested.

Westinghouse Academy Arts (WAA) Safety Report

Food Service: Kathy Parello

Provided Breakfast & Lunch Survey to students to get feedback on most requested meals to get meal counts up.

Time	August	September	October
Breakfast	804	1,539	1,626
Lunch	1,510	2,972	2,841

Food Service has added a la carte and secondary options this month. It has been successful in most cases, but it is dependent on the main lunch option. Each day we offer raw vegetables and fruit as well.

Health Office Report

Nurse: BethAnn Utz BSN, RN

Documented Office Visits

(bandaids, bathroom, feminine products, tissues don't get documented)

August	September	October
208	435	476

- 13 students taking Scheduled Daily Medications.
- 363 chronic health conditions among 157 students
- 69 students with life threatening chronic health conditions.
- Menstrual Hygiene Product Funding Grant to be received in October. WAA to receive \$602.00. (\$1.75/per student based on the 2023-24 enrollments as reported by the school entities as of October 2, 2023)

[School Nurse Fall Newsletter](#) sent to all parents and students



[Nurse Information Page](#): any and all information that may be needed throughout the school year.

Marketing and Enrollment:

Enrolled: 288

Advertisements:

Billboard Campaign Ended: Oct. 28

Referral Campaign Ended: Oct. 31

- 13 referred

Summer Digital Meta Ad Campaign Ended: May 20 - Oct. 16

- **All Ads garnered:**
 - 1.1 Million impressions
 - 284,395 Reach
- **Hubspot**
 - 59 contacts generated Aug - Sept
 - 21 contacts generated in Oct
- **Spotify - Aug. 28 - Oct. 16**
 - 162,660 Impressions
 - 90,176 Reach

October Admissions Visits and Events:

Provident Charter School Transition Fair - Oct. 10

Young Scholars of Greater Allegheny Charter School Visit - Oct. 17

Community Day School High School Info Session: Oct. 29

Upcoming Events:

College & Career Fair - February 18, 2025



WELCOME TO WESTINGHOUSE ARTS ACADEMY!

Young Scholars of Greater Allegheny

Thursday, October 16, 2024 at 10 AM

Overview

Throughout the duration of your visit, you will receive a tour of WAA's campus and have a chance to meet faculty/staff and students to discuss what student life at WAA is like!

Summary of Visit

Date	October 17, 2024
Key Information	Westinghouse Arts Academy 320 Margarito Ave. Wmersing, PA 15148 412-646-1718
Arrival	YSGA will arrive at 10 AM through our Herman Ave entrance in front of the Main School Building Awinging. The main entrance is the door with the large turquoise awning that reads Westinghouse Arts Academy. You will be greeted by WAA staff. Please have your state and work ID with you to check in.
Tour	The tour will begin upon arrival to the school. WAA staff will walk you and students through each level of our main school building for students to see classrooms in each of our 3 departments: Creative, Performing, and Liberal Arts (Academics). Any students who may require elevator assistance, please let us know.
Q&A	YSGA students will get to ask questions and learn more about program offerings at Westinghouse Arts. Light refreshments will be served.

Visit our website and follow us on social media
[@westinghouseartspa](#)



Performing Arts Department:

The dance department was invited to Point Park University to participate in the "Fall Into Dance" Festival in October. Our dancers took classes with the Koresh Dance Company of Philadelphia and were also invited to see 2 amazing shows! It was a fantastic 2 day event filled with dance and growth. Two of our dancers were awarded scholarships to attend a summer intensive in Philadelphia with the Koresh Dance Company (Dante Santilli and Bella Becze)!!! Congratulations to both of them!

Point Park also asked the different high schools that attended to submit a dance piece to possibly be chosen to perform. I am honored to say that Point Park chose our piece "Technologic" and our dancers performed for a packed audience at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. What an amazing opportunity for our Westinghouse Dancers to be invited to perform on a professional stage. I was so proud of them!

I am so thankful for the opportunities and relationships our students are able to make with Point Park University. These are such valuable lessons for our students as they venture into the next steps towards college.

Thank you!

Tracey Casciato
Head of Dance

Vocal Music Program: Travis Rigby

- Senior Vocal major Thyo Kimberlin was featured as a soloist at October's "Frankenfest"
- MT Juniors Claudia Pierre and Addy Janicki were featured as soloists on the same program
- Junior Vocal major Amiere Adams presented "Corner of the Sky" at the last Workshop Class, and he sang very well (and received thunderous applause).
- The WAA Choir is preparing to perform "A Million Dreams" from *The Greatest Showman* at the Workshop Class on November 12th during the Phoenix Day. They have worked really hard to prepare this number. The piece features soloists Amiere Adams, Naima McLain, and Maisey Flaherty.
- The WAA Choir is now preparing several winter selections for the December 19th Performing Arts Department Winter Showcase. A few soloists are preparing material as well.
- Students in choir are also working on individual or small group repertoire to perform at future PAD Workshop classes and at the Spring Music Department Recital. Through this, they are also receiving extensive vocal coaching and refining their technique and musicianship.

Instrumental Music Program:

- The WAA Chamber Ensemble (our upper level instrumental ensemble) performed a variety of 1930's classics at October's Frankenfest. This event was a spectacular collaboration between Digital Arts, Music, and Dance. Through preparation for this event, students learned the "language" of music from this time period, and studied especially hard the harmonic language so that they could improvise when needed during jazz numbers. The group sounded great!
- Instrumental Music majors Miya Rice, Basil Wedig, and Lex Brown were also featured as soloists during Frankenfest
- The WAA Instrumental Ensemble and Chamber Ensemble are combining forces for the December 19th Performing Arts Department Winter Showcase. They will perform winter material on their own, as well as in collaboration with the Vocal program, the Dance program, and the Musical Theater program. They are working really hard to prepare for this event.

Music Department classes (non-performance based):

- Students in Music Practicum are working on various musical skills to hone their abilities as singers and as instrumentalists. Topics recently covered (and coached) include vocal technique, instrumental technique for trumpet, guitar, drums, piano, conducting, music composition, jazz harmony and improvisation, music transcription, and college prep.
- Students in Music History just took their first exam which covered the following musical eras: Antiquity, Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque. They are now exploring music of

the Classical era, studying composers such as Scarlatti, Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven - listen to a huge volume of their masterpieces along the way.

-Students in Music Literacy 1 are now practicing basic ear training skills on a daily basis (sight-singing and aural interval identification). They are working through different musical "building blocks" such as intervals in order to build a foundation for them to eventually be able to analyze music. These skills also prove vital in performance, and often come up in performance classes as well.

Downtown Destinations:

-Last Friday, 10/25 students (of all majors) had the opportunity to see a dress rehearsal of the Pittsburgh Symphony for their performance of the score to Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. This was particularly insightful and enjoyable for our Instrumental Music majors, as they got to see and hear the work of some of the finest in the profession. It was a wonderful experience for all involved!

Creative Arts:

Literary Arts has been planning for a Coffee Shop on November 12th. The director of the International Poetry Forum, who we met during our field trip, will be attending to see our students read.

We've also recently finished our 4th edition of our chapbook *Death by Quill*.

Our seniors have also been decorating their section of wall-space outside our classroom.

We're also currently working out the details with a new printer for POMP in the spring.

All best,
Adam

Liberal Arts:

WAA's chapter of the National Honor Society collected over 100 boxes of cereal as a donation to the Human Services Center Mon Valley's food pantry. Breakfast foods are often one of the least-donated items to food banks. The cereal box drive was a school-wide initiative. Ms. DelPrete's advisory collected the most cereal boxes and won a doughnut breakfast.



WAA's chapter of the National Honor Society took a field trip to YMCA Camp Kon-O-Kwee Spencer on 11/5. While there, they completed a service project of staining bunk beds for future campers. Because of their efforts, more campers will be able to spend their summer at camp.







