

The Rising Up Report: WAA Weekly Update

Safety Is the Non-Negotiable | Daily Improvement

Monday, February 16, 2026

Dear WAA Family,

Safety is not a policy — **it is a daily practice.**

Families do not choose a school unless they believe their child will be protected, respected, and cared for. At Westinghouse Arts Academy, safety means more than physical security. It includes **emotional safety, predictable expectations, consistent routines, and adults who respond early and consistently.**

As part of our commitment to **daily improvement**, we want to be transparent about the **primary safety and culture concerns we continue to address as a school community:**

- **Vaping:** Incidents have been **greatly reduced**, which reflects progress and shared effort. However, vaping has **not been fully eliminated**, and it remains a safety concern.
- **Cell phone use during class:** Phones interfere with learning, focus, and engagement. Students are expected to follow school expectations so classrooms remain spaces for learning.
- **Arriving to school on time:** Tardiness disrupts instruction and affects student readiness. Being on time is essential to safety, structure, and success.

These concerns are not about punishment — they are about **protecting learning environments, student health, and school culture.**

Our focus remains **daily improvement:**

- Improving how expectations are communicated and reinforced
- Improving consistency in adult response
- Improving partnerships with families to address concerns early

Rise Up gives us a shared language and framework to do this work together. Progress does not happen overnight, but it *does* happen when a school community commits to getting a little better every single day.

Family Resources & Support

We encourage families to review the following resources, which may help support conversations at home:

- **Vaping & Youth Health (CDC):**
<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/e-cigarettes/youth.html>
 - **Online Safety, Digital Awareness & Youth Protection (U.S. Department of Homeland Security – Know2Protect):**
<https://www.dhs.gov/know2protect/take-action>
 - **Why Attendance & Punctuality Matter (Attendance Works):**
<https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/>
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Rise Up Family Reflection:

What routines or expectations help your child feel most secure, focused, and ready to learn during the school week?

We value your voice. Please take a moment to share your thoughts through our weekly **Rising Up Family Feedback Form:**

 <https://forms.gle/8yT1mmQBBv17Knck8>

Why Charter Schools Matter

Westinghouse Arts Academy is a public charter school, and families choose our school because they value safety, innovation, strong relationships, and meaningful educational opportunities for students. Members of the WAA community have the right to share their experiences and perspectives about the importance of public charter schools and school choice. Participation is always voluntary.

Warm regards,

Dr. Anne Clark

Chief School Administrator / Superintendent

Westinghouse Arts Academy