

The Rising Up Report: From WAA Leadership

Why Charter Schools Exist | Choice, Safety, Belonging

February 3, 2026

In recognition of National School Choice Week

Dear WAA Family,

Families choose a charter school for a reason. They choose it because they want something more than a building where students sit in classrooms. They choose it because they are looking for **safety, connection, innovation, and a school that truly knows their child.**

Westinghouse Arts Academy exists because families deserve **choice**—and choice only matters when a school earns trust every single day.

As we recognize **National School Choice Week**, we reaffirm why public charter schools matter. School choice is about ensuring families have access to learning environments that meet their children's unique needs. It is about empowering families to select schools that prioritize **relationships, safety, creativity, and continuous improvement.**

Being a school of choice means we must be relentless about:

- Safety and well-being
- Clear expectations and accountability
- Strong, trusting relationships

It means students must feel known, supported, and challenged. It means families must feel heard, respected, and welcomed as true partners. And it means we must reflect honestly on where we are—and commit to getting better together.

Rise Up is not a program. It is our promise:

- We choose respect over disruption
- We choose integrity over excuses
- We choose effort over apathy

This is how strong schools of choice are built—**one day, one decision, one relationship at a time.**

To learn more about the national movement celebrating educational options for families, visit **National School Choice Week:**

👉 <https://schoolchoiceweek.com>

Charter schools exist because family voices matter. Members of the WAA community may choose to share their experiences and perspectives with elected officials about the importance

of public charter schools, safety, and innovation in public education. If you wish to do so, the following resources may be helpful:

- **Find Your Pennsylvania State Representative or Senator:**
<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/>
- **Find Your U.S. Congressional Representative:**
<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Your voice helps ensure that families continue to have access to high-quality public school options—now and in the future.

 **Rise Up Family Reflection:**

What does “feeling safe and known at school” look like for our students right now?

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 (*Standard Advocacy Footer*)

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