

News from WHS Special Education

Incoming Class Fall 2016

School Activities — Washington High School is all about each child finding a place to be comfortable — or challenged — and succeed. Many classes, clubs & groups support service, fun, sports, crafts. Students can start a club. Recent additions include photography, board games, and anime club.



Academic Excellence — At Washington, **classroom achievement is our top**

priority. We want to provide academic challenges and rewards to every student.

We reward achievements and improvements. For example, Academic Numerals and Letters are rewarded for achieving a 3.0 GPA. Term Grade Improvement Awards recognize gains of .35 above the GPA for the previous term. State standardized test top scores and Personal Bests are recognized.

Outstanding Scholar Awards are given to every student who completes four years of science, math, and/or foreign language.

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The WHS **Counseling Office** also posts jobs, and supports BIG project based learning and Workplace Learning Connection, a regional job shadow and internship program. Find links and postings at crwash.org under 'Our School.'

21st Century Skills: Ready for Work!

Preparing our students for their adult lives as contributing members of society means providing plenty of opportunities for them to explore their passions and interests in gainful employment.

Besides classroom opportunities, we offer hands-on, real world experience through several programs tailored to the students' special needs.

Our **Job Coach** distributes job interest forms in the fall. Job shadows or other appropriate experiences are then arranged during the course of the year. WHS provides transportation and supervision.

Students from the full range of disabilities are invited to participate. We find job shadows that are accessible and appropriate for each individual student with special needs.

WHS offers job training courses in building trades, education / child care, culinary arts, software design, business, & engineering.

Many of our students find job training and a rich college experience at **Kirkwood Community College**. We support participation in job training programs like patient care and automotive Career Academies at Linn Co. Regional Center. We also provide COMPASS testing, transportation to open houses for new students, and application help.

Our **CRCSD 'district' Transition Coach** provides support to students and teachers. Through **Partnership for Post-secondary Success**, Parents, Community Members and District Staff collaborate on transition topics.

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) helps individuals with a wide range of strengths and limitations explore postsecondary and community based options and find appropriate, rewarding, long term work.

Application is required to determine eligibility. Applying as a sophomore is encouraged as there is usually a waiting list.

Services range from assistive technology to financial support for licensing or transportation. Our counselor is at WHS one day a week and otherwise at the **Iowa Workforce Development Center** at Lindale Mall.

iJAG is an independent, statewide nonprofit serving high risk students grade 9-12 in developing personal and work-related skills for success. iJAG uses project based learning in a 'for-credit' elective course during the school day.



Our teachers ... From Iowa

Scott Brune from Dubuque studied Communication and Health & Sports at Iowa, then Secondary Education at Mt. Mercy, with endorsements in Math and Instructional Strategies for mild/moderate intellectual disabilities and behavior and learning disabilities.

Erika Derrick from Iowa City (City High and Scattergood Friends), went on to Iowa on the pre-med track with majors in religious studies, art history & studio art and minors in museum studies, biology and horticulture. Her education studies (BA & MA) include endorsements in art therapy and instructional strategy.

Kyle Fitzgerald from Clare, 12 miles northwest of Fort Dodge, went on to Simpson College (BA in Music Education) and Morningside College (MA in Education).

Scott Iosbaker from Bellevue, on the Mississippi, went on to Loras College (BA in Education with endorsements in reading and special education) and is currently working on a Masters.

Megan Lewis has an AA in Disabilities Services, a BA from Iowa in Sociology, and an MA in Special Education, Instructional Strategist II.

Doug Stodola born & raised in Cedar Rapids went to Iowa State and University of Iowa (BS in physical education and business), and has a special education endorsement.

Cheryl Tlusty-Marsh, from nearby Anamosa, has a BS from Mt. Mercy University.

Always learning —

Every teacher participates in a Professional Learning Community (PLC). Steve Singer keeps up on Social Studies teaching strategies. Erika Derrick works with the Science PLC.

And beyond —

Zarmun Duke hails from the San Francisco Bay area (San Leandro, CA). He came to Iowa by way of Cornell College (BSS in secondary education and history), and also has a Masters in behavior disorders from University of Iowa.

Kayla Nelson came from Michigan to Luther College. She has a BA in Elementary Education and a Special Education Endorsement in behavior and learning disabilities k-12, mild to moderate 5-12.

Sarah Swayze, originally from Natchez, Mississippi, has studied electrical engineering, business and phlebotomy in addition to receiving AA (Kirkwood), BA (Mt. Mercy) and Masters (Graceland) degrees in Education. She is making progress towards a doctorate in teacher leadership.



TEACHER CONTACT

IS ENCOURAGED!

Keep up with grades & attendance through PowerSchool, and class assignments through Canvas, but never hesitate to contact a teacher at WHS.

Staff contacts are at crwash.org or call the main office at 319.558.2161. Conferences are officially scheduled through the school once a semester. But call or email any time you have concerns.