Student Directory: Every year the WFBHS Parent Association coordinates a student directory (formerly the Buzz book). This year the directory is online. In order to be included in the directory each family must go to the PA website and actively enter their data. To date, they only have 488 students listed in the directory, but there are almost 1,000 students at the school. If you wish to be included in the directory, please go to wfbhspa.membershiptoolkit.com and provide your contact information. This website is also where you will find links to join several of the high school booster groups such as the Parent Association, Duke Pride, Music Parent Association, Theater Friends and Friends of Visual Arts. Please note that it is not necessary to join any of these groups to have your contact information included in the online directory. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Andrea Kenealey at akenealey@yahoo.com.

Daily Announcements: Please take 30 seconds to fill out the attached 1-question survey. We are interested in finding out whether parents prefer to receive daily emails containing our announcements (as they do now) or whether this is a dated practice that generates too many emails from the school. https://forms.gle/W94YkHLi8K3JqcEUA

Focus on Resilience: As parents/guardians are aware, our instructional focus for this year includes quality assessment practices and AVID implementation. Your students should be experiencing the direct impact of this work in the classroom. Behind the scenes, our entire District staff is also exploring the importance of cultivating resilience as educators and the critical impact that doing so can have on the student experience. On the heels of the WI Department of Public Instruction releasing the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Competencies (K-adult), our District identified an SEL Committee that engaged in some thoughtful work around how we can enhance our efforts to build these competencies in our students. Understanding that adult learning must precede student learning, we are spending this year exploring the habits and dispositions of resilient adults. While this effort will become more explicit for kids in future years, I nonetheless expect that they will experience indirect benefits this year as well. This work is a critical step in advancing Whole Child development as stated in our Focus Plan. Check out the attached article if you are interested in additional information. https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/53640/12-ways-teachers-can-build-resilience-so-they-can-make-systemic-change

Cell phone article: The students have been fantastic with the new cell phone policy. Even if they don’t like it, I appreciate their acknowledgement of the WHY behind the shift in our practice. To those ends, I would encourage conversation around the attached article if you find any of these trends to be relevant to your son/daughter. Sometimes conversation comes more easily when it’s grounded in a shared reading or experience. https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/09/has-the-smartphone-destroyed-a-generation/534198/

Safety Reminders/Updates: Student and child safety is a priority for the School District of Whitefish Bay. At home, in the community, to and from school, and while at school we as a school community share the collective responsibility to ensure our loved-ones are safe. Below are a few reminders related to student safety.

- In the past, we have had “close calls” with traffic/student accidents. Please be alert and careful and try to drop-off/pick-up a block from school.
- Please do not hesitate to contact your building principal with general concerns you may have. If you see or hear something serious or imminent please communicate directly with the Whitefish Bay Police Department at (414) 962-3830. We respectfully ask parent(s)/guardian(s) to please talk to your children regarding safety.
Throughout each school year, the high school staff conducts several safety drills designed to best prepare students to respond in the unlikely event of an actual emergency. These drills include monthly fire drills, a general evacuation to Lubar Stadium, tornado/severe weather drills, and school violence drills. The majority of these drills, aside from monthly fire drills, will take place in September through November during our Friday morning Advisory periods. The school violence drills will continue to become more specific based on new learning of best practices and student readiness at the high school level. The drills are not intended to cause unnecessary alarm but rather to equip students with how to respond in an emergency. Our first routine fire drill will occur this week.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Associate Principal Julie Henningsen.

National Merit Semifinalists: Congratulations to Ben Browning, Declan Coleman, Gavin Coleman and Hye Sung Jung who were named Semifinalists in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Each year, 16,000 Semifinalists are identified by the NM Corporation. These four students will continue in the competition with the potential to earn Finalist standing and possible NM Scholarship.

Behavior Unbecoming of an Athlete (Participant): Participation in our extracurricular program is contingent upon our students adhering to our activities code. In addition to formally stated prohibited behaviors (such as alcohol consumption), other behaviors may be considered violations our activities code and thus, cause for suspension. These include, but are not limited to: fighting, bullying, harassment, vandalism, use of profanity at a staff member, endangering health and safety, theft, and academic misconduct. We encourage all student to avoid these behaviors so as not to incur school and activities consequences.

Bay Gives Back: BGB is a robust club whose mission is to support students in recognizing and serving the needs of the greater Milwaukee community. The BGB 5th Annual City Wide Food Drive kicks off in October and all students are encouraged to help with flyer delivery or food pickup/sort. Check out the BGB website for more information on BGB events throughout the year. www.tinyurl.com/baygivesback

Portraits in the Park: Whitefish Bay High School Orchestra Boosters are partnering with Jorie J Photography to offer professional portrait sessions at Hubbard Park on October 5 and 6. Sessions can include individuals, immediate families, high school seniors, and family pets. Appointments are required. See the attached flyer for additional details. For questions or to schedule a sitting, please contact Karlene Fox at ksfox59@gmail.com.

Repeat Announcements:

Duke Pride: Please consider supporting our athletes and coaches by joining Duke Pride. A benefit of joining is free access to volleyball, swimming, gymnastics, soccer and track. Please visit WFBdukepride.org to join.

Kind Regards,
Amy Levek