

A person with long dark hair, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and green shorts, is captured mid-air performing a backflip. They are positioned in front of a large, multi-story brick building with a prominent clock tower. The building has several windows, some of which are marked with yellow hash symbols. The scene is set on a green lawn with trees and a black lamppost in the foreground. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The entire image is decorated with various green and yellow squiggly lines and hash symbols, giving it a playful, hand-drawn aesthetic.

ALWAYS MAKING BOLD MOVES

WRA

UNITED IN BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP LIKE ONE GREAT FAMILY

In a year like no other, we've shown our pioneering spirit once again. With inspiring boldness and strength, our community has proved that our focus on blazing trails cannot be shaken. In sharing these stories of positivity, we hope to highlight the undeniable pride and promise of our extended WRA community as we navigate this ever-changing journey together.





PIONEER SPOTLIGHTS

**TALENTED
PEOPLE
DOING
INSPIRING
THINGS**

There's nothing this year could use more than a big dose of positivity—which is exactly what you'll find here. From creative projects to new adventures, these shared stories of Pioneers and their accomplishments will have you looking on the bright side in no time.





Matt Gerber, Chief Innovation Officer

FINDING HIS WAY FORWARD

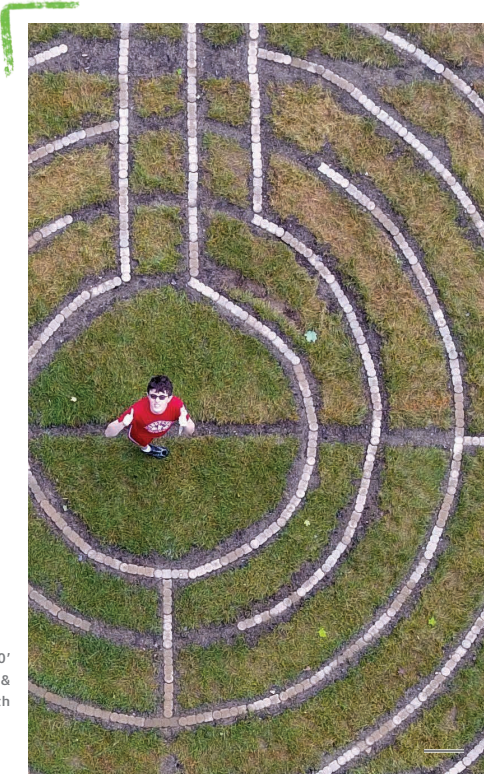
DAVID GENTILE '21

SENIOR

CLASS OF 2021

INSTALLED 30'X30' INGROUND PRAYER & MEDITATION LABYRINTH

Pioneer David Gentile set out to explore paths never taken. By way of wrestling mat and cross-country course to campus commons and stage, David played, fought, sang, ran, led and navigated a maze of opportunity. As a tribute to his many explorations, David, also an Eagle Scout, chose the WRA campus as the home to his Eagle Project—a 30' x 30' outdoor, inground installation of a Prayer and Meditation Labyrinth. David's project is a thoughtful and fitting representation of his time along WRA's brick-paved path of self-discovery and adventure.



David Gentile '21, 30'x30' inground Prayer & Meditation Labyrinth

MATT GERBER

**CHIEF
INNOVATION
OFFICER**

**LEADER
OF WANG
INNOVATION
CENTER**

If only WRA could clone our Chief Innovation Officer, Matt Gerber, or at least 3D-print a copy of him. Over the spring and summer months, Matt focused his efforts on innovations that could instantly impact the WRA community during the COVID-19 crisis. As the leader of the Wang Innovation Center, he and his team put school resources to the best possible use by creating and assembling thousands of pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) and distributing them to first responders, hospitals, pharmacies and businesses. All of this activity took place while Matt’s team pivoted to online learning. Under his direction, his team was able to train faculty, connect meaningfully with students, and master virtual interaction with a futuristic speed, precision, light and spark.



Dylan Sheridan '02, Varsity Lacrosse Coach

DYLAN SHERIDAN '02

**ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR
OF ANNUAL
GIVING**

**CLASS
OF 2002**

**SETS AN
EXCELLENT
EXAMPLE OF
TEAMWORK**

After coaching at The Ohio State University and starting the lacrosse program at Cleveland State University, Dylan Sheridan committed to the top coaching post at WRA and instantly began winning over hearts of LAX players near and far. Known for being smart, tough and driven, Dylan’s successful homecoming was due in part to a bit of recruiting by former WRA Varsity Lacrosse Coach (and member of our Admission Office) CJ Polak '13, who set aside his own head coaching ambitions to connect with Dylan and help convince him to come home. In addition to this impressive show of humility, the coaches are able to set an excellent example of teamwork, by continuing to model it so perfectly.





Dr. Vishvas Hegde, School Physician

PRESCRIBING A NEW NORMAL

DR. VISHVAS HEGDE

SCHOOL PHYSICIAN

MOST CAPABLE EXPERT

PROVIDES INVALUABLE CARE & COUNSEL

Having weathered a slew of medical storms, from the 1918 flu pandemic to a measles outbreak, the WRA Health Center once again became a steadying force. As our country faced the challenges of COVID-19, WRA looked to a most capable expert, Dr. Vishvas Hegde, to lead the charge. Under Vish's kind yet firm guidance, our Health Center was able to provide invaluable care and counsel. Thanks to Vish's dedication and optimism, and our amazing staff of nurses and counselors, the outlook for our community wellbeing is healthier than ever before.

Suzanne B



Suzanne Buck, Pioneer Pete & Oba Osunmakinde '23, The Lux Truck



Suzanne Buck, Head of School

LEADING THROUGH CHANGE

SUZANNE WALKER BUCK

**HEAD OF
SCHOOL**

**CREATIVELY
NAVIGATES
UNHEARD-OF
CHALLENGES**

How can one leader navigate unheard-of challenges, ease fears, and reset the focus of an entire community? Creatively. Very creatively. Lucky for us, when it came to accomplishing these tasks, our new Head of School, Suzanne Walker Buck, was uniquely qualified. From rapping her resume to implementing a “kid fridge” to showcase artwork, to dreaming up a food truck that strategically accomplished physical distancing—and brightened the mood with double scoops of ice cream. Although she’d happily share credit for guiding the school through these unprecedented times, her strength, energetic ideas, and joyful vision have assured us all that there are infinite bright spots ahead.



The Lux Truck



Dr. James Greenwood, Dean of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

A VOICE FOR ALL VOICES

DR. JAMES GREENWOOD

DEAN OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

A LEADING VOICE FOR DEI SECTOR WIDE

The newest member of the school's executive team, Dr. James Greenwood is our newly established Dean of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. With 19 years of experience in independent schools across the country, James brings a wealth of insight to WRA at what proved to be a pivotal moment in the world and for our campus community. As you might be able to tell by his frequently bow-tied appearance, he is meticulous in all his pursuits—especially achieving equity. Assuring each student and staff member is seen, heard and appreciated, James intends to elevate conversations, celebrate differences and guide thought and action which will have a positive impact both here and hereafter.

Y
DIRE
DIVE
EQUI
INCL
DRIV
FORC
BEHI
INITI
BALA
VOIC
CONS
BUIL

A fe
Jasn

BRANDI WHEELER

DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

DRIVING FORCE BEHIND INITIATIVES

BALANCED VOICE

CONSENSUS BUILDER

Used to performing the varied roles of mother, organizer, economist, teacher, chef, talent developer, and director of an incredibly busy family, Brandi Wheeler welcomed the opportunity to take on another title—Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Initially known at WRA by two of her greatest accomplishments, outstanding students Jasmine ‘20 and Camille ‘21, it was no surprise that Brandi was able to become the driving force behind this critical initiative. A gifted moderator, balanced voice and consensus builder, Brandi brought her many skills and infectious charisma to her position and helped WRA bring key issues to the forefront with grit, grace—and with our appreciation.



Brandi Wheeler, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

A few Quiz Bowl Team Members: Yichen Wang ‘20, Ilyana Smith ‘20, Jasmine Wheeler ‘20, Camille Wheeler ‘21, Isabella Folio ‘22 & Elie Aoun ‘21



WELL ALLLLWRITE!

VERONIQUE MINTZ '24

FRESHMAN

CLASS OF 2024

PUBLISHED AUTHOR IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

Thoughtful. Assertive. Passionate. An excellent writer. A published author in *The New York Times*. Yes, Veronique Mintz has earned many titles with the newest being Freshman at WRA. Veronique first caught the eye and interest of administrators when her article about distance learning was picked up by *The Times*. A seemingly perfect Pioneer in the making, Head of School Suzanne Walker Buck suggested the Admission Team reach out and invite her to consider WRA. She accepted. And now, we look forward to hearing Veronique's voice and stories amplified in her newest chapter at WRA.



Everest Base Camp, Tibet

Veronique Mintz '24, published author in *The New York Times*





MOVING MOUNTAINS

JUDY CHEN

**MODERN &
CLASSICAL
LANGUAGES
FACULTY**

**ENVELOPING
STUDENTS
IN CARE &
COMPASSION**

**CELEBRATES
CULTURE**

**CHERISHES
ADVENTURE**

What does it take to be mentor and role model for students? Climbing Mount Everest? In this case, yes! In fact, Mandarin instructor Judy Chen traveled to Tibet last summer to the Everest Base Camp. It took her three months of training to make the summit, and she proudly shares that she was the only member of her entourage who did not experience altitude sickness. So whether it's sharing her grand adventures over a dumpling dinner at Long House or simply spoiling her students with care and compassion, her longtime advisee Amie Ly '20 says it best, "Ms. Chen's loving charm and relatability make her a beacon of light for so many students on campus... she is more than my teacher, she is family."

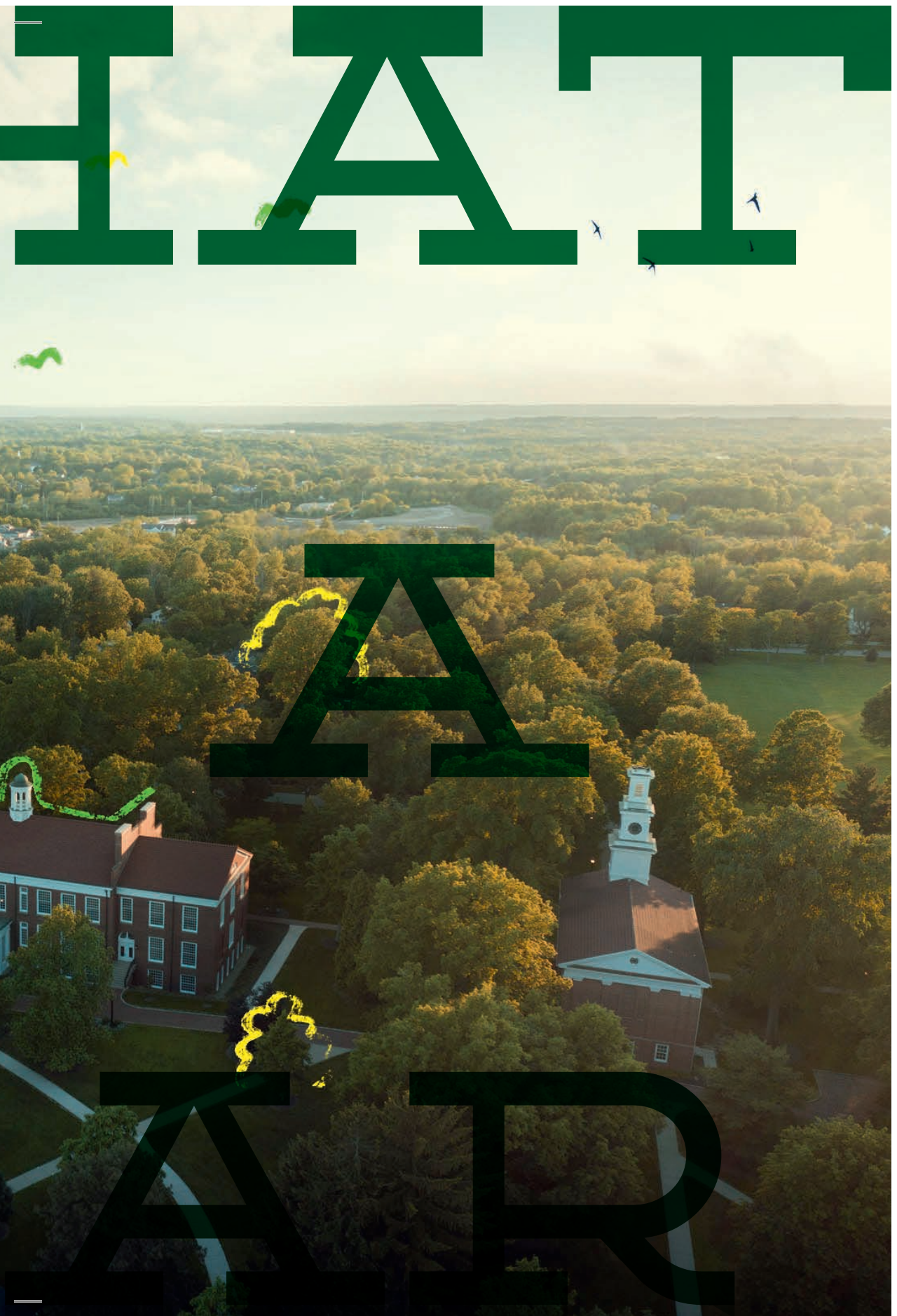


Judy Chen,
Modern & Classical
Languages Faculty

BY THE NUMBERS

FINDING STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

2020 included some facts and
figures of which we can be proud.



A MILLION REASONS TO SMILE

Brought to You by WRA

1 Nonstop Joyride

WRA launched a food truck, THE LUX TRUCK, and it's VERI-TASTY if we do say so ourselves. #WRAluxtruck

60+ Marshmallow-ing Opportunities

The Graham'd Opening of a dozen cozy fire pits surrounded by 60+ Adirondack chairs meant more fire, friends and fellowship. May we have s'more please!



Fire, friends, fellowship & 60+ adirondack chairs

1 Official Commendation

State of Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague recognized WRA for our dedication to the community during COVID-19. The commendation applauds WRA's donation of Reserve-crafted PPE for frontline responders.

1 Major Score

Thanks to a new partnership with Black Rock Football Club, WRA will offer 10-month residential soccer programs starting in 2021-2022—an amazing opportunity for our student-athletes looking to compete in college and beyond.



Pioneer Performing, Ed Emma '73



Chef Eddie, "Reserve Your Meal" Initiative

100,000 Grateful Tastebuds

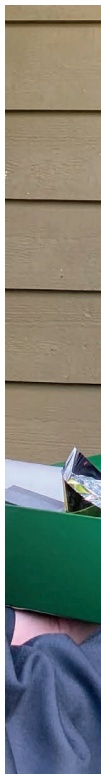
Thanks to our "Reserve Your Meal" initiative, Chef Eddie and his team kept on cooking and serving tasty takeout meals throughout the pandemic to our Hudson Community and beyond...including Haven of Rest in Akron and CLE Family Meal, which helps feed out-of-work restaurant employees in Cleveland.

7 Pioneers Performing

Thanks to the current and alumni Pioneers who shared their varied talents from singing, dancing and playing instruments to highlighting their skills in baseball and basketball: Abby Goodman '17; Hak Soo Kim '99; Jai DuVal '20 and her sister Jade DuVal '18; Ed Emma '73; Sam LaFontaine '16; and Mika Takahashi '15.

400 Cut-Outs Made The Cut

The 400 cardboard replicas of our graduating seniors attending our virtual Morning Meeting made an appearance on John Krasinski's series, Some Good News.



2020 Senior

3 Goals & 1 Championship

Three wins over Linsly, Lake Forest Academy and Kiski earned the WRA soccer team the title 2019 Champions of the Midwest Prep Classic. Score!

Countless Well Wishes

Our 2020 senior class received special graduation boxes—delivered by WRA faculty and trustees. Each was packed with a diploma, letters from advisors, mementos and well wishes from faculty and staff.

2000+ Germ Fighters

Under the roof of the Wang Innovation Center and the guidance of Chief Innovation Officer Matt Gerber, WRA produced and donated medical face shields to the Cleveland Clinic and Hudson Fire/EMS Department and more to help prevent the spread of COVID.

100% Fantastique!

Even with students spanning 8 countries and 5 time zones, Madam Borrmann's Honors French 3 Class had 100% perfect attendance in their virtual class. Merci to our teachers and students everywhere for navigating school and life in entirely new ways.



Soccer Team Wins the Title 2019 Champions of the Midwest Prep Classic



2020 Senior Class receives special graduation boxes



Students produce & donate medical face shields



“I am deeply honored to be a part of a school with incredible traditions, values and vision.”

SUZANNE WALKER BUCK



From NYC to Beijing, Mrs. Buck gathered with Reserve alums, friends and new families

Celebrating a worldwide learning community

Atlanta: Wow Georgia! Southern hospitality is real! Thanks to Rocky Ford '68 for hosting this event.



Long-time

The Buck Stops Here World Tour

Santa Monica: At Wally's in Santa Monica, Jeff Schaffer '87 and Ted Humphrey '87 (thanks hosts!) hosted more than 40 alumni and friends of WRA gathered to meet and hear Mrs. Buck talk about her first months at WRA.

China: Mrs. Buck and Assistant Head of School for Advancement Mark LaFontaine traveled 6,735 miles to Beijing, then Hangzhou China.

Thanks to Trustee Xuning Wang, Trustee Co-President Timothy Warner '69, Trustee Martin D. Franks '68 and all the current parents and friends who welcomed them.

Korea: Thanks to our Korean Parents' Association, Korean Alumni Association, and hosts Mr. Doh and Mrs. Park for hosting a beautiful dinner in Seoul, South Korea for the WRA entourage.





Beijing,
gathered with
ms, friends
nilies

Chicago: A great time had by all! Our destination? The lovely home of our hosts Jason '94 and Ariel Wortendyke.

New York City: No tour would be complete without a stop in the city that never sleeps! A very special thanks to Carl Sorenson '83 for hosting a beautiful event at The Nanz Company.



Long-time supporters, instant friends



Sharing conversations, perspectives

San Francisco: Our tour group stopped (and considered staying forever) at the gorgeous Olympic Club with a wonderful West Coast event hosted by Gavin Domm '87 and his family.

Hudson: At Pierce House, alumni, parents, neighbors and friends gathered to celebrate Reserve and hear Ms. Buck's vision for the future.

Naples: With a strategic February tour stop at the Royal Poinciana Golf Club, our crew enjoyed the Florida sunshine and an incredibly warm welcome from our alumni and new families.



Under her tenure, Buck challenges students to become their best selves

32nd Head of School Suzanne Walker Buck brings WRA to a global audience.



Chats to cherish

7 Eye-Popping Episodes

Thanks to our film partners, The Film Guys, and our team of budding filmmakers for launching a new video series based on a late-night talk show created by WRA students called The WRAp. Highlights: "Campus Karaoke with Mrs. Buck," "Foodie Face-off," where students tested their culinary skills, and the always revealing "Campus Cribs" dorm tours.

49 Cute Critters

Of course the best thing about online learning is pets. With the help of The Film Guys, WRA devised a remote approach to our latest video project that featured the voices of family dogs, cats, a lizard, and a parrot.

75 Unlikely Flowers

To showcase the college destinations of our current class of Pioneers, WRA created a campus Pennant Garden blooming with good news. Way to go Class of 2020!

Campus Pennant Garden



The WRAp "Chopped"

**150+75+19+15
=WOW**

150 new Pioneers and 75 Piofars (distance learners) attending WRA from 19 states and 15 countries as far away as China and Australia make for a wonderfully diverse student body.

800 Disappearing Donuts

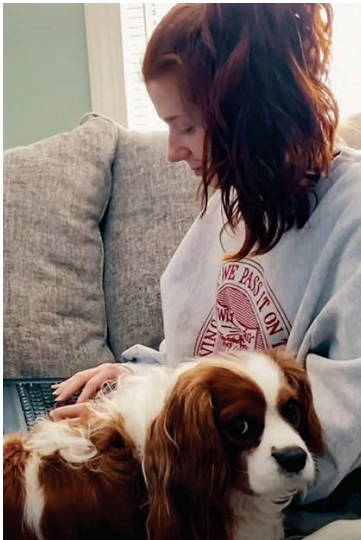
The perfect way to feed the fun and festivity of Parents Weekend—lots of donuts—not to mention our first ever Film and Bluegrass Festivals.

“It is not easy to be a pioneer—but oh how fascinating! I would trade one moment of the worst moment of the riches in the world for one moment of the worst moment of the riches in the world.”

ELIZABETH BLACKWELL

Parents Weekend, Bluegrass Festival





Learning
with pets

easy to be a
—but oh, it is
ing! I would not
e moment, even
st moment, for all
es in the world.”

ACKWELL

Infinite Successes

With 100% of WRA students off to colleges and universities around the world—including 12 Ivy League acceptances—we know that our Pioneers are on the right track to follow their dreams and make an incredibly positive impact all around the world.



CHARTING THE COURSES

We thought you might enjoy a quick preview of some of the latest and greatest course offerings here at WRA.

This Old Barn

Inspired by the classic PBS restoration and renovation series This Old House, WRA created our own unique take on preservation with a hands-on, real-life barn restoration. From creating blueprints and learning to hang drywall to financing, budgeting, management, marketing and more, students will gain firsthand experience in a this unique multi-year, multi-step construction project.

Automotive Engineering Design

How fun is engineering? Go Kart level fun. With hands-on construction of a push powered Go Kart, students will learn the fundamental principles of engineering through design, documentation, evaluation, problem-solving and testing. Then, students build their Karts in the WIC and are evaluated on agility, accuracy and more during an end-of-semester race day. WRA for the win!

Digital Music Production

Leave it to WRA to turn up the opportunities for music students. Equipped with Apple's Logic Pro software and Digital Audio Workstations (D.A.W.s) students will experiment with sound processing, compression, limiting, filtering, panning, reverb, EQ and mixing. The result? An ability to listen, analyze and create professional music productions.

LUX ET VER GUIDING PR FOR 2020 &

For hundreds of years, this phrase has inspired Pioneers to live with courage and honesty—reminding us that there is purpose greater than ourselves. As we move forward as leaders and strong voices in an ever-changing world, may the Reserve community continue to be a light that truly shines.

Go boldly and brightly.



VERITAS, A PRINCIPLE



WRA

WESTERN RESERVE ACADEMY
115 COLLEGE STREET
HUDSON, OHIO 44236

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hudson, OH
Permit No. 6

GREAT
ACHIEVEMENTS
AWAIT