



**Western Reserve Academy**

WHAT WILL YOU PIONEER?

**NEWS RELEASE**

## **Western Reserve Academy graduates 101 seniors**

HUDSON, Ohio, May 22, 2018 — On Sunday, May 27, Western Reserve Academy's Class of 2018 will be handed their diplomas and take their official steps forward as members of Reserve's proud alumni community.

Student Body Vice President Francisco Blanco '18 is this year's student speaker and Matthew J. Wilson, President of The University of Akron, is this year's featured speaker.

"WRA's 2018 graduating class includes students with a remarkable variety of passions, talents and backgrounds," said WRA Head of School Christopher D. Burner '80. "The students are headed to the best colleges and universities in the country and around the world, and we are very proud of their pioneering paths."

Some of the achievements of this year's outstanding senior class include:

- 100 percent of the 101 graduates will matriculate to four-year colleges and universities at exceptional academic institutions such as Harvard University, Cornell University, University of Cambridge, Amherst University, The United States Naval Academy, University of Chicago, New York University, University of Southern California and many more.
- The Class of 2018 received acceptances at 207 national and international colleges and universities.
- 80 percent of graduates were accepted to institutions deemed "Most Selective" or "Highly Selective" by *Barron's*.
- Of the 101 graduates, six will attend Ivy League schools, seven will attend international schools, 17 will attend Ohio schools and nine are committed athletes.
- WRA has a long history of sending graduates to service academies. This year one graduate will attend The United States Military Academy, also known as West Point. Another will attend The Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.
- Eight members of the senior class were National Merit Scholars and three were named National Merit Finalists, including senior Peter Campanelli of Hudson. This year Peter was also recognized when he and his team won the Summit County Miniature Bridge Building Competition (MBBC) in February. In the fall, Peter moves onto the Honors Program at The Ohio State University.
- The Class of 2018 has received merit scholarship offers in excess of \$7.6 million.
- WRA's Signature Programs continued to provide unique opportunities to WRA students:
  - Beyond Reserve, the school's internship program, opened 22 opportunities with partners including the Cleveland Clinic, Case Western Genetic Research Institute, Baylor Medical Center and JP Morgan.

- Compass, a year-long course that enables students to turn passions into real-life projects, gave life to an award-winning math app, a film, crafted by senior Tommy Awender of Hudson, about changing times at WRA through the generations and a dance program designed to help students better understand science.
- Saturday Academy introduced the collegiate idea of electives to the student body, with dozens of offerings from poetry in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park to recycling bikes to filmmaking and writing with WRA's alumni cadre of producers and writers in Hollywood.
- The school's one-of-a-kind technology and science offerings continued to evolve, including the 6,000 square-foot Wang Innovation Center, where any project is possible with every tech and software tool available and expert faculty mentorship. Moreover, this year seven seniors participated in the school's Cancer Immunology course taught by Dr. Robert Aguilar. WRA is the only high school in the country to offer this specialty. One of the participants includes senior Alison Landry of Hudson who, during her time at WRA, also took advantage of our Beyond Reserve opportunity by participating in the genetic research program at Case Western Reserve University. This fall, she heads to Cornell University.

The backdrop for student success was a transformational year at the nearly 200-year-old school, founded in 1826. WRA completed its \$80 million *Campaign for Excellence & Access* to increase financial aid and faculty support and enable preservation of our beautiful and historic campus, including the opening of a new Admission Office in the campus' oldest building and the August 2018 reopening of Seymour Hall, the school's main academic building. *Architectural Digest* named Reserve the "Most Beautiful Private School in Ohio," and Niche ranked the school #1 in the state for Best Private High School, Best Boarding School, Best College Prep High School and Best High School for STEM. The National Association for Independent Schools (NAIS) called the school one of the most innovative in the country. More than \$6M in financial aid was awarded this year to a student community from 24 states and 20 countries.

The 2017-18 school year also saw the implementation of WRA's new independent curriculum, untethered from the imperative of teaching to the test that comes with Advanced Placement (AP) courses. While AP courses were a backbone of the WRA curriculum for decades, the school's move away from this standardized approach meant greater depth and rigor for students and more flexibility for teachers. WRA became the first school in the region to move beyond AP courses in favor of classes dubbed "College Level," and in doing so, joined a growing cohort of the country's best schools that are emphasizing discovery, collaboration and critical life skills like resilience, critical thinking and entrepreneurship.

Also this year, a survey of 800 WRA alumni illuminated the future path of Pioneers, revealing the top four industries for WRA graduates as Business, Medicine, Education and Law. 88 percent of alumni surveyed have advanced degrees, and more than half have lived or studied outside of the U.S. We wish all our graduates in the Class of 2018 paths of happiness and unlimited horizons.

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Western Reserve Academy, top-ranked nationally among private high schools, was founded in 1826 in Hudson, OH. Its enduring values of excellence, integrity and compassion are the foundation for a progressive educational experience, including the nationally recognized 6,000 square-foot Wang Innovation Center. WRA's fully independent curriculum includes the move beyond Advanced Placement courses, joining a growing cohort of the country's top schools,

and offering classes dubbed College Level for greater depth and rigor. 100 percent of WRA graduates attend the country's best colleges and universities. Visit [wra.net](http://wra.net) to learn more.

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