



The Wise 3/1/26

Monday 3/2	Tuesday 3/3	Wednesday 3/4	Thursday 3/5	Friday 3/6	Saturday 3/7	Sunday 3/8
Track and Fitness Club- <i>Halyburton Park-</i> 3:00-4:00 pm	Tornado Drill Middle School MathCounts- <i>State Competition Team</i> 2:30-3:45 pm Art Club- 2:30-3:30 pm 4th/5th Study Hall and Counseling Lesson- 2:30-4:30 pm- Cancelled	Middle School Science Olympiad- 2:30-3:30 pm Elementary Science Olympiad Celebration 🎉 2:30- 3:30 pm	Spanish Club- 2:30-3:30 pm Quiz Bowl Team Practice- 7th Period- <i>Mr. Gibble's Room</i> 6th Grade and NCVPS Study Hall- 2:30-3:30 pm 6th Grade Counseling Lesson- 3:30-4:30 pm Boys Tennis Practice- <i>Empie Park</i> 4:00-5:30 pm	WAAS 8th Grade National History Day Showcase 🌐 5th and 6th Period Drama Club Rehearsals- 2:30-3:45 pm <i>-Evie, Carlos, Jay, Mal and Ben</i>	Middle School Regional Science Olympiad Tournament 🌿 UNCW Drama Club Rehearsals- 2:00-3:00- <i>Ben and Mal</i> 3:00-3:30- <i>King Beast, Queen Belle, Ben, Royal Page</i> 3:30-5:00- <i>Scene 15,18 All Call</i> 5:00-5:45- <i>Fairy Godmother, Jane</i>	Drama Club Rehearsals- 1:00-2:30- <i>All guys, coaches</i> 2:30-3:00- <i>Scene 9: All Call</i> 3:00-5:00- <i>Ways to Be Wicked: All Call</i> 5:00-6:00- <i>Aarnav, Alex, Ally, Annelise, Ansley, Ben, Cora, Dorothy, Eamon, Emmy, Harper, Hudson, Lucy, Maddie, Nolan, Zach, Zoey</i>
Monday 3/9	Tuesday 3/10	Wednesday 3/11	Thursday 3/12	Friday 3/13	Saturday 3/14	Sunday 3/15
Track and Fitness Club- <i>Halyburton Park-</i> 3:00-4:00 pm Boys Tennis Practice- <i>Empie Park</i> 4:00-5:30 pm	Middle School MathCounts- <i>State Competition Team</i> 2:30-3:45 pm	Graduation Committee Meeting- 8:00 am Q3 Birthday Celebrations 🎂 Varsity Science Olympiad- 2:30-3:30 pm Parent Huddle- <i>SEL for the AIG Learner- Part 1-</i> 5:00- 6:00 pm Board of Trustees Meeting- 6:00 pm	Quiz Bowl Team Practice- 7th Period- <i>Mr. Gibble's Room</i> Chess and Pickleball Clubs- 2:30-3:30 pm 7th Grade & NCVPS Study Hall- 2:30-3:30 pm 7th Grade Counseling Lesson- 3:30-4:30 pm	Nest Activity- <i>History Bee</i> Abbreviated Schedule Pie Day Challenge in Math Class End of 3rd Grading Period Drama Club Rehearsals- 2:30-3:45- <i>Evil Parents/Grimhilde, Maleficent, Jafar, Evil Queen</i>	Regional National History Day Event- <i>New Hanover County Government Center</i> Quiz Bowl Team Competition 🌐 <i>- Duke University</i> Drama Club Rehearsals- 2:00-3:00- <i>Better Together- All Call</i> 3:00-6:00- <i>All Call</i>	Drama Club Rehearsals- 2:00- 6:00 <i>All Call, Run Show x 2</i> Deadline to Vote for WAAS- Best Private School in Wilmington

*Check out our [Spring Planning Calendar](#) to explore the 2nd Semester at WAAS.

Elementary Science Olympiad Team Wins the 2026 New Hanover County Tournament! 🎉

Congratulations to our Elementary Science Olympiad Team on finishing first place in the New Hanover County Elementary Tournament at Ashley High School this past Saturday! We are very proud of all of you and the hard work you have put in to prepare for this tournament! Thank you to all of our parent coaches, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Lodato for leading our Elementary Team this year! Medals were awarded to the top 6 finishers in each event. Our WAAS medalists are listed below 🏆. Go Owls!

1st Place- Genes R Us- **Emmett Allen and Isaac Zheng** (competed at WAAS on 2/26)

1st Place- Planet Protectors- **Brooke Martin and Sloan Turner**

1st Place- What's the Matter?- **Owen Bradford and Reid Yokubaitis**

1st Place- Ramp and Roll- **Annelise Henderson and Sloan Turner**

1st Place- The Adaptables- **Annelise Henderson and Reid Yokubaitis**

1st Place- Dino Nuggets- **Nolan Cai and Alden Johnson**

2nd Place- Bone & Brawn- **Maya Dalal and Anna Wang**

2nd Place- Codebusters- **Reid Yokubaitis and Isaac Zheng**

2nd Place- In Metrics We Trust- **Caroline Barker and Anna Wang**

3rd Place- Just Plane Awesome- **Owen Bradford and Frankie Prather**

6th Place- Bridgearoni- **Caroline Barker and Ila Menon**



Five WAAS Students Place in the 2026 Azalea Festival Writing Contest! 🌸

We are very proud to announce our 2026 Azalea Festival Writing Contest Winners from WAAS! The students' literary pieces were selected from a pool of 56 essays and 68 poems submitted from across the state of North Carolina. The winning authors and poets will be recognized at a reception and ceremony being held at 6:00 pm at Bluewater Grill in Wrightsville Beach on Tuesday, March 3rd. Our winners are listed below:

2nd Place Essay- **Bodan Escaravage** (7th Grade)- "The Library: A Place of Community and Growth"

2nd Place Poetry- **Lenna Hoff** (7th Grade)- "Sunrise Service"

3rd Place Essay- **Alex Robinson** (6th Grade)- "Community Connections"

3rd Place Poetry- **Perry Tennant** (8th Grade)- "The Library"

Honorable Mention Poetry- **Nick Fisher** (6th Grade)- "Down and Around the Dub"



2026 Middle School Writing Contest Winners

Poetry Division

1st place	Samantha Finch, 8 th grade "The Shore We Share"	Surf City Middle School
2nd Place	Lenna Hoff, 7 th grade "Sunrise Service"	Wilmington Academy of Arts and Sciences
3rd Place	Perry Tennant "The Library"	Wilmington Academy of Arts and Sciences
Honorable Mention	Parker Antunez, 6 th grade "Spring"	Surf City Middle School
Honorable Mention	Nick Fisher "Down and Around The Dub"	Wilmington Academy of Arts and Sciences
Honorable Mention	Harrison Schroeder, 8 th grade "The School Ground"	Surf City Middle School

2026 Middle School Writing Contest Winners

Essay Division

1st place	Bailey Moore, 6 th grade "The NC Collective Experience"	Surf City Middle School
2nd Place	Bodan Escaravage, 7 th grade "The Library: A Place of Community and Growth"	Wilmington Academy of Arts and Sciences
3rd Place	Alex Robinson, 6 th grade "Community Connections"	Wilmington Academy of Arts and Sciences
Honorable Mention	Aanya Gupta, 7 th grade "The Space Between"	Math and Science Academy
Honorable Mention	Harry Roy, 8 th grade "Enchanted Airle"	Surf City Middle School
Honorable Mention	Lucy Tracy, 7 th grade "Azalea Festival"	Surf City Middle School
Honorable Mention	Madison Ingel "Common Ground at the Park"	Surf City Middle School

Congratulations to our 2026 AMC 8 Math Contest Winners!

Our WAAS middle school students competed in the AMC 8 Math contest on January 28th during their grade level math classes. The student's results were collectively the best we have ever had at WAAS, and WAAS once again earned the School of Merit Award for the student's performance! Our grade level winners this year are listed below. Congratulations to our overall top students, and to all of our students for another fantastic year of AMC 8!

8th Grade

1st Place and School Winner- **Takoda Lac**
2nd Place- **Myra Shanker**
3rd Place- **Damian Allder**

7th Grade

1st Place and School Runner Up- **David You**
2nd Place- **Breccan Hayes**
3rd Place- **Lucy Yokubaitis**

6th Grade

1st Place- **Emmett McElmurry**
2nd Place- **Gavin Phifer and Nelson Trask**



Upcoming Spring Safety Drills-

Over the next few weeks, WAAS will conduct our Spring safety drills, including a Tornado Drill and a Lockdown Drill. The lockdown drill will not be listed on our public calendar, but parents will receive a remind message when the drill is completed, letting you know all is well.



Reminder- 2026 Summer Camps at WAAS!

We are excited to host the following amazing camps at WAAS this Summer, some returning, and some new. Please see the information below for more details, and the [signup form](#) below, to register for camp(s)!

2026 WAAS Summer Camps

Forensic Science Camp w/ Mrs. Rivenbark- June 29th- July 2nd- 9:00- 12:00 (Rising 4th- 8th Grades)-

New Camp

STEM Stars w/ Mrs. Lodato- June 29th-July 2nd- 1:00-4:00 (Rising 3rd- 6th Grades)- **New Date**

Drama Camp w/ Ms. Nelson- July 6th-10th- 9:00-4:00 (Rising 4th- 8th Grades)

Creative Writing Camp w/ Ms. Puritis- July 13th-17th- 9:00-12:00 (Rising 5th-8th Grades)

Introduction to Typing and Word Processing w/ Mr. Benfield- July 13th-17th- 9:00-12:00 (Rising 4th-6th)

Spanish Beginner Boot Camp w/ Mrs. Siebold- July 13th-17th- 1:00-4:00 (Rising 4th-6th)

Coding Camp w/ Mr. Benfield- July 13th-17th- 1:00-4:00 (Rising 6th-8th)

Math Camps w/ Mr. Simon- July 20th- 24th *Pre-Algebra* (Rising 6th) 9:00-12:00, *Math 1* (Rising 7th) 1:00-4:00

Art Camp w/ Ms. Dee- July 20th- 24th- 1:00-4:00 (Rising 4th-8th Grades)

[2026 WAAS Camp Signup Form](#)



Spring Dress Code Reminders-

Spring Dress Code Reminders

Daily Expectations: (Monday-Friday):

- No Undergarments should be visible at any time
- Skirts, shorts, and skorts must meet a minimum length of Mid-Thigh
(*use the finger tip rule for guidance and self-monitoring. This means that these garments should be at least as long as where the tips of the fingers land when the student's arms are relaxed by their sides.)
- Clothing should provide full coverage from shoulder to mid-thigh, when sitting or moving.
 - No exposed midriff. No tank tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps, etc.
 - Shoes should be closed toed and closed heeled.
 - No hats or headwear of any kind in the building.
- The student's name should be clearly marked inside all sweatshirts and jackets.

Uniform Policy: (Monday-Thursday):

- Pants, shorts, skirts, skorts must be completely solid in color with no patterns or stripes.
- Approved colors for pants, shorts, skirts include all shades of blue, black, gray and khaki (no white or green)
- Shirts and sweatshirts must be an official WAAS Logo Shirt or WAAS Club shirt. Camp Kanuga apparel is also approved.
- Non-WAAS jackets and cold weather apparel may be worn at recess, and during other outdoor activities.

Dress Down Fridays:

In addition to daily expectations listed above, the following apply.

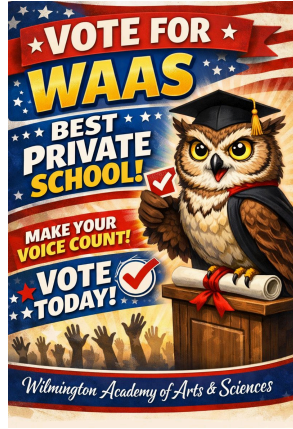
- No pajamas or slippers
- No clothing with religious or political statements
- No clothing that displays messages or illustrations of a profane or offensive manner, or any advertisement of alcohol, or illegal or unhealthy substances.



Reminder: Vote for WAAS Best of Wilmington Private School's 2026-

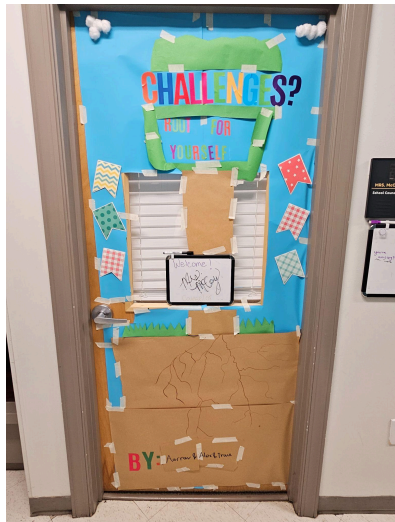
Please take a few moments to vote for WAAS as the Best of Wilmington Private School for 2026. **Voting is open until March 15th.** Thank you!

[Vote Here!](#)



Counseling Spotlight- Owl Outreach

What an action-packed meeting today! Our teams worked together to invite spring cheer with their inspiring door decorations. We hope that these lift the spirits of their classmates as they roam the halls! The kids did an awesome job of working as teams, getting as much done as possible under tight time constraints, and cleaning up after themselves! This was a busy, feel-great meeting!



Recurring Information from Previous Wise Owl Newsletters-

Upcoming WOW Community Service Events-

* **Middle School service hours for 2025-2026 are due on Friday, May 1st.**

*[Click Here for all WAAS Middle School Community Service Resources](#)

Please sign up using the links below if you are interested in participating in these wonderful community service events!

1. **Peaceful Pastures**
Thursday, March 12th- 3:15 pm- 5:30 pm
[Sign Up Here](#)
2. **The Miracle League-**
Saturday, March 28th- shift options include 9:15-11:30,
11:30-12:45, and 12:45-3:00
[Sign Up Here](#)
3. **Willowdale Urban Farm-**
Saturday, April, 4th- 10:00 am- 1:00 pm
[Sign Up Here](#)
4. **First Fruit Ministry Food Pantry-**
Saturday, April 25th- 8:30-1:00 pm
[Sign Up Here](#)

**WHOO'S THE
BEST
VOLUNTEER?**



AYUSA Student Exchange Opportunity-

AYUSA is sharing the opportunity to host high school exchange students with our WAAS families. Please see the information below for details.



Open your heart. Build a longer table. Bring the world closer together.

Wilmington Academy of Arts and Sciences families are invited to consider hosting a high school foreign exchange student through AYUSA for the 2026/27 academic year. Hosting is a volunteer opportunity that creates lifelong connections while giving a student the chance to experience American culture and attend high school here in Wilmington! Host families provide a welcoming home, three meals per day, and a bedroom (which may be shared with a same-gender host sibling within five years of age). Students come fully prepared with their own spending money, medical insurance, and a cell phone. By opening your home, you help build global understanding—one student, one family, one community at a time. Please contact WAAS parent and Ayusa Host parent, Stacia Welborn, 910-620-6776, stacia@welbornrealty.com OR Maggie Warner, Southeast Regional Manager, 910-431-0006 mwarner@ayusa.org

WAAS Spring Middle School Dance 2026- “A Night in New York”

Thank you to our Student Leadership Association members for leading the planning for our Spring Middle School Dance this year! The dance will be held on Friday, March 27th from 5:30-7:15 pm. The cost of admission to the dance is \$10, and can be paid at the door, or paid via FACTS (please let Mr. Fischetti know if you would like to use FACTS).



Theme and Attire-

The theme for the dance this year is **“A Night in New York”**, and students are encouraged to dress **“NYC Cool”**. This is not a formal dance, and the purchase of new or expensive attire for the dance is not encouraged. Students can enjoy dressing in the style of the theme, or are encouraged to dress **casually**→ **semi-casually**.

Dress Code-

Attire for the dance should meet the standards for our **Friday dress down** code. An exception to this is that spaghetti strap dresses or tops are approved, provided they maintain a school appropriate non-revealing neck line, and meet length requirements. Students attending the dance out of dress code will be provided alternative clothing to wear for the event. Our intention is to create an event where students feel comfortable, confident, and included while still adhering to school expectations. If you, or your student has questions about attire, please reach out for clarification.

Dance Rules-

- The WAAS dance is for WAAS Middle School (6th-8th Grade) students only.
- Students will only be able to leave the dance with their parent, or an approved carpool driver.
- School rules apply at all times during the dance. Appropriate behavior and dancing is expected.
- No cell phones are not allowed at any time during the dance. The school phone will be available.
- Leave the cafeteria one at a time, no groups in the hallways. Other than going to the restroom, all students are asked to stay in the cafeteria dance space or approved classroom during the event.

Supporting the Dance-

The SLA students are interested in having large cardboard sections donated to build cityscape decorations for the dance. Also, parents interested in helping with, or donating toward food or other elements of the dance please reach out to Ms. Puritis. Thank you!

Upcoming Owl Outreach Club Spring Service Events!

Owl Outreach Upcoming Events (all are welcome!):

All students are welcome and encouraged to join us for Owl Outreach's Spring Service Events at WAAS:

3/24/26- Spring campus clean up and beautification project. Show pride in our campus by picking up trash, spreading mulch, and planting flowers!

4/28/26- WAAS teachers are the best and we want them to know it! We will create a heartfelt banner to be displayed during Teacher Appreciation Week. Bring your artistic skills and fun ideas!

Each session you attend and participate in equals 1 hour of volunteer credit!



Spring Counseling Lesson Topics- Looking Ahead

The learning and skill development is taking flight in our Spring counseling lessons. Please join us if you are able to!

All 4th/5th grade students are invited to attend these upcoming lessons from 3:30-4:30 pm with Mrs. McCoy:

3/3: Executive Functioning Skills: Three Main Brain Skills that are used for executive functioning: WORKING MEMORY, SELF-CONTROL, and MENTAL FLEXIBILITY

3/17: Executive Functioning Skills: Recognizing strengths and weaknesses within 10 executive functioning skills

4/21: Executive Functioning Skills: Focus/Attention and Tolerating Boredom

5/5: Executive Functioning Skills: Managing Time

5/19: Executive Functioning Skills: Managing Emotions with Family/Friends

All 6th-graders are welcome to join the following lessons with Mrs. McCoy (3:30-4:30):

3/5 Establishing Privacy and Recognizing Boundaries of others online
5/7 Shattering Stereotypes

All 7th-graders are welcome to join the following lessons with Mrs. McCoy (3:30-4:30):

3/12: Teenage Brain and Risk-Taking
4/16: Resilience When Plans Fall Apart
5/14: Navigating Shifts in Friendships

All 8th-graders are welcome to join the following lessons with Mrs. McCoy (3:30-4:30):

3/19: Exam Prep this Spring
4/16: Breaking Down and Celebrating Success

Upcoming March and April Birthdays!-

Annelise Henderson- March 10th

Lenna Hoff- March 15th

Takoda Lac- March 19th

Breccan Hayes- March 21st

Ziva Panchal- March 25th

Hartley Hoff- March 27th

Bentley Burton- March 29th

Mr. Simon- March 31st

Arlo Fitzgerald- April 4th

Spicer Davenport- April 4th

Bodan Escaravage- April 8th

Eamon Doyle- April 9th

Jeffrey Lewis- April 11th

Mrs. Ashley- April 12th

Maeve Doyle- April 13th

Anna Dehmer- April 17th

Mike Fain- April 17th

Thank You to Our 2025-2026 Club Sponsors!



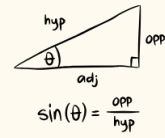
THANK YOU TO OUR
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CLUB SPONSORS!



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Important Links/ Documents for Reference-

<p><u>Calendars</u> Academic Year Calendar 2025-2026 Academic Year Calendar 2026-2027 Google Calendar Spring 2026 Planning Calendar</p>
<p><u>Policies and Procedures</u> Student-Parent Handbook Apparel Store Dress Code Lost and Found Gallery WAAS Field Trip & Club Policy/ Summary Community Service Resources</p>
<p><u>Celebrations, Enrichment, and Keys to Success</u> Owlsome Observations! WAAS Club Brochure WAAS Drama Website Reminders for Success / Best Practices for Student Learning at WAAS <i>*Teacher Resources Slide/ Teacher Resource Guide (Both For Parent Use)</i></p>

Wise Owl Newsletters 25-26

1/25/26	2/1/26	2/8/26	2/22/26	3/1/26
12/7/25	12/14/25	1/4/26	1/11/26	1/18/26
10/26/25	11/2/25	11/9/25	11/16/25	11/30/25
9/21/25	9/28/25	10/5/25	10/12/25	10/19/25
8/17/25	8/24/25	8/31/25	9/7/25	9/14/25
6/8/25	6/29/25	7/13/25	7/27/25	8/10/25