



CONTACT

Learning and Leading for Tomorrow

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JOSHUA SATTERFIELD	Technology Director
MATTHEW SALAH	Special Services Director

Some New (and not so new) Faces at Central Office

Not only did the beginning of the new school year bring changes to the way students would learn, it also brought the retirement of some key personnel in the WBSD. Mrs. Sherry Weiser, the district's Technology Director of 17+ years, retired in mid-July 2020. Mrs. Joanne Weise, Special Services Director, decided to take the retirement buyout and after 47+ years in education, submitted her retirement effective upon her replacement.

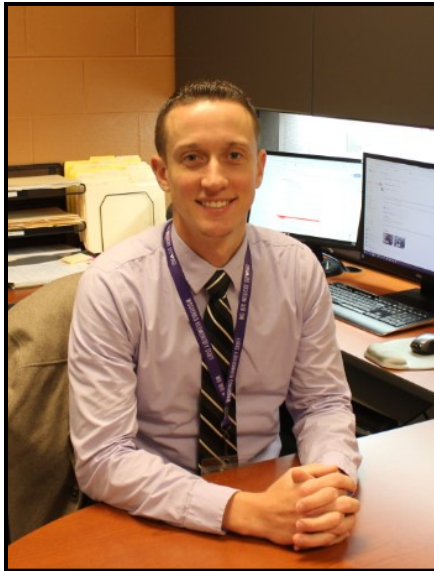


Mr. Matthew Salah
Director of Special Services

Long-time WBSD educator, Mr. Matthew Salah, was approved by the Board of Education on November 10, 2020 as the district's new Director of Special Services. Mr. Salah began his employment with the WBSD in 2005 when he was hired as a special education teacher and transition specialist after earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University. Mr. Salah then furthered his education by earning a Masters in the art of Educational Leadership from Concordia University in 2008. 2010 brought more changes for Mr. Salah as he was named Assistant Principal of Patrick Henry Middle School and served in that capacity until August 2019 when he then became Principal. Mr. Salah is currently enrolled in the Ed. Specialists Program for special education director certification offered through Eastern Michigan University and Wayne County RESA.

In talking about his new position, Mr. Salah stated, "It is a great honor and privilege to be able to serve the outstanding students in the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District Special Services Department. As Director, it is my mandate to make sure that all of our students are supported and are able to achieve the highest level of academic and social emotional development possible."

Mr. Joshua Satterfield was also approved by the Board of Education on November 10th as the district's new Director of Technology & Instructional Integration.



Mr. Joshua Satterfield,
Director of Technology &
Instructional Integration

Mr. Satterfield has been employed with the WBSD since 2013 and taught 5th grade at both Wegienka and Gudith Elementary schools. He earned a Bachelor of Elementary Education from Eastern Michigan University in 2013 and a Masters of K-12 Educational Administration in 2015. In addition to his Bachelor and Master degrees, Mr. Satterfield has earned numerous certifications during his teaching career.

While a teacher, Mr. Satterfield's expertise included developing instructional common core math videos to assist students and parents with lesson learning targets which has been supported by educators throughout the district and Wayne County.

During a recent conversation with Mr. Satterfield, he stated, "I am both excited and honored to serve the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District as the Director of Technology & Instructional Integration. It is my passion to help all stakeholders integrate instructional technology in a meaningful way that not only engages students, but also increases student achievement. I am looking forward to working with the entire community to ensure the

academic success of our students."

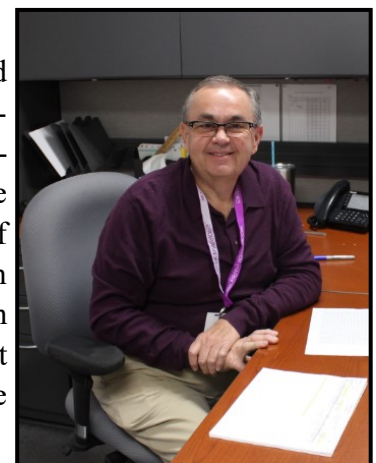
In addition to the changes in Central Office Administration, the Business Office has seen the addition of two new staff members — Ms. Mary Ochman and Mr. Larry Blackburn. Ms. Ochman joins the district as the new Payroll and Benefits Clerk and Mr. Blackburn was named the district's new Accounting Specialist.



Ms. Mary Ochman
Payroll & Benefits Clerk

Ms. Ochman comes to the WBSD from Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital where she worked as a medical education specialist in general surgery where she performed a variety of duties overseeing all aspects of the general surgery program. She earned a Bachelor of Health Administration and Business Management from Baker College in 2015 with an added certification in bookkeeping. Ms. Ochman also brings to the district extensive accounting and accounts payable/receivable experience from previous employments.

Mr. Blackburn has pursued a career in finance. Until recently, he was the Director of Financial Control-Central Region, Director of Field Ops and Financial Control, Regional Vice President of Finance and Operations for Metro PCS. He managed a staff of 30+ employees in five states and 10 different business offices. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration-Accounting from the University of Michigan in 1981. Mr. Blackburn is also a certified public accountant.



Mr. Larry Blackburn
Accounting Specialist

Mr. Blackburn has built a distinguished career in finance since his college graduation beginning his career with Ernst & Whinney as a senior auditor. After retiring from Metro PCS, he soon decided that he wasn't quite ready for retirement life and applied for and was awarded the district's accounting specialist position.

Both Mr. Blackburn and Ms. Ochman are welcome additions to the Business Office.



Mrs. Sandy LaBell
Pupil Accounting Specialist

A familiar face in the WBSD, Mrs. Sandy LaBell was promoted in early November and has become the district's new Pupil Accounting & Data Specialist.

Before being employed by the WBSD, Mrs. LaBell attended Dorsey Business School and obtained administrative assistant certification. She was hired in 2003 as an administrative assistant and has worked in that capacity at Support Services, Bates Elementary School, Woodhaven High School and Patrick Henry Middle School.

In October 2019, Mrs. LaBell joined the Central Office team as the district's enrollment specialist/receptionist where her primary duties were enrolling new students into the district and managing the front desk of a very busy Central Office.

Mrs. LaBell commented, "I feel very fortunate to have moved around the district in different positions. During my 17 years here, I have met so many wonderful people and students along the way as well." Mrs. LaBell also commented, "I'm excited to begin my position in Pupil Accounting. The experience that I have gained working in the school district has prepared me for this challenging position. I feel that I'm performing an important function for the school district, and I truly enjoy working with the administrators and teachers."

Congratulations to Mr. Salah, Mr. Satterfield, Ms. Ochman, Mr. Blackburn and Mrs. LaBell! The WBSD welcomes you in your new roles.

Mr. Roger Gurganus Named Patrick Henry Middle School Principal



Mr. Roger Gurganus, Principal
Patrick Henry Middle School

In a unanimous decision on December 8, 2020, the Board of Education voted to approve Mr. Roger Gurganus as the next Principal of Patrick Henry Middle School. The position became vacant when former principal, Matt Salah, was named the district's Director of Special Services.

Mr. Gurganus earned a Bachelor of Science in Education in 2005. He was hired by the WBSD in 2008 and taught both second and third grades at Yake Elementary School. In 2013, he earned a Master of Arts in Education with a focus on leadership and reading development. In 2013, Mr. Gurganus was named Assistant Principal at Brownstown Middle School where he remained until this new appointment. While at BMS, Mr. Gurganus earned certification from Michigan State University in its Pathway to Leadership program in 2016.

Mr. Gurganus said, "I am so excited and blessed to be the new principal of Patrick Henry Middle School. I am ready for this new journey, and I will do everything I can to ensure all of my students and families feel a sense of community and have every opportunity possible to connect and grow in their educational and personal lives."

Mr. Gurganus further stated, "This year is a year like no other but rest assured that even in these times we are in, with so many unknowns, there is one thing that I do know; we will succeed. Patrick Henry has a staff that gives their all every day and meets every challenge head on because they believe in, and care for, all of their students." "I am so proud of the work that has gone on so far this year and know that greater things are yet to come! Thank you again for this opportunity to help all of you reach your greatest potentials and meet your every goal. Together we can do anything so let's stand united as Warriors and show the world just what we can do!"

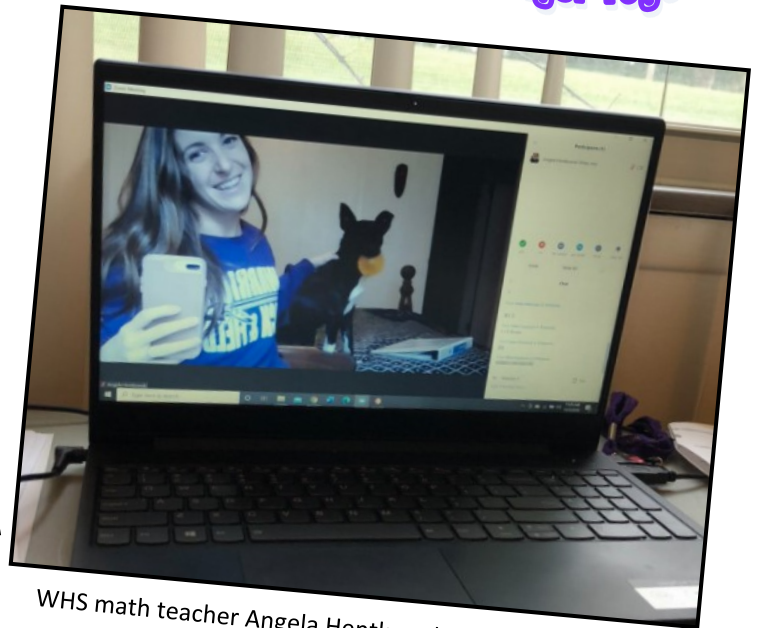
Congratulations Mr. Gurganus, and welcome to the PHMS team!

A Day in the Life of a Warrior . . .

Warrior Strong -- Stronger Together



Central Office enjoying the quilt made by the Wildcats.



WHS math teacher Angela Hentkowski sportin' her Warrior Wear on Common Thread Friday, Dec. 4th.



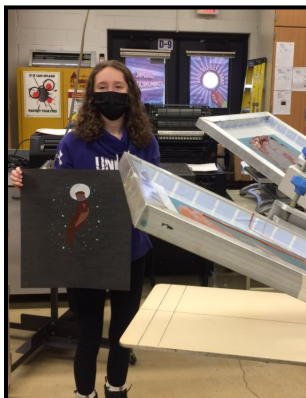
Wildcat November Remote Student of the Month.



Wegienka Y5 students transition to remote learning.



Erving 1st Grade teacher Mrs. Danosky bringing her A game to remote learning.



WHS Graphics students work in small CTE group settings making four col- or print t-shirts.



Ryan Szczepaniak signs his National Letter of Intent to play baseball for MSU.



BMS 6th grade science student working hard for teacher Shannon McNamara.