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# K-12 COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS/GEAR UP

Fort Wayne Community Schools

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## A GRADUATION Message from the K-12 College and Career Readiness Manager

BY SHENITA BOLTON

Class of 2020, the College and Career Readiness/GEAR UP staff realizes this is a bittersweet time for each of you. We recognize graduation will look totally different than what you have anticipated for the past several months, but we want to let you know that **WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!** Graduating from high school is a tremendous achievement and we are honored that we had the opportunity to work with many of you and help you prepare for college and other postsecondary options.

As you take the leap from high school to college or your career, we encourage you to do the following:

- Hold onto to your high school friendships, but not too tight
- Be open to making new friends as you go off to college or enter a new career field
- Don't be afraid to talk to your professors or new colleagues
- Embrace the uncertainty that comes with transition
- Lean on your family and share with them your new experiences, successes and challenges
- Mentor an elementary, middle school or high school student
- Be a lifelong learner
- ALWAYS BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!





FWCS Middle School Students  
are  
**Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness  
for Undergraduate Programs!**

by Angeliki Benge, Allen Coultas,  
Leo Pech, and Michael Roberson  
**GEAR UP Student Advisors**



## A Message to the Class of 2024

8<sup>th</sup> grade scholars, your next adventure is near. Transitioning from one grade to the next brings mixed emotions, along with many unknowns and challenges. We want you to remember, you have come a long way. Think about the memories you have made in your favorite class; that one big laugh out loud moment during an afterschool club meeting, sporting event, college and career readiness activity or study group. Recall those amazing achievements and prepare to GEAR UP to the next level. We believe in YOU!

As you began to write the next chapter in your book called *LIFE*, we encourage you to look towards how you can achieve success during high school:

- **Ask for help:** success does NOT mean you have to do it alone. You are not lacking anything, but simply want to succeed
- **Stand up to Peer Pressure:** Just say NO, NOPE, NAH, or see you later
- **Plan ahead:** Focus on finding a routine over the summer. Establishing a routine will allow you to quickly accomplish day-to-day tasks, especially during school hours
- **Stay Connected:** Build and keep healthy relationships with friends, teachers, and administration
- **Look Ahead:** Research different career fields to discover what excites you.

Freshman year is the foundation of your high school career, so make it count. Embrace challenges that support your success. Most importantly, be true to yourself!

**Be safe and enjoy your summer!**

**WE ARE PROUD OF THE THINGS YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED AND WILL ACCOMPLISH!**

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar Highlights

By Martin Murphy



## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar SENIORS



CONGRATULATIONS!! During this past four years, it has been a pleasure working with you to complete your Scholar Success Program Requirements, FAFSA, and engage you in other college and career readiness activities. As you prepare to begin your college career, I want to remind you that all 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar recipients must do the following to maintain their 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholarship while in college:

- Earn at least 30 credits each academic year.
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Indiana's April 15 deadline every year.
- Complete the College Scholar Success Program each year of college
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as determined by your college. SAP usually includes a minimum grade point average (GPA) per semester, as well as a limit on incomplete and withdrawals from courses. Contact your college's financial aid office for questions about SAP.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Trinity Mitchell is a rising sophomore at Ball State University in Muncie Indiana. She graduated from North Side High School in 2019. Trinity is pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Exercise Science with a minor in Military Science.

*"The generous support of the 21st Century Scholarship has aided me through my collegiate journey allowing me to not only further my education but partake in experiences that's help shaped me into the person I am today. I'm truly blessed to be a 21st Scholar recipient and can't wait to see what the future brings."*

You can learn more about my university at <https://www.bsu.edu/>

# College and Career Readiness INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

By Neal Davis, College and Career Readiness/GEAR UP Coordinator



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL  
OF OUR SENIOR INTERNS!

“The expert in anything was  
once the beginner”

- *unknown*



## Destanie Wilson

Destanie Wilson is a senior at Snider High School and is one of three students who participated in the Criminal Law Internship at Allen Superior Court. Under the supervision of Judge Wendy Davis, Destanie had the opportunity to experience the intricacies of the criminal justice system.

She shared, “As a young child I always wanted the chance to see and experience what happens in an actual courtroom setting and it was great to be there in person.”

Destanie’s ultimate goal is to become a public defender. She plans to utilize the knowledge, skills and abilities obtained during her internship experience while pursuing an undergraduate degree at Alabama A&M in Huntsville, Al.

**Students interested in participating in an internship should  
contact me at [neal.davis@fwcs.k12.in.us](mailto:neal.davis@fwcs.k12.in.us) or (260) 467-7272**

# FREE SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Ivy Tech – CHOICES (Children Having Opportunities Integrating Career and Educational Success) Summer Program July 13-24

- Rising 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students (ONLY 25 slots available)

*The program objectives include career exploration (exposure to careers the students wouldn't otherwise consider), student success workshops, career development and college readiness.*

*Register online at*

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdip26GeaLWfcSAaXWrvYGAK6lf3me3-Mple26DraQsvAc3UQ/viewform>

### Manchester University Virtual Pharmacy Week

July 14-17

- Rising 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students

*MU Virtual Pharmacy Week will provide opportunities to experience the pharmacy profession and Manchester University! MU Virtual Pharmacy Week will include a series of virtual offerings.*

*Register online at* [https://forms.manchester.edu/pharmacy/camp/?\\_ga=2.265903119.1495095953.1589407162-1230226900.1589407162](https://forms.manchester.edu/pharmacy/camp/?_ga=2.265903119.1495095953.1589407162-1230226900.1589407162)

### FWCS Virtual PSAT/SAT Bootcamp

PSAT Bootcamp: (rising 10 <sup>th</sup> grade students):	July 16 and July 17	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
or		
PSAT Bootcamp: (rising 10 <sup>th</sup> grade students):	July 18	9:00 a.m. – Noon
SAT Bootcamp: (rising 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> grade students)	July 30 and July 31	10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
or		
SAT Bootcamp: (rising 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> grade students)	August 1	9:00 a.m. – Noon

Get a jumpstart on improving your test scores by participating in this FREE virtual bootcamp  
*Registration Coming Soon*



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# PARENT ENGAGEMENT

by Kyle Bond, Family and Community Support Liaison



## PARENTS WE NEED YOU!

Parents and guardians have the opportunity to serve as a trailblazer and further integrate in Fort Wayne Community Schools. **The Parent/Guardian Trailblazer Program** equips parents and guardians with the knowledge, skills and abilities to support their children academically and emotionally.

The program provides a structure for parents and guardians across the district to work together to empower their students to succeed in the classroom, in the community, and in the broader world. Parent/Guardian Trailblazers work closely with the PTA, the College and Career Readiness Office, youth serving organizations, and their child's school to ensure that children are college and career ready.

Parent/Guardian Trailblazers serve as the steering wheel on the vehicle of learning, as they provide guidance, educational support and are engaged in the students academic journey. In collaboration with Fort Wayne Community Schools, parents/guardians will work together to help their students reach their full academic potential.

**Join the Parent/Guardian Trailblazer Program Today!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

contact me at [kyle.bond@fwcs.k12.in.us](mailto:kyle.bond@fwcs.k12.in.us) or (260) 467-7297