

Freshman Academy Newsletter



Welcome to the weekly newsletter for the Whitnall High School Freshman Academy. Timely information will be shared in this newsletter and newsletters will be archived on the district website. Please click the link below to visit the Freshman Academy website.

[Visit our Freshman Academy Website](#)

Recap: Week of November 16



Biology

This past week we talked about different types of mutations that can occur in DNA. The students did a drawing activity to show how "mutated" directions result in a different end result. Then we paired with health to talk about cancer and mutations.

English

Character analysis sketches were handed in last week. See some of the example pictures on the left. Students identified the protagonist's traits that were shared outwardly and what the character kept hidden from most people. Students also cut out pictures and words from magazines for the outside and inside of a mask for themselves. See pictures from this week! Finally, students wrapped up the theme of identity by writing a reflective paragraph to explain what they have learned about their own identity throughout the unit.

Social Studies

Students spent much of the past week working on their identity project. Their social studies teachers served as the evaluator of their project proposal. This proposal was presented by the groups and offered a window into what the students ultimately wanted their project to become.

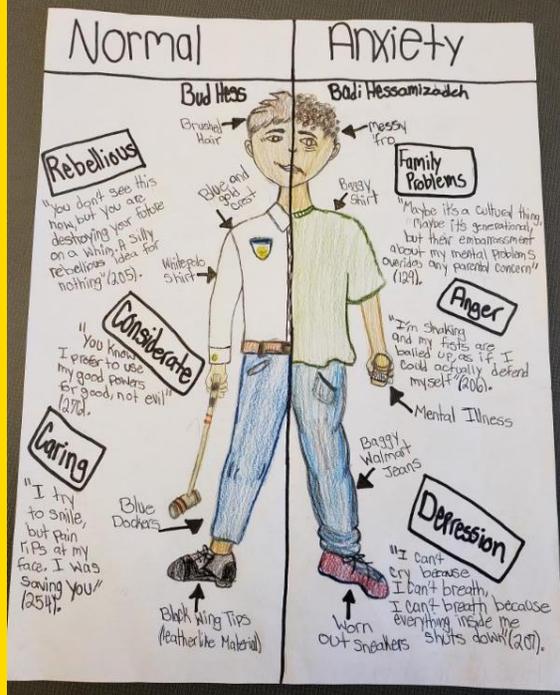
AP Human Geography

Students in APGH spent the week working on their identity project, along with Global Studies students.

Health

This week in health class the students learned about cancer and how it is related to mutations. They discussed why people get cancer and some decisions they can make to

reduce their cancer risk. The students also began working on their goal setting presentations.



Looking Ahead: Week of November 19th

Students will be beginning our next unit on Interdependence by viewing, "Racing Extinction," a Discovery Education documentary from 2015. We will be previewing the topic in our Home Base groups at the start of Monday and then viewing the documentary on the big screen in our auditorium.

On Tuesday students will be presenting their identity projects to groups of students and teachers. In the afternoon, all students will have a chance to walk around the Freshman Academy and view, reflect, and provide feedback on the presentations of their peers. We look forward to seeing some great projects!

Identity Project - Update

Your son/daughter has been working on various steps in preparation for their final project on Identity. They will take one word from our prospectus (mission statement)--passion, purpose, values, vision--and create a project in one of two ways. They may choose to take that word and showcase how and why they relate it to their identity. They may also choose to create an action plan on how to improve our school, using that word as the focal point. The overall goal is for students to feel that they are valued and have the opportunity to make our school and district an outstanding experience in their four years here.

This will be a challenging assignment that will involve initiative, time outside the school day, planning, next level thinking, editing and revising, and working effectively with a partner (if the student chooses to do so.). Staff is available for assistance. Ask your son/daughter to tell you about his/her plans and progress!

If you are curious, more information regarding the prospectus is available in the Fall 2018 edition of the Whitnall Window - available on the district webpage.

[Identity Project Introduction](#)

Interested in Knowing More?

Are you interested in knowing more about the activities and assignments in Freshman Academy? Your child is able to add you as a parent within the Google Classroom. If they are unsure

how to do this, please have them contact their social studies teacher in Freshman Academy (Mr. Dahnke, Mr. Baumann, or Mr. Kujawa) to assist.



Class of 2022 Honors Program



Information about the Honors Program was shared with students on Friday, September 14 during the Mix Up Day. There is a section on the Freshman Academy area of the district website with more information. Please visit:

[Freshman Academy Honors Program FAQs](#)

Enrollment forms should have been completed and turned in as of last week. Mr. Welch will create a list of students enrolled in the program and confirm that all of the applications turned in to Freshman Academy teachers are accounted for. Please contact Mr. Welch with any questions.

STAY CONNECTED

