

WASD

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INTERNSHIPS

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CESAR MELO

BUSINESS OFFICE

- ➔ Hands-on experience
- ➔ Real-life applications
- ➔ Career-readiness



PROFILE

CESAR MELO

Cesar Melo learns skills as an intern in the Business Office.



Junior Cesar Melo is interested in becoming an entrepreneur and traveling the world fixing homes in countries that have been devastated by natural disasters. He chose to intern with the Wyomissing Area School District's business administrator, Mark Boyer, to learn more about business management and finance.

Mr. Boyer explains that he and Cesar have been working on taxation, property assessments and their impact on revenues, the budget process, five-year forecasting, and capital improvements, among other topics.

"I try to involve him in what I am working on that day," Mr. Boyer says. "Cesar has had the opportunity to be part of meetings with groups, vendors, the superintendent, and

the director of buildings and grounds. He was part of the meeting that we had with Tanner Furniture to decide colors and final layout of the new cafeteria tables at the junior/senior high school."

"Mr. Boyer has to make many people happy," Cesar explains. "He presents me with different scenarios and explains how he approaches each situation; it's very interesting to me."

Cesar says he has been most surprised at how much things cost. "I was raised to understand that things cost money," he says. "However, I didn't know that the school district has to pay for things like the gas and the bus driver to drive the basketball team to a tournament."

Mr. Boyer appreciates having a student intern. "Working in the Business office doesn't give me the opportunity for student interaction," Mr. Boyer says. "Having a student intern lets me share the operations side of the District with a student."

Spending time with Cesar also affords Mr. Boyer the opportunity to ask about his experiences as a student. "Cesar's ability to provide his perspective on certain topics has been very valuable," he comments. "He is a hardworking, dedicated individual who has huge aspirations in the world of business."

Cesar says the internship program has helped him to see that he has the skills for a career in business management and finance. He is even more confident in his choice to pursue this career after college.

Mr. Boyer believes that the internship program can also open up a greater understanding of how the District operates outside of the classroom. "Students like Cesar, who are interning outside the classroom, experience the different facets that go into the daily operations of a school district."

Cesar is a forward on the high school's basketball team. He is also a member of the track team; his events are high jump, long jump, and triple jump.

BUILDING CAREER-READINESS

➔ **Hands-On Experience**

➔ **Real-Life Applications**

➔ **Career-Readiness**

"It is important for students to intern to gain insight into careers and opportunities that are steadily growing and redefining the workforce."

-Peter Beck



ABOUT

THE WYOMISSING AREA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Wyomissing Area Senior High School Internship Program is part of an initiative from the Pennsylvania Department of Education called Pennsylvania Career Readiness. The goals of the Internship Program, which has been in development for the last year, are to:

- provide students with the opportunity for career exploration and hands-on field experience before choosing a career or postsecondary area of concentration;
- give interns exposure to the professional expectations of the "working world";
- connect academic applications to practical skills; and
- meaningfully extend every academic department's existing curriculum.

For the 2019 spring session, ten student interns are working with mentors in internal placements throughout the school district. As teacher and Internship Coordinator Peter Beck explains, "This pilot year will provide valuable data and feedback to enhance the experience for next year's interns."

Internships expose students to real-world careers in their field of interest. "It is important for students to intern to gain insight into careers and opportunities that are steadily growing and redefining the workforce, such as computer science, STEM applications, mathematics, engineering, business, finance, and medicine, among many others," Mr. Beck comments. "If students can gain practical experience through a dynamic internship program, our hope is they'll be more prepared to enter the work force or a postsecondary academic setting."

Mr. Beck continues, "Conversely, if a student is undecided about their focus, this program affords them the opportunity to explore potential careers before committing money and time to a potentially fruitless endeavor."

In addition to hands-on work with a mentor, each student-intern is required to submit weekly experience journals, conduct two professional interviews, and review two relevant professional journals per semester. The assignments are not necessarily designed for writing, but more as an activity for further engagement in their selected field.

There are no academic prerequisites for participation. Students who are interested in participating should speak with their counselor.