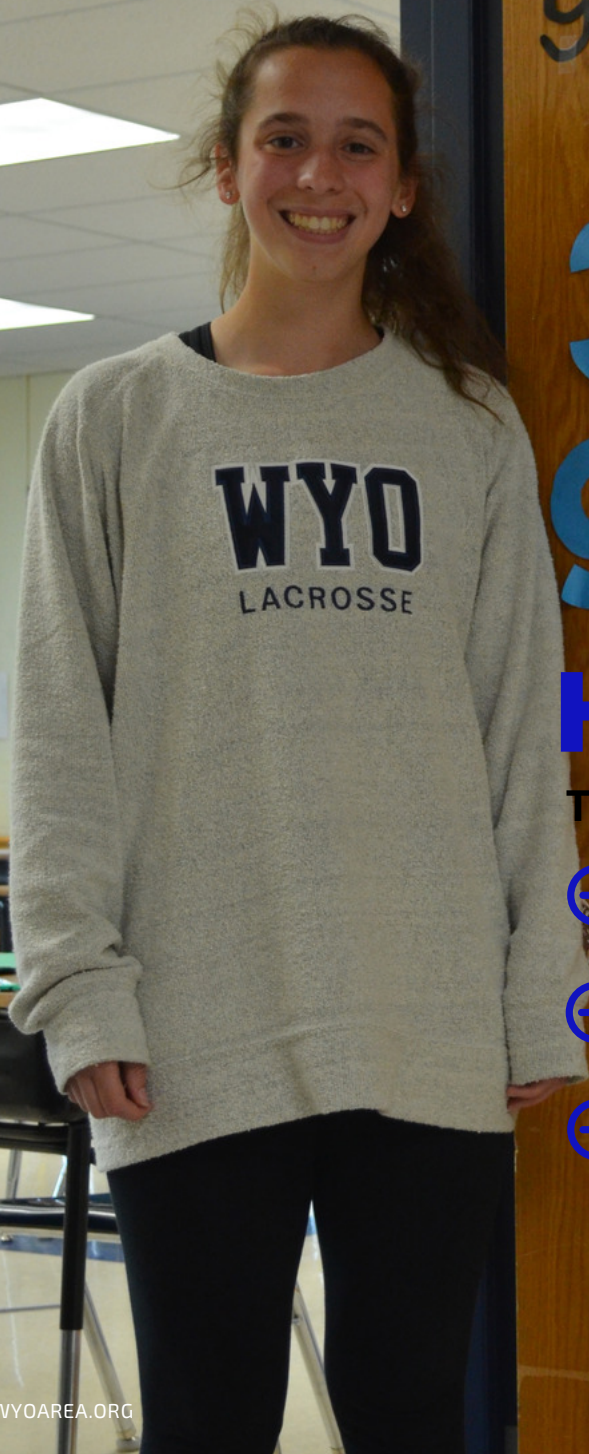


**WASD**

MAY 2019 | ISSUE 4

# INTERNSHIPS



you know?

3rd grade

**HANA NEFF**

THIRD-GRADE CLASSROOM

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

PROFILE

# HANA NEFF

*Hana Neff learns skills as an intern in a third-grade classroom*



Junior Hana Neff has always dreamed of being an elementary-school teacher, so it is no surprise that she chose to intern at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center. She was excited to be placed in Mrs. Lauren Fiorentino's third-grade classroom.

Hana says her favorite part of being in Mrs. Fiorentino's class is interacting with the students, and Mrs. Fiorentino agrees that Hana is nothing less than an active member of the class. Hana's responsibilities include working one-on-one and in small groups with students on reading comprehension and vocabulary as well as math skills and facilitating a student book club.

"There are eight students in my class who don't participate in orchestra," Mrs. Fiorentino

explains. "Hana has developed a small book club that engages these students in vocabulary review and reading comprehensive questions."

Hana has also remained after school to assist with math tutoring. "Hana makes an effort to be in the classroom as often as she can for as long as she can, which is commendable," Mrs. Fiorentino says. "She has a lot on her plate, but Hana has risen to the challenge and that has enabled her to experience different opportunities and aspects of my day."

Hana was surprised at how much "older" the third-grade students were than she expected. Mrs.

Fiorentino says that this is because expectations are higher when kids are in school, even more so now than when Hana was in third grade.

Hana is thoroughly enjoying her time in the classroom and has committed to interning again next year; she hopes to be placed with Mrs. Fiorentino again.

Outside the classroom, Hana plays soccer and lacrosse.



## 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.