



THE CHARGER

A TRIP THROUGH HISTORY

Students visit Auschwitz exhibit in Kansas City

Mayah Mumpower | news editor

Last week, sophomores and juniors traveled to the Auschwitz Exhibit currently on display at Union Station in Kansas City.

The exhibit, "Auschwitz: Not Long Ago. Not Far Away," features a combination of original objects and photographs from institutions and museums around the world. Typically only on display in Europe, it will be in Kansas City until March 20.

This rare experience was an opportunity to help the students learn more about the Holocaust and the social injustices that occurred.

English teacher Miriam Barton helped organize the trip. "We do a big social justice unit every spring semester and a great way to start it is by learning about why we need to fight for social justice because there are awful things that have happened in society that we can't let happen again," Barton said.

History teacher Jess Rutledge said the trip also ties into his curriculum. "This was a horrific event that happened and as difficult as it may be to learn about these types of things, it is important for us to understand that these things happen to make sure that as we move forward in future generations we never allow something like this to happen again," Rutledge said.

As the students walked through, they were able to see how many different groups were discriminated against and how concentration camps, like Auschwitz, were run. Videos of survivors sharing their experiences as well as letters written from the camps were displayed.

"It's a benefit because you hear firsthand accounts and you get to see actual firsthand items that were taken from those murdered or the camp itself, which makes the experience much more real, much more personal," Rutledge said.



Student responses to the field trip:

"It was pretty eye-opening for me. I learned quite a bit about the Holocaust that I didn't know before. It became pretty sad when you learned about some people's stories and what they went through."

— junior Eli Oliver

"I was definitely worth taking a visit because it showed how drastically it affected the Jewish people and what it did to families and the guilt from those who survived."

— junior Ryan Schutter

"I really enjoyed going. There were many things that stood out to me and that I had learned from going. It helped to put a visual on all of the things that had happened in that camp, even though we had heard about it in stories and stuff, seeing some of those things in real life puts a really big visual on everything."

— junior Rebekah Stuhlsatz

For more responses, as well as a discussion of the trip on this week's Senioritis Podcast, visit whscharger.com.

Several students said the exhibit was effective. "The exhibit was really heart wrenching in my opinion. The way it went into detail and had quotes from many survivors just broke my heart in a way, especially at how some kids got told they would never see their family again," junior Danielle Murphy said.

Many personal belongings were



Top: Sophomore Weston Johnson and juniors Danielle Murphy and Jorge Carmona observe the clothes worn by prisoners of Auschwitz while listening to the audio guide. **Above:** Sophomore Jacob Havenstein looks at a sock tucked into a shoe that was worn by one of the children who died in Auschwitz.

shown and accompanied by a brief quote or story about the person who wore or owned the item.

"Some things that stood out to me were some of the clothes displayed still had blood on them. The chunk of people's possessions melted together was sad to think about because it was all stolen and people never got stuff back," junior Collin Clark said.

Elementary principal joins USD 329

Emma Alderman | editor in chief

Dr. Kari Kephart was approved as the Alma Elementary School and Maple Hill Elementary School principal at a special board of education meeting December 20. She started the job at the start of this semester.

"I think coming in mid-year is a challenge within itself, but I'm excited to see all the great things that are going on in the district and then work to enhance them, and to look for any additional opportunities for improvement," Kephart said.

Kephart has two daughters, a freshman and a second grader, who attend school in the district. She has experience teaching all grades and serving as assistant elementary principal, primary principal and elementary principal/superintendent.

"I've been really impressed with the high expectations I've seen for students from all the teachers in both buildings. They definitely have the student's best interests at heart and they're working hard to get the best out of them," Kephart said.

Kephart also has expertise in Multi Tiered Systems of Support and Positive Behavioral Interventions.

"I'm excited to be here and to have this opportunity to work with the students, teachers, administrators and community," Kephart said.

NEW FRESHMAN EXCITED TO JOIN SPORTS

Eliza Barton | entertainment editor

New freshman Brooklyne Kephart is excited to join WHS. "Wabaunsee has been pretty good so far. The teachers have been helping a lot, and they are really nice," she said.

Kephart and her sister, a second grader, joined USD 329 after their mother Kari was hired as the elementary principal starting this semester. "My family is from Maryland, and we used to live here in Kansas like two years ago. We were here for seven years, so they just liked it better and my mom got the job as the elementary principal," she said.

Brooklyne is planning to play both basketball and softball this semester. In basketball Brooklyne is positioned as a point guard. "It's kind of hard to start playing with a team that you haven't practiced with all season. I am just scrambling everywhere because I have only had two practices," she said. In softball, she plays shortstop, second base and outfield. "I am looking forward to playing softball this season because I didn't have an opportunity to play last year," she said.

Work study provides schedule flexibility, job opportunities for seniors



Justin Carlson | opinion editor

A common problem amongst seniors at Wabaunsee is the struggle to fill their schedule, but there is a solution to this problem. As nine seniors have elected to do this semester, there is an option to take time during the school day to go work at real-world jobs.

This opportunity is provided in the form of the Work Study program. The nine seniors tak-

ing advantage of this are Henry Heigert, Jackson Havenstein, Madison Schurle, and Caden Yonke in the morning, then Jacob Daley, CJ Glotzbach, Kyndal Maike, Eli McDaniel, and Sarah Vanstory in the afternoon.

School counselor Kevin Sullivan is in charge of the work study program. He said "the experience for teenagers is invaluable. I view it as a capstone for all that we promote here at school and gives those folks a chance to put that into practice." High school is all about preparing students for the adult world and the work study program gives students a jump start into that world.

We are only a few days into the semester, but some of our students are already reaping

WORK STUDY STUDENTS THIS SEMESTER

Jackson Havenstein: J&J Construction
Henry Heigert: Heigert Farm & Ranch
Madison Schurle: Stoneybrooke Retirement Center
Caden Yonke: Winston Amick Beef Cattle Ranch
Jacob Daley: Alma Creamery
CJ Glotzbach: Maple Hill Subway
Kyndal Maike: Alma Creamery
Eli McDaniel: Maple Hill Subway
Sarah Vanstory: St. Marys Manor

the benefits from work study. Caden Yonke works with a local cattle farmer and said "work study has been awesome because I get that extra money to help pay for college. I also enjoy doing it because I learn a lot about farming and stuff because it will help me out when

I become a game warden."

Henry Heigert works on his family farm in the morning and said "It has taught me management skills and record keeping."

Those two gentlemen are currently working jobs that will benefit them in their future careers but some students are just working jobs that will give them personal and social experience.

Jacob Daley and Kyndal Maike currently work at the Alma Creamery. When asked about his job, Jacob said he did "cheese." He works in the factory section and Kyndal works in retail. Neither of them have any plans to pursue cheese as a career but they find their work studies beneficial nonetheless.

Eli McDaniel takes the last

two hours of his day to work at Subway. He said "I enjoy work study. It's a nice way to get out of unnecessary classes while doing something worthwhile. I get to make money while also learning social skills. It's better than anything this school could give me."

I think our work study program is a great opportunity for seniors because it allows them to spend their free hours doing something that will be beneficial to their lives.

Spending hours a day sitting in study halls on their phones doesn't help students in any shape or form. A limited schedule is one of the woes of our small school but things like the work study program do a really great job at presenting good alternatives to students.