



Waccamaw High School

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Mr. Adam George, Principal
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Dear WHS Family,

The month of May is Mental Health Awareness month, and we have done a good job of keeping the conversation going all year at WHS. This spring has brought added pressure with the global coronavirus pandemic not allowing us to continue school in a traditional format. With this in mind, I wanted to reach out to every student and parent to encourage them to continue the community conversation about mental health and open up the lines of communication between school and home. I also wanted to make you aware of some of the positive changes WHS has made this year to improve mental wellness and offer additional social/emotional support for our students. WHS has:

- Added a full time RBHS Counselor, Mr. Bo Godbold, who provides students with free mental health counseling during school hours.
- Increased the time our School Psychologist, Mrs. Emma Wheeler, is at WHS, from three to four days a week, with a goal of having Mrs. Wheeler at WHS five days a week next school year.
- Started a Stress Management Tribe Time facilitated by Mr. Godbold and Mrs. Wheeler.
- Started the school district's first Mental Health Awareness Club.
- Started a weekly lunch time social skills group for students with special needs facilitated by a district behavior specialist.

To celebrate Mental Health Awareness Month in May Ms. Wheeler and Mr. Godbold are preparing videos and social media content aimed at reducing stigma, increasing awareness, and providing information. Mrs. Wheeler and Mr. Godbold are also planning after school groups for students for next school year, using input from student surveys on areas of need.

We understand the challenges our school faces this time of year, but are proud and excited of our new efforts to meet students' academic and social/emotional needs.

Sincerely,

Adam George