



**OCT-2024**

# EAST WAKE MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL Student Services Monthly Newsletter

## STAFF

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# MEET OUR AMAZING FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Zlata is from Moldova, where both Romanian and Russian are spoken, with Gagauz in the south and some minorities speaking Surzhik. Her hometown, though small, has a charming central square, monuments, parks, an art gallery, and a lake with beautiful sunsets. It's also known for wineries, as Moldova is famous for its grapes and wine. She loves the local coffee shops and bakeries.

Zlata unexpectedly won a scholarship to live in America for a year. She believes everything happens for a reason and sees this opportunity as a chance to change her mindset, experience different cultures, and make lifelong acquaintances. She's eager to learn about people's behaviors, mindsets, and what makes Americans more successful and happier compared to other countries.

In America, she hopes to understand more about herself, her comfort zones, and how one's origins shape mentality and behavior. She is not homesick, as she has strong support from both her natural and host families. Zlata is also actively involved in volunteering, aiming to complete her required hours, and plans to join school clubs and events.

In Moldova, the school year starts on September 1st and ends on May 31st, with celebrations and performances. She attends a Theoretical Lyceum with about 1,000 students from grades 1-12. Her daily routine includes a ride to school from her parents, walking home, and going to the gym where she enjoys weightlifting, stretching, pilates, and recently discovered tennis.

Zlata enjoys her mom's cooking, especially dishes made with cottage cheese. Some of her favorite Moldovan dishes include "Placintă" (a pastry with various fillings), "Mamaliga" (similar to American grits), "Zeama" (soup), "Borscht", and "Sarmale" (grape leaves with rice and meat). For desserts, she loves "Cușma lui Guguța," honey-cake, and "Baba neagră." Everything her mom makes is her favorite!



Shu Xuan Wang, also known as Audrey, is from Taiwan, where the primary language is Chinese. Audrey lives in the capital, Taipei, known for its excellent transportation, security, and infrastructure. She would love to show visitors the calla lilies and hydrangeas at Yangmingshan National Park and the sights and food around Taipei 101.

Audrey became an exchange student to experience different cultures and a new school life. She's most excited about celebrating Christmas and attending prom in the U.S. Her goals include becoming more independent and improving her English. While she's concerned about making new friends and learning in English, she's eager to join sports, and clubs, and participate in holiday events.

Her school year runs from late August to June, and there are about 2,500 students. She gets to school by car and bus, and in Taiwan, you can start driving at 18. Audrey enjoys badminton, biking, and inline skating. Her favorite foods include boba milk tea, dumplings, steamed pork buns, green onion pancakes, tea eggs, and stinky tofu.

Miriam is an exchange student from Estonia. She comes from a small hometown known for its beautiful parks, where many children and teenagers spend their summer holidays. Miriam has always wanted to experience life in another country, and her exchange program is helping her explore new cultures. She is particularly excited about experiencing Christmas in the U.S.

Though she is a bit nervous about making friends, as she finds Americans very different from Estonians, she is curious to learn what Americans are like as friends. She hopes to visit fairs and amusement parks during her stay.

In Estonia, her school is the biggest in the country, with around 1,800 students from grades 1 to 12. School there starts on September 1st and runs until mid-June. While she used to walk to school back home, she now takes the bus in the U.S. She enjoys running and dancing, especially Estonian national dance, and is excited to be in a place that serves her favorite food—burgers and fries!



Berkan is 17 years old, lives in a small city in Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, and enjoys activities like going to the movies, swimming, and hanging out with friends. He's interested in improving his English, learning about different cultures, trying new sports (with a special interest in boxing), and making lasting memories. Berkan enjoys foods like Döner, lahmacun, and çığ köfte, and he often walks or cycles around. He looks forward to being able to travel alone when he turns 18.

*From the Dean's Desk, Mrs. Ewais*



### Average GPA: What It Is and Why It Matters

Grade point average (GPA) is a numerical value that represents an average score or grade for all of your high school classes combined. Your GPA measures your academic achievements and is an important metric for admission into college. If you're interested in continuing your education through college, it's important to understand how a grade point average works and how to improve your own GPA.

### What is the average high school GPA?

A grade point average can be either weighted or unweighted. An unweighted GPA doesn't consider how difficult a class may be for students. A weighted GPA does consider a course's difficulty and assigns more weight to certain classes when calculating GPA. In the United States, the average unweighted high school GPA is approximately 3.0 according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

You can attain a 3.0 GPA by averaging a B in each of your classes. If you're interested in pursuing a college education, it's important to work for a higher GPA, like 3.5, to have a competitive application when applying for selective colleges.

### What is the average GPA for college admission?

While admissions officers base acceptance on several factors, the average GPA for college admission is between 3.5 and 4.0. Even if you don't have this GPA, you may gain acceptance with a lower GPA from a less selective school. For example, while a small, private college may expect a 3.5 GPA at a minimum, a less selective school may want to see at least a 2.5 GPA or a C average.

It's helpful to start researching colleges early on so you can prepare. Once you know the required GPA for the colleges you're interested in, you can set goals to attain this cumulative GPA during your high school years. Consider calculating your GPA regularly so you can track your progress.

*From Mr. Hendricks' Desk*

Would you like to earn up to two years of college credits while in high school?  
Do you enjoy smaller class sizes?

If you are a 9th-11th grader, an Early College may be just what you want.

Wake County offers six different Early College Options: Wake Early College of Health Sciences, Wake STEM Early College, Wake Young Men's Leadership Academy, Wake Young Women's Leadership Academy, Vernon Malone College and Career Academy, and North Wake College and Career Academy.

You can learn more online or at the Magnet and Early College Fair being held on Saturday, October 26th from 9am - noon at Enloe Magnet High School.

The WCPSS Early College application period is from October 16th- December 12th.  
You may apply at [wcpss.schoolmint.com](http://wcpss.schoolmint.com)

*From Mrs. Bartleys' Desk*



# FROM THE MAGNET TEAM

## Important DATES:

- Family Academy Night - Oct. 15, 5:00 to 7:00 PM
- Magnet Open House - November 4th, 4:30 to 6:00 PM

## CCP Information

Dual Enrollment is available to students with a 2.8 or higher. Students can begin taking college courses while enrolled in High School. Students interested in CCP for the Spring Semester should complete the application now. Please email [smwall@wcpss.net](mailto:smwall@wcpss.net) if you are interested in learning more about the Dual Enrollment program.

### Important DATES:

- Enrollment Application is open now, due before Nov. 15
- October 21, the course schedule opens
- November 4, self-registration begins at 7 am
- January 8 Classes begin

### Important Links:

- [Wake Tech CCP website](#)
- [East Wake Magnet High School Dual Enrollment Information](#)

## Design Thinking Strategy:

**Empathizing** is the first step in the design thinking process and is defined as the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. It's a key element in design thinking that allows designers to create solutions that meet the needs of users.

Want to read about design thinking in the real world? Check out this link to learn about how IDEO - A Global Design & Innovation Company partnered with hotels, food banks, and others to combat food waste.

<https://www.ideo.com/works/designing-waste-out-of-the-food-system>

## Volunteer Opportunities:

Students with modified schedules needing volunteer hours can join the Heroes Read Program at Zebulon Magnet Elementary School. Volunteer slots are available Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:45-11:00 am or 12:15-1:30 pm, as well as a Thursday morning shift. Each slot allows students to mentor two students and earn 1.5 hours. A semester or year-long commitment is required, running from October 15th to May 15th. This is a fun and easy way to earn volunteer hours. Please email Mrs. Lawre Johnson if you are interested, [ljohnson@wcpss.net](mailto:ljohnson@wcpss.net).

If you are interested in volunteering or in need of service hours for a school club, please consider volunteering at Marbles Museum in Raleigh. The museum has several volunteer opportunities that include individuals which start at age 16, Teen Play Corps which is for 7th -10th graders, and group volunteer opportunities that support up to 20 people. For more information, check out the link below:

<https://www.marbleskidsmuseum.org/volunteer>

# EWMHS OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

CLICK ON THE LINK TO LEARN MORE INFO. ON OUR: [Attendance Policies](#)



## “ATTENDANCE MATTERS”



### WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

- **ACADEMIC SUCCESS:** REGULAR ATTENDANCE ENSURES YOU DON'T MISS VITAL LESSONS AND CLASSROOM INTERACTIONS.
- **LIFE SKILLS:** CONSISTENT ATTENDANCE HELPS DEVELOP DISCIPLINE AND RESPONSIBILITY.
- **SOCIAL BENEFITS:** BEING PRESENT ALLOWS YOU TO BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEERS AND TEACHERS.

#### CAN IMPACT ELIGIBILITY FOR:

- **ATHLETICS:** IF YOU HAVE >13 ABSENCES.
- **TEST EXEMPTIONS:** IF YOU HAVE >10 ABSENCES.
- **DRIVING PRIVILEGES:** MUST BE ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, IF <18 YRS. OLD OR LICENSE CAN BE REVOKED.

### REMEMBER: EVERYDAY COUNTS

### ATTENDANCE POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- **SCHOOL HOURS:** 7:25 AM-2:18 PM
- **TARDY POLICY:** ARRIVING AFTER 15 MINUTES AFTER THE TARDY BELL. REMEMBER EACH TARDY WILL RESULT IN PROCEDURAL CONSEQUENCES.
- **EXCUSED ABSENCES:** MUST BE REPORTED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN FOR REASONS SUCH AS ILLNESSES, MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS, OR FAMILY EMERGENCIES, WITHIN 2 DAYS OF RETURNING FROM THE ABSENCE.
- **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:** WILL BE MARKED FOR ABSENCES NOT JUSTIFIED OR APPROVED.
- **MAKE-UP WORK:** ITS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CATCH UP ON ANY MISSED WORK DURING YOUR ABSENCES. TYPICALLY, YOU HAVE 1 DAY FOR EACH MISSED ABSENCES.

WELCOME TO THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR HERE AT EWMHS. MAINTAINING REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS CRUTIAL FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND PERSONAL GROWTH. HERE'S A REMINDER OF OUR ATTENDANCE POLICIES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING PRESENT EVERYDAY. LETS STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN ATTENDANCE AND MAKE THIS MONTH A SUCCESSFUL ONE.

*From the Desk of Mrs. Donadson, SAP Counselor*