

Catching Up With . . .

District 94
Career & Technical
Education
Division

Former Business Students at WCCHS

The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight former students' accomplishments in the business field after getting their start by taking our courses here at West Chicago.

The Business Department offers a wide variety of courses ranging from computer based classes, to accounting, to work experience. All courses strive to be hands on, practical, and implement real world scenarios in the curriculum.

Students who enroll in business classes at West Chicago gain valuable skills that will benefit them in future high school courses, college,

and in the workplace.

Below is a list of our current courses offerings:

- Computer Apps I
- Computer Apps II
- Electronic Presentations for Business
- Technical Support Internship (TSI)
- AP Computer Science Principles
- Intro to Business
- Marketing
- Accounting
- Business Law
- CWT (Work Experience)
- Consumer Education
- Investments



Joe Majchrowski, Class of 2007

Business Education Staff:

Ms. Nancy Blume
Ms. Donna Durbin
Ms. Ashley Walsh
Mr. Ray Walsh
Ms. Mia Wirth
Mr. Marc Wolfe,
Division Head

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Dana O'Donoghue—Class of 1991

Dana O'Donoghue graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 1991. After high school she attended Northern Illinois University graduating in 1995 with a degree in Corporate Communications.

For 21 years Dana worked at NSA Media in

Downers Grove holding a variety of roles, and served her last 10 years with the company as the Manager of Data Analytics. Since leaving NSA she has worked in the non-profit sector, first with the American Cancer Society, and now with North Central College as the Assistant Director of

Development focusing on fundraising, event planning, cultivating donor relationships, and data analytics. While a student at WeGo Dana took several business classes including **Accounting, Consumer Ed, Business Law, Intro to Business, and Marketing.** She also was a member and officer of **Future Business Leaders of America.**

In reflecting on her time in high school, Dana says, "*Don Zabelin and Nancy Blume were key influencers in my decision to pursue a career in business . . . They showed us what career in business could look like . . . And propelled us down a successful path.*" Life has come full circle for Dana as she is now a parent of a freshman at WeGo!

Joe Majchrowski—Class of 2007

Joe Majchrowski graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 2007. He attended Northern Illinois University and received a Bachelor of Arts in Corporate/Organizational Communications in 2011.

Joe currently is the Director of Continuous Improvement at Hub Group, the largest intermodal marketing company in the United States. In this role he is responsible for the metric performance of the full customer base, developing cost savings opportunities and ensuring Hub Group's customers receive the highest level of service.

As a student at West Chicago, Joe took **Keyboarding, Computer Applications, Marketing, and Website**



Design. He also was a member and officer of **Future Business Leaders of America** and competed at the state level and qualified for nationals traveling to Orlando his senior year.

Looking back on his high school career, Joe says, *"The relationship building skills I learned while in FBLA helped give me the confidence and experience necessary for job interviews and played a major role in securing the job I have today. The technical skills gained from the business classes I took over ten years ago are still applicable today and have given me the ability to perform the duties of my job in an accurate and efficient manner."*

Allison Pizzi (Romanelli)—Class of 2007

Allison Pizzi (Romanelli) graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 2007. She attended Northern Illinois University graduating in 2011 with a degree in Corporate/Organizational Communications.

Allison currently serves as the Manager of Talent Development at Hub Group. She oversees the development, implementation, and continuous improvement of Hub Groups' corporate learning curriculum.

While a student at West Chicago

"Getting a jump start on learning these applications and skills gave me the tools to be successful in college and in the real world." —Allison Pizzi (Romanelli), Class of 2007

Allison took **Keyboarding, Computer Applications, Marketing, Website Design, and Consumer Education.** She also was a member and served as

an officer of **Future Business of America** qualifying for nationals in Computer Applications.

Allison credits many of the skills she learned in business classes for preparing her for her current position. She states, *"The technical skills I gained from the business classes are skills that I still use every day in my role at Hub, from web design to Excel. Participating in FBLA was a great experience as it opened the door to learning how to speak and write professionally as well as how to interview and act in a professional setting."*

Tom Walsh—Class of 2005

Tom Walsh graduated from West Chicago Community High School in 2005. After high school he attended Marquette University receiving a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a focus on Accounting.

Tom currently is the Senior Manager of Internal Audit at The HAVI Group in Downers Grove. In his current position he is responsible for designing and executing global financial, operational, and regulatory audits for the marketing, packaging, and supply chain

management divisions.

While a student at WeGo, Tom took numerous business courses and was also a member of our LifeSmarts team that won the Illinois State competition and competed at LifeSmarts Nationals.

In looking back on his time in high school, Tom states *"I had always known I wanted to be in business, but when I realized that I didn't know exactly what that entailed, the diverse business curriculum at WeGo allowed me to get ex-*

posure to a wide variety of business disciplines. While not all of those courses were ultimately my calling, the experience empowered me to choose a path that maximized not only career options, but my personal and professional fulfillment."

We are proud of Tom and all of our alumni success in college and the workplace!