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## A Note from Dr. Jordan

Dear Wydown Families,

Thank you so much for such a great start to the year! During the Walk-Through events and Open House, there was such a strong positive energy in the building and it feels so great to have all of our students back at Wydown.

We're very excited about the success of our new Where Everybody Belongs (W.E.B.) program for the incoming sixth-graders. Thanks to the hard work of the W.E.B. sponsors, eighth-grade W.E.B. leaders and our PTO, it was a great success. We also thank our PTO for their organization with the school supplies. Even though both programs went smoothly, they are new programs at Wydown and we will reflect on how we can make them more efficient and effective for next year.

This year we will continue to work together as a teaching faculty to learn how to incorporate innovation and culturally responsive practices into daily instruction. Your student should continue to experience more integrated learning units based on student choice and empowerment. Teaching, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking will be so important to our students as they move into the 21st century. Specifically this year we have revamped our DaVinci course to provide students with opportunities to learn in-depth around divergent thinking, understanding how every topic is complex with multiple perspectives and the importance of deep learning based on self-discovery.

Lastly, as I mentioned in my email regarding the safety of our community, it is important that we continue to work together on this effort. Please be mindful as you drop off and pick up, pulling all the way to the curb and using the sidewalks. Also, mind your speed both driving down Wydown and on the neighborhood side streets. Finally, please continue to talk to your students about their behavior when they are not with you. As they are out and about in the neighborhoods and nearby businesses, they represent all of us. Talk with the parents of your child's friends. Think about how you can work as a team to share those consistent expectations with your teenager to help them make good decisions.

As always, please continue to let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Working together is the way we will accomplish success for all of our students.

Have a great holiday weekend,

Dr. Jamie Jordan  
Principal

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## Counselors' Corner: Why Social Media Is Not Smart for Middle School Kids

"Because the midbrain is reorganizing itself and risk-taking is high and impulse control is low, I can't imagine a worse time in a child's life to have access to social media than middle school. Here are just a few reasons why."

[Click here](#) to read this article from *Psychology Today* by Melanie Hempe, RN, founder of Families Managing Media.

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## Health Headlines: Helping Your Middle School Student Learn to Communicate with Teachers (or Any Professional)

Communication is the key... [click here](#) to see how to help your teenager properly email a teacher - or in the future, a professor!

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## Wydown Earns National Character Education Recognition

Wydown Middle School has been honored by Character.org with a 2019 Promising Practices award for its Restorative Circles character education programs. Character.org bestowed 231 Promising Practices awards this year to organizations and schools across the U.S. and around the world who are making a difference in their communities. The programs earning Promising Practice awards must be tied to one or more of Character.org's 11 Principles of Effective Character. [Read more here.](#)

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## After-School Clubs and Activities

After-school clubs and activities will begin the Tuesday after Labor Day, Sept. 3. Activities are typically held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

[View the activity booklet here.](#)

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## MySchoolBucks and PowerSchool

Parents can now access MySchoolBucks and add money to their child's lunch account via the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). The link to MySchoolBucks is only available via the online (web browser) portal and is currently not available within the PowerSchool mobile app. If you are looking to manage your child's lunch account from your favorite smart device, simply download the MySchoolBucks mobile app from your device's app store.

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## Kudos!

Wydown Middle School Literacy Teacher **Rob Maesaka** has been selected as the 2019 Missouri Humanities Excellence in Education award winner. This award honors Maesaka for demonstrating his incredible aptitude for engaging students - fostering their creativity, critical thinking and understanding - over the course of his career. [Learn more.](#)

Wydown Middle School Counselor **Jason Thompson** has been named Lindenwood University's 2019 Adjunct of the Year. Thompson is a longtime adjunct professor with Lindenwood's School of Education. This award, decided by his colleagues, honors Thompson's pedagogical innovation, student-centeredness and effectiveness as a classroom teacher during the present and prior academic years. [Learn more.](#)

Wydown's very own **Chris Jost** was honored on the field at a recent St. Louis Cardinals' game. He was recognized for his outstanding service to the club.

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## Calendar

[View Wydown's upcoming events and activities.](#)

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