

Wyalusing Students Begin New Year

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—BY WARREN HOWELER—



Keri Pickett and Megan Pajalich, who are Title One instructors at Wyalusing Valley Elementary School, say goodbye to students as they leave the building after completing their first day of school on Monday, Aug. 23. Photo by Warren Howeler

The Wyalusing Area School District had a “very successful” first day of school on Monday, Aug. 23 as officials welcomed back more than 1,300 students to the Max P. Gannon campus for the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

“It was great seeing students with smiles and excitement come to school after their summer break,” said Wyalusing Area School Superintendent Dr. Jason Bottiglieri.

Students have also been “very cooperative” with wearing the required face masks on the school bus and have been excited to come to school each morning this week, said Bottiglieri.

“Kudos to the entire staff for being well prepared for welcoming students back into the classroom and focusing on learning,” he said.

Students at both facilities were also greeted with several new faces on staff.

Among the new staff that began their tenures with the district are:

—Heather McMicken, a second-grade teacher at Wyalusing Valley Elementary School (WVES).

—McKenzie Haight, a kindergarten teacher at WVES.

—Megan Pajalich, who takes over as the second Title One teacher at WVES.

—Tracey LaFrance, a physics teacher at Wyalusing Valley High School (WVHS).

—Emily Delp, a third-grade teacher at WVES.

—Damien Wickizer, a music teacher at WVHS.

—Renee Broschart, a sixthgrade teacher at WVES.

—Erika Wiles, a special education teacher at WVES.

In addition to that, many of the district's extra-curricular and sports are seeing higher participation for the new school year, said Bottiglieri.

“The after-school 21st Century Learning program will restart in September with anticipated high numbers as well,” he added.