WASHINGTON PREPARATORY'S

BOBCAT TRACKER

Transforming young learners into global citizens

AUGUST 2025 | ISSUE #10

> *This is a new year. A new beginning. And things will change.*
> -Taylor Swift

Teacher Feature: Roger Li - Math & Computer Science

We are thrilled to introduce four new instructors at WA Prep this year and will feature them over the next several issues. Here, mathematics and computer science instructor Roger Li shares a bit about himself.

What subjects will you be teaching at WA Prep?
IB and AP Computer Science, Algebra 2, and a computer science elective.

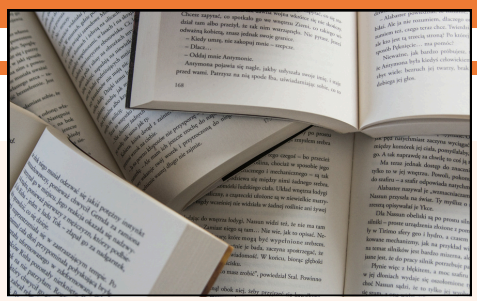
What do you love about your subject area?
I like solving puzzles and complex problems, and computer science is a great outlet for that.

What was your original career path and what brought you to teaching?
Originally, I planned to be a software engineer and studied computer science at UC Berkeley. While taking some time away from school, I designed and taught an ACT class at my old high school, and I knew that teaching was the career for me.

What is a topic or hobby you are currently interested in?
I would like to learn to play soccer, seeing as I watch it so much (Go Arsenal!). I love geeking out about sports in general, whether it's players, tactics, or even socioeconomic impacts. I've learned a lot about European politics by watching soccer.

What are you feel most proud of this year?
Getting hired at WA Prep!

ALL SCHOOL REMINDER: SUMMER READING!



Parents and students:
Keep in mind that summer reading assignments for all English classes, regardless of grade level, are due within the first two to three weeks of school. Be sure to check ALMA and your school email for detailed instructions and important information.

COLLEGE ADVISING: A NEW APPROACH

For the 2025-26 academic year, the Office of College Advising is proud to partner with Scoir, an all-in-one college advising platform designed to make the college search, planning, and application journey smoother and more collaborative for students, parents, and counselors. Unlike the current patchwork of OneDrive folders and PDF checklists, Scoir consolidates all key steps—college research, list-building, document requests, and communication—into one unified, user-friendly system. This centralization means critical information is organized, easy to access, and visible to everyone involved, helping reduce confusion and prevent missed deadlines. If you're in grades 9-12, or a parent of a high schooler, be on the lookout for more information very soon!

FIRESIDE CHAT
WITH HEAD OF SCHOOL, MINDY J. WATSON

Ms. Mindy, what are you looking forward to in the 2025-26 school year?

WA Prep's 8th school year will be a grand adventure, and I would expect nothing less, given the last seven years. I look forward to working with current and new students and parents. Each new iteration of the student body adds a new vibe to our community. In addition, I have the great pleasure of working alongside a very talented faculty and staff, which includes four new members. While change can be challenging, it is also very healthy to have new faces within the student body and the teaching staff. A new energy always makes a school year exciting. Continuous improvement is a consistent goal for WA Prep and this goal will continue to keep us focused on what makes WA Prep a unique and special educational institution.

The "cherry on top" of this coming year will be the opening of a new school building...stay tuned!

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Back to School Night

Thursday, Sept. 18th 6-8pm

Parents! We are excited to invite you to our annual Back to School Night (BTSN)! This year, BTSN will take place on Thursday, September 18th, from 6-8pm.

During this evening, parents will have the opportunity to:

- Navigate through their student's daily schedule
- Meet teachers
- Discover more about school programming and curriculum
- Ask any questions regarding WA Prep

Refreshments will be available. We can't wait to see you there!

A SUCCESSFUL START: SUPPLIES & REMINDERS

Students will need to bring specific supplies for each course, as will be requested by teachers on class syllabi. Additionally, as the school year begins, we kindly ask students and parents to review this list of supplies and reminders to ensure a smooth start:

- The school day starts at 7:55am. Please be seated in your first block no later than 7:55am.
- A *separate* 3-ring binder and notebook are recommended for each class.
- Students: bring more pencils and pens than you think you need and keep extra in your cubby! They can disappear quickly.
- If you are not signed up for hot lunches, remember to bring high-protein, low-sugar food to help you maintain focus and energy in the afternoon.
- Students, you can bring cash to buy snacks and beverages at the Bobcat Snack Shack during lunch. Proceeds benefit student council.
- Tutorial runs from 3:30-4:30pm each day. This is a time for students to check in with teachers and get extra help.

Important Dates

- **Mon, 8/25: First day of classes**
- **Fri, 8/29: Blue week, Blocks 1-4**
- **Mon, 9/1: Labor Day - No Classes**
- **Thurs, 9/18: Back to School Night, 6-8pm**

WHAT IS SOMETHING NEW YOU TRIED OR LEARNED OVER SUMMER BREAK?

"I learned new songs in my band with my two daughters. And learned some new songs in my other classic rock and soul band."
-Mr. David

"I travelled to new places in China, like Yunnan, and tasted some new kinds of mushrooms!"
-Steven Wang '27

"I got a community garden plot in my neighborhood and I'm growing pumpkins and summer squash, which I haven't tried to grow before!"
-Ms. Kristi

"I tried to take the driver's licensing test, but I failed. Also, I cooked dinner and lunch for my family frequently, so my cooking skills improved a lot."
-Youya Wang '26