



Photo by Jade Patrick

Wayzata High School Associate Principal Tyler Shepard and Student Support Time programmer Sheri Berggren developed “The Hub” — a student-focused online tool. Wayzata High School was named the Leading Innovator in the School Category for “The Hub” for the 2019 Local Government Innovation Awards.

## Leading School Innovator: Wayzata High School — “The Hub” Web-Based Teacher Portal

By Tyler Shepard, Wayzata High School Associate Principal

The “WHS Hub” was developed by Tyler Shepard, Wayzata High School Associate Principal, and Sheri Berggren, programmer for Student Support Time (<https://studentsupporttime.com>), for Wayzata High School staff and students, to help communicate, manage, and collaborate on student intervention time, teachers’ school-to-home communication, teacher/student academic referrals, academic resource center scheduling, after-school programming, college/university visits, teacher before/after school availability, digital hall passes, and student volunteer projects. The interface is a user-friendly, student-focused environment that provides teachers with the tools to collaborate on their students.

The innovative WHS Hub provides real-time data in an efficient and collaborative nature, allowing teachers to share their efforts to develop stronger, more meaningful, and purposeful interventions for students. “The Hub” ensures accountability on behalf of teachers. Parents/Guardians have a better understanding of the interventions being utilized, their student’s attendance, and their student’s teacher’s availability. Problem-solving teams can dig deep into student needs to develop programming with the student’s best interest in mind. Furthermore, this application allows us to manage more than 3,500 students during intervention time and reduces hundreds of hours of secretarial/managerial paperwork. The overall goal is to ultimately improve the educational

experience for our students. The WHS Hub is constantly evolving based on the feedback that we receive from students, parents, guardians, and staff.

“The Hub” contains a conflict management tool, which allows us to go in each week to navigate teacher/student requests and prevent conflicts during our intervention times. Feedback on this tool has been incredibly positive. We are at a point where students and teachers do not know how we operated without it! We took some risks along the way, especially the up-front development and implementation phases, but in the end, I am very proud of our final (though, constantly improving) product!

“The Hub” has made a significant difference in the Wayzata High School community due to the many different “utilities” we have developed within the system; for example, implementing digital hall passes to allow our students to stay in classes longer, reduce secretarial paperwork, and provide transparency to all stakeholders. Our teachers can now collaborate on their “school-to-home” efforts in partnership with student support teams. Students have the opportunity to sign up for colleges and universities that visit, along with “seminar” extension opportunities provided during our “MyTime” (intervention period).

Overall, “The Hub” has made a difference by highlighting the data: more than 1,000 students are “requested” for “MyTime” (intervention time) each week, hundreds

of digital hall passes are sent out each day, students and teachers have access to book time in the academic resource center, hundreds of hours of “school-to-home” communication is now done in collaboration between teachers and support staff, and parents/guardians are significantly more informed. The list goes on ...

In the beginning phases of exploring our “MyTime” implementation, other applications were explored; we chose to develop our own, called “The Hub,” and we are very excited to share how amazing it has become, continues to be, and our ongoing development on making it even better — always with the students’ best interest in mind. We will continue to innovate within the application to develop an endless amount of tools for our “customers”!

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Website: <https://www.wayzataschools.org>



Visit [https://youtu.be/fOS6t3o\\_Kg4](https://youtu.be/fOS6t3o_Kg4) to view a video highlighting Wayzata Public Schools’ award-winning program.