



Junior Blues News



April 2024

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Featured Story



Washburn Rural High School provides a progressive environment of world-class academics, athletics, and activities to foster all students' desires to learn and achieve through open discussion and self-discovery. As educators in pursuit of student success, we continually enhance our skills and knowledge so we may offer the most relevant, effective curriculum in order to achieve our vision.

Produced by: WRHS Business Communications
Sponsor: Brian McFall

From the Desk of Our Principal



Hello,

For many years, there has been considerable talk about the importance of obtaining a high-quality education. Scarcely a day goes by that the enormous costs of failing to educate a learned citizenry are not mentioned and lamented in the news. The statistics are quite startling – consider these, for example. Nearly 75% of all inmates in State and Federal prison systems are high school drop outs. 18.5% of all unemployment recipients have not completed their high school education. Sadly, by the end of this day, 7,000 young people will have dropped out of high school across the country and, in doing so, severely limited their futures. It is, indeed, a bleak picture. So why is it, then, that “faceless” statistics like these rarely mean much more to us than a sad epitaph on someone else’s personal history? Generally, it is because a vivid enough portrait has not been painted related to how such numbers impact us directly. Let me try to do that for you now. Consider the following table which illustrates the average lifetime earnings one can expect based on their level of educational attainment.

Education Level	Lifetime Weeks Worked	2022 Weekly Wage (Median)*	Estimated Lifetime Earnings
Less than a high school diploma	2080	\$682	\$1,418,560
High School Graduate	2080	\$853	\$1,774,240
Some College - No Degree	2080	\$935	\$1,944,800
Bachelor's Degree	2080	\$1,432	\$2,978,560
Professional Degree	2080	\$2,080	\$4,326,400

Source: Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022

Does this help to bring things into focus for you? I shared this information with our freshman at the beginning of the school year and I can assure you that some eyes were opened! The difference in earning power between a high school dropout and a college graduate is just under 1.6 million dollars over a 40-year career. That is \$39,000 a year!

With so much of the future success of our young people hinging on obtaining a high school diploma, we take our responsibility to graduate every single student quite seriously at Washburn Rural. Not only does this imply assisting struggling students, but it also means making sure that our course offerings are cutting edge and of high interest to our student body.

We have instituted programming that is designed to achieve this end. We have a “freshman only” orientation day at the start of the school year. We implemented Advisory Periods to help students make stronger connections to staff and programming in the building, to grant greater access for assistance from teachers during the school day, and ultimately, to increase student success. As additional evidence of our commitment to students, the Renaissance Program was restructured to not only recognize outstanding academic achievement, but also to provide incentives for grade improvement and perfect attendance. Moreover, we continue to add new career pathways within our vocational departments that have resulted in excellent “real world” opportunities for our students. For example, our Construction Science program provides students with the skills and technical expertise needed to be able to go to work directly out of high school if that is what they choose to do. Additionally, our award-winning coffee shop, "Common Grounds," is a student-run enterprise that equips students to manage their own businesses. From the "point of sale" system used to manage purchases, to the advertising and marketing of its products, all aspects of the operation are determined by our students.

Furthermore, with the passage of our bond issue, the new CTE Innovation Center, scheduled to open in late fall of 2024, will provide students with expanded opportunities in the study of Career and Technical Education. Our new Innovation Center will be home to our career pathways in Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources; Architecture & Construction; Arts; Bio-Medical; A/V & Communication; Hospitality & Tourism, and; Information Technology. The facilities are designed to promote the collaborative and creative processes found in today's work environments.

Finally, we are thrilled to host the International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement Programs at Washburn Rural High School. For students seeking challenge, these rigorous options provide students with outstanding preparation for life after high school.

Whatever the future holds, rest assured that the staff at WRHS is committed to providing your child with an exceptional educational experience. Let us know how we can help!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Raines". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ed Raines, Principal

WRHS Counseling Office

[Counseling Website](#)

Twitter Updates: [@wrhsgo](#)

Crisis Hotline: 785-232-5005 or 988

College Entrance Exams

Many stories have been published in recent months regarding the use of the ACT or SAT in college admissions. Both the ACT and SAT are admission exams; students in Kansas tend to take the ACT but both are accepted wherever admission exams are required.

The value of an ACT or SAT score has been in question for many years. Research indicates that GPA and rigor in high school are stronger indicators for success in college than admission exams. Before Covid, <https://www.fairtest.org/>, advocated for test optional policies and published lists of universities that did not require these exams for admission. After Covid and the cancellation of exams, the majority of US universities decided to not require ACT or SAT scores for admission; this includes Kansas universities. For the Class of 2025, some out of state colleges have decided to reimplement the requirement of the ACT or SAT while many have decided to continue with not requiring a test score. Policies are constantly changing and students need to check with their college for the most up to date information.

While the ACT or SAT score may not be needed to be admitted at most colleges, the exam results remain a crucial factor in awarding scholarships at many public universities. In Kansas, the ACT or SAT was not required for scholarship at KU or Washburn for the Class of 2024. The other state colleges required an ACT or SAT score to award scholarships for the Class of 2024; we do not know yet if those policies will change for the Class of 2025. We encourage students to research their potential college options and decide whether taking or retaking the ACT or SAT is needed.

ACT preparation materials can be found at

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html>.

SAT preparation materials can be found at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice>.

College Visits

As families start to make summer plans, we encourage students to visit college campuses. This experience can help students set goals, make decisions, and understand the application process. Advice on planning a college visit can be found at

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/campus-visit-guide>.

IB and AP exams

We wish our students taking IB and AP exams well! As you prepare for exams, we encourage you to set goals for yourself. In Kansas, colleges are required to award credit for 4/7 on IB and 3/5 on AP. To view specific university policies for IB and AP, search the university name plus IB or AP credit. <https://www.kansasregents.org/students/credit-for-prior-learning/ap-clep-ib>.

Sample policies are below:

K-State: <https://www.k-state.edu/admissions/undergrad/manhattan/apply/policies-requirements/advanced-standing-credit/advanced-test-credit.html>

KU: <https://admissions.ku.edu/apply/credit-transfer/high-school>

Washburn: <https://www.washburn.edu/academics/prior-learning-assessment/index.html>

Wichita State: <https://www.wichita.edu/services/registrar/priorlearning/AdvancedPlacement.php>

<https://www.wichita.edu/services/registrar/priorlearning/InternationalBaccalaureate.php>

Summer Programs and Volunteer Opportunities

The WRHS counseling office publishes a [summer program](#) and [volunteer opportunity](#) resource document. We encourage families to explore these resources. If you have additional programs and volunteer resources, please contact fredema1@usd437.net.

Schedules

The pre-enrollment for the 2024-25 school year is complete. Tentative schedules will be available in July. Schedule adjustments can be requested during walk-in registration. Please note that school counselors are not available during the summer to make schedule changes.

Finals Study Tips

This Fastweb article lists several tips for students as they prepare for their final exams in May:

<https://www.fastweb.com/student-life/articles/the-20-study-tips-for-finals>

Free Academic Assistance

AFTER SCHOOL LABS

Library

- **English**
- **Math**
- **Science**
- **Social Studies**

Room E554

- **AF-JROTC**

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:05-4:15pm

Need a ride home?

Sign-Up in the Main Office for Transportation

Before or during lunch

Preparing For IB Final Exams

When are IB final exams, and where will they be administered?

Exams begin on April 26 and end on May 17. All exams will be administered in the WRHS library, adjacent labs, or other nearby spaces (subject to change). Please see the schedule below for more details.

Do students sit for final exams in every IB subject?

No. Students enrolled in Group 6: The Arts courses do not sit for finals in those subjects. Instead, they have already completed portfolios, exhibitions, and other projects that are assessed by IB examiners. All other courses conclude with two or three final exams.

When will students receive their scores?

Students will be able to access their scores online on July 6 at 10:30am. The WRHS IB coordinator will share the website and login credentials with students in May.

How should students prepare for exams?

1. Eat and sleep well. Our bodies and brains perform better when we take care of them.
2. Use a space that is conducive to studying. It should be quiet, comfortable, and free of distractions.
3. Resist the temptation to procrastinate.
4. Make a plan and stick to it.
5. Know when you're sitting for certain exams, so you can prioritize subjects. Don't try to prepare for everything everyday.
6. Take breaks and reward yourself.
7. Form study groups and talk things out.
8. Prioritize your toughest subjects.
9. Know what to expect in the exam room. While students should be well aware of exam structures and topics at this point, they should not hesitate to reach out to Mr. Bowling or their teachers if they have questions.
10. Remember this: nothing that happens during final exams will make or break your life's fortunes. Relax and show off what you can do.



2024 WRHS IB Final Exam Schedule

Date	Exam	Location	Exam Time	Duration
Friday, April 26	Business Management SL Paper 1	WOCR	1:00pm	1h 30m
Wednesday, May 1	Business Management SL Paper 2	WOCR	9:00am	1h 30m
Wednesday, May 1	Math AA HL Paper 1 Math AA SL Paper 1 Math AI SL Paper 1	Library	1:00pm	2h 1h 30m 1h 30m
Thursday, May 2	Math AA HL Paper 2 Math AA SL Paper 2 Math AI SL Paper 2	Library	9:00am	2h 1h 30m 1h 30m
Thursday, May 2	ESS Paper 1	Lab C	1:00pm	1h
Monday, May 6	ESS Paper 2	Lab C	9:00am	2h

Monday, May 6	German HL Paper 1, 2 (Reading)	Lab C	1:00pm	1h 30m 1h
	German ab initio Paper 1, 2 (Reading)			1h 1h
	Mandarin ab initio Paper 1, 2 (Reading) Math AA HL Paper 3			1h 1h 1h
Monday, May 6	Math AA HL Paper 3	Lab D	1:00pm	1h
Tuesday, May 7	German HL Paper 2 (Listening)	Lab C	9:00am	1h
	German ab initio Paper 2 (Listening)	Lab D		45m
	Mandarin ab initio Paper 2 (Listening)	WOCR		45m
Tuesday, May 7	History HL/SL Paper 1 History HL/SL Paper 2	Lab C	1:00pm	1h 1h 30m
Wednesday, May 8	History HL Paper 3	Lab C	9:00am	2h 30m
Wednesday, May 8	Chemistry HL Paper 1 Chemistry HL Paper 3	Lab C	1:00pm	1h 1h 15m
Thursday, May 9	Chemistry HL Paper 2	Lab C	9:00am	2h 15m
Thursday, May 9	Literature HL Paper 1	Library	1:00pm	2h 15m
Friday, May 10	Literature HL Paper 2	Library	9:00am	1h 45m
Friday, May 10	Psychology SL Paper 1	Lab C (possibly SEC classroom)	1:00pm	2h
Monday, May 13	Psychology SL Paper 2	Lab C	9:00am	1h
Monday, May 13	Biology HL Paper 1 Biology HL Paper 3	Lab C	1:00pm	1h 1h 15m
Tuesday, May 14	Biology HL Paper 2	Lab C	9:00am	2h 15m
Tuesday, May 14	Spanish B HL Paper 1, 2 (Reading)	Lab C	1:00pm	1h 30m 1h 15m
Wednesday, May 15	Spanish B HL Paper 2 (Listening)	Lab C	9:00am	1h
Thursday, May 16	French ab initio Paper 1, 2 (Reading)	Lab C	1:00pm	1h 1h
Friday, May 17	French ab initio Paper 2 (Listening)	Lab C	9:00am	45m

IB Learner Profile

Inquirers–Caring–Thinkers–Communicators–Balanced–Principled–Risk
Takers–Knowledgeable–Open-minded–Reflective

For more information on our diploma program, please visit the [WRHS IB website](#).

◆ Art Department

March was YOUTH ART MONTH. The WRHS Art Department had several students receive honors in March at different regional art shows:

Senior Savanna Schmidt received a cash award from the Wichita Arts Council at the Scholastic art show in Wichita for her work titled, "[Castles Crumbling](#)."

Senior [Syd Laster](#) received a \$500 Harry Hart Scholarship for [her portfolio](#) of work at this year's KAEA Youth Art Month show.

Senior Savanna Schmidt received 1st place in the Anne & Bill Bracker 3-D Yam Competition at the KAEA Youth Art Month show for her work titled, "[Wisdom](#)."

Senior [Elli Brandt](#) received 1st place in the 2-D division and the Best of Show honor at this year's KAEA Youth Art Month show for her work titled, "[Interactionism](#)." This competitive award is accompanied by a \$1000 prize package and given to just one student in the entire state of Kansas.

24 students in our high school advanced art classes embarked on a journey painting at this year's annual Late Night Art Lock-in held at the Stephen Smith Gallery here in Topeka, Kansas in February.



◆ Art Department

The theme and show title, “Atmospheric Perspectives,” gave the students great freedom to interpret and execute their works while finding inspiration from this year’s guest artist and instructor, Edward Balda. Balda shared techniques and wisdom about engaging the art world on a professional level. The students experienced a wonderful 7 hour event expanding their vision to create. Their work was on display at Stephen Smith Gallery during the month of March.



Images of the completed paintings can be found [here](#).

Images from the 2024 Art Lock-in can be found [here](#).

Make plans to attend this year’s BluePrint Art Show. The BluePrint is WRHS’s annual end of the year art show held in our school library. This year’s show will be up from April 17 - 24. The show can be viewed during school hours from 7:30 am - 3:30 pm. Guests must check in at the front desk.

The community is also welcome to join us for an evening open house to view the show on Tuesday, April 23 from 5 - 7 pm.

◆ Girls Wrestling

Despite spending the majority of the wrestling season outside of the Kansas state rankings, at the 2024 state tournament, the Washburn Rural Women's Wrestling team did what they do best: they circled the wagons and leaned on the strength of their relationships to help power them to the 6A/5A state championship (their 4th in the past 5 years).

Washburn Rural, which boasts the world's largest all-female wrestling team, had 10 state qualifiers and six state medalists (twice the number of placers of runners-up Garden City). Rural was led by the Blues' lone state finalist, team captain, and Topeka overall wrestler of the year, junior Molly Spader.

While the state championship was certainly a welcome byproduct, it was not one of the teams' goals for the 2024 season.

"If you make it about championships, you'll never be happy, no matter how many you win," said WRHS head women's coach Damon Parker. "If you make it about relationships, and you truly love each other, then you'll find happiness and fulfillment no matter what the outcome. And more often than not, when you make it about relationships, the championships just kind of happen."

This year Rural finished ranked #19 nationally by USA Wrestling, finished with an undefeated 14-0 dual record, and won 7 team tournament championships. The Blues return four of their 6 state placers, making them a prohibitive favorite to win their 5th state title in the 2024-2025 season, but as always, the team's focus will not be on winning a championship.

"If we place 1st next year, cool. If we place 9th, cool. I'm more concerned with our homecoming float, our journal entries, and who is going to win next year's dance battle at our home tournament," said Parker.



Season Statistics:

Undefeated 14-0 dual record
7 team tournament championships
Centennial League Champions (4th straight)
Regional Champions (5th straight)
State Champions (back-to-back)
Finished the season ranked #19 in the nation by USA Wrestling

State qualifiers:

Kamiryn Clark (100), Molly Spader (105 runner up), Maddy Blow, Lacey Middleton (6th place), Annie Gallegos (125), Madi Blanco (130 6th place), Laiken Clark (135 3rd place), Fatima Escobar (145 4th place), TaAni Rhoten (170 3rd place), Elia Smith (190)

◆ Spread the Word - Inclusion

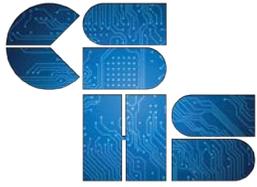
SPREAD THE WORD INCLUSION

On March 6th, WRHS students took the pledge by signing a banner during lunch. By taking the pledge for Spread the Word, you are stepping into the role of a leader committed to shaping a more inclusive world. Your pledge signifies a powerful stance against derogatory language targeted at individuals with intellectual disabilities. Your commitment calls for change, inspiring others to follow suit and join the collective effort to eliminate discriminatory language. Together, we can create a society where everyone is valued, celebrated, and free from the impact of harmful stereotypes.



◆ Career and Technical Education

Computer Science Honor Society Induction 2024



On March 19th, the Computer Science Honors Society hosted a ceremony to formally induct 12 new members. The event inducted both members who applied in Fall and Spring. Returning members were also recognised for their previous service, with Max Khulman, Parker Williams, and Tej Patel receiving a Silver Service award for over 20 hours of service each, and Eli Chapman receiving a Gold Service Award for contributing more than 100 hours. This event not only highlighted the growth of the society, but highlighted their past and future dedication to community. Here is a list of all 17 members, with their grade level:

Returning Members

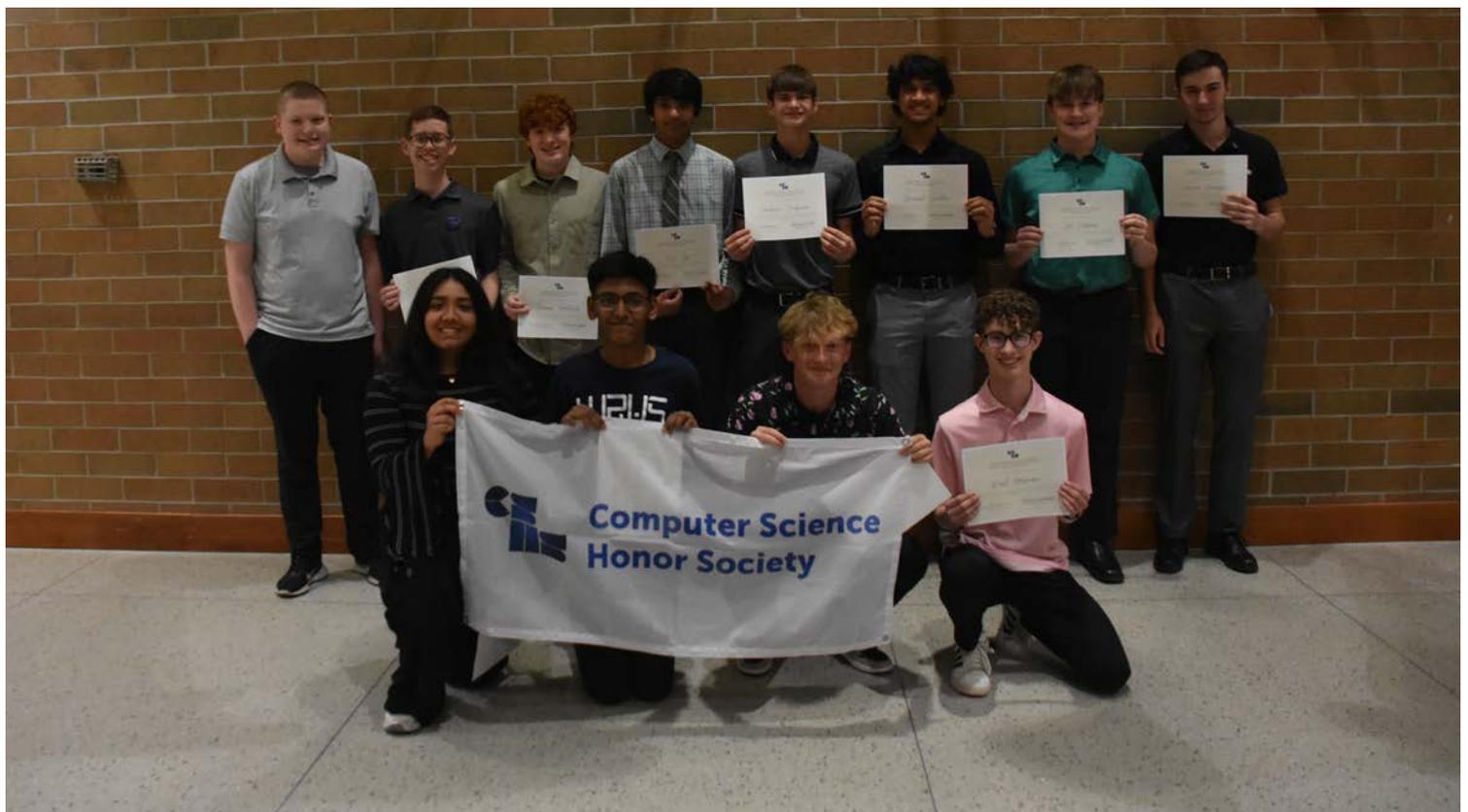
- Eli Chapman 12 (President)
- Max Kuhlmann 11
- Blaine McVey 12 (Secretary)
- Tej Patel 12
- Parker Williams 11

Fall Inductees

- Shrutha Bangalore 10
- Joel Jijo 10
- Conner Magee 12

Spring Inductees

- Gabe Fawl 11
- Peher Gupta 10
- Tanner Haddock 10
- Kael Harman 9
- Grayson Huey 10
- Chase Klausman 9
- Lee Napier 9
- Sourish Sinha 11
- Jackson Tuckwin 10



◆ Career and Technical Education

Binary Bingo Fundraiser



WRHS Computer Science Honor Society held its 2nd Annual Binary Bingo Fundraiser on Tuesday, March 26th in the WRHS Cafeteria. Participants learn the basics of binary in order to play their bingo cards. There were prizes awarded for each round of bingo and a 50/50 raffle was given out at the end of the night.



Biomedical Research



Biomedical Research Lab students and instructor Mike Steinert were given the opportunity to tour the Hills Plant located in Topeka. While on the tour the students experienced the entire process from start to finish of three Hill's Pet Nutrition products. The students were able to see first hand and experience all the steps necessary for product development as well as quality control of Hill's products.

"I enjoyed learning about the many steps in the process of making and creating diets for animals. My favorite part was seeing all the machines: the cans being filled, sealed, tested to ensure they were fully sealed and nothing foreign was present, and how they were wrapped. But even before all the putting together happens, they measure out the ingredients so carefully. There are many people ensuring that each diet is done

accordingly and safely, using the best ingredients. The lab was also very interesting to walk through; getting to see the technology used to test ingredients before they are used for the food and the amount of thoroughness in which these tests are performed was awesome. The trip as a whole allowed me to understand the diligent efforts of all the workers and manufacturers, as well as the technology used, that go into creating these types of products in a manner that ensures efficiency and the best quality." Sara Diaz Buezo

"My experience at Hills was definitely positive. It was very interesting to see the full production process of the product, as well as the numerous checks that are put in place to ensure its quality. Seeing the lab was also super interesting. I would definitely go on another trip like this again." Isaac Oleen

◆ Career and Technical Education



From HOSA

Scholarships for Respiratory Therapists:

Deadline is 4/15/24.

The application form can be found here: <https://hosa.org/scholarships/>

A Competitive Advantage for Every Student

Students who are passionate about their future will make the most of their present. CTE improves academic performance and graduation rates by engaging students more deeply in their education, allowing them to choose the pathway that fits their interests and personality.

Why CTE?

In a world where “college for all” is considered the gold standard in education, why should a young person choose a career and technical education (CTE) pathway in high school? What value does CTE actually impart? After all, if they’re headed to college, why do they need to learn a technical skill?

Many reasons leap to mind. Here are three of the most vital arguments for CTE as a pathway to a great future.

1. CTE is a College Bound Track

CTE and college are often wrongly perceived as two separate pathways. This false dichotomy cheats many students of the rich experience of participating in a CTE program during high school.

Far from steering a student away from college, in reality CTE directly corresponds to college success. 94 percent of CTE students graduate high school and many enroll directly in college, where they are prepared to thrive. One example of this is in California, where 80% of students taking a college prep academic curriculum with rigorous CTE met college and career readiness goals, compared to 63% of non-CTE students.

Today, CTE has evolved with technological advances and the demands of a changing, globalizing workforce to prepare young people with the skills of the future. It is now the gateway to hundreds of high-demand, high-skilled careers and occupations at all levels of education and experience. For many careers, college is one of those educational levels—and high school CTE programs can help students not just get there, but succeed when they do.

Because many parents and students believe college is the only surefire way to a great future, they fear the perceived career commitment of CTE. Ironically, this causes them to miss the opportunity CTE affords for a fully rounded, comprehensive high school experience that will equip them for college success.

CTE is a track that can take you wherever you want to go—college included.

2. CTE Improves Academic Performance

In the past, it’s true that lower-performing students were often guided into vocational programs, while their academically stronger counterparts were exclusively counseled to take the university route. But times have changed, and CTE has now grown far beyond the useful but limited vocational programs of the past.

◆ Career and Technical Education

Career education improves academic performance not only because it has become more intellectually challenging, but also because it inspires students to do their best no matter what classroom they happen to be sitting in. It achieves this by bringing the most commonly missing piece to the education puzzle: relevance.

Lack of intelligence is not the reason that many students are struggling academically. Rather, they just don't see the relevance of academic effort to their goals and desires in life. No dots have been connected between working hard in school and enjoying a desirable lifestyle in the future. Not only that, but many don't even have a clear picture of what they want that future lifestyle to look like. That's where CTE can help.

A student who understands that a certain GPA is required to enter his desired profession will be motivated to do the work, earn the grades, and advance closer to his goal. Academic subjects then become less of a chore and more of a stepping stone to whatever career that student has become passionate about attaining. Career passions are awakened through research and class engagement with the related industry (it also helps students weed out the options that aren't for them).

CTE can help make the rest of education relevant—unleashing a student's full academic potential.

3. CTE Creates More Choices

Let's say you are a pretty good high school student. None of the available CTE programs look appealing to you. You don't want to work on cars, the electrical field is not your thing, and you can't see yourself pursuing a career in medicine. Your passion is more for law or maybe even politics. What should you do?

Conventional wisdom would advise you to skip the career programs altogether and focus on your best academic subjects to increase your chances of getting into the college of your choice. And while that may not be a bad path to take, it completely misses the competitive advantages that could help you reach your lawyer/politician aspirations. How so?

First off, it never hurts to gain a useful, lifelong skill. Maybe you don't want to be an electrician, but wouldn't you like to be able to do simple wiring in your home? An automotive career may not be for you, but being able to change your own oil and make simple repairs to your vehicle will save significant money. And who doesn't want to know CPR? If you can gain these useful skills at no cost alongside your other high school coursework, why not?

Second, these skills are not just useful to you, but also marketable in the workforce. It never hurts to have a "plan B" in case "plan A" doesn't pan out. Even beyond that, you can use the skills you gained in your CTE program to earn an above-average wage and fund your further education in a different field.

Third, it's just possible that you may have an unguessed genius for the beautiful precision of electrical work, the inspiring intricacy of modern cars, or the yet-more amazing complexity of the human body. What if you discovered a passion you never knew you had through a CTE program? You'll never know until you try. And even if you still hold to your previous aspirations, you've still gained useful, marketable skills that can serve you in other ways. It's a win-win.

Fortunately, the range of high school career education programs is usually not as limited as in my imaginary scenario. But even if the choices are that limited, they are still that: choices.

CTE creates more choices and opportunities for the future, without closing any other doors.

◆ Career and Technical Education

A Competitive Advantage for Every Student

Students who are immersed in rigorous, hands-on learning activities will love going to school—setting the stage for positive postsecondary performance. They'll achieve their best academically, because they've seen the connection between their effort and their goals. Students who are passionate about their future will make the most of their present.

CTE improves academic performance and graduation rates by engaging students more deeply in their education, allowing them to choose the pathway that fits their interests and personality. Through CTE, high school students can discover what they love to do so that when they head to college, they're focused on their end goal and ready to succeed. If this isn't an amazing college, career, and life prep pathway and competitive advantage for every student, I don't know what is.

The question is not "why CTE?" What we really need to be asking is, "Why not CTE?"

Author: Mark C. Perna is the founder and CEO of TFS Results, a strategic consulting firm leading the national paradigm shift in education and workforce development. A bestselling author, weekly Forbes.com contributor, and acclaimed generational expert, Mark has devoted his career to education and frequent keynotes across North America.

<https://edynamiclearning.com/3-reasons-why-cte-is-the-pathway-to-a-great-future/#:~:text=A%20Competitive%20Advantage%20for%20Every%20Student&text=Students%20who%20are%20passionate%20about,fits%20their%20interests%20and%20personality.>

CTE Innovation Center Construction Update



◆ Career and Technical Education

At the beginning of March, WRHS Business students attended the State DECA Leadership Conference at Kansas State University. Qays Abu-Hiljeh and Jack Muir took 1st Place in the Financial Literacy Project! The Financial Literacy Project uses the project management process to promote the importance of financial literacy, including spending and saving, credit and debt, employment and income, investing, risk and insurance and financial decision making. Examples include organizing and implementing seminars for students (elementary, middle, high and post-secondary), tax preparation assistance, retirement planning, and student loan workshops.



The focus on the students' project was the Junior Blue Crew with the WRHS Bank. The students focused on promoting strong saving habits for students through the WRHS Bank. Our goal was to have as many students open savings accounts as possible. We saw a lot of growth, especially because of our 4.5% interest rate.

They will represent WRHS at the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA at the end of April. The DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) is the culmination of the DECA year. More than 22,000 high school students, teacher-advisors, business professionals and alumni gather for several days of DECA excitement.

“Participating in DECA has been one of the highlights of my time in highschool. Being in an environment where so many kids share similar interests as me was really cool. DECA is a really good way to gain experience and visit some cool places.” - Jack Muir.

The WRHS DECA chapter also has 4 students attending the Student Based Enterprise Academy during the conference - representing Common Grounds, WRHS Bank and The Shack. The School-based Enterprise Academy + Competition is held during DECA's International Career Development Conference. During the academy, participants will experience dynamic professional development sessions specific to the entrepreneurship field, share ideas and learn from other SBEs. During the competition, the participants will present an oral presentation to a business professional judge based on one preselected business standard covered in the SBE Chapter Certification Project. Participants will participate in one of the two categories in which their SBE earned gold certification: Retail Operations or Food Operations.

THE SHACK

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Brogan

Brogan has been involved in The Shack for 2 years. After graduation he plans to major in Coaching!



Lauren

Lauren has been involved in The Shack for one semester. After graduation she plans to attend Washburn University and major in Hospitality Management!

Cohen

Cohen has been involved in The Shack for 2 years. After graduation he plans to attend Washburn University and major in Sports Management!



Common Grounds

April showers bring

Floral Palmers!

(half tea half lemonade
with raspberry &
strawberry)

\$2.50



2024 WRHS YEARBOOK

Name: _____

Grade: 9 10 11 12

Yearbook Prices: \$55.00

\$75 for available extra copies at 2025 enrollment

Name to appear on the cover (optional): \$5.00

Total \$ _____

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Paid Date _____

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50%
Off

Attention Alumni!

Missing a yearbook from your time in high school? WRHS Yearbook currently has several issues still available for purchase! Please contact Yearbook Sponsor by email listed below.

JENNIFER LUETJE

Email: luetjjen@usd437.net

Current Yearbooks Available:

1990's -2020

Thank You

for supporting the

2024 Yearbook

GOLD LEVEL SUPPORTERS:

Advisors Excel

Devader's Pools and Spas

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The Dance Factory

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BLUE LEVEL SUPPORTERS:

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Community Insurance Solutions, LLC

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Platinum Realty, Patrick Anderson

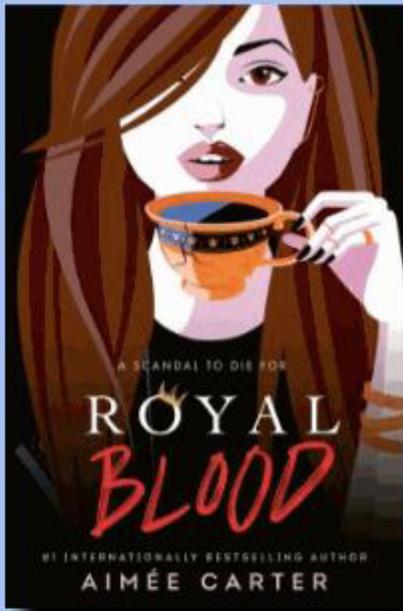
Pinapple Dream

Smith Law Firm

Torgeson Trenching

Mrs. Finney's Monthly YA Book Recommendation

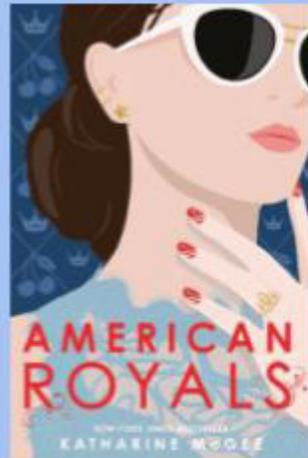
April 2024



Royal Blood
By Aimee Carter
F CAR

In this alternate reality, Queen Elizabeth's uncle, King Edward VIII, didn't abdicate the throne, and now his grandson is King, and he has an illegitimate American daughter: 17 year old Evan Bright. Evan has been tossed from boarding school to boarding school, but now she is forced to spend the summer in London, with her other family. Evan isn't given a warm welcome, and suddenly finds herself intertwined in a royal murder mystery.

Similar Titles Include:





PTO Blues Backers April 2024

LET'S GET READY FOR A SPECTACULAR POST PROM!



Washburn Rural High School's Blues Backers annual Post Prom event is quickly approaching.

For the 37th year, we will offer a safe, substance-free, unifying late-night experience. Our theme for 2024 is A Night at the Circus!

We host this celebration after the WRHS Prom has ended but it is also open to our students who do not attend Prom. **Prom and Post Prom are separate events.** This casual-clothes event is at the high school. Students enjoy food, drinks, games, activities, and prizes that are all FREE with their \$10 admission. Each WRHS senior, junior, and their guests that attend can have a fun time without the drama of risky situations.

This event continues to be a success each year thanks to generous donations from community businesses, local families, and parent volunteers. Gifts, such as merchandise, gift cards, or monetary donations fill vital roles as prizes, foods, or activities. Donors are listed on the website, in newsletters, and on posters.

We also offer \$200 sponsorships that allow your business/family/friends to sponsor a game and have your name(s) prominently posted on the game site. This is a fantastic way to show support for the 2024 Post Prom party! (As the PTO is a 501c3 nonprofit organization your donation may be deductible, consult your tax advisor for details.)

Please consider how you will help make this 37th annual event one to remember!

Please email: wrpostprom@gmail.com for more information.



Credit Cards, Debit Cards,
Google Pay, Paypal, Venmo all
accepted here:

<https://givebutter.com/WaRuPostProm>





PTO Blues Backers April 2024

SCAN HERE TO SEE WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AT POST
PROM!

**POST PROM
11:30PM-2:30**



PROMO LINK





PTO Blues Backers

April 2024

WHO WE ARE

Blues Backers is the parent-teacher organization (PTO) at Washburn Rural High School. Our purpose is to work closely with the administration at the school to support the students as well as show appreciation for the hard work of the teachers and staff. This is accomplished through volunteer time and financial support in various ways.

Blues Backers are responsible for organizing and executing a number of events and activities:

- Organizing & Hosting post-prom each year
- Fulfilling funding requests from extra-curricular activities (sports, clubs, activities)
- Providing concessions at events
- Providing hospitality lounge at school-hosted events
- Student achievement recognition
- Hosting teacher appreciation events
- Volunteering at school dances/events

FUNDRAISING

We want to help your organization fundraise! Please check with your organization's school or parent representative to see what dates are still available to work concession stands. Working concession stands are a great way for students to use real world skills and support their club or sport all while making money for their organization.

JOIN THE WRHS PTO/BLUES BACKERS



Deanna Hutsen, President,
Deanna.hutsen@gmail.com

Ronda Kozlowski, Vice President,
rondakoz@gmail.com

<https://usd437.net/schools/wrhs/pto/>



PTO Blues Backers April 2024

FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK!



@WRHSBluesBackers

WE LOVE DONATIONS!

We continue to accept donations throughout the year for each year's post prom event.

NEXT UP: POST PROM
PLEASE EMAIL:

wrpostprom@gmail.com

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING
US PLAN IT.

GET INVOLVED!

We would love your help!!!

- Help with concessions, staff appreciation, and post-prom
- Fill board positions: Shadow a current board member and see if the position could be right for you.
- Attend PTO Meetings: We are always seeking new ideas!

Post-prom and concession stands cannot run without more help! Please strongly consider helping your board members out!

Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month. You are welcome to bring friends!

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30pm
In the WRHS Library



PTO Blues Backers April 2024

2023-2024 PTO CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT:

Deanna Hutsen deanna.hutsen@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:

Ronda Kozlowski rondakoz@gmail.com

SECRETARY:

Carrie Stead steadcar@usd437.net

TREASURER:

Erin Appuhn washburnruralhspto@gmail.com

ASSISTANT TREASURER:

Jen VandeVelde vandy4012@gmail.com

ACTIVITIES/ATHLETICS:

Charlie Nimz nimzcha@usd437.net

CONCESSIONS FALL CHAIR:

Deanna Hutsen deanna.hutsen@gmail.com

CONCESSIONS WINTER CHAIR:

deanna.hutsen@gmail.com

CONCESSIONS SPRING CHAIR:

deanna.hutsen@gmail.com

CONCESSIONS PURCHASING:

Deanna Hutsen deanna.hutsen@gmail.com

CONCESSIONS DRINKS:

Deanna Hutsen deanna.hutsen@gmail.com

CONCESSIONS FINANCE:

Jen VandeVelde vandy4012@gmail.com

CONCESSIONS SCHEDULING:

Deanna Hutsen deanna.hutsen@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY:

Charity King charityklux@yahoo.com

POST PROM:

Ronda Kozlowski rondakoz@gmail.com

PRINT/SOCIAL MEDIA:

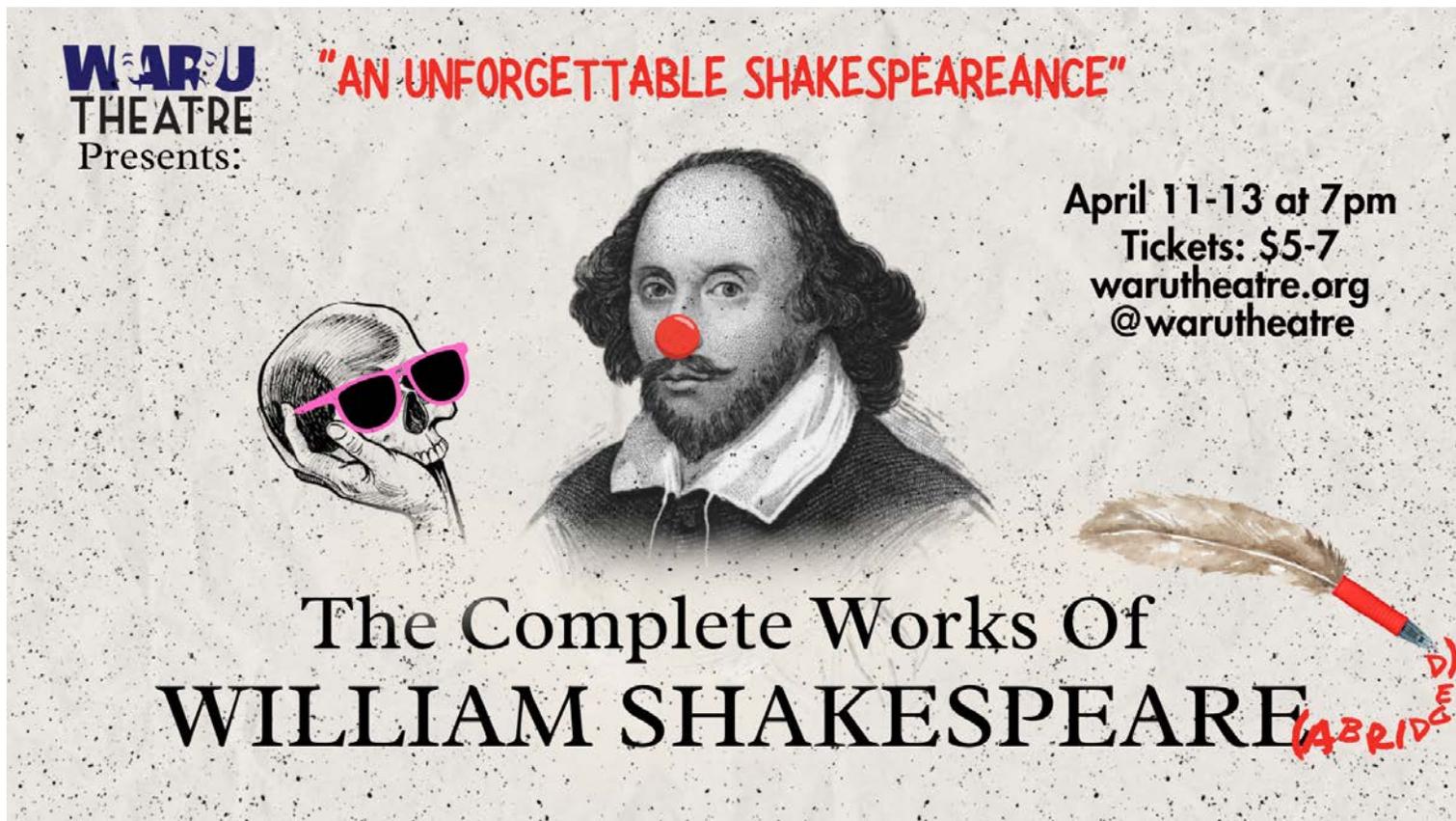
Shanna Simpson shannabanana0519@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Ronda Kozlowski rondakoz@gmail.com

STAFF APPRECIATION:

Charity King charityklux@yahoo.com



The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)

Performances: April 11-13, 2024 at 7:00 pm (CST)

Tickets: \$6-7 General Admission

<https://warutheatre.org/ticketing>

About the Show

Written by Adam Long, Daniel Singer, and Jess Winfield

Additional material written by Reed Martin

*Rights pending

An irreverent, fast-paced romp through the Bard's plays, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* was London's longest-running comedy having clocked a very palpable nine years in London's West End! Join these madcap men in tights as they weave their wicked way through all of Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories and Tragedies in one wild ride that will leave you breathless and helpless with laughter.

Production Staff

DIRECTOR: Nick Beasley

TECHNICAL DIRECTION/DESIGN:

COSTUME SUPERVISOR: Linnea Hoyos

Cast:

Bebe Reilly, Josie Mitchell, Griffin Reiff, Weston Widman, Tillie McIlvain, Max McKibben, Cade Nelson, Noah Hart, and Cody Clingenpeel.