



Junior Blues News



February 2023

Principal's Letter	1
Counseling Office	2
Academic Assistance	3
Care Closet	4
Kindness Week Challenge	5
Winter Formal	6
Sources of Strength	8
Scholastic Art Awards	9
Career and Technical Education	10
-WRHS Bank	14
-Common Grounds	15
-The Shack	16
Chimes Yearbook	20
International Baccalaureate	22
Media Center	23
Drama Department	27
Debate	28
PTO Blues Backers	29
School Calendar	34

Featured Story Scholastic Art Awards



Syd Laster
"Pears"
Gold Key
(Painting)

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



Welcome back! I do hope that you had a memorable winter break. As you know, another semester is underway at WRHS and it is shaping up to be as eventful as the last! Winter sports and activities are in full swing and classes are going well!

A very important upcoming event that I would like to direct your attention to is Student-Led Conferences. They will occur on Wednesday and Thursday, February 15 and 16 respectively. Conference times are:

- Wednesday, February 15, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 16, 7:30 - 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, February 16, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 16, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

One of the most important things that you can do as a parent to help your child achieve is to not only establish regular and open communication with their teachers, but also become informed about what courses and programs your student most enjoys and the ways in which high school experiences and opportunities can and will relate to post-secondary success. Our Student-Led Conferences afford students and parents the opportunity for this very thing, alongside their Advisory Teacher. Unique only to Student-Led Conferences: Your student will share their personalized graduation plan, reflect upon academic, social and activity involvement and share two personal goals he/she has recently set. I would also encourage you to share any other information about your child that would assist us in better understanding their needs.

We plan to offer the same scheduling opportunities as we did in October through our scheduling platform, myconferencetime.com. Students will sign up during their advisory class for their Student-Led Conference during the week of January 30th. Beginning February 6th, you will have the opportunity to schedule with as many of your student's other teachers as you need to. 15-minute appointments will be available and you'll have the opportunity to choose virtual or in-person meetings. Our Counseling and Administrative Staff will also be listed on myconferencetime.com and available during conferences. Please do not hesitate to schedule with one of us.

As we move closer to the end of the third 9-weeks, we are aware that some students may be struggling. Tuesday/Thursday Interventions continue and are a great opportunity for students who need more time on campus to work. If your child is referred by our staff, we certainly hope you will support our efforts to ensure their success by encouraging attendance. It is our mission to ensure that every student learns to the best of their ability.

Please let us know how your student is doing. We hope to see you during conferences!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Raines". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ed" and last name "Raines" clearly legible.

Ed Raines, Principal
rainedw@usd437.net

WRHS Counseling Office

[Counseling Website](#)

Twitter Updates: [@wrhsgo](#)

Crisis Hotline: 785-232-5005

[Counseling Department Staff](#)

Pre-enrollment

WRHS pre-enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is currently taking place. Students should utilize the information sent via email and introduced during advisory. This includes information on graduation requirements, post-secondary planning, and pre-enrollment information. All presentations and course guides can be found on the counseling website under ACADEMIC PLANNING.

Counselors met/will meet with students in the auditorium to help with pre-enrollment on the following dates: January 26 (juniors), February 2 (sophomores), February 9 (freshmen). Pre-enrollment requests must be submitted to Naviance by February 28. When students have questions, they should email or see their [school counselor](#).

Program Highlights

Last year, we highlighted several WRHS programs in this newsletter including Washburn Institute of Technology, Dual Credit, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate. Those highlights can be found [HERE](#). If you or your children have questions, please contact your school counselor.

ACT on February 28

Over 300 juniors are registered for the State ACT on February 28. Juniors should check their email regularly for updates on pre-registration sessions and testing details. Juniors were sent ACT preparation resources by email. The counseling website also has [preparation resources](#). We encourage students to prepare for the test.

Scholarships

Many new scholarships have been added to the [Counseling Website](#). The list provides access to applications as well as information on eligibility requirements and deadlines. We encourage students to take advantage of these opportunities and apply!

College Visits

As you start to make summer plans, we encourage families 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>.

Stress Management and Teens

This article provides information on ways parents can help teens learn to manage their stress. A few tips are included below. We hope families find this information helpful. Click [HERE](#).

- Monitor if stress is affecting their teen's health, behavior, thoughts, or feelings
- Listen carefully to teens and watch for overloading
- Learn and model stress management skills
- Support involvement in sports and other pro-social activities

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**

Washburn Rural High School

Care Closet

Reach out to your counselor if you need help with any of the following:



Coats, Shoes, or Formal Outfits



Personal Hygiene Products like deodorant or feminine products



Food supplies



Costs for Exams like PSAT or ACT



Free & Reduced Lunch forms



Any other hardship that you might need support.

Contact Your Counselor:



Random Acts Of Kindness WEEK CHALLENGE!!

Monday

Do a good deed day

Tuesday

Give random compliments

Wednesday

Say "Hi" to someone new

Thursday

Teacher/staff appreciation

Friday

"Treat" a friend

*do something nice for your friend

Kindness,
It costs
nothing but
means
everything.

Hosted by Make a Difference club

February 6-10

winter wonderland

FORMAL 2023

DATE: **February 4, 2023**

TIME: **8 - 11pm**

TICKETS : **\$10 - on sale @ the bank during lunch**

- starting January 25
- outside dates must be signed up by January 31

LOCATION : **Sunflower Ballroom
1717 SW Topeka Blv**

HIBERNATION DAY

monday, jan 30



ZOOM DAY

tuesday, jan 31



TOP ARTIST DAY

wednesday, feb 1



RHYME WITHOUT REASON

thursday, feb 2



WHITE OUT

friday, feb 3



Example Ideas:

- James Bond & Legally Blond
- Frat Bro & Tennis Pro
- Fairy & Dairy
- Hannah Montana & Banana
- Bob Ross & Girl Boss

FASHION FORWARD FORMAL WEAR

OFFERING FREE FORMAL WEAR TO
STUDENTS IN THE TOPEKA AREA

PROM SEASON OPEN SHOPPING DATES

- SAT MARCH 25TH
10-2PM
- SAT APRIL 1ST
10-2PM
- SAT APRIL 8TH
10-2PM

CRC LUNDGREN
1020 NE FOREST AVE
TOPEKA KS 66616

SAVE THE DATE

TO SCHEDULE A TIME TO
SHOP OUTSIDE OF THESE
DATES

CALL(785)422-8171 OR
(785)969-9951

OPEN YEAR ROUND FOR ALL
YOUR SPECIAL EVENT NEEDS

SOURCES OF STRENGTH

- WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO -



SPLASH OF STRENGTH



Sources of Strength held an event where students could participate in a collaborative art painting where they identified what strength on the wheel they are feeling strong in. Additionally, students were able to make holiday cards to nursing homes, and make holiday ornaments - it was great to channel a few different strengths before finals week and the holidays (Generosity, Healthy Activities, and Mental Health).



CANDY CANE OLYMPICS



Sources of Strength has an annual tradition of candy cane Olympics! It consists of multiple different games all revolving around candy canes! The artic foxes took the win!



◆ 2023 Scholastic Art Award Recipients

The Art Department is excited to announce that 16 WRHS students received 35 awards at this year's 2023 Scholastic Art Competition in Wichita at Mark Arts for their artwork. This is the premier juried high school and middle school art exhibition in Kansas. This year, more than 1600 artworks were submitted by teens across Eastern Kansas while only 428 works received honors. Their winning work can be viewed here:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1_ZWHjhkytzaB7fRC863F6YHxpYOY3Ftyk5rPZcPxzRc/edit?usp=sharing

Scholastic Art is one of the oldest and most prestigious national art competitions for middle and high school students in the nation. It provides an opportunity for student artists to be recognized, exhibited, and awarded scholarship(s). It is a huge honor for students to receive recognition based on the originality, technical skill and emergence of a personal vision in their work. The following students received recognition for their work:

GOLD KEYS:

Allyson Cummings (2)
Maddison Easley
Ash Fields
Kaya Hamilton
Syd Laster
Aytumn Sanchez
Lee Wolgast (6)

SILVER KEYS:

Taylor Bayless
Allyson Cummings (2)
Olivia Herold
Syd Laster (2)
Luke Lemke
Lee Wolgast (2)

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Taylor Bayless (2)
Cody Clingenpeel
Sharon Denny
Cole Hodgson
Syd Laster (2)
Yecinta Ngure
Elyana Simnitt
Elia Smith
Lee Wolgast (3)

Silver and Gold key works will be on display at Mark Arts in Wichita, February 10 - March 25. For more information please contact Brad Leduc at leducbra@usd437.net.



Maddison Easley
"Modle"
Gold Key
(Printmaking)



Lee Wolgast
"Mr. Brandon"
Gold Key
(Mixed Media)

◆ Career and Technical Education

February is CTE Month®

Governor Laura Kelly is expected to sign a proclamation designating February as CTE Month in the state of Kansas. CTE Month is a national celebration of the value of Career Technical Education and its impact on students, communities, and the economy. In CTE, learners gain real-world skills through hands-on learning and explore career opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom. Students graduate with more confidence in their plans for education and employment after high school.

To celebrate CTE Month, WRHS has invited the Kansas Board of Regents to share a presentation to our CTE staff about Excel in CTE, an initiative of 2012, formerly known as Senate Bill 155. The intent of the program is to better prepare high school students for college and careers. Kansas high school students qualify for state-funded college tuition in approved technical courses offered by Kansas technical and community colleges. For more information on the courses that are available, click here to visit the [KBOR website](#).

During CTE Month, watch for posters at school with a QR code. Use the code or visit [WRHS.net/CTE](#) to learn more about Career Technical Education at WRHS; find and submit the CTE Month Google Form for a chance to win prizes.

National Technical Honor Society

NTHS is the honor society for Career and Technical Education. The Washburn Rural Chapter of NTHS hosted the 2022-23 Induction Ceremony on November 29th. Twenty-four students who have demonstrated strong skills in CTE Courses, met the 3.75 GPA requirement, were nominated by a CTE teacher, and whose applications were approved by WRHS Administration and Counseling Staff were inducted.

Qays Abu-Hijleh
Morgan Ailslieger
Hailey Beck
Mason Casebeer
Molly Didde
Dylan Dodge
Ashley Dreher
Jayden Grabauskas

Rebecca Hoopes
Jada Ingram
Gabby Jackson
Addison Jones
Brianna Jones
John Hayden Keller
Lily MacDonald
Alyssa Mastin

Leah Meek
Annika Peterson
Abigail Sharshel
Mackenzie Smith
Madison Stout
Walker Thompson
Abhinav Velagandula
Georgia Zeller

Ten students received their second year pin.

Madeline Carter
Megan Christensen
Lillian Clark
Brooklyn DeLeye

Andrew Koci
Jal Maru
Karsyn McMaster
Kayla Peter

Ty Weber
Allison Wetzel

These students uphold the following attributes of the National Technical Honor Society; Skill, Honesty, Service, Responsibility, Scholarship, Citizenship and Leadership.

The Officers for the 2022-23 school year are as follows:

Co-Presidents: Brooklyn DeLeye and Allison Wetzel

Secretary: Molly Didde

Treasurer: Addison Jones

Congratulations to these students on their accomplishments!

◆ Career and Technical Education



First and second year members of the 2022-23 National Technical Honor Society

Pathway News

Programming & Software Development Pathway

Haley Schmitz is the Computer Science Teacher, Computer Science Honor Society Advisor, and Coding Club Sponsor at WRHS. She and her students hosted a Coding Carnival for elementary students in the district to help celebrate Computer Science Education Week and introduce various concepts and applications of computer science in everyday life. The honor society students planned and executed the event by creating various activities for all elementary grade levels to enjoy.

At one station, participants pulled plastic ducks out of a small tub and then translated numbers on them into their equivalent in binary. At another station, the high school students taught the younger students how to program instructions by blindfolding one of them and having others give verbal instructions to walk through a tape maze. Students also learned how to race the Sphero BOLT programmable robots that were purchased with a grant from the Auburn-Washburn Foundation.



Sphero BOLT Programmable Robots



Blindfolded instructions through a maze to emulate programming

◆ Career and Technical Education

Corrections, Security, Law & Law Enforcement Pathway

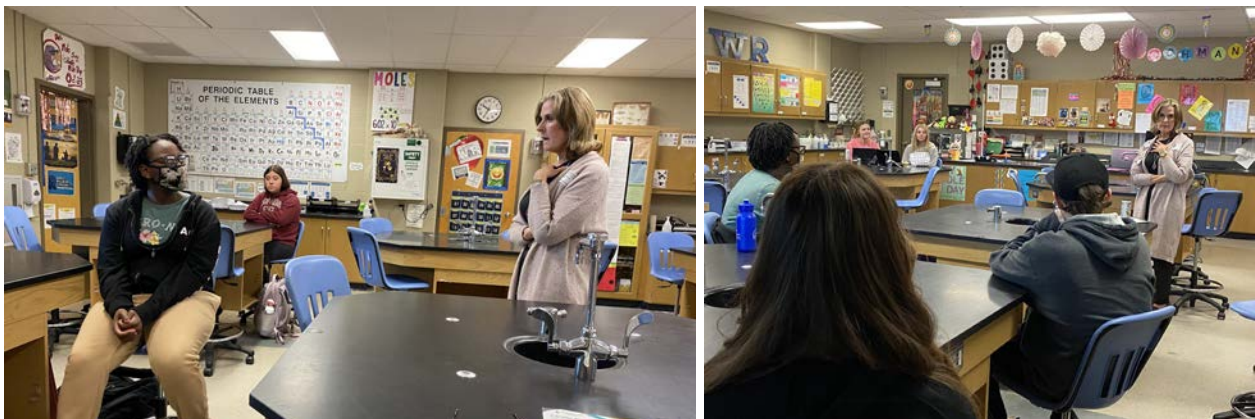
Teachers Brian Hensyel and David Meseke hosted Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Speaker Week in December. Students in Criminal Justice and Criminal Justice 2 heard from Mike Kagay, Shawnee County District Attorney; Eric Rosen, Kansas Supreme Court Justice; Harold Louderback, Lieutenant Shawnee County Sheriff's Office; and the Topeka Police Department.



Health & Bioscience Cluster:

HOSA is the club for Future Health Professionals. Stormont Vail Health Operating Committee team members have been educating students about various careers and career pathways this year. In January, students heard from Kevin Steck, Senior Vice President, Chief Legal Council (not pictured) and Carol Perry, Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer. Carol encouraged all students interested in a career in healthcare to earn their CNA to get experience and then to find the career path in health care they are truly passionate about.

A certified nurse aide, or CNA, is obtained by completing 90 hours of instruction with students receiving classroom and hands-on clinical experience. High school juniors and seniors are eligible for this program and tuition for the program is Excel in CTE.



Carol Perry, Senior Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer, Stormont Vail Health addresses students in HOSA

Construction & Design

Washburn Rural Class of 2022 alumni Cole Dodge and Tucker Sims are students in Architecture at Kansas State University. The pair returned to Mr. Gerlach's classroom to share about their first semester college experience with current students. Cole and Tucker both earned concentrator status in the Construction & Design Pathway at WRHS.

Pictured below is a project that Cole spent more than 60 hours completing. The assignment was designed to teach students how to visualize space. Cole's model is a sculpture garden with great attention to detail.

◆ Career and Technical Education



Cole Dodge, Mr. Gerlach, Tucker Sims

Cole's 3D Sculpture Garden model

Current WRHS students have completed construction of the garden shed featured (see ad below). For more information on purchasing this shed, or placing a custom order, contact Teresa Golden goldeter@usd437.net

WRHS GARDEN SHED



This shed was built by Washburn Rural High School students in the Construction & Design Class.

<p style="text-align: center;">Property Features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10' x 12' with 8' walls• 8" O.C. texture smart siding• Floor system treated material• Double door 60" x 80"• Weather wood architecture shingle	<p style="text-align: center;">Price: \$3400</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Delivery: \$400 plus \$1 per mile Shawnee County</p>
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*To purchase or questions contact:
Teresa Golden goldeter@usd437.net*

◆ Career and Technical Education

Marketing Pathway

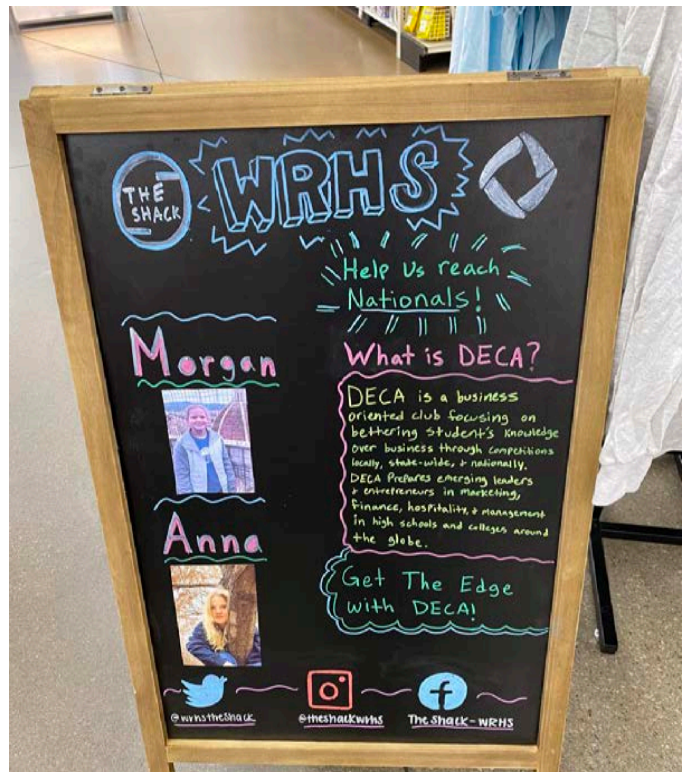
DECA is the Career Technical Student Organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

WRHS Spirit Wear at HyVee!

Washburn Rural High School Marketing Applications students Morgan Aillsieger and Anna Lacy are competing in the DECA sales project competition. They are doing this project in hopes of going to the DECA nationals competition in Orlando, Florida. You can help them achieve this goal by going to Hy-Vee and purchasing Washburn Rural spirit wear!

DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. The DECA sales project uses the project management process to raise funds for our DECA chapter. Our project is focusing on selling Washburn Rural merchandise in Hy-Vee to promote the school store and its merchandise to the community outside of the school setting. During this spring semester we will track how much is being sold, how many times we need to restock, which items are most popular, and if selling Junior Blues merchandise at Hy-Vee helped generate sales for The Shack. We would greatly appreciate your support.

For more information please contact Kim Sommers at sommekim@usd437.net or Brian McFall at mcfalbri@usd437.net



Restaurant & Event Management Pathway

Students in Ms. Dible's Culinary Essentials classes competed in pretzel and bread shaping.



Students pictured with their unbaked dough, certificates and pretzel ornament trophies

◆ Career and Technical Education



Sponsored by Silver Lake Bank

Junior Blue Crew

Congratulations to our newest Jr. Blue Crew winners!

- \$10.00 McDonald's Gift Card - Kayla Peter
- \$10.00 Common Grounds - Cadee Haugsness
- \$10.00 Chick-Fil-A Gift Card - Kyelie Arb



If a high school freshman put just \$7 into an account at WRHS Bank for every month for an entire school year, they would have invested \$63 into a bank account. If they were to keep this up for 4 years (freshman-senior), they would have saved \$252 into their bank account. With interest, their account balance would be \$343.24 for just depositing \$7 a month.

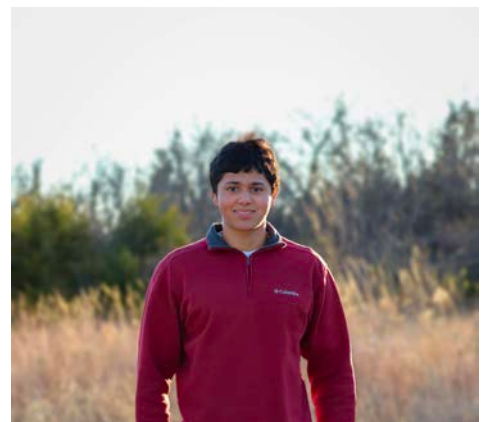
On top of this, students are also eligible for monthly prizes, such as gift cards or free deposits. They are also eligible for a \$500 grand prize drawing in May. To be eligible, students must deposit \$7 every month from August to May. For more information stop by the WRHS Bank during lunch or contact Brian McFall at mcfalbri@usd437.net

Senior Spotlight



Hello I am Andrew Koci, I have been involved in the bank for 2 years now and have enjoyed every minute of it! I plan on graduating high school at the end of fall semester and plan to attend Washburn Technical College to get a degree in machining. In the future I would love to own my own machining business and I know my experiences in both the bank and other business classes will surely help me. My favorite part of the bank is the opportunity to get on the job experience and solve problems while still in a school setting. My best piece of financial advice is to always be looking at the future and worry less about the now.

My name is Jal Maru and I joined the WRHS Bank this year. My favorite part is never having any homework and getting a free drink from Common Grounds. I plan on going to college for a computer science degree. My financial advice is to spend some of every paycheck on investments and things that will build equity instead of spending it all.



New Year, New Cup

12oz - \$27
24oz. - \$32



Start off the year right with an upgrade! Shop the new WARU Tumblers, available in three colors (black, navy, cream).

Available at Common Grounds Coffee Shop
or online at <https://wrhscommongrounds.square.site/>

RURAL HEART SHIRTS ARE BACK!



Pre-order Today!
Supplies are limited.



Visit The Shack @
ruralspirit.square.site
or scan the QR Code
below



The Shack @ WRHS ruralspirit.square.site



Pre-Order!



DISTRICT APPAREL

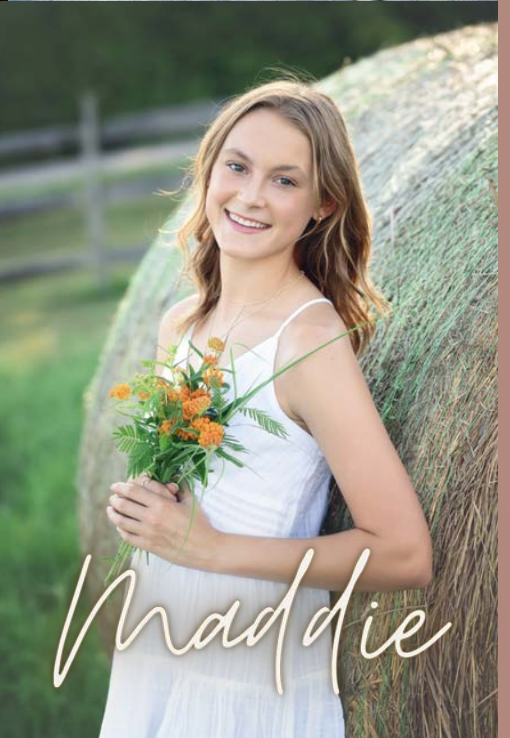
ORDERS CLOSE FEB. 12TH

Orders will be delivered to your corresponding school location approximately mid March.



THE SHACK

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



2023 WRHS YEARBOOK

Name: _____

Grade: 9 10 11 12

Yearbook Prices: \$55.00

\$75 for available extra copies at 2024 enrollment

Name to appear on the cover (optional): \$5.00 <input type="checkbox"/>

Plastic Cover: \$2.00

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to WRHS YEARBOOK

Check # _____

Paid Date _____

**Mail Order form & Payment to: WRHS Yearbook
5900 SW 61st Street, Topeka, KS 66619**

OR ORDER ONLINE!

www.yearbookordercenter.com

school code: 33333

Thank You

for supporting the

2023 Yearbook

GOLD LEVEL SUPPORTERS:

Advisors Excel
CoreFirst Bank & Trust
Create Hair Studio
Devader's Pools and Spas
Farm Bureau Financial Services, April Kelsey
Jetz Service
Midwest Coating, Inc.
Pepe Miranda Team, Genesis LLC, Realtors
Plato's Closet
Smith Law Firm
Tony's Jewelry & Repair
Ultimate Bounce

BLUE LEVEL SUPPORTERS:

Brad Noller - American Family insurance
Bella Salon & Day Spa
Cunningham German Shepards
Glory Days Pizza
The Dance Factory
Top Fuel Digital
Torgeson Trenching Service
Skyzone Topeka
Sonic Drive-In

◆ International Baccalaureate

IB Students Learn About How We Learn

What is Theory of Knowledge?

ToK is a one-year course that prompts IB diploma candidates to explore how we construct knowledge, evaluate our own views of the world, and identify factors involved in shaping our perspectives. Students compare and contrast the methodologies of various disciplines to ascertain what is true or *possibly* true.

What are our students doing in ToK?

There are two major projects all IB students must complete in ToK: the exhibition and essay. The *exhibition* asks students to pull from real-life scenarios and experiences to answer a question about a ToK theme. Here are a few topics from this year's exhibitions:

- Rosetta Stone, a tire jack, and a spinning frame: Does our knowledge depend on our interactions with other knowers?
- A surrealist painting, a Halloween costume, and a book about imaginary numbers: What role does imagination play in producing knowledge about the world?
- A crystal collection, DNA tests, and the Fermilab particle accelerator: To what extent is certainty attainable?

The TOK *essay* is a 1,600-word exploration of a complex question about perspectives, worldviews, and systems of understanding. Here are a few sample prompts and thesis statements from the Class of 2023:

- "For artists and natural scientists, which is more important: what can be explained or what cannot be explained?" What can be explained is more important to the arts and natural sciences as it provides a basis for both to expand on.
- "Are visual representations always helpful in the communication of knowledge? Discuss with reference to the human sciences and mathematics." Because visual representations often require previous contextual knowledge to possess any meaning and have the possibility of conveying misleading knowledge, they are not always helpful in the communication of knowledge.
- "Is replicability necessary in the production of knowledge? Discuss with reference to two areas of knowledge." Replicability is often important for certainty but is not absolutely essential for something to be "known".

IB seniors on ToK:

"ToK was probably my favorite class because it forced discussion and nuance. The interactive nature of the course meant that I wasn't bogged down by tests, but instead got to think and write about specific situations and apply my learning. The open-ended nature of the projects made them feel less daunting or restrictive than they might otherwise have been." -Evander

"The class itself promotes deep and nuanced discussion, and Mr. Raugewitz does a great job teaching the course. I like how we explored multiple areas of knowledge like the arts, the natural sciences, and history. It made the class more interesting to the whole audience." -Noah

"Some of the topics we discussed were fairly heavy, but the curriculum was interesting and we had lots of good discussions in the class." -Makayla



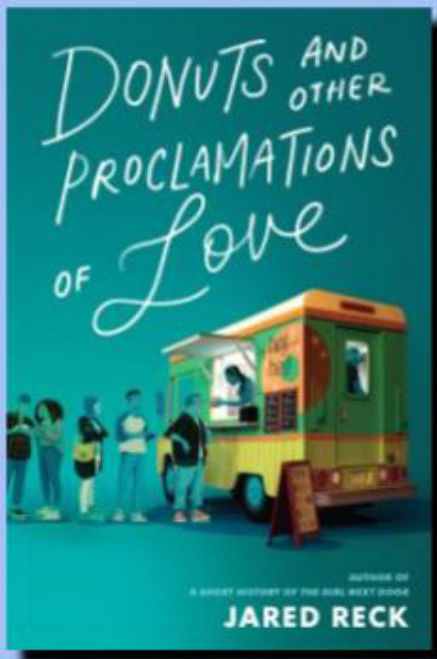
IB Learner Profile

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](#).

Mrs. Finney's Monthly YA Book Recommendation

February 2023

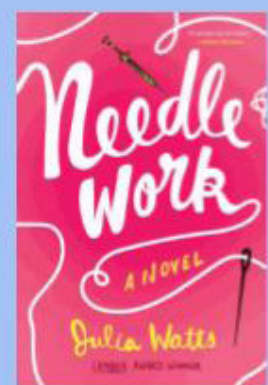


Donuts and other Proclamations of Love

By Jared Reck - F REC

Oscar hates school. He is ready to graduate so he can run his grandfather's food truck full time. Lou is a driven AP, and eager to start college so she can change the world. When Oscar and Lou are paired together to work on an environmental project about food waste, they must put aside their differences to finish the year out strong. This is one of Mrs. Finney's absolute favorites - a story about donuts, food trucks, and the power of family. Where can you go wrong?

Similar Titles Include:



Connect with us @wrhslib for:

- technology support
- homework help
- reading recommendations
- area job openings
- school activities and more

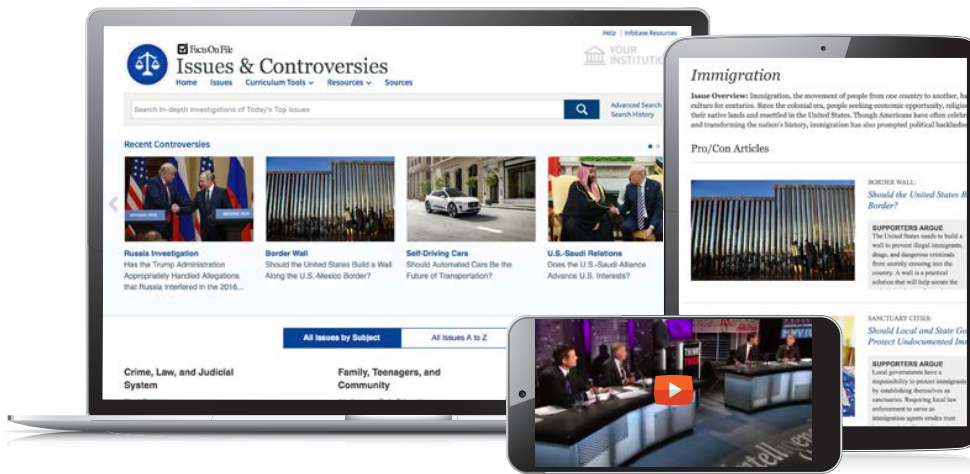


Text 4 Help: 785-260-0015
Marcy Sandberg sandbmar@usd437.net
Victoria Finney finnevic@usd437.net

Visit the WRHS Library to place a hold on or check out one of these amazing books today!

Issues & Controversies

Researchers' First Step toward Understanding Today's Most Important & Controversial Issues



7

Major Awards!

Provide your students with a unique tool for understanding today's crucial issues. Designed to inspire thought-provoking debates, each in-depth article presents both sides of an issue clearly and without bias. Updated weekly, this resource presents the key facts, arguments, history, and current context of today's most important issues—an ideal resource for research papers, debate preparation, and persuasive writing assignments.

Content Highlights:

- **Correlated** to Common Core, state, national, provincial, IB, national STEM, and Next Generation Science Standards
- **Extensive, objective, and comprehensive coverage:** timely, in-depth articles covering complex, hot-button issues
- **Pro and con statements:** main arguments focusing on each side of the controversy
- **Curriculum Tools:** promoting classroom use, with research and writing tools as well as activities for students and educators
- **Exclusive, original videos and educator support materials** enhancing selected issues, including overviews, learning objectives, printable handouts (such as self-assessments with answer keys), discussion questions, and much more
- **Compelling, authoritative, Oxford-style debate videos** from the renowned Intelligence Squared U.S. Debate Series, providing fresh perspectives from leading experts in a live format
- **Primary sources:** original documents with introductory paragraphs that provide context and background to the sources—perfect for document-based learning and strengthening critical-thinking skills

**Tech & Learning
Award of Excellence**
"Best Upgraded Products"

**Tech & Learning
ISTE Best of Show Award**

**LMC/ARBA
Best in Reference Award**
"Best Overall Reference"

**LMC/ARBA
Best in Reference Award**
"Best Electronic Reference"

**The ComputED Gazette
Best Educational Software
Award (BESSIES)**
"High School Social Studies Database"

**The ComputED Gazette
Education Software Review
Award (EDDIES)**
"High School Social Studies Database"

**Library Journal
Best Database**
"Best for High Schoolers"

SIIA CODiE Award Finalist
"Best Source for Reference or Education Resources"

Continued on next page...



Issues & Controversies

Researchers' First Step toward Understanding Today's Most Important & Controversial Issues

<http://kslib.info/databases>

- **NPR audio:** editorially curated and selected National Public Radio audio recordings and podcasts—including episodes of NPR's *Fresh Air* and *On Point*—linked directly to specific articles to enhance context, understanding, and research; many also feature transcripts of the entire broadcast or selected highlights
- **Court cases:** original, searchable articles that summarize key court cases on major issues, each explaining the background of the case, the legal issues it raised, the court's decision, and its impact
- **Editorials:** thousands of editorials and opinions via NewsEdge from prominent newspapers and magazines worldwide and across the political spectrum—including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Toronto Star*, *Jerusalem Post*, *China Daily*, and *Atlantic*—providing a broader perspective on contemporary events and conflicts
- **Infographics:** tables and charts presenting crucial data on the issues for easy visualization of statistics
- **Rich related resources:** congressional testimony, infographics, speeches, reports, editorial cartoons, and more, along with discussion questions and activities, inspiring students to do their own critical thinking and analysis
- **Full coverage of each National High School Debate Topic:** comprehensive overview, with a series of in-depth articles on the key aspects of the annual debate topic
- **Bill of Rights in Debate:** deepening understanding the U.S. Constitution in contemporary life by linking articles and issues directly to constitutional rights
- **Searchable Reuters® newsfeed**, updated hourly
- **Issues from the headlines**, covering the most controversial issues of the 21st century, including capital punishment, drug legalization, energy and climate change, free trade and the economy, gun control, health care, immigration, racial profiling, and world poverty
- **Presidential elections and administrations:** comprehensive background articles on all presidential races since 1996—including articles about the candidates' views on campaign issues, party platforms, and excerpts from convention speeches—and the presidencies of Reagan, Clinton, Bush, and Obama
- **"By the Numbers,"** offering valuable statistical material
- **Thousands of links** to news stories, timelines, primary sources, and other resources, giving users context, insight, and perspective
- **Comprehensive chronologies** and overview articles
- **Background Encyclopedia content**

"...could work particularly well in flipped classrooms due to the wealth of topics for students to read and research before discussing...in class."—TECH & LEARNING

"...will provide students with the building blocks for forming their own opinions, leading to thoughtful research papers and debates. **The content and presentation are impressive...**will give the [competition] a run for its money..."—LIBRARY JOURNAL

"**There's no debate that this database deserves an A.**"
—SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

Supports 1:1 initiatives, flipped classrooms, blended instruction, and project-based learning

Features Include:

- Easy-to-navigate format structured around today's most controversial issues
- Dynamic citations: MLA and Chicago formats, with EasyBib export functionality
- Google Translate and Read Aloud tool
- Download articles as PDFs
- Searchable support Center with live help chat
- Share content to Google Classroom

The background of the main section is a vibrant blue. It features three paper airplanes: a white one on the left, a white one at the top center, and a gold one on the right. Dashed white lines trail behind each airplane, suggesting movement and breaking through boundaries. The text "THINK OUTSIDE THE LINES" is written in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters on the right side.

THINK OUTSIDE THE LINES

Gale In Context:
Opposing Viewpoints

ACCESS NOW

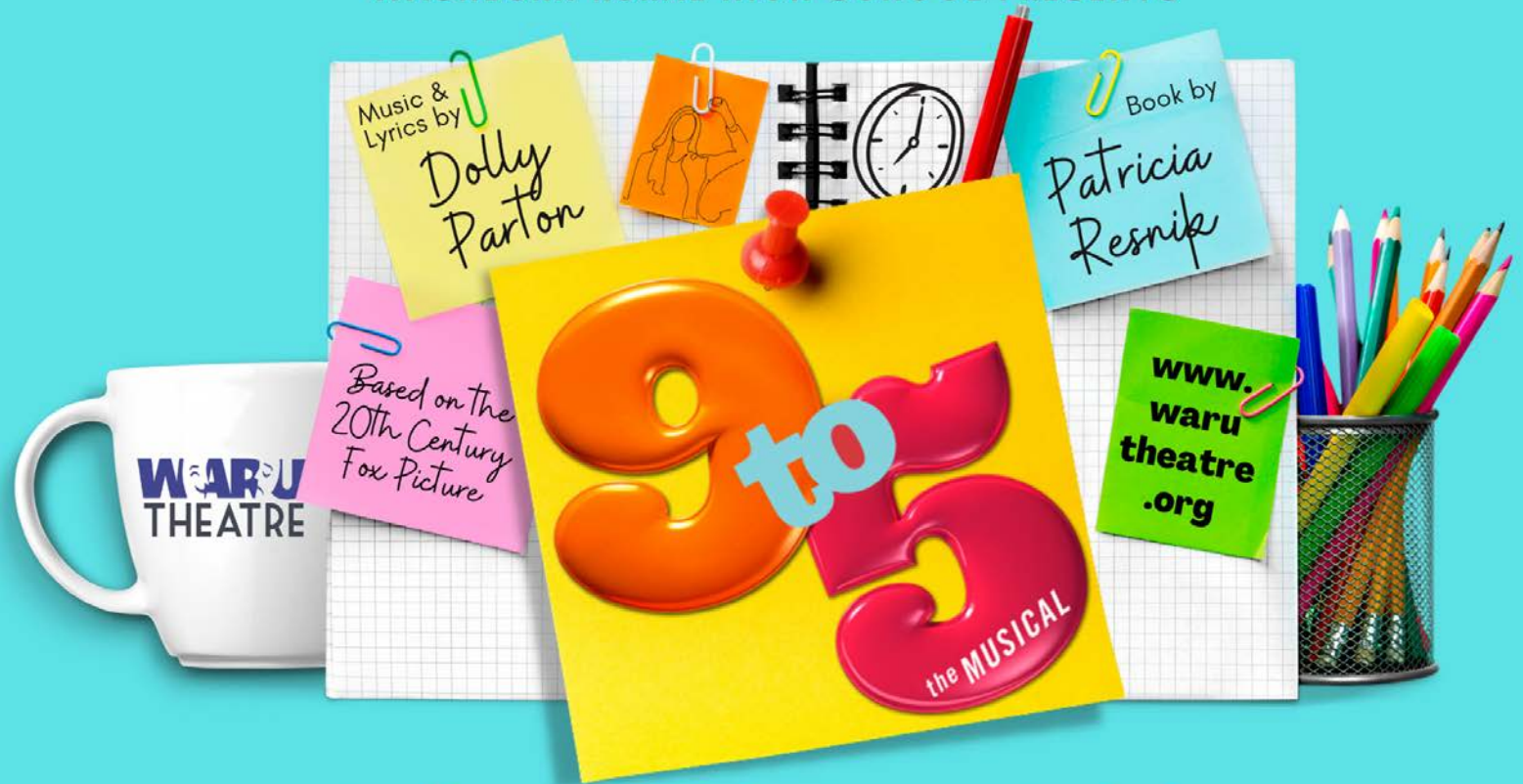
Gale Opposing Viewpoints in Context

Access via WRHS Library's list of available databases
<http://wrhsresearch.weebly.com/subscription-databases.html>



Tutorial Videos for electronic note taking, sending article w/citation to google drive, etc.
<https://support.gale.com/training/videos/ovic>

WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS



February 9-11 at 7:00 pm
February 12 at 2:00 pm

Originally produced on Broadway by Robert Greenblatt, April 2009

Orchestrator: Bruce Coughlin

Arrangements and Additional Orchestrations: Stephen Oremus & Alex Lacamoire

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)

9 to 5 The Musical, with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton herself, is based on the seminal 1980 hit movie. This hilarious story of friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era is outrageous, thought-provoking and even a little romantic.

Pushed to the boiling point, three female coworkers concoct a plan to get even with the sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot they call their boss. In a hilarious turn of events, Violet, Judy and Doralee live out their wildest fantasy – giving their boss the boot! While Hart remains "otherwise engaged," the women give their workplace a dream makeover, taking control of the company that had always kept them down. Hey, a girl can scheme, can't she?

Production Staff

DIRECTED BY: Maeghan Bishop

SCENE DESIGN AND TECHNICAL DIRECTION: Nick Beasley

VOCAL MUSIC DIRECTION: Ben Holcomb

PIT ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR: Melissa Sauls

CHOREOGRAPHER: Alex Castaneda

COSTUME SUPERVISOR: Linnea Hoyos

For more information please visit: <https://warutheatre.org/winter-musical>

◆ Debate

Congratulations to the WRHS Debate program! They are the State Champions in 4-Speaker Debate! This is the seventh consecutive year that we have won the State 4-Speaker Championship! A huge shout-out to Evander Davis, Karissa Krominga, Kavi Chidambaranathan, and Aditi Nimashakavi for a job well done!

In the 4-Speaker tournament, one team debates on the affirmative in all rounds and one team debates on the negative. In the end, their records are added together and the school with the best combined record takes home the state championship. Kavi Chidambaranathan and Aditi Nimishakavi represented the affirmative on the topic, while Evander Davis and Karissa Kromminga were our negative team.



This year's topic centered around the United States Federal Government's security cooperation with NATO over emerging technologies. Our affirmative team read several different cases, suggesting that we cooperate with NATO over developing 5G infrastructure, artificially intelligent ballistic missile defense, or advanced pandemic responses using biotechnology. Kavi and Aditi finished with a 6-2 record at the tournament, taking losses to great teams from Shawnee Mission South and Lawrence Free State, whose negative team was one of two undefeated teams at the tournament.

The other undefeated team throughout the competition was our negative team, Evander Davis and Karissa Kromminga. In debate, the negative is tasked with disproving the affirmative team's case, despite not knowing what the proposal will be until the affirmative team presents it in their first speech. Despite this difficult task, Evander and Karissa rose to the occasion, winning all 8 of their debates unanimously, finishing with 24 ballots over the course of the tournament. This was the first time in our streak of victories that a team won not only all of its debate rounds, but all of the judges' individual votes.

Overall, our team finished with a 14-2 record, which was sufficient to secure a state championship for the 7th consecutive season! With half of the team returning next year, we are hopeful to continue our success on the 2023-2024 debate topic on income inequality.

2022 - 2023 NFHS OUTSTANDING
SPEECH & DEBATE EDUCATOR AWARD

**TIM
ELLIS**

SECTION WINNER

WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL
SECTION 5 - KANSAS





PTO Blues Backers FEBRUARY 2023

NEXT BLUES BACKERS
MEETING:
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY, 8

POST PROM IS JUST
AROUND THE CORNER!



All juniors and seniors along with one guest are invited regardless of whether you attend prom or not.

LIMITED MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE

We are down to only having sweatpants available! Get a pair before they are gone! Merchandise can be purchased through the school store, [The Shack](#).



Sweatpants



Sweatpants

NEW PAYMENT OPTION

Venmo now available!
For purchasing items or memberships....
@WashburnruralHSpto



CONGRATS TO THE DEBATE
TEAM ON YOUR 7TH STRAIGHT
STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN
4-SPEAKER DEBATE!!!



PTO Blues Backers FEBRUARY 2023

WHO WE ARE

Blues Backers is the parent-teacher organization 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

Thank you to all the organizations who have signed up to run a concession stand this winter season!

If your organization is looking for a fun, easy way to raise funds, look for the spring concession stand sign up coming soon.

JOIN THE WRHS PTO/BLUES BACKERS



Ann Rausch, President,
rauscann@usd437.net

Jenny Lang, Vice President,
jenlang4@gmail.com

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



PTO Blues Backers FEBRUARY 2023

THANK YOU MEMBERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Jr. Blue Level

April Kelsey- Farm Bureau
Financial Services
Jerrod & Katie Ainsley
Chris & Erin Appuhn
Angie Bachelor
Anthony & Evie Blanco
Erik & Chelsea Blankenship
Jeff & Kelli Bradbury
Johnna Brumley
Brian & Danielle Casebeer
Arif & Adeela Chaudhry
John & Emily Collins
Jennifer & John Creager
Matt & Amanda Danielson
Brooke Deister
Jamie Didde
Tara & Braden Dimick
Rachel Ebert
Matt & Krystal Frydendall
Jamie & Mary Ginrich
Sarah Good
Pat & Jennifer Grogan
Jennifer & Matt Harader
Dustin & Carrie Hawks
Jared Hedden
John & Jennifer Heim
Andi & Greg Heinen
Tommy Hendrickson
Tim & Karah Hight
Amy Hill
Kristin Hirschi
Johnny and Amy Hoytal

Laura Ismert
Diane Jones
Kris & Melissa Kasprzyk
Amanda Kiefer
Amy & Eric Kincade
Steve & Kim Lanterman
Mark & Wendy Leenerts -
Integrity Roofing
Anya Leonard
April & Chen Liang
Jacqueline & Torey Lightcap
Michelle & Matt Lucht
Scott & Ashley Manrose
Sara McIlvain
Monka & Bill McSweeney
Catherine Meier
Nathan & Jessica Miles
Brad & Amanda Miller
Mike & Kathy Morse
Dennis & Joyce Moser
Scott & Gina Nellis
Charlie & Misty Nimz
Jason & Erin Nolte
Morgan & Jason Padgett
Chris & Alicia Padilla
Ed & Carolyn Popkess
Ed Raines
Ryan & Lacy Randall
Dennis & Ann Rausch
Paul & Jennifer Recinos
Brad & Lori Rupp
Greg & Abby Schieber

Scott & Erin Schneider
Stan & Amy Schroeder
Tami Sherley
Derrick & Sherriene Sontag
Jennifer & Jeff Spencer
Matt & Jeanette Spurgin
David & Cat St. John
Desiree & Chris Stivers
Blake & Joan Sutton
Kennen & Debbie
Cheryl Tuckwin
Thomas VanDerSluis
Kurtis & Andie VanDonge
Jeanne & Russ Vawter
Kennen & Debbie Walker
Scott & Lacie Walker
Leanna Will
Todd & Kathleen Williams
Anne & Brian Wilson
WRHS Student Businesses -
Bank, Common Grounds, The
Shack

Blue Level

RJ Adair
Melissa Aeschliman
Alison
Kelly & Andrew Banks
Robbie & Erinn Bradstreet
Tom Bruno
Melanie & Richard Buckhalter
Charlie Burton



PTO Blues Backers FEBRUARY 2023

THANK YOU MEMBERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Blue Level (Continued)

Daniel Byard
David & Azure Chooncharoen
Dirk & Amy Christian
Michelle Colly
Angela & Darin Conklin
Vince & Lyndi Cox
Brian & Jennifer Dodge
Jolee Eckert
Troy & Jennifer
Monique Fortune
Jared Goehring
Pulkit Gupta
Angie & Robert Haggard
Jeni & John Herman
Megan Hewitt
Cory & Nicole
Page Jones & Brian Littrell
Chris & Karla Keys
Charity King
Hunter & Andrea Kirkwood
Eric & Ronda Kozlowski
Brooke Leahy
Marc & Jennifer Luetje
Hallie McCoy
Summer & Mike McCoy
Tyler & Kate McMaster
Doug & Barb Moore
Jen Nichols
Annette Ogunnowo
Rick & Melissa Peat
Jeff & Mary Peter
Eric & Michelle Quinn

Lori & Quint Reelfs
Jenny & Ryan Rohn
Hugo & Lina Romero-Canon
Adam & Haley Schmitz
Brady & Shanna Simpson
Brain and Michelle Soderberg
Casey & Carrie Stead
Matthew Stone
Kevin & Cindy Stout
John & Angie Stupka
Vincent Tran
Richard & Sheli VanWogoner
Jamie & Jeanne Winter
Jamie Garcia
Keith & Amy Newberry

White Level

Clare & Debbie Blakeslee
Bob & Judy Conklin
Harmonee Daniels
Tanisha Domann
Tracy Duran
Danielle Eilert
Natasha Fulton
Sarah Funk
Teresa Golden
Crystal Gonzalez
Sarah Hammel
Kristina Hanson
Ben Holcomb
Alexis Howell
John & Ann Janca

Sarah & Justin Jeffers
Tamela Lake
Meyvinia Liong
David Lopez
Bill & Debbie Lutes
Brandon & Stancy Macha
Kimberly Markham
Natasha McLean
Michele Moore
Kirsten & Kyle Nelson
Tara Nyquist
Tammy Poynter
Edna Raub
Ryan & Jill Ritchey
Marcy Warren-Sandberg
Kerstin & Kevin Smith
Jess Southhall
Courtney Sullivan
Mark Swafford

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!



@WRHSBluesBackers



PTO Blues Backers FEBRUARY 2023

2022-2023 PTO CONTACT INFORMATION

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ASSISTANT TREASURER:

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CONCESSIONS WINTER CHAIR:

Ann Rausch rauscann@usd437.net

CONCESSIONS SPRING CHAIR:

TBA

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Carrie Stead steadcar@usd437.net

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Jenny Lang jenlang4@gmail.com

STAFF APPRECIATION:

Angie Conklin acdconklin@gmail.com

February Student Calendar

Wednesday, February 1st

First Day of Black History Month

Thursday, February 2nd

7am K&Q of Courts Practice
8am Sophomore class pre-enrollment for 2023-24 SY
10:30am 2022-23 Club Date
4pm KSHSAA Regional Scholars' Bowl Tournament
5:15 pm Boys Basketball Team Dinner
6pm AFJROTC Parent Meeting for CIA Trip

Friday, February 3rd

2:15pm Pep Assembly-King and Queen of Hearts
4:30 pm 9/JV/V Girls/Boys' Basketball v. Emporia
6pm K&Q of Courts Night

Saturday, February 4th

12am Regional SNS (Food Service) Training
8am KSHSAA Regional Piano Festival
9am Girls/Boys' Wrestling at Burlington Tournament
9am Girls/Boys' Wrestling at League Tournament
2pm JV Boys' Basketball v. OW & TW
8pm Winter Formal

Monday, February 6th

6:30 pm Board of Education

Tuesday, February 7th

3pm Senior One-Act Play Auditions
4:30 pm 9/JV/V Girls/Boys' Basketball at JC

Wednesday, February 8th

District Early Release-45 Minutes
2:20 pm AFJROTC Marching Practice
3pm Senior One-Act Play Auditions
3pm WRHS Bowling Triangular-Senior Night
6:30 pm PTO Meeting

Thursday, February 9th

8am Freshman Class Pre-enrollment for 2023-24 SY
12pm Boys' League Dive Meet
5pm Boys' League Swim Meet
5:15 pm Boys Basketball Team Dinner
6pm IB Parent Meeting
7pm Winter Musical

Friday, February 10th

10am Girls' Wrestling at Regional Tournament
4:30 pm 9/JV/V Girls/Boys' Basketball v. Hayden
7pm Winter Musical

Saturday, February 11th

8am ACT Date (WRHS not a test site)
9am Girls' Wrestling at Regional Tournament
9am Intramural Basketball
10am KSHSAA State Scholars' Bowl Tournament
7pm Winter Musical

Monday, February 13th

4:30 pm Girls' Basketball Team Dinner

Tuesday, February 14th

Valentine's Day
8:30 am TG Singing Valentines
4:30 pm 9/JV/V Girls/Boys' Basketball v. Topeka High

Wednesday, February 15th

4pm Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thursday, February 16th

No School
7:30 am Parent/Teacher Conferences
12pm Boys' State Dive Meet Prelims
12pm Parent/Teacher Conferences
4pm Parent/Teacher Conferences

Friday, February 17th

No School
10am Boys' Wrestling at Regional Tournament
10am Boys' State Swim Meet Prelims
3pm Forensics Tourney
4:30 pm 9/JV/V Girls/Boys' Basketball at Manhattan

Saturday, February 18th

7am Forensics Tourney
8am KSHSAA State Piano Festival
9am Boys' Wrestling at Regional Tournament
9am Intramural Basketball
10 pm Boys' State Dive/Swim Meet Finals

Monday, February 20th

Presidents' Day
No School-Staff Day
4:30 pm 9/JV/V Girls' Basketball v. Blue Valley HS
6:30 pm Board of Education

Tuesday, February 21st

7am NHS Meeting
3:15 pm Spring Play Auditions
6pm SITE Council

Wednesday, February 22nd

10am Girls' Wrestling at State Tournament
3:15 pm Senior-Directed One-Act Auditions
3:15 pm Spring Play Auditions
6pm Grade 8 Parent Meeting

Thursday, February 23rd

KMEA-Wichita, KS
10am Girls' Wrestling at State Tournament
10:30 am 2022-2023 Club Date
5:15 pm Boys Basketball Team Dinner

Friday, February 24th

KMEA-Wichita, KS
9am Regional Bowling-WR Host
10am Boys' Wrestling at State Tournament
3pm AFJROTC Military Ball Set-up
4:30pm 9/JV/V Girls/Boys' Basketball at Emporia

Saturday, February 25th

KMEA-Wichita, KS
9am Boys' Wrestling at State Tournament
7pm AFJROTC Military Ball

Monday, February 27th

First Day of Spring Sports

Tuesday, February 28th

8am State ACT Date
7pm V Boys' Basketball at Substate