



WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR BLUES NEWSLETTER



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FEATURED STORY

PRE-ENROLLMENT

WRHS pre-enrollment for the 2025-2026 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 will meet with students in the Innovation Center to help with pre-enrollment on the following dates: February 6 (juniors), February 7 (sophomores), February 10 (freshmen). Pre-enrollment requests must be submitted to Naviance by February 27. When students have questions, they should email or see their [school counselor](#).

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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 12 and 13 respectively. Conference times are:

- Wednesday, February 12, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 12, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 13, 7:30 - 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, February 13, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 13, 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. The primary focus for spring conferences will consist of students' reflections of the courses they've taken and the courses in which they are planning to take next school year. Students will talk to parents about their individualized 4-year Plan of Study, share their academic and personal goals, and reflect upon how these things connect to careers of interest. 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 27th. Beginning February 3rd, 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 Staffs will also be listed on our scheduling platform 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 written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Raines, Principal
rainedw@usd437.net

◆ WRHS Counseling Office

[Counseling Website](#)

Crisis Hotline: 785-232-5005

Twitter Updates: @wrhsgo

Crisis Hotline: 785-232-5005

[Counseling Department Staff](#)

Pre-enrollment

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Program Highlights

We have 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 25

310 juniors are registered for the State ACT on February 25 and will take the test online. Juniors should check their email regularly for updates on 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

◆ WRHS Counseling Office

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[Counseling Department Staff](#)

Local Mental Health Services

 <p>Lilac Center</p>	<p>Lilac Center 3630 SW Burlingame Rd. Topeka, KS 66611</p>	<p>https://www.lilaccenter.org/</p> 	<p>785-337-0308</p>
 <p>FAMILY SERVICE & GUIDANCE CENTER</p>	<p>Family Service and Guidance Center 325 S.W. Frazier Ave. Topeka, KS 66606</p>	<p>https://www.fsgctopeka.com/</p> 	<p>FSGC Crisis Services 24 hours a day/7 days a week</p> <p>785-232-5005</p>
	<p>Stormont Vail Behavioral Health Outpatient Services 3707 SW 6th Ave, Topeka, KS 66606</p>	<p>https://www.stormontvail.org/ primary-care/behavioral-health- outpatient/</p> 	<p>785 270-4600</p>
	<p>Florence Crittenton 5423 SW 7th Street Topeka, KS 66606</p>	<p>https://flocritkansas.org/progr ams/outpatient-treatment/</p> 	<p>785-233-0516</p>
	<p>Washburn University Child & Adolescent Clinic 1700 SW College Ave. Topeka, KS 66621</p>	<p>https://www.washburn.edu/ac ademics/college-schools/arts-s- ciences/psychology/psychologi- cal-clinic/Clinic-Child.html</p> 	<p>785-670-1750</p>

Washburn Rural High School Care Closet

Your counselor can help with:



Coats,
Shoes,
Clothing



Hygiene Products
Like Deodorant,
Soap, Toothbrush,
Femine Products



Food Supplies
& Free/Reduced
Lunch Forms

WRHS
Counselors



SCAN ME

Reach out for items
included or any other
hardship you need help
navigating

Cost
for
exams
like
PSAT
or ACT



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**

◆ Debate

Congratulations to our 4-speaker team of Harris Chaudhry, Kavi Chidambaranathan, Campbell Hight and Aditi Nimishakavi for finishing as runners-up at this year's 6A KSHSAA State 4-Speaker tournament! They were also one of the only 6A schools with 12 students debating between 2-speaker and 4-speaker. In 2-speaker, they had two of the top 16 teams! Congratulations to Joel Jijo/Garv Khurana, who finished in the top 16 and to Tarrence Byrd/Sophie Heinen who finished in the top 8.



The Jr. Blues' nationally qualified entries were in action in their first warm-up tournament for nationals. Harris Chaudhry/Campbell Hight and Shri Chidambaranathan/Jace Raines finished 4-2 in preliminaries in Iowa. Chidambaranathan/Raines barely missed elimination rounds as the 9 seed. Chaudhry/Hight broke as the 4th seed. They won their quarters and semi-final debates on 3-0 decisions. The semi-finals win secured them another bid to the Tournament of Champions in April!

◆ AFJROTC

AFJROTC finished a great first semester by winning the Inaugural Topeka West Specialist Kyle G. Thomas Drill Competition on December 13th. It is the school's first ever meet championship. The unarmed regulation drill team and our unarmed color guard both placed first. While the armed regulation drill team was second place, freshman Karma Kneale finished 6th place in Individual drill.

The Academic Bowl team also advanced to the second round of the National AFJROTC Academic Bowl competition for the 11th straight year. Academic Bowl team members are Ivan Beach, Parker Chapman, Evan Garcia, Rhiannon Good, Mariah McDonald, and Kelcie Schneider.



◆ Art Department

The Art Department is excited to announce that 9 WRHS students received 14 awards at this year's 2025 Scholastic Art Competition in Wichita at Mark Arts for their artwork. This year, more than 2200 artworks were submitted by teens across Eastern Kansas while only 490 works received honors. Their winning work can be viewed here: [2025 Scholastic Art Slideshow](#)

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 WRHS students received recognition for their work:

GOLD KEYS:

Kyleigh Chrisman
Kaya Hamilton

HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Phoebe Harrison
Annah Brighton
Kyleigh Chrisman

SILVER KEYS:

Jessica Temming
Kyleigh Chrisman (2)
Luke Lemke
Sevyn Combs (2)

Luke Lemke
Israel Escobar
Hannah Heine



Kaya Hamilton "Sisters" Gold Key (Painting)

Silver and Gold key works will be on display at Mark Arts in Wichita, February 7 - March 29.

◆ World Language

World Language is gearing up for the 2025 March Madness of Music in the French, German, and Spanish classes. Just like college basketball has March Madness, we have the Manie Musicale de Mars, Musik im März Madness, and La Locura de Marzo in each of our languages! The students will fill out a 16 song bracket to indicate which songs that they think will win. These songs have been selected by language teachers nationally. Each day of the competition, they will listen to two competing songs and vote for their favorite. Students from all over the United States participate in this musical competition and by the end of March, we will crown a National Champion! This competition will expose the students to different musical artists and genres of music while allowing them to hear the songs that kids their age listen to every day.

World language students are also preparing for the AAPPL and IB tests in each of the languages. IB language students will take the IB test while upper level students in each of the languages will take the AAPPL test. These tests evaluate the levels of proficiency that students have in listening, speaking, reading and writing in the second language. Students who demonstrate a high level of proficiency in English and in the second language will receive the Kansas State Seal of Biliteracy which informs employers of their ability in language.

◆ Washburn Rural Theatre

Washburn Rural Theatre - Thespian Troupe #6193 made some spectacular achievements at the Kansas Thespian Festival held in January.

- The troupe was recognized as 1 of 33 schools to take home a Kansas Gold Honor Troupe trophy for their accomplishments during the 2024 year.
- Twenty-one students competed in the Thespy competitions with 13 students receiving a Superior, International Qualifying rating, with all other students receiving excellent ratings!
- Owen Tremblay completed a tech Senior audition, received many callbacks from schools around the region, and received a Kansas State Thespian Scholarship.
- Addie Resch was selected from over 500 Thespy entries to perform in the Thespy Showcase of 10 performances.
- Weston Widman was selected to be 1 of 6 Kansas State Thespian Officers for the upcoming year to represent our troupe and advocate for theatre in Kansas.

Overall, a great start to 2025 for WARU theatre and they can't wait for more great achievements in their troupe!

They look forward to seeing everyone at the musical Urinetown January 30, 31 and February 1, 2, Our Spring Cabaret in late March, and our Spring Play, Sense and Sensibility, in April!



◆ Washburn Rural Theatre



SUPERIOR

Haley - Dance

Max - Musical Theatre

Aiden & Chase - Duet Acting

Owen - Sound Design

Addie - Musical Theatre

Corrinne - Musical Theatre

Elery - Musical Theatre

Weston - Solo Acting

Kaci - Musical Theatre

Annie - Solo Acting

Liana & Miriam - Duet Acting

EXCELLENT

Bailey - Musical Theatre

Eli - Musical Theatre

Rain - Musical Theatre

Tillie - Musical Theatre

Naudia & Jocelyn - Duet Acting

Cambria - Musical Theatre

Holly - Musical Theatre



CTE WORKS!

Career and technical education (CTE) engages students and prepares them with the skills they need for fulfilling careers in vital, in-demand industries and occupations.

CTE is associated with higher levels of student engagement¹ and reduced rates of dropout.² In fact, the **average high school graduation rate for CTE concentrators** – students who take multiple courses in one CTE program area – is **96%**³ compared to the national rate of 85%.⁴

CTE WORKS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

CTE concentrators are slightly **more likely** than non-concentrators **to enroll in post-secondary education and are just as likely to earn a degree or certificate.**⁵



High school CTE concentrators are **more likely** than non-concentrators **to be employed full time and have higher median annual earnings** 8 years after graduation.⁶



Postsecondary CTE programs lead to careers in high-demand occupations. About **77% of employers from in-demand industries report hiring an employee because of knowledge and skills gained from their CTE experience.**⁷

CTE IS GOOD FOR **STUDENTS**, GOOD FOR **BUSINESSES** AND GOOD FOR **COMMUNITIES!**

CTE WORKS FOR THE NATION

Despite millions of job openings around the country, **74% of employers report a persistent mismatch** between the skills they need and the skills workers have.¹⁰

The United States is facing a **projected deficit of 6.5 million skilled workers** by 2030.¹¹ Some key industries and occupations facing talent shortages include:

- Health care¹²
- Manufacturing¹³
- Infrastructure¹⁴
- Operations and logistics¹⁵
- Information technology¹⁶
- Education¹⁷

A majority of U.S. workers, both employed and unemployed, report seeking additional career development or reskilling opportunities.¹⁸ And **more than half of Americans** looking to develop job skills **prefer CTE-related programs and credentials.**¹⁹

CTE WORKS FOR POSTSECONDARY AND ADULT STUDENTS

Associate degree holders in CTE fields like architecture and engineering, health practitioner, skilled trade and computer occupations can **earn more than \$2 million over their lifetimes, up to \$2.8 million** – the same as the median lifetime earnings for workers with bachelor's degrees.⁸

Adults who earn short-term credentials through integrated basic skills and technical training programs are **more likely to enroll** in postsecondary education.⁹



◆ Career and Technical Education

WRHS Enrollment for 2025-26 School Year

As your student begins the enrollment process they might consider Career & Technical Education classes. CTE provides students with not only career and academic skills but soft skills that are needed for the modern workplace, such as: critical thinking, communication, team work, citizenship, integrity and ethical leadership, research tools, creativity and innovation. Explore offerings in the [course planning guide](#).

National Honor Society

The National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) Induction ceremony was held on December 9th in the CTE Innovation Center. Co-Presidents Cora Genovese and Alyssa Christian presided over the ceremony. The ceremony involves lighting of the candles that represent the seven attributes of NTHS, recognition of our officers and 2nd year members. The National Technical Honor Society is an educational non-profit that exists to honor, recognize, and empower students and teachers in Career and Technical Education. As the honor society for Career & Technical Education, NTHS serves over 100,000 active members annually in both secondary and post-secondary chapters across the country. Since its founding in 1984, nearly 1 million students have become NTHS alumni. NTHS honors the achievements of top CTE students, provides close to \$300,000 in scholarships annually, and strives to help connect education and industry to build a highly skilled workforce.



The following students were inducted: Camrynn Ahrens, Enslee Blosser, Aayla Briggs, Layla Collins, Lance Deniz Carpenter, Giselle Foster, Rhiannon Good, Aliyah Griffith, Aditya Gupta, Nicholas He, Bailey Herman, John Hoytal, Addyson Kaberline, Berkley Kemper, Keegan Knudtson, Reagan Lee, Talon Ludvicek, Ada Malmstrom, Brecken Murphy, Allie Schroeder, Grace Sutton, Ben Tryhus, Jackson Tuckwin and Ashlynn VanDonge.

Second Year Members were also recognized: Kylie Arb, Ashley Billups, Emerie Catlin, Alyssa Christian, Cora Genovese, Isabelle Haggard, Regan Hughes, Peter Johnston, Megan Louderback, Cora Sabel, Ashley Schwarz, Daisy Shandler, Allie Thesis, Ainsley Wells and Harley Wires.

NTHS 2024-25 Officers are: Co-Presidents: Cora Genovese and Alyssa Christian, Secretary Allie Schroeder and Treasurer Keegan Knudtson.

For more information please contact NTHS Sponsor, Teresa Golden, at goldeter@usd437.net

◆ Career and Technical Education

The 2024 STEAM Carnival



We recently hosted our annual STEAM Carnival for elementary and middle school students on December 3rd. The Carnival was held in the CTE Innovation Center. Approximately 125 students from local elementary schools along with 25 high school volunteers and 15 teachers rotated through a variety of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics activities. Students also entered a raffle drawing that allowed kids to go home with some awesome prizes.

Thank you to everyone who helped out with the event. We look forward to next year as we continue to grow our Computer Science Honor Society and offer more learning opportunities for local kids to explore STEM and computer science related topics in a fun setting!

Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security pathway students in Criminal Justice classes ended the semester with a group of speakers:

Thursday, December 5th

Brian Cole - Director of the Shawnee County Department of Corrections

* Spoke to the students about the Shawnee County Jail and the Juvenile Detention Center.

Friday, December 6th

Shiloah Hutsen - Convicted felon who has had his record expunged, spent time in Lansing and El Dorado Correctional facilities over 25 years ago

* Spoke with the students about his time incarcerated and how he was able to turn his life around.

Tuesday, December 10th

Mike Kagay - District Attorney, 3rd Judicial District of Kansas (Shawnee County)

* Spoke with the students about the job of the DA's office, trial procedures and how to handle all of the cases his office deals with each year.

Wednesday, December 11th

Jason Geier - Judge for the 3rd Judicial District of Kansas (Shawnee County), handles major felonies

* Spoke with the students about his role as a judge, what issues arise in the courtroom and some of the cases he has handled.

Thursday, December 12th

Jake Henry - Shawnee County Emergency Management, Career in Law Enforcement

* Spoke with students about his long career in Law enforcement including his time with the Sheriff's Office. Also, discussed his current position and the cases he handles.

◆ Career and Technical Education

Hospitality & Tourism - Restaurant & Event Management Pathway

ServSafe Exam Twenty-one students in Ms Dible's Culinary Arts class earned their National Recognized ServSafe Certificate right before the Winter Break. Congratulations to those students! The ServSafe® program is national certification program designed to teach safe handling practices to food service employees and others who handle and serve food to the public.



HOSA – Future Health Professionals

HOSA club (WR health science club) had a school wide toy drive for the month of November until December 2nd with over 60 items donated (plush stuffed animals, coloring books / crayons, fuzzy socks, board games, card games, etc.) They had wrapping days with many student volunteers. HOSA also had the WR Letters of Love club make holiday cards for this project.

Stormont Vail scheduled December 18th as toy drop off day. Stormont Vail allowed us to visit and distribute gifts to 10 pediatric unit patients ranging from 2 months to 14 years old. The nurses helped with an extra touch of telling HOSA what gifts would be great for their youth patients. The rest of the gifts will be distributed by the Stormont Vail's nurses.

[Pictures](#) of our President & Vice President of HOSA, getting prepped in PPE and spreading Holiday joy! HOSA is thankful for the WR student body participation in this toy drive for the holidays. It was a great experience for our students to give back to the community and think of others around the holiday time.

Health & BioScience

Students in our Biomedical Research class are on the front lines of tackling the antibiotic resistance crisis. Over the course of the semester, they investigated innovative approaches—ranging from discovering new bacteria capable of producing novel antibiotics to reprogramming antibiotic-resistant strains so they become sensitive again. At the conclusion of their first semester of research, the students documented their insights in reflective papers and shared their findings in engaging end-of-semester presentations to the class and members of the audience. Students are working towards completing the BACE Exam in May.



◆ Career and Technical Education

WRHS Bank Field Trip

On December 4th, students from the WRHS Bank visited the Kansas Bankers Association. President and CEO Doug Wareham, started off the day talking about the KBA. Founded in 1887, Banker driven for 136 years. Membership includes 202 of 204 banks headquartered in Kansas. This includes 20 regional/national banks, 7 trust companies and 138 associate members.

42-member staff team – Headquartered in Topeka providing the following services:
Government relations, Education & training, Legal & compliance, Insurance & health benefits.

KBA'S MISSION STATEMENT

The Kansas Bankers Association strengthens and supports the Kansas banking industry by advocating for sound financial policies, promoting innovation, and fostering economic growth across the state to ensure a vibrant financial future for all Kansans.

During the WRHS bank's time at the KBA, they learned about the process of turning bills into laws. They learned about this process through a little game hosted by Doug Wareham. The game consisted of each student holding a role in the bill-passing process. With these roles, the students were able to directly influence the passing process of a bill.

We ended the day with a discussion from team members from each service area and had a tour of the facilities.

Looking for a career in banking? Here are some opportunities in banking!
Agricultural Lender, Bank Administration / Accounting / Security, Commercial Banker,
Compliance Officer, Human Resources Manager, Operations / Technology / Information Systems
Personal Banking, Public Relations / Marketing.



BEAT

**ORDER
NOW**



**AT
THE SHACK**



HAYDEN

RURAL HEART SHIRTS ARE BACK!

ORDER TODAY!
SUPPLIES ARE
LIMITED.



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ruralspirit.square.site
or scan the QR Code
below



THE SHACK

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



DAISY SHANDLER

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE: 2
INTENDED MAJOR: SPEECH
LANGUAGE HEARING
COLLEGE ATTENDING:
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS



BROOKLYN NOLTE

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE: 1
INTENDED MAJOR: BUSINESS
MARKETING
COLLEGE ATTENDING:
EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY



EMERIE CATLIN

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE: 3
INTENDED MAJOR:
MARKETING
COLLEGE ATTENDING:
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE SHACK?

The Shack is a student run business at WRHS. Students taking this course are given the opportunity to gain real world experience in customer service, networking, marketing, and business management as they work one-on-one with both the customer and the vendors. Students work with vendors to produce high quality screen print or embroidery designs.



BLACK BEAUTY



SUPPORT
BSU

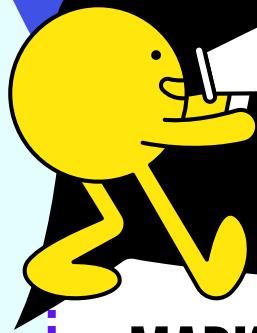
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

Available only in **February!**

\$ 4.00

@CommonGrounds





UNIFIED NEWS

FEBRUARY EDITION

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND COME SUPPORT!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT SIPBRO@USD437.NET

UNIFIED BOCCE TOURNAMENT

JOIN US ON SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 8TH FROM 9-12!

WE ARE IN NEED OF
VOLUNTEERS AT WRHS! NO
EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED.
SIGN UP BELOW:



POLAR PLUNGE - FEB. 8TH

(FEATURING DIALOGUE COFFEE HOUSE)

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE PLUNGE?
PROCEEDS DIRECTLY SUPPORT WRHS
UNIFIED SPORTS!



EVERYONE'S A JUNIOR BLUE NIGHT

JOIN US ON THE EVENING
OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY
11TH AS WE SHOWCASE HOW
LIFE IS SIMPLY BETTER
UNIFIED!

SPREAD THE WORD CAMPAIGN

THIS IS A GLOBAL CAMPAIGN THAT THE
UNIFIED PROGRAMS PARTICIPATE IN
EVERY YEAR!

COME SIGN OUR INCLUSION
BANNER DURING LUNCH ON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH!

**FOLLOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA
TO STAY UP TO DATE!**

@WRHS_FRIENDS

@UNIFIED_WRHS

2025 Hall of Fame Inductees

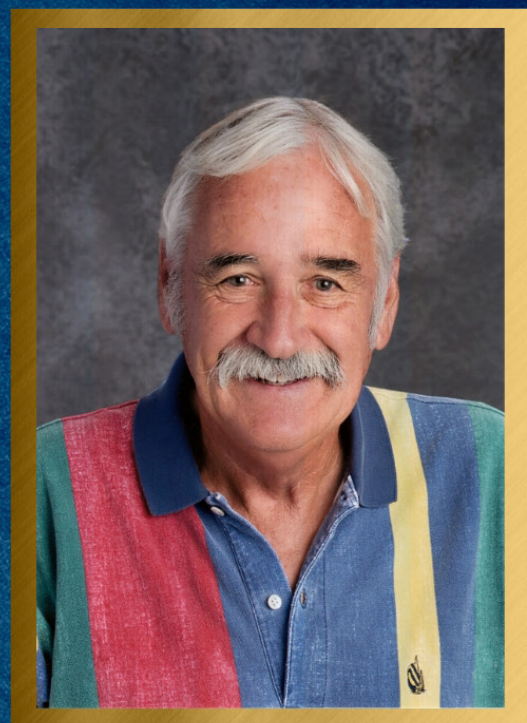
Michael Brennan

1992 Graduate



Kevin Hedberg

Staff 1991-2022



2008 Girls Softball Team



WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

2025

Hall of Fame Induction

Established in 2003, the Washburn Rural High School Hall of Fame recognizes graduates and staff who have achieved remarkable accomplishments at the local, state, or national levels. We are thrilled to announce this year's inductees:

Michael Brennan (1974–2022) – A 1992 graduate of Washburn Rural High School, Brennan earned acclaim as a vocal coach, musician, and composer. He served as musical director for Broadway tours Victor/Victoria, Cinderella, and Disney's The Lion King. In Las Vegas, Brennan contributed to iconic shows like Le Rêve, which was named "Best Show in Las Vegas" for nine consecutive years. His original scores have captivated global audiences. He created "One Night for One Drop" for Cirque du Soleil and "Celestia" at The STRAT, which won "Best New Show" in 2019 and was featured on America's Got Talent. His musical "Citizen Ruth" won Best Musical at the New York International Fringe Festival, and his animated shorts have earned over 80 international film awards.

2008 Girls Softball Team – The 2008 state championship softball team concluded their season with a 23-2 record. During the state tournament, the team did not allow a single earned run and gave up only one run in three games. In addition to claiming the state title, the team also won the Centennial League and Regional Championships. Seven of the 13 players on that team went on to play collegiate softball.

Kevin Hedberg – A fixture of Washburn Rural for 32 years, Coach Kevin Hedberg began his career in 1991 and left a legacy of excellence as both a teacher and tennis coach. In addition to being named Auburn-Washburn's Secondary Teacher of the Year in 2022, he amassed an incredible 22 Coach of the Year awards during his tenure. Under his leadership, WRHS tennis players achieved 58 All-State honors and his teams secured 47 city championships, 42 league championships, 41 regional championships, and five 6A state championships. Coach Hedberg's contributions to tennis earned him induction into the Missouri Valley Tennis Association Hall of Fame in 2013 and the Kansas Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame in 2023.

The 2025 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony took place on Friday, January 17, 2025 in the WRHS Cafeteria. Inductees were also honored on the court between the girls' and boys' varsity basketball games. Congratulations to this year's Hall of Fame inductees! The 2025 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is proudly hosted by the Washburn Rural High School Student Council.

WRHS TENNIS FUNDRAISER

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

FEBRUARY 16TH
START

ADULTS (19+) START 9AM

TEENS (12-18) START 2PM

FREE T-SHIRT

**GUARANTEED
4 MATCHES**



\$25

PER PERSON

**PRIZE FOR BEST
TEAM SPIRIT**

**TOPEKA
COUNTRY CLUB**
INDOOR COURTS



BUY YOUR YEARBOOK LIKE, NOW

YEARBOOKS ON SALE
ORDER TODAY

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Keep your order number handy when you log on.

Washburn Rural High School

33333

Thank You

for supporting the

2025 Yearbook

GOLD LEVEL SUPPORTERS:

Chocolately Software

Laird Noller Ford

Platinum Realty

Plato's Closet

The Dance Factory

BLUE LEVEL SUPPORTERS:

Brad Noller - American Family Insurance

Chick-fil-A

Community Insurance Solutions, LLC

Eco Fresh Line Striping

Kansas Chamber

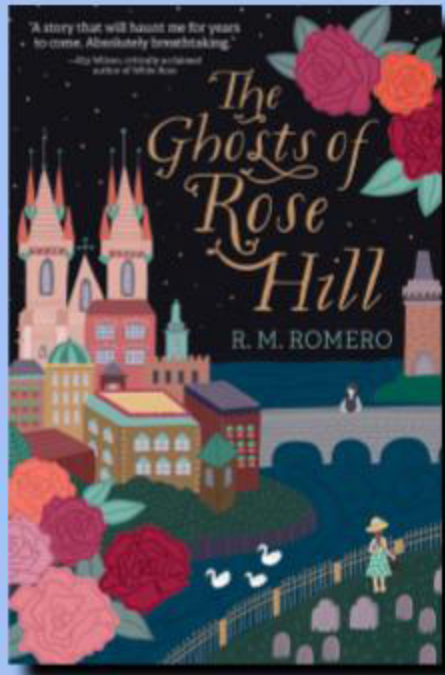
Keystone Mental Health

Midwest Health

Topeka Elite Cheer

Mrs. Finney's Monthly YA Book Recommendation

February 2025



The Ghosts of Rose Hill
By R.M. Romero
F ROM

Ilana has great dreams of being a violinist, but her parents want more for her. To try to break her out of the day dream, Ilana is sent to stay with extended family in Prague. Once there, Ilana discovers an abandoned Jewish cemetery behind the family cottage, and takes it upon herself to restore it. Along the way, she meets Benjamin, who may or may not be a ghost, and may or may not be tied to the city unable to ever leave...

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Marcy Sandberg sandbmar@usd437.net
Victoria Finney finnevic@usd437.net

2025 Keva Plank Tower Building Competition!



February 3rd - 28th
@the WRHS Library



Want to know more?

When can you build? During class or advisory.
Who can build? Students, Staff, & Teams!
Are there Prizes? For the tallest tower in each category at the end of Feb!

New this year! Competitors are limited to 15 minutes per tower! You can:

- Build 1 tower, then return to class,
- Build 2 towers per hour, OR
- Practice for 15 minutes, then build for 15!

For more info, scan the QR code below for the full rules and details!



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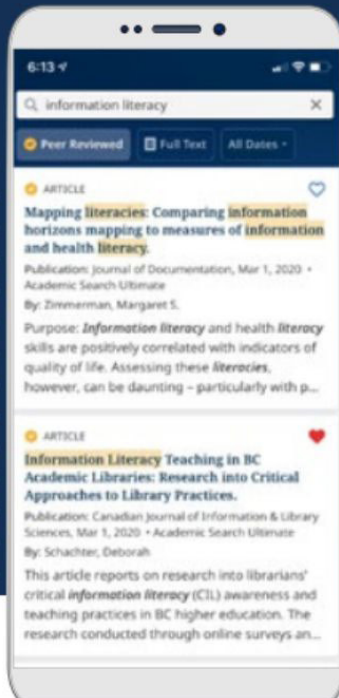
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Students use an academic, college level, subscription database from the State Library of Kansas for credible sources on their individually selected research topics.

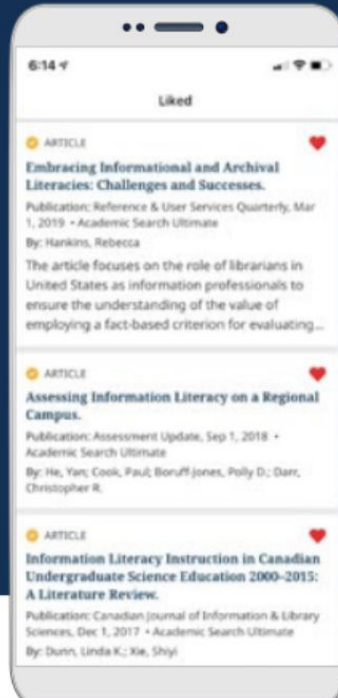


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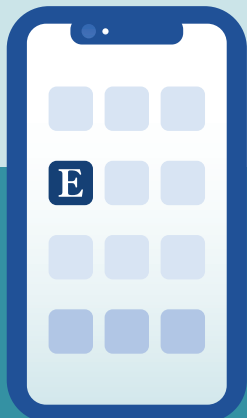
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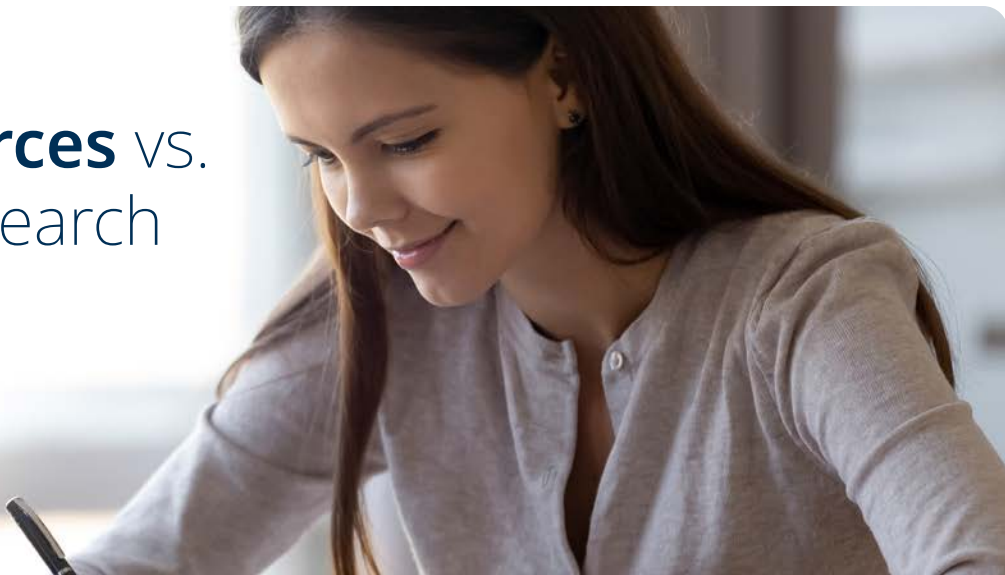


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No similar feature available.

Blues Backers

WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Discover your place
in our journey



Our Mission Objectives:

To help WRHS establish and maintain a proud image by supporting staff and students' extracurricular activities.

The PTO contributes volunteer time and money to Washburn Rural High School as requested and approved by the Board.

The PTO offers WRHS teams, clubs, and activity groups additional opportunities to generate funds through the concession stands.



WRHS-PTO

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