



Junior Blues News



March 2024

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Featured Story

2024

Hall of Fame Induction

Alumna: Kelsey 'Chipman' Stringer

2002 Boys Soccer Team

1950 & 1952 Baseball Teams



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



Greetings!

I'm sure that many of you will join me in wondering where the academic year has gone. It seems like only yesterday that we were starting school. Our students have accomplished some fantastic things so far this year. We are the City Champs in Boys' Cross Country, Girls' Cross Country, Boys' Swim, and Girls' Tennis; we are the Centennial League Champions in Boys' Soccer, Girls' Tennis, Football, Girls' Wrestling, Boys' Wrestling, Girls' Cross Country, Boys' Swim, Boys' Bowling, Girls' Bowling and Volleyball; we are Regional or Sub-State Champions in Boys' Soccer, Girls' Tennis, Volleyball, Football, Girls' Cross Country, Girls' Wrestling, Boys' Wrestling, Girls' Bowling, and Scholars Bowl; we are the State Champions in 4-Speaker Debate and Girls' Wrestling. Kevin Bordewick-Volleyball, Matt Swedlund-Girls Cross Country, Steve Buhler-Football, and Brian

Hensyel-Soccer, all were named Centennial League Coach of the Year; Josh Hogan was named Regional Boys' Wrestling Coach of the Year. In addition, we have two State Boys' Swim Champs: Brogan Meier 50-yard Freestyle and Jack Miranda 500-yard Freestyle, we have three State Boys' Wrestling Champs: Easton Broxterman 132 lb. weight class, Brody Byrne 157 lb. weight class, and Kristjan Marshall 150 lb. weight class. I have every confidence that we will finish the school year as strongly as it has unfolded. In keeping with that belief, I would again like to share some information with you that will assist in helping your child bring a successful conclusion to their academic year.

If your child is experiencing problems in any of their classes, our counselors are more than willing to provide assistance. A multitude of services exist at WRHS that the counselors can help coordinate with you and your child. If individual attention from the teacher and other interventions proves ineffective in solving your challenges, your child may be referred for further intervention through our Student Intervention Team (SIT). The SIT is a group of trained educational professionals, and you, of course, who will conduct a comprehensive analysis of your child's academic progress and habits. After the evaluation is complete, intervention may be recommended to address academic performance issues. Fortunately, most problems can be effectively resolved through this process. For those that aren't, our counselors will be happy to discuss more aggressive options with you. For your convenience, I have listed them below.

Leslie Fischer (339-4117): Responsible for students whose last names are A-D

Keith Wetzel (339-4116): Responsible for students whose last names are E-J

Stephanie Berkhalter (339-4103): Responsible for students whose last names are K-O

Michelle Pegram-Caporusso (339-4911): Responsible for students whose last names are P-T

Marie Coates (339-4118): Student Services

Marcie Frederickson (339-4115): Responsible for students whose last names are U-Z

Greg Fallon (339-4119): Responsible for students in B-3 Alternative Education

Also on the horizon are a couple of school events that I want to bring your attention to.

One of the most anticipated evenings of the entire year is fast approaching for our juniors and seniors and their guests! Prom will be held in the Townsite Avenue Ballroom on Saturday, April 6 from 8:00-11:00 p.m. After prom activities, which are sponsored by the WRHS PTO Blues Backers, are currently scheduled to begin at 11:30 p.m. at WRHS. This is a very special time for our school and I hope you will join me in encouraging your students to make good decisions for themselves.

Graduation will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, 2024 at the Stormont Vail Events Center. The last day for seniors will be Monday, May 13. Seniors who have not otherwise met graduation requirements will be required to attend through the end of the year.

As always, if you have questions about any of these items, please feel free to call me.

Best,

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

Ed Raines, Principal
raineedw@usd437.net

WRHS Counseling Office

[Counseling Website](#)

Twitter Updates: [@wrhsgo](#)

Crisis Hotline: 785-232-5005

Pre-enrollment

Students completed pre-enrollment from January 10 until February 27. Students watched [pre-enrollment videos](#) in their advisory and met with counselors in the auditorium during English (juniors: February 5, sophomores: February 2, freshmen: February 1). Students were given information about graduation requirements, the importance of taking rigorous courses, the Kansas Scholars Curriculum, program opportunities, and specific details about choosing courses. Students selected 7 fall and 7 spring courses. This information will be used to determine how many sections of each course are needed. As families continue to discuss course planning, please contact your school counselor with questions. Schedules will be released in July and students can make adjustments during registration at the end of the summer.

Junior Planning Letter

Juniors and their families were sent the [Spring Junior Planning Letter](#) in February. We encourage families to spend time reviewing the information and resources.

College Visits

WRHS hosts many [college visits](#) throughout the school year. As summer approaches, 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>.

College Honors Programs

Many colleges offer honors programs. Every honors program is designed differently but can usually be characterized by smaller classes, mentorship, research opportunities, honors housing, honors designation on diplomas, and more. Many honors programs have application processes separate from the general admissions process. We encourage students to research whether an honors program would be a good fit! Check out some regional options [HERE](#).

State Sponsored ACT

Nearly 300 juniors took the ACT on February 27 at WRHS. Students who would like to retake the test should register at www.act.org. While most colleges are not using the ACT for admission, many are still using it for scholarship consideration.

Scholarships

Need money for college? Many scholarships with March deadlines are available on the [WRHS Counseling Website](#). To access the scholarships, visit our website and click the scholarship tab. The list provides access to applications as well as information on eligibility requirements and deadlines. Students can also search Naviance for scholarship opportunities.

Senior Transcript Requests

Transcripts including grades from the Fall 2023 semester are available via Naviance. Seniors were sent a screencast with instructions on how to request a midyear transcript: <https://screenpal.com/watch/cZVIDqVJe9A>.

Time Management Tools for High School Students

This article explores 8 ways for teens to take control of their time:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/inside-the-classroom/8-ways-to-take-control-of-your-time>

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

2024

Hall of Fame Induction

The Washburn Rural High School Hall of Fame started in 1976 with the goal of honoring graduates and staff members who have excelled and achieved significant accomplishments. The 2024 Induction Ceremony took place on February 16th in the Cafeteria and the Inductees were honored in front of the community. It is our privilege to recognize these individuals and teams:

Alumna: Kelsey 'Chipman' Stringer



2002 Boys Soccer Team



1950 & 1952 Baseball Teams

Nominations

Nominations for the Hall of Fame are accepted year round. Annual selections are made in May. Criteria necessary for recognition and nomination forms can be found directly on the District website (<https://usd437.net/wrhs/hall-of-fame>).



Inductions occur during the spring semester. The Hall of Fame plaques are displayed near the WRHS auditorium. Please consider nominating an outstanding alumnus or faculty member.



The Hall of Fame Ceremony is proudly sponsored by the WRHS Student Council.

Hall of Fame - Alumna

Kelsey 'Chipman' Stringer

MSN, FNP-BC

Mrs. Kelsey 'Chipman' Stringer. Mrs. Stringer graduated from Washburn Rural High School in 2006. During her time at Washburn Rural High School, Kelsey was a multi-sport athlete competing in volleyball and basketball. She was a part of WRHS's first ever 6A volleyball state championship team and she earned Gatorade Player of the Year as well as 6A State Player of the Year in both volleyball and basketball. She still holds records for volleyball attacking efficiency and was named Top 5 Best of the Best in Volleyball for Shawnee County.

After graduating, she attended Kansas State University on a full-ride scholarship for volleyball. She was a four year starter and set numerous records that still stand today. She graduated Cum Laude with her bachelor of Science degree in Life-Sciences and a focus on pre-medicine. She continues to stay connected to K-State today as a play-by-play broadcasting analyst. Kelsey also graduated Magna Cum Laude from Creighton University with her accelerated-BSN degree and spent time working in emergency and trauma departments.

In 2016 she completed her Masters of Science in Nursing at Washburn University with Summa Cum Laude honors.

Kelsey & her husband, Nick, reside in Topeka with their three children, Everett, Wyatt and Beau, who all attend the Washburn Rural district. Very recently, on January 1st, 2024, along with another nurse practitioner, Kelsey opened her own health and wellness clinic in Topeka called Epic Integrative Wellness, where she works today serving our community.



Congratulations, Kelsey!

Hall of Fame - Team

1950 Mens Baseball Team

The 1950 Washburn Rural High School Mens Baseball Team, led by coach Alton Haun, won the first ever state championship in any sport in Washburn Rural history and was arguably the start of athletic excellence at the school. Team members include Lyle Armstrong, Dick Baker, Tommy Bunger, Ray Cox, Gary Fenity, Richard Hoffmeister, Don Hopkins, Bill Howard, Wayne Howbert, Gerard Moore, Dave Palmer, Kermit Palmer, Ted Patterson, Kirk Romary, Monty Rowe, Ed Smith, Alvis Stallard, Jerry Vitt, Maynard Zinn. The 1950 team went undefeated in their season and triumphed over Isabel 6-4 awarding WRHS their first state championship in any sport before a crowd of 500 spectators in Peabody.



Hall of Fame - Team

1952 Mens Baseball Team

The 1952 Mens Baseball Team, again led by coach Alton Haun was also exceptional and won Washburn Rural its second ever State Championship. Team members include Lyle Armstrong, Dick Baker, Marvin Bonjour, Jerry Brown, Tommy Bunger, Ray Cox, Roy Cox, Gary Fenity, Merrill Goodrich, Larry Lee, John McComb, Gene Nicely, Bruce Oelke, Arthur Patterson, Kirk Romary, Bob Shirley, and Don Young. The 1952 team ended their season with a 12-1 record and defeated the defending champion, Barryton, to earn the Class B State Championship for the second time.



Hall of Fame - Team

2002 Boys Soccer Team

The third team being inducted into the Hall of Fame, the 2002 Boys Soccer team is arguably the best soccer team WRHS has had. The team was led by Head Coach, Lionel Suarez, and Assistant Coaches include Brian Hensyel, David Chooncharoen (Chin-Chur-in), and Louis DiLeonardo. Team members of the 2002 team include: Jeff Milberger, Tom Lobell, Eric Purcell, Kyle Sommer, Sean Dawson, Brady Nikkel, Daniel Kirksey, Chip George, Kris Powell, Cole Copeland, Drew Murray, Patrick Olsen, Andrew Forrest, T.J. Weiser, Colby Weddle, Justin Kruger, Matt Wilson, Tanner Sneed, Kyle Golden, Eric Marshall, Ryan Morris, Seth Livingston, Adam Sokolowski, and Barry Nelson. Their biggest accomplishments include being KA-MO Tournament Champions, Regional Champions and Centennial League Champions as well as winning the 2002 Class 6A State Championship. During their exceptional season the team went undefeated with a 20-0-1 record. They are the only undefeated soccer team in WRHS history, city history, Centennial league history and one of only 4 teams to go undefeated and win the class 6A title.



◆ Career and Technical Education

What is CTE?

Career Technical Education (CTE) is an umbrella term for an array of educational programs that offers learning and experiences beyond the traditional high school and college model. Approximately 12.5 million high school and college students are enrolled in CTE programs across the nation. CTE prepares these learners for the world of work by introducing them to workplace competencies and providing hands-on learning. The high school graduation rate for CTE concentrators is about 90 percent—15 percentage points higher than the national average of all academic programs.

CTE is a valuable enhancement to traditional classroom learning. It allows students to gain knowledge and hands-on experience about specific career pathways. With an emphasis on helping students be prepared to be successful in high-wage, high-demand careers. Pathways are designed to move along a continuum of career awareness, career exploration, and career readiness. WRHS offers fifteen Career Pathways. Learn more at wrhs.net/cte or please contact Teresa Golden at Goldeter@usd437.net if you have questions.

Celebrate CTE!

The American workforce is changing. Career Technical Education (CTE) opens bold new paths for learners to achieve lifelong success, offering opportunities that align with all passions and pursuits.

<https://careertech.org/about/history/>

CTE Day @ the Kansas Capitol

Three DECA Student Based Enterprises's - Common Grounds Coffee Shop, The Shack School Store, and WRHS Bank showcased what great things they are doing at WRHS! February was Career and Technical Education Month.



◆ Career and Technical Education



Our Computer Science Honor Society is excited to be putting on our 2nd Annual Binary Bingo Fundraiser on Tuesday, March 26th in the WRHS Cafeteria. Participants will learn the basics of binary in order to play their bingo cards. There will be prizes available for each round of bingo, a 50/50 raffle, snacks and drinks available to buy, and lots of fun to be had! This event is available for anyone and everyone, ALL AGES!! Especially if you love bingo :)

Events like this one are what allow us to continue offering events like the Coding / STEAM Carnival, Summer Camp, and other free events during the school year. Please consider supporting our Computer Science Honor Society. [CLICK HERE for more information on the event and to register today!](#) If you have any questions, please reach out to Haley Schmitz at schmihal@usd437.net.

Mr. Gerlach's Robotics & Engineering Drawing Class Create Prototype of a speaker



The first engineering project of the semester was to make a prototype of a speaker with only a 1' x 2' strip of cardboard. The final design had to enhance the sound and volume of the standard phone speaker by manipulating the sound waves. For example, putting ridges would cause the sound waves to bounce from one to another. Essentially, the longer the sound waves would stay trapped inside, the louder the volume would be. One group decided to take on the classic boombox design. Even though the project looked cosmetically appealing, the performance didn't turn out as well compared to the other speakers. They found that the speakers that were most successful were pure technique and designed for

only performance, not to be visually appealing. They concluded that the best speaker increased the volume by 1.26 times more, which is incredibly impressive considering the only material used was cardboard.

Celebrating FFA Week and CTE



The first animal FFA Staff Contest! FFA students created a short quiz for teachers and staff to experience some of the contest questions they receive at an FFA Contest. Questions are pulled from Horse and Livestock Judging, Vet Science, and Poultry contests. Teachers and staff gave it a try on a testing station set up in the Teachers Lounge. FFA students announced the winner Michelle Pegram! She got all of the questions correct! Honorable mentions who only missed one question include Marcy Sandberg, Marie Coates, and Tim McVey! **Congratulations Mrs Pegram! Thank you to everyone who participated!** If you would like to give it a try the link is provided: [FFA Week](#)

◆ Career and Technical Education

FFA Students go to the Capital

On January 26th two Washburn Rural FFA President (Paige Schinkle) and Vice President (Emma Ogleby) attended the proclamation signing officially confirming February 17 - 24 as Kansas FFA Week. WRHS students met the Kansas FFA State President, Christian Peña, several Mission Valley and TCALC FFA members. Students were able to shake hands with the Governor and observe her signing the proclamation.

FFA Week is set by the National FFA Organization and is an opportunity for those involved with FFA to spread awareness for the organization and agriculture. WRHS FFA is hosting spirit days for members to dress up and a teacher contest to give their teachers a chance to experience some of the content FFA students are learning and competing with outside of the classroom.



Horticulture students tour the 2024 Topeka Lawn & Garden Show

On Friday, February 16th the WRHS Horticulture and Landscaping class took a field trip to the Lawn and Garden show at Stormont Vail Event Center. This is the first time this show has run since 2019. Students were able to speak with employers within the horticulture and landscape industries. Students planted coleus plugs to take home with the Master Gardeners, competed for hats at a company that works on Golf Greens, and listened to part of a lecture about how to plant nursery purchased trees to live long and healthy. One of our students was even featured on local news!



◆ Career and Technical Education

The Shack students visit WRMS Business Club



The Shack students were invited to speak with the students in the Business Club at WRMS! The students discussed the day to day operations of The Shack to include: artwork designs, communications with both vendors as well as customers, gathering price quotes, and creating ordering websites. Students shared some examples of both screen print, heat transfer, and embroidered designs. We are working with the WRMS club to foster a working relationship to help guide them as they prepare to implement a school store option.

WRHS Students attend The Real World -AE Day!



On February 27th, fifteen students had the opportunity to experience the AE Day. Members of the Advisors Excel team met with students and staff to share information about their company, teach some of the soft skills they look for (ex: Interviewing skills, resume preparation, perseverance, accepting feedback, and working as a team), and explain why students should consider staying in Topeka post-graduation. This year they have incorporated technical and soft skill discussions within each session. The AE Day will provide an opportunity for students to have fun, learn something new, and feel better prepared for life after high school!



STORMONT VAIL "Choose your path"

March 14th Thursday 6-8pm

March 16th Saturday 1-3pm

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fMLpdnSCJzsbReFIGQEZVbHCZ3u78mcV/view?usp=classroom_web&authuser=0

◆ Career and Technical Education

Ms. Wichman's chemistry classroom is working with technology (Vernier probes) getting real time data, and creating linear graphs to analyze. Through the solution conductivity lab students will be able to determine of the three electrolyte solutions, which one has the best conductivity, based on slope. In terms of application it can be used to support which electrolyte solutions are the best for consumers based on conductivity.



As your Students complete the enrollment Process for the 2024-25 School Year

CTE Pathways are composed of courses that are designed to make education meaningful through applied (or project based) learning. The courses are divided into Introductory, Technical, and Application level and allow students to gain workplace skills. The courses also include competencies that emphasize employability skills such as the development of creativity; critical thinking; communication and collaboration; digital literacy; self-motivation; and responsibility and leadership.

Each CTE Pathway is connected to the real world through an Advisory Committee composed of local business and industry leaders. These Advisory Committees help keep educators and administrators informed of business trends, industry standards and local employment opportunities. The Advisory Committee makes recommendations on curriculum, job skills, and often provides work-based learning opportunities for students. In 2012, legislation was enacted to enhance career technical education in Kansas and better prepare high school students for college and careers. Under the [Excel in Career Technical Education Initiative](#), Kansas high school students qualify for state-funded college tuition in approved technical courses offered by Kansas technical colleges and community colleges. Postsecondary career technical education has experienced significant growth in the number of students participating in Excel in CTE courses since the program's inception.

Enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year is coming to completion. Ask your students what classes they are taking for their future plans. If you need a place to start, ask them to complete this [student interest survey](#) and share the results with their counselor.

If you'd like to learn more about CTE Pathways at WRHS, contact Teresa Golden at goldeter@usd437.net or at (785) 339-4250.

◆ Career and Technical Education

DECA, Common Grounds, The Shack, and the WRHS Bank have teamed up again to obtain Gold Certification in DECA's School Based Enterprise Program. The WRHS DECA members who contributed to the certification were Hayden Keller and Madison Stout (Common Grounds), Dylan Dodge (WRHS Bank), and Rebecca Hoopes (The Shack) with the assistance of their DECA chapter advisor, Brian McFall.

Common Grounds, The Shack and WRHS Bank are student-based businesses at Washburn Rural High School. Student baristas that work at the shop are enrolled in Marketing Management as junior and seniors, The Shack Students are enrolled in Marketing Applications and the WRHS Bank students are part of the Banking, Finance and Investing pathway.



2023-2024 WRHS Bank Staff

These application level course continues to expand students' marketing, finance skills with an emphasis on business management and entrepreneurship. Students manage and operate the school's coffee shop, school store, and bank gaining experience with customer/human relations, inventory, sales, promotion, product development and development of 21st century skills.

This is the tenth year that DECA, WRHS business club, and the student-businesses have teamed up. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. Members can become academically prepared for college and careers in marketing, finance, hospitality or management. Community oriented by gaining an appreciation for the benefits of service and their potential impact on the community and world professionally responsible with ethics, integrity and high standards experienced leaders by practicing key leadership skills such as goal setting, consensus building and project management. The project, School Based Enterprise Program, is a chapter project that develops business and marketing knowledge and skills. The School Based Enterprise Program applies entrepreneurial knowledge and skills to a single sales/service activity to be run as a real business venture. In a sense, the project is a chapter entrepreneurship project.



2023-2024 The Common Grounds Staff

◆ Career and Technical Education

A school-based enterprise (SBE) is an entrepreneurial operation in a school setting that provides goods and services to meet the needs of the market. SBEs are managed and operated by students as hands-on learning laboratories that integrate National Curriculum Standards in marketing, finance, hospitality or management.

SBEs provide realistic and practical learning experiences that reinforce classroom instruction. SBEs can sell to consumers through a permanent location, a mobile kiosk or through Internet marketing. Products may include spirit wear, food and beverage items, school supplies, signs and banners and more, while other SBEs provide services such as creative design, advertising sales and more. School-based enterprises are effective educational tools in helping to prepare students for the transition from school to work or college. For many students, they provide the first work experience; for others, they provide an opportunity to build management, supervision and leadership skills. While some in the education community have only recently discovered the value of school-based enterprises, educators and DECA advisors have used them as a powerful teaching tool for more than four decades.

DECA offers SBE certification on two levels: chapter level through a written project and individual level through a comprehensive exam. The certification program reinforces the integration of National Curriculum Standards and 21st century employability skills into the SBE learning lab environment. Standards covered in both the written project and exam include retail, marketing and entrepreneurship concepts, and a range of business operations standards. Earning a chapter or individual certification garners international recognition, provides credibility, validates curriculum efficacy and strengthens the relevancy of the SBE as a valuable teaching tool. Participating in SBE certification is an effective way of preparing students for DECA competitive events and future higher learning and careers.

The School-based Enterprise Academy is held annually during DECA's International Career Development Conference and is available exclusively to Gold Certified and Gold Re-certified SBEs. Gold Certified SBEs are eligible to bring one advisor and up to three students to the academy with the approval of their chartered association advisor. The academy is designed to combine substantive educational experiences and competition with networking and vendor interaction. Participants will experience dynamic professional development sessions specific to the entrepreneurship field, have the opportunity to share ideas and learn from other SBEs, and compete in an SBE-specific competition focused on best practices.

For more information, contact Mr. McFall at mcfalbri@usd437.net, 785-339-4247.



2023-2024 The Shack Staff

◆ Career and Technical Education



On Thursday, February 15th the WRHS Bank staff visited Silver Lake Bank's Main Branch. The morning started off with a presentation by Kimbra Henry (Human Resources). She visited about different careers in banking, what she looks for in a resume, as well as the ideal applicant. SLB employs a broad range of skill sets since they offer both lending solutions as well as deposit services. For anyone looking for a career path in finance, they employ credit analysts, lenders, loan managers and processors. For those who enjoy helping people and have a service mindset, their retail operation of teller and customer service reps is a great opportunity. Sierra Tucker (Assistant Branch Manager/Customer Service Representative) also visited about the importance of the customer service representatives, which is the most common customer touchpoint, as well as financial lessons, including identify theft and fraud.

Kellie Lambrect (Credit Analyst/Loan Officer) and Scott Hughes (Loan Officer) visited about the importance of credit and being responsible with your finances. Their presentation focused on what a credit score is, credit uses, how to establish credit, and negative things that can impact a score. Lainie McPherson spoke on credit worthiness. Her focus was on the process of obtaining a loan (down payment, amortization/term, and interest rate). She spoke on considering eligibility using the debt-to-income calculation and how a good job history, credit history, ability to save money and accumulate assets can help individuals obtain a loan with a good interest rate.

Heather Grunert (Sales Manager) spoke on growing the banking business and sales - a career most students did not know existed in banking. She also spoke on the Washburn Rural High School Loyalty Card. Find out more by visiting <https://silverlakebank.com/consumer/additional-consumer-services>

Ryan Geist (Controller/Assistant Vice President) spoke on the big picture of banking - profitability. He visited about his education and degrees as well as what his job entails - providing accurate information to the executives of the bank to make educated decisions. Also the cruciality of monitoring/adjusting loan interest and account interest to ensure Silver Lake Bank's continued success. Lastly, he explained how the bank makes money: by loan, deposit, security portfolios, liquidity, overhead and net interest margin.

The day ended with Kerry Martin (Executive Vice President) speaking on the legal and regulatory side of banking. The FDIC is an insurance company that drives a number of the rules/regulations banks are subject to (protecting the fund). We would like to give a big thank you to Jeanny Sharp (Marketing Manager) for creating this great opportunity for our bank staff to learn more about the banking industry!



◆ Career and Technical Education



Sponsored by Silver Lake Bank



2024 Silver Lake Bank Scholarships

Silver Lake Bank is pleased to offer three \$1,000 Scholarships to the WRHS Class of '24

Silver Lake Bank is committed to giving back to our community and is proud to support the graduates of Washburn Rural High School as they pursue post-secondary opportunities. We wish all graduates success in their future endeavors!

Scholarship Criteria

- Demonstrated academic and cognitive preparation.
(must have maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale)
- Demonstrated employability skills: communication skills, strategic thinking, emotional intelligence, and problem solving.
- Demonstrated technical skills.
- Demonstrated civic engagement.

How to apply

- Submit a cover letter and resume' in PDF format to scholarships@silverlakebank.com by **March 15, 2024**.
- The cover letter and resume' should address criteria outlined above and include current school, post-secondary plans, and why the candidate is deserving of the scholarship.

Additional Information

- Scholarship recipients will be notified by mail in April 2024.
- Scholarships are non-renewable.

Washburn Rural Junior Blues School Spirit Loyalty Card



The scholarships are funded by the Silver Lake Bank Washburn Rural Junior Blues School Spirit Loyalty Cards. The bank provides \$.05 to the WRHS Scholarship Fund for each debit card transaction that does not require your PIN.

Don't have a card? Show your WRHS colors and open an account to get your card today! Call Silver Lake Bank at 785.232.0102 or email slbank@silverlakebank.com.

**Try the
Limited Edition
Shamrock Shake at
Common Grounds!**



THE SHACK

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Jada

Jada has been a part of The Shack for 2 years. After graduation she plans to attend University of Nevada, Las Vegas to play volleyball!



Molly

Molly has been involved in The Shack for 2 years. After graduation she plans to attend Kansas State University and major in Finance!

Georgia

Georgia has been involved in The Shack for 2 years. After graduation she plans to attend Washburn University and major in Exercise Science!



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 \$ _____

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**

WRHS Yearbook Presents

YEARBOOK SALE

Up To
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: luetjen@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

Midwest Coating, Inc.

Pepe Miranda Team, Genesis LLC, Realtors

Plato's Closet

SERVPRO of West Topeka

Taj MaDog Pet Boarding

The Dance Factory

Ultimate Bounce

BLUE LEVEL SUPPORTERS:

Brad Noller - American Family Insurance

Birthright of Topeka, Inc.

Cassidy Orthodontics

Community Insurance Solutions, LLC

Kansas Chamber

Keystone Mental Health

KFMC Health Improvement Partners

McElroy's, Inc.

Platinum Realty, Patrick Anderson

Pinapple Dream

Smith Law Firm

Torgeson Trenching

◆ Winter Sport & Activity Highlights

Wrestling

Congratulations to the Washburn Rural High School girls' wrestling team for winning their fourth STATE CHAMPIONSHIP this weekend and to the boys' wrestling team for placing THIRD overall! Josh Hogan was also named class 6A West Regional Coach of the Year!

STATE CHAMPIONS

Easton Broxterman: (132 lb. weight class)

Brody Byrne (157 lb. weight class)

Kristjan Marshall (150 lb. weight class)

RUNNERS-UP

Landen Kocher-Munoz (138 lb. weight class)

Molly Spader (105 lb. weight class)

THIRD PLACE

Laiken Clark (135 lb. weight class)

TaAni Rhoten (170 lb. weight class)

FOURTH PLACE

(4th) Chase Calhoon (165 lb. weight class)

(4th) Fatima Escobar (145 lb. weight class)

(4th) Ryder Harrison (106 lb. weight class)

(4th) Brodye Kocher-Munoz (144 lb. weight class)

SIXTH PLACE

(6th) Madi Blanco (130 lb. weight class)

(6th) Lacey Middleton (120 lb. weight class)

(6th) Cooper Stivers (126 lb. weight class)



Scholar's Bowl

Congratulations to Cindy Burgett and our Scholar's Bowl Team (Pierce Romine, Allison Reed, Caylen McCoy, Sam Byrne, Eli Champman, and Conner Magee). They placed 3rd at the Kansas State High School Activities Association Scholar's Bowl Tournament.



◆ Winter Sport & Activity Highlights



Boys Swimming

At the Centennial League Championship, they won eight of twelve events while setting four Centennial League records on the way to a 484-439 victory over Manhattan. They took 3rd at the KSHSAA State Swim Meet with two individual champions: Brogan Meier and Jack Miranda! See the article below for full details! An incredible showing... not to mention our best-ever at State! Congrats to Coach Garman and all of our athletes. [CLICK HERE](#) for an article from topsports.news.

Debate

Congratulations to the WRHS Debate program! They are the State Champions in 4-Speaker Debate! This is the eighth consecutive year that they have won the State 4-Speaker Championship! A huge shout-out to Harris Chaudhry, Kavi Chidambaranathan, Campbell Hight 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. Harris Chaudhry and Campbell Hight represented the affirmative on the topic, while Kavi Chidambaranathan and Aditi Nimishakavi were our negative team. This year's topic centered around the United States federal government's policies surrounding income inequality, particularly ideas like job creation and direct cash payments to families.

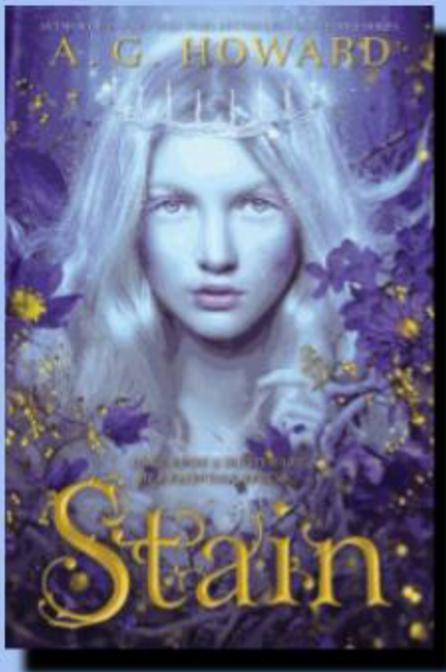
The affirmative team primarily focused on reducing inequality by expanding Social Security benefits given to retirees. Campbell and Harris finished with a 6-1 record at the tournament, taking their sole loss to the 3rd place team from Lawrence Free State. The negative team, Aditi and Kavi, also finished the tournament with a 6-1 record. Their only loss was to the runners-up from Blue Valley West. 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. This year, the primary negative argument that we focused on was the economic ramifications of the affirmative proposals, specifically potential inflation caused by the affirmative proposals. Overall, the team finished with a 12-2 record, which was sufficient to secure a state championship for the 8th consecutive season!

In addition to the success they had in the 4-Speaker debate division, they also had 3 teams advance to elimination rounds in the 2-Speaker division. In 2-Speaker, debaters alternate back and forth each round between the affirmative and negative. Almost 70 teams qualified and competed in the 2-Speaker division, the top 32 of which advance to a single elimination bracket. Unfortunately, all three of the teams that advanced to the bracket were eliminated in the top 32, but congratulations to Carson Bath and Jace Raines, Tarrence Byrd and Sophie Heinen, and Rebecca Reed and Aryan Verma for their accomplishments!



Mrs. Finney's Monthly YA Book Recommendation

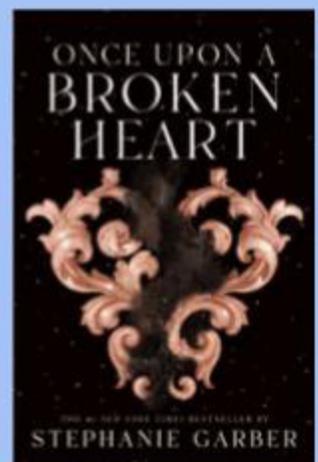
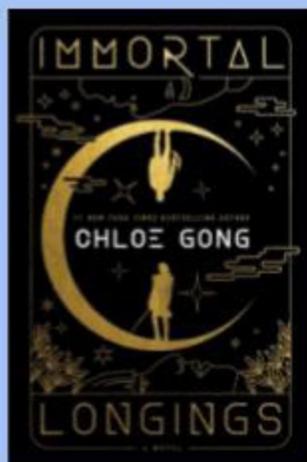
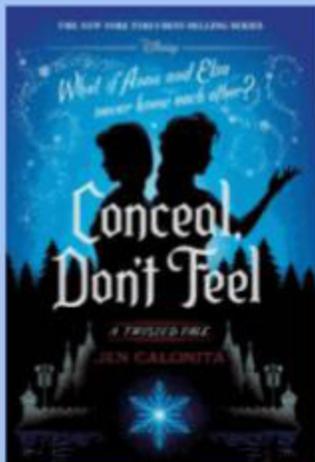
March 2024



Stain
By A.G. Howard
F HOW

This beautiful fairy tale retelling explores the life of Lyra - a princess of the sunlight kingdom who cannot speak, and cannot be exposed to light. Lyra is prophesied to unite the daylight and the night kingdoms, but her jealous aunt would rather her own daughter wear the crown. When Lyra wakes up left for dead in a mysterious land without her memories, she must work her way back to her life and regain her crown.

Similar Titles Include:





WRHSLib Bookmark Creation Contest March 18th - April 8th 2024

The Bookmark Creation Contest is back! To participate:

- Starting Monday, March 18th, students & staff are invited to design an original bookmark using their own creative supplies or those provided by the library.
- Bookmarks must be submitted to the library by Friday, March 29th.
- Voting opens Monday, April 1st, and closes Friday, April 5th.
- Winners will be announced Monday April 8th, 2024.

Consider creativity, neatness, and message while designing your bookmark. Bookmarks will be on display (without names) in the library and voted on by WRHS students and staff. The top 3 winning bookmarks will be printed and distributed to students and staff checking out books in the library!



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@uusd437.net
Victoria Finney finnevic@usd437.net



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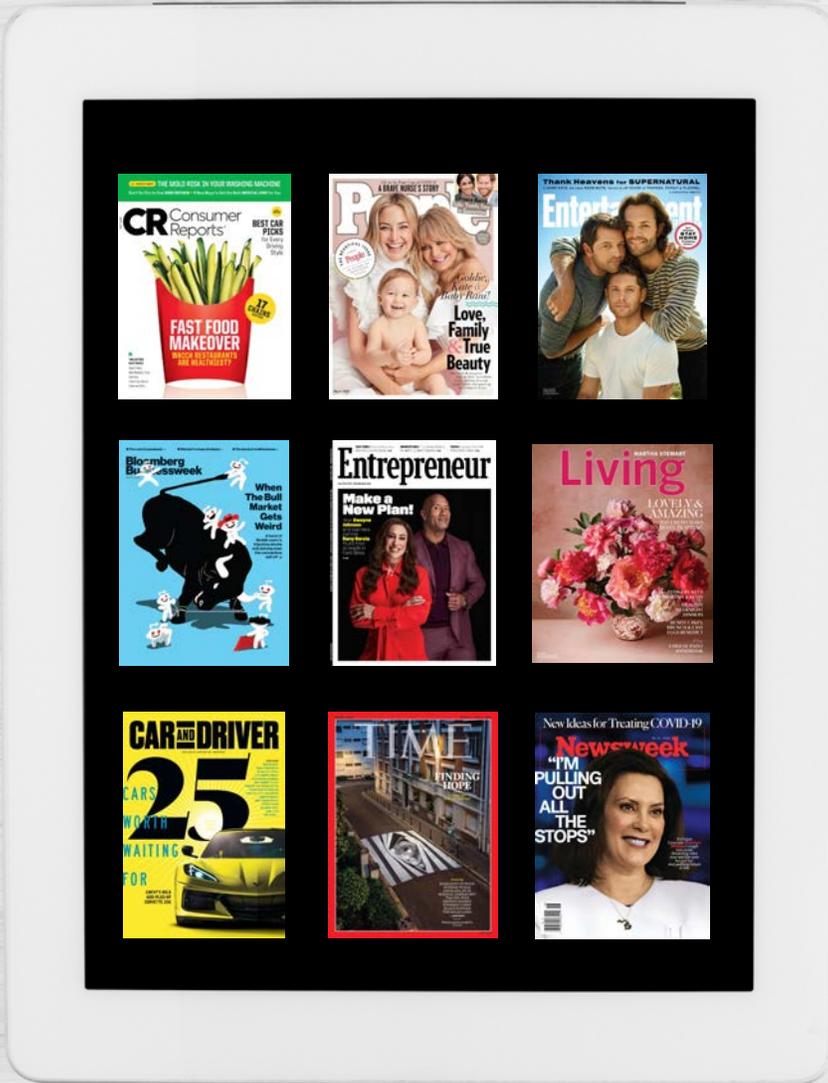


Text 4 Help: 785-260-0015
Marcy Sondberg sondbmar@usd437.net
Victoria Finney finnevic@usd437.net

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Instant access to the magazines you know and love in an easy-to-read digital format.

Washburn Rural High School
<http://library.usd437.net>
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- 3D World
- All About History
- American Craft
- American Poetry Review
- Current Biography
- Discover
- Entrepreneurs Start Up
- Fast Company
- Hispanic Network Magazine

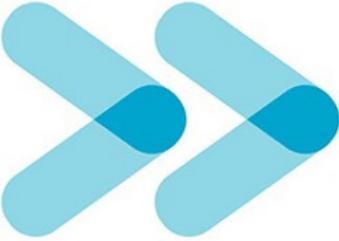
and many more from the
Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library
<http://tscpl.org>

To get started, visit your library website or ask your librarian for more information.

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

SPREAD
THE WORD 
INCLUSION

March 6th, 2024

Creating a more inclusive world starts
with a single action: ***yours***.

Together we can make inclusion a reality
for all people with and without intellectual
and developmental disabilities.

Take the pledge by signing the banner
during lunch March 6th and join us for
Circle of Friends March 7th!



Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

USD 437 Artists Selected to Exhibit in Prestigious 2024 Scholastic Art Exhibition

21 students received recognition for their work at the 2024 Regional Scholastic Art Show in Wichita. The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is the nation's longest-running, most prestigious educational initiative supporting student achievement in the visual and literary arts. The Scholastic Awards look for work that demonstrates originality, technical skills and the emergence of personal voice or vision. This year, more than 2,000 artworks were submitted by teens across Eastern Kansas. 611 received regional honors, including Gold Keys, Silver Keys, Honorable Mentions from local Scholastic Awards Affiliate Mark Arts. Award recipients' work was recognized by a panel of creative professionals as the most outstanding work submitted. ***Students at USD 437 had 42 works selected this year. Silver and Gold Key works will be exhibited at Mark Arts from Friday, February 9 through Saturday, March 23. The awards ceremony will take place on Saturday, March 23 at 11 am.*** Congratulations to the following students:

Honorable Mention Award Recipients:

Elli Brandt
Reese Beardslee
Ashton Dawley (4)
Sharon Denny (2)
Mattalynn Funnell (2)
Malia Grewal
Kaya Hamilton
Reagyn Hoffman
Syd Laster (2)
Keara Leiser
Luke Lemke
Lily McCoy
Yecinta Ngure
Taylor Ostermann (2)
Oliver Perez
Aytumn Sanchez

Savanna Schmidt (4)

Micah Ward (2)

Zay Wells

Silver Key Award Recipients:

Brooklyn Bowling
Syd Laster (2)
Gigi Newhouse
Savanna Schmidt (2)

Gold Key Award Recipients:

Brooklyn Bowling
Elli Brandt
Sharon Denny
Syd Laster (2)
Yecinta Ngure

Use this link to view this year's award winning work:

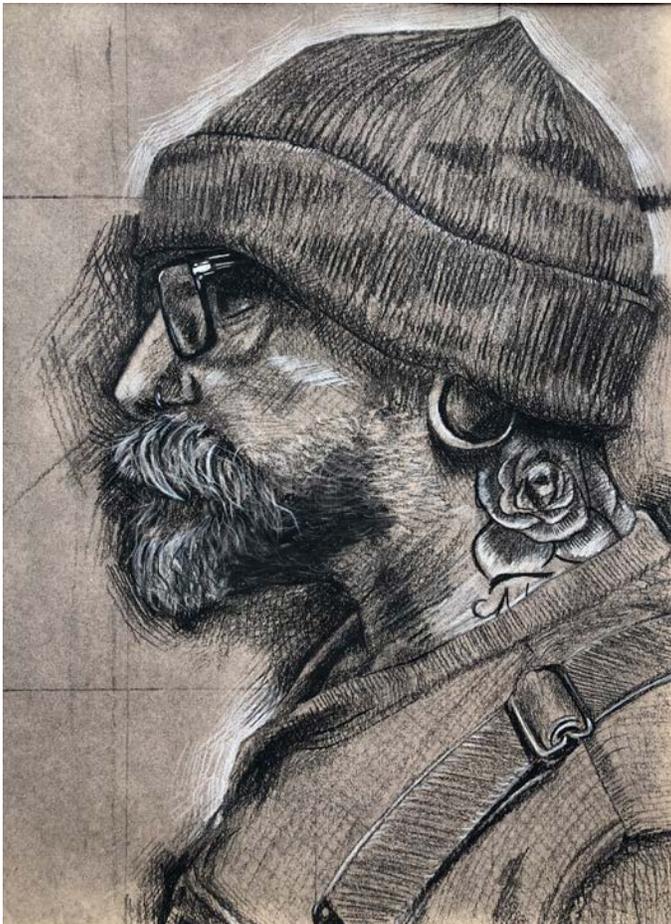
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1CekqE5UhfmvTiDk--3QMNA9Gu7pdhlsIZ_IGTIMVLak/edit?usp=sharing

◆ Art Department



Elli Brandt
"Elephant Plant"
Gold Key
(Printmaking)

Yecinta Ngure "Myto" Gold Key (Mixed Media)



Syd Laster "My Father" Gold Key (Drawing & Illustration)



PTO Blues Backers March 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 March 2024

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

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



PROMO LINK





PTO Blues Backers March 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 March 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, March 20th
In the WRHS Library**