



WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR BLUES NEWSLETTER



FEATURED STORY

THESPIAN INDUCTION

The Washburn Rural High School Theatre Department is proud to recognize a group of talented students who will be inducted into the International Thespian Society at the annual Curtain Call ceremony on May 14. This honor celebrates students who have demonstrated outstanding dedication, creativity, and commitment to the performing arts both onstage and behind the scenes.

The International Thespian Society is a prestigious organization that recognizes excellence in high school theatre. Induction is earned through consistent involvement, hard work, and a passion for all aspects of theatrical production.

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From the Desk of Our Principal



Greetings!

As we wrap up another school year, it's a great time to reflect on the many achievements that have defined this exciting and successful year at WRHS. From the classroom to the field, stage, and beyond, our students and staff continue to set an exceptional standard of excellence.

In athletics, WRHS captured City Championships in Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, as well as Boys' Swim and Dive. We earned Centennial League titles in Boys' Soccer, Volleyball, Boys' Cross Country, Girls' Bowling, and Boys' Swim and Dive, along with Regional or Sub-State Championships in Girls' Tennis, Boys' Soccer, Boys' Bowling, and Volleyball. At the state level, WRHS proudly claimed 6A State Championships in Boys' Cross Country, Boys' Soccer, and 4-Speaker Debate. Individual state honors included Boys' Wrestling champions Landen Kocher-Munoz (144 lbs.) and Jadya Baum (215 lbs.); Boys' Swim champion Daniel Allen in the 100-yard butterfly; and Cody Spangler as the 6A State Boys' Bowling Champion. Our coaches were also recognized for their outstanding leadership, with Matt Swedlund named Shawnee County Coach of the Year for both Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, and Brian Hensyel earning Centennial League Coach of the Year, 6A State Coach of the Year, and the 2025 National Federation of State High School Associations Section 5 Coach of the Year.

Beyond athletics, our extracurricular and co-curricular programs continue to thrive. AFJROTC had another outstanding year, earning a 92% on its unit evaluation and qualifying for Distinguished Unit with Merit. Cadets performed strongly in competitions, bringing home multiple trophies in both drill and marksmanship. The Marksmanship Team earned 1st and 3rd place at the annual competition at Topeka West High School, with Joel LaCount taking 1st place overall individually. Cadets also demonstrated their commitment to service, averaging more than 23 hours of community service per cadet and extending their streak of over 2,000 total service hours to six consecutive years. Additionally, AFJROTC students connected classroom learning with real-world experiences through educational travel to Washington, D.C., and San Antonio, Texas.

The Music Department also had an outstanding spring. In March, the entire department traveled to Orlando, Florida, to participate in Disney's Imagination Campus and Universal's STAR program, where choir, orchestra, Concert Band, Marching Band, and Jazz Band all performed. The months of February, March, and April were especially busy and successful. Jazz I performed at the State Music Convention (KMEA) in February and later competed at WSU in the KBA Jazz Championship, earning a tie for second place and an outstanding trumpet soloist award for Annie Winter. In April, all three jazz ensembles—Jazz I, Jazz II, and Jazz Combo—received "I" ratings at the Coleman Hawkins Jazz Festival hosted by Washburn University. The concert bands also achieved remarkable success, with all three groups earning straight "I" ratings at their respective festivals for the first time in program history. Concert Band performed at the Blue Valley West Band Festival, while Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble traveled to Lawrence for the KSHSAA State Large Ensemble Festival. Additionally, on April 7, students earned 77 "I" ratings at the Regional Solo and Ensemble Festival, qualifying them to perform at the 6A State Solo and Ensemble Festival, which was hosted at WRHS in late April.

Washburn Rural Theatre also had an exceptional year. In addition to its mainstage productions of *Booby Trap*, *Trap*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Curious Savage*, students shared the musical with all 8th graders from WRMS and WRNMS. At the Kansas Thespian Festival, WRHS earned Gold Honor Troupe status, with 23 students competing—14 receiving Superior ratings and 9 earning Excellent ratings. Notable honors included Thespy Showcase selections for Chase Hastings, Eli Loyd, and Beck Carr. The competition one-act, *Booby Trap*, earned top honors as the Chapter Select One-Act, qualifying it for the International Thespian Festival.

The WRHS community has every reason to be proud. This has truly been a dynamic and rewarding year. On behalf of the entire team at WRHS, we wish you a relaxing, safe, and joyful summer. It has been our honor to work with you this year.

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
raineedw@usd437.net

WRHS Counseling Office

Counseling Website: bit.ly/wrhscounselors

Crisis Hotline: 785-232-5005 or 988

[Counseling Staff](#)

Schedules for 2026-2027

Tentative schedules for the 2026-2027 school year will be available on Infinite Campus in mid-July. Counselors will be available during walk-in registration to assist students with gaps and misplaced courses. Counselors are not available during the summer and therefore, all requests need to be made during walk in registration.

College Visits

As you make summer plans, we encourage families to visit college campuses including technical, community, and 4 year. 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://www.nacacnet.org/the-college-visit/>. Questions to ask college representatives can be found at <https://www.road2college.com/insightful-questions-to-ask-an-admissions-officer/>.

Summer 2026 College Entrance Exams

While many colleges will not require the SAT or ACT for admission for the Class of 2027, several will still award scholarships based on the results. Most WRHS students take the ACT twice. Both ACT and SAT are accepted at every college.

ACT Registration: www.act.org

SAT Registration: www.collegeboard.org

[Preparation materials](#)

Summer Programs and Volunteer Opportunities

The WRHS counseling office publishes a [summer program](#) and [volunteer opportunity](#) resource document. We encourage families and students to explore opportunities outside of the classroom!

Mental Health Resources for Parents of Adolescents and Young Adults

This [resource guide](#) links into several websites that have thorough information on a variety of teen mental health considerations and supports.

Senior Final Transcripts

All seniors who plan to attend college need to request a final high school transcript. Without this document, students will not be able to enroll. Students should login to Naviance and select FINAL TRANSCRIPT. When the final transcript is available in June, our registrar will send the document to the attending college. [Senior Final Transcript](#)

Resources for Parents of College Students

Senior parents may find the following resources useful as their children begin the transition beyond high school: Getting Your Teen Ready for Life after High School and How to Successfully Parent Your College Student.

FAFSA

Students in the Class of 2026 can still submit a FAFSA if they have not already. The most up to date information can be found on the FAFSA website at <https://studentaid.gov/>.



Freshmen

Feedback Survey and
Academic/Attendance Check
Year in Review/Looking Ahead/Finals Prep

Sophomores

Making the Most of Your Summer
Year in Review/Looking Ahead/Finals Prep

Juniors

Reminders from the Junior Planning Letter
& Feedback Survey
Finals Prep / Academic Check-in



Seniors

Senior Exit Survey

Tues. & Thurs. 3:05–4:15pm

AFTER SCHOOL LABS

Library.

English

Math

Science

Social Studies

Room G2342

AF-JROTC

Room F656

Student Services Resource



**Need a ride
home?**

Sign up in the Main Office
before 6th Period!

◆ National Honor Society

National Honor Society – Making an Impact Through Service

This school year, our National Honor Society (NHS) members have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to service, leadership, and global awareness by organizing and participating in a variety of meaningful initiatives aligned with the United Nations Global Goals. Through these efforts, our students have worked to make a positive impact both within our local community and beyond.



Throughout the year, NHS members dedicated their time and energy to several service projects. Students crafted handmade dog toys to support the Helping Hands Humane Society, providing enrichment for animals awaiting adoption. They also created tie blankets for individuals served by the Topeka Rescue Mission, offering warmth and comfort during the colder months.

In support of youth in our community, members designed thoughtful cards and organized a toy and stuffed animal drive for the Boys and Girls Club, helping bring joy and encouragement to young students. Additionally, our chapter continued its tradition of organizing our annual blood drive, providing a critical service that helps save lives and supports the ongoing needs of hospitals and patients.

This year also included a unique, education-focused initiative in which students constructed water filtration systems using recycled plastic bottles. These filters will be donated to district elementary schools, where they will be used as hands-on tools to support science learning and promote awareness of global water challenges.



Beyond service, NHS celebrated significant milestones within our chapter. We proudly inducted 68 new members this year, recognizing their excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and character. In addition, 70 senior members have successfully fulfilled all NHS requirements and have earned their NHS stoles, which they will wear with pride at graduation as a symbol of their dedication and achievements.



We are incredibly proud of our NHS members for their hard work, compassion, and commitment to making a difference. Their efforts truly reflect the values of the National Honor Society and serve as an inspiration to our entire school community.

◆ Math Department

On Tuesday, April 7, 22 students represented our school at the PSU Math Relays held at Pittsburg State University. Competing against 50 schools and more than 850 students, our team delivered an outstanding performance.



Several students earned top-10 finishes across a wide range of events:

10th Grade Highlights:

Brandon Jeon (3rd) and Daniel Ginzburg (4th) led the way in Graphing, with Jacksen Savenko placing 6th. Daniel Ginzburg also earned 7th in Algebra Equations & Inequalities. Nikita He placed 6th in Algebra Simplify, and Jyo Gurram took 4th in Potpourri. In Programming, Prajeet Akula finished 4th and Manaswini Koduru placed 7th.

11th Grade Highlights:

Levi Hoskinson placed 5th in Graphing and 6th in Programming. Kennedy Wright earned 3rd in Trigonometry and captured 1st place in Functions. In Algebra Simplify, Prajeet Akula (3rd), Shri Chidambaranathan (5th), and Kareem Najm (7th) all placed. Geometry was especially strong, with Prajeet Akula taking 1st, Shri Chidambaranathan 2nd, and Kareem Najm 3rd.

12th Grade Highlights:

Anisha Dhir (1st in Algebra Equations & Inequalities, 2nd in Computational Math) and Tanner Haddock (1st in Logic & Set Theory, 3rd in Potpourri, 4th in Computational Math) led the senior group. Brady Haag and Nicholas He tied for 5th in Probability & Statistics. Additional top finishers included Terrence Sowell (7th in Potpourri), Jackson Tuckwin (3rd in Programming), Shrutha Bangalore (4th), and Joel Jijo (5th).

Team Results:

The Trigonometry Team of Ophelia Lackey, Anisha Dhir, Kennedy Wright, and Levi Hoskinson captured 1st place. The Geometry Team (Prajeet Akula, Jyo Gurram, Kareem Najm, Nikita He) placed 2nd. Other strong finishes included Algebra Medley Team (5th), Calculator Team (6th), and Algebra Word Problems Team (7th).

Congratulations to all of our students for their hard work, problem-solving skills, and outstanding representation at this highly competitive event!

◆ Theatre Department

The Washburn Rural High School Theatre Department is proud to recognize a group of talented students who will be inducted into the International Thespian Society at the annual Curtain Call ceremony on May 14. This honor celebrates students who have demonstrated outstanding dedication, creativity, and commitment to the performing arts both onstage and behind the scenes.



The International Thespian Society is a prestigious organization that recognizes excellence in high school theatre. Induction is earned through consistent involvement, hard work, and a passion for all aspects of theatrical production. These students truly embody the Society's motto to "Act Well Their Part," contributing their time and talents to elevate each performance and production.

This year's inductees include Isidro Bacon, Claire Bacon, Ryleigh Bannister, Audrey Clark, Ella Conran, Sean Davidson, Milo Douglas, Molly Flachsbarth, Delaney Hutsen, Jaidan Loreman, Archer Sonderegger, and Abby Wolferts. Each of these students has played an important role in the success of the theatre program, whether performing on stage, working behind the scenes, or supporting their peers.

The Curtain Call ceremony on May 14th will be a special evening of recognition and celebration for these students and their accomplishments. Congratulations to all of the inductees for their dedication to theatre and their continued commitment to excellence at Washburn Rural High School.

◆ Music Department

STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Congratulations to our outstanding Choral, Band, and Orchestra programs on their success at the KSHSAA State Large Group Music Festival in early April!

Both the Freshmen Mixed Ensemble and Chorale earned I (Superior) ratings, with Chorale extending an incredible tradition, this marks the 38th consecutive year they have received this top honor. In addition, the Symphony and Chamber Orchestras also achieved I ratings, along with the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble.

This level of excellence reflects the dedication, discipline, and talent of our student musicians and directors. Congratulations to Mr. Holcomb, Mr. Kuder, Mr. Chaffee, Mr. Exum, and the hundreds of students who represented our school with pride and professionalism!

◆ AFJROTC

The AFJROTC program wrapped up March with its annual Curriculum in Action (CIA) trip, providing cadets with an engaging, hands-on learning experience in San Antonio, Texas. During the trip, cadets explored multiple medical practices and were able to apply classroom knowledge in a simulated medical field exercise. Highlights of the experience included attending an Air Force Basic Military Training graduation and receiving mentorship from the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, David R. Wolfe. The trip concluded with an afternoon visit to SeaWorld, rounding out an impactful and memorable week of learning and leadership development.



The marksmanship team also completed a successful competitive season, earning first place at the Topeka West competition held on April 11th. The team demonstrated outstanding performance, with cadets securing both 1st and 3rd place overall finishes. Sophomore Joel LaCount earned top honors, placing 1st overall in the competition.

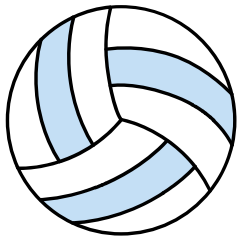
To close out the month, AFJROTC will recognize its outstanding cadets during the National Awards Ceremony held at the end of April, celebrating excellence, leadership, and achievement across the program.



RURAL RUMBLE

&

BLUES BRAWL



2026



4TH ANNUAL RURAL RUMBLE

This years Rural Rumble powderpuff was a great success! Rural Rumble has become an annual event where girls compete in a flag football tournament. This year we had three teams that had 7-11 players, along with 1-2 coaches.

1ST PLACE- BLITZ BABES **2ND PLACE- WINNING TEAM** **3RD PLACE- PINK DINOS**



3RD ANNUAL BLUES BRAWL



This years Blues Brawl was also a huge success! Blues Brawl started three years ago, and is an event where boys form teams and play in a volleyball TOURNAMENT. This year we had 7 teams COMPETING IN Blues Brawl!



1ST PLACE-

VENEZUELAN BATTERY COMPANY



2ND PLACE- BLOCK PARTY



3RD PLACE- TEAM PT.2



4TH PLACE- BIG BOYS ELITE



PARTICIPATING TEAMS

COURT KINGS



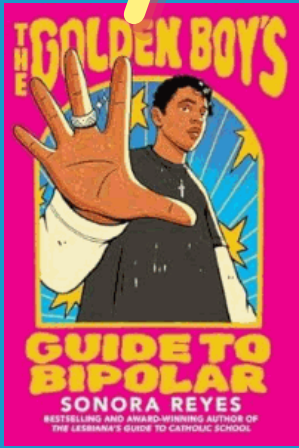
VOLLEY BROS



SINGING SPIKERS



Mrs. Finney's Hot Picks for Summer Reads!



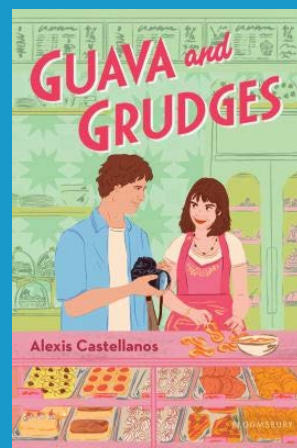
Realistic/Mental Health: Cesar doesn't want to go to Hell, and he doesn't want to be mind controlled by his mental health meds. They couldn't possibly help him, could they?



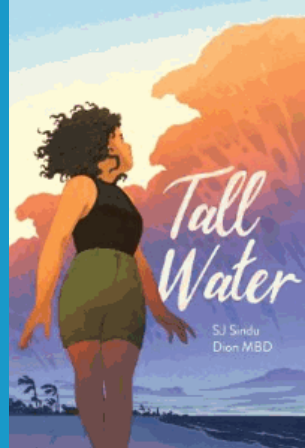
Horror: Something is wrong on Ollie's Island home. People are getting sick but no one is talking about it... That is until the tourists start turning into zombies made of coral.



Fantasy: A modern, Cuban-American take on Practical Magic, alternating between the 1980s and today, following siblings cursed in love and magic.



Romance: Romeo & Juliet, meets Cuban-American cuisine, set in the Pacific Northwest, add crave worthy doughnuts, and all without the death from the OG play...



Graphic Novel: Nimmi wants nothing more than to see her mother, so when an opportunity to travel to Sri Lanka arrives, she takes it, against her father's wishes.





WRHS Library

2026 Summer Reading Bingo



Bingo

A book that's been sitting on your shelf for over 1 year	A book with food on the cover	Any author's debut book	A book with a diverse lead character	A book set in the 1970s or 80s
A book from the WRHS Library	A book with a title starts with the letter "F"	A Non-Fiction book	A book related to Kansas in some way	A book with a map
A book selected for you by the staff at Round Table	An Epistolary Novel	Free Space	A book you read in one day	A book with more than one author
A book with a number in the title	A book rated over 4 Stars on Goodreads	A book with 400+ Pages	A book set in the summer	A book with pirates
A book club pick (any club of your choosing)	A book from TSCPL	A book you picked based only on the cover	A book with sprayed edges	Published in 2026



Connect with us @wrhslib for:

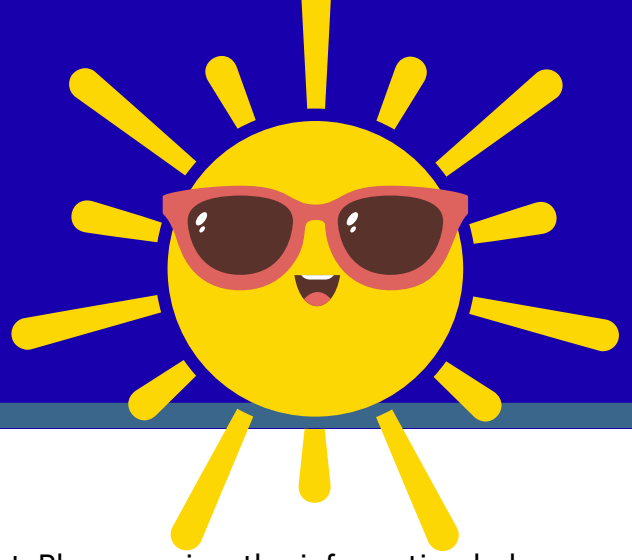
- technology support
- homework help
- reading recommendations
- area job openings
- school activities and more



Read any 5 to get a prize!

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

SUMMER READING



BORROW BOOKS

Parental approval is needed for summer library book checkout. Please review the information below.

- Checkout Library books for Summer from Monday, May 18 - Friday, May 22.
- Visit the WRHS Library website [<http://library.usd437.net>], select WRHS then Login (upper right) for the Sign in with Google to view your account and place holds on books.
- Students may borrow up to 15 items for summer.
- Students may exchange books for new titles, with an appointment, during the summer or during the scheduled Open Library Hours hours listed below.
- All materials are due back during the first week of school in August.
- Email a librarian if you have technical difficulties or would like holds to be placed for you. Include your parent/guardian on the email request since their approval is needed.
- Per the WRHS Student Handbook, when students check out library materials, it is the responsibility of the student to return them in the same condition as they received them. Library materials not returned or returned damaged will result in the student being assessed a charge for the lost or damaged materials.
- **Students not returning to WRHS, for whatever reason, should not participate.**

Victoria Finney finnevic@usd437.net

Marcy Sandberg sandbmar@usd437.net

PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM REQUIRED

<https://is.gd/X8xF6t>



SUMMER LIBRARY HOURS

- Wednesday, June 17th: 1-3 pm
- Wednesday, July 15th: 1-3 pm



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



STUDENT SERVICES

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS AND UNIFIED SPORTS

UNIFIED SOCCER

Our two Jr. Blue teams gave it everything they had at our match day in Bonner Springs on April 18th. Each participant showed grit, endurance, determination, and sportsmanship! Another weekend of competition and community took place on April 26th in Olathe, where each of the teams worked together to showcase their talent and growth this season. Congratulations to our 2026 Unified Soccer team! We are proud of you!

UNIFIED TRACK

Our Unified Track season is off to a great start! Our athletes and partners are working hard practicing for their events and we are looking forward to our competition that will take place in Lawrence on May 9th!

THANK YOU

To our athletes, partners, families, coaches, volunteers, Special Olympics Kansas, and everyone who has made Unified Sports fun, memorable, and successful this 2025-2026 season... we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



SIGN UP TO JOIN US!



◆ Career and Technical Education

For the 2026-27 school year, WRHS will be offering classes in the following Career Clusters and Pathways.

- **Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources:** Animal Science, Health and Related Industries, Diversified Agricultural Science, Natural Resources & Environmental Sustainability, and Plant Science & Industry Operations Pathways
- **Information Technology:** Media Design & Communications and Programming & Software Development Pathways
- **Business Finance:** Finance Pathway
- **Marketing:** Marketing Pathway
- **Manufacturing:** Manufacturing Pathway
- **Education & Training:** Teaching/Training Pathway
- **Health & BioSciences:** Biotechnology and Health Science Pathways
- **Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security:** Corrections, Security, Law & Law Enforcement Pathway
- **Architecture & Design:** Construction & Design Pathway
- **Hospitality & Tourism:** Restaurant & Event Management Pathway

Visit the CTE website for more information: WRHS.net/cte or WRHS counselor page: [WRHS Course Planning Guide](#)

Restaurant & Event Management Pathway

The Culinary Arts classes participated in their annual Cake Show, a delightful event that celebrates creativity, craftsmanship, and a passion for baking. Each year, students bring their skills to life through beautifully designed cakes that showcase both classic techniques and innovative trends.

Guests were shown an impressive display of themed cakes, bursting with color and personality. Every cake is thoughtfully designed and carefully crafted, reflecting the dedication and talent of the students.



Hospitality & Tourism

Students in Ms Dible's Culinary classes appreciated all the Volunteers who judged the Culinary Essentials Mac and Cheese Challenge. It was a rewarding and surprisingly insightful experience. What might seem like a

◆ Career and Technical Education

simple comfort food competition quickly reveals itself as a showcase of creativity, technique, and passion. From classic, creamy recipes to bold variations featuring unique cheeses, spices, and toppings, each dish reflects the personality and skill of the student behind it.



Architecture & Construction

Students in Mr. Fowler and Mr. Gerlach's classes recently attended the Construction Expo and Conference hosted by the Pittsburg State University School of Construction on April 1, 2026.

The event brought together industry leaders, educators, and students for a day focused on career exploration in construction, interior design, and two-year technical programs. Through networking opportunities and a career fair, students were able to connect directly with professionals and learn about real-world career pathways in the field.

Attending the conference gave students valuable insight into the construction industry while helping them build connections and better understand future career opportunities.



Finance Pathway

On Thursday, April 9, students in Mr. McFall's Consumer and Personal Finance classes had the opportunity to hear from guest speaker Amanda Merryman of Envista Credit Union through Junior Achievement. Her visit brought real-world financial concepts to life, helping students better understand how the decisions they make today can impact their financial future.

Mrs. Merryman began by explaining the differences between credit unions and commercial banks. She highlighted how credit unions are member-focused, often offering personalized services and benefits designed

◆ Career and Technical Education



to support their members' financial well-being. Students also learned about the variety of services available, including savings accounts, loans, and other financial tools.

A major focus of the presentation was building and maintaining good credit. Mrs. Merryman shared practical strategies students can begin using early, such as opening a secured loan, becoming an authorized user on a parent's credit card, or co-signing on a car loan with a parent. She emphasized that lenders want to minimize risk, and responsible financial habits play a key role in establishing strong credit.

Students learned what lenders look for when approving loans, including debt-to-income ratios. Mrs. Merryman also explained the differences between installment loans and revolving credit, helping students understand how each type works and when they might be used. Loan terms were broken down in a way that resonated with

students. Using a \$15,000 loan at 10% interest, she demonstrated how choosing a 5-year loan instead of a 3-year loan could result in paying approximately \$3,000 more over time, even with the same interest rate. This example highlighted how longer loan terms can significantly increase total costs.

Students also explored the full cost of owning a vehicle beyond just the purchase price. Mrs. Merryman emphasized that expenses such as gas, insurance, and maintenance must all fit into a monthly budget along with a car payment. To illustrate this, she compared a 2017 Honda Civic and a 2017 Dodge Charger. Students learned that the Charger typically comes with higher insurance premiums and repair costs, important considerations when determining what they can realistically afford.

Another key takeaway was the importance of understanding needs versus wants. Mrs. Merryman encouraged students to think critically about their spending decisions and prioritize necessities over non-essential purchases. One of the most relatable comparisons she made was between a GPA and a credit score. Just as a GPA reflects a student's academic performance, a credit score represents financial responsibility. Similarly, a transcript is like a credit report; both provide a detailed history that others use to evaluate performance and reliability.

Overall, the presentation gave students valuable insight into real-world financial decisions and reinforced the importance of building strong financial habits early. Experiences like this continue to prepare students for success beyond high school.

Finance & Marketing Pathways

On April 23, Silver Lake Bank proudly presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Keegan Knudtson through its Loyalty Card Program. This program supports local students by giving back to the community and recognizing academic achievement and involvement. Congratulations to Keegan on this well-earned honor and for representing our school with excellence!

Based in Topeka, Silver Lake Bank has a long-standing commitment to serving local communities across northeast Kansas. The bank emphasizes relationship-based banking, community involvement, and support for

◆ Career and Technical Education

education. Through initiatives like the Loyalty Card Program, Silver Lake Bank reinvests in the communities it serves, helping fund scholarships and local projects.

The Loyalty Card Program allows customers to support local schools and organizations simply by using their Silver Lake Bank debit card. A portion of each transaction is donated by the bank to participating schools, which can then be used for student programs, activities, and scholarships like the one awarded to Keegan. This innovative approach makes it easy for the community to contribute to student success in a meaningful and ongoing way.

Open a checking account and get your free WRHS Jr. Blues Debit Card

Skip the PIN and your school WINS!

Each debit card transaction
not requiring your PIN
provides \$.05 to the WRHS
scholarship fund.

*Support your WRHS Jr. Blues
and open an account today!*

www.silverlakebank.com



WRHS Business Department

The WRHS Business Department Scholarship recognizes students who have demonstrated excellence in business coursework and active involvement throughout their high school careers. Applicants are evaluated based on the breadth and rigor of business classes completed, including courses in accounting, marketing, finance, and entrepreneurship, as well as participation in real-world experiences such as the WRHS Bank, The Shack, Common Grounds, and DECA.

Students are also required to submit their GPA, post-secondary plans, and a written statement reflecting on how their business education has prepared them for future careers or college. In addition, applicants provide a résumé with references highlighting their skills, leadership, and experiences. This comprehensive application process ensures that scholarship recipients represent the very best of WRHS's business program. The applicants are selected by the Marketing & Finance Advisory Committee. The committee is composed of members of the community who are industry leaders.

Congratulations to the following students:

Nicholas He — \$1,000

◆ Career and Technical Education

Keegan Knudtson — \$750

Berkeley Kemper — \$500

Camryn Ahrens — \$250

Congratulations to each of these students for their achievements and dedication to excellence in business education.



Teaching & Training Pathway

The **Master Teacher Paraeducator test** is an assessment used by school districts to ensure paraeducators (teacher aides) have the skills needed to support classroom learning. It combines training with a final exam covering basic reading, writing, and math, as well as practical knowledge on assisting students, following teacher directions, and maintaining professional behavior. The test emphasizes not only academic skills but also real classroom situations, ensuring paraeducators can effectively support teachers while promoting student independence. Passing the assessment provides students with an **industry-recognized credential**, giving them a head start in education before they even enter college.

Please congratulate the following students on passing the Master Teacher Parareducator exam.

Abigail Buckhalter Rylee Choate Ava Cowman Kate Stimpfle Kenzie Lawson

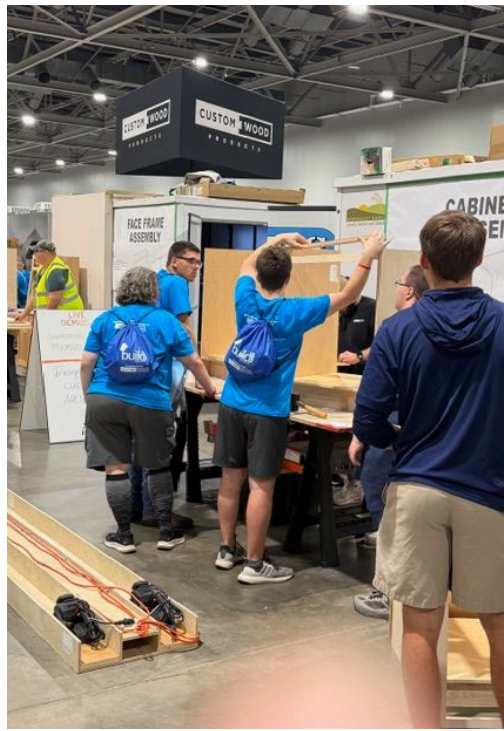
Architecture & Construction and Manufacturing Pathway

Students from Mr. Gerlach, Mr. Fowler, and Mr. Harvey's classes recently participated in Build My Future, a one-day, interactive construction and manufacturing career event designed to introduce students to opportunities in the skilled trades.

During the event, students gained valuable hands-on experience by trying out different construction-related activities and exploring a wide variety of career paths. They had the chance to speak directly with industry professionals, learning about the training required, typical workdays, wages, and advancement opportunities within the field.

◆ Career and Technical Education

Build My Future provided students with a meaningful look into the craftsmanship and skills behind the trades while helping them better understand potential career options. Best of all, the event was free for students, making it an accessible and impactful experience for all who attended.



KSU Biomanufacturing Laboratory and Training Facility – Opened August 2025 (Seaton Hall)

WRHS students in Mike Steinert's classes had the opportunity to spend the day at KSU in a new state-of-the-art laboratory that is set to play a key role in developing the next generation of talent for the growing biomanufacturing industry in Kansas and beyond. Designed to provide students with hands-on, real-world experience, the space will support a range of specialized courses while fostering strong partnerships between K-State and industry leaders.

The laboratory focuses on biomanufacturing process technology, giving students practical training in both upstream and downstream operations. In upstream processing, students will work with advanced cell culture systems, including parallel bioreactors and incubated shakers with gas control, allowing them to grow and monitor cells under precise conditions.

For downstream processing, the lab is equipped with industry-relevant technologies such as centrifuges, chromatography systems, and tangential flow filtration units. These tools enable students to separate and purify biological products, mirroring processes used in professional biomanufacturing facilities.

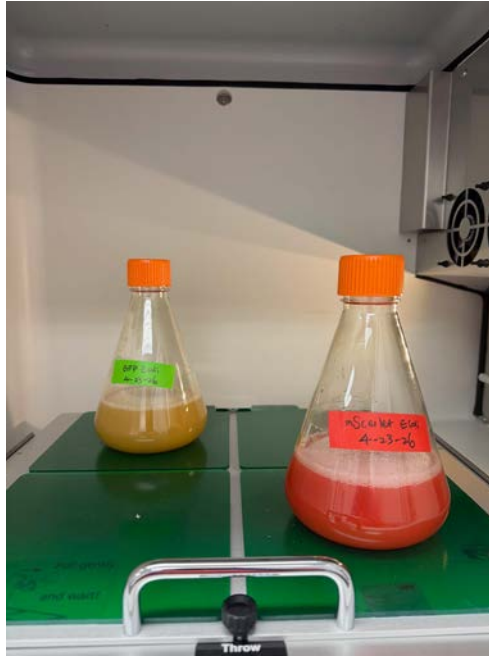
Students will also gain experience with a wide range of analytical techniques. From biochemical analyzers and UPLC systems to qPCR, electrophoresis, and imaging equipment, the lab provides the tools needed to test, analyze, and ensure product quality. Automation is another key component, with robotic systems helping students understand modern, high-efficiency lab workflows.

In addition to specialized equipment, the lab includes essential infrastructure such as biosafety cabinets, autoclaves, cold storage, and water purification systems, ensuring a safe and fully functional learning

◆ Career and Technical Education

environment. Process modeling software further enhances student learning by allowing them to simulate and optimize biomanufacturing operations.

Overall, this innovative laboratory creates a comprehensive, hands-on learning experience. By combining cutting-edge technology with strong industry collaboration, it prepares students with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the rapidly expanding field of biomanufacturing.



Manufacturing Pathway



In many advanced shop classes like Mr. Harvey's Welding III, students move beyond basic skills and take on independent, project-based work. Here's what that typically involves:

Design Phase

- Students come up with their own project ideas (e.g., furniture, tools, decorative pieces, or repairs).
- They create sketches or technical drawings, often including measurements, materials lists, and costs.
- Planning may include applying concepts from Engineering Design and Metal Fabrication.

Preparation

- Selecting appropriate metals (steel, aluminum, etc.).
- Choosing the right welding process, such as MIG Welding, TIG Welding, or stick welding.
- Setting up equipment and reviewing safety procedures.

Production

- Cutting, shaping, and assembling materials.
- Performing welds and refining techniques for strength and appearance.
- Troubleshooting issues like warping or weak joints.



◆ Career and Technical Education

Finishing

- Grinding, polishing, or painting the final product.
- Inspecting weld quality and structural integrity.

Evaluation

- Students present their completed projects.
- They may explain their design choices, challenges, and what they learned.

Overall, this kind of class emphasizes creativity, technical skill, and real-world problem-solving, similar to what professionals do in welding and fabrication careers. [Click here](#) to view more projects by students in the manufacturing pathway.

Architecture & Construction



In many hands-on classrooms like Mr. Fowler’s and Mr. Gerlach’s, students are stepping into the role of designer, planner, and builder by creating their own wood projects from start to finish. Rather than following a preset plan, they begin by deciding what they want to build—anything from a small bookshelf to a decorative piece or functional furniture. This first step encourages creativity and ownership, as each student chooses a project that reflects their interests and skill level.

Once an idea is selected, the process shifts into research and planning. Students gather reference materials, study design options, and learn about the types of wood and tools required. They also develop a budget, calculating the cost of materials and considering ways to stay within it. This phase teaches valuable real-world skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and financial awareness.

The final stage is construction, where plans come to life. Students measure, cut, assemble, and refine their projects, applying both new and practiced skills. Along the way, they learn patience and adaptability, often needing to adjust their approach when challenges arise. By the end of the process, each student not only produces a finished piece but also gains a deeper understanding of craftsmanship and the satisfaction of building something from their own ideas. [Click here](#) to view more pictures of student projects in the Architecture and Construction Pathway.



WINTER SUMMERS SCRUBS

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Explore Roles In (including but not limited to):

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Behavioral Health • Medical Imaging • Simulation Center

* Program is only for students going into their Senior year of high school.



**Applications Due
April 24, 2026**

To register, scan the QR or visit:
tinyurl.com/summerscrubs





SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS



Emma Wong

Favorite Drink: Iced Brown Sugar Cinnamon Chai

Favorite Common Grounds Experience: Getting to make hot chocolates for the 12 days of hot chocolate

College: University of Kansas



Allie Schroeder

Favorite Drink: The Peachy Palmer

Favorite Common Grounds Experience: Working 0 and 5th hour Common Grounds with my friends

College: University of Central Missouri



Camrynn Ahrens

Favorite Drink: Dubai chocolate blender
Favorite Common Grounds Experience: Me and Emma making everything a two person job and being able to create new drinks
College: Oklahoma Christian University



2026 WRHS YEARBOOK

Name: _____

Grade: 9 10 11 12

Yearbook Prices: \$60.00

\$75 for available extra copies at 2027 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**



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Washburn Rural High School

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Interstate Yearbook Pictures

ENROLLMENT

JULY 29 & 30

7AM-7PM

**FRESHMEN
&
FACULTY**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

**7:30 AM
- 1:00 PM**

RETAKES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

**10:30 AM
- 11:00 PM**

CLASS OF 2027
MAKE PLANS TO TAKE YOUR

SENIOR PORTRAITS



THE DEADLINE FOR PORTRAIT
SUBMISSION IS FRIDAY, DEC. 4TH

Questions?
Call WRHS Journalism @ 339-4252
See the next page for more details!

SENIOR PORTRAITS

Senior Portrait Specifications for Yearbook

The WRHS Yearbook staff encourages every senior to submit a senior portrait. These images are placed in the PEOPLE section of the book in alphabetical order. Pictures are due to the yearbook staff on/before the **first Friday in December**.

OPTION #1: Inter-State Studios

Inter-State is the school portrait photographer.

This is at no cost to the student. The yearbook staff will have access to these images.

Senior portraits can be taken during enrollment or during the retake date in the fall.

Please see the WRHS school calendar for specific portrait dates.

Example:



OPTION #2: Select Your Photographer & Submit Your Image

Students/families do this option on their own.

We would prefer your image be sent electronically. Please send the ORIGINAL (non-cropped) file in JPEG format. Name it with the student's first and last name.

Example:



Send your portrait file to:

wrhsporraits@usd437.net

(Important: send Senior Salute images in a separate email to wrhssalutes@usd437.net)

- Head-and-shoulders shots are preferred.
- Attire must follow school handbook.
- Plain backgrounds preferred.
- No studio imprint (I.D.) on file.
- Photos must be vertical (or they will be cropped to fit a vertical space).

Please note: We will post a list of seniors who HAVE turned in portraits after the deadline. The list will be posted outside the Counseling Office and announcements will be made. **Seniors are responsible** for checking the list to make sure portraits have been delivered and received by the yearbook staff.

We cannot be responsible if we do not receive your photo.

Senior Salutes

It's Your Child's Senior Year!

Here's your opportunity to purchase senior salute space in the yearbook!

Senior salutes are spaces for parents, grandparents and friends to congratulate, honor and recognize their senior with photo(s) and text.

Salute sizes range from 1/8 of a page to a full page and are available in color or black & white.

To order a salute:

(1) detach and fill out the form below. Sample layouts can be selected from the inside pages of this flyer.

(2) gather your pictures.

-baby photos can be mailed with order form. If you'd like photos returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

-additional senior portraits can be sent from you or your photographer

(3) prepare your message based on the word count listed with each layout. All word counts are approximate.

Two Ways to Send: (Option 1): Mail these items to WRHS Journalism Department, Attention: Senior Salutes, 5900 SW 61st Street, Topeka, KS 66619. **If you'd like the pictures returned, simply include a self-addressed and stamped envelope, and we'll send your photos when the salute is complete.**

(Option 2): If your content (photos & text) is digital, email content + order form to wrhssalutes@usd437.net

*Photos MUST be high resolution scans: 300 dpi - if not, mail original images.

Payments must be mailed or delivered to WRHS prior to the deadline.

Hurry, space is limited!

Salutes and/or payments submitted after the deadline may not be published.

Salute deadline: first Friday in December

wrhssalutes@usd437.net

wrhssalutes@usd437.net

Yearbook Salute Order Form

Purchase Information - (Salutes will not be printed until payment is received.)

Buyer's Name: _____

Senior's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ (in case we have questions)

Buyer's E-mail: _____
(so we can send you a salute proof when completed.)

Payment Type: Cash or Check # _____ (to WRHS Yearbook)

**Salute Deadline:
first Friday in Dec.**

Questions? Please call 339.4252
or email: wrhssalutes@usd437.net

Salute Size & Color

(check size & circle layout letter - sample layouts included)

Black & White Salute Space

Color Salute Space

___ 1/8 Page \$50 Layout: A B C D (circle)

___ 1/8 Page \$100 Layout: A B C D (circle)

___ 1/4 Page \$100 Layout: E F

___ 1/4 Page \$200 Layout: E F

___ Half Page \$200 Layout: G H I J

___ Half Page \$300 Layout: G H I J

___ Full Page \$300 Layout: K L

___ Full Page \$400 Layout: K L

Salute Layout Options

Examples are smaller than actual size

1/8 Page Options

Salute A: Two Vertical Photos; No Words



Salute B: One Horizontal Photo; No Words



Salute C: One Vertical Photo; 50 Words or Less



Salute D: Two Horizontal Photos; 50 Words or Less

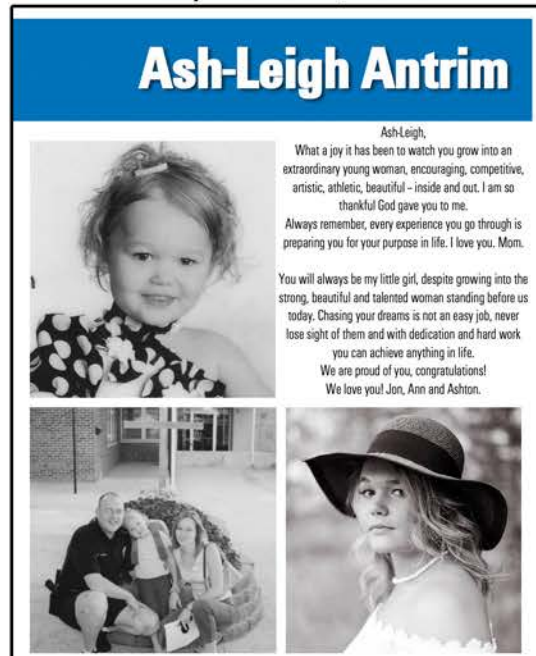


1/4 Page Options

Salute E: Two Vertical Photos; 100 Words or Less



Salute F: Three Square Photos; 100 Words or Less



Salute Layout Options

Examples are smaller than actual size

1/2 Page Options

Salute G: 2 Vertical & 3 Square Photos; 150 Words or Less

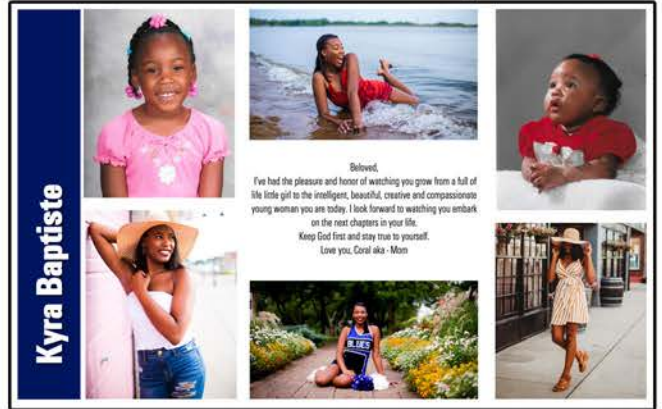


To the girl who changed our whole world 18 years ago, you have provided us with so much joy and laughter, and we are so proud of the woman you have become! You have always pushed yourself to do more, and you have done it better each time. Congratulations on ALL that you have accomplished in your time at Washburn Rural High School. Whether it was in the classrooms, on the courts or the soccer field, you have continued to amaze us. We are so proud of the beautiful, humble and caring person you are today. You mean so much to our family and we continue to admire your determination. We look forward to watching you continue your success in the future. We love you!

Mom, Dad and Jack

Carly Bachelor

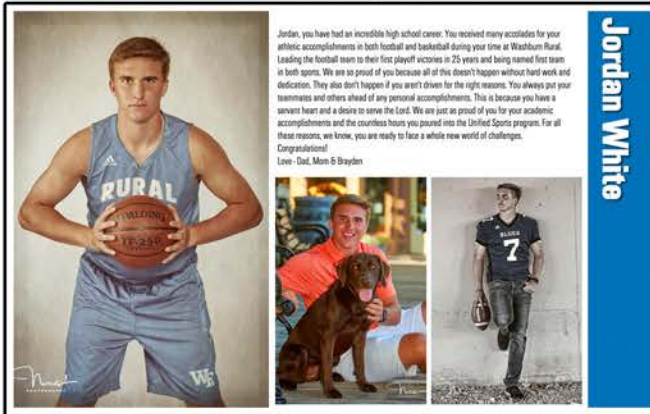
Salute H: 4 Vertical & 2 Horizontal Photos; 50 Words or Less



Beloved,
I've had the pleasure and honor of watching you grow from a full of life little girl to the intelligent, beautiful, creative and compassionate young woman you are today. I look forward to watching you embark on the next chapters in your life. Keep God first and stay true to yourself.
Love you, Coral aka - Mom

Kyra Baptiste

Salute I: 3 Vertical Photos; 150 Words or Less



Jordan, you have had an incredible high school career. You received many accolades for your athletic accomplishments in both football and basketball during your time at Washburn Rural. Leading the football team to their first playoff victories in 25 years and being named first team in both sports. We are so proud of this doesn't happen without hard work and dedication. They also don't happen if you aren't driven for the right reasons. You always put your teammates and others ahead of any personal accomplishments. This is because you have a servant heart and a desire to serve the Lord. We are just so proud of you for your academic accomplishments and the countless hours you poured into the United Sports program. For all these reasons, we know, you are ready to face a whole new world of challenges.
Congratulations!
Love- Dad, Mom & Bryden

Jordan White

Salute J: 4 Vertical & 1 Horizontal Photos; 100 Words or Less



Dear Alessia,
You have come of age with our young nation. The way is clear for you to blow us all away. Someday, someday, Yeah, you'll blow us all away.
Congratulations, Abbi! I am very proud of the strong young woman you have become. Every day I'm amazed by your smile, your love, your talents, your aspirations and your goofy sense of humor. Don't ever lose your sense of adventure. There is a whole world out there waiting for you, and you should strive to see all of it. Explore. Dream. Discover. Take with you these two important lessons. There are never too many laps and don't forget your Hulk hands.
I love you so much more than any words can say.
Mom

Alex Williams

Full Page Options

Salute K: 9 Vertical & 6 Horizontal Photos; 100 Words or Less



Justin and Jesus, what can we say about you two or where to start? You were goofy and fun loving kids who have grown up to fine, young men. We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished over these last 12 years of school and life. We all wish you two the best of luck in what's to come. Congratulations on finishing school and getting your diplomas.
Much love from all of us parents and everyone else rooting for you.
JADKOKAD

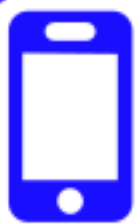
Justin Estudillo & Jesus Gutierrez

Salute J: 10 Vertical, 3 Horizontal & 2 Square Photos; 150 Words or Less



Eve, You are always ready to move out and accept your independence. I know that because you have, being that your unique story and life lessons have shaped you into your own special being. You are a very kind and soul, strong, athletic, and smart! Your friendships will have you well in life. Family, road trips, journaling, and endless matching sibling outfits, sibling videos and photos are only the highlights. Only, reading books, I mean, like, dressing as Lucy & Ethel, SS Club, high for coway, and flight that I don't know about? I have that and more.
Remember the fun times. You have numerous opportunities to pursue your interests and passions. Move a gear time at KU (and 100 hours here) I am very proud of where you are. Your father would also be very proud. Work hard and you will accomplish all your goals.
Love, Morgan (Mommy)

Eve Schifman



Scan to join!