



Junior Blues News



November 2023

Principal's Letter	1
Counseling Office	2
AF JROTC	3
Academic Assistance	4
Career and Technical Education	5
-DECA	9
-WRHS Bank	11
-Common Grounds	12
-The Shack	13
Chimes Yearbook	14
-Senior Portraits	16
-Senior Salutes	17
Media Center	18
Art Department	20
Drama Department	22
PTO Blues Backers	23
School Calendar	28

Featured Story



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

Produced by: WRHS Business Communications
Sponsor: Brian McFall

From the Desk of Our Principal



Hello again!

As you know, we have recently ended the first 9-week grading period. We have had an exciting beginning to the school year and are poised for even greater things for the remainder of the year. As a parent, I feel privileged to have my own child in this school district. As a principal, I want you to know that you can feel very good about the education that your children are receiving at WRHS. Having said that, we do realize that, for some students, learning can be difficult and we are fully prepared to assist them in any way necessary. **If this is true of your child, there is still time to address challenges before the end of the semester.** I would like to share with you some of the avenues for assistance at your disposal.

If you haven't already discovered it, our Parent Portal is an excellent way to track your child's grades, discipline, attendance, lunch account balances, etc. In order to view this information, you will need an activation key which can be obtained by calling Ms. Susan Kaspar at 339-4104. Susan is my Administrative Assistant and will be happy to walk you through the process of accessing this information. Since the data in this system is updated regularly, you should be able to develop a clear picture of your child's performance. If parental monitoring doesn't address poor performance in school, I would encourage you to seek additional assistance from your child's teachers.

Teachers are available before school, after school and during other mutually agreed open times for additional remediation. Teachers are in their classrooms by 7:30 AM and, in most cases, until 3:30 PM. Obviously, teachers who also serve as coaches would not be available after school, but are more than willing to make arrangements with your son or daughter for extra help before school. If you find that your child needs additional help, I would encourage you to contact your child's counselor. 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, International Baccalaureate, Student Services-Gifted

Greg Fallon (339-4119): Responsible for students in Alternative Education – B3 School

Our counselors are more than willing to provide assistance in other ways in order to help your child reach his/her academic goals. 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 are not, our counselors will be happy to discuss more aggressive options with you.

It is our mission to ensure that every student learns to the best of his/her ability. Please do not be the least bit hesitant about letting us know how we can assist you.

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

Second Semester Schedule Changes

In November, counselors will work to fill second semester gaps for grades 9-11. Students should email their counselor to discuss scheduling concerns and issues. Please note that schedules are tentative until the first day of school.

Freshmen 4 Year Planning

The Class of 2027 will create a tentative 4 year plan in Naviance during advisory. This is an important component of their Individual Plan of Study as mandated by the State of Kansas. Please note this is a tentative plan and will be revised during spring pre-enrollment. We encourage families to work together to create a plan which will help students set goals and aspire to maximize their potential. We hope students will explore our wide range of opportunities available including but not limited to: Career and Technical Education, Washburn Institute of Technology, Washburn University Dual Credit Courses, Honors and Advanced Placement Courses, and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

Senior Meetings

During the month of October, counselors met individually with all seniors to discuss postsecondary planning. As we all know, the Class of 2024 is an impressive group of young people. Whether off to the military, workforce, technical college, college, or other pursuits, our students have ambitious goals and we look forward to watching them succeed. As the year progresses, please continue to reach out to your school counselor with questions regarding the transition beyond high school.

Volunteer Opportunities

Many volunteer opportunities exist in Topeka. We encourage students to engage in our community and contribute to the many organizations in our community that invite teen volunteers to join them. A list of potential opportunities can be found [HERE](#).

Positive Relationships for Teens

The American School Counselor Association recommends the CDC program [Dating Matters](#) for parents of teens. This program helps parents support healthy teenage dating relationships.



◆ Air Force JROTC

Air Force JROTC at Washburn Rural High School is celebrating its 11th year. Most people think Air Force JROTC is a military preparation class, but that's not exactly what they are. They are a citizenship and character building program. They emphasize the importance of being an active member of your local, national, and global communities: while learning about aerospace, air force history, financial management, leadership and wellness. They are a Distinguished Unit with Merit, meaning they are in the top 15% of Air Force JROTC units worldwide.



They are a class, an activity, and sport. The students compete in academic bowl, drill, and marksmanship with students around the globe. In the past year the students experienced the curriculum in action by traveling to Patrick Space Force Base Florida, the Kennedy Space Center, Universal Studios and even witnessed a SpaceX launch in person, and they have flown aerial refueling missions with the local Air National Guard Unit for the last two years.

Most importantly, they are passionate about serving the community we live in, performing more than 2,500 hours of community service last year. They have already performed over 500 hours of community service this school year, performing color guard and honor guard duties for local organizations and WRHS sporting events. They have supported the VFW in their annual Hand Up Stand Up motorcycle ride and two of our district elementary school's fall carnivals.

As you can see there is plenty going on in AFJROTC. They have something for everyone whether you are interested in military education, travel, or serving your community while earning PE and history elective credits. For more information contact Senior Aerospace Science Instructor: Lt Col Ron Daniels at danieron@usd437.net or Aerospace Science Instructor: CMSgt Clay Choate at choatcla@usd437.net



Free Academic Assistance

AFTER SCHOOL LABS

Library

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

Room E554

- **AF-JROTC**

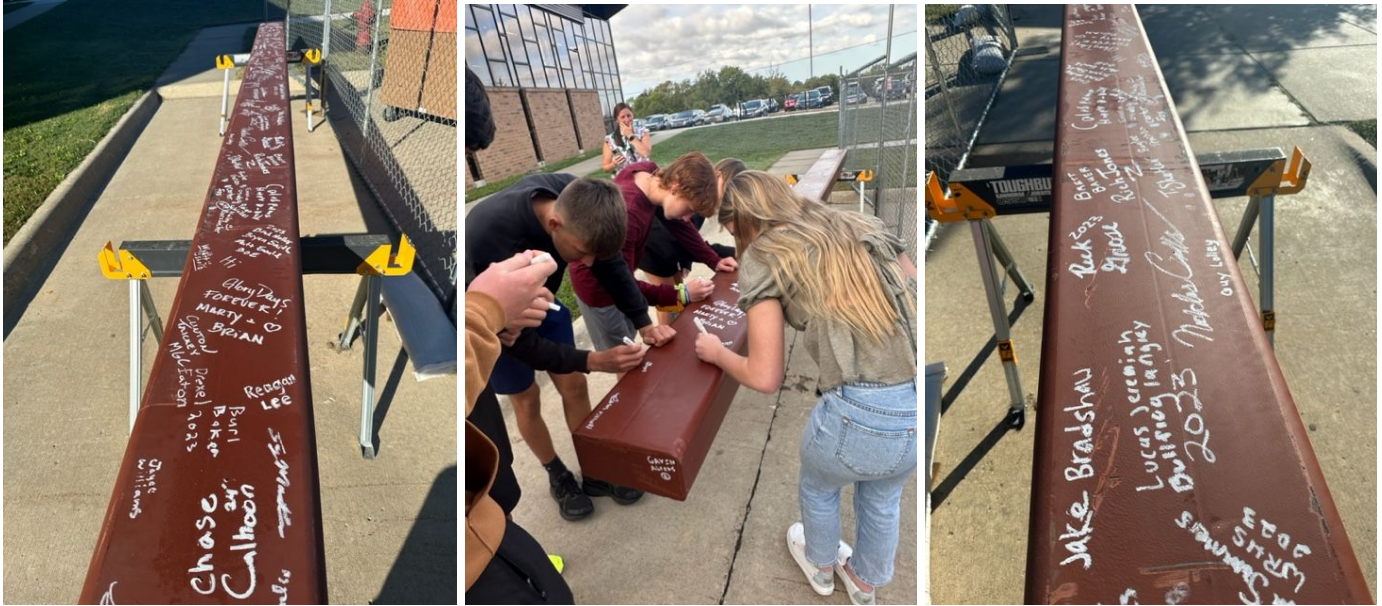
Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:05-4:15pm

Need a ride home?

**Sign-Up in the Main Office for Transportation
Before or during lunch**

◆ Career and Technical Education

The school year is off to a great start. CTE Construction is moving right along. Teachers continue to work with HTK to finalize the design and equipment placement. Last week CTE students and staff took a moment to sign the last steel beam to be hung in the new center.



◆ Career and Technical Education

2023 CTE Teacher Grants Received! The following CTE teachers applied and were awarded grant funding from the Auburn-Washburn Foundation:

Haley Schmitz, CuCubelets Coding Pack The Cubelets Pack is a great hands-on activity, maker-space activity, and learning activity for grade levels Pre-K through all high school grade levels. Cubelets are small cubes that have different actions like motion detection, moving, light, battery, etc. This pack would allow our computer science program to reach all levels of students within our district. In addition to our classrooms, Cubelets would be used at the CSHS Coding Carnival and Summer Camps

Kim Sommers, Marketing: Sublimation Printing The Shack is a school-based business operated by students in the Marketing career pathway. Adding the sublimation printer will allow the students to learn new skills and techniques and will expand product offerings to things like tumblers and mugs. Sublimation is a process that uses high temperatures and pressure to permanently transfer specialized ink into a variety of surfaces so the students would be able to work with more complex designs and a broader range of colors.

Mike Steinert, Look and Feel like a Scientist Students enrolled in Biomedical Research Lab Workplace Experience will participate in real world biomedical issues research and increase scientific literacy skills by conducting lab research that meets today's medical challenges. For the current year, the research focus is on reducing the antibiotic resistance of bacteria using bacteriophages. Thanks to the grant, students will look like professionals in their new lab coats .

Casey Williams, Mini Crime Scene Investigation Over the year, students learn about a variety of forensic science topics, including crime scene analysis, sketching, handwriting analysis, evidence collection, DNA processing and blood spatter analysis, among others. The grant will fund supplies to construct miniature "crime scenes," as part of their final project.



Foundation Grant Recipients - From left to right: Kim Sommers, Casey Williams, Mike Steinert, and Haley Schmitz.

◆ Career and Technical Education



Featured Career Cluster Information Technology

Pathway: Programming & Software Development

The Mission of Information Technology Education:

To build linkages to Information Technology occupations for entry level, technical, and professional careers related to the design, development, support and management of hardware, software, multimedia, communication, and systems integration services.

To Accomplish this Mission:

The complete Information Technology education program will support students:

- Through high quality classroom and laboratory instruction
- Development of premier leadership, personal growth, and career success
- Enhanced opportunity to build career skills

They aspire for excellence as they recruit, prepare and encourage individuals to pursue life skills through Information Technology education. They serve the community and inform them about Information Technology, the needs, opportunities and challenges, as well as provide lifelong career skills.

Information Technology programs will respond to community needs and Kansas' IT needs. It should prepare students to enter the workforce and to participate as leaders, innovators, and managers in a global economy.

Scheduled Events for the 2023-24 year:

- Summer Coding Camp - 100 students grades K-9 participated
- CyberCon Field Trip - October 4
- K-State Programming Competition taking 26 students - Nov 1
- KU High School Design Competition 2 Students competing - Oct 25
- CSHS Things:
 - CSHS - Inducting 3 new members this fall
 - Coding Carnival - coming Dec 7 for Grades K-6
 - Binary Bingo - date TBD spring

Career Technical Education (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

Career Preparation

Work-based learning provides high school students with valuable hands-on experience and exposure to real-world work environments. By participating in job shadow experiences or internships, students have the opportunity to apply the

◆ Career and Technical Education

knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom to practical situations. This practical experience helps students develop a deeper understanding of a career field, gain valuable industry-specific skills, and build professional networks. Work-based learning prepares high school students by equipping them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence to succeed in the workforce after graduation.

Certificates and Industry Recognized Credentials

[YouScience](#) is a valuable tool for classrooms that helps students explore their interests, skills, and potential career paths. It provides personalized assessments and career recommendations based on a student's aptitudes and interests. With YouScience, students can make more informed decisions about their future education and career choices, leading to greater engagement and success in the classroom. Most CTE teachers will be offering YouScience exams in their classrooms beginning spring 2024.

[NCCER](#), or the National Center for Construction Education and Research, offers industry-recognized credentials for high school students in construction-related fields. By participating in NCCER programs, high school students can gain valuable skills and knowledge that prepare them for careers in construction and related industries. NCCER certifications provide students with a competitive edge in the job market and open doors to a wide range of opportunities in the construction industry. Students are eligible to participate this semester.

Ms. Dible is offering the [ServSafe](#) Food Handler and Manager exams in the culinary courses. These exams verify that a manager or person-in-charge has sufficient food safety knowledge to protect the public from food borne illness, ensures proper personal hygiene, prevents cross-contamination, controls time and temperature when handling food, and proper cleaning and sanitizing.

[Excel in CTE](#) was launched in 2012 as a plan to enhance career technical education in Kansas and better prepare high school students for college and careers. Kansas high school students qualify for state-funded college tuition in approved technical courses offered by Kansas technical and community colleges. WRHS students have the opportunity to attend [Washburn Tech](#) as part of their regular school day, or they may elect to take online courses outside of school hours.

Resources

Naviance, [Pathful](#), and YouScience are resources available to all students and can help students explore career options, employment trends in those industries, and the training or education needed.

Community Partners

Advisory Committees assist in the development and operation of the CTE cluster /pathway by keeping instructors up to date on industry standards and trends.

They also provide students the opportunity to build a professional network and may offer job shadow experiences or internships. Interested in serving on one of our Advisory Boards please contact Teresa Golden goldeter@usd437.net

For Sale! Proceeds go right back into our programs so we can continue to build! Thank you!



WRHS GARDEN SHED

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

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

◆ Career and Technical Education

On October 6th, Common Grounds morning and lunch crew took a field trip to PT's Coffee and Dialogue Coffee house. PT's was born in 1993 in Topeka, Kansas, out of Jeff Taylor and Fred Polzin's simple desire for an excellent cup of coffee. Four years and two retail locations later, they began buying green coffee, roasting, and traveling to origin, forging the Direct Trade partnerships that have made them a leader in the specialty coffee industry. A simple question guides their judgments and motivates them every day: Is their coffee the best it can be?

Over 30 years in this business they've learned that it's more important to succeed on their own terms than on anyone else's, and when they focus on superior quality, from seed to cup, their business thrives.

Nearly 80% of the coffee they produce is acquired through their Direct Trade program. Exceptional coffee depends upon great partnerships, and their partners are selected for more than just their harvests—they are socially responsible and environmentally conscious.

They roast dozens of single-origin coffees and signature blends to order five days a week at their retail locations, wholesale clients, and online customers. They were named Roaster of the Year by Roast Magazine in 2009 and are among the leading roasters reviewed by industry resource Coffee Review, with nearly 50 scores of 94 and above and multiple appearances in their Top 30 Coffees of the Year—including at No. 1 in 2022!

Their wholesale operation supplies fine cafes, restaurants, hotels, grocery stores, corporate offices, and small businesses nationwide. Meanwhile, they give back to the northeastern Kansas community and to stakeholders along the global coffee supply chain with various Coffees for a Cause throughout the year.

They remain a group of explorers committed to sourcing, roasting, and drinking the best coffees in the world. They warmly invite you to join us on this journey: Sign up for our newsletter to receive updates from their roasting facility.



PT's coffee has been a partner with Common Grounds since its inception over 10 years ago! The students had a great time learning about coffee and PT's story. Without the love, it's just coffee!

"It was cool to experience the roasting process and learn how PT's Coffee runs. I didn't realize how much went into getting the coffee beans from the farmers. -Hayden Keller, Senior

◆ Career and Technical Education

Dialogue Coffee House is a coffee house located in Topeka, Kansas. The inspiration for the name Dialogue comes when thinking about the way we communicate with one another, while for some people that is by verbal exchanges, for others it may be sign language or even body language cues. Dialogue Coffee House has an employee base of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, giving everyone a place to be part of the conversation, without the definition of one's abilities.

Dialogue is proud and excited to give employment to those with IDD because we all long to feel valued and show our talents to the world. They hope you will join them at their coffee shop where you can laugh together, dance together, and be equals. What a great mission: To create change in everyday pace of life in a diverse culture, celebrating individuals of ALL abilities.



“It was an eye-opening experience to see the process and the hard work that goes into creating a great cup of coffee. As a DECA member it was inspiring to see Caitlyn’s success in the creation of Dialogue Coffee. While Caitlyn was at Washburn Rural she developed her idea of Dialogue Coffee into a business plan and competed at the International DECA Competition.” -Dylan Dodge, Senior

◆ Career and Technical Education



Sponsored by Silver Lake Bank

School Spirit Loyalty Program

Jr. Blues School Spirit Debit Cards - Start earning money for your school!

Silver Lake Bank is pleased to offer the School Spirit Loyalty Debit Card Program in partnership with Washburn Rural School District.

How to get a Jr. Blues Spirit Card: Get your Jr. Blues School Spirit Debit Card by opening a checking account at Silver Lake Bank.



How to earn \$ for your school: The Jr. Blues School Spirit Debit Card can be used at ATMs and to make purchases just like a regular debit card. The school district will receive 5 cents for each debit card transaction that doesn't require your PIN. Skip the pin and your school wins! There is no cost to the school or you!

This year, Silver Lake Bank is awarding three \$1,000 scholarships. For more information [click here](#).

4.5%

INTEREST ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

*May be subject to change

WRHS Bank Perks



Easy to open accounts!

Join the Jr. Blue Crew!

Minimum monthly deposits

Balance must increase by \$10 every month

\$500

**drawing at the end of the year
for Jr. Blue Crew members!**

Fall is in the Air

Grab a Pumpkin Spice Latte before they're gone



Available at
Common Grounds today

Monday-Friday
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM
12:00 PM-1:15 PM



FALL INTO

Giving



OCTOBER &
NOVEMBER



Purchase apparel or make a donation at
<https://ruralspirit.square.site/>

Donation Items Needed:

- Granola bars
- Instant mac and cheese
- Ramen
- Goldfish
- Peanut Butter Crackers
- Fruit cups/fruit pouches
- New underwear
- Socks

- Deodorant
- Body wash/soap
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Feminine products
- Sweatpants and shorts for females and males
- xxl, xxxl

Drop off items in the barrel outside of The Shack!

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 _____

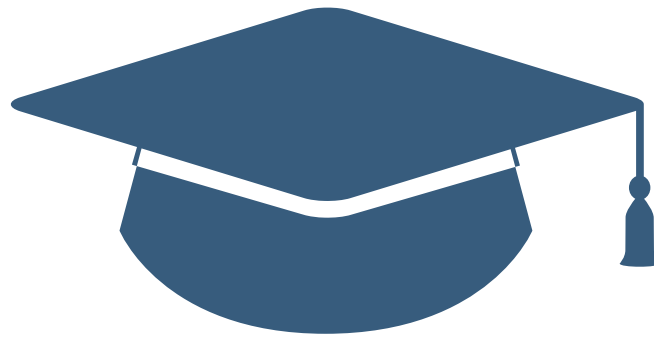
**Mail Order form & Payment to: WRHS Yearbook
5900 SW 61st Street, Topeka, KS 66619**

OR ORDER ONLINE!

**www.yearbookordercenter.com
school code: 33333**

**CLASS OF 2024
MAKE PLANS TO TAKE YOUR**

*Senior
Portraits*



**THE DEADLINE FOR PORTRAIT
SUBMISSION IS FRIDAY, DEC. 1ST**

*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 for the "People Section" of the yearbook. Portraits are due on/before the **first Friday in December**.

OPTION #1: Inter-State Studios

Inter-State is the school's portrait photographer. During enrollment & on retake dates seniors may take a senior portrait at no charge to the student. The yearbook staff will have access to these images.

OPTION #2: Select Your Photographer & Submit Your Image

Seniors complete this option on their own.

All images are sent electronically.

Please send the ORIGINAL (uncropped) file in JPEG format.

Email Subject: Student's first & last name.

Send your portrait file to:

wrhsporraits@usd437.net

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

While most major photography studios in the area already have these specifications, please have your photographer send a digital file that matches the following:

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

- *Special note to photographers:*

Digital images must be 300 dpi. They can be submitted on CD or emailed to us at:

wrhsporraits@usd437.net

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.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the WRHS Journalism Department at 339-4252.

Don't forget the December Deadline! (first Friday)
Questions? Call WRHS Journalism 339-4252 or email: **wrhsporraits@usd437.net**

WRHS Yearbook

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. Custom designs can be submitted (as a JPEG), or you may choose from one of the prepared layouts on the attached pages.

To order a salute: (1) detach and fill out the form below.

(2) gather your pictures.

*Do not cut photos.

*Do not submit wallet-sized senior pictures: (these often have a texture on them which makes them difficult to scan) please contact your photographer and have senior salute portraits emailed to:

wrhssalutes@usd437.net

(3) Based on your layout selection, write the appropriate amount of text you'd like to appear in the salute space. (Please limit any quoted text to 4 lines or 10% of original material. No song lyrics will be printed.)

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 all of 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

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 Size & Color

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

Black & White Salute Space

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

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

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

____ Full Page \$300 Layout: K L

Color Salute Space

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

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

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

____ Full Page \$400 Layout: K L

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

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

Mrs. Finney's Monthly YA Book Recommendation

November 2023



Stateless
By Elizabeth Wein
F WEI

1937 - Europe. Stella North has been selected to represent Britain in Europe's first air race for young people. With hopes of uniting the great nations of Europe and preventing another World War, the pilots must navigate this "Olympics of Air" with grace and precision. But all that changes when a pilot gets shot down. Everyone is a suspect, including Stella, the only pilot to witness the attack. Leaving her to wonder, were they aiming for her?

Similar Titles Include:



◆ WRHS Media Center



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



◆ WRHS Art Department

The WRHS Art department has two events during the month of November. The first is a department show at the Topeka Art Guild.

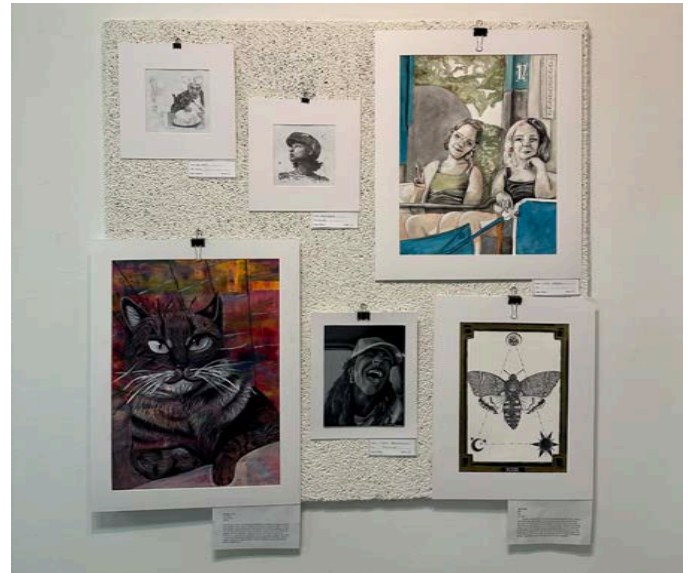
WRHS Topeka Art Guild Art Show

Opening: First Friday Gallery Walk of November

Time: 5:00 - 8: 00 pm

Location: 5331 SW 22nd Pl, Topeka, KS 66614

Gallery hours during November: Wednesday - Saturday (11 am - 5 pm)



WRHS will also have six students representing the art department at this year's 2023 Washburn University High School Art Day. The event is accompanied by an exhibition of student work of those selected to attend. The reception will be from 5 - 7 pm on Wednesday, November 1 at Washburn University's John R. Adams Gallery, located at 1746 SW Durrow Drive, Topeka, KS.



Zac Wells



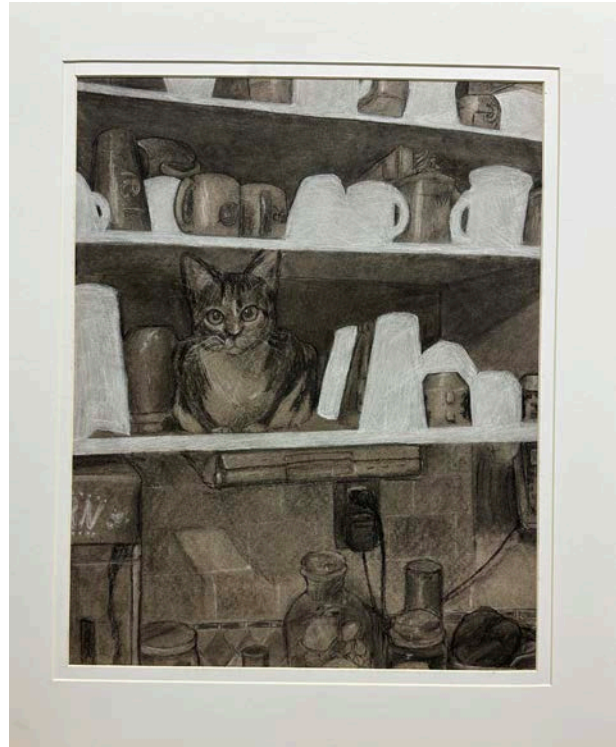
Syd Laster



Ellie Brandt



Aytumn Sanchez



Eli Van Fossen



Rylee Perez



◆ Drama Department

WaRu Theatre strives to serve students of all backgrounds, abilities, and identities by providing a range of training and hands-on experiences that encourage growth of skills and formation of personal connections. They aim to prepare motivated students for further study and employment in theatrical industries, and to provide opportunities where students of multiple interests can flourish in a variety of theatrical experiences.

A Place for Every Student

- Build, design, & perform 3-5 productions annually.
- Community outreach and educational engagement for district elementary students through Blues Studio initiatives and activities.
- Thespian involvement in local volunteer opportunities, as well as participation in state chapter events.
- Support and assistance for local students to audition, perform, and crew in local theatre productions and improv comedy troupes.

Career Potential

- WaRu Theatre prepares students for a spectrum of theatre-based careers in production, touring, dramaturgy, lighting/design, and professional stage management.

Honors

- WaRu Theatre continues a tradition of providing high-quality experiences for students recognized at state and national levels.
- WRHS was selected by the National Federation of High School Activity Associations (NFHSAA) as the 2018-2019 Performing Arts School of Excellence.
- In 2022, they were 1 of 7 high schools in the U.S. selected to perform as a mainstage production at the International Thespian Festival.

WARU
THEATRE
2023/2024
warutheatre.org
@warutheatre



Fall:
Frankenstein



Auditions: Aug 31, Sep 1
Performance: Oct 26-28

Musical:
Fiddler *on the* Roof

Audn. Workshop: Oct 30
Auditions: Nov 7-9
Performance: Feb 15-17

A silhouette of a person sitting on the floor and playing a violin.

Spring:
**Complete Works of
William Shakespeare
(Abridged)**

Auditions: Feb 22-23
Performance: Apr 11-13

A portrait of William Shakespeare, showing his face and a ruff collar.

**Senior
Directed
One-Act Plays**

Auditions: March 20
Performance: May 3-4

An illustration of a director's chair, which is a white chair with a red backrest.



PTO Blues Backers November 2023

WHO WE ARE

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

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

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

FUNDRAISING

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 this fall. 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 November 2023

**FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK!**



@WRHSBluesBackers

WE LOVE DONATIONS!

We continue to accept donations throughout the year for each year's post prom event. Venmo is available for purchasing items, memberships, donations, etc...

@WashburnruralHSpto



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need your help!!!

- Organize 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!
- We need several members to help out with Post-Prom Chairs

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, NOVEMBER 8TH**



PTO Blues Backers November 2023

THANK YOU MEMBERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Jr. Blue Level

Allison Malmstrom
Amanda Kiefer
Amber and Brad Miller
Anne Wilson
April Holman
Arif/Adeela Chaudhry
Ashley Manrose
Blake and Joan Sutton
Brad and Lori Rupp
Brad Noller
 American Family Insurance
Brett & Cherie Garrett
Brett and Amy Bauer
Brian & Megan Hall
Brooke Bowditch
Casey Frisby
Chad and Kim Redwkwr
Charlie and Misty Nimz
Chris & Nancy Alvarez
Chedzoy
Christopher Atteberry
Christopher Holman
Christy Classi
Cory & Nicole Huey
David and Catherine St John
Debbie Thompson
Dustin and Carrie Hawks
Ed and Carmen Raines
Erik and Chelsea Blankenship
Erin Appuhn
Jacqueline Lightcap
Jamie & Mary Gingrich

Jamie Olsen
Jeanne Winter
 Furniture Mall of Kansas
Jen Vandevelde
Jenna Benson
Jennifer Dodge
Jennifer Grogan
Jennifer Heim
Jennifer Kuhlmann
Jennifer Spencer
Jerrod & Katie Ansley
John and Cheryl Tuckwin
John Hoytal
Katarina Carlson
Kevin and Tamara Maxwell
Kim Lanterman
Liz Klausman
Lt Col Ron Daniels
 WRHS AFJROTC
Mark Leenerts
 Integrity Roofing
Mary Lawhon
Matt and Jeanette Spurgin
Matt and Jenn Harader
Melanie Buckhalter
Melissa Briggs
Mindy Ladd
Morgan Padgett
Noelle A. Resch
Rachel Ebert
Rob and Nuay Winter
Robert and Angie Haggard

Robin & Steve Wolgast
Sara Mcilvain
Steve and Lora Durst
Susan Poling
TaraMays
Terry Martinez
Thad and Megan Halstead
Travis & Sarah Jepson



PTO Blues Backers November 2023

THANK YOU MEMBERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Blue Level

Andie VanDonge
Bella Salon & Day Spa
Anya Leonard
Betsy Tryhus
Charity King
Christina Nelson
Dirk and Amy Christian
Emily & Jeff Ragsdale
Jacqueline Hill-Barton
Jamie Garcia
Jamie Lira
Jenny Cornelius Hylton
Jessica Matteson
Jessica Miller
Kellie Wanamaker
Kerstin and Kevin Smith
LiveFree
Kristin Shorb
Leslie Carr
Lindsey DeShazer
Mandy Stubblefield
Marcy Steflik
Megan Kirby
Melissa Aeschliman
Nikki Meier
Randy & Megan Stookey
Sarah Sharp
Sarah Turner
Stephanie Stevenson

Tiffany M Watkins
Tim and Karah Hight
Troy and Jennifer Findley
Y'Sondra Dixon
Essentia Salon & Spa

White Level

Amanda Wilson
Crystal Heble
Dana Soph
Deanna Hutsen
Eric Dorzweiler
Jason and Karen Thompson
Jennifer Owen
Joy Marie Galliard
Kristi Bruce
Lori Reelfs
Mike Gilliland
Raven Rachal
Ronda and Eric Kozlowski
Royce Overbey Jr
Sandra Tuffley
Sarah Hammel
Sierra Becerra
Tecumsia Steed



PTO Blues Backers November 2023

2023-2024 PTO CONTACT INFORMATION

PRESIDENT:

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ASSISTANT TREASURER:

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Charlie Nimz nimzcha@usd437.net

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CONCESSIONS WINTER CHAIR:

TBA

CONCESSIONS SPRING CHAIR:

TBA

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PRINT/SOCIAL MEDIA:

Shanna Simpson shannabanana0519@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Ronda Kozlowski rondakoz@gmail.com

STAFF APPRECIATION:

Charity King charityklux@yahoo.com

◆ November Student Calendar

Wednesday, November 1

First Day of American Indian Heritage Month

Thursday, November 2

TSCPL Author Visit

Friday, November 3

Varsity Boys Soccer State Tournament

Chess Club Practice

Varsity Football Regionals

Saturday, November 4

Spirit Showcase

District Honor Band/Choir/Orchestra Auditions

Varsity Boys Soccer State Tournament

Monday, November 6

Fall Buffer Week

Board of Education

Stacie Beaver Concert

Tuesday, November 7

Fall Buffer Week

Veterans Day Assembly

Wednesday, November 8

Fall Buffer Week

Early Release - 90 minutes

Student Council Meeting

Unified Bowling Regionals

Volleyball Banquet

Thursday, November 9

Fall Buffer Week

Blood Drive

Renaissance Breakfast

Musical Auditions

Soccer Banquet

Fall Jazz Concert

KSHSAA BB Mtg.

Friday, November 10

Fall Buffer Week

Chess Club Practice

Varsity Football Sectionals

Saturday, November 11

Fall Buffer Week

Veterans Day

Monday, November 13

1st Day of Winter Sports

Wednesday, November 15

Scholars Bowl Tourney

Thursday, November 16

Club Day

Friday, November 17

Baker Jazz Festival

KSHSAA State Dance

Varsity Football Sub-State

Saturday, November 18

KSHSAA State Cheer

Monday, November 20

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Staff Professional Learning Day

Board of Education

Tuesday, November 21

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Staff Professional Learning Day

Wednesday, November 22

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, November 23

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Friday, November 24

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break

Saturday, November 25

Varsity Football 6A State Finals

Wednesday, November 29

Student Council Meeting

NTHS Induction Ceremony