WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR BLUES NEWSLETTER



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FEATURED STORY

FALL SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

It has been a championship season for Washburn Rural Girls Tennis! Congratulations to Coach Rose, Coach Bradley, and the Junior Blues on an outstanding season. The varsity team captured both the Varsity City Championship and the Varsity Centennial League Championship. The City title was especially meaningful, as it had been two years since Washburn Rural last won the championship. The team's success reflects its hard work, determination, and commitment throughout the season.

The JV girls also brought home the JV City Championship, giving Washburn Rural a sweep of the City titles!

The Junior Blues continued their impressive season at the Class 6A State Tennis Championship, where the team finished 6th overall. Washburn Rural earned 4th place in doubles and 11th place in singles, marking the team's best state finish in more than 10 years!

From the Desk of Our Principal



Hello again,

As we wrap up the first nine-week grading period, it is a good time to reflect on what has already been a busy and successful start to the school year. There is much to celebrate at Washburn Rural High School, and I am proud of the work our students and staff are doing each day.

As both the principal of WRHS and the parent of two WRHS graduates, I have had the opportunity to experience our school from more than one perspective. I remain confident in the quality of education our students receive and in the dedication of the teachers and staff who support them. At the same time, we recognize that students sometimes encounter challenges along the way. With plenty of time remaining before the end of the semester, now is an excellent opportunity to identify concerns and take advantage of the resources available to help.

One of the most valuable tools for monitoring your child's progress is our Parent Portal. Through the portal, families can keep track of grades, attendance, behavior, lunch account balances, and other important information. Because information is updated regularly, the portal provides an excellent way to stay connected to your child's progress throughout the semester.

If you have not yet activated your Parent Portal account, please contact my Administrative Assistant, Ms. Susan Kaspar, at 785-339-4104 to obtain your activation key and assistance getting started. If you notice an area of concern while reviewing your child's information, I encourage you to reach out directly to their teacher.

Our teachers are available before school beginning at 7:30 a.m. and generally after school until approximately 3:30 p.m. to provide additional assistance. Teachers who also have coaching or activity responsibilities may have limited availability after school but are happy to arrange a time to meet with students before school.

If your child needs additional support, I also encourage you to contact their counselor. Our counseling staff is an excellent resource for students and families:

Leslie Fischer (339-4117): Last names A–D
Keith Wetzel (339-4116): Last names E–J
Emilio Chavez (339-4103): Last names K–O
Michelle Pegram-Caporusso (339-4911): Last names P–T
Marie Coates (339-4118): Student Services
Marcie Frederickson (339-4115): Last names U–Z, International Baccalaureate, Student Services–Gifted
Brooke Mulford (339-4119): Alternative Education, REACH

Our counselors work closely with students, families, and teachers to help students reach their academic goals. When additional assistance is needed, a student may be referred to our Student Intervention Team (SIT). This collaborative process brings together educational professionals and parents to review a student's progress, identify areas of concern, and develop appropriate interventions. Many challenges can be successfully addressed through this process, and when additional steps are needed, our counselors will work with families to explore the available options.

At Washburn Rural High School, student success is a shared effort. We appreciate the partnership of our families and encourage you to stay connected, ask questions, and reach out when your child needs support. Working together, we can help ensure that every student has the opportunity to make the most of the remainder of the semester and the school year ahead.

Best,

Ed Raines

Ed Raines, Principal
raineedw@usd437.net

WRHS Counseling Office

Counseling Website
Crisis Hotline: 785-232-5005 or 988

Kansas Board of Regents Seven Bucket Framework
The Board of Regents has implemented a Seven Bucket Framework for students pursuing bachelor degrees. The seven buckets represent general academic areas that students must complete to earn a degree. Information and requirements can be found at https://www.kansasregents.gov/academic_affairs/general-education/seven-bucket-framework. We encourage families of college bound students to become familiar with this framework.

Second Semester Schedule Changes
From November 9-December 12, counselors will work to fill second semester gaps for grades 9-11. Students should email their counselor or write their name on the counselor's whiteboard 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 2030 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. This tentative plan will be revised during spring pre-enrollment. We encourage families to work together to create a plan which will help students set goals. The course planning guide is an excellent resource. 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. The Class of 2027 were prepared and excited about their postsecondary plans! 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
This American School Counselor Association recommends the CDC program Dating Matters for parents of teens. This program helps parents support healthy teenage dating relationships.

CLASS OF
2028
AND BEYOND

TWO POST SECONDARY ASSETS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

COMPLETE ANY 2 OF THE FOLLOWING . . .

TEST SCORES FOR:
STATE ASSESSMENT (ENGLISH, MATH OR SCIENCE): 3+
ACT: 21+, AP: 3+, IB: 4+, ASVAB: 31+

95% ATTENDANCE
2 HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
KBOR SCHOLARS CURRICULUM
9 COLLEGE HOURS
JROTC (ONE YEAR)
WORKPLACE LEARNING
SEAL OF BILITERACY
40 HOURS COMMUNITY SERVICE
INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION
EAGLE SCOUT OR GOLD AWARD
SENIOR EXIT SURVEY

VISIT YOUR COUNSELOR FOR DETAILS



AFTER SCHOOL LABS

Tuesdays & Thursdays

3:05-4:15

Library

English. Math, Science, Social Studies

AF-JROTC

Room G2342



NEED A RIDE?

Sign up in the Main Office before 6th Period

FIBER ARTS CLUB

Help the fiber arts club supply hospitalized children with sock monkeys! Students and staff members can crochet, knit, or sew sock monkeys to contribute to the project.



HELP YOUR COMMUNITY



TO LEARN MORE INFO CONTACT MS. FOSTER

Fall Sport and Activities

WRHS Girls Golf Finishes Strong at State



The WRHS Girls Golf Team wrapped up an outstanding season with a 6th-place finish at the KSHSAA State Tournament at Firekeeper Golf Course!

Congratulations to Coach Beck and the entire team on a great season and an impressive finish at state.

Marching Junior Blues Celebrate Outstanding Season

Congratulations to Mr. Luke Chaffee, Mr. Chris Exum, Ms. Meredith Casey, and the WRHS Marching Junior Blues on an incredible season and an outstanding finish!

At the Macon City Marching Festival on October 24, the band earned 2nd place overall, while the percussion corps continued its dominant season by capturing 1st place overall.

The band wrapped up its season on October 31 at the Neewollah Marching Festival in Independence, Kansas, earning Best in Class, Grand Champion, and Outstanding Percussion Section honors.



Fall Sport and Activities

Girls Tennis Celebrates Championship Season and Makes School History



Congratulations to Coach Rose, Coach Bradley, and the Junior Blues on an outstanding season. The varsity team captured both the Varsity City Championship and the Varsity Centennial League Championship. The City title was especially meaningful, as it had been two years since Washburn Rural last won the championship. The team's success reflects its hard work, determination, and commitment throughout the season.

The JV girls also brought home the JV City Championship, giving Washburn Rural a sweep of the City titles! The Junior Blues continued their impressive season at the Class 6A State Tennis Championship, where the team finished 6th overall. Washburn Rural earned 4th place in doubles and 11th place in singles, marking the team's best state finish in more than 10 years!

Junior Blues Volleyball Captures Sub-State Championship



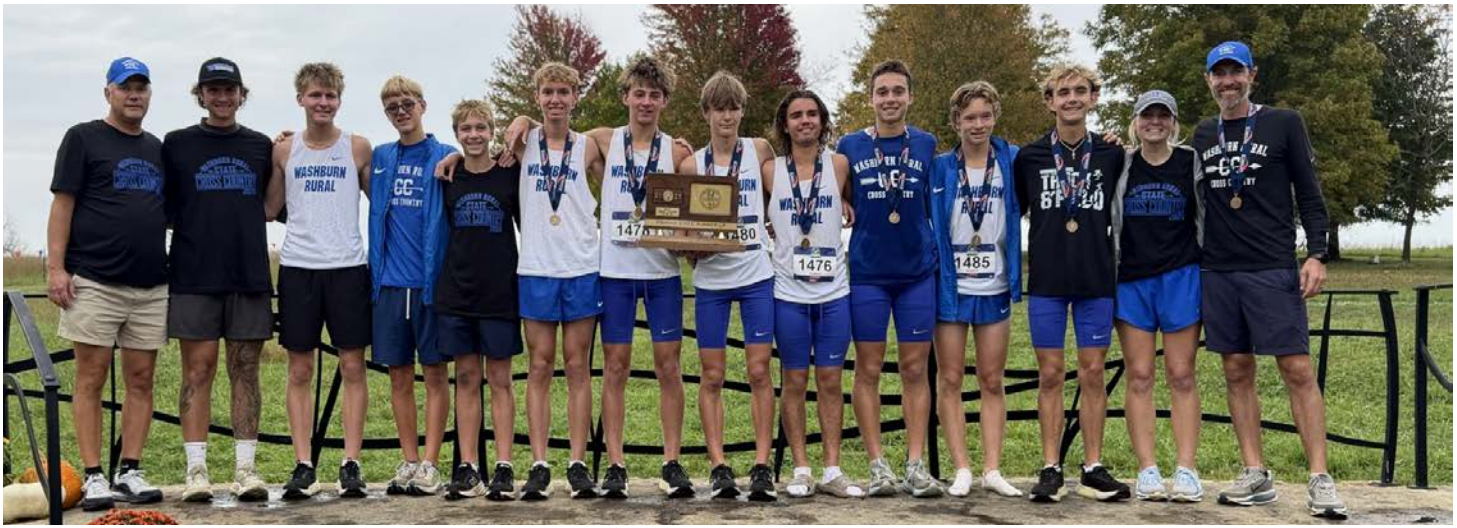
Congratulations to Coach Bordewick, the assistant coaches, and the Washburn Rural volleyball team on capturing the Class 6A West Sub-State Championship! After dropping the first set to Manhattan, the Junior Blues showed tremendous resilience and determination, rallying to win the next two sets (17-25, 25-15, 25-21).

With the victory, the team punched its ticket to the Class 6A State Tournament in Salina.

Fall Sport and Activities

Washburn Rural Cross Country Caps Successful Season at State

The Washburn Rural cross country teams wrapped up an outstanding season with strong performances at the KSHSAA Class 6A State Cross Country Meet at Rim Rock Farm on October 31. The boys team finished as Class 6A State Runner-Up, while the girls team earned an impressive 6th-place overall finish.

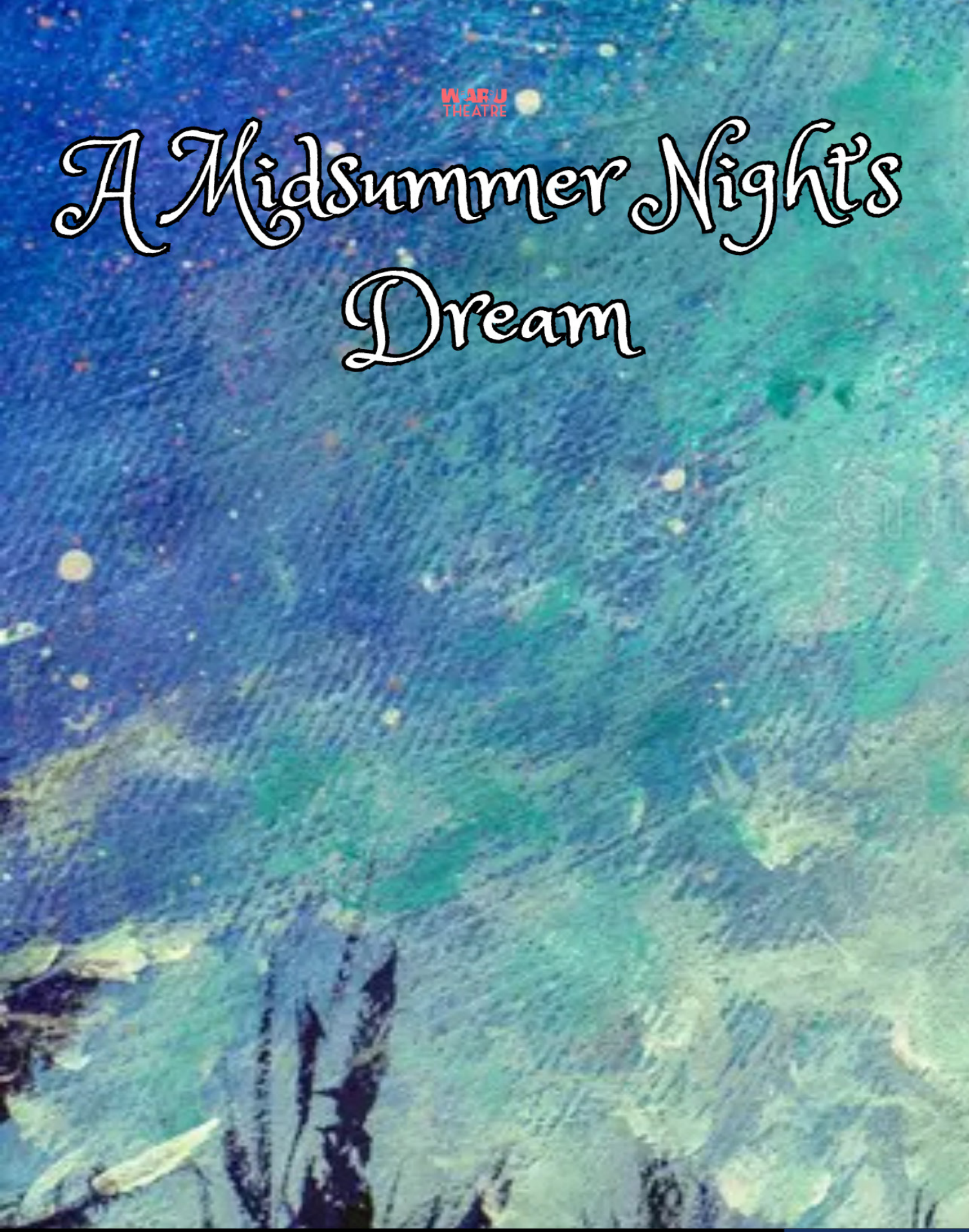


The boys entered the season as defending state champions, returning much of their top-seven lineup and carrying high expectations. The Junior Blues delivered throughout the season, earning team victories at Manhattan and at their home meet, capturing their 20th consecutive Topeka City Championship, and claiming the league championship.

Individually, the boys continued to shine. Duke Graf earned an individual victory at the City Championship, with Jaxson Adams finishing second. At the league championship, Henry Laubach captured the individual title in just his second race back from injury, while Graf placed third with a personal-record time by 15 seconds. The team also demonstrated its depth by placing all eight runners in the top 14 at the league meet.

Both the boys and girls teams carried their hard work and determination into the state meet, capping a memorable season for Washburn Rural Cross Country.

Congratulations to Coaches Swedlund, Sigvaldson, and Cropp, and to all of our boys and girls runners on a fantastic season! Your dedication, teamwork, and accomplishments have made Washburn Rural proud!



November 5-7 | 7 pm | WARU Auditorium
5900 SW 61st St, Topeka, KS 66619

$7 for students

$10 general admission

Career and Technical Education

Career Clusters and Pathways at Washburn Rural

For the 2027-2028 school year, there will be a few changes in the Clusters/Pathways offered at WRHS. This information will be provided in the Course Planning Guide in January. The Kansas State Department of Education has completed the Cluster/Pathway reviews in order to align KS with the National Clusters and Pathways being offered.
https://careertech.org/career-clusters/



A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. The Career Clusters organize academic and occupational knowledge and skills into a coherent course sequence and identify pathways from secondary schools to two and four-year colleges, graduate schools, and the workplace. Students learn in school about what they can do in the future. This connection to future goals motivates students to work harder and enroll in more rigorous courses.

CAREER READY STANDARDS: These are taught in all CTE coursework and are embedded within the overall competencies taught in each CTE class.

Competencies for Career Ready Standards

1. Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
2. Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
3. Attend to personal health and financial well-being.
4. Communicate clearly, effectively, and with reason.
5. Consider the environmental, social, and economic impacts of decisions.
6. Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
7. Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
8. Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
9. Model integrity, ethical leadership, and effective management.
10. Plan education and career path aligned to personal goals.
11. Use technology to enhance productivity.
12. Work productively in teams while using cultural/global competence.

Currently, WRHS offers 15 pathways in the following areas. Refer to the Course Planning Guide for more information. CTE pathway charts can be found on pages 11-16. If you have any questions, please contact your counselor.

Why CTE Matters

According to KSDE, CTE helps students prepare for future jobs by offering a planned sequence of courses that teaches both academic content and hands-on technical skills. These courses can lead to industry-recognized certificates or college credentials and may include real-world learning like work-based projects.

Career and Technical Education

CTE connects middle school, high school, and college programs so students can earn credit early and explore different careers. Kansas uses a modern framework that aligns CTE programs with the state's workforce needs, helping students learn about high-skill, high-demand, and high-wage careers.
Key Benefits for Students

- **Real-World Skills:** Students learn technical proficiencies and essential "soft skills" like problem-solving, teamwork, communication, and time management.
- **Higher Graduation Rates:** Students enrolled in CTE programs often experience higher engagement and greater graduation rates (averaging around 93%) compared to traditional tracks.
- **Cost Savings and College Credit:** Many CTE programs allow students to earn cost-free industry certifications or college credits early through dual enrollment, reducing future college costs.
- **Early Career Exploration:** Students test out different industries—from healthcare and information technology to agriculture and traditional trades—before making costly post-secondary decisions.
- **Stronger Earning Potential**: Postsecondary credentials and associate degrees in CTE fields can yield higher lifetime earnings, often surpassing traditional bachelor's degrees while lowering student debt.
- **Closing the Skills Gap:** CTE directly addresses nationwide labor shortages across key sectors like healthcare, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and construction.
  Benefits for Schools and Communities
- **Stronger Local Economies:** CTE programs partner with local employers to build a skilled workforce that supports regional economic development.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** Programs help students confirm their passions or realize a specific path is *not* for them, preventing wasted time and money later.

Manufacturing

Kaeden Griffith has successfully completed the NCCER Welding 1 Level! To earn this accomplishment, Kaeden independently studied for the NCCER CORE modules and completed all required exams. He completed his final exam and officially earned his Welding 1 credential.

We are proud of Kaeden's hard work, dedication, and commitment to developing his welding skills. Congratulations, Kaeden, on this outstanding accomplishment!

Scott Hughes Brings Real-World Banking Experience to Personal Finance Classes

On September 30, Scott Hughes of Silver Lake Bank spoke to Mr. McFall's Consumer and Personal Finance classes at Washburn Rural High School, sharing real-world financial knowledge and insights from his 23 years in the banking industry.



Hughes shared his career journey with students, including his time on the golf team at the University of Central Missouri and his career as a golf professional at Topeka Country Club before transitioning into banking. He has spent the past 23 years with Silver Lake Bank, where he has worked as a lender serving both consumer and commercial customers. Hughes also discussed different types of bank accounts, including checking, savings, and certificates of deposit (CDs).

Career and Technical Education

A significant portion of the presentation focused on loans and the 5 C's of Credit. Hughes explained how lenders evaluate borrowers by considering Character, Capacity, Collateral, Conditions, and Capital. Students learned how factors such as credit history, job and account history, income, debt-to-income ratio, net worth, liquidity, collateral, insurance, loan terms, and cosigners can affect the lending process.

Hughes emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong FICO credit score and explained how a person's history of paying others can affect their ability to obtain credit. He discussed how credit scores can impact borrowing for credit cards, small loans, and vehicles, as well as other areas such as insurance.

Students also learned about fraud prevention and account management. Hughes encouraged students to be aware of potential fraud and regularly monitor their accounts. He discussed the importance of avoiding overdrafts and responsibly managing checking and savings accounts.

Hughes also introduced students to the many career opportunities available in banking. He described positions including tellers, customer service representatives, branch managers, loan officers, credit analysts, IT professionals, and accounting staff. Students learned that careers in banking require a wide range of skills, including communication, customer service, accounting, finance, analysis, sales, technology, and problem-solving.

The presentation gave students an inside look at the banking industry while connecting directly to concepts they are studying in Consumer and Personal Finance. Washburn Rural High School is thankful for its partnership with Silver Lake Bank and appreciates the time and expertise that Scott Hughes and the Silver Lake Bank team continue to share with our students.

Exploring Careers in Banking: Consumer and Personal Finance Students Learn About the Industry

Students in Mr. McFall's Consumer and Personal Finance classes recently learned about the banking industry through a presentation by Rayanna Isaacson and J.W. Wells of the Kansas Bankers Association (KBA).



The presenters explained the purpose of the Kansas Bankers Association and its role in supporting banks and banking professionals throughout the state. The KBA works to strengthen Kansas banking through leadership, advocacy, and education. It represents the interests of member banks, provides information about legislative and regulatory changes, and offers resources to help banks operate effectively and serve their customers and communities.

Students learned about the many services the KBA provides to its members, including professional training and conferences, legal and regulatory compliance assistance, insurance and employee benefit programs, networking opportunities, and communication resources. The association also supports workforce development through career resources, internship connections, and educational opportunities that introduce students to careers in banking. These services help banking professionals stay informed, develop new skills, and navigate the changing financial industry.

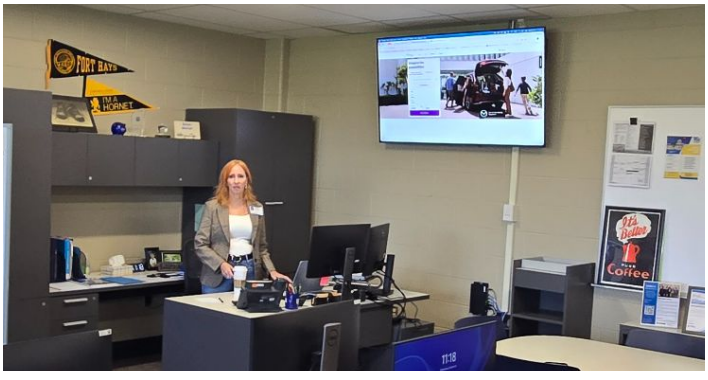
The presentation also highlighted Fort Hays State University's Robbins Banking Institute, which was established in 2017 to prepare students for careers in community banking. The institute offers a finance degree with a

banking concentration, a banking minor, and a banking certificate. Students can benefit from hands-on learning, internship opportunities, professional networking, and leadership development.

Banking offers a wide range of career opportunities, including mortgage underwriting, financial analysis, compliance and operations, lending, and customer service. These careers allow individuals to apply financial knowledge, communication, problem-solving, and decision-making skills in a professional setting.

The presentation gave students a broader understanding of how the banking industry operates beyond the services customers see at their local bank. It also helped connect the financial concepts studied in Mr. McFall's classes to real-world careers and educational opportunities available to students interested in pursuing a future in finance.

Consumer and Personal Finance Students Explore Fintech



Students in Consumer and Personal Finance recently welcomed Brandi Moegelin from Trnsact for a presentation on financial technology, or fintech, and how it is changing the way people and businesses borrow money.

Brandi explained how technology is transforming the financing process for everything from personal vehicles to semi-trucks, construction equipment, and farm machinery. Students learned how digital applications, credit checks, and connections between lenders can turn a process that once took days or weeks into a decision that may happen the same day.

The presentation connected directly to topics students study in class, including interest rates, credit scores, loans, and the true cost of borrowing. For example, students explored how the interest rate on a car loan can significantly affect the total amount paid over time.

Brandi also discussed career opportunities in the growing fintech industry, including software development, data analysis, credit analysis, and compliance. Students considered important questions about how technology affects lending decisions, including consumer privacy, fairness, and the use of personal financial information.

The visit gave students a real-world look at how financial knowledge and technology work together in today's economy and how the concepts they are learning now apply to major financial decisions throughout their lives.

Future Educators Explore Teaching at Emporia State University Summit

Students enrolled in our Teaching as a Career and Teaching Observation classes recently had the exciting opportunity to attend the Future Educators Summit at Emporia State University. This experience allowed students to explore the field of education, learn more about the teaching profession, and discover the many opportunities available to them as future educators.

During their visit, students toured the Emporia State University campus and got a firsthand look at college life. They also participated in interactive breakout sessions designed to introduce them to different aspects of education and help them better understand the responsibilities and rewards of becoming a teacher. These

Career and Technical Education

sessions provided students with opportunities to engage in meaningful activities, ask questions, and learn more about what it takes to be successful in the classroom.



In addition to the hands-on experiences, students had the chance to learn from university professors and connect with current college students. Hearing directly from those who teach and study at the university gave students valuable insight into the college experience, teacher preparation programs, and the steps they can take to pursue a career in education. These conversations also allowed students to explore their interests and begin thinking about their own goals for the future.

Attending the Future Educators Summit was a valuable learning experience for students in both classes. By stepping outside the traditional classroom setting, they were able to connect what they have learned in their courses to real-world opportunities in education. Experiences like this help students build confidence, broaden their perspectives, and better understand the impact teachers can have on their communities.

As these students continue exploring the teaching profession, the Future Educators Summit served as an exciting step toward their future careers. We are proud of their interest in education and look forward to seeing how they continue to grow as future educators and leaders!

Family and Consumer Science



Culinary Arts students recently participated in Loaves of Thanks, a community service project focused on giving back through the gift of homemade bread. Students put their baking skills into practice while creating fresh loaves to share with others in the community. This project provided an opportunity for students to develop their culinary skills while demonstrating kindness, gratitude, and the importance of serving others.

Career and Technical Education

Students in Culinary Arts put their cooking skills to the test with a fun and delicious Crepe Making Challenge! Students created their own unique crepes while demonstrating creativity, presentation skills, and proper culinary techniques. From sweet to savory combinations, students showcased their creativity and had the opportunity to learn from one another while enjoying some tasty results. It was a great way to bring hands-on learning, friendly competition, and culinary creativity together in the classroom! Congratulations to the big winners: Ian Ketter, Harper Tenbrink, and Lauren Lebruska.







Culinary Arts students recently put their baking skills to the test by participating in a muffin bake-off contest. Students showcased their creativity, practiced baking techniques, and competed to create delicious muffins. This hands-on activity allowed students to apply their classroom knowledge, build confidence in the kitchen, and enjoy some friendly competition with their classmates.











Career and Technical Education

Computer Programming & Robotics

WRHS Students bring Code-a-Pillar back to life for Farley 1st Graders

High school programming and robotics students Ben Maas, Colin Kirkwood, and Cannon Wettengel recently helped repair a Code-a-Pillar for Nikki Meier's first-grade classroom at Farley Elementary School.

When Nikki reached out to see if our students could help, Ben, Colin, and Cannon stepped up to the challenge without hesitation. Over the course of the week, they used their technical skills and a soldering iron to make the necessary repairs and get the Code-a-Pillar working like new!

Since its return to the classroom, Nikki's students have been eagerly vying for a chance to use the Code-a-Pillar during their STEM stations.

This is a great example of the impact we can make when programs collaborate across our district. Not only did our high school students get to apply their coding, robotics, and troubleshooting skills to a real-world problem, but they also brought back something that brings so much joy to a group of younger students.

It's exciting to see our students using their skills to support others, and I hope we can continue to foster these connections across the district. Sometimes, a small project can make a big difference!





Washburn Rural FFA



October has been an exciting and busy month for Washburn Rural FFA! We are thrilled to share some of the accomplishments and experiences our members have been a part of this month.

We officially established a partnership with Somerset Lavender Farm, creating exciting new opportunities for our students to gain hands-on experience in plant science and greenhouse management. On October 13 and

Career and Technical Education

October 19, students took lavender cuttings, and we now have even more plants growing in our greenhouse to monitor and care for as we continue learning about plant propagation!

We also wrapped up our Seitz fundraiser this month! Thank you to everyone who supported our chapter. Orders are scheduled to be delivered in November, and we appreciate the community's support in helping our FFA members learn, grow, and participate in new opportunities.

To finish out October, our members are attending the National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana! With more than 70,000 FFA members, advisors, and guests in attendance, this is an incredible opportunity for our students to connect with members from across the country. During the convention, students participated in leadership workshops, explored the Career and College Fair Expo to learn more about future educational and career opportunities, and enjoyed an entertaining hypnotist show! We are also looking forward to an escape room experience that will challenge our teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills.

Looking ahead, our members will have another exciting opportunity on October 28, when we travel to participate in Dairy Cattle Judging and Entomology. These events will allow students to develop their evaluation and identification skills while putting their agricultural knowledge into practice.

We are proud of everything our members have accomplished this month and look forward to all the opportunities and experiences still to come. Thank you for continuing to support Washburn Rural FFA!



Manufacturing



Washburn Rural High School welding students recently attended the Washburn Tech Open House and toured local business HME. These experiences provided students with valuable opportunities to explore postsecondary training options, learn more about careers in the welding industry, and see how welding skills are applied in real-world work environments.

Career and Technical Education

Support a Great Cause with Every Cup!

Washburn Rural High School DECA students Alea Colley and Madyson Nelson have been hard at work this semester on their Sales Project, and it's finally here!

Meet Blend 437, a delicious coffee option that tastes great and gives back to our local community. For every bag sold, $5.00 will be donated directly to the Helping Hands Humane Society to support animals in need!



Profits go directly toward improving the shelter stay for animals like Daya and helping them find their forever homes! Daya is an incredibly smart pup; she has shown signs of being trained and is incredible on a leash. So if you want a companion for your walks or an outgoing partner to explore the world, check her out and many other animals on the Helping Hands website!

Where to pick up your bag:
PT's Coffee (Wheatfield Village Store)
Hy-Vee
Curly Top Customs
WRHS Common Grounds (In Store / Online)





Helping Hands has a best friend for everyone, from dogs to guinea pigs; your new bestie could be waiting for you!

Pictured from top left to bottom right:
Hamazon Prime, Ruby Ann, Lottie, and Queen!

Grab your coffee today and help make a difference for shelter pets!

WRHS BANK

WIN $500

DRAWING AT THE END OF THE YEAR

- REQUIRES MONTHLY DEPOSIT OF $10
- GIFT CARD DRAWINGS EVERY MONTH

Jr. Blue Crew

WRHS Bank

Let your change make a change!

Join the Jr. Blue Crew!

- Easy to open an account
- Save/ Invest in your future
- Use Cash or Check to Deposit!

3.5% INTEREST



FAQS:

- **How do I open an account?**

Come to the WRHS bank during lunch and bring $10 & your student ID

- **How do I access my funds?**

Bank Funds are managed in person

Stop by the bank during lunch to make deposits/withdrawals

@wr.bank

@WRHSbank

Fall into Giving



$31-38



$21-26



$30-37



order on ruralspirit.square.site today!

Auburn Washburn
Unified School District 437

USD 437 Elementary Apparel

T-Shirt $10
Tye Dye T-Shirt $15
Crewneck $16 Youth / $17 Adult
designs available for all schools!

ruralspirit.square.site

or scan the QR code









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:

wrhsportraits@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.

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.

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

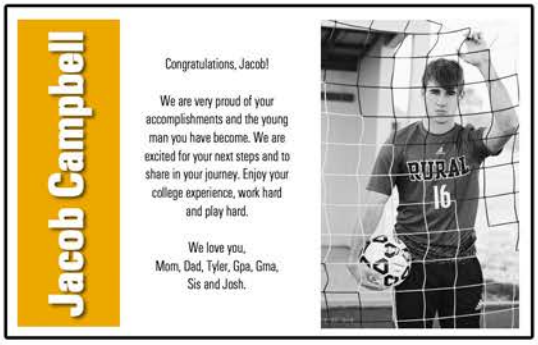
Salute A: Two Vertical Photos; No Words



Salute B: One Horizontal Photo; No Words



Salute C: One Vertical Photo; 50 Words or Less

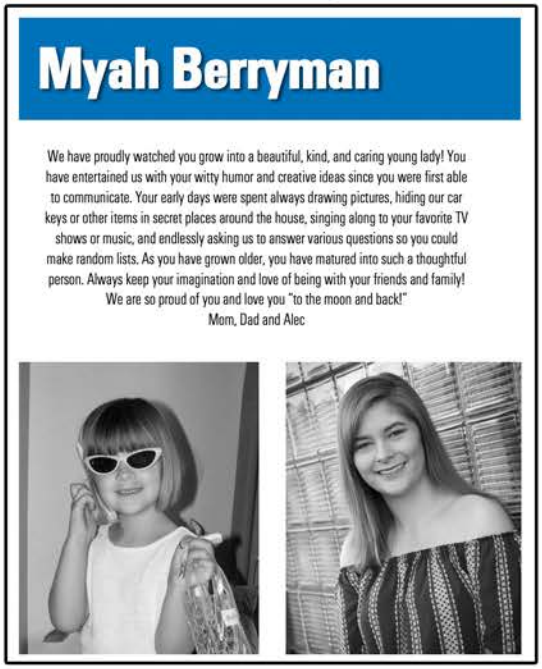


Salute D: Two Horizontal Photos; 50 Words or Less

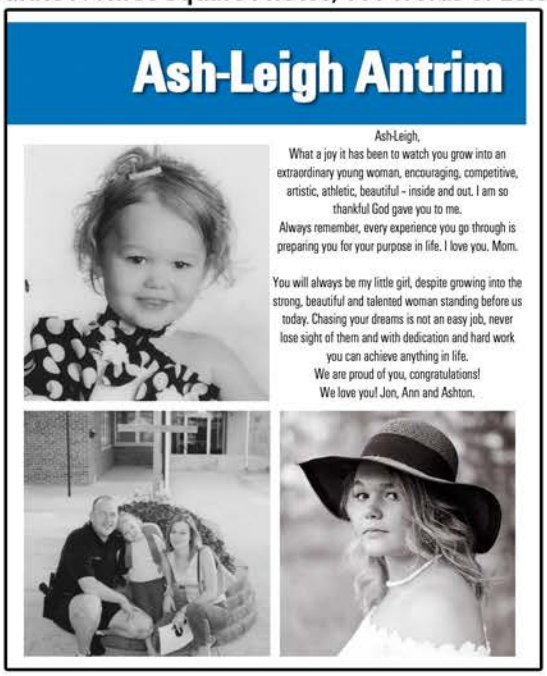


1/4 Page Options

Salute E: Two Vertical Photos; 100 Words or Less



Salute F: Three Square Photos; 100 Words or Less



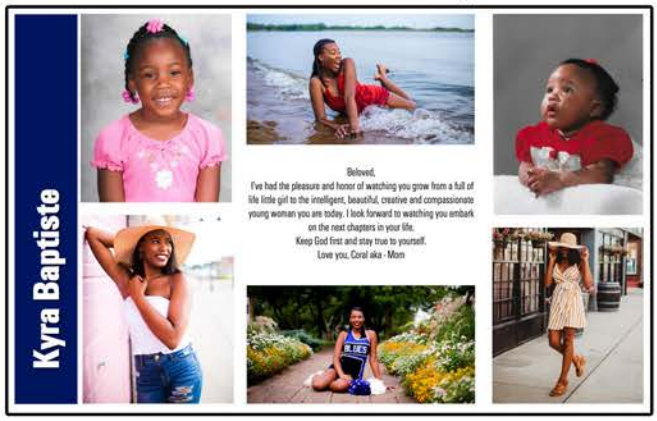
Salute Layout Options
Examples are smaller than actual size

1/2 Page Options

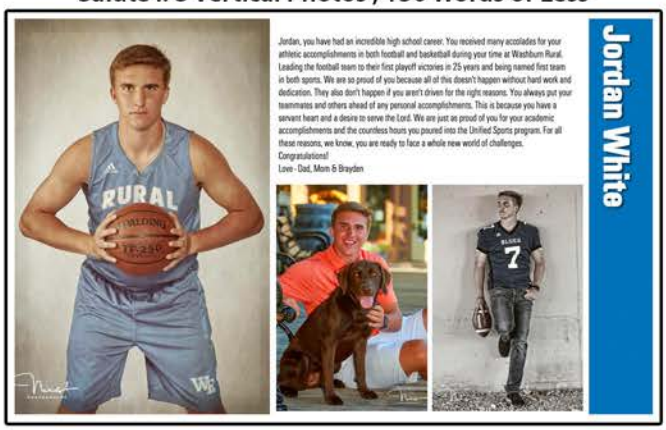
Salute G: 2 Vertical & 3 Square Photos; 150 Words or Less



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



Salute I: 3 Vertical Photos ; 150 Words or Less



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



Full Page Options

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



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



2027 WRHS YEARBOOK

Name: _____

Grade: 9 10 11 12

Yearbook Prices: **$60.00** ☐

$75 for available extra copies at 2028 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

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

YOUR MONTHLY LIBRARY NEWSLETTER FILLED WITH: FEATURED BOOKS, READING CHALLENGES, BRAIN BREAKS, & NEWS FROM MRS. FINNEY & THE WRHS LIBRARY!



Sewing Machines!

The WRHS Library has two sewing machines available for student and staff use! They can be found in non-fiction by the graphic novels. The machines must be used in the library.

Browse the stacks challenge:

A book that begins with "S"!

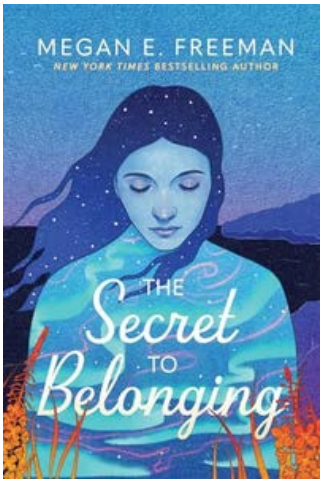
Don't know what to read this month? Stuck in a reading slump? Browse the shelves for a title that begins with the letter "S"! Remember, if you finish the monthly challenge, let Finney know what you read and get a bonus entry into the monthly you've been caught reading drawing!



FEATURED BOOK

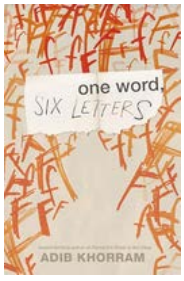
The Secret to Belonging

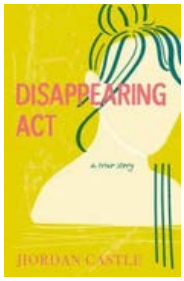
Megan E. Freeman
F FRE

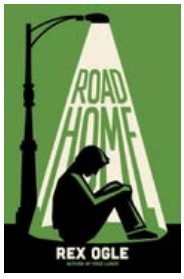


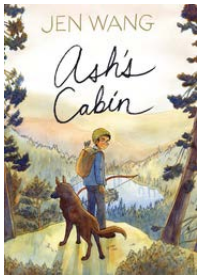
A novel in verse that follows the life a teen girl whose family only seem to care about her brother. When they give away her college fund to pay for his rehab, she applies for and wins a scholarship to spend her senior year abroad in Norway. It's there she learns that family can be a place to feel trust and love, but sometimes we must choose our own family.

SIMILAR TITLES INCLUDE











Library

Connect with us for:

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

After school, connect with us @wrhslib

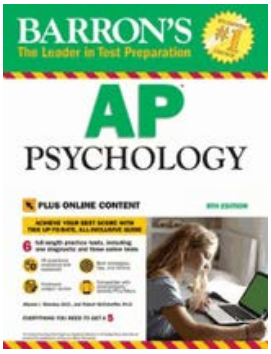
Message for assistance:
Marcy Sandberg sandbmar@usd437.net
Victoria Finney finnevic@usd437.net



Have you met Dewey?

100s - Philosophy & Psychology

The 100s is a small, but mighty section. Whether you're enrolled in AP Psychology and looking for additional test prep, or are just fascinated by the human mind and what we are compelled to believe and do, the 100s is the place for you!



ACTIVITY TIME

Thanksgiving Word Scramble

Can you unscramble these eleven Thanksgiving themed words?

No.	Scrambled Letters	Your Answer
1.	UMUNTA	
2.	MAFYIL	
3.	APERDA	
4.	TKYUER	
5.	PUPKMIN	
6.	EALRETBEC	
7.	AINODITRT	
8.	SEVLTFIA	
9.	NOEOARDCTI	
10.	ETASF	
11.	IISHKNGNGVTA	



Contact your school librarians:

Mrs. Sandberg: sandbmar@usd437.net
Mrs. Finney: finnevic@usd437.net

LIBRARY SIGHTINGS

It's Already November?!



Where has the time gone!? Not only is it already November, but we're almost halfway done with the year!

Looking for more reading promotions? Follow Mrs. Finney's reading blog (linked below) to see the current reading promotions, what she's reading, and watch her virtual book talk series, The First Three Pages.

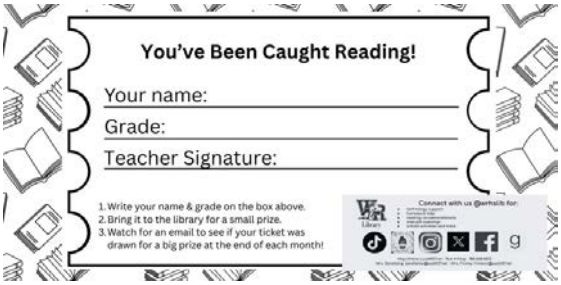
Mrs. Sandberg shares her virtual Book Creator activity guide with teachers every week. This virtual "catalog" of activities ranges from AI strategies, to TSCPL resources, database tips, and book suggestions. Ask your teacher to post this week's catalog in your online classroom!

Thank you to everyone who participated in and promoted the Read with Finney Book Club first meeting pick *White Smoke* by Tiffany D. Jackson! Our second meeting will be Thursday, December 3rd, and will feature *Hail Mary* by Andy Weir. Sign ups open November 2nd! The first 10 students to sign up get a goodie bag and a copy of the book to keep. All students who are in good standing will be excused from class to participate in a virtual author visit. Visit the library for more info!

Have you signed up for the reading extra credit project? If your teacher has it featured in their online classroom, use the PDF to sign up by 3:02 PM on Friday, November 20th. All projects are due to Mrs. Finney by 11:59 PM on Friday, December 11th!

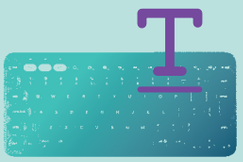
Visit Mrs. Finney's reading blog here: https://sites.google.com/usd437.net/readwithfinney/home

Read books, get treats, win gift cards!



6 things to know about AI

Artificial intelligence technology is not new, but dramatic advances in generative AI have captured the world's attention and are transforming the information landscape. **Here are six news literacy takeaways** and implications to keep in mind as this technology continues to evolve.



TEXT

TOOLS

Chatbots: ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Claude, etc.

HOW THEY WORK

Generative AI chatbots rely on a technology called a **large language model** to synthesize large amounts of information and imitate human writing. They are trained on vast databases of internet text and digitized online writings, including books, articles and websites.

Chatbots use probability to predict what words and phrases go together to answer a given prompt. Some experts compare them to autocompletion tools on steroids.



VISUALS

TOOLS

Image generators: Midjourney, Stable Diffusion, Google Gemini, ChatGPT, etc.

HOW THEY WORK:

These tools have **learned how to arrange pixels** to generate digital images after being trained on billions of images and text captions scraped from the web.

They allow anyone to generate compelling and custom visuals from written prompts and can imitate styles of paintings or create photo-realistic images.

1 Generative AI tools are not objective ...

They are subject to the biases of the humans who make them — and integrate any biases baked into their training data. Data sets often include copyrighted, misleading and overtly biased material. These tools do not just learn human biases; they can also amplify, extend and entrench them.

Researchers have raised concerns about AI chatbots generating misinformation and providing responses that include conspiracy theories, pseudoscience and harmful content.

AI image generators amplify biases in race and gender and can default to harmful Western stereotypes. A Bloomberg experiment, for instance, found that Stable Diffusion produced AI images dominated by people with lighter skin tones for high-paying jobs, while images of fast food workers and dish washers skewed toward darker skin tones.



2 ... or reliably factual.

AI tools might feel authoritative and credible, but the responses they generate are routinely riddled with inaccuracies.

Chatbots have been known to make up sources, provide incorrect answers to simple questions and write persuasive responses that include misinformation. Experts refer to false information presented with confidence as "hallucinations" — a persistent issue with this technology.

AI image generators can create anything you ask for — however absurd, whimsical or potentially harmful and misleading. While many people use image generators to make fun, fanciful images, bad actors can use them to smear public officials or produce other damaging fakes.

3 It's not all bad.



It can be easy to get swept up in alarmist takes, but AI tools also have tremendous upsides. For example, they can boost scientific research and make complicated or specialized tasks more accessible, like writing computer code or building websites. Some news organizations use AI to responsibly automate certain tasks, such as The Associated Press using AI to compile corporate earnings and sports box scores.



4 Content is easier than ever to create — and fake.

AI chatbots and image generators produce text and visuals at an unprecedented scale — and have the potential to supercharge the spread of misinformation. Some tools are even being used to produce fabricated news broadcasts using realistic-looking AI anchors. Be ready to encounter even more information with less transparency about its origin.

5 It signals a change in the nature of evidence.

Don't let AI technology undermine your willingness to trust anything you see and hear. Just be careful about what you accept as authentic.

Traditional signals of credibility — such as clean writing, academic footnotes or sleek website design — are relatively easy to fake in today's information landscape. But AI chatbots make them easier than ever to game — at scale. Skills like "lateral reading" become even more critical.

The rise of more convincing fake photos and videos means that finding the source and context for visuals is often more important than hunting for visual clues of authenticity. Any viral image you can't verify through a reliable source — using a reverse image search, for example — should be approached with skepticism.

6 Reputable sources matter more than ever.

Credible sources follow processes to verify information before sharing it, and this should translate into higher levels of trust. Professional journalism ethics — such as fairness, transparency and accuracy — can be seen in the quality of information published by standards-based news organizations. Generative AI tools don't show the same concern for truth, verification or the public interest.

News Literacy Project

SmartNews

This infographic was created by the News Literacy Project with support from SmartNews, a news app for mobile devices.

For a future founded on facts **newslit.org**

Is it legit?

Five steps for vetting a news source

Many sources compete for attention online, including partisan blogs and bogus sites posing as legitimate news organizations. It can be tough to know what to trust. Follow these steps to cut through the noise and learn how to evaluate sources for signs of credibility – as well as for red flags that signal a source should be avoided.

Test your source savvy!

Scan this QR code to put your source-vetting skills to the test.

1 Do a quick search

Conducting a simple search for information about a news source is a key first step in evaluating its credibility. It's important to look beyond social media. Go to a search engine and plug in the name of the website or publication. Do other legitimate sources, such as standards-based news organizations or fact-checking websites, describe this publication as unreliable? Satirical? Is it a state-run propaganda "news" site? If so, there's no need to spend more time vetting. Look elsewhere for reliable information.

> **Tip:** Wikipedia can be a good place to start and lead you to relevant source links; just keep in mind that some credible local newsrooms may not have an entry there. You can also see if a source has been vetted for inclusion on news aggregators, such as Google News, Apple News and SmartNews.

2 Look for standards

Reputable news organizations aspire to ethical guidelines and standards, including fairness, accuracy and independence. These standards should be available publicly — often in the form of editorial policies or a code of ethics. Look for evidence that a source follows such standards. If someone is mentioned in a critical story, for instance, did the journalist give that person a chance to comment?

> **Note:** Some professional journalism standards are commonly shared across the industry, such as the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics. Other policies are unique to different newsrooms.

3 Check for transparency

Quality news sources should be transparent, not only about their reporting practices (see Step 2), but also about their ownership and funding. Is it clear who owns and runs this website or publication? Is advertising labeled responsibly? Can you tell who is writing and producing content? Is there a way to contact newsroom editors and reporters?

> **Remember:** "About" pages can provide some of these details, but they can also be misleading and omit important information (about a source's ownership or lack of independence, for example). Don't be fooled by a sleek web design, or trust the "About" page on an unfamiliar site without further verification. If something seems suspicious, check it out.

4 Examine how errors are handled

Credible news sources are accountable for mistakes and correct them. Do you see evidence that this source corrects or clarifies errors?

5 Assess news coverage

An important step in vetting sources is taking time to read and assess several news articles: Do you see original reporting? Do they provide straight news reports, or just commentary and opinion? Are there grammatical and/or spelling errors? How do news articles from this source compare to coverage from other standards-based newsrooms on this same topic? Many people have strong opinions about news sources without evaluating them firsthand.

> **Tip:** Take note of bylines (names) on news coverage. These bylines can help you confirm that this coverage was written or produced by professional journalists. Bylines are also a sign of transparency and accountability.

Beware of these trust busters!

If you spot any of these problems, look elsewhere for credible news.

- **False or untrue content:** Publishing a demonstrably false claim without correcting it
- **Clickbait tactics:** "Baiting" you with sensationalized language, including misleading or exaggerated headlines, or headlines that are purposely vague to drive clicks
- **Lack of balance:** Consistently focusing on one angle or side of a legitimate debate or controversy, while ignoring or distorting other perspectives
- **Manipulated images or videos**
  Tip: You can do a reverse image search using Google, TinEye and Yandex (among other tools) to see if visuals have been misrepresented or altered in some way.
- **State-run or state-sponsored propaganda:** Using government-controlled news organizations to further national agendas and improve public image
- **Dangerous, offensive and malicious content:** Could include discriminatory language, unverified pseudoscience, content that promotes violence or coverage that — as the SPJ Code of Ethics states — panders "to lurid curiosity"

News Literacy Project | SmartNews

This infographic was created by the **News Literacy Project** in partnership with **SmartNews**, a news app for mobile devices.

For a future founded on facts **newslit.org**

DETECTING TRICKS OF Context

People who create disinformation designed to go viral on social media have an array of tools and tactics at their disposal. Simple tricks of context are one of the most common, mostly because they are effective and relatively easy to produce. For example, removing an authentic visual from its original context and presenting it with a false claim is a low-effort, effective tactic to mislead people. Visuals paired with text can feel like compelling evidence – even when they're not.

Watch out for these four common tricks of context and use these tips to avoid being fooled.



FALSE CONTEXT:

Presenting genuine media in an entirely new, false context.

Example: A years-old photo being presented as if it were taken during a recent event.



STOLEN SATIRE:

Presenting satirical content as if it were accurate information from a reliable source.

Example: A satirical article or meme shared without a disclaimer labeling it as satire.



MISREPRESENTATION:

Presenting accurate facts or genuine visuals in a misleading fashion.

Example: An accurate statistic presented in a way that alters the meaning of a larger trend.



SELECTIVE EDITS:

Removing essential context from a piece of media to create a false understanding of an issue or event.

Example: A misleading shortened clip that creates an inaccurate perception of something a person said.

DEBUNKING Tricks of Context

1. **Pause** and gauge your emotions.
2. **Use a reverse image search** to find the original source of a visual.
3. **Stay skeptical** if you don't recognize the source – or if its credibility is questionable.
4. **Check to see** if the claim in question has been covered by a high-quality source, such as a standards-based news organization.

News Literacy Project
newslit.org

News Literacy Project

Confirmation bias & motivated reasoning

People generally feel that their opinions are rational and carefully considered. But in reality, we are all vulnerable to an array of cognitive biases that distort our understanding of the world around us. We don't give all facts and pieces of information the same attention or consideration, and we have an unconscious tendency to selectively find and interpret information that reinforces what we already believe.

CB

Confirmation bias is...

The natural, unconscious tendency of people to notice and accept information that agrees with or reinforces their existing beliefs, and to overlook or question information that complicates or conflicts with those beliefs.

Example:
Sports fans notice and remember close calls the referees make that go against their team more than they do those that help their team.

VERSUS

MR

Motivated reasoning is...

The process of actively searching for and interpreting information in biased ways that reinforce our current beliefs. Motivated reasoning includes selectively looking for information that confirms our beliefs; failing to search for information that complicates or conflicts with our beliefs; cherry-picking evidence; and finding reasons to dismiss inconvenient facts and credible evidence.

Example:
Sports fans invent reasons to justify close calls the referees make that help their team while exaggerating the impact of those that go against their team.

CB can cause two people with different views to focus on different details in the same piece of information.

MR can cause them to interpret those details in different ways and find ways to "justify" their inconsistent approach to the information.

Confirmation bias, motivated reasoning and ...

Information habits

Confronting information that challenges our beliefs is stressful and unpleasant. But having our beliefs and ideas about the world *confirmed* by information feels good! In fact, it gives us **a hit of dopamine**, a chemical messenger in your brain that accompanies feelings of pleasure. That is one reason why people enjoy listening to pundits and other opinionators who echo their own worldviews back to them. It's also why they enjoy filling their social media feeds with like-minded people.





Political polarization

Selective attention and confirmation bias can cause people to ignore facts and other valid support on "the other side" of a **polarizing debate**. This leads people who identify strongly as liberal or conservative to believe that their ideological adversaries' positions are incomprehensible and ill-informed.



Conspiracy theories

Confirmation bias and motivated reasoning play a big role in **conspiratorial thinking**. Selective searching online, cherry-picking evidence and reading significance into random or meaningless details are often at play in belief in conspiracy theories.

Interesting studies!

CB The Invisible Gorilla experiment underscores how powerfully selective attention can affect people's perceptions of events. Half of participants who were asked to focus on the movements of a specific group of people in a video missed a person in a gorilla suit who wanders into the frame and pounds their chest. (Try it on your friends and family using this video!)

MR A study published in 2017 found that participants who believed they were looking at data about a politically neutral subject (skin cream) reasoned more clearly and accurately than when the exact same data was labeled as being from a study on gun control. These findings have since been replicated by other studies.



News connection!
Confirmation bias and motivated reasoning impact how people perceive news coverage.

This is one reason why everyone thinks "the media" is biased, but almost no one believes coverage is biased in their favor.

Our best defenses

1. **Slow down!** We think more rationally, fairly and clearly when we minimize the role of our emotions.
2. **Be honest.** Taking stock of our current beliefs and approaching new information with an open mind are vital. No one is always right. A willingness to reconsider our current beliefs is an essential part of maintaining rational, well-informed beliefs.
3. **Acknowledge personal biases.** Our natural inclination to engage in confirmation bias and motivated reasoning is intensified for issues and subjects we feel most strongly about. That also means we're most vulnerable to being misled by information on these topics.

Additional resources

- "Why Facts Don't Change Our Minds" (Elizabeth Kolbert, The New Yorker).
- "Why we believe alternative facts" (Kirsten Weir, Monitor on Psychology, American Psychological Association).
- "Conspiratorial Thinking" (NLP's Checkology® virtual classroom).

BREAKING NEWS CHECKLIST

What to do when information is scarce, falsehoods are rampant and the story is still unfolding

News Literacy Project

newslit.org

For a future founded on facts

1 MIND THE GAP

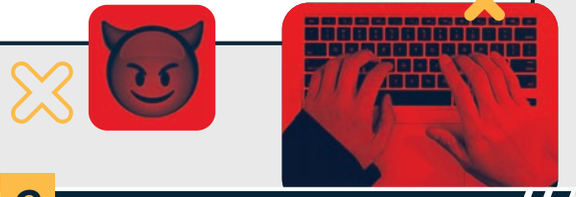
WHEN BIG NEWS BREAKS, EVERYONE WANTS THE DETAILS, but verified information can be tough to find. BE MINDFUL that a deluge of **unconfirmed, misleading and completely bogus content often rushes in to fill the gap** between what's available and what the public wants to know.



2 BEWARE BAD ACTORS

BAD ACTORS NEED ATTENTION TO THRIVE, so they often capitalize on breaking news situations to spread sensationalized or false content for cheap likes and shares. In times of war, natural disasters and upheaval, **misinformation also acts as a tool to advance certain narratives and shape public opinion.**

DON'T BE EXPLOITED. Slow down and resist the urge to share unconfirmed claims or visuals.



3 DO A QUICK SEARCH

A QUICK INTERNET SEARCH IS OFTEN THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST MISINFORMATION.

Hop off social media and do a simple search to investigate unsubstantiated claims and unfamiliar sources. BEWARE of shocking news updates circulating among ordinary social media users but not in news coverage. Credible news sources will cover major updates.

TIP

It's common for old or unrelated visuals to circulate out of context in breaking news situations. **Reverse image searches** can help put repurposed visuals back in their original context.



4 LOOK FOR EVIDENCE



CLAIMS THAT MAKE BOLD ASSERTIONS BUT PROVIDE NO LINKS OR OTHER EVIDENCE should always be APPROACHED WITH CAUTION, especially screenshots. If a social media post does include an outside link — to a news report, study or some other source — **make sure the link actually supports claims in the original post.**



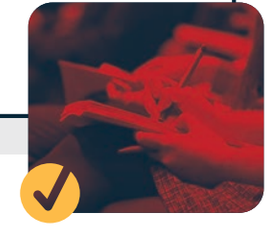
5 SEEK CREDIBLE SOURCES

IT'S IMPORTANT TO ACTIVELY SEEK OUT NEWS FROM CREDIBLE SOURCES and not rely on social media algorithms to bring you updates. BE INTENTIONAL about following professional journalists on the ground.

Look for reputable news organizations and fact-checkers debunking falsehoods in real time. Compare coverage across multiple credible news outlets and pay special attention to attribution. Is information attributed to sources in a position to know? Does the report independently verify disputed details or simply repeat information from officials?

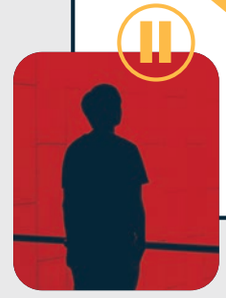
TIP

Credible news sources aspire to **ethical guidelines and standards**, including accuracy, transparency and independence. Look for evidence that a source follows such standards.



6 PRACTICE PATIENCE

QUALITY JOURNALISM AND VERIFICATION TAKE TIME. Journalists have to interview people, gather documentation and confirm details with multiple sources. **It might take days or even weeks to untangle initial accounts or investigate claims involving a major story.** BE READY to follow news developments over time, knowing that the story — and your understanding of it — will likely evolve as more verified information comes to light.



REMEMBER

Early details in news reports may turn out to be incorrect. What's important is how a news organization handles these mistakes. **Correcting errors** promptly and transparently is a strong signal of a news source's commitment to accuracy.

Hint

Click these search bars to see the results for each example.

Eight Tips to Google Like a Pro

The internet is inconceivably large. In fact, it's essentially endless! Sometimes it's easy to find the information you need, but often trying to find something specific can feel like looking for a needle in a haystack. These eight tips can help you improve your search results and zero in on what you're looking for more quickly.

Learn more about advanced search tips in this tutorial. Then, take your search skills to the next level in this activity by researching the "Birds Aren't Real" conspiracy theory.

News Literacy Project

This infographic was developed by the **News Literacy Project** and **Cindy Otis**, author of *True or False: A CIA Analyst's Guide to Spotting Fake News*.

A future founded on facts newslit.org

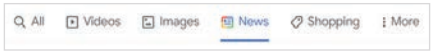
1. Use quotation marks

If you put **quotation marks** around your search terms, Google will search for webpages containing that exact phrase.

"I'm not a cat"

2. Limit to news

If you are looking specifically for standards-based news articles that contain your search term, narrow your initial search results by clicking on the tab labeled "**News**."



3. Use basic Boolean operators

Use **AND** (all uppercase) when you're searching to find results that contain more than one exact search term.

"I'm not a cat" AND "Zoom call"

Use **OR** (all uppercase) when you're searching to find content containing only one of your search terms: "Search Term1" OR "Search Term2" OR "Search Term3"

"I'm not a cat" OR "Zoom court hearing" OR "Rod Ponton"

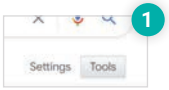
4. Use parentheses to group operators

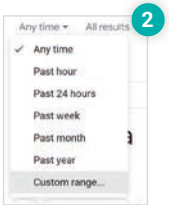
You can use **parentheses** to order the search operations the way you would in a mathematical equation. For example, to search for only one of two search terms AND a third term, you would search: ("Search Term1" OR "Search Term2") AND "Search Term3"

("I'm not a cat" OR "cat filter") AND "Zoom court hearing"

5. Narrow the time frame

When you get results for a search, click on "**Tools**" and then "**Any time**." In the dropdown box, you'll be able to choose from results in the past hour, past 24 hours, past week, past month, past year, or enter a custom date range.





6. Search a specific website

Limit your results to one specific website by adding "**site:WEBSITENAME.com**" to the search terms. For example, a search for the phrase "cat videos" on Facebook would be:

site:facebook.com "cat videos"

7. Search one section of a specific website

You can also search for a specific **subdomain** or **subdirectory** on a particular website. For example, to quickly search Facebook (a website) for groups (a subdirectory) that use the exact phrase "cat videos" your search bar should look like this:

site:facebook.com/groups "cat videos"

8. Use - to exclude from results

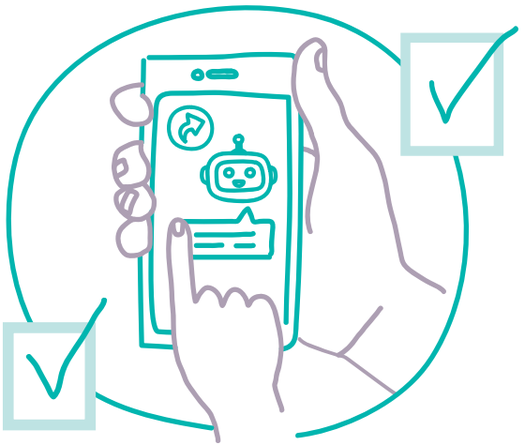
To exclude particular terms or websites from your search, just type **-** (the minus sign) before it. For example, if you wanted to search Facebook groups for the term "cat videos" but wanted to exclude results with the phrase "Zoom filter" you would search:

site:facebook.com/groups "cat videos" - "Zoom filter"

Teen safety:

6 tips for using AI and social media

Regardless of how we might feel about social media and artificial intelligence, these technologies are here to stay – and will impact teens' lives in significant ways. But there are steps any family can take to help keep teens healthy, safe and well-informed in today's digital environment.



Here are tips for parents, teens and families.

	THE REALITY:	HOW TO HELP:*
1 Prioritize in-person relationships	Some teens may develop strong attachments to AI chatbots, turning to them for companionship instead of building authentic relationships with other people. Psychologists say adolescents are also less likely than adults to question the accuracy of information generated by a chatbot.	Kids need supportive relationships with other humans in their day-to-day lives to be healthy. Help teens to build and prioritize relationships within their communities outside of screentime.
2 Watch out for misinformation	To be smart and safe online, it's important for teens to understand how misinformation spreads on social media. AI tools can contribute to this problem, quickly fabricating text, audio, images and video.	Data shows that teens frequently seek health advice online, including from chatbots. But these AI responses are often riddled with inaccuracies. Encourage teens to slow down, verify information with medical professionals or discuss it with adults they trust.
3 Be mindful of data collection	It doesn't take a tech expert to know that companies track user data, often for targeted ads or to sell to third parties. Encourage kids to consider what kind of data the apps they use might be collecting and who benefits from it.	Review privacy settings on apps to learn about data being collected. Choose apps with strong privacy protections. Remind teens to be careful with what they post, choose to share publicly or reveal while using chatbots.
4 Understand how AI can be a learning tool	AI chatbots can help in brainstorming, but they should be used thoughtfully. Being overly dependent on AI can impede a teen's cognitive development.	Talk to teens about the limitations and potential harms of AI technology and encourage them to question the accuracy of AI-generated content. Consider using AI tools as a supplement — not a replacement — when doing homework.
5 Manage screen time	Developing brains are more vulnerable to social rewards because of hormonal changes that prompt the development of dopamine and oxytocin receptors, which begin to multiply between the ages of 10 and 12. This is why social media can feel addictive to young people — and why screen time should be limited.	If your teen's interactions on social media or with AI bots prevent them from socializing with people or getting quality sleep at night, try using parental controls to set screen and content limits. Try a digital detox as a family and talk about how the social media break affected you.

6 Discuss AI and social media with teens

Ideas to begin a conversation:

- Based on what you saw online today, what do you think social media algorithms will show you next?
- Do you ever feel tired and frazzled after you've looked at your phone for too long? That happens to me sometimes. Why do you think that is?
- Do you think your time on your phone today was productive or worthwhile? What did you get out of the time you spent on your phone today?
- Did you see anything online today that made you go "huh, I wonder if that's true?" Can you show me?
- Are there any online trends I should be aware of?

Further reading

"Social Media and Youth Mental Health" (U.S. Surgeon General)

"Health Advisory on Social Media Use in Adolescence" (American Psychological Association)

"Artificial intelligence and adolescent well-being" (American Psychological Association)

News Literacy Project

newslit.org

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

* These safety tips were compiled from American Psychological Association advisories and by the News Literacy Project.

State Library of Kansas

Online Subscription Databases for trusted health care information

library.ks.gov/databases

- **High Accuracy and Authority**: Content is evaluated, fact-checked, and written by medical professionals and scholars.
- **No Paywalls or Hidden Costs:** Libraries pay the yearly fees so you get free access to expensive, professional journals.
- **Advanced Search Tools:** Databases let you filter by study type, date, and clinical trials much better than a standard search engine.
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Search a full range of health-related issues, from current disease and disorder information to alternative medical practices.



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Find authoritative periodical content supporting research in all fields of psychology.



Research full-text titles cited in CINAHL and other resources to support specialized care, treatment, and patient management.



Access academic journals and magazines covering the fields of physical therapy, physical fitness, and sports medicine.



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REMINDER FOR FANS 62 AND OLDER: You qualify for a lifetime activity pass that grants access to every home athletic event (excluding post-season KSHSAA-sponsored events). Stop by the Shuler Education Center during business hours to claim your pass!