



# Junior Blues News



October 2023

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## Featured Story



### National Merit Finalists

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! I can't begin to tell you how well the school year is going thus far! Our students are working hard and we now find ourselves fully immersed in fall activities and athletics. So far, it's proving to be a very exciting year!

A very important upcoming event that I would like to direct your attention to is Student-Led Conferences. They will occur on Wednesday and Thursday, October 18 and 19 respectively. Conference times are:

Wednesday, October 18, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 19, 7:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 19, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 19, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

One of the most important things that you can do as a parent to help your child achieve is to not only establish regular and open communication with their teachers, but also become informed about what courses and programs your student most enjoys and the ways in which high school experiences and opportunities can and will relate to post-secondary success. Our Student-Led Conferences afford students and parents the opportunity for this very thing-alongside their Advisory Teacher. Unique only to Student-Led Conferences: Freshmen will share information about the personal strengths finder survey they've taken and set goals for their time in high school. Sophomores will reflect upon surveys they've taken and discuss how these align to goals. They will have completed numerous assessments in Naviance: Strengths Explorer, Learning & Productivity, Intelligences, Career Cluster Finder, Personalities, Skills and Career Key. The Naviance assessments provide a wealth of information about individual students, their personalities and interests, matching career paths to individual student dispositions. Juniors will engage in conversation about future plans and goals they've set for their future. Students will discuss goals they have for this pivotal high school year. Seniors will reflect upon the Career Interest Profiler and how this relates to current interests, their post-secondary plans, and reflect upon next steps to actualize their goals.

We will be using the scheduling platform [myconferencetime.com](http://myconferencetime.com) for student-led and regular class conferences. Students will sign up during their advisory class for their student-led conference. Once those conferences are in place, you will have the opportunity to schedule with as many of your student's other teachers as you need to. 15-minute appointments will be available and you'll have the opportunity to choose virtual or in-person meetings. Our Counseling and Administrative Staff will also be listed on [myconferencetime.com](http://myconferencetime.com) and available during conferences. Please do not hesitate to schedule with one of us.

As we approach the end of the first 9-weeks, we are aware that some students may be struggling. Tuesday/Thursday Interventions recently began and are a great opportunity for students who need more time on campus to work. If your child is referred by our staff, we certainly hope you will support our efforts to ensure their success by encouraging attendance. It is our mission to ensure that every student learns to the best of their ability.

Please let us know how your student is doing. We hope to see you during conferences!

Best,

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

Ed Raines, Principal  
[rainedw@usd437.net](mailto:rainedw@usd437.net)

# ◆ WRHS Counseling Office

[Counseling Website](#)

Twitter Updates: [@wrhsgo](#)

Crisis Hotline: 785-232-5005

## Junior and Senior Planning Letter

All juniors and seniors and their parents/guardians were emailed a [Junior Planning Letter](#) and [Senior Planning Letter](#) in September. Families are encouraged to review this letter closely.



## Apply Kansas

The first step in going to college is to apply! For many students, applying to college can be a daunting task, but it can be particularly overwhelming for students who may be the first in their families to pursue postsecondary educational dreams or have yet to consider their plans after high school. WRHS is joining the [Apply Kansas](#) month-long, state-wide initiative to increase the number of students applying, enrolling, and succeeding in college or other postsecondary goals.

## PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Competition (NMSC)

The PSAT will be offered on October 18 and 19 at 8am at WRHS. 400 students are registered; students should check their email for PSAT updates. The night before the exam, they should get rest and in the morning, eat breakfast in order to do their best. Practice materials can be found on the [PSAT website](#).

## Free ACT for Juniors on February 27

The State of Kansas offers a free ACT to juniors on February 27. Juniors must register by October 31 to take the test. Registration must be completed from a USD 437 student email. The form is [HERE](#).

## College Planning Resources for Low Income Students

Many college planning resources and programs are available to students who qualify for free/reduced lunch (fee waivers, scholarship programs, etc). We encourage families to research opportunities and visit with your school counselor about these programs. Click [HERE](#).

# ◆ WRHS Counseling Office

## Importance of Sleep

The American School Counselor Association recently promoted “Sleep Week” which highlighted the importance of sleep for teens and children. A recent report by the CDC noted that 78% of high school students don’t get sufficient sleep on an average school night. Getting enough sleep is critical to the health and well-being of students of all ages. Sufficient sleep helps students:

- Excel in the classroom by maximizing attention, memory and learning abilities
- Perform better in sports by being faster, stronger and more accurate
- Feel positive and have a more optimistic attitude toward life
- Look their best and maintain a healthy weight
- Have fun and enjoy life by making better decisions and staying safe

The entire article can be found at

<https://sleepeducation.org/get-involved/campaigns/student-sleep-health-week/>.

**2024**  
**RUDD SCHOLARSHIP**  
**4-YEAR FULL RIDE**

**40**  
**SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**AVAILABLE**

**SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY**

- Must have a cumulative, unweighted high school GPA of 3.0 or above.
- Must be a resident of the state of Kansas and qualify for in-state tuition.
- Graduating high school in 2024 and will enroll full-time in the fall.
- Must be admitted and will attend either Emporia State, Fort Hays State, Kansas State, or Wichita State.
- Demonstrated financial need (Pell-eligible).
- Must have an ACT Score at the time of submission.
- Must be a US Citizen or a permanent resident.

**APPLICATION OPEN**  
**OCT. 01 TO DEC. 01**

<https://ruddfoundation.org/how-to-apply>

**RUDD**  
FOUNDATION

# ◆ National Merit Semifinalist

Washburn Rural High School is excited to announce six Semifinalists out of the 16,000 Semifinalists in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Samuel Byrne, Audrey Caleb, Blaine McVey, Allison Reed, Pierce Romine, and Anshumann Zutshi are this year’s Semifinalist. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$28 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition.

Over 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and more than half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title. NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 320 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC’s goals of honoring the nation’s scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.



# ◆ National Merit Semifinalist

Over 1.3 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors. WRHS also had 3 National Merit Commended Scholars which represent the top 5 percent in the nation. Congratulations to Lance Allen, Zachary Billups, and Caylen McCoy

To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, and write an essay.

From the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.



Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2024. Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state-representational basis. About 840 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 160 corporations and business organizations for Finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as children of the grantor's employees or residents of communities where sponsor plants or offices are located. In addition, about 160 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 3,800 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2024 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 375,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

**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**

## 2023-24 UNSUNG HERO PORTRAITS

Students enrolled in this year's A.P. Studio Art class started the school year by collaborating on two massive 7' x 9' portraits in the style of contemporary artist Chuck Close.

Students began the project by selecting their subjects from any person in our local school community, based on who they wanted to honor as an Unsung Hero. After contacting their Hero, each group shot photos to work from, laid out a grid to enlarge the photos for proper proportions, and began work on their portrait. The project promoted communication within the groups and required them to work collectively, striving to create a work with unity that captured the likeness of their Hero.

Artist Chuck Close (1940-2021) was the projects' inspiration. Close reinvented the "portrait" in the late 1960's by working on a large-scale format. He became an overnight sensation in the art world when he created a series of seven portraits, beginning with himself, that were done with one tube of black mars acrylic paint, applied with an airbrush. His original portraits were done on canvas in this exact size using a grid to assist in a photo-realistic image transfer from his photograph to canvas. Chuck Close recently passed away on August 19, 2021.

***Special thanks and congratulations to Mr. Davis and Mr. Exum for being selected as this year's Unsung Heroes!***

Below are the students responsible for the creation of each portrait:

### **MR. DAVIS**

**JUNIORS:** Anna Brighton, Luke Lemke, Koda Perez and Ariana Smith

**SENIORS:** Elli Brandt, Mel Moses, Raegan Patterson, Aytumn Sanchez, Eli Van Fossen and Zay Wells

### **MR. EXUM**

**JUNIORS:** Kyleigh Chrisman, Micah Ward and Clay Zeyer

**SENIORS:** Ashton Dawley, Mattalynn Funnell, Syd Laster, Maddie O'Brien, Rylee Perez and Savanna Schmidt





## **AP Studio Art students who created this portrait:**

**Back Row:** Eli Van Fossen, Zay Wells, Aytumn Sanchez, (Mr. Davis), and Luke Lemke

**Front Row:** Mel Moses, Ariana Smith, Annah Brighton, and Koda Perez

**Not Pictured:** Elli Brandt and Raegan Patterson



## **-STEVEN DAVIS ESSAY-**

By Raegan Patterson and Aytumn Sanchez

Mr. Davis is a copy center aid that was chosen by the AP art class as this year's Unsung Hero of Washburn Rural.

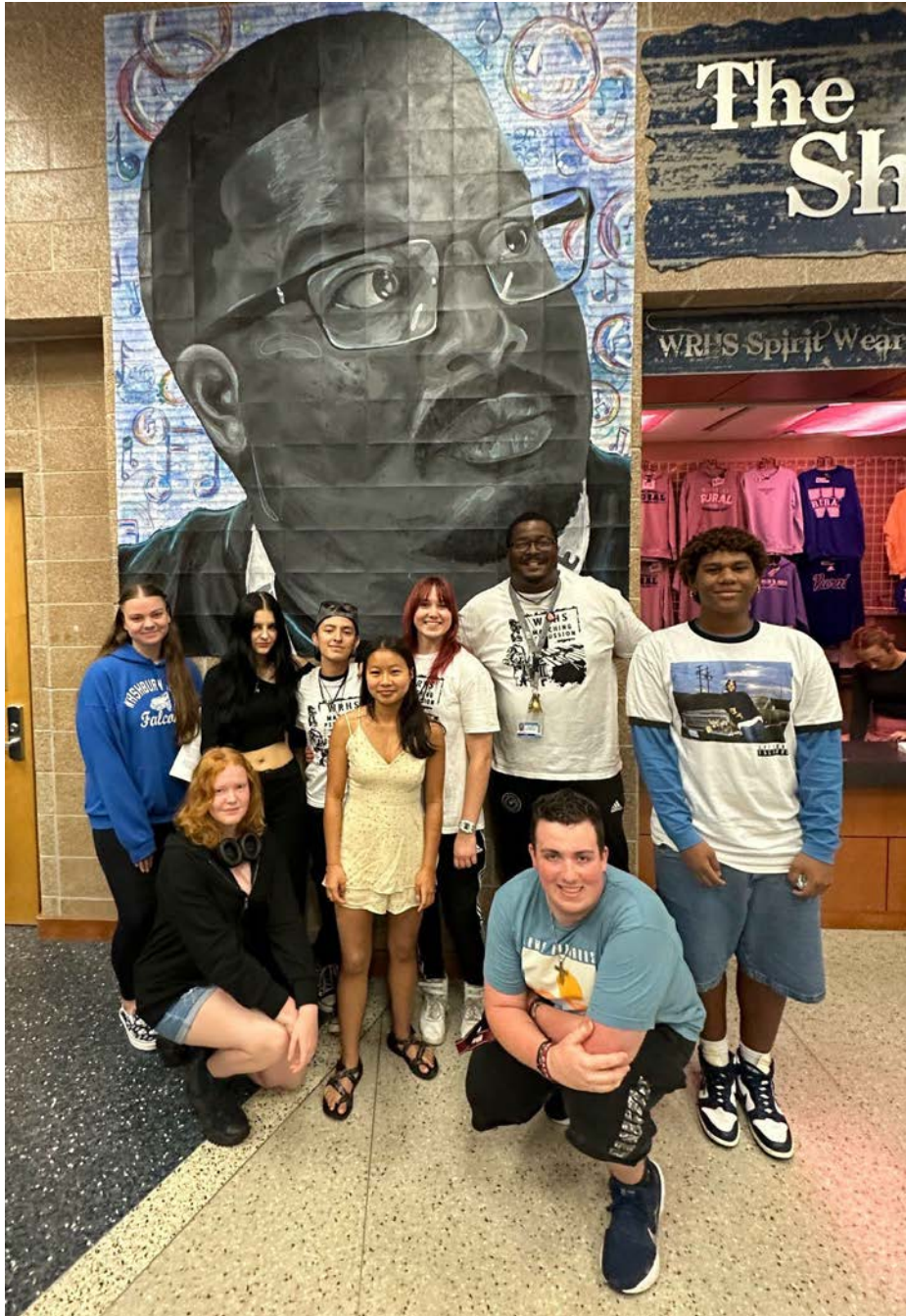
Have you ever wondered where your paper copies come from? Well, that's Mr. Davis. When our students and teachers put in orders to have paper copies printed for them, thanks to Mr. Davis, we are able to get them. He works just as much as any other teacher would, except he doesn't have as much direct contact with students.

Mr. Davis has worked in education for 55 years; after retiring, he decided to come back to school. With the help of Mr. Elis, and Ms. Burgett, he was able to get a job at Washburn Rural. Along with working in the copy center, Mr. Davis is very involved with debate, and enjoys driving students to and from their activities.

The art department chose Mr. Davis because we see how motivated and hardworking he is. While getting to know Mr. Davis, we have been able to see just how great of a person he is. Along with working at Washburn Rural, Davis enjoys spending his spare time building lego cars. He loves keeping in touch with his 3 younger grandchildren, two in 8th grade and one heading to graduate. Davis also spends time with his wife and has family living in Virginia. Unfortunately, he lost his brother to cancer, but he is still in touch with his nieces and nephews; two who attend KU and one at Olathe.

After talking with Davis, we were able to really get to know him and see just how much he loves and cares about his job. We are very grateful for Mr. Davis. We chose him for our project because we noticed not many people realize how hard he works and for all he does for us. Even after spending many years in education, he came back to work at our school and plays a huge part at Rural.

With that being said, a huge thanks to Mr. Davis from all of us at Washburn Rural. You make our school a better place and we couldn't be happier with our choice this year to recognize him. He deserves it! So next time you see Mr. Davis in the halls or on the bus make sure to give him a huge thank you for all his hard work and everything he does for our school.



**AP Studio Art students who created this portrait:**

**Back Row:** Mattalynn Funnell, Kyleigh Chrisman, Syd Laster, Maddie O'Brien, (Mr. Exum), Micah Ward

**Front Row:** Clay Zeyer, Savanna Schmidt, and Ashton Dawley

**Not Pictured:** Rylee Perez

# ◆ Art Department

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## **-MR. EXUM ESSAY-**

By Syd Laster

An unsung hero is a person who makes a substantial yet unrecognized contribution. Exum may not be unrecognized in this building but definitely makes a substantial contribution to the lives of everyone he meets. Everyone knows that Exum is an excellent teacher but not everyone sees the influence he has on his students. Exum is always going above and beyond as a teacher. Not only is he the jazz and percussion director but also a mentor to all his students.

We think of Exum as an unsung hero, but he believes he's just doing the job of a teacher: Before he's a music teacher he's a teacher of life. His job may be to teach percussion but that is the least important aspect of it. If you get the chance to talk to him about teaching you just know that it's his purpose in life. His passion for everything he does is contagious. It often seems that he can be even more excited about what you're doing than you are. If there's one thing you can count on it is that he will always be your biggest cheerleader. If a student has an ability outside of music he tries his best to find a way to incorporate it into class.

His ability to adapt and change is inspiring. He's almost always open to and encourages student input. I honestly don't think I've ever taken his class and had it structured the exact same way the next year. He is constantly adapting his teaching methods to accommodate for his students to maximize their growth. When you take his class you know he is doing everything he possibly can to help you succeed.

As a student it can be difficult to find a trusted adult but he creates an environment where students feel accepted and safe. It's comforting knowing he'll stop to help a student through hard times, whether they are looking for comfort or advice, while simultaneously dealing with his own baggage. Even when dealing with small things like fitting a class into a schedule he will take time to sit down and talk through it. When talking to him you always know he truly cares and wants to help.

Everyone needs someone like Exum in their life, someone to look up to, someone who cheers you on through everything, and someone who is so passionate that you can't do anything but join in. It's hard to put into words how deserving Exum is of this project, but, just like how Exum does his best to acknowledge and honor everyone in his class, we hope this portrait honors him and expresses our respect and appreciation for him.

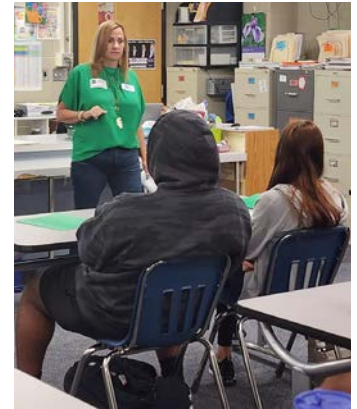


# ◆ Career and Technical Education

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](http://wrhs.net/cte)

## Career Awareness

One example of career awareness is having guest speakers in the classroom. Guest speakers can broaden students' horizons, expand their understanding of various industries, and ignite their curiosity and ambition for future success. Guest speakers can provide valuable insights and real-world experiences to high school students. By sharing their expertise and personal stories, they can inspire and motivate students to explore different career paths and pursue their passions. They can offer unique perspectives and industry-specific knowledge, helping students make connections between classroom learning and the practical application of skills in the professional world.



Pictured above is Katy Nelson, President/CEO at Topeka Area Building Association. Ms. Nelson was a guest speaker in Ms. Hoffman's Career & Life Planning class.



Students in Mr. Goehring's Sports Med II class learned from Athletic Trainer Brad Perry about Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT). It is calculated to measure heat stress in direct sunlight. This index helps guide decisions related to the amount of strenuous outdoor activity that athletes can safely perform in given conditions. This was extremely relevant to the first week of school with fall sports practices and the outdoor temperature and humidity.

After watching a documentary on Bill Gates, Brian McFall's IB/Honors Business Management students invited a local Bridge group to the school to teach the students how to play Bridge. Some of these ladies have been playing Bridge for over 60 years! "Bill Gates and Warren Buffett say that playing Bridge is key to their success. Bill Gates and Warren Buffett are among the world's wealthiest people. When we played bridge I realized the fun and attraction the game has. The complexity and strategy used in the game make for a super fun and addicting card game. I also learned in this game the importance of giving attention to detail and staying focused the entire game to realize and use your strategies effectively" stated Senior Dylan Dodge. Jack Muir stated "I wanted to learn Bridge because Bill Gates said playing bridge is important. After seeing the ladies play I realized just how complicated the game is. I now know why Bill said that was a factor in his success."



From Left to right Mary Taylor, Sally Calamunce, Judy Flint and Irene Filburn

# ◆ Career and Technical Education

## Career Exploration

Field trips can be a great way for students to explore different career options. By visiting workplaces and seeing professionals in action, students can gain a better understanding of what different jobs involve and what skills and knowledge are required. Field trips can also provide students with valuable networking opportunities and help them make connections with professionals in their fields of interest.



Photos are from UnVail'd, a special behind-the-scenes tour of Stormont Vail Health. Students learned about the Emergency and Trauma Center, Surgery, Lab, Information Systems, Baker School of Nursing, and much more!

## 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 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.



This past summer four students from WRHS earned a place at Sam's Club Internship Program. The students are trained in all departments at Sam's Club. Pictured are Seniors, Dylan Dodge and Brennen Ross.

"The Sam's Club Internship was a great experience that exposed me to the whole operation side as well as the behind-the-scenes decisions the managers make daily that make the Sam's Club in Topeka so successful", Senior Dylan Dodge.

Not pictured Nolan Tremblay and Saige Trent

## 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

# ◆ Career and Technical Education

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.

Pictured left are students in Residential Carpentry. Under the direction of Mr. Grose, these students built a set of cabinets for a Habitat for Humanity home. Additional student projects include a dog house and a garden shed and are available to the community for purchase. Click the link below the image for the full-size flier.

For Sale!! Click on the Flyers below to learn more.



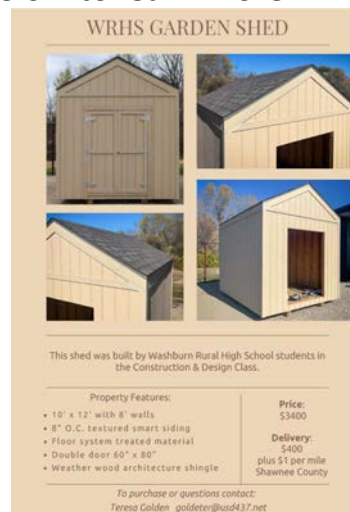
**DOG HOUSES FOR SALE**  
BUILT BY WRHS STUDENTS  
**\$200**

**SPECS**

- Built for quality and weather resistant
- 43" Long by 31" Wide 22" High
- Opening is 11 3/4" x 19 1/2"

**CONTACT**

Teresa Golden  
WRHS CTE Coordinator  
goldeteraus437.net



**WRHS GARDEN SHED**

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

**Property Features:**

- 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

To purchase or questions contact:  
Teresa Golden goldeter@usd437.net



# ◆ Career and Technical Education

DECA Students have been hard at work showcasing what great things they are doing in the WRHS Business Department.

## **SBE (School Based Enterprise) Certifications**

Each year student-employees certify The Shack, Bank, and Common Grounds on three standards. This year the standards are Financial Analysis, Product/Service Management, and Pricing. Once the recertifications are submitted, judges will determine the tier of the certification: Gold, Silver, or Bronze. Gold certified and gold re-certified SBEs are eligible to bring up to two student manager(s) to the 2024 SBE Academy at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Anaheim, California. During the SBE Academy, students experience professional development sessions, network with other SBE managers and compete in front of judges with a prepared oral presentation based on one of the standards.

## **Stock Market Game**

Participants in the SIFMA Foundation Stock Market Game develop and manage an online investment portfolio of stocks, mutual funds, bonds, ESG investments and cash. The Stock Market Game is available via web browser on any device or on The Stock Market Game mobile app available on Android or Apple. SMG allows DECA members to test their investment knowledge and skills against other DECA members in an online competition. The goal of the competition is to provide participants with the skills needed to be successful in their future financial lives by managing a diversified investment portfolio.

The DECA Stock Market Game will contain one ICDC qualifying event to take place from Monday, September 11, 2023, through Friday, December 8, 2023.

### **Team 1**

Dylan Dodge  
Hayden Keller  
Keegan Knudtson

### **Team 2**

Qays Abu-Hiljeh  
Nicholas He  
Jack Muir

For more information check out the following link:  
<https://www.deca.org/compete/stock-market-game>

## **Congratulations to the 2023-2024 DECA Officers!**

President - Dylan Dodge  
Co-Vice Presidents - Madison Stout / Hayden Keller  
Secretary - Nicholas He  
Membership - Keegan Knudtson  
Treasurer - Qays Abu-Hiljeh



*DECA Officers and Stock Market Game Participants  
Pictured Above*

*Top Row - Keegan Knudtson  
Qays Abu-Hiljeh, Nicholas He  
Dylan Dodge, Jack Muir  
Hayden Keller, Madison Stout*

For more information or questions please contact sponsor - Mr. Brian McFall.

# WRHS

# BANK

## Earn while you save!

# 4.5%

**INTEREST ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS**

\*May be subject to change

### WRHS Bank Perks



**Easy to open accounts!**



**Save/Invest in YOUR future!**



**Monthly prizes!**

### 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!**



**@wr.bank**

**Open during all 3 Lunch Periods!**



*Fall*

*Into a*

*Good Drink*



**Come try our limited edition pumpkin spiced latte!**



# FOOTBALL SPIRIT WEAR



[RURALSPIRIT.SQUARE.SITE](http://RURALSPIRIT.SQUARE.SITE)



# HOMECOMING HIGHLIGHTS



Dancing through the Decades



Thanks to all those that volunteered to help at our Homecoming tailgate.

Congratulations to the groups who's floats won in the parade!

First Place: Woman's Wrestling

Second Place: Girl's Tennis

Third Place (Tie): Theater & Cheer

**Congratulations to Jamond Lane and Faye Chandler, our Homecoming King and Queen!**



# 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 61<sup>st</sup> Street, Topeka, KS 66619**

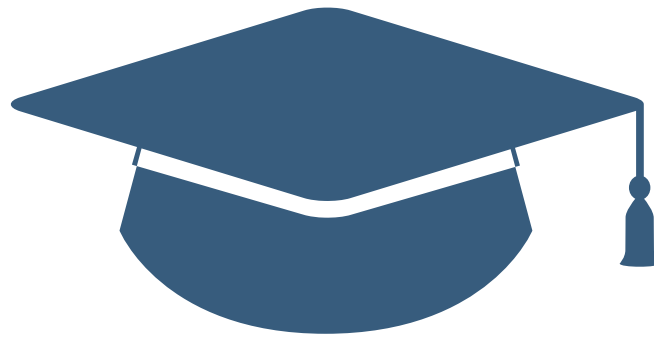
**\*OR ORDER ONLINE!\***

**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](mailto:wrhsporraits@usd437.net)**

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



## Mrs. Finney's Monthly YA Book Recommendation

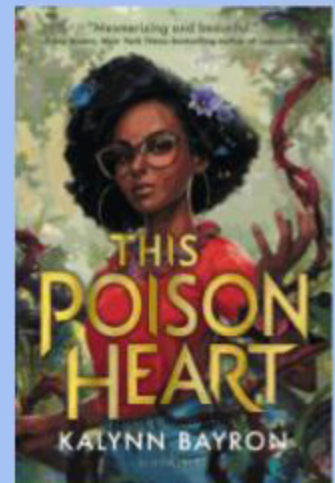
October 2023



*The Depths*  
By Nicole Lesperance  
FLES

After suffering a near-fatal freediving accident, seventeen-year-old Addie Spencer tags along on her mother's honeymoon to a private island where she unearths dark secrets -- a child ghost, moody flowers, and a deep pool where no one feels pain--before realizing the island might not be willing to let her go.

*Similar Titles Include:*





## Online Databases and Learning Tools

### Fun Facts



Includes extensive, up-to-date articles; videos; interactive games; science projects; and Homework Help



Science news written especially for students. Perfect for research, ideas for reports and learning what's happening in science today. Filled with interviews with real scientists and much more!



A go-to resource for context and background on key issues related to both historical and current events.

### Research



An educational site students can use for homework help, projects, or learning at home.



A fun, easy-to-use tool that can help you complete research and classroom assignments



Presented in a balanced pro/con format to help understand hot topics in politics, government, business, society, education and pop culture.



Comprehensive, in-depth coverage of body systems, current health issues, major diseases and conditions, treatments, and procedures, as well as health and nutrition information.

### Learn something new



Self-paced classes in over 30 subject areas.



Learn over 70 languages right from your own computer (or smartphone!).



Bloom's Literature provides all of the essential information users need to research, study, and explore literature.

### Moving forward



Includes extensive, up-to-date articles; videos; interactive games; science projects; Homework Help and test prep for a wide range of studies.



Targeted guidance based on your level of experience



Career exploration and planning. Includes industry & professions articles, school planning resources, and skills & career advice.



Provides users with the tools and "how-to" instructions to independently address a wide range of small business topics.

Visit [www.kslib.info/databases](http://www.kslib.info/databases) to find these resources and more.

## eBooks & Audio Books



Bestsellers, Fiction & popular nonfiction eBook & Audiobooks



No holds, large collection. eBook Only



(PreK-grade 6) read-along, chapter books, games & more.



(Pre K - 9th grade) Non-fiction eBooks, unlimited access. eBook Only



Great variety, includes self-published. eBook Only



Unlimited comics, graphic novels, and manga for all ages. Ebook—requires registration



Animated storybooks paired with a nonfiction eBook and games. (Pre K—Grade 3)

Visit [www.kslib.info/ebooks](http://www.kslib.info/ebooks) to find your next book.

## Parent & Educator Resources



The Mailbox School & District is a teacher-created, editor-reviewed resource in print and online. Resources include worksheets, crafts, forms, songs, games, graphic organizers, patterns, clip art, cards and more for pre-kindergarten to grade 6.



Online database for reading recommendations, reviews, articles, lists and more.



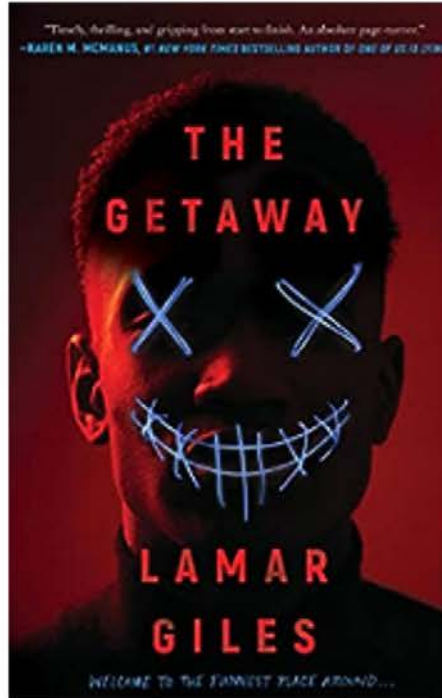
The World Almanac for Kids  
The World Almanac Elementary  
Bloom's Literature  
Ferguson's Career Guidance Center  
Health Reference Center  
Issues & Controversies  
World News Digest

For more Resource Guides for Educators visit  
[www.kslib.info/guides](http://www.kslib.info/guides)



# LAMAR GILES

## TSCPL AUTHOR VISIT



**Thursday, November 2nd, 2023  
10:30 - 11:30 AM (Advisory & 4th)  
WRHS Library**

**Students must be in good standing with their Advisory & 4th Hour Teacher to attend!**



**Sign up Here!**

Lamar Giles is the author of the acclaimed novels *The Getaway*, *The Last Last-Day-of-Summer*, *Not So Pure and Simple*, *SPIN*, *Fake ID*, and has written for globally beloved brands like DC Comics, Star Wars, and National Geographic. He is a founding member of the non-profit We Need Diverse Books and resides in Virginia with his family.



# ◆ 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



# ◆ Drama Department

## FRANKENSTEIN

By Nick Dear - Adapted from the novel by Mary Shelley

This electrifying tale of a creature cast away by his creator into a hostile world—only to wind his way back in a dangerous game of destruction—has captivated audiences for over 200 years. The gothic story comes to life in a fresh adaptation, animating the themes of social rejection, intellectual hubris, and the inception of good and evil.



Performances: October 26, 27, and 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm

### Production Staff

DIRECTOR: Matt Rosebrook

SCENE DESIGN/TECHNICAL DIRECTION: Nick Beasley

COSTUME SUPERVISOR: Linnea Hoyos

STAGE MANAGER: Owen Tremblay

### CAST LIST

(In appearance order)

The Creature - Miriam Smith, Victor Frankenstein - Cade Nelson, Gretel - Josie Mitchell,

Gustav - Dillyn Fager, Klaus - Lee Stimpfle, De Lacey - Griffin Reiff, Felix - Noah Hart,

Agatha - Maggie Morse, The Female Creature - Haley Reiff, Elizabeth - Liana Murphy

Clarice - Holly Sorrenti, William Frankenstein - Meadow Cunningham

Monsieur Frankenstein - Aiden Olson, Ewan - Weston Widman, Rab - Koby Kirk

Townspeople/Ensemble -Xachary Browne, Linus Hoffmann, Jocelyn Escalante, and

Sarai Smith



# ◆ 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. We 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.

## Honours

- 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**

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



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

**Senior Directed One-Act Plays**



**Auditions: March 20**  
**Performance: May 3-4**





# PTO Blues Backers OCTOBER 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 OCTOBER 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, OCTOBER 11



# PTO Blues Backers OCTOBER 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  
Ched Zoy  
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  
Tara Mays  
Terry Martinez  
Thad and Megan Halstead  
Travis & Sarah Jepson





# PTO Blues Backers OCTOBER 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 OCTOBER 2023

## 2023-2024 PTO CONTACT INFORMATION

**PRESIDENT:**

Deanna Hutsen      deanna.hutsen@gmail.com

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Ronda Kozlowski      rondakoz@gmail.com

**SECRETARY:**

Carrie Stead      steadcar@usd437.net

**TREASURER:**

Erin Appuhn      washburnruralhspto@gmail.com

**ASSISTANT TREASURER:**

Jen VandeVelde      vandy4012@gmail.com

**ACTIVITIES/ATHLETICS:**

Charlie Nimz      nimzcha@usd437.net

**CONCESSIONS FALL CHAIR:**

Deanna Hutsen      deanna.hutsen@gmail.com

**CONCESSIONS WINTER CHAIR:**

TBA

**CONCESSIONS SPRING CHAIR:**

TBA

**CONCESSIONS PURCHASING:**

Deanna Hutsen      deanna.hutsen@gmail.com

**CONCESSIONS DRINKS:**

Deanna Hutsen      deanna.hutsen@gmail.com

**CONCESSIONS FINANCE:**

Jen VandeVelde      vandy4012@gmail.com

**CONCESSIONS SCHEDULING:**

Deanna Hutsen      deanna.hutsen@gmail.com

**HOSPITALITY:**

Charity King      charityklux@yahoo.com

**POST PROM:**

Ronda Kozlowski      rondakoz@gmail.com

**PRINT/SOCIAL MEDIA:**

Shanna Simpson      shannabanana0519@gmail.com

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:**

Ronda Kozlowski      rondakoz@gmail.com

**STAFF APPRECIATION:**

Charity King      charityklux@yahoo.com

# ◆ October Student Calendar

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## Monday, October 2

Custodian Appreciation Day  
Fall Picture Day  
Varsity Girls Tennis @ League  
Tournament  
Varsity Girls Golf @ Manhattan  
Invite  
9/JV Football vs Junction City  
HS

## Tuesday, October 3

Fall Picture Day  
Renaissance Lunch  
9th Volleyball Quad @ Topeka  
HS

## Wednesday, October 4

Early Release - 90 minutes  
JV Girls Tennis @ League Meet  
JV Volleyball Triangular @  
Topeka

## Thursday, October 5

JV Girls Golf @ Manhattan Invite  
JV/V Boys Soccer vs Blue Valley  
West  
Choir Concert

## Friday, October 6

Chess Club Practice  
Varsity Football vs Topeka High

## Saturday, October 7

JV Boys Soccer @ Emporia  
Tournament  
JV Volleyball League  
Tournament  
Olathe Marching Invite  
Varsity Volleyball @ Manhattan  
Tournament  
Cross Country @ Hayden Invite

## Monday, October 9

Indigenous Peoples' Day  
Varsity Girls Golf @ Regionals  
InterState Studios - Yearbook  
Portraits Retakes  
9/JV Football @ Topeka HS

## Tuesday, October 10

JV/V Boys Soccer vs Bishop  
Carol  
Varsity Volleyball Quad  
PTO Meeting  
Orchestra Concert

## Wednesday, October 11

Student Council Meeting  
9th Volleyball Quad

## Thursday, October 12

End of 1st Quarter  
Blue Select Reward- Ren.  
Freshman Class Fundraiser Mtg  
JV/V Soccer vs Seaman  
JV Volleyball Triangular @  
Hayden  
Varsity Volleyball Triangular @  
Olathe NW HS

## Friday, October 13

No School - Staff Day  
Varsity Girls Tennis @ State  
Wanamaker Fall Festival  
Varsity Football @ Emporia

## Saturday, October 14

Varsity Girls Tennis @ State  
9th Volleyball Tournament @  
Blue Valley HS  
KSU Marching Festival  
Unified Tournament  
Varsity Volleyball Tournament @  
Emporia  
Cross Country @ League Meet

## Monday, October 16

Start of 2nd Quarter  
Varsity Girls Golf @ State  
9/JV Football vs Emporia HS  
Board of Education

## Tuesday, October 17

PSAT (9th & 10th)  
Varsity Girls Golf @ State  
Jostens Senior Grad Assembly  
Girls Tennis Banquet  
JV/V Boys Soccer @ Topeka  
High

## Wednesday, October 18

Bus Driver Appreciation Day  
Parent Teacher Conferences

## Thursday, October 19

Parent/Teacher Conferences  
NO SCHOOL  
JV/V Boys Soccer @ Blue Valley  
North HS  
Varsity Football @ Topeka West

## Friday, October 20

NO SCHOOL

## Saturday, October 21

KBA Marching Championship  
Cross Country @ Regional Meet  
Varsity Volleyball Sub-State

## Monday, October 23

9/JV Football vs Topeka West

## Tuesday, October 24

Varsity Boys Soccer Regional  
Round

## Wednesday, October 25

Student Council Meeting  
Scholars Bowl Tourney

## Thursday, October 26

2023-24 Club Day  
Varsity Boys Soccer Regional  
Round  
Fall Play - Frankenstein

## Friday, October 27

Varsity Volleyball @ State  
Chess Club Practice  
Varsity Football Week 9  
Fall Play - Frankenstein

## Saturday, October 28

Varsity Volleyball @ State  
ACT Test - WRHS  
Cross Country @ State Meet  
Fall Play - Frankenstein

## Monday, October 30

Vocal & Dance Workshop for  
Musical

## Tuesday, October 31

Halloween  
Varsity Boys Soccer State  
Quarterfinals