



WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR BLUES NEWSLETTER



FEATURED STORY

NATIONAL MERIT

Washburn Rural High School is excited to announce three semifinalists out of the 16,000 Semifinalists in the 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Tanner Haddock, Campbell Hight, and Ophelia Lackey are this year's Semifinalists. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 6,930 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million that will be offered next spring. To compete for National Merit Scholarships, Semifinalists must advance to the Finalist level of the competition by fulfilling several additional requirements. A Semifinalist can become a Finalist and compete for a Merit Scholarship award in only one program year. About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

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From the Desk of Our Principal



Greetings once again! I'm thrilled to share that the school year is off to an incredible start! Our students are working hard, and we're fully engaged in the hustle and bustle of fall activities and athletics. So far, it's shaping up to be an exciting and dynamic year!

I'd like to draw your attention to an important upcoming event: Student-Led Conferences. These will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, October 15 and 16. The specific conference times are as follows:

- Wednesday, October 15, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 16, 7:30 – 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, October 16, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 16, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

As parents, one of the most impactful things you can do to support your child's success is to establish regular, open communication with their teachers. It's equally important to stay informed about the courses and programs your student enjoys, as well as how their high school experiences connect to future goals. Student-Led Conferences provide a fantastic opportunity for these conversations, with the support of your student's Advisory Teacher.

At these conferences, Freshmen will share insights from a personal strengths survey and set goals for their high school journey. Sophomores will reflect on various surveys they've taken, such as the Strengths Explorer and Career Cluster Finder, and align these with their future aspirations. These assessments in Naviance offer valuable information on students' personalities, interests, and potential career paths. Juniors will discuss future plans and the goals they've set, while Seniors will reflect on their Career Interest Profiler and how it relates to their post-secondary plans, charting out the next steps toward achieving their goals.

We'll be utilizing myconferencetime.com platform for scheduling both student-led and regular class conferences. Students will sign up for their Student-Led Conference during Advisory, after which you'll have the opportunity to schedule meetings with your student's other teachers. These 15-minute appointments can be either virtual or in-person, based on your preference. Our Counseling and Administrative teams will also be available through the platform, and we encourage you to schedule time with us if needed.

As we near the end of the first 9-week period, we recognize that some students may be facing challenges. Our Tuesday/Thursday After School Tutoring Labs have started, offering a great chance for students to spend extra time on campus to catch up. If your child is referred, we appreciate your support in encouraging their participation to ensure their success. Our goal remains to help every student reach their fullest potential. We're eager to hear how your student is progressing and look forward to seeing you during conferences!

Finally, we encourage you to show your support for the WRHS Blues Backers, who play a vital role in enhancing student experiences at Washburn Rural High School. You can contribute easily by scanning the QR code below or by visiting givebutter.com/WRHSpto. Every contribution makes a meaningful difference for our students and programs.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Raines". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being large and prominent.

Ed Raines, Principal
rainedw@usd437.net

Support Washburn Rural High
School PTO

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR
code below



Or visit:

<https://givebutter.com/WRHSpto>

WRHS Counseling Office

Counseling Website: bit.ly/wrhscounselors

Twitter Updates: [@wrhsgo](https://twitter.com/wrhsgo)

Crisis Hotline: 785-232-5005 or 988

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 Free to Kansas Colleges October 6-8

The first step in going to college is to apply! For many students, applying to college can be a daunting task. 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. From [October 6-8](#), Kansas applications are free!

PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Competition (NMSC)

The PSAT will be offered on October 13 and 14. 420 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 March 3

The State of Kansas offers a free ACT to juniors on March 3. 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](#).

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/>.

Tues. & Thurs. 3:05–4:15pm

AFTER SCHOOL LABS

Library.

English

Math

Science

Social Studies

Room G2342

AF-JROTC

Room F656

Student Services Resource



**Need a ride
home?**

Sign up in the Main Office
before 6th Period!



FREE STATE ACT



For Juniors

Test Date: March 3



SIGN UP

- October 31 deadline
- See link sent in email

Preparation

www.act.org

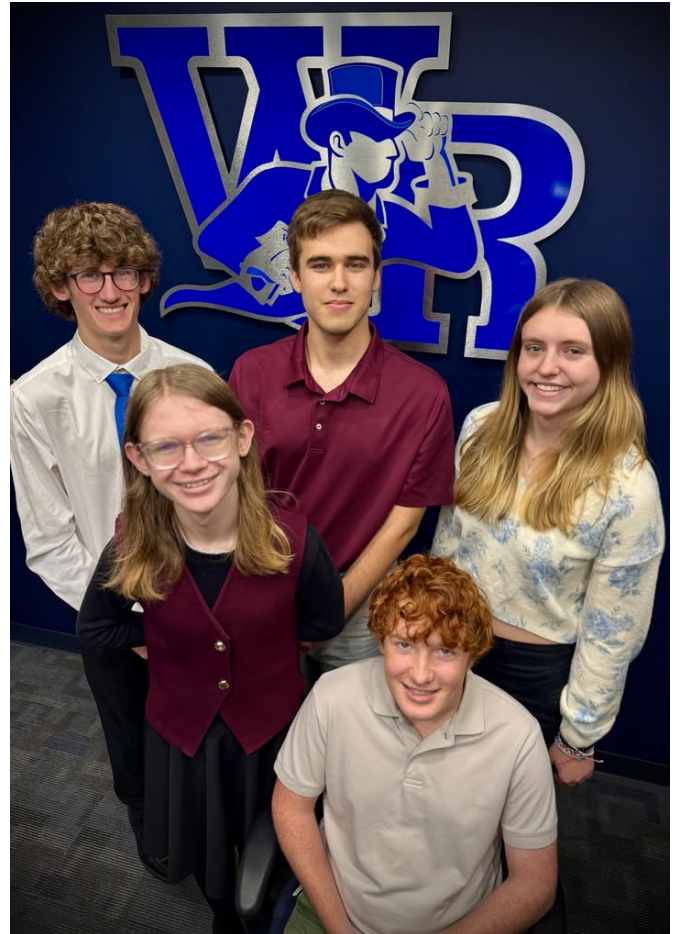
Bluebook app on Chromebook

◆ Feature: National Merit

Washburn Rural High School is excited to announce three semifinalists out of the 16,000 Semifinalists in the 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Tanner Haddock, Campbell Hight, and Ophelia Lackey are this year's Semifinalists. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 6,930 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million that will be offered next spring. To compete for National Merit Scholarships, Semifinalists must advance to the Finalist level of the competition by fulfilling several additional requirements. A Semifinalist can become a Finalist and compete for a Merit Scholarship award in only one program year. About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about 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 300 business organizations, higher education institutions, and individual donors that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Over 1.3 million juniors in about 20,000 high schools entered the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2024 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 2 National Merit Commended Scholars which represent the top 5 percent in the nation. Congratulations to Kaden Raines and Eli Replogle.



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, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

From over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 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.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2026 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 389,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

◆ Art Department

Washburn Rural High School students in Brad LeDuc's AP Studio Art class unveiled their Unsung Heroes portraits on Friday – powerful, oversized works inspired by contemporary artist Chuck Close. Students began the project by selecting their topic from any person in our local school community, based on who they wanted to honor as an Unsung Hero. After contacting their Hero, they shot photos to work from, laid out a grid to enlarge the photos for proper proportions, and began work on the portrait. The project promoted communication within the group and required them to work collectively, striving to create a work with unity/variety that captured the likeness of their Hero.

Artist Chuck Close (1940-2021) was the project's inspiration. Close reinvented the "portrait" in the late 1960s 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 mar's acrylic paint, applied with an airbrush. His original portraits were done on canvas in a similar 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.



UNSUNG HERO of 
Cynthia Burgett

◆ Art Department

Over the past three weeks, students poured their creativity and care into celebrating two individuals whose quiet dedication has left a lasting mark on Washburn Rural High School – former teacher Cynthia Burgett and paraeducator Charles Moore. Students conducted interviews, wrote thoughtful essays, collaborated on design, and revealed the final portraits in a moving ceremony that celebrated both art and community.

In a heartfelt essay about Ms. Burgett, student Greer Callaghan wrote, “What made her proudest as a teacher were the small but powerful “ah-ha” moments when students suddenly understood, or when they sat taller after receiving a thoughtful comment on their work. She loved encouraging them. Both in advice and praise, she always strived to improve her students' points and make them feel proud of their work.”

Of Mr. Moore, student Ayla Crowl shared, "Our group of AP art students has chosen him for this portrait project because we recognized the inspiration and bright spirit he brought to the school. We wanted to acknowledge the positive impact he has had."

Now in its 16th year, the Unsung Heroes project celebrates the extraordinary influence of everyday dedication. Thank you, Ms. Burgett and Mr. Moore, for reminding us how compassion and commitment can leave a lasting legacy.



UNSUNG HERO of 
Charles Moore

◆ Art Department



The BLUE Gallery

Edw Balda
Emeritus Exhibition
September 8th - 26th
WRHS H Hallway

Artist's Statement:

My "style" or techniques are often linked to memories and experiences of travel abroad. Foreign geography, in particular seascapes and mountains provide me with exciting challenges; often elusive in completion. I try to avoid hard edges and prefer soft luminescent layers and ambiguous forms. At times some shapes might suggest waves or perhaps mountains. I invite the viewer to decide and interpret what they wish to see. I must also admit that I am attracted to dramatic events in Nature. I often do not know what the end result will be. The process is very mental and at times guides itself to a final composition. Instincts and experience are very much part of the process.

Edw. Balda Biography:

Edw. Balda has been an accomplished local artist and art educator in the Topeka area since 1970. This will be his 56th year of teaching secondary education. In addition, he was an adjunct professor of art at Washburn University, teaching Graphic Design for 9 years. He currently instructs Fine Arts at Hayden Catholic High School, specializing in Jewelry making, Ceramics and Art History.

During childhood, Ed's family moved a lot, living in Kansas, California, Ecuador and Germany. Always fond of drawing, he became increasingly interested in art as a high school student in Santa Monica, California. It was there as well as in college at Ottawa University, that he was introduced to painting, and art history. His current style has often been described as reminiscent of the British painter J.M.W. Turner.

Edward has participated in various exhibitions and competitions locally as well as nationally. His work is part of collections on both coasts as well as in Ecuador, where he maintains dual citizenship. In addition to painting exhibits, Ed has accomplished recognitions in the field of printmaking and ceramics. He has been married to his wife, Dolores for 54 years. They have one son Graf, who resides in Ecuador and one daughter Megen who lives in St. Paul Minnesota.

◆ Department Highlights

National Art Honor Society

National Art Honor Societies officers for the 2025-2026 school year are Nora Pounds, President, Emily Hlady Vice President, Chloe Kester and Brennan Reed, Public Relations, Arlo Krauska, Olivia Zeyer, and Carlos Ferrel as Historians, and Secretary is Amelia Moses. The National Art Honor Society participated in the Aaron Douglas Art Fair, Saturday September 27th from 10-5. They showed student work, did face painting and volunteered at the fair. NAHS is also planning some other fundraisers and community service projects this school year.



World Language

Honors Spanish 3 students are currently reading the short novel "Mi Propio Auto." After reading one of the chapters, students wrote letters from the point of view of one of the characters to his girlfriend, Mindy. They then took their letter and made them into lyrics. They then used an AI music tool to create cheesy love songs out of their letters! Students typed their letters into the site, chose the type of music they wanted, and then watched their letter become a song!

AFJROTC

AFJROTC had another great year. The program has returned to pre-COVID numbers with over 120 students enrolling at the beginning of the school year. They continue to give students opportunities to experience flight, as they participated in aerial refueling exercises with the 190th Air Refueling Wing for the third year in a row. They met standards in their annual Headquarters Inspection and qualified for the Distinguished Unit Award, the Color Guard being the highest rated by our inspector this school year. The drill team won the championship of the Inaugural Topeka West Specialist Kyle G. Thomas Drill Competition. It is the school's first ever meet championship. The academic bowl team advanced to the second round of the National JROTC Academic Bowl competition for the 11th straight year posting the highest first round score in the school's history. They had 47 cadets participate in marksmanship this year, which is the most ever. They finished the marksmanship season by taking second and third place at the Topeka Side By Side Marksmanship Competition. The cadets stayed committed to making our community a better place to live by performing over 2500 hours of service this year. They ended the year with a trip to Washington DC where cadets experienced how the democratic process works with trips to the capitol, the White House, the Pentagon and many other learning experiences that our nation's capital has to offer.

Car Club

The WRHS Car Club at Washburn Rural High studies the latest car releases and discusses cars in general. They also host miniature car shows where students can bring any model car and show it off to the rest of the club. A major event they are planning is a car show for later this year. The students also plan to hold a car design competition in Automation, then they will race them in BeamNG and the winner will win a special gift. They also hold mini car shows using hotwheels or model cars. If anyone is interested in any of the events you can contact us at wrhs.car.club@gmail.com or wrhs.car.club on TikTok.

WRHS StuCo presents...



Trunk or Treat



Thursday, October 30th

WRHS 5900 SW 61st

5:30–6:30pm

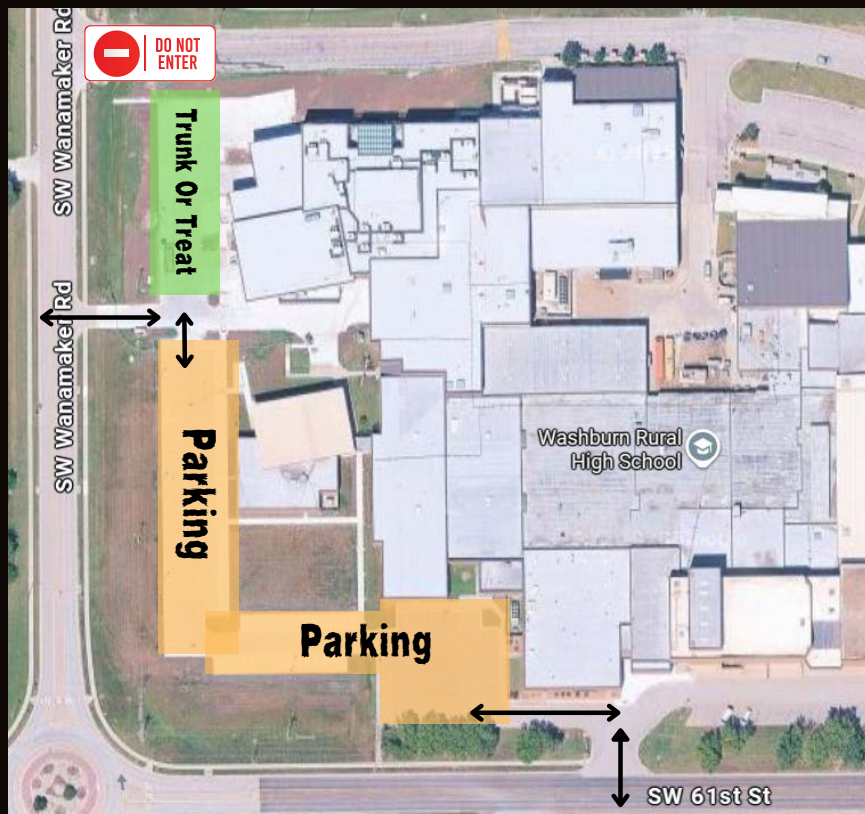
Costumes are encouraged!

This is a **FREE** event and open to all of the Auburn–Washburn community!

The 2025 Trunk or Treat will be held in the small parking lot in front of the Innovation Center (Northeast corner of WRHS).



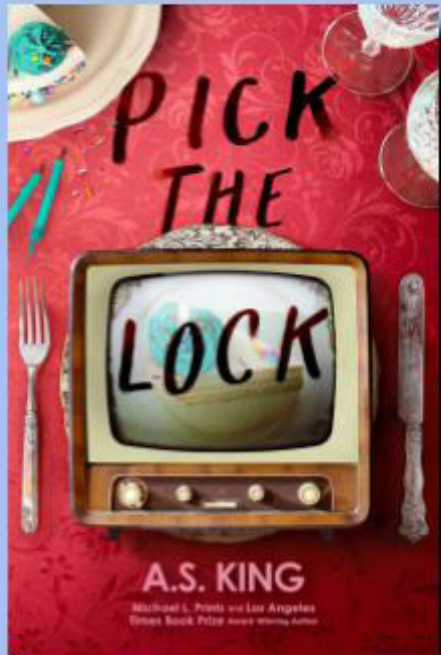
Please park in the staff parking lots (East and Southeast of the school) and enter and exit from either the East entrance of Wanamaker or the South entrance on 61st Street.



Any WRHS groups wanting to participate and set up a trunk for this event can find more information here: <http://bit.ly/4233x6H>

Mrs. Finney's Monthly YA Book Recommendation

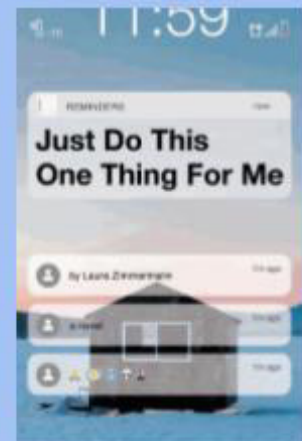
October 2025



Pick the Lock
By A.S. King
F KIN

After Covid, Jane and brother stopped going to public school. She has been homeschooled by her controlling father, and brainwashed by her weird aunt, so now Jane thinks it's normal for her mother to be locked in a system of tubes in the house. That is until one day when she stumbles across family security cameras, then Jane starts to question everything, and everyone.

Similar Titles Include:



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

Visit the WRHS Library to place a hold on or check out one of these amazing books today!

◆ Media Center

Learning Express Library from the **State Library of Kansas** has numerous offerings, including resources to **Prepare for Your ACT Test!** library.ks.gov/LEL

From **Centers**, select **College Students** then **Prepare for College Placement Exams** to locate the ACT Test Preparation materials.




Find Tests, Tutorials, eBooks. 

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Marcy Sandberg 



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ACT® Preparation Tutorials

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- ACT® English Test Preparation Tutorial
- ACT® Mathematics Test Preparation Tutorial
- ACT® Reading Test Preparation Tutorial
- ACT® Science Test Preparation Tutorial
- ACT® Writing Test Preparation Tutorial

ACT® Practice Tests

- ACT® English Practice Tests
- ACT® Math Practice Tests
- ACT® Reading Practice Tests
- ACT® Science Practice Tests
- ACT® Writing Practice Tests
- ACT® Complete Simulated Practice Tests

ACT® Test Preparation eBooks

- ACT® Test Preparation eBooks

Online Databases and Learning Tools

Fun Facts



Includes extensive, up-to-date articles; videos; interactive games; science



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!



World News Digest

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



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

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 <https://library.ks.gov/databases> to find these resources and more.

eBooks & Audio Books



Bestsellers, Fiction & popular nonfiction eBook & Audiobooks



No holds, large collection. eBook Only



Great variety, includes self-published. eBook Only



Animated storybooks paired with a nonfiction eBook and games.



Britannica Collective

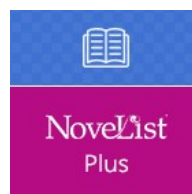
(Pre K - 9th grade) Non-fiction eBooks, unlimited access. eBook Only

Visit <https://library.ks.gov/digital-books> to find your next book.

Parent & Educator Resources



The Mailbox Plus 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.

Infobase
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

Access to these resources was made possible through funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services



INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES

Public Library Support and Resources for High School Students

TSCPL @ School

TSCPL @ School

Resources for Students

Test Proctoring

How it works

How to participate



If you are a student at a participating Shawnee County school, you already have a library card! That means you can check out books, movies, & digital resources like online databases, digital ebooks, digital audio and streaming videos!

For most schools, your student number now works as a library card number. **It's your very own library card!**

Get your Homework done faster and easier!

You can access our electronic resources 24/7! Find great books to read, download or stream. Or visit the library to use the internet, print or check out a book to read. We even have a [growing collection of apps](#) to download to your mobile device.

What are you waiting for? There is an entire library for you to explore and you already have access.

How it works

Your library card is your school district number followed by your student ID number. You'll also need your PIN to check out library materials and access digital resources. Your initial PIN is your graduation year. If you have trouble logging in, ask your school librarian or contact us at school@tscpl.libanswers.com, call [785-580-4400](tel:785-580-4400) or text [785-322-4099](tel:785-322-4099).

School Districts	Prefix + Student ID	Library Card
Seaman	345 + 123456	345123456
Auburn-Washburn	437 + 123456	437123456
Shawnee Heights	450 + 123456	450123456
Topeka Public	501 + 123456	501123456

Text or Email a WRHS Librarian for assistance,
785-260-0015

Mrs. Sandberg sandbmar@usd437.net

Mrs. Finney finnevic@usd437.net

Career and Technical Education

Workplace Experience Opportunities

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. If you are interested in WPE contact Teresa Golden by email at goldeter@usd437.net

Certificates and Industry Recognized Credentials being earned by WRHS Students in several CTE Pathways.

[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 aptitude and interests. The platform also allows for teachers to check completion of competencies standards in each CTE course. With YouScience, students can make more informed decisions about their future education and career choices, leading to greater engagement and success in the classroom.

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

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

Biomedical Research Students will be preparing for the [BACE](#) certification exam which will take place in the spring. The exam serves as a hiring benchmark, providing evidence for mastery of industry defined standards. This may reduce training time, allowing for rapid transition to higher level class work or supporting a move from school to work.

Students in the Teaching & Training Program complete the Master Teacher [Paraeducator Title 1 Certification](#) validates skills, qualifies for jobs, and offers a pathway to advanced educational roles by providing essential training and ensuring professional competency for supporting students in the classroom. Earning a certification proves a fundamental understanding of educational principles, enabling individuals to assist teachers and students effectively, especially those with special needs, while also enhancing their opportunities in the field of education.

Students in our application level classes in Construction and Manufacturing complete the [OSHA 30 Certification](#). This certification is offered for construction or general industry, training supervisors and workers on workplace hazards and safety best practices, helping them understand safety regulations, identify hazards, and use protective equipment. Completing the course and passing the final exam provides a DOL card that many employers require for safety-related and supervisory roles.

◆ Career and Technical Education

[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, 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.

If you are interested in serving on one of our pathway Advisory Boards please connect with Teresa Golden at goldeter@usd437.net.



To ensure distribution of the degree prospectus information published by the Kansas Board of Regents. [DegreeStats](#) to students 7-12 grades and their families. Students should be researching and planning for their future careers.

- The [Kansas Training Information Program \(K-TIP\)](#) report.
- Other information relevant to the student's understanding of potential earnings.
- [Kansas Labor Information Center \(KLIC\) - LMI Home Page \(ks.gov\)](#)
- The potential earnings of the branches of the armed services of the US Military.
 - [KBOR Military and Veteran Resources](#)
 - [CareerOneStop \(Includes Military Options\)](#)
 - [O*NET OnLine \(onetonline.org\)](#) (Military Crosswalk)
- [Kansas Career Guidance Handbook 2025-2026 \(ksde.org\)](#)

◆ Career and Technical Education

HOSA

HOSA had 2 speakers come in during the club period to discuss different student opportunities at Stormont Vail, starting at 14. Then, they discussed different health professions, from associate's to bachelor's to master's programs. During the second session, we started helping HOSA members sign up for volunteering, so they are ready and can go through the next step, which is the interview process and placement @ Stormont Vail. Volunteering will give students the opportunity to see what type of healthcare profession they are passionate about or comfortable with. Volunteering at Stormont Vail will also help students improve their "bedside manner," their ability to communicate or help with patient care.

August 21- **Morgan Ray – Career Counselor/Talent Acquisition Partner**

August 28 – **Kaci Copas-Richardson - Experience Manager (Volunteer Opportunities)**

CTE @ WRHS

On Monday, September 8th, we hosted a training session for the Kansas State Department of Education, welcoming administrators, teachers from nearby districts, and KSDE staff. Our culinary students catered the lunch, while our NTHS students led tours of the CTE Innovation Center.



Mr. Gerlach on building a house with MidWest Homes



Mrs. Dible's Culinary Arts students catered the lunch

◆ Career and Technical Education

Game Design Guest Speaker

On Tuesday, September 16th, 2025, our Game Design students had the opportunity to hear from Steven Wiltz, Vice President of Game Accessibility and Operations at the AbleGamers Charity. This was a special guest speaker event, as Steven was able to join us virtually from the East Coast.



Even though the session was online, it was one of the most engaging and impactful experiences for our students.

Before the presentation, students explored the Accessible Player Experience (APX) model, a framework developed by AbleGamers. They learned how access and challenge patterns can be used to improve games so that people of all abilities, including those with disabilities, can enjoy the experience.



During his talk, Steven shared his personal journey to his current role and described how he continues to make a difference through his work. The AbleGamers Charity partners both with individuals with disabilities and with the gaming industry to help developers design more inclusive experiences. In his role, Steven meets with game developers and companies, while also leading training and professional development sessions focused on applying the APX model's access and challenge patterns.

Our students also had the chance to ask Steven questions and even share their own game ideas for the year. His insights not only inspired them but also challenged them to think more deeply about how to design games that truly include everyone.

We asked Senior Game Design student Grayson Huey to reflect on his biggest takeaways and how prepared he feels moving forward with his game development process:

"The biggest thing I learned from the guest speaker is which accessibility patterns developers should prioritize when creating a game, particularly features like colorblind mode and resizable text. I also learned that it's much easier to implement these patterns early rather than later, since adding them sooner means less code has to be reworked. After the conversation, I feel more prepared to start building my game now that I have accessibility in mind, and I know which patterns I need to include right from the beginning."



Students are now eager to begin building their games and applying the accessibility features they learned about through the AbleGamers Charity and the APX framework.

◆ Career and Technical Education

Exploring Careers and Food Safety

Jana Dible's Culinary students recently spent a day with Shawnee County Extension learning about career exploration and food safety.

Food safety is a growing field focused on protecting public health by preventing foodborne illnesses. Careers range from government inspectors and public health veterinarians to quality assurance managers and food scientists. This dynamic industry offers job security, diverse work environments—from labs to manufacturing plants—and opportunities to impact sustainability and global food systems.

With strong job growth driven by evolving regulations and global supply chains, food safety offers rewarding and flexible career paths for those interested in science, regulation, and industry innovation.



DECA Business Guest Speakers

Rayanna Breshears and J.W. Wells with the Kansas Banking Association and Robbins Banking Institute stopped by to talk to our finance/marketing club, DECA, along with Mr. McFall's Honors Consumer and Personal Finance Class. During their visit, Rayanna and J.W. covered many topics including the importance of being prepared for their future finances and the importance of preparing themselves for their future careers. They spoke of careers in the banking industry: Customer Representative, Compliance, IT, Loan Officer, etc.

Rayanna also discussed The Robins Banking Institute at Fort Hays University. There are plenty of incentives they offer as a part of this program. You can obtain a BBA with a banking focus, as well as certificates in banking. This program gives students a head start into the world of banking. If you would like to learn more about the Robins Banking Institute as well as an Internship opportunity with the KBA, follow the links below.

[Robins Banking Institute](#)
[KBA Internship Connection Program](#)

This year we look forward to hearing from the following guest speakers!

October 23 Topic: Banking
(Checking/Savings/Loans) Scott Hughes, Silver Lake Bank
November 13 Topic: Credit / Credit Cards
Dr. David Sollars, Dean of Business School, Washburn University
December 4 Topic: Retirement / Estate Planning
Brian Ismert, Northwestern Mutual
January 8 Topic: Affordable Housing
Trina Tyler, Security Benefit
January 22 Topic: Risk Insurance
Brian Green, Brian Green Allstate Agency



WRHS

BANK

WIN \$500

DRAWING AT THE END OF THE YEAR

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

Join the Jr. Blue Crew!

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

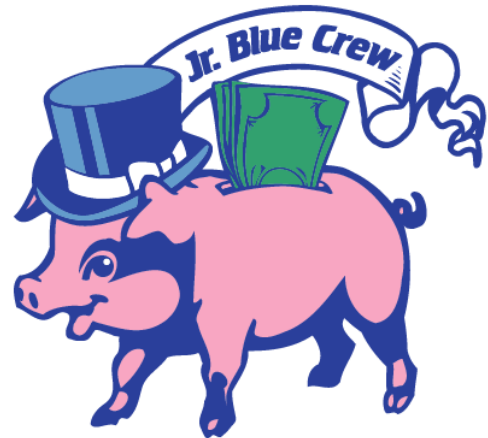
FAQS:

- **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



WRHS Bank
Let your change make a change!

4.0% INTEREST



@wr.bank



@WRHSbank

Annual Fundraiser

Fall into Giving

October - November

.....

DONATION ITEMS

.....

- granola bars
- instant mac and cheese
- ramen
- goldfish / cheez its
- peanut butter crackers
- fruit cups / fruit pouches
- canned meals
- instant rice / potatoes
- Chef Boyardee meals
- sweatpants / shorts
- feminine products
- undergarments/socks
- clothing sizes 2XL - 3XL

.....

Donation Drop Off @ The Shack





BREAST CANCER

Awareness Month



Fundraiser

Purchase a **PINK OUT**

Garment from The Shack proceeds
donated to the
National Breast Cancer Foundation

[https://ruralspirit.square.site/
breast-cancer-awareness](https://ruralspirit.square.site/breast-cancer-awareness)

*Thank
you!*

Pink Lemonade

@ COMMON GROUNDS

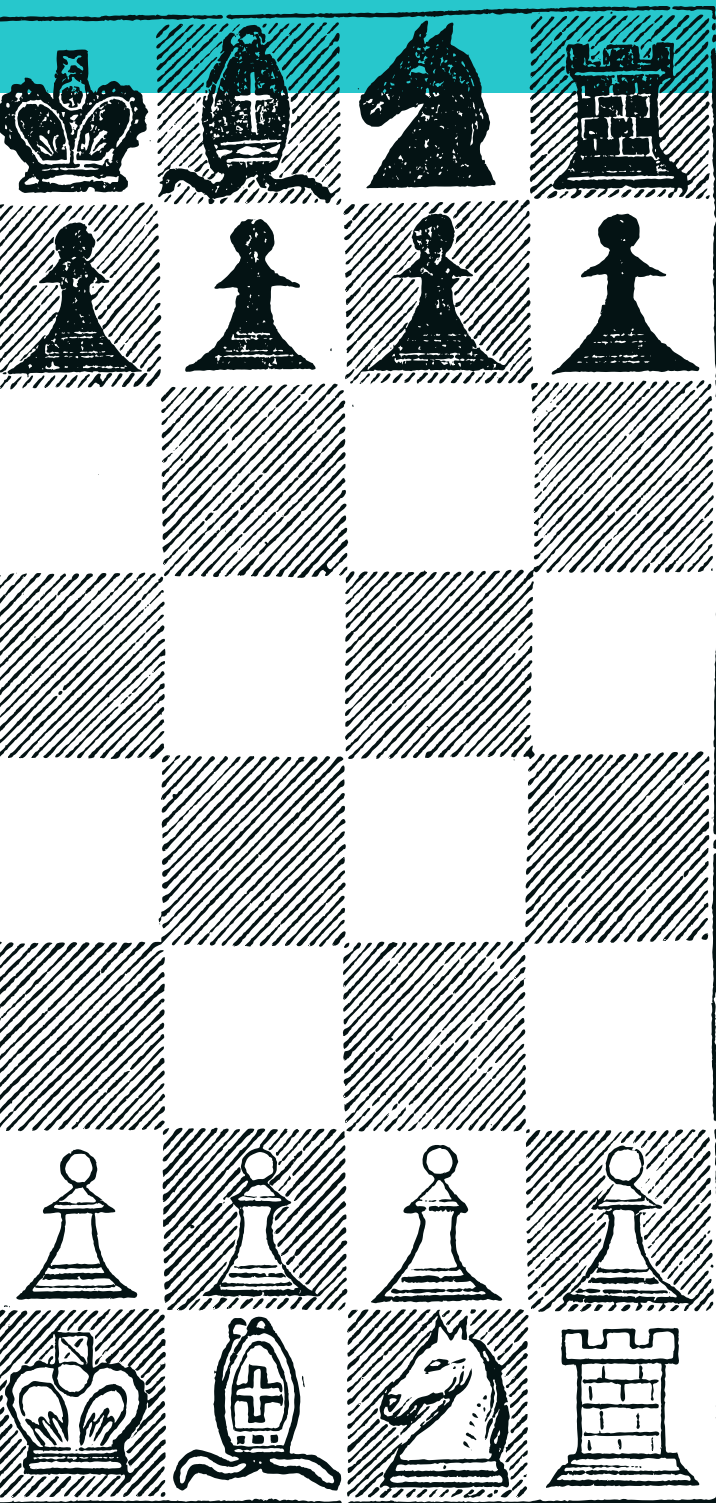


**BUY A PINK LEMONADE
TO SUPPORT
BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS
MONTH**

**50 CENTS
DONATED TO THE
NATIONAL
BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS
FOUNDATION**



**AVAILABLE ALL
OF OCTOBER**



CHESS CLUB

CLUB DAYS
D278

2025 - 2026

CHESS TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

10/11/25 WASHBURN RURAL HS
11/8/25 JAY SHIDELER
12/13/25 CORDLEY, LAWRENCE
1/10/26 K-STATE, MANHATTAN
1/10/26 TOPEKA COLLEGIATE
2/28/26 MOST PURE HEART
3/7/26 PRAIRIE PARK, LAWRENCE
3/14/26 KSCA STATE, EMPORIA
3/28/26 KSCA GIRLS STATE,
TOPEKA

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.
STUDENTS & STAFF ARE WELCOME!
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: MR. MCVEY AT TIMMCVEY@USD437.NET



WHAT IS KAY Club?



Students who participate in activities like KAY tend to have higher grade point averages, better attendance records, lower dropout rates, and few discipline problems.

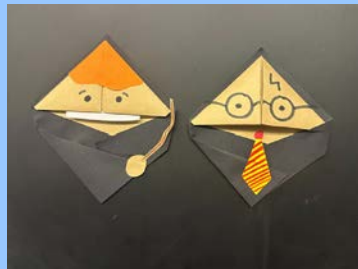


The Kansas Association for Youth (KAY) is a character-building, leadership training, service program directed by the KSHSAA. KAY is student association unique to Kansas and started in 1946 under the direction of Miss Wanda May Vinson.

What are some benefits?



What do we do?



KAY Club participates in many service projects throughout the years. These projects help to benefit our school, community, and/or our world.



@wrhskayclub

Haley Schmitz's email: schmihal@usd437.net

SENIOR PORTRAITS

Senior Portrait Specifications for Yearbook

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

OPTION #1: Inter-State Studios

Inter-State is the school portrait photographer.

This is at no cost to the student. The yearbook staff will have access to these images. Senior portraits can be taken during enrollment or during the retake date in the fall. Please see the WRHS school calendar for specific portrait dates.

Example:



OPTION #2: Select Your Photographer & Submit Your Image

Students/families do this option on their own.

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

Example:



Send your portrait file to:

wrhsporraits@usd437.net

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

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

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

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

WRHS Yearbook Senior Salutes

It's Your Child's Senior Year!

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

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

Salute sizes range from 1/8 of a page to a full page and are available in color or black & white. Custom designs can be submitted (as a JPEG), or you may choose from one of the prepared layouts on the attached pages.

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

(2) gather your pictures.

*Do not cut photos.

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

wrhssalutes@usd437.net

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

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

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

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

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

Hurry, space is limited!

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

Salute deadline: first Friday in December

Yearbook Salute Order Form

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

Buyer's Name: _____

Senior's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ (in case we have questions)

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

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

Salute Size & Color

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

Black & White Salute Space

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

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

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

____ Full Page \$300 Layout: K L

Color Salute Space

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

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

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

____ Full Page \$400 Layout: K L

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

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

2026

WRHS YEARBOOK

Name: _____

Grade: 9 10 11 12

Yearbook Prices: \$60.00 ☐

\$75 for available extra copies at 2027 enrollment

Name to appear on the cover (optional): \$5.00 ☐

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to WRHS YEARBOOK

Check # _____

Paid Date _____

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

OR ORDER ONLINE!

www.yearbookordercenter.com
school code: 33333



BUY YOUR YEARBOOK LIKE, NOW

**YEARBOOKS ON SALE
ORDER TODAY**

YEARBOOKORDERCENTER.COM

Keep your order number handy when you log on.

Washburn Rural High School

33333