



THE FALCON PRESS

Westosha Central High School's
Community Newsletter

Completion of the Facility



The Facility Project that began two years ago is complete. We are extremely proud of the outcome and will be forever grateful for the community's support in approving the new additions and upgrades. Students and staff are still in awe of the new spaces and building upgrades. The building feels like a completely new school and the pride from everyone is evident each and every day.



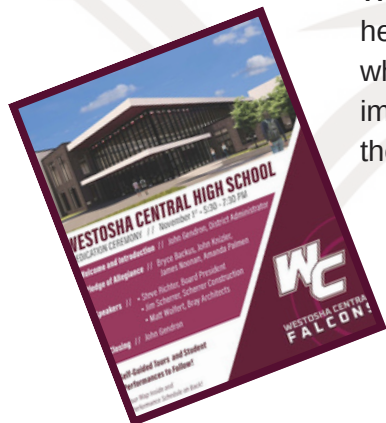
During the last month, we were able to showcase the new building with many activities and events; these include but are not limited to:

- Showcasing the new auditorium with a Choir concert, Jazz Band concert, and three performances of an amazing drama show.
- Multiple varsity competitions and selection to host the WIAA Sectional Boys' AND Girls' Volleyball sectional finals.
- Parent and community presentations in the new Upper Commons Room.



Facility Dedication

While these events were amazing, we are especially proud of the Dedication Event held on Wednesday, November 1. The event was attended by nearly 500 people who were able to learn more about the new spaces and how it has positively impacted teaching and learning. The testimonials by our staff and students made the event a night to remember.



Fitness Center

One of the outstanding additions to the Westosha Central facility is a state-of-the-art Fitness Center. The space provides a large weight-lifting area and a fitness/cardio section equipped with multiple exercise stations. We are excited to announce that the space will be open to the community soon. Important information is below:

Community Hours of Operation (School Year)

- Mornings Monday - Friday: 5:30 a.m.-7 a.m. (cardio equipment ONLY)
- Evenings Monday - Friday: 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
- Saturdays: 7-11 a.m.
- CLOSED during all school breaks and holidays; summer hours are TBD



Annual Fees (January 1-December 31) for District Residents

- Family (\$40 maximum); immediate family only, children ages 13-19
- Individual (\$25)
- Senior Citizens (65+) and WCHS graduates attending college: \$15 Individual or \$30 Family maximum
- Current students are free of charge

Community hours will begin on Monday, December 4. [Click here](#) to buy your membership for 2024. For additional questions, please contact Jon Lindh, Activities Director, at LindhJ@westosha.k12.wi.us.



Help Wanted: Fitness Center Supervisor

Westosha Central is looking for a part-time Fitness Center Supervisor Monday through Friday evenings from 5:30 until 8 p.m. The Fitness Center will be closed during school breaks; summer hours are to be determined. Find more information by [clicking on this link](#). The application deadline is Friday, December 8.

Special Note: Emergency Closings and Delays

In the event of an Emergency Closure or Delay, the school's calling system will contact every student household. Closures and delays will also be broadcast on local radio and television stations as well as posted on the school website www.westosha.k12.wi.us.



When the school is closed, all activities are canceled and the Fitness Room will be closed.



From John Gendron, Our District Administrator

Portrait of a Westosha Graduate and Redefining Ready

Two years ago, the District formed a Strategic Planning Committee; the committee consisted of staff, parents, Board of Education members, and community members. The end goal of the Strategic Planning Team was to ensure that “Each and Every Student is Prepared for Their Future”. The staff at Westosha Central has spent countless hours determining what this means for our students. Two specific outcomes have been determined; they include:

Portrait of a Westosha Graduate

- The District worked hard to identify the skills and attributes that we want every Westosha Central graduate to possess and exhibit when they leave our school community. Below is a graphic representing our beliefs and goals.

Redefining Ready

- Westosha Central staff continues to discuss the question of “What does it mean to ensure that students are prepared for their future?” but more importantly, we ask the question of “How do we know students are prepared and ready?”
- To help us evaluate our progress, the district has adopted Redefining Ready! Redefining Ready! is a national initiative built on new research-based metrics to appropriately assess that students are college ready, career ready and life ready.
- As a Redefining Ready school, Westosha Central seeks to help students achieve key indicators by focusing on daily decisions and actions over which the students have complete control. This image shows a summary of the key indicators:

The graphic is a rectangular box with a maroon and light grey color scheme. At the top, it says "Redefining Ready" in white text on a maroon background. On the left and right sides, there are logos: a falcon head on the left and "WC" on the right. In the center, a vertical maroon bar contains the word "INDICATORS" in white, oriented vertically. To the left of this bar is the "College Ready" section, and to the right is the "Career Ready" section. At the bottom center, there is a maroon box with the text "WESTOSHA CENTRAL FALCONS" in white.

<u>College Ready</u>	<u>Career Ready</u>
Academic Indicators	Career Ready
GPA of 2.8 out of 4.0 and ONE or MORE of the following:	Career Cluster Identified and TWO or MORE of the following benchmarks:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advanced Placement Exam (3+)• Advanced Placement Course (A, B, or C)• Dual Credit College English and/or Math (A, B, or C)• Algebra II (A, B, or C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 90% Attendance• 25 hours of Community Service• Youth Apprenticeship, Work Experience, Service Learning• Industry Credential• Dual Credit Career Pathway Course• Two or more organized Co-Curricular Activities
Standardized Testing Benchmarks (minimum score)	
ACT Exam <ul style="list-style-type: none">• English - 18• Reading - 22• Science - 23• Math - 22	It is important to translate Benchmarks and indicators to your daily decisions.
	Will you be ready?

WESTOSHA CENTRAL FALCONS

- Below is our three-year cohort of the percentage of students that are ready for the next phase of their life when they leave our school. The percentage demonstrates the percentage of students in the graduating class meeting the benchmarks described above. We are extremely proud of our gains, but we will not stop until 100 percent of our students are Career or College Ready.

College Ready

2021	2022	2023
66%	66%	75%

Career Ready

2021	2022	2023
41%	58%	85%

College or Career Ready

2021	2022	2023
70%	83%	92%

College and Career Ready

2021	2022	2023
36%	49%	74%



PORTRAIT OF A WESTOSHA CENTRAL GRADUATE

Each and Every Student Prepared for Their Future

SCHOLARSHIP

We pursue knowledge and experiences to learn and improve.

Create
Communicate
Think Critically LEAD
PROBLEM SOLVE

CITIZENSHIP

We are community proud with a desire to contribute to and further enhance where we live.

RESPECT
Collaborate ENGAGE
Contribute

CHARACTER

We are ready for the journey ahead of us and have the skills to navigate challenges that come our way.

SELF-DIRECT
Empathize ACCEPT
RESPONSIBILITY
Persevere

**WESTOSHA CENTRAL
FALCONS**



Our promise to every student is that we will continue to provide opportunities and experiences that will push them to think, achieve, and challenge their learning and growth.

Westosha Central Substitutes are Part of our Family

Former Westosha Central teacher Wayne Erickson continues to give back to our school community by substitute teaching at the high school. In October, Wayne and our staff celebrated Wayne's 93rd birthday! It was a great celebration of Wayne's commitment to the school and community and included trips down memory lane reviewing old yearbooks and reminiscing. Happy Birthday, Wayne!



You can be a substitute too!

Substitute teachers help keep the normal school day running smoothly when teachers are out of the building for various reasons. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a substitute teacher at Westosha Central High School, please contact Associate Principal Tom Neave at NeaveT@Westosha.k12.wi.us or [click here](#) for more information.

An Update from our Principal, Kevin Kitslaar

We are about twelve weeks into the semester, and the winter sports and activities have begun. It was a busy and exciting fall season for our students, our sports teams, and our student-athletes.

- Mackenzie Thomas won the 100 breaststroke at the WIAA State Swim Meet. This is the first time in school history!
- The Westosha Central High School Dance Team performed at a Milwaukee Bucks game.
- All of the students and cast involved in *Elf the Musical* did an amazing job! It was great to have this show in the new auditorium, with each of the shows being sold out.
- The Choir and Jazz Band held their fall concerts. Both the choir and band also have holiday concerts coming up.
- The Powder Puff game at the end of October raised more than \$3,000 for the Wisconsin Breast Cancer Coalition.
- We also have three students, Alexander Boston, Amelia Magdovitz, and Petar Minic, who received a Letter of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Congrats!

The school year has started off busy, and there is a lot to be proud of. The new spaces and additions look great and are being used daily. I enjoy seeing students collaborating and working in the break-out learning spaces. Students and staff have also used the Upper Commons Conference Room for meetings and presentations.

The staff and I have been focusing on instructional practices that provide engaging and rigorous learning. As a staff, we have been using AVID strategies to support writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading in lessons in all classrooms. These are research-based instructional strategies that support student learning in the lessons and prepare students for college and career post-secondary plans. This focus will also support the learning environment in the classrooms as we move to a trimester schedule next school year, 2024-2025.

I held presentations at the start of the year with families and have had grade-level meetings with all students on the trimester schedule. As a staff, we continue to have professional development focused on teaching in a longer block of time. We are excited about the opportunities that a trimester provides for students with a longer block of time for learning each day. Information will continue to be shared with everyone through monthly high school newsletters. Counselors will also be available for any questions students may have as they begin to plan and register for classes next school year.

Westosha Central High School has a dedicated staff that I feel lucky to be a part of. We continue to focus on ensuring students are college and career ready and are prepared for their future. We will continue to support each and every student to be successful academically, as we want all students to be successful. The staff and I are here to support and help all students. If your child has any questions please tell them to stop by or send their teacher an email, or stop by or send me an email. All of you are also welcome to reach out any time as well if you have any questions.

Have a wonderful holiday season!



From our IMC Director, Jessica Hammersmith

Fun opportunities are happening in the IMC! Students on the Battle of the Books team are preparing for their state competition in February, meeting every other month to study and share their knowledge about the twenty titles in the competition. Our studio and breakout rooms are reserved each day while students create, record, collaborate, study, and so much more! The collection is growing and students and staff are checking out books daily and looking for their next favorite book!



Coming soon: students and staff will be participating in our first IMC Maker Event painting moons and joining in on our community art poster! Keep an eye on the website for more IMC happenings in the upcoming months!

From our Athletic Director, Jon Lindh

Fall Athletics Wrap-Up

This past fall was a successful and historical season for Westosha Central Athletics. MacKenzie Thomas wrapped up her swimming career by being the first Kenosha County swimmer to win a WIAA State Title. She took the championship in a photo finish in the 100-yard breaststroke with a winning time of 1:02.87. Thomas won the state title after taking second in the 50 freestyle and was a member of the third-place 200 freestyle relay and a member of the fourth-place 400 freestyle relay. MacKenzie will be taking her talents to the University of Connecticut, where she will continue her swimming career. MacKenzie was also selected as the 2023 Swimmer of the Year by the Southern Lakes Conference.



Joining MacKenzie at the WIAA Swimming Meet and also a member of the 400 freestyle was Sophomore Addison Palmer. Addison also finished in the Top 10 in both the 200 freestyle and the 100 butterfly. The combined efforts of Thomas and Palmer helped the co-op swim team to finish fifth overall out of 38 teams.



Girls golf qualified for their third straight WIAA State Tournament. It was a back-and-forth battle over the two-day tournament. In the end, the team fell just short of receiving their third straight trophy. This year marks the end for seniors Kylie Walker, Katelyn Walker, and Chloe Brown. Kylie Walker was the highest individual finisher for the Falcons, taking fifth place overall. Kylie was named the Southern Lakes Conference Player of the Year, and shortly after the WIAA Tournament concluded, Izzy Stricker (Waunakee) and Kylie were named Wisconsin co-players of the year by the Golf Coaches Association. The Walker twins plan to continue their golf and academic careers at Ferris State.

Boys soccer also rewrote school history with their first Conference Championship. Additionally, the team was ranked #1 in Division 2 for the majority of the season. The team was led by Petar Minic, who was named the 2023 Soccer Player of the Year in the Southern Lakes. After winning their first WIAA Regional in school history, the team advanced to the Sectional Semi-Final where they hosted Greendale. To say it was a classic game would be an understatement.



At the conclusion of regulation, Greendale and Westosha Central were tied at 2-2. They played 20 minutes of overtime and were still tied at 2-2. Then, after two rounds of shootout kicks, they were still tied. Unfortunately, after a couple of extra kicks, the team fell just short. The team returns a majority of their players and the future looks bright for the program.

Both boys volleyball and football had success throughout the regular season and post-season. Boys volleyball took second in the conference but was awarded the #1 seed in the WIAA Tournament. They easily won the Regional before playing a solid Mukwonago squad in the Sectional Semi-Final. In the end, the Falcons won the match and advanced to the Sectional Final against Kettle Moraine. Unfortunately, the team fell just short of securing another trip to the WIAA State Tournament. Football made their second consecutive WIAA Tournament. In the first round, the team traveled to Greenfield, where they played a dominant second half to pull away and secure a 53-29 victory. In the second round, the team faced defending state champion Kettle Moraine. For almost three quarters, the Falcons outplayed the #1 ranked team in the state. They showed a gallant effort; however, they couldn't keep up with Kettle Moraine's offense. Brock Koeppel, Collin Meininger, and Mason Mitacek were selected to compete in a throwing challenge at halftime of a Green Bay Packers game.

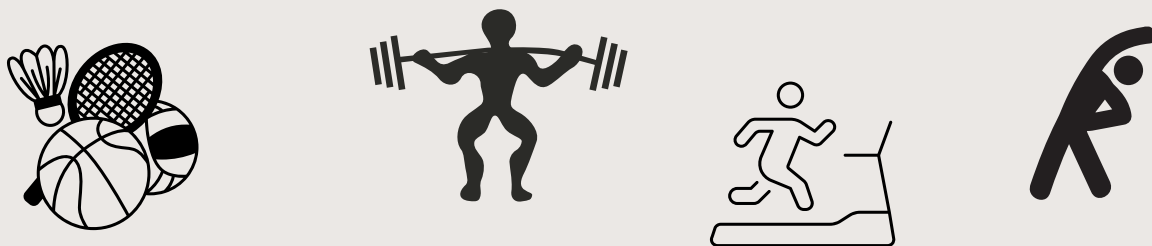
As we flip the calendar to the start of the winter season, we would like to thank all of our community support for Westosha Central Athletics. Your continued support is greatly appreciated by all of our players, coaches, and parents.

From our Director of Learning & Innovation, Amy Koszarek

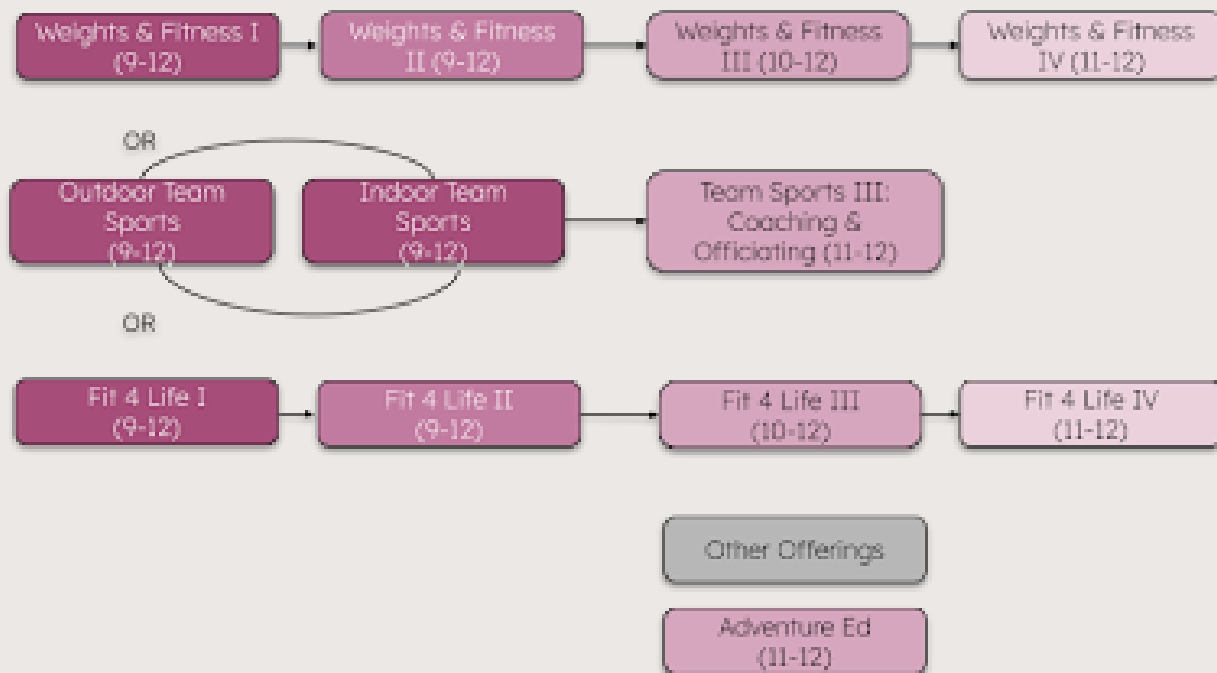
Curriculum Updates: Here are just a couple of the new courses WCHS families can anticipate in the 2024-2025 School Year.

PE Providing New Opportunities

Every fall the Curriculum Committee meets to review courses proposed by our faculty. Based on our new facility, and in anticipation of a new trimester schedule, the Physical Education (Phy Ed) Department came up with a more personalized approach to courses offered within their department. While teachers will still commit to agreed-upon essential standards in their courses, the courses will be tailored to varied interests and abilities in order to better engage students in physical activities that meet their individual needs. The hope is that by moving from a gender-based approach for ninth and tenth grade physical education courses to one based on a choice of physical fitness activities, students will demonstrate even higher levels of engagement and greater enjoyment of physical fitness activities. Starting in ninth grade, students will have more choices about the type of physical education course they participate in, including courses that center around team sports, personal fitness, or weightlifting. Each course will offer some exploration of the other areas but will be grounded in the type of physical fitness described in its title.

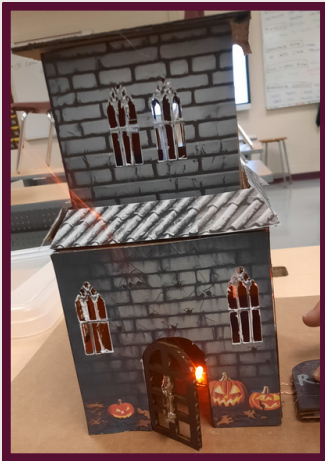


Here is an overview of the types of course sequences being offered. Over the course of three years (minimally), students will be allowed to progress further in one pathway (left to right) or move between course pathways (based on grade level and prerequisites). More information about these courses will be provided to students in the 2024-2025 course registration guide.



Project Lead The Way (PLTW) News

Westosha Central High School is adding a capstone engineering course called Engineering Design and Development (EDD). In 2021-2022, the high school launched its inaugural year of PLTW after learning that several of the K-8 feeder schools were also offering exploratory PLTW courses in their middle grades. PLTW is a nationally recognized program that uses problem-based learning and real-world scenarios to engage students in learning. One of the pathways offered through PLTW is the engineering pathway. Courses in this pathway help build skills in engineering and empower students to develop other essential skills like problem-solving, creative thinking, communication, and collaboration.



In 2021-2022, WCHS offered two introductory engineering courses to students: Engineering Essentials (EE) and Principles of Engineering (POE). Approximately 46 students participated in the first year of those courses. In 2022-2023, we added Civil Engineering and Architecture (CEA), and in 2023-2024, we added Aerospace Engineering. We now have 4 sections of engineering courses and 59 students participating. A 28 percent growth in just 2 years is amazing!



Each course has an end-of-course assessment that can earn students college credit based on how well they perform. Even better, two of the courses are transcribed with Gateway Technical College, so students earn college credit for successful completion of the courses. Students can earn two college credits for successful completion of POE and five college credits for successful completion of CEA. Mr. Kan Pai, the PLTW Engineering teacher, has been the driving force behind the growth of our engineering pathway and has spent the last three summers training for each new course he has offered. Now we are excited to add a capstone course to our engineering pathway called Engineering Design and Development (EDD). This course will round out a three to four-year sequence of engineering classes by offering students the opportunity to work in a team to design and develop an original solution to a well-defined and justified open-ended problem by applying an engineering design process. Students will use the skills learned in earlier courses to do this work and will showcase their final design solution projects to a panel. This course is sure to be an amazing experience for students in the engineering pathway!



EES Students Built Paper Rollercoasters - 2023

Sold-Out Hit!

First Show in New Auditorium



The WCHS Performing Arts Departments joined forces this fall to produce *Elf the Musical* as the first official production in the brand-new Westosha Central Auditorium. Each night was sold out, which is over 200 seats more than the former Cafetorium could hold. The new space includes state-of-the-art lighting and sound equipment, raked seating for 604, an extended stage, and excellent acoustics.



The show's directors, Mr. Klimzak and Mr. Clark, were looking for something big and epic to christen the new space. Last fall, Jennifer Scheele, our musical accompanist, pitched the idea of doing *Elf*. This show checked many boxes. It indeed was big and epic. It is a beloved holiday classic, full of good cheer and great laughs that appeal to the whole family. And it had several great roles to showcase our students.

The show featured a cast of 60, including 30 students from our feeder schools, a 20-member pit band, and 50 crew members working behind the scenes to create the show's sets, costumes, and technical aspects. The students were led by the musical's advisors, including Production Direction by Michael Klimzak, Vocal Direction by Rob Clark, Choreography by Kayla Booth, and Band Direction by Adam and Jennifer Scheele.



Staff Celebration



Congratulations to our very own Sheree Pfeuffer, recipient of the Wisconsin School Counselor Association 2024 Secretary/Support Staff Award. Mrs. Pfeuffer continually goes above and beyond to ensure that our families have all their questions answered. Westosha Central is better because of Mrs. Pfeuffer's positive attitude and excellent work.

Congratulations!

A Day in the Life of a Student

This article was written by Student Council Members Maya Gagliardi and Karen Pisano

7:15 a.m. You walk through the new main entrance into a spacious room filled with your peers. Making your way across the room, you smell fresh cinnamon rolls wafting from the new kitchens. A club meeting takes place in the Upper Commons, utilizing the quiet conference room.



As you make your way to your first hour art class, you stop at the Falcon's Nest and grab a hot latte served fresh by Central culinary students. You continue down the hallway and round a corner into the art rooms with high ceilings and light cast by various windows. Wide views of the baseball field and internal courtyard boost your creativity.



Dismissed by the bell, you head to your Spanish class in the lower level. On your way downstairs, you stop and vote on a bright and interactive club bulletin board. Your Spanish class does an activity in the new breakout rooms, letting you stretch your legs and enjoy a change of pace.



Before you know it, the bell rings, and you head back toward the Commons for physical education. You change in the locker rooms and head to the new weight rooms. After doing some cardio on the new treadmills, you partner up with your friends and make use of the new squat racks and free weights.



After changing out of your gym clothes, you head to your next hour: lunch. Many students gather in the Commons around a variety of tables; others wait in line to get their food. You sit with your friends at a booth and admire the Falcon statue that watches over the room.



Following lunch and advisory, you head to your English class. Before taking a test, your class makes use of the new library to review and study. Smaller sound-proof workrooms prove useful to help maintain your focus.

As soon as you turn in your test, the bell rings, and you make your way to the Competition Gym locker rooms to change for your basketball practice. Your first home game of the season is tomorrow night, and the bleachers will be packed with students and parents to cheer you on. After a productive practice, you walk back out through the large Commons and appreciate the new facilities at your disposal.



2023 Homecoming Pep Rally, presented by Sports Marketing Class

2023-24 Calendar



WESTOSHA CENTRAL FALCONS



2023-2024

Board Approved 01/10/23

August 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	1

September 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29
				18

October 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			
				20

November 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	
				19

December 2023

M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29
				15

January 2024

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		
				7

February 2024

M	T	W	Th	F
				1
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	
				19

March 2024

M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29
				16

April 2024

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			
				20

May 2024

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31
				22

June 2024

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
				4

Calendar Key:

	No School
	Inservice/No School
	Semester Exams and Makeups
	Finals Make-up (Non-Student Attendance)
	Early Dismissal (Students released at 12:15 p.m.)
	Pre-Act/ACT Testing
	First/Last Day of School

1 Day Floating/Flex Inservice Day (Prof. Staff)

S1 = 87 S2 = 88

175 days

August

- 28 Inservice-No School
- 29 Inservice-No School
- 30 Inservice-No School
- 31 Freshman Only Day

September

- 1 (No Classes)
- 4 Labor Day (No Classes)
- 5 First Day of Classes-Entire Student Body
- 22 Homecoming Game
- 23 Homecoming Dance
- 25 Inservice (No Classes)

October

- 26 Inservice (No Classes)
- 27 Fall Break

November

- 22 Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)
- 23 Thanksgiving (No Classes)
- 24 Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)

December

- 21 Holiday Break begins at dismissal

January

- 2 Classes Resume
- 17-18 Semester 1 Finals
- 19 Finals Make-up (Non-Student Attendance)
- End of First Semester
- 22 Inservice (No Classes)

February

- 16 (No Classes)
- 19 Countywide Inservice (No Classes)

March

- 12 ACT Testing (Juniors Only)
- 22 Spring Break Begins at Dismissal

April

- 1 Easter Break
- 2 Classes Resume
- TBD Pre-Act Testing
- 22 Inservice (No Classes)

May

- 27 Memorial Day (No Classes)

June

- 5-6 Semester 2 Finals
- 7 Finals Make-up (Non-Student Attendance)
- End of Second Semester
- 8 or 9 Graduation

Inspire, Challenge, Empower...Creating our future together

[Link to the 2024-25 Calendar](#)

Upcoming Dates to Remember



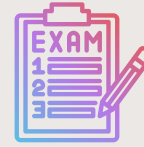
Holiday Break - December 22 to January 1

First Semester Finals - January 17 & 18

Inservice (No Classes) - January 22

No Classes - February 16

Countywide Inservice (No Classes) - February 19



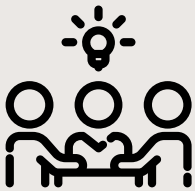
Inservice & No Class Dates

School Board and Notice of Election

Our school board meets on the second Tuesday of each month; meetings, agenda, and more information can be found on the Board of Education page on our website.

Our board consists of seven members. Although each member resides in different areas of our district - Brighton, Bristol, Paddock Lake, Paris, Salem Lakes, Wheatland, or At-Large - all members work together to represent our entire community. Board members must live within their apportioned area, but all district residents vote for all candidates.

Our current board members are:



President - Steve Richter (Bristol)

Vice President - Cheryl Baysinger (Paddock Lake)

Clerk - Bill Watson (Salem)

Treasurer - Jeff Kinzler (Brighton)

Member - Bonnie Felske (At Large)

Member - Bill Lois (Wheatland)

Member - Jay Nutting (Paris)

Board members are elected in the spring election for a three-year term on a rotating basis. The Notice of Election can be accessed [using this link](#). **This year's election will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, with following seats on the ballot:**

- *Town of Wheatland* - Bill Lois, Incumbent
- *Village of Paddock Lake* - Cheryl Baysinger, Incumbent
- *At Large* - Bonnie Felske, Incumbent



Thank you to our entire board for your service!

K-8 Schools within our District

Five local K-8 schools feed students into our high school. Here are the schools along with links to their websites.

[Brighton School District](#)

[Salem School District](#)

[Bristol School District](#)

[Wheatland School District](#)

[Paris School District](#)

Thank you!

Thank you for reading our e-newsletter. Please complete our [signup form](#) to receive future issues if you are not already on our WCHS Newsletter list.

