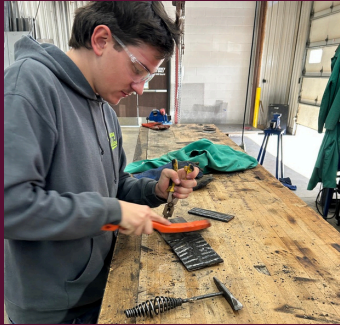




# THE FALCON PRESS

## Community Newsletter | Spring 2026



## Why Westosha: Excellence Every Day for Every Student

Westosha Central continues to be a hub of excitement, learning, and individual growth. Classrooms are filled with students asking questions, collaborating with their peers, and engaging in meaningful, hands-on learning every day. Our staff is intentionally designing lessons that challenge students to think critically, solve real-world problems, and see themselves as capable learners and leaders. Together, our students and staff are creating a positive and powerful school experience that our community can be proud of.

Our school is committed to ensuring that every student leaves Westosha ready for what comes next—whether that is college, technical training, the workforce, or military service. We are expanding opportunities for students to explore career pathways, earn industry-recognized credentials, take rigorous academic courses, and participate in internships and job-shadow experiences. By 2028, our goal is that 100% of Westosha graduates will be college and/or career-ready as measured by the national Redefining Ready benchmark; we want every student to leave Westosha Central equipped with the skills, knowledge, and experiences needed to succeed beyond high school. This is an ambitious target, but it reflects our belief in every student and our dedication to preparing them for a rapidly changing world.

Our enrollment trends tell another encouraging part

of the Westosha story. Student enrollment is growing, and that growth is manageable and planned for, allowing us to maintain a strong learning environment while welcoming more families into our district. Because much of the state's school funding formula is enrollment-based, our steady growth supports a sustainable financial forecast for the years ahead and allows us to continue investing in programs, staffing, and facilities that directly benefit students. Even as our resident population remains relatively level, open enrollment into Westosha continues to increase, a clear signal that families from outside our boundaries see the great things happening here and are choosing our school.

To help tell the amazing story of Westosha Central, we have launched a focused communication effort called "Why Westosha." This initiative will spotlight the cornerstones of our vision for all students; these areas include:

- Belong:** A place where every student is known, supported, and valued.
- Explore:** Learning that connects school, community, and future pathways.
- Achieve:** High expectations with personalized pathways.
- Soar:** Preparing students for what comes next - college, career, and life.

**WHY WESTOSHA:**  
**A VIDEO MESSAGE FROM OUR STUDENTS!**





# THE FALCON'S NEST

## MORE THAN JUST A SCHOOL STORE



*Written By Lauren Dahlberg, Store Manager*

Westosha Central's Falcon's Nest is more than just snacks and drinks; it's a student-operated business that plays a vital role in our school community. From daily operations to long-term goals, the store is run by students gaining real-world experience while giving back to the school. Our team of 18 employees is comprised of managers, directors, and general staff.

The Falcon's Nest operates like a small business, open before, after, and during all school hours. We offer various products to students and staff, such as energy drinks, healthy snacks, candy, apparel, school supplies, and cookies. Our students work in the store during their free periods and do tasks such as restocking, cleaning, checking out customers, prepping, and making cookies.

What makes the Falcon's Nest unique is the level of student involvement. Students are involved in nearly every aspect of operating the Falcon's Nest.

Behind the scenes, our employees track inventory, restock items, place orders, monitor budgets, and record sales. Our management team and employees meet weekly to set goals, discuss finances, and plan for the future. Student employees showcase the skills they have learned while taking business courses, such as communication, business management, problem-solving, and customer service.

The skills students learn while working in the store set them up for future careers and benefit them far beyond high school.

The Falcon's Nest plays an important role in supporting school spirit and student life. Profit from the store is reallocated back into the school by giving grants to clubs, organizations, scholarships, and student activities. Every purchase from the store helps give back to the student body and continues to have trending and high-quality products in our store.

The Falcon's Nest creates a sense of connection within the school, creating a place where students can interact, collaborate, and buy snacks and drinks. Our apparel merchandise helps build Westosha Central pride in the school and community. Beyond the school walls, the store works with local businesses and large suppliers, which strengthens relationships between the school and the surrounding community. We are proud of the positive image the store has cultivated with students, staff, administration, and the community.



**30,000+**  
*Falcon's Nest cookies  
have been sold  
this year!*

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**ROBERT  
PIERONI**  
*Class of*  
**1995**



Robert Pieroni currently serves as the Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer at Community State Bank, where he is part of the leadership team overseeing Business Banking, Cash Management, and the Mortgage Department. Robert proudly supports local businesses and uses his role to contribute to the community's economic growth, earning the Racine Economic Development Corporation (RDEDC) Lender of the Year title twice. He is also actively involved in community leadership, serving as Treasurer for the small business BIG HEARTS, Commissioner on the Town of Brighton Plan Commission, Chair of the Racine Economic Development Corporation's Business Lending Partners Loan Committee, Board Member of the Racine Economic Development Corporation, and a member of the Kenosha Area Business Alliance Finance Committee.

During his time at Westosha Central in the 90's, Robert cites his well-rounded education and experiences as providing him the necessary tools for a successful career. While in high school, Robert participated in both wrestling and football, which he credits with teaching him discipline and teamwork as he built relationships with his classmates and teammates. In the classroom, he found hands-on learning in Graphic Design and Construction classes to be the best learning environment for him, as he was able to apply his creativity and practical skills to authentic projects. All of his experiences and relationships helped to prepare him for his future by cultivating a strong work ethic, independence, motivation, and planning for long-term goals.

Robert and his wife, Pam, reside in Kenosha County with their two sons, Espen and Rylen. The Pieronis enjoy staying closely connected to family and the community that Robert grew up in. Robert cites one of his greatest accomplishments as creating not only a fulfilling professional career but also a balanced family life that gives back to the community.

## WESTOSHA CENTRAL ALUMNI

Are you—or someone you know—a Westosha Central alum? We'd love to feature more of our graduates in an upcoming newsletter! Please scan the QR code and complete the form to help us highlight your accomplishments and celebrate our Falcon community.

**SCAN ME**



# SVA

## SOUTHEAST VIRTUAL ACADEMY



### WHAT DOES SVA OFFER STUDENTS AND FAMILIES?

SVA blends virtual learning with in-person and community-connected experiences to create a balanced, flexible model focused on preparing students for their future. SVA Students receive the benefits of virtual learning while staying connected to peers, activities, and real-world opportunities. This balanced approach ensures students have both independence and connection.

#### \* ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- Virtual and blended courses that fit each student's schedule and goals
- Collaborative learning projects with peers
- Opportunities to earn college credit through dual enrollment
- Flexible pacing with strong academic support

#### \* CAREER & FUTURE-READY EXPERIENCES

- Internships and youth apprenticeships that provide work-based learning experiences
- Opportunities to earn credit while exploring career pathways
- Development of essential employability and life skills

#### \* COMMUNITY CONNECTION

- Participation in sports, clubs, and activities at Wheatland School or Westosha Central
- In-person project-based learning and collaboration opportunities offered through partnerships in our local community
- Strong relationships with staff, mentors, and peers

#### \* FLEXIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

- **At home:** Personalized learning plans, live teacher support, dedicated learning coaches
- **At school:** Hands-on collaboration, extracurricular activities, and optional on-site learning opportunities and events

PERSONALIZED, PURPOSEFUL, CONNECTED.

# LAUNCHING FALL 2026

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

## Purpose-Driven Learning

*Creating relevance and community connections to power student engagement!*



Awareness



Connectedness



Exploration



Transition

*Written By Emily Lynd, SVA Developer*

## Introducing Southeast Virtual Academy: Where Virtual Learning Meets the Real World!

Students thrive when learning is flexible, relationships are strong, and school connects to real life. While traditional school works well for many, others need something different. For some, this looks like a schedule that fits their lives, a pace that fits their learning, and a plan that connects school to their future.

Launching in Fall 2026, Southeast Virtual Academy (SVA) is a new, tuition free, virtual charter school offered in partnership with Wheatland School District and Westosha Central High School. Designed for students in grades 5–12, SVA serves learners who benefit from flexibility, personalized pathways, and meaningful support while staying connected to school and community. Our goal is simple: education should fit students, not the other way around.

At SVA, we believe students learn best when they are provided both flexibility and meaningful

connections. Our blended model allows students to pursue rigorous academics online while engaging in dynamic, face-to-face experiences, whether through electives in the traditional school setting, project-based learning, community service, or workplace partnerships.

Strong relationships are at the heart of our approach: students thrive when they feel connected to their school community and supported by caring mentors, engaged families, and community partners who expand their learning pathways.

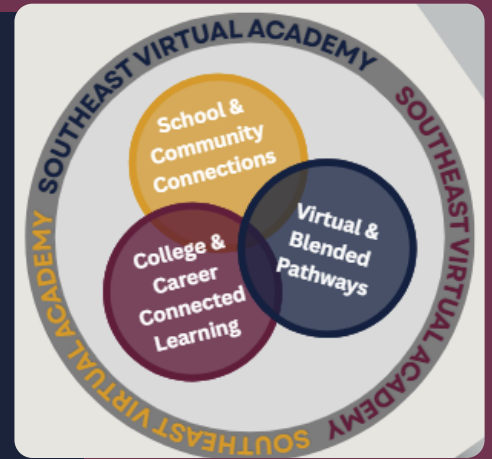
Through choice, relevance, and accountability, SVA ensures students develop the skills, confidence, and readiness needed for life after graduation. We recognize that student well-being is foundational to academic success and personal growth, and we intentionally support the whole child in our design.

## How will SVA support each student?

At the heart of SVA is our Navigation Process, a relationship-driven system that ensures every student has a purposeful educational roadmap connected to their goals and future plans. Each student partners with a dedicated Learning Coach who works alongside them to:

- Identify strengths, interests, and goals
- Build a personalized learning plan
- Monitor progress and adjust supports
- Explore real-world learning applications, career pathways, and postsecondary options
- Stay connected and on track for success

This intentional process ensures students are known, supported, and moving toward meaningful goals.



## Our Foundational Commitments

SVA is grounded in several core pillars that guide our work:

- **Personalized & Flexible Pathways:** Every student has a learning journey designed around their strengths and goals, combining flexible virtual learning with in-person opportunities at school, in the community, and in the workplace.
- **Relationships & Peer Connections:** Students stay connected through shared experiences, extracurricular activities, projects, clubs, and collaborative learning opportunities.
- **Whole Child Focus:** We support academic, social, and life-ready skills so students can succeed in every aspect of life.
- **Career & College Readiness:** Students engage in dual-credit opportunities, career exploration, and real-world learning experiences that prepare them for success beyond graduation.
- **Family & Community Partnerships:** Meaningful collaboration ensures learning extends beyond the classroom and into the community.

By honoring student choice, fostering relevance in learning, and providing personalized experiences that meet students where they are, SVA holds itself accountable to career, community, and life-ready outcomes while nurturing the whole child and equipping every learner for a successful, meaningful future.

## NOW ENROLLING FOR FALL 2026

Applications for Southeast Virtual Academy are now open for students in grades 5–12 and can be found [linked to our website](#). SVA may be the right fit, if your child would benefit from:

- Flexible scheduling
- Personalized learning
- Strong relationships and support
- Real-world and career-connected experiences

Families are invited to visit our website, attend an information session, or connect with our team to learn more about how Southeast Virtual Academy can support their child's journey.

A graphic with a dark grey background. On the left, the text 'APPLY NOW FOR FALL!' is written in large, bold, yellow and white letters. In the center, a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a purple sweater, is shown in a thinking pose with her hand to her chin. Above her head is a glowing lightbulb icon. In the top right corner, the SVA Southeast Virtual Academy logo is displayed. On the right side, there is a QR code with a red border, and below it is a red button with the text 'SCAN HERE' in white.

# CAREER & TECHNICAL

## Student Organizations

WRITTEN BY LIBERTY WIESEMAN

February was CTE Month! What is CTE? Career and Technical Education, or CTE, prepares students for high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand careers. We have a robust CTE program at WCHS, which includes Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs). Check out some updates below on what our CTSO's have been up to, and stay tuned to WCHS Social Media for updates on how our CTE students compete and continue to serve the community throughout the year!



### DECA

DECA is a global non-profit organization that prepares high school and college students for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management through competitive events, leadership development, and real-world experiences. 37 students from WCHS competed at the District Level Competition on December 13 at Racine Case High School. We had 16 students win medals for their test and role-play scores. 10 WCHS students qualified to compete at the State Career Development Conference in Lake Geneva from February 23-25. Congratulations to Myra Franz, State Champion in Principles of Marketing! Other Medal winners include Elaina Hetland & Ethan Weis in Marketing Management Team, Meghan Gallentine & Addison Palmer in Community Giving Project and Business Law & Ethics Team, Lauren Dahlberg in Apparel & Accessories Merchandising, and Addison Kumpfer in Accounting Applications! Myra, as well as our School Store Project, will compete at Internationals this April in Atlanta, GA.

### HOSA

Future Health Professionals is a national career and technical student organization for middle school, high school, and college students interested in healthcare careers. Through leadership development, community service, and competitive events in health science and health professions, HOSA helps students build skills and experience that prepare them for future roles in the healthcare field. At WCHS, 50 students are active members of our HOSA chapter. Several members competed at the regional level in December 2025, and on April 8-10, 23 students will attend the State Leadership Conference to compete and explore opportunities in the healthcare field.



### SKILLS USA

SkillsUSA students recently had their Regional competition at Gateway Technical College. WCHS students placed 2nd and 3rd in the Team Engineering challenge and 6th in Welding!



### PRO START

Our ProStart Culinary and Management teams are gearing up for the State competition in mid-March. Four students on the Culinary team have been practicing their planned menu of a Starter, Entree, and Dessert, which they will make in an hour with only two burners to cook on (no electricity either!). Four students on the Management team are designing a restaurant concept, including menu, decor, marketing, etc., which they will pitch to the judges. The ProStart students involved are Aubrey Reeves, Madi Rafenstein, Jacob Bartling, Addison Beucher, Natasha Diercks, and Isa Wiberg.

# AGRICULTURE SCIENCE



"I plan to major in Dairy Science!"

After more than 25 years, Agriculture Science is returning to Westosha Central High School, an exciting step forward for our students and our community. We are proud to be the first school in the county to bring this program back, giving students new opportunities to learn, explore, and prepare for future careers.

Students in the Agriculture Science program will learn by doing. Classes will focus on real world topics like plant and animal science, food systems, technology, agriculture mechanics, and agribusiness. These experiences help students build skills that can lead directly to jobs and/or further education.



"My plan is to take over the family farm."

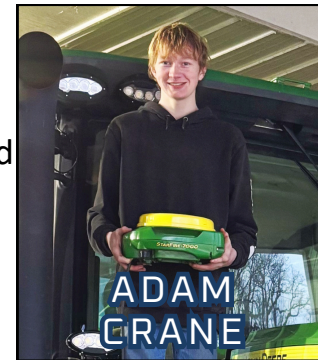
We are working closely with local technical colleges and area businesses to make sure the learning connects to real careers. These partnerships give

students hands-on experiences and a better understanding of today's agriculture industry.

We are also excited to be starting an FFA chapter, where students can grow as leaders, compete, and give back to the community through service projects. As the program grows, we welcome local businesses and community members who want to support students and help shape the future of agriculture in our area. Together we are building opportunities that will last for years to come.



"I am pursuing a career in Agronomy!"



"I'm focused on Precision Agriculture."

## INTERESTED IN PARTNERING WITH US?


Classroom Speakers

Workplace Tours

Internships or Job Shadows

Youth Apprenticeship

Contact Jake Popanda, Associate Principal of CTE

 (262) 843 - 2321 x379

 [popandaj@westosha.k12.wi.us](mailto:popandaj@westosha.k12.wi.us)

# LIFE BEYOND

## WESTOSHA CENTRAL

# COLLEGE BOUND



### GRACE ARELLANO

This fall, Grace will begin her next chapter at Viterbo University in La Crosse, where she plans to major in Nursing and compete on the dance team. Her experience in the CNA program through Gateway Technical College helped prepare her for this path. One of the most valuable skills she gained was time management, learning how to balance school, activities and work.

#### GRACE'S ADVICE

*"Prioritize building strong relationships with teachers, they are there to help you grow!"*



### ZACH DAVIS

A student-athlete and future engineer, Zach will attend Carthage College to compete in football and track & field while studying engineering. He credits his coaches and teammates for helping him grow more confident and outgoing after starting high school in a new environment. One of the biggest lessons he learned was to slow down, breathe, and trust that everything will work out.

#### ZACH'S ADVICE

*"Don't take life so seriously, that ruins your happiness."*



### ALEXIS DAVIS

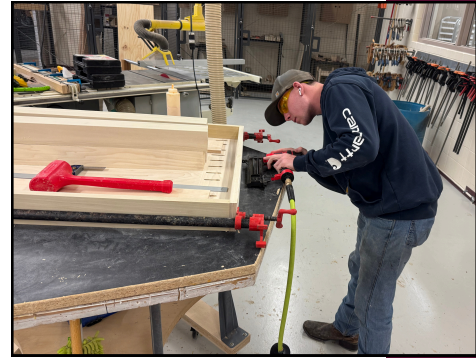
Drawn to science and discovery, Alexis will attend UW-Madison to major in Neurobiology and a minor in Creative Writing, with plans to pursue graduate study in neuroscience research. She credits AP Biology for helping her discover her passion for understanding how the body works. One of the most important lessons she learned was to speak up and advocate for herself.

#### ALEXIS'S ADVICE

*"Always give your full effort, even on days that you don't feel like it. Drive and grit always pay off."*



Celebrating the paths our students are pursuing and the experiences at Westosha Central that have prepared them for success beyond graduation.



## JACKSON BORLAND

After high school, Jackson plans to join the U.S. National Guard or train as an electrician, building a career in the skilled trades.

Through classes like Metals, Woods, Engineering, and Youth Apprenticeship, he gained hands on experience and real world skills. He says the most important lesson he learned was the value of discipline.

### JACKSON'S ADVICE

*"Take every opportunity. Don't hesitate, go for it, find what you love, and be the best at it!"*



## AVA GREENO-NEU

Through Metals courses and Gateway Technical College welding classes, Ava developed hands-on skills and explored welding techniques, leading her to pursue a career in welding. Ava credits the support of teachers and mentors for helping her grow, stay motivated, and succeed.

### AVA'S ADVICE

*"This path can be tough, but if you find the right people, they will support you and help you succeed."*



## KEIGHDEN KEVEK

After completing basic training with the Army National Guard in Oklahoma, Keighden plans to pursue a career in the skilled trades as an electrician or carpenter. Classes in personal finance and woodworking helped prepare him by building practical skills and real-world knowledge.

### KEIGHDEN'S ADVICE

*"Take time to think about your future. Choose classes that match your goals, along with a few that spark your interest; they will all help you succeed!"*



CAREER BOUND



# CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY KEY COMMUNICATORS GROUP



## KEY COMMUNICATOR GROUP GOALS

Share the goals, vision, and work being done in the district.

**Obtain feedback and ideas for continuous growth.**

Build partnerships with local businesses.

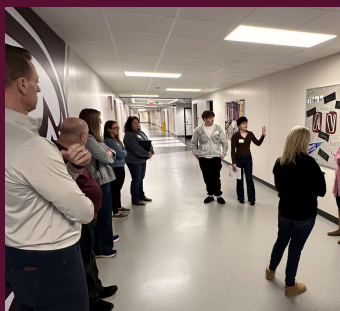
**Create a group of community stakeholders to engage in ongoing dialogue about the district's work.**

Kick-start the next Strategic Planning Process.

Westosha Central High School District is forming a new Key Communicators Group to help strengthen partnerships between our school and the community. This group will bring together parents, community members, and local business partners who are interested in staying informed, sharing feedback about what is happening in our district, and helping shape the vision of the district.

The team will be made up of approximately forty to fifty key stakeholders and will meet approximately three times per year in the evening for no more than ninety minutes per session. If you are interested in being part of this process, please scan the QR code or email Mr. John Gendron, District Administrator, at [gendronj@westosha.k12.wi.us](mailto:gendronj@westosha.k12.wi.us). We welcome your involvement and look forward to working together to support our students and community.

SCAN  
ME





## FRIENDS OF WESTOSHA

Westosha Central High School has established a new annual district award to honor community members and local businesses who go above and beyond in their support of the school. Beginning in 2025, this recognition will be presented each year to celebrate the people and organizations whose service, generosity, and partnership strengthen the Westosha Central community.

The award highlights individuals and businesses for their outstanding service, volunteerism, support, and time devoted to Westosha Central students, staff, and programs. In its inaugural year, six community members were recognized at the May 2025 Board of Education meeting, where they were formally honored for their contributions to the school.

One of the most meaningful elements of the event is the involvement of current Westosha Central students. Each award recipient receives a framed piece of original artwork designed and created by a student, and during the ceremony, the student personally presents the artwork to the honoree. This tradition not only celebrates the recipient but also showcases student talent and underscores the strong connection between school and community.

2025 winners were Neil Buchanan (Community State Bank); Cory & Jamie Maurer (Addicted2Deals); Mindy Cooling (State Farm Insurance); James Senft, Erin Floss, and Beth LaBell. Student artists were Sophie Larsen, Megan Bartz, Paul Amaguin, Zitlali Padilla, Isabella Rotizza, and Jorjah Fabbri.

The district looks forward to recognizing new honorees each year. If you are interested in nominating someone for this award, you are invited to email Mr. Gendron, District Administrator, at [gendronj@westosha.k12.wi.us](mailto:gendronj@westosha.k12.wi.us) with the nominee's name and a brief description of why they should be awarded a Friends of Westosha Award.

## WESTOSHA DRAMA PRESENTS...

### *DEARLY BELOVED*

APRIL 17-19, 2026

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL KLIMZAK

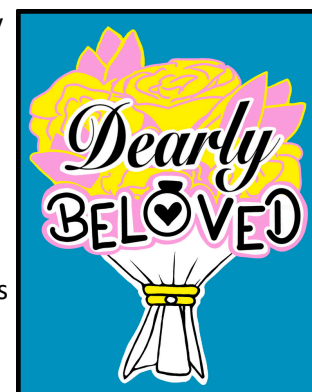
Westosha Drama is getting ready for its spring production, the comedy *Dearly Beloved* by Jones Hope Wooten. The story revolves around the Futrelle sisters of Fayro, Texas, who are thrown together to pull off a family wedding. The mother of the bride is desperate to make this event an elegant affair. It soon becomes obvious that fate has other plans when the bride and groom run off, leaving the sisters with a church full of small-town eccentrics. This fast-paced, laugh-a-minute comedy about love, marriage, sisterhood, and three hundred pounds of good, ol' Texas barbeque will have you laughing all the way down the aisle!

The spring production is usually smaller than a musical, but this year's show is big!

This play is about a community, and we are creating that community on stage. At Westosha Central, we pride ourselves on our sense of community. This show reflects that, showcasing the eccentric characters of this small fictional Texas town. The humor comes out of their tumultuous relationships, but the heart comes from how they take care of each other. It's definitely a valentine to Texas and to small town communities everywhere.

Westosha Drama is also a community within a community. It's a safe place where everyone is welcome to share their talents. Be it onstage or behind the scenes, everyone is given a chance to contribute. This is our third production this year, and with each production, the Westosha Drama students collaborate to put on the best show ever. Yes, it is a big commitment, but completely worth the time and effort, especially for the joy it provides for our families and neighbors.

Visit [westoshadrama.com](http://westoshadrama.com) in early April to purchase tickets and learn more about our drama program.





# WESTOSHA CENTRAL ATHLETICS



WRITTEN BY JON LINDH

## HALL OF FAME

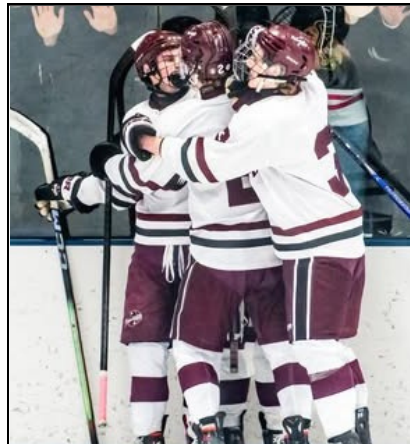
At the end of January, we proudly inducted the third class into the Westosha Central Athletic Hall of Fame. This year's distinguished group included three male athletes, three female athletes, two coaches, and one state championship team.

Together, they represent a rich tradition of excellence across multiple sports, including gymnastics, softball, boys basketball, baseball, girls' cross country, girls' track, and boys volleyball.

The celebration spanned two days. Inductees were first recognized at halftime of the boys basketball doubleheader against Elkhorn, and the following day, family, friends, former teammates, and community members gathered for the formal induction ceremony. Each honoree shared a speech before receiving their commemorative trophy.

We are incredibly proud of this year's inductees. Their dedication, perseverance, leadership, and sportsmanship embody our motto: "Once a Falcon, Always a Falcon." Their accomplishments continue to inspire current and future generations of Falcons.

Looking ahead, our goal is to induct a new class every other year. We welcome nominations from our community and encourage you to help us recognize deserving alumni. For more information on the nomination process, please contact Mrs. Nutting or Mr. Lindh.



## WINTER SPORTS

It has been another successful winter in athletics, with many celebrations both for teams and individuals. The dance team qualified for state in both Pom and Jazz. This was only the second time in school history that the team qualified for the WACPC State Competition. The cheer team has also continued its winning tradition. This season, they placed eighth at Nationals in Orlando, Florida. After returning from Florida, they won state titles in both their Traditional and Game Day routines.

Boys' wrestling had three athletes qualify for the WIAA Individual State Tournament. Ashton Scheele and Alex Martinez won the WIAA Sectional in Burlington and Johnny Sandrick finished second. The girls' wrestling team had another two state qualifiers, with both Sanaa Childs and Serenity Salas placing second at the WIAA Sectional in Kettle Moraine.

It was a also monumental year for the Kenosha Thunder hockey team, which won its first Conference Championship in team history. They continued their success in the WIAA Tournament by winning their first two playoff games and securing a Regional Title.

# Principal Update

Written By Kevin Kitslaar, Principal

As we close out the second trimester and begin the third, I want to take a moment to celebrate the hard work of our students and staff and look ahead to an exciting and productive spring.

## Preparing for Academic Milestones

In the coming weeks, freshmen and sophomores will take the Pre-ACT Secure, while juniors will take the ACT. We are continuing to focus instruction and provide targeted preparation to ensure students feel confident and ready to do their best on these assessments.

Following these assessments, students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses will take their AP exams. Students who earn a score of 3 or higher may qualify for college credit, a significant achievement that supports their college journey while still in high school.

In addition to AP coursework, we are proud to have increased the number of students at Westosha Central High School enrolled in transcribed courses through Gateway Technical College. These courses allow students to earn both high school credit and college credit simultaneously. We are continually exploring opportunities to expand transcribed offerings so that every student has access to pathways that prepare them for college and career success.

## Strengthening Literacy Across All Subjects

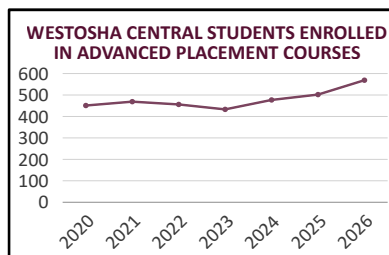
This year, we have placed a strong emphasis on reading and engaging students in rigorous learning experiences across all content areas. Students are building skills through writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading, with a focus on thinking like experts in each discipline.

# Advanced Placement Programs & Opportunities

Written by Tom Neave, Associate Principal

Students in high schools across the country and around the world can enroll in Advanced Placement, or AP, courses throughout their high school careers, run by the College Board. Westosha Central High School maintains a thriving Advanced Placement program, offering students in grades 9 through 12 access to 26 college-level courses across diverse academic fields, from World Languages and Fine Arts to Science, Math, History, and English. These courses are taught by trained high school teachers and are administered by the College Board.

Our AP program has experienced significant growth and continued success in recent years. Since the 2020 school year, the number of students taking one or more AP courses has increased by more than 200 students.



During the 2025-2026 school year, more than 570 students are currently enrolled in at least one AP course. This equates to over 41% of our total student population.

In addition to expanding participation, our students have achieved a high level of success on the AP Exams. Our staff's commitment to rigorous learning has helped increase student achievement to above a 65% passing rate on all AP Exams.

Thank you to our families and the community for your continued partnership and support. Together with our dedicated staff, I look forward to a strong finish to the school year and ensuring success for every student.

KEVIN KITSLAAR, PRINCIPAL

Reading looks different depending on the class:

- In Social Studies, students analyze primary source documents.
- In English, they explore complex literature.
- In Metals and technical courses, they interpret blueprints and technical texts.
- In Math, they extract and analyze key information from multi-step problems.

Our goal is for students to “read like” a scientist, engineer, mathematician, historian, or author. By developing these discipline-specific literacy skills, students learn to adopt, interpret, and analyze texts in ways that prepare them for both higher education and the workforce.

## Expanding Career-Ready Opportunities

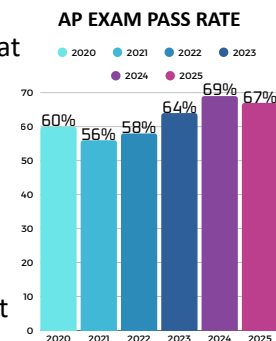
College readiness is important, and so is career readiness. Westosha Central High School continues to strengthen its partnership with Gateway Technical College, offering courses that support career pathways such as Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), carpentry, welding, and other high-demand fields.

We are also expanding partnerships with area businesses to provide more youth apprenticeship and work-based learning experiences. I am proud to share that participation in our youth apprenticeship program has doubled, giving more students hands-on experience and real-world career exploration.

At Westosha Central High School, our mission is clear: every student will graduate college or career ready, with doors open to a wide range of post-secondary opportunities.

These exams assess students on content knowledge, application, reading, writing, and task-based performance. Students who earn a score of 3 or higher on the 5-point scale are typically eligible to receive college credit at most universities. For the last three consecutive years, this commitment to both participation and achievement has earned Westosha Central High School a place on the College Board's School Honor Roll list.

The culture of academic excellence that our staff and students are continuing to build upon at Westosha Central is the driving force behind the growth and success of our AP programming. Our staff and student services team encourage students to challenge themselves with rigorous courses and step outside their comfort zones. Our teaching staff supports students by focusing on the growth of academic skills and habits necessary for success in these challenging experiences. Lastly, our AP teachers work to help students grasp higher-level concepts and prepare them effectively for the college-level AP Exams.



We look forward to another successful year of our students showing their growth and knowledge during this year's AP testing season in May.

COMING FALL  
2026!



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION



Westosha Central High School is excited to launch a new Community Education program beginning in Fall 2026, and we invite you to learn with us, grow with us, and help us make our school a true hub for the entire community.

## BENEFITS FOR WESTOSHA CENTRAL AND OUR COMMUNITY

Through Community Education at Westosha Central, we aim to:

- Teach new skills and hobbies for all ages, from youth to older adults, supporting lifelong learning and personal growth.
- Welcome community members into our building more often so our school truly serves as a shared community space.
- Build new partnerships with local organizations, businesses, and individual instructors who can share their expertise and passions.
- Promote wellness and connection through active recreation, arts, and social experiences that bring neighbors together.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND CLASSES

A wide range of classes will be offered, including, but not limited to:

- **Technology:** basic computer skills, smartphone essentials, digital safety, and productivity tools.
- **Fitness and Wellness:** walking clubs, low-impact fitness, yoga, and strength or stretching sessions appropriate for different ages.
- **Recreational activities** such as Pickleball and Frisbee golf.
- **Arts and Crafts:** drawing, painting, and seasonal crafts.
- **Culinary:** cooking and baking classes focused on healthy meals, fun snacks, etc.

Offerings will evolve based on community interest and the talents of those who step forward to teach or facilitate.

SCAN ME!



## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

We would love for you to participate—whether as a learner, an instructor, or both. If you are interested in taking part in community classes or activities, or leading a class, workshop, or one-time session in an area of your expertise, please take a moment to complete our **Community Education Interest and Instructor Questionnaire**. Your input will guide the types of programs we schedule and the times we offer them. We are excited to open up our school to our community in new ways, and we look forward to learning and growing together here at Westosha Central! More information will follow this summer.



## Raise Your Voice Club Leads with Service and Positivity

Written by Hilary Van Dommelen

Raise Your Voice (RYV), a WCHS club focused on reducing the stigma around mental health and promoting positivity, is now in its second year and has tripled in size. The club has grown from 25 students to more than 70, with new members continuing to join.

RYV students have engaged in a wide range of school and community service projects, including writing encouraging messages for peers before finals, creating kindness rocks for feeder schools, participating in a Kenosha-wide Kindness Week, and visiting residents at Archwood Senior Living Home and planting a garden. In recognition of their impact at Archwood, the group received the 2024–2025 Leonard and Patricia Johnson Award for outstanding service to the Kenosha County community. Finn Fredrickson, our current student Vice President, shared that, *“Participating in Raise Your Voice has allowed me to gain confidence in advocating for mental health, by leading conversations in wellness and challenging stigma. It has also turned me into a better community planner and decision-maker.”*

Most recently, Raise Your Voice partnered with the Helping Hands Program at Westosha Lakes Church, where WCHS students regularly help distribute food to families. To deepen that connection, students and advisors created 75 cards and “worry stones” with messages such as “Open when you are having a hard day,” “Don’t forget there are people who are cheering you on,” and “WCHS is thinking about you.” These were included with each food distribution, and several recipients contacted WCHS to share their gratitude and describe how meaningful the students’ kindness was to them.

Raise Your Voice continues to foster a culture of compassion, connection, and mental health awareness at WCHS and throughout the community. An upcoming community collaboration will include a Color Run designed to bring together students, families, and community members in support of mental health awareness.

## Westosha Academic and Career Planning Senior Showcase

Wisconsin school districts are required to provide Academic and Career Planning (ACP) services for students in grades 6–12 under state statute. ACP helps students explore careers and prepare for life after high school, including post-secondary education and training.

At Westosha Central, students in grades 9–12 participate in ACP lessons each Wednesday during Advisory. Topics include career exploration, ACT preparation, goal setting, academic skills, post-secondary planning (FAFSA and scholarships), and the WCHS Portrait of a Graduate pillars: Scholarship, Citizenship, and Character.

Students build and maintain an ACP portfolio throughout high school to showcase their growth, achievements, activities, work-based learning, and future plans. Seniors will present their portfolios to teachers and community members at the Westosha ACP Senior Showcase at the end of April.

If you are interested in attending the Senior Showcase or have questions, please contact Mr. Tom Neave at [NeaveT@westosha.k12.wi.us](mailto:NeaveT@westosha.k12.wi.us).

## Central Hosts Feeder School Collaboration Day

On Monday, February 16, Westosha Central hosted teachers from each of the five feeder schools (Brighton, Bristol, Paris, Salem, and Wheatland) to plan and align resources to impact student learning. Teachers from Westosha Central and all five feeder schools met in the areas of Math, English, Science, and Social Studies to share practices, ideas, resources, and continue strengthening the connections between all schools to support students and families in our communities. We look forward to continuing to work together with all of our area schools to create the best learning opportunities for our students.



Westosha Central High School  
24617 75<sup>th</sup> Street/P.O. Box 38  
Salem, WI 53168

**LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER**



# STAY CONNECTED


SCAN THE CODE FOR THE 2026-2027  
SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- APRIL 11: PABC SPAGHETTI DINNER
- APRIL 17 - 19: SPRING PLAY
- APRIL 23: BLOOD DRIVE
- APRIL 29: SPRING BAND CONCERT
- MAY 6: WCHS FASHION SHOW
- MAY 13: SPRING CHOIR CONCERT
- MAY 16: PROM
- MAY 20: SPRING JAZZ CONCERT
- MAY 21: DRAMA STUDENT SHOWCASE
- JUNE 6: GRADUATION

### CONTACT US

 262-843-2321

 [www.westosha.k12.wi.us](http://www.westosha.k12.wi.us)

