



# Williamston High School

## Bi-Weekly News & Notes

### January 26, 2024

Dear WHS Students and Families,

Below are updates and reminders that we hope you find helpful. If you have any questions, please visit the [WHS website](#) or contact the main office at 517-655-2142.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and hope you have a restful and relaxing winter break!

#### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

February 16	Half day K-12 AM only
February 19	No School K-12 - Presidents' Day (WHS offices closed)
March 1	Half day K-12 AM only
March 14	Half day K-12 AM only
	WHS parent/teacher conferences 12:30-2:30 PM & 4-7 PM
March 22-31	No school K-12 - Spring break (WHS offices closed)
May 27	No school K-12 - Memorial Day
June 2	WHS Commencement Ceremony 2:00 PM
June 5	1st & 2nd hour exams (WHS half day AM only)
June 6	3rd & 4th hour exams (WHS half day AM only)
June 7	5th & 6th hour exams (K-12 half day AM only - Last day of school)

#### **1st Semester Report Cards**

Report cards will be mailed home the week of January 29.

#### **Scheduling for the 2024-25 School Year**

It is hard to believe, but it is already time to start thinking about scheduling for the 2024-25 school year! As such, we have developed online scheduling procedures that will support students through the scheduling process. Detailed scheduling information will be emailed to students and families according to the following schedule:

- Juniors (class of 2025):

- Feb 1: Scheduling overview with counselors during AOT; scheduling information emailed to students/families
- Week of Feb 5: Required meeting with counselors to review schedule requests
- Feb 12: Schedule requests due (submitted online via Google Form)
- Sophomores (class of 2026):
  - Feb 8: Scheduling overview with counselors during AOT; scheduling information emailed to students/families
  - Week of Feb 12: Required meeting with counselors to review schedule requests
  - Feb 20: Schedule requests due (submitted online via Google Form)
- Freshmen (class of 2027):
  - Feb 15: Scheduling overview with counselors during AOT; scheduling information emailed to students/families
  - Week of Feb 20: Required meeting with counselors to review schedule requests
  - Feb 26: Schedule requests due (submitted online via Google Form)
- 8th graders (incoming freshmen - class of 2028)
  - Feb 22: Scheduling informational screencast and forms emailed to students/families
  - Week of Feb 26: Required meeting with counselors to review schedule requests
  - March 4: Schedule requests due (submitted online via Google Form)

Once the student scheduling process is complete, we will spend the next couple of months building the 2024-25 master schedule and creating student schedules. Our goal is to distribute 2024-25 schedules to students a week or two before the end of the school year. We then plan to offer drop/add sessions for all students requesting a class schedule change for the 2024-25 school year on June 5 & 6 following exams (this is the same schedule change request format offered in August prior to the start of the school year). If you have any questions about the scheduling process, please contact the WHS counseling office at 517-655-2142 ext 7012.

### **WHS Credit Tracking Form Information**

On Wednesday, January 24 a letter was emailed out explaining that in the next few weeks all students and parents will receive an email with a Google Form that contains the student's graduation credit progress. We are hopeful these tracking forms, which will be up to date through the end of the 1st semester of the current school year, provide students and families with enhanced clarity with regard to each student's earned credit standing as he/she works towards graduation. The full letter can be found [here](#). If you have any questions about the credit tracking forms, please contact the WHS counseling office at 517-655-2142 ext 7012.

### **Senior Information**

Detailed information about graduation will be emailed home after spring break, but for planning purposes, please be aware of the important information below:

### **Important Dates**

- Senior Awards Night will be held in the WHS McGoff Auditorium on Tuesday, May 21 at 6:30 PM.
- The seniors' last day of school (graduation rehearsal, luncheon, parade of graduates through K-8 schools) will be Friday, May 24.
- The WHS Class of 2023 graduation ceremony will be held at The Wharton Center on Sunday, June 2 at 2:00 PM.

### **Scholarships**

Williamston High School has several college scholarship opportunities for seniors. Scholarship information can be found on the [WHS counseling webpage](#). This year, over \$10,000 in local scholarships will be offered to Hornet seniors!

### **Caps/Gowns**

If your senior has not yet ordered his/her cap and gown for graduation, you may do so [online](#) or call 1-800-JOSTENS. Contact Michelle Smith, WHS Secretary, with any questions at 517-655-2142 ext. 7005.

### **Williamston Community Schools Facility Assessment Survey**

Williamston Community Schools has a unique opportunity for community members to consider a zero-mill increase bond proposal in August. It will allow for significant facility and safety improvements, with no expected change to the current tax rate.

Community surveys, enrollment trend data, facilities study results, and other applicable information will be part of recommendations for the best use of funds and potential District enhancements.

Your feedback will help guide the focus of the bond proposal. Please assist WCS by completing the facilities survey in the link here.

This survey will be closed on January 26th at 4:00pm.

### **Rotary Virtual Dream Career Event**

An exciting opportunity is being presented to High School Sophomores and Juniors in Rotary District 6360. On Feb. 22, 4-5 pm, Rotary will be holding a District-wide "Virtual Dream Career Event!"

What is a “Dream Career” Event? It’s where high school students interview people about their “dream” career. This year we are targeting sophomores and juniors. Students learn more about a career’s educational requirements, daily tasks, challenges, and joys. For more information, please click [here](#).

There are openings for up to 30 students to participate in this first ever Rotary District-wide event. First come, first served! Students can apply [here](#).

### **ESports**

Williamston High School's Varsity ESports team will begin their preseason on February 5th. Anyone interested in learning more information about the ESports program (game titles, practice/match schedule, etc.) can contact Head Coach Theresa Billy at [billyt@gowcs.net](mailto:billyt@gowcs.net).

### **WCS Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) Student Representatives**

Current high school students are encouraged to participate on the District's Sex Education Advisory Board (SEAB) with parental permission. If you believe serving on the SEAB is appropriate for your child (which will include conversations about sex education topics, review of instructional materials, etc.) an application may be submitted using the form in the link below. Student applications will be reviewed and voted on by the Board of Education.

The SEAB will hold meetings during the 2023-2024 school year. Information on the role and responsibilities of the SEAB can be found in Board [Policy #7080 Sex Education and Communicable Disease Information](#).

You can download a copy of the SEAB application [here](#). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Applications can be emailed to Superintendent Adam Spina at [spinaa@gowcs.net](mailto:spinaa@gowcs.net).

### **Homework Lab & Saturday Academic School**

Homework lab and Saturday academic school are opportunities for students to get assistance with their homework, make up a test, or complete a project. These academic support sessions are run by WHS paraprofessional staff members and any student in need of academic support is encouraged to attend. Additionally, NHS student volunteers will be available at Saturday School to help students who need support with lower level (9th & 10th grade) courses.

- Homework lab is held in the WHS library and is offered Monday and Wednesday after school (3:20-4:20 PM) and Tuesday and Thursday before school (7:30-8:30 AM).

- Saturday academic school is offered on scheduled Saturdays from 8:00-11:30 AM in the WHS library and is open to all students needing additional academic support. Upcoming 1st semester dates include: 2/3, Friday 2/16 (12-3 pm), Friday 3/1 (12-3 pm), 3/16, 4/6, 4/20, 5/4, 5/18, 6/1. Students should enter the school through the Dome entrance (Door 27) as other entrances will be locked.

### **Student Mental Health Support Information**

Throughout the school year, students will continue to have access to mental health support services in the school setting through a variety of sources. Our school counselor, Mrs. Linda Ereg ([eregl@gowcs.net](mailto:eregl@gowcs.net)) and school social worker, Mrs. Caitlin Wilcox ([wilcoxc@gowcs.net](mailto:wilcoxc@gowcs.net)), are in the building to support students when in need. Students can also access a comprehensive list of strategies and mental health resources by joining the be nice. Mental Health Support Google Classroom (class code: pa5t2tg), or by visiting the [Mental Health Support website](#) found under the resources tab on the WHS web page.

Additionally, “988” is the three-digit, nationwide phone number to connect directly to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Anyone can call or text 988 if they or a loved one are in a suicidal or mental health-related crisis.

### **OK2SAY**

OK2SAY is the student safety program which allows students to [confidentially report tips](#) on potential harm or criminal activities directed at students, school employees, and schools. It uses a comprehensive communication system to facilitate tip sharing among students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and law enforcement officials about harmful behaviors that threaten to disrupt the learning environment.

### **Weekend Survival Kits**

WHS is participating in the Weekend Kit program for the 2023-2024 school year. This program is supplemental to the free breakfast and lunch programs offered at school every day and is intended to meet the nutritional needs of children during non-school hours, specifically over weekends or longer breaks.

Weekend Kits are designed to slip discreetly into your child’s backpack and are distributed to participating children [every other week](#) on Thursdays or Fridays and are available at no cost to your family. **There are no eligibility requirements to participate in this program.**

Each Weekend Kit includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack items and contains enough food to last each child two weekends. Foods included are kid-friendly items and easy for your child to prepare or help prepare.

Participation forms can be found [here](#) if you wish to register your child for the Weekend Kit program. For more information, please contact Michelle Smith (WHS administrative assistant) at 517-655-2142 or [smithm@gowcs.net](mailto:smithm@gowcs.net) or email the Greater Lansing Food Bank at [glfb@glfoodbank.org](mailto:glfb@glfoodbank.org).

If you would like more information about additional food assistance resources available to your family, please visit [glfoodbank.org](http://glfoodbank.org).

### **Pay-to-Play Fee Waiver**

WHS recognizes the importance of students participating in school extracurricular activities as such participation enables students to develop leadership qualities, make friends, participate in new activities, pursue special interests, and simply to have fun. As such, WHS does not want any student to be deterred from participating in an extracurricular activity due to financial hardship, so we would like all students/families to be aware that a waiver for athletic/extracurricular fees may be obtained in the following ways:

- Families who qualify for free and reduced lunch also qualify to have pay-to-play fees waived. If interested, please complete this [form](#) (click on hyperlink to access form) and submit it electronically to [HSNews@gowcs.net](mailto:HSNews@gowcs.net) or return the form to the WHS main office.
- Per the WCS Athletic Handbook, “It is the position of the Board of Education that no athlete should be denied the opportunity to participate in our athletic programs as a result of financial need. Therefore, financial hardship will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, at the request of the athlete’s parent/guardian, through the athletic office.” The athletic office can be reached at 571-655-2142 ext. 7008.
- Exchange students are exempt from the athletic fee.

If you have any questions about pay-to-play fees, please contact WHS at 517-655-2142.

### **WHS Building Hours & Check-In Procedures**

The WHS office is open from 7:45 AM- 4:15 PM. All visitors must use the buzzer system at the main office entrance and check into the main office upon entering the building. The main office can be reached by phone at 517-655-2142.

### **Attendance**

If your student is absent, please call the Attendance Line at 517-655-2142 (press #1) within 24 hours of the absence. On the recording, state the student's name, grade, date of absence and reason for absence. Please see the [WHS Student Handbook](#) for the full attendance policy (types of absences, tardies, etc).

### **Before School Drop Off**

When dropping students off before school, please utilize the community pool/fitness entrance. Many students have been getting dropped off in the bus lane, which is reserved for bus drop offs from 7:45-8:30 AM. Morning traffic in front of the main entrance area impedes the buses and is a safety concern for students using the front entrance crosswalk.

### **Students at WHS after the School Day Ends**

Students remain at WHS after the school day ends for a variety of reasons (after school activity, waiting for a ride, etc). However, for safety, supervisory, and security purposes, students who remain in the building are expected to comply with the following:

- Students remaining after school to wait for rides or for activities that start later in the day must wait in the cafeteria/commons or in the fitness center lobby. When the WHS main office closes at 4:15 PM, any students still waiting in the cafeteria/commons will be required to wait in the fitness center lobby.
- Students participating in a school sponsored activity that starts immediately after school and is directly supervised by a staff member, coach, or advisor should remain in that activity's assigned location. When the activity ends, students should leave the building or wait for their ride in the fitness center lobby.

### **PowerSchool**

PowerSchool can be accessed on the [WHS website](#). PowerSchool parent/guardian passwords remain the same as the previous school year.. If you are having problems with PowerSchool, please email [webmaster@gowcs.net](mailto:webmaster@gowcs.net).

### **WHS Student Handbook & Code of Conduct**

The [WHS Student Handbook and Code of Conduct](#) can be found on the [WHS website](#).

### **2023/24 WCS Calendar**

[The 2023/24 WCS calendar can be viewed here.](#)

### **Community Enrichment Opportunities**

Families and students can check out and enroll in fitness center memberships and activities online at [www.williamstononline.net](http://www.williamstononline.net).