



Williamston High School Bi-Weekly News & Notes December 1, 2023

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.

Important Upcoming Dates:

December 22 - January 7	No school - Winter break (WHS offices closed)
January 8	School resumes
January 15	No school - MLK Day (WHS offices closed)
January 17	Half day WHS AM only - 1st & 2nd hour exams 2nd semester drops & adds 11:30 - 2:30 PM (more info to follow)
January 18	Half day WHS AM only - 3rd & 4th hour exams 2nd semester drops & adds 11:30 - 2:30 PM (more info to follow)
January 19	Half day K-12 AM only - 5th & 6th hour exams
January 22	Start of 2nd semester
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)

WHS Presents *Elf the Musical*

WHS presents *Elf the musical* based on the movie by New Line Cinema. Performances will be December 8 & 9 at 7 PM and December 10 at 2:00 PM in the McGoff Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and can be [purchased online](#). For more information, the promotional flier can be found [here](#).

Williamston HS Distinguished Alumni Award

The WHS Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented at the WHS commencement ceremony on June 2, 2024, and will honor those alumni of Williamston High School who have distinguished

themselves through high levels of professional accomplishments and voluntary service, including but not limited, to any of the following:

- Education
- Career
- Community service
- Professional accomplishments
- Williamston Community School involvement

Honorees should also possess high standards of integrity and character.

If you know of a former Williamston High School graduate who has excelled in any endeavor, it is time to nominate him or her for this year's Distinguished Alumni Award. More information about the nomination process can be found [here](#).

WHS Winter Events and Formal Dance

Winter break is an exciting time of the year! As a result, there will be a variety of planned activities and events scheduled the last week of school in December and a Winter Formal dance will be held on January 27 at 7:00 PM. Specific details about winter events can be found [here](#). See below for information on how to buy a dance ticket:

Step 1: Need Student ID Number

Step 2: Go to this [link](#)

Step 3: Where it says Have an access code? type your student id number

Step 4: Add 1 Ticket under WHS Student Ticket

Step 5: Click Add to Cart

Step 6: Click Add Information (First Name, Last Name, & Student ID Number)

Step 7: Checkout/Pay

Tickets are \$10 (\$11 with the service fee). Tickets will not be sold at the door and only sold digitally. If you are wanting to bring a guest you must get a guest form filled out to get a ticket code.

We must sell 150 tickets by Thursday, December 21st for the dance to happen.

Here is a [link](#) to a video, showing you the step-by-step directions.

Please contact Ms. Richards (richare@gowcs.net) with any questions.

Williamston Performing Arts Foundation Wizards Basketball Game Fundraiser

The Williamston Performing Arts Foundation, which supports our music, band, choir and theater programs along with our Mascot Program for Willy, will be hosting a fundraiser basketball game featuring the Harlem Wizards on December 9 in the WHS competition gym. Detailed information can be found on the [informational flier](#).

Attention Seniors: 5 Things You Can Do While You Wait For the 24-25 FAFSA

Normally, the FAFSA is released on Oct. 1 for the following academic year, but this year, due to changes aimed at simplifying financial aid, the 2024-25 FAFSA won't be available until December. That means that anyone who plans to apply for financial aid for the 2024-25 academic year has some extra time on their hands. So, what should you do? Click [here](#) for five other things you can be doing to get ready for college while you wait for the FAFSA to be available

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.

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: 12/2, 12/16, and 1/13. 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) and school social worker, Mrs. Caitlin Wilcox (wilcox@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 or email the Greater Lansing Food Bank at glfb@glfoodbank.org.

If you would like more information about additional food assistance resources available to your family, please visit 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 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.

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.