



# Williamston High School Bi-Weekly News & Notes December 3, 2021

Dear WHS 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 Dates in December & January:**

December 18 - January 2	No school K-12 Winter Break
January 17	No school - MLK Day
January 26	1st & 2nd hour exams (WHS half day AM only) 2nd semester drops & adds 11:30 - 2:30 PM (more info to follow)
January 27	3rd & 4th hour exams (WHS half day AM only) 2nd semester drops & adds 11:30 - 2:30 PM (more info to follow)
January 28	5th & 6th hour exams (K-12 half day AM only)

## **Resources Available during the Holiday Season:**

- ***Assistance with gifts for children:***

If your family is in need of assistance with holiday gifts for your children, we can help connect you with local resources. Please contact the following person as soon as possible based upon the building your child attends school:

- Discovery Elementary: Kennedee Semans (655-2855 ext. 4680 or [semansk@gowcs.net](mailto:semansk@gowcs.net))
- Explorer Elementary: Colleen Feeney (655-2174 ext. 5260 or [feenec@gowcs.net](mailto:feenec@gowcs.net))
- Middle School: Anne McKinney (655-4668 ext. 6520 or [mckinna@gowcs.net](mailto:mckinna@gowcs.net))
- High School: Linda Ereg (655-2142 ext. 7009 or [eregl@gowcs.net](mailto:eregl@gowcs.net))

- ***Food assistance:***

Williamston Food Bank is available to help families with food needs anytime of year. Please email [williamstonmifoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:williamstonmifoodbank@gmail.com) or call 517-655-3813 to make arrangements.

- ***Winter Clothing:***

St. Luke Lutheran Church (Lansing campus, 122 S. Pennsylvania Ave) offers coats to children and adults. Anyone wishing to receive a coat must be present at the coat bank,

including children. Adults must bring identification. Upcoming dates include Nov. 16th or Dec. 4th. [Click here for more information.](#)

- ***Old Newsboys Association footwear resource:***

Please contact the person listed below for an application to receive a voucher to purchase footwear. Children are eligible for this program if they qualify for free or reduced lunch.

- Discovery Elementary: Kennedee Semans (655-2855 ext. 4680 or [semansk@gowcs.net](mailto:semansk@gowcs.net))
- Explorer Elementary: Colleen Feeney (655-2174 ext. 5260 or [feenec@gowcs.net](mailto:feenec@gowcs.net))
- Middle School: Anne McKinney (655-4668 ext. 6520 or [mckinna@gowcs.net](mailto:mckinna@gowcs.net))
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### **be nice. & Mental Health Information**

This week during AOT, WHS students had the opportunity to learn about stress management and practice mindfulness techniques in the classroom in an effort to keep students in tune with their mental health and continue to develop strategies to stay well. To watch this week's lesson, please click [here](#).

In participation with [benice.org](http://benice.org), our parents and guardians have the opportunity to join any of the free webinar events on teen mental health. The next webinar will be on **December 8, 2021 from 6:30-7:15 PM**. This event will focus on empowering young people with tools for mental resilience, and will feature Eric Hippie, a former Detroit Lion Quarterback who lost his son, Jeffrey, to suicide. To register for this event, please click [here](#).

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 ([wilcox@gowcs.net](mailto: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.

### **Yearbook News**

Senior pictures are due January 28. Please click the link [HERE](#) for more information. The yearbook features a senior picture and baby photo of each grad. To purchase a special area in the 2022 yearbook to congratulate your grad please click [HERE](#). Anyone wanting to purchase a yearbook should visit [yearbooksforever.com](http://yearbooksforever.com). Email Lisa Dean at [deanL@gowcs.net](mailto:deanL@gowcs.net) with questions.

## **Seniors - FAFSA**

It is time to fill out the FAFSA (Federal Application for Federal Student Aid) form. The application window is now open. More information can be found at the links below:

[2022-23 FAFSA form now available](#) - Students who plan to attend postsecondary education in the 2022-23 academic year can now complete the FAFSA form.

[New tool launched to estimate federal financial aid](#) - Students and parents can get a peek at how much federal financial aid they might receive with a new tool released by the U.S. Department of Education.

[October tasks for high school seniors](#) - Tasks seniors should complete during the month of October.

## **Spring Dual Enrollment at Lansing Community College (LCC)**

Spring Registration for LCC classes is now open. If you are planning to register for a class you will need to follow the steps found on the [LCC High School Dual Enrollment website](#). Students took classes at LCC in the fall will need to complete a new authorization form (found on the LCC website) and return it to Mrs. Greenleaf ([greenlm@gowcs.net](mailto:greenlm@gowcs.net)) before you will be able to register for spring classes.

## **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.

- Homework lab is held in the WHS library and is offered Monday and Wednesday after school (3:05-4:05 PM) and Tuesday and Thursday before school (7:15-8:15 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: 12/11, 1/8 & 1/22.

## **Quarantined Students Instructional Supports**

During quarantine, your student is able to access instructional work and materials online through their teachers' Google Classrooms. Instructional support materials will include direct instructional videos, classwork and classroom calendars. Students should also contact their teachers if they would like to schedule an in person Google Meet support session. Please contact the teachers if there are questions about class assignments. Please contact the WHS main office (517-655-2142) if a student needs to check out a Chromebook and/or hotspot while he/she is quarantined.

### **Free Breakfast & Lunch Available for all Students**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will continue to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students during the 2021-22 school year. Students can get breakfast before school or lunch during their assigned lunch period. All meals can be picked up, and should be eaten, in the WHS commons/cafeteria. If you have questions, please call the WCS Food and Nutrition Department at 517-655-4361 ext 7890.

### **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 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM. All visitors must use the buzzer system at the main office entrance and check into the main office upon entering the building. Additionally, per Ingham County Health Department orders, all individuals are required to wear a face mask while in 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 7:30-8:15 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.

### **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](#).

### **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).