



Williamston High School Bi-Weekly News & Notes February 23, 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.

Important Upcoming Dates:

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)

Teacher Support at Homework Lab/Academic Saturday School

Beginning Monday, February 26, WHS teachers will be available at homework lab and academic Saturday school to provide additional support for students.

Along with providing general help, math teachers will be available each homework lab session. Science support will be available on Thursdays, and beginning February 28, special education support will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Math and World Language support will be available at Saturday school on March 16; math support will be available at Saturday school on April 4; World Language support will be available May 4.

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: 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.

FAFSA Presentation & Completion Workshop

The Wilson Talent Center is hosting an in person FAFSA presentation and completion workshop March 12 from 6-8pm. This event is open to all Ingham County seniors and parent/guardians and WTC seniors. An informational flier for the event can be found [here](#).

Scheduling for the 2024-25 School Year

Next week, WHS staff will meet with current 8th grade students to review scheduling options for the 2024-25 school year. Staff will then spend the next couple of months building the 2024-25 master schedule and creating student schedules.

If your current 9th-11th grade student has not yet submitted his/her schedule request for 2024-25, please have them do so soon. Students who have not submitted their schedule requests will be scheduled last, regardless of graduating class, and will potentially be unable to get into preferred classes due to sections already being full. Students should check their gowcs.net email account for all scheduling information.

As a reminder, parents must submit the [PARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF STUDENT SCHEDULE REQUESTS](#) approval form. A student's 2024-25 schedule will not be created until this form has been submitted.

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 Spring Conferences - Thursday, March 14

WHS spring conferences will take place on Thursday, March 14 from 12:30-2:30 PM & 4:00-7:00 PM.

Parents will have the choice to attend conferences in person or virtually (via Google Meet) based on the following schedule:

March 14

- 12:30 - 1:30 PM -- In person conferences in the WHS commons and old gym
- 1:30 - 2:30 PM -- Virtual conferences via Google Meet
- 4:00 - 6:00 PM -- In person conferences in the WHS commons and old gym
- 6:00 - 7:00 PM -- Virtual conferences via Google Meet

WHS is scheduling parent/teacher conferences online at:

www.myconferencetime.com/williamstonhs/. This enables WHS to honor parent/guardian time as well as to inform teachers of who they will be speaking with so as to better prepare for each conversation. The online scheduler will go live at 8:00AM on Monday, February 12.

When scheduling conferences, each teacher has two scheduling links, one for in person and one for virtual via Google Meet (If you elect to attend through Google Meet, information on how to access virtual conference links will be provided as we get closer to conferences). Please only take one time slot per student/household, per teacher/class so that all families who wish to meet with teachers have the opportunity to do so.

If an appointment with the social worker is desired, an appointment may be made through the guidance office at 517-655-2142 ext 7012.

If you have any questions about conferences, please call the WHS main office at 517-655-2142.

Williamston Quiz Bowl Fundraiser

Williamston Quiz Bowl is happy to announce our 1st ever Almost-Spring Cravings Popcorn fundraiser! Choose from ten delicious flavors and support the High School and Middle School Quiz Bowl teams as they prepare for the National Championships in Chicago, Illinois in the spring of 2024. Click [here](#) or scan the QR Code to order now!



WHS Evening of Jazz

The Williamston Band Boosters and Williamston Performing Arts Foundation proudly present the 12th Annual Evening of Jazz on Friday, March 8 from 7:00 - 9:30 PM in the WHS commons and practice gym. The evening will feature the WMS and WHS Jazz Bands and special guests Lansing Community College Jazz Band. Join us for an amazing night of music, food, and a huge silent auction to benefit our band program. More information can be found [here](#).

WHS Credit Tracking Form Information

The WHS counseling department recently began emailing credit tracking forms to students and families. It will take another week or so to complete this process as each form has to be emailed out individually. We are hopeful these tracking forms, which are 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. Additional information about the credit tracking form can be found in the [letter](#) that was emailed to all students and families on January 24. If you have any questions about the credit tracking form, please contact the WHS counseling office at 517-655-2142 Ext 7012.

Join the be nice. CONNECT Crew for the 2024-2025 School Year!

Attention all current 10th and 11th grade students, now is the time to apply to be a CONNECT crew member for the 2024-2025 school year! Are you interested in stepping into a leadership role and being a mentor to incoming freshmen? If you are a student with excellent character, who wants to make a difference in our school, then this program is right for you! 11th and 12th grade CONNECT leaders will help kick off freshman orientation, and will support a small group of freshman students for the 2024-2025 school year. To apply or get more information, see Ms. Mitchell in room D7, or Mrs. Wilcox in room A4. You can also apply online [here](#).

Mrs Wilcox: wilcoxc@gowcs.net

Ms. Mitchell: mitchem@gowcs.net

WHS Quiz Bowl Fundraiser

Williamston Quiz Bowl is proud to announce our 2nd Annual [Trivia Palooza Trivia Night!](#) This event will raise funds to support the HS and MS quiz bowl teams for their trips to the National Championships in Chicago, Illinois! You and your teammates (up to six people total) can play against other trivia teams at the Brookshire Inn & Golf Club on Monday, March 11, 2024 OR Tuesday, March 12, 2024! The doors open both nights at 6:00, and the Trivia starts at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$95 for a team of up to six people. You can [order online at this link!](#) Hope to see you there!

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.

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.

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 (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 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.