



# Williamston High School Bi-Weekly News & Notes May 17, 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:**

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)
June 19	2nd semester report cards mailed home
June 24	Last day WHS main office is open before summer break
June 25 - August 4	WHS main office closed for summer break
August 5	WHS main office opens for the 2024/25 school year
August 8	12th (8:00 - 10:30 AM) & 11th grade (12:00 - 2:30 PM) student orientation Drop/adds schedule change requests
August 9	10th (8:00 - 10:30 AM) & 9th grade (12:00 - 2:30 PM) student orientation Drop/adds schedule change requests
August 15	WHS open house 5:30-6:30 PM
August 19	First day of school

## **2024/25 WCS Calendar**

[The 2024/25 WCS calendar can be viewed here.](#)

## **Senior Information and End of the Year Activities**

- A [senior \(class of 2024\) update](#) was emailed to all seniors and their families on April 3. This letter includes information about senior spring events and ceremonies.
- LifeTouch will be taking formal graduation photos before and during the commencement ceremony. Click [here](#) to pre-order your pictures.

- The last day for 2024 grads to order a transcript with no fee is **July 31, 2024**. Click [here](#) to order a transcript.

### **Returning School Materials**

All school books, materials and supplies must be returned by 4:00 PM on Friday, June 7. Materials can be returned to the appropriate teacher or the main office.

### **2024-25 Class Schedules & Drop/Add Requests**

Incoming 9th-12th grade students will receive their 2024-25 schedules during the school day on May 29. Additionally, we will be offering spring drop/add sessions the last week of school for students who would like to request a schedule change. We will still hold our regular drop/add sessions in August prior to the start of the school year, but we are offering this drop/add session in June to alleviate some of the busyness that comes with the start of the school year. Detailed information about June drop/add sessions, including dates/times and a link to schedule an appointment, can be found [here](#). The link to schedule a drop/add session with a counselor will go live on May 29.

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

Preparations for busing in the fall will begin soon. If your student was NOT a full time bus rider this year but will need to ride next year, please contact the bus garage at (517) 655-1011 to add to the list of riders for the 2024-25 school year. The deadline to add will be Friday, July 19. Service after this date will be based upon availability only. School of choice students currently not on a bus route will NOT be able to be added to a route for the 2024-25 School year.

### **Work Based Learning:**

If your child is planning on doing Work Based Learning next school year, they need to pick up the required forms from Mrs. Plaxton before the end of the school year. Students must have employment and all required paperwork submitted to Mrs. Plaxton by the first of August in order to do Work Based Learning next year. Please email Mrs. Plaxton with any questions.

### **WHS Testing Out Opportunity**

A testing out opportunity will be provided at the end of the semester for those students who wish to attempt to test out of a class for the 2024-25 school year. Students should stop by the counseling office for detailed information about testing out and to pick up a testing out form. The syllabus for each course the student is attempting to test out of will be available two weeks prior to taking the test. Testing out will take place on the afternoons of spring semester exams only.

### **WHS Summer Office Hours**

The WHS main office will be open June 10 - June 24 from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Monday - Thursday. The office will be closed June 25 - August 4 for summer break. The office will open on August 5 for the 2024-25 school year.

### **Final Exam Schedule - June 5-7**

- Wednesday, June 5: 8:30AM - 11:45AM (1st & 2nd hour exams)
  - Students who need afternoon bus transportation home should wait in the WHS library following the completion of their test (lunch will not be provided for students who wait in the library). Students should be at Williamston Middle School at 3:25 PM (the end of WMS's school day) to take the bus home.
- Thursday, June 6: 8:30AM - 11:45AM (3rd & 4th hour exams)
  - Students who need afternoon bus transportation home should wait in the WHS library following the completion of their test (lunch will not be provided for students who wait in the library). Students should be at Williamston Middle School at 3:25 PM (the end of WMS's school day) to take the bus home.
- Friday, June 7: 8:30AM - 11:45AM (5th & 6th hour exams - last day of school)
  - The district has a half day of school on June 9. Buses will be at WHS at 11:45 AM to transport students home.

### **2nd Semester Report Cards**

Report cards will be mailed home on June 19.

### **Williamston High School German Exchange**

We are seeking 14 families to host German exchange students for 12 days in the fall of 2024 and possibly travel to Germany in the Summer of 2025. [Please click here for more information.](#)

### **Teacher Support at Homework Lab/Academic Saturday School**

WHS teachers are available at homework lab and academic Saturday school to provide additional support for students.

#### **Homework Lab**

Along with providing general help, math teachers are available during after school homework lab sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Science support is available on Wednesdays, and special education support is available on Mondays and Wednesdays.

### Academic Saturday School

Math support will be available at Saturday school on May 18, June 1; World Language support will be available May 18.

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 2nd semester dates include: 5/18, 6/1. Students should enter the school through the Dome entrance (Door 27) as other entrances will be locked.

### Michigan Virtual Summer School for Credit Advancement

Students interested in taking a summer Michigan Virtual course for credit advancement should contact Mrs. Plaxton ([plaxtod@gowcs.net](mailto:plaxtod@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](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.

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).