



Williamston High School Bi-Weekly News & Notes September 23, 2022

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 dates in September, October and November:

September 24	Homecoming float building
September 26-29	Homecoming week festivities
September 30	Homecoming parade & football game
October 1	Homecoming dance - 7:00-10:00 PM at WHS
October 5	Pupil count day
October 14-17	No school (Fall long weekend) - WHS office closed
October 18	Picture retake day (during lunch)
November 1	No school (Election Day)
November 8	No school (Conferences - more info to follow)
November 23-27	No school (Thanksgiving break)

WHS Homecoming September 24 - October 1

Please see the detailed schedule of [homecoming class themes, spirit days, and events](#).

Homecoming highlights:

- Float building will take place on Saturday, September 24 from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM in the soccer parking lot. All students are welcome to participate.
- The powderpuff football game will be on Monday, September 26 at 6:30 PM at the football stadium.
- The bonfire (WHS students only) will be on Wednesday, September 28 from 6:30-8:00 PM at the football/band practice field south of the athletic parking lot.
- The homecoming parade will start at 6:00 PM on Friday, September 30.
- The homecoming varsity football game versus St. Johns HS will start at 7:00 PM on Friday, September 30.
- The homecoming dance will be from 7:00-10:00 PM on Saturday, October 1 in the WHS courtyard (poor weather will move it into the auxiliary gym). Tickets can be purchased in

advance at lunch for \$10 during the week of homecoming or at the door for \$15. Students wanting to bring a guest must pick up a “Dance Guest Request” form ahead of time and return it to the WHS main office by Friday, September 30. Middle school students are not allowed as guests.

Senior Graduation Cap & Gown Information

During AOT on October 6, Jostens will present information to all Seniors concerning caps & gown and other graduation materials.

On October 13 the Jostens rep will be back to pick up orders during A & B lunch.

Virtual Financial Aid Nights

Students and families looking for help paying for college are encouraged to [register for a Virtual Financial Aid Night](#) provided by Michigan Department of Treasury’s MI Student Aid team.

Participants will be able to gather information on the following financial aid topics:

- FAFSA application information
- Federal financial aid programs
- State financial aid programs
- Scholarship searching resources

All sessions are free of charge and open to the public.

Spring 2023 Dual Enrollment at LCC

The Dual Enrollment forms and course catalog are available now. Registration for Spring 2023 begins October 3, but all forms can be completed and submitted before then. All forms submitted between now and October 3 will be processed once registration opens.

Students must put the CRN's for the course they wish to take. Classes are a mix of online, online Real Time (need to virtually attend at specific time) hybrid, traditional. Please be careful when selecting class type. If you have any question, please contact Michelle Greenleaf (greenlm@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.

- 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). Homework lab will be offered beginning September 7.
- 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: 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/19, 12/10, 1/14.

be nice. Williamston vs Haslett Football Game

WHS be nice. will be hosting a mental health awareness and suicide prevention event during the Williamston vs Haslett varsity football game on Friday, October 7. Please click [here](#) for the informational flier.

be nice. & Mental Health 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.

PSAT/NMSQT Optional Test for Juniors

WHS will be administering the optional PSAT/NMSQT test on Wednesday, October 12 at 8:30 AM (check in will begin at 8:15 AM) to juniors who pre-register to take the test. This test is used to determine eligibility and qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Program for 11th graders only.

Juniors taking the PSAT/NMSQT will be excused from their regularly scheduled classes for the morning. The test takes approximately three hours to complete.

The registration form is available [here](#) and must be submitted no later than September 23, 2022. The fee to take this optional test is \$25 and should be turned in to the WHS Counseling Office after submitting the online registration form. Please contact the Counseling Office with any questions: (517)655-2142 ext. 7012.

College Board Accounts

All students will need to create a College Board account (if they have not already done so). Students will need the account in order to access past and future College Board test score reports. Each student will need to remember his/her username and password so make sure to write it down. Click here to get started <https://www.collegeboard.org/>. Please contact the counseling office at 517-655-2142 ext 7012 with any questions.

Advanced Placement (AP) Information

College Board, the national organization that oversees AP testing, has changed a few of their procedures for this school year. Students currently enrolled in an AP course should be aware of the following:

- Students have to be enrolled in their AP teacher's AP Classroom through College Board in order to sign-up to take the AP test.
- Teachers share the join code with the students in their class along with instructions for signing in and joining the class section.
- AP Exams are now ordered in the fall (\$100 per test). An online order form and test code will be emailed to AP students and parents in a couple weeks. Tests must be ordered by October 3 this year. Tests can still be ordered after the October 3 date, but there is a \$40 per test late order fee. Please understand the \$100 per test fee will jump to \$140 per test if the student does not sign-up by October 3! A student may sign up for a test and drop without a penalty fee before November 15; however, if a student cancels a test after November 15, CollegeBoard keeps a \$40 cancellation fee, so the student will only get a \$60 refund.
- Students will have access to more AP practice and feedback resources.
- Students with questions should talk with their AP teacher or stop by the counseling office.

Freshmen Connect

WHS has a new program this year for all freshman students that connects them to an upper-classmen mentor. The Connect Mentors ran the Connect Orientation Day prior to the start of the school and are available to help freshmen transition to life at WHS. Please contact Mrs. Konieczki (koniccm@gowcs.net) or Mrs. Wilcox (wilcoxc@gowcs.net) with any questions.

Business Professionals of America

Students who would like to be a member of Business Professionals of America should see Mrs. Plaxton in room D6 to sign up. All forms and payment must be returned by September 27

Yearbooks

The 2022 yearbooks are here and were delivered to current students. If you missed picking yours up, please see Ms. Dean in room B1 before or after school. Yearbooks are not stored in the main office for pickup. Please contact Ms. Dean at deanL@gowcs.net with questions.

We did sell out of the 2022 yearbook, so you can guarantee your 2023 book by purchasing early at yearbookforever.com.

Spring Softball

If you are interested in playing Softball, please fill out the following google form.

<https://forms.gle/Q75tjEgLvSm6eAt5>. Questions should be directed to Mrs. Gurk (gurka@gowcs.net)

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.

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](#).

Community Enrichment Opportunities

Families and students can check out and enroll in fitness center memberships and activities online at www.williamstononline.net.