



Williamston High School

Bi-Weekly News & Notes

January 12, 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.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and hope you have a restful and relaxing winter break!

Important Upcoming Dates:

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)

2ND SEMESTER DROP/ADD SESSIONS - REQUESTED SCHEDULE CHANGES:

WHS will be offering scheduled DROP AND ADD sessions for all students requesting a 2nd semester class schedule change (this is the same schedule change request format offered prior to the start of the school year). Students may request schedule changes only during these scheduled sessions:

- Wednesday, January 17: 11:30-2:30 PM
- Thursday, January 18: 11:30-2:30 PM

Please be aware, the master schedule is very tight, and we are anticipating that we will be unable to accommodate the majority of schedule change requests. Additionally, schedule change requests must comply with the following requirements:

- Class change requests must be within the same hour (ex: dropping a 2nd hour class requires switching into another second hour class).
- Class section numbers must have room to allow the class change.
- Class changes will not be made because a student wants to be with his/her friends.

Any student wishing to request a schedule change should make an appointment at <https://www.myconferencetime.com/williamstonhs/>. The scheduling link is now live; students may sign up for any available appointment time.

The WHS 2023-2024 master schedule can be found online on the [WHS Counseling website](#). Students should come to their scheduled drop/add session with a completed [schedule change request form](#) based on the master schedule (schedule change request forms MUST be signed by a parent/guardian).

Only at these drop/add sessions will a counselor attempt to change your schedule. We will process these requests, if a schedule change is possible, in a timely fashion according to the above drop/add timetable for the student's particular class. Schedule changes done at the drop/add sessions will be reflected on schedules posted on PowerSchool prior to the first day of school.

Schedule changes will not be made after the Drop/Add sessions ending January 18. *Only course schedules meeting the specific criteria for consideration of schedule changes outlined in the student handbook will be reviewed by administration* (specific details on the schedule change policy can be located online in the [WHS Student Handbook](#). Holding to strict guidelines for schedule changes will provide teachers with firm class rosters so that they may begin teaching in earnest on the first day of the semester.

If you have any questions about drops/adds, please contact the WHS office at 517-655-2142.

*Students/families who would prefer to speak with a counselor by phone or Google Meet rather than in person should make an appointment for a drop/add session and then email Mrs. Greenleaf (greenlm@gowcs.net) so that she can set up a phone call/Google Meet link for your appointment.

Upcoming Final Exams - Helpful Study Tips

To prepare for upcoming final exams (Jan 17-19), Mrs. O'Rourke has created a ["How to Study" tip sheet](#) for students. Parents/guardians and students can access these study tips and methods by clicking on the link above.

Upcoming FAFSA Webinars

Students and families interested in learning more about the FAFSA process are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming webinars that will discuss 2024 FAFSA changes and how they'll impact your family, how to login/access the FAFSA, and how to complete and submit the FAFSA. Please see below for webinar information:

- January 17, 7 PM ET

FAFSA Webinar with College Aid Pro

[Registration Link](#)

- January 24, 7:00 pm ET
FAFSA Webinar with College Aid Pro
[Registration Link](#)

ESports

Williamston High School's Varsity ESports team will begin their preseason on February 5th. Anyone interested in learning more information about the ESports program (game titles, practice/match schedule, etc.) can contact Head Coach Theresa Billy at billyt@gowcs.net.

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: 12/16, 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 (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.

