



WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR BLUES NEWSLETTER



FEATURED STORY

CAREER CLUSTERS

For the 2026-2027 school year, there will be a few changes in the Clusters/Pathways offered at WRHS. This information will be provided in the Course Planning Guide in January. The Kansas State Department of Education has completed the Cluster/Pathway reviews in order to align KS with the National Clusters and Pathways being offered.

A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. The Career Clusters organize academic and occupational knowledge and skills into a coherent course sequence and identify pathways from secondary schools to two and four-year colleges, graduate schools, and the workplace. Students learn in school about what they can do in the future. This connection to future goals motivates students to work harder and enroll in more rigorous courses.

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From the Desk of Our Principal



Hello again,

As we wrap up the first 9-week grading period, I want to take a moment to reflect on the exciting start to our school year. There is a lot to celebrate, and we're looking forward to even more successes as we move forward. As both a parent of two WRHS graduates and as the principal of WRHS, I want to assure you that your child is receiving an excellent education. However, we know that for some students, learning can present challenges, and we're here to offer any support they might need. There is still plenty of time to address any concerns before the semester ends, and I'd like to share some helpful resources that are available.

One of the best tools for staying informed about your child's progress is our Parent Portal. It allows you to track grades, attendance, behavior, lunch account balances, and more. If you haven't yet activated your Parent Portal account, you can get your activation key by contacting my Administrative Assistant, Ms. Susan Kaspar, at 785-339-4104. She will gladly assist you with the process of getting started. The portal updates regularly, so it provides a real-time view of your child's performance. If you're noticing any areas of concern, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers for additional support.

Teachers are available before school starting at 7:30 AM and after school, typically until 3:30 PM, to provide extra help. Some teachers who also coach may not be available after school, but they are happy to schedule time with students before school. If you find that your child needs additional help, I would encourage you to contact your child's counselor. For your convenience, I have listed them below.

- **Leslie Fischer** (339-4117): Last names A-D
- **Keith Wetzel** (339-4116): Last names E-J
- **Emilio Chavez** (339-4103): Last names K-O
- **Michelle Pegram-Caporusso** (339-4911): Last names P-T
- **Marie Coates** (339-4118): Student Services
- **Marcie Frederickson** (339-4115): Last names U-Z, International Baccalaureate, Student Services-Gifted
- **EmmaRae Chavez** (339-4119): Alternative Education

Our counselors are ready to help in a variety of ways to ensure your child reaches their academic goals. If the extra help from teachers doesn't resolve the issue, your child may be referred to our Student Intervention Team (SIT). This team, which includes educational professionals and you as a parent, will review your child's progress and recommend tailored interventions. Most challenges can be addressed effectively through this process. If additional steps are necessary, our counselors will work with you to explore other options.

At WRHS, we are committed to helping every student reach their full potential. Please don't hesitate to let us know how we can support your child's success.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Raines". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "E" and a cursive "Raines".

Ed Raines, Principal
raineedw@usd437.net

Support Washburn Rural High
School PTO

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR
code below



Or visit:

<https://givebutter.com/WRHSpto>

WRHS Counseling Office

Counseling Website: bit.ly/wrhscounselors

Crisis Hotline: 785-232-5005 or 988

[Counseling Staff](#)

Kansas Board of Regents Seven Bucket Framework

The Board of Regents has implemented a Seven Bucket Framework for students pursuing bachelor degrees.

The seven buckets represent general academic areas that students must complete to earn a degree.

Information and requirements can be found at https://www.kansasregents.gov/academic_affairs/general-education/seven-bucket-framework. We encourage families of college bound students to become familiar with this framework.

Second Semester Schedule Changes

In November, counselors will work to fill second semester gaps for grades 9-11. Students should email their counselor or write their name on the counselor's whiteboard to discuss scheduling concerns and issues. Please note that schedules are tentative until the first day of school.

Freshmen 4 Year Planning

The Class of 2029 will create a tentative 4 year plan in Naviance during advisory. This is an important component of their Individual Plan of Study as mandated by the State of Kansas. This tentative plan will be revised during spring pre-enrollment. We encourage families to work together to create a plan which will help students set goals. The [course planning guide](#) is an excellent resource. We hope students will explore our wide range of opportunities available including but not limited to: Career and Technical Education, Washburn Institute of Technology, Washburn University Dual Credit Courses, Honors and Advanced Placement Courses, and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

Senior Meetings

During the month of October, counselors met individually with all seniors to discuss postsecondary planning. The Class of 2026 were prepared and excited about their postsecondary plans! Whether off to the military, workforce, technical college, college, or other pursuits, our students have ambitious goals and we look forward to watching them succeed. As the year progresses, please continue to reach out to your school counselor with questions regarding the transition beyond high school.

Volunteer Opportunities

Many volunteer opportunities exist in Topeka. We encourage students to engage in our community and contribute to the many organizations in our community that invite teen volunteers to join them. A list of potential opportunities can be found [HERE](#).

Positive Relationships for Teens

This American School Counselor Association recommends the CDC program [Dating Matters](#) for parents of teens. This program helps parents support healthy teenage dating relationships.



Systemwide General Education Framework

Systemwide General Education Framework

The systemwide GE program framework is below and is comprised of 34-35 credit hours organized in six discipline-based “buckets” and an institutionally designated bucket. A student who satisfies all seven buckets will complete the systemwide GE program.

Bucket #1: English Discipline Area



6 Hours of English Courses

Bucket #2: Communications Discipline Area



3 Hours of Communications Courses

Bucket #3: Mathematics & Statistics Discipline Area



3 Hours of Math or Statistics Courses
College Algebra
Contemporary/Essential Math
Elementary Statistics

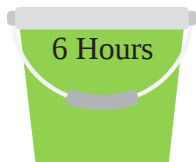
Bucket # 4: Natural & Physical Sciences Discipline Area



4-5 Hours from One Subject (must include a lab)

Anatomy
Astronomy
Biochemistry
Biology
Botany
Chemistry
Earth Science
Ecology
Environmental Science
Geology
Meteorology
Microbiology
Physical Geography
Physical Sciences
Physics
Physiology
Zoology
Other subjects that the offering institution determines fit within the natural and physical sciences area

Bucket #5: Social & Behavioral Sciences Discipline Area



6 Hours in at Least Two Courses from Two Subject Areas

Anthropology
Criminal Justice
Economics
Ethnic and/or Gender Studies
Geography
Political Science
Psychology
Social Work
Sociology
Other subjects that the offering institution determines fit within the social sciences area

Bucket # 6: Arts and Humanities Discipline Area



6 Hours in at Least Two Courses from Two Subject Areas

Art *
Communications
Cultural Studies
Dance*
English
General Humanities
History
Literature
Modern and Classical Languages
Music*
Philosophy
Religion
Theater*
Other subjects that the offering institution determines fit within the arts and humanities

*The application of performance courses in this subject area is at the discretion of the institution.

Bucket #7: Institutionally Designated Area



6 Hours Determined by the Institution.

This area provides flexibility for each institution to define requirements to account for societal issues, local needs, and institutional priorities (Intermediate Algebra shall not be applied toward meeting this area).

Last Updated February 2024



November Advisory

November 4

Veterans Day Assembly

November 11

Sources of Strength

Mental Health Activity

November 18

9th: Introduction to 4 Year Plan

10th, 11th, 12th: Academic Check-in

Tues. & Thurs. 3:05–4:15pm

AFTER SCHOOL LABS

Library.

English

Math

Science

Social Studies

Room G2342

AF-JROTC

Room F656

Student Services Resource

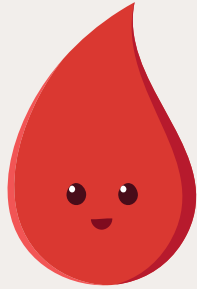


**Need a ride
home?**

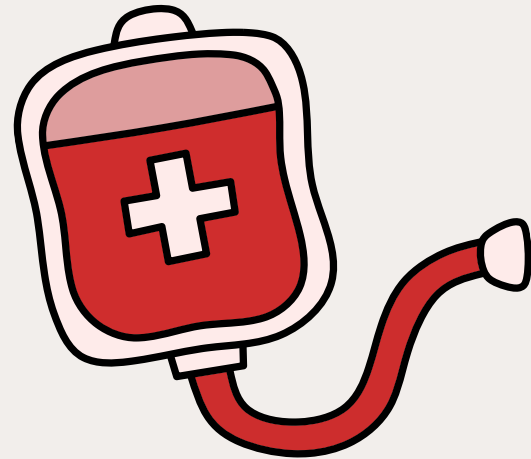
Sign up in the Main Office
before 6th Period!

EVERY

DROP



COUNTS



NHS BLOOD DRIVE

DONATE BLOOD

NOVEMBER 11 2025

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM

@ WRHS INNOVATION CENTER

YOUR CONTRIBUTION MATTERS!

Washburn Rural High School

BOOBY 'TRAP'

Ed Monk

October 9, 10, 11



7 pm

Suggested donation \$5

Produced by Special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)
Join us for a night full of mystery that will keep you on the edge of your seat!

Imagine an incomprehensible event where every person in the audience of a high school play falls unconscious—every person but one. Using interviews with witnesses, loved ones, first responders, and the investigators pursuing the case, our theatre ensemble brings the story of the strange event to life, documentary-style. But as the strands weave together into an increasingly dangerous web, it becomes clear that this phenomenon might not be entirely in the past. Unnerving, exhilarating, and wildly inventive, you've never walked into anything quite like Trap.

Tickets available at the door or at warutheatre.org. Adults \$9. Students \$7.

◆ WRHS Department Highlights

Students in Washburn Rural's Black Student Union attended the Student Community Leadership Conference at The University of Kansas on September 30th with other surrounding area high schools, including Highland Park, Lawrence High, Lawrence Freestate, Olathe, Shawnee Mission West, North Kansas City, Lees Summit West, and more. They had a breakout session titled "WRHS Black Student Union: Creating Community" where our students discussed a variety of topics, including the importance of diversity, inclusion, and creating community, especially being in a predominately white school. Panelists included Giselle Foster, Janiah Matthie-Johnson, Evaney Robertson, Leah Box, and Mighty Williams. These students did an excellent job sharing their personal experiences, and shedding light on how BSU has impacted their lives by creating a sense of belonging and empowerment for them and other students of color at Washburn Rural.



Congratulations to Mr. McVey, Mrs. Byers, and all of the math students who recently represented WRHS at the Emporia State University competition. The Donald L. Bruyr Mathematics Day was sponsored by the School of Science and Mathematics and STEM Outreach + Engagement at ESU. There were 474 students from 45 schools competing. "This is the first time we have had a team earn 1st place at this competition since 2019, these students did a great job" stated Mr. McVey.



Results are as follows:

The Algebra Team earned 4th place
Nicholas He
Brady Haag
Jackson Tuckwin

The Geometry Team earned 1st place
Evan Garcia
Ophelia Lackey
Ethan Lake

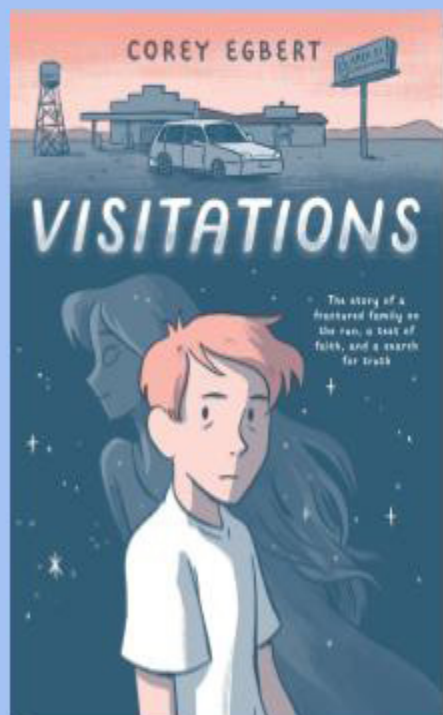
The Math Scramble Team earned 4th place
Prajeet Akula
Emma Smith
Lasya Rapolu

In the Algebra Individual exam
Kareem Najm earned 5th place

In the Geometry Individual Exam
Ethan Lake earned 5th place

Mrs. Finney's Monthly YA Book Recommendation

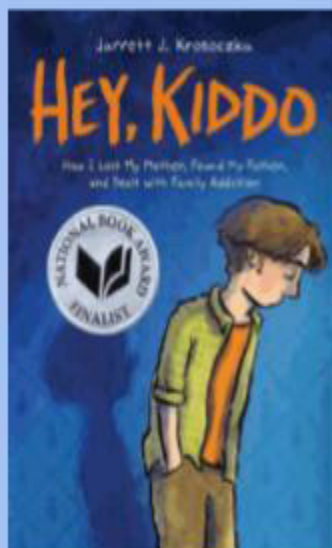
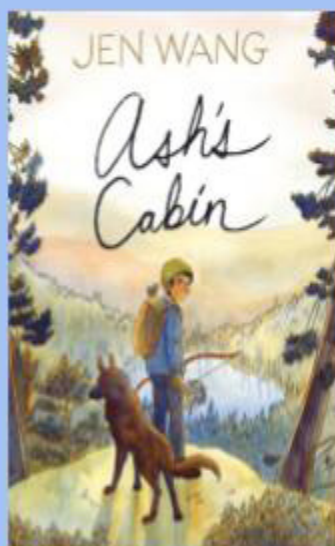
November 2025



Visitations
By Corey Egbert
B EGB

This incredible graphic novel inspired by one boy's real life, explores the dynamics of family, mental illness, and religion. After his parent's divorce, Corey and his sister are told not to speak to their dad - he can't be trusted. Visitations are uncomfortable, until one day his mom says they don't have to do them anymore, and she takes them on a "road trip" for a few days, that becomes much much more.

Similar Titles Include:



• • • • • READ WITH FINNEY • • • • •

Open to
all
students
& staff!

BOOK CLUB



2nd Meeting Title:

Aisle Nine (2025) by: Ian X. Cho

2025 YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Readers
Horror - Dystopian



Where? WRHS Library

When? Monday, December 8th

Who? ALL WRHS Students & Staff - 1st 10 Students to sign up will get a FREE copy of the book to keep!



<https://bit.ly/readwithfinney2526>

Sign up: Nov 3rd - Nov 14th

Books Delivered: Nov 17th

Read Along: Nov 17th - Dec 5th

Then, visit the Library on Dec 8st
to talk books with Finney!



Search multiple resources at the same time using this tool.

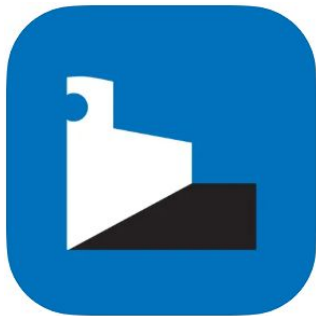
Discover relevant information on any topic searching several databases including EBSCO and Proquest.

Search

Finding what you're looking for just got faster. [Learn more.](#)

Through the **TSCPL @ School** program, students can fully utilize the new **Research Search Tool** provided by the public library. It enables users to search multiple resources in a single search box. Therefore, results are:

- more “Google like” but, results are from **vetted and reliable** sources
- ranked by **Relevance**, meaning more meaningful sources are at the top
- available in **Full text and Peer reviewed** for easy online access to scholarly content



Use the **TSCPL app** to access **TOOLS & SERVICES** for the **Databases** under **Research Tools**.

TSCPL @ School program details: Student library card number is the school district number followed by student ID number. The initial PIN is 4 digit graduation year. If you have trouble logging in, ask your school librarian.

Marcy Sandberg
sandbmar@usd437.net

Victoria Finney
finnevic@usd437.net

Text number: 785-260-0015



State Library of Kansas

The **State Library of Kansas** offers **ebooks** and **audiobooks** to Kansans through the **Cloud Library app**. If you or Kansans you know would like an account to the State Library for use with the Cloud Library app, contact a WRHS Librarian.



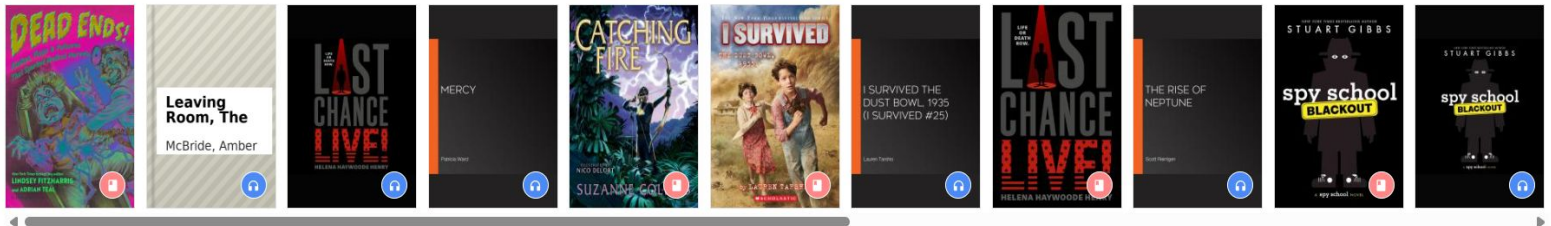
Marcy Sandberg
sandbmar@usd437.net

Victoria Finney
finnevic@usd437.net

Text number: 785-260-0015

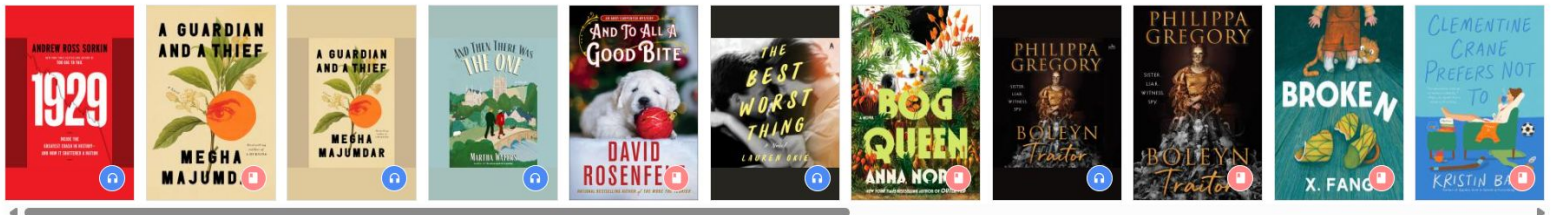
Recent Additions - Young Adult

[VIEW ALL \(250\)](#)



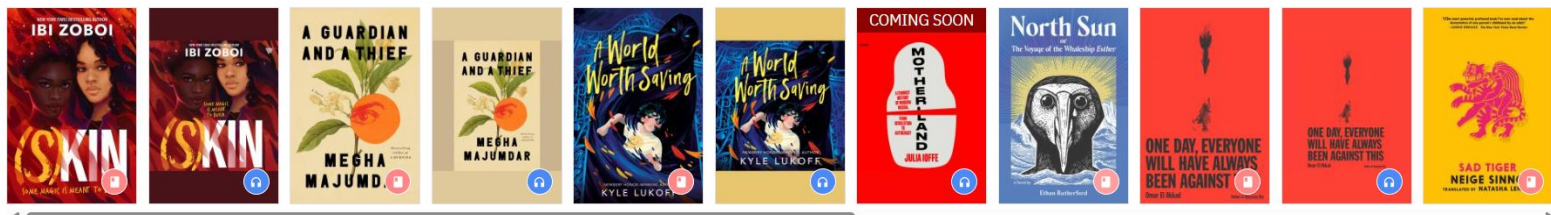
Recent Additions to Collections

[VIEW ALL \(246\)](#)



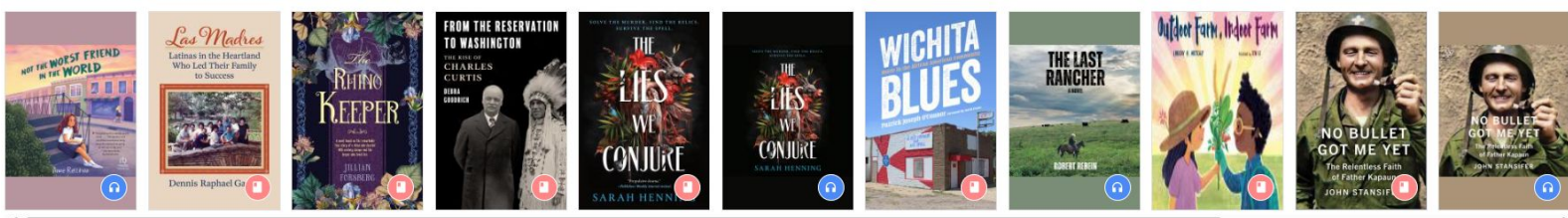
2025 National Book Awards Finalist

[VIEW ALL \(23\)](#)



2025 Kansas Notable Books

[VIEW ALL \(14\)](#)



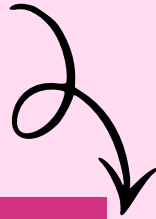
KAY Club

Projects so far and to come:

Harvesters T-

shirt bags:

Students brought in t-shirts to cut up and make reusable bags for Harvesters!



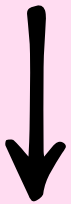
Serving Thanksgiving

Lunch:

KAY members travel to local elementary schools to serve Thanksgiving lunches and interact with the community!

Monster Bookmarks:

Students folded and decorated colorful paper to be used as bookmarks for local elementary students!



@wrhskayclub

Have an activity we can help with?
Reach out to our club sponsor, Haley Schmitz
schmiha1@usd437.net

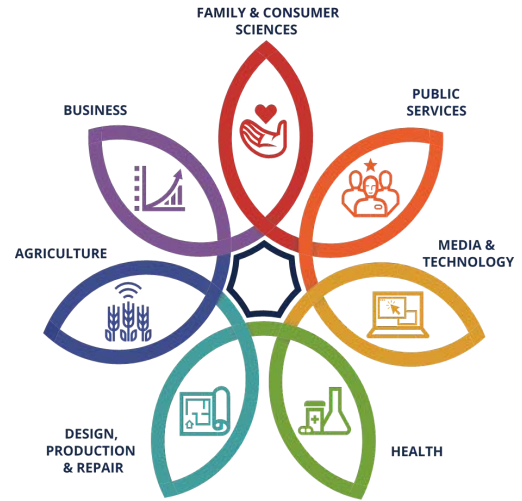
◆ Career and Technical Education

Career Clusters and Pathways at Washburn Rural

For the 2026-2027 school year, there will be a few changes in the Clusters/Pathways offered at WRHS. This information will be provided in the Course Planning Guide in January. The Kansas State Department of Education has completed the Cluster/Pathway reviews in order to align KS with the National Clusters and Pathways being offered.

<https://careertech.org/career-clusters/>

A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities. The Career Clusters organize academic and occupational knowledge and skills into a coherent course sequence and identify pathways from secondary schools to two and four-year colleges, graduate schools, and the workplace. Students learn in school about what they can do in the future. This connection to future goals motivates students to work harder and enroll in more rigorous courses.



CAREER READY STANDARDS: These are taught in all CTE coursework and are embedded within the overall competencies taught in each CTE class.

Competencies for Career Ready Standards

- 1.1 Act as a responsible and contributing citizen and employee.
- 1.2 Apply appropriate academic and technical skills.
- 1.3 Attend to personal health and financial well-being.
- 1.4 Communicate clearly, effectively, and with reason.
- 1.5 Consider the environmental, social, and economic impacts of decisions.
- 1.6 Demonstrate creativity and innovation.
- 1.7 Employ valid and reliable research strategies.
- 1.8 Utilize critical thinking to make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- 1.9 Model integrity, ethical leadership, and effective management.
- 1.10 Plan education and career path aligned to personal goals.
- 1.11 Use technology to enhance productivity.
- 1.12 Work productively in teams while using cultural/global competence.

Currently, WRHS offers 15 pathways in the following areas. Refer to the [Course Planning Guide](#) for more information. CTE pathway charts can be found on pages 9-14. If you have any questions, please contact your counselor.

Architecture & Construction Pathway

For Sale!

[Dog houses](#) and a [garden shed](#) built by WRHS Construction and Design students are for sale.

Email or call Teresa Golden to check on availability: goldeter@usd437.net

◆ Career and Technical Education

Manufacturing Pathway

Featuring Welding 3 Student- Kaeden Griffith under the direct supervision of Mr. Harvey. In March of the 2024–2025 school year, my math teacher, Mr. Cropp, mentioned that the Track and Cross Country team needed equipment. Using materials provided by the high school welding program, I was able to fabricate two weight sleds to meet that need.

I created custom blueprints and designed specialized tools to help construct the sleds. Although I began the project during my sophomore year, I wasn't able to finish it before the school year ended. When I returned as a junior, my top priority was completing the sleds—finishing the welding, painting them, and getting them ready for the track team's use.

The total cost for both sleds was \$215.63, which included metal, consumables, and paint/primer. In comparison, similar sleds sold online or in stores cost \$199.99 or more *each*, before tax. By building them ourselves, we were able to save money and produce two sleds for about the cost of one.

Another key advantage of building them in-house was the ability to customize the design to the team's specific needs—from the height of the handles to the sleds' weight capacity.



Education & Training Pathway

Washburn Rural High School's Teaching as a Career and Teaching Observation students spent the day at Emporia State University's Future Teachers Summit—immersed in a day designed for tomorrow's educators. Students attended hands-on workshops, explored teaching pathways, and heard inspiring messages from education leaders about the rewards and realities of the profession. They connected with college faculty and current teacher-candidates, picked up tips on classroom management and student engagement, and learned about admissions, scholarships, and next steps toward earning a teaching degree. A campus tour and breakout sessions gave students a first-hand look at life in an education program. We're grateful to ESU for hosting such a meaningful experience and proud of our students for taking another step toward their future classrooms!

◆ Career and Technical Education

Programming & Software Development Pathway



WRHS Students compete at the KU Design Competition. This year's theme was the Wild West.

One team participated in the Mechanical Engineering Design Challenge – Mousetrap Car Project, where teams applied principles of forces, potential energy, and torque to design and build a mousetrap-powered carriage capable of navigating uneven terrain and accurately delivering its cargo. Click the video link [here](#) to see their carriage in action.

Team Members: Brady Haag, Jackson Tuckwin, Liam Morrison, Nicholas He, Brooks Kehoe
Instructor: Chandrakala Mandapati

The team's creative design and strong engineering application earned them **2nd place** among 26 participating teams in the Mechanical Engineering category.

One team participated in the Computer Science Engineering Competition, where teams were challenged to design a Wild West Poster Generator. Each team arrived with a functioning poster generator, then had to incorporate new special features on-site before presenting their final project and code to a panel of judges. They applied principles of problem-solving, algorithm design, and user interface development to complete the challenge. Click the link [here](#) to see the poster generator this group made!

- Team Members: Grayson Huey, Joel Jijo, Shrutha Bangalore
- Instructor: Haley Schmitz

The team's project scored well.

Finance & Marketing Pathway

Exploring the Business World: 8th Graders Visit the High School Business Department

Last week, 8th-grade students got an exciting sneak peek into the world of business during their visit to the High School's Business Department. The visit was part of a special career exploration day, and it gave students the chance to learn about the classes, programs, and real-world experiences offered in high school in both the Finance and Marketing Pathways.

When the 8th graders arrived, they were greeted by high school students and instructors who are part of the Business Department. Right away, the middle schoolers got to ask questions and hear about what it's like to take business classes.

High school students shared their own experiences in the Finance and Marketing Pathways. These pathways are designed to help students prepare for future careers in money management, sales, advertising, entrepreneurship, and more.

◆ Career and Technical Education



One student explained how the Finance pathway helped them learn about budgeting, saving, and even investing. Another student in the Marketing pathway talked about designing real advertisements and running social media for school businesses.

Real Businesses Run by Students:

One of the highlights of the visit was learning about the three school-based businesses that students actually run:

- **Common Grounds** – This is the school’s coffee shop, managed by students. They take care of everything from making drinks to handling customer service and keeping track of inventory and budgeting.
- **The Shack** – A popular school store where students sell spirit apparel. Marketing students help design the products and displays.
- **WRHS Bank** – A real bank inside the school, operated in partnership with a local bank. Finance students help manage accounts and transactions, giving them real experience in banking and finance.

Hands-On Learning

Teachers explained how business classes aren’t just about reading textbooks—they include hands-on projects and teamwork. From learning how to manage money to promoting a product, students are building skills that will last a lifetime. This visit gave students a clear picture of how business classes can be fun, useful, and full of opportunities.

Marketing Pathway

Marketing Management Class Field Trip

On October 8th, Common Grounds morning and lunch crew took a field trip to PT’s Coffee and Dialogue Coffee House. This visit was part of our long-standing partnership with PT’s, beginning over a decade ago when we reached out to establish Common Grounds—a student-operated coffee shop dedicated to providing high-quality beverages and excellent customer service to the school community.

The field trip was for students to better understand how the journey from bean to cup unfolds. Upon arrival at the warehouse, Brent Piepergerdes, Chief Operating Officer, greeted these business students. Before the tour began, Brent briefly discussed the history of PT’s Coffee—from where they’ve been and their aspirations for the future. Then, it was off to the production floor to tour where the magic happens!

◆ Career and Technical Education



Production was in full swing, so students got a chance to see orders being fulfilled throughout the tour—from coffees being freshly roasted to bags of coffee being filled and sealed by hand. As the students roamed the roasting facility, they learned about the intricate process of sourcing agricultural products from thousands of miles away and converting them into the beverage we all know and love. Brent also discussed the importance of their Direct Trade program and touched on visiting various Direct Trade partners at origin each year.

Finally, it was time for a more hands-on experience. The students were divided into two groups to ensure everyone had a chance to engage fully with the roasting process. Mike Mazulo, our Head Roaster, led his group through a demo roast.

Then, it was on to sampling the coffee beans, aka smelling the coffee throughout different stages of the roast process. Students huddled around the roaster to hear for themselves the first crack, a stage in the coffee roasting process when moisture in green coffee beans turns into steam and escapes, creating a cracking noise. The students were surprised that this sounded similar to popcorn beginning to pop!

At last, the roasting process was complete, and the freshly roasted coffee was released into the cooling tray. Students even got the opportunity to feel the coffee beans as they cooled, which was clearly a highlight of the day!



Meanwhile, the other group of students was in our training room with Brent and Lara Prahm, our Production Manager. This group quickly started learning all about coffee at origin and how different varietals and processing methods help contribute to the unique flavor expectations of the coffee they know and love.

PT's was born in 1993 in Topeka, Kansas, out of Jeff Taylor and Fred Polzin's simple desire for an excellent cup of coffee. Four years and two retail locations later, they began buying green coffee, roasting, and traveling to origin, forging the Direct Trade partnerships that have made them a leader in the specialty coffee industry. Nearly 80% of the coffee they produce is acquired through their Direct Trade program. Exceptional coffee

◆ Career and Technical Education

depends upon great partnerships, and their partners are selected for more than just their harvests—they are socially responsible and environmentally conscious.

The students had a great time learning about coffee and PT's story. Without the love, it's just coffee!

Students then heard from Zach Ahrens, CEO of Capper's Foundation, while having lunch at Dialogue Coffee House. Dialogue Coffee House, a local coffee house, joined Cappers' job training and employment program for adults with disabilities on April 3, 2023. This partnership allows Capper Foundation to meet the growing needs of our community and enhance its job training and community placement initiatives. This local favorite breakfast and lunch stop aligns with Capper's mission and allows the organization to support more individuals in the community with career training and opportunities to be valued and enjoy access and independence to advance their hopes and dreams.



Caitlyn Halsey, founder, and the Dialogue team's efforts to provide employment opportunities to adults with disabilities, whose care may be outside of Capper's services, complement the support of our Adult Day and Residential clients in job training and placement. Expanding access to employment for all adults with disabilities through extended opportunities helps meet the needs of our community.

In Fall 2023, two new locations opened to further their mission and enrich our communities. The expansion allows them to employ additional individuals living with disabilities, teaching them life skills, providing them with hard-earned paychecks, and helping them find purpose in their work so they can be contributing members of our society.

In Spring 2024, a fourth location opened at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) in Topeka. This partnership blends Dialogue's commitment to employing individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with BCBSKS, a local company, embraces diversity, equity, and inclusion in everyday work.

On April 30, 2025, a fifth location opened inside Stormont Vail Health's Administrative Center in Downtown Topeka. It opened to reinforce both organizations' commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and the empowerment of all individuals in the community, regardless of ability.

◆ Career and Technical Education

On September 5, 2025, a sixth location opened inside the School Of Applied Studies at Washburn University. The new location in the middle of Washburn University's campus keeps Dialogue employees, who have recently graduated from high school, connected to peers their own age and engaged in a vibrant college community. The partnership exemplifies how Capper Foundation, Dialogue Coffee House, and Washburn University are working hand in hand to create a stronger, more inclusive future for all.

Finance Pathway

Silver Lake Bank's Scott Hughes Talks "The 5 C's of Credit" with DECA and Finance Students

On Thursday, October 24th, students in Mr. McFall's DECA Club and Consumer & Personal Finance classes welcomed Scott Hughes, a lender from Silver Lake Bank, for an insightful discussion on credit, lending, and financial responsibility.

Hughes shared real-world expertise on the Five C's of Credit — a framework banks use to evaluate a borrower's creditworthiness:

- Character: A person's reputation and reliability in meeting financial obligations, often measured through credit history and payment consistency.
- Capacity: The ability to repay loans, determined by comparing income to current debt — also known as the debt-to-income ratio.
- Capital: The borrower's own investment or financial commitment, such as a down payment, which reduces a lender's risk.
- Collateral: Assets pledged to secure a loan, like a home or vehicle, that can be claimed if payments aren't made.
- Conditions: The terms of the loan and broader economic factors — such as interest rates, job trends, or market stability — that could affect repayment.
- Throughout his presentation, Hughes emphasized that "cash repays debts — not collateral." He reminded students that banks prefer to work *with* customers, not against them, and that communication is key when financial struggles arise. "Banks never want to take your stuff," Hughes said. "As long as you're honest and working with us, we'll find a way to help."



Hughes shared that Silver Lake Bank currently has over \$500 million in loans, yet only one is in non-payment — a remarkable statistic considering the national average of 3–4% for bad loans. He credited this success to the bank's community focus and willingness to assist customers in difficult times, such as extending loan terms when necessary.

He also offered insight into how banks assess loan applicants. Lenders often look at overdraft frequency, financial "cushions," outside income sources, and personal discipline — all factors that reveal whether someone can handle debt responsibly. Hughes stressed that debt can be a useful tool when used wisely, especially for growing a business or investing in one's future.

◆ Career and Technical Education

For students considering credit cards, he warned that credit is easy to damage, but slow to rebuild. Missing payments can quickly lead to high interest charges and lower credit scores. His closing message was simple but powerful: “Debt is all about discipline. Be responsible with it — not just to look cool.”

Hughes’ visit gave students a valuable glimpse into how financial institutions operate and how personal responsibility plays a vital role in building trust with lenders.

Marketing and Finance Pathways

Students Explore Careers and Financial Literacy at Washburn Tech Institute



On Tuesday, October 28, students attended an engaging and hands-on learning event at Washburn Tech Institute in Topeka. The day, organized in partnership with Junior Achievement of Kansas, brought together community leaders, educators, and financial experts to help students prepare for future careers and financial success.

The morning began with a welcome and icebreaker led by Sarah Dunekack, President and CEO of Junior Achievement of Kansas, followed by Dan Klucas, Assistant Commissioner of Insurance with the Kansas Department of Insurance, who shared

information about the department’s KDOI Scholarship opportunities for students interested in business and finance careers.

Students then participated in a series of interactive sessions designed to simulate real-world workplace experiences.

In “Welcome to the Workplace,” John Imming, Vice President of Wealth Management at Advisors Excel, guided students through their “first day on the job” at a fictional company called Orbit Boom. Students learned how human resources departments onboard employees, explored an employee handbook, and practiced setting SMART goals for professional growth.

After a short networking break, Clint Patty, JD, Managing Partner at Clayton Wealth Partners, led “Solving Work Problems,” a collaborative activity where students worked in teams to analyze declining sales for a company product. The session emphasized teamwork, communication, and problem-solving — essential skills for any workplace.

Later in the day, Amanda Merryman, Assistant Vice President of Consumer Lending at Envista Credit Union, presented “Types of Credit.” Students learned about building strong credit, the responsible use of credit cards and loans, and the potential pitfalls of options like payday lending and rent-to-own services.

The day concluded with tours of Washburn Tech’s career programs, where students explored opportunities in areas such as technology, health sciences, and skilled trades. The event provided a valuable mix of financial education, career readiness, and networking, helping students gain real-world insight into what it takes to succeed in both college and the workplace.

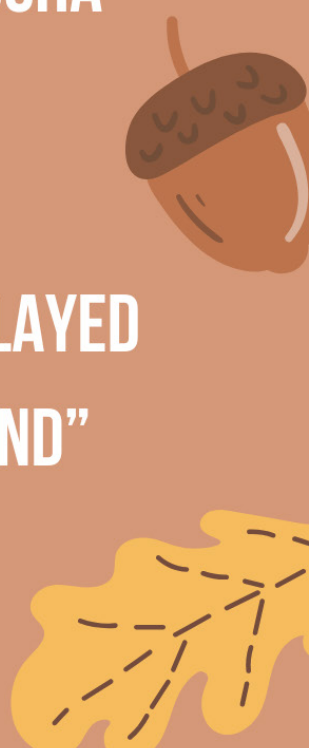


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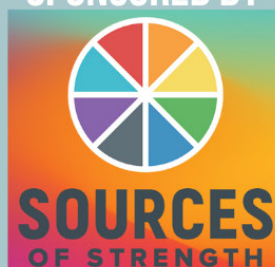
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Looking to host a SPIRIT WEAR STORE?

Let the students from WRHS - The Shack help!

Garment Pricing

	Gildan / Hanes SS Tee	Gildan / Hanes Long Sleeve Tee	Gildan / Hanes Crewneck Sweatshirt	Gildan / Hanes Hoodie
S-XL	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$20.00	\$24.00
2XL	\$14.00	\$18.00	\$22.00	\$26.00
3XL	\$16.00	\$20.00	\$24.00	\$28.00

* Contact us for prices on other brands including: Bella Canvas, Badger, Adidas, and many more!*

** Ask us about custom hats as well!**



Email us
theshack@usd437.net

Visit Our Website
ruralspirit.square.site



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ORDER NOW!

All proceeds
donated to
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GARMENTS AVAILABLE AT THE SHACK

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Annual Fundraiser

Fall into Giving

October - November

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DONATION ITEMS

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- granola bars
- instant mac and cheese
- ramen
- goldfish / cheez its
- peanut butter crackers
- fruit cups / fruit pouches
- canned meals
- instant rice / potatoes
- Chef Boyardee meals
- sweatpants / shorts
- feminine products
- undergarments/socks
- clothing sizes 2XL - 3XL

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Donation Drop Off @ The Shack



Donations Needed



WRHS SkillsUSA Club is collecting the following items for the Impact Topeka Foundation:

- **NEW BOARD GAMES**
- **CANNED CORN**
- **CANNED GREEN BEANS**



**DONATION DROP OFF:
ROOM G2430
OR THE SHACK**



@wrhs.skillsusa

SENIOR PORTRAITS

Senior Portrait Specifications for Yearbook

The WRHS Yearbook staff encourages every senior to submit a senior portrait. These images are placed in the PEOPLE section of the book in alphabetical order. Pictures are due to the yearbook staff on/before the **first Friday in December**.

OPTION #1: Inter-State Studios

Inter-State is the school portrait photographer.

This is at no cost to the student. The yearbook staff will have access to these images. Senior portraits can be taken during enrollment or during the retake date in the fall. Please see the WRHS school calendar for specific portrait dates.

Example:



OPTION #2: Select Your Photographer & Submit Your Image

Students/families do this option on their own.

We would prefer your image be sent electronically. Please send the ORIGINAL (non-cropped) file in JPEG format. Name it with the student's first and last name.

Example:



Send your portrait file to:

wrhsporraits@usd437.net

(Important: send Senior Salute images in a separate email to wrhssalutes@usd437.net)

- Head-and-shoulders shots are preferred.
- Attire must follow school handbook.
- Plain backgrounds preferred.
- No studio imprint (I.D.) on file.
- Photos must be vertical (or they will be cropped to fit a vertical space).

Please note: We will post a list of seniors who HAVE turned in portraits after the deadline. The list will be posted outside the Counseling Office and announcements will be made. **Seniors are responsible** for checking the list to make sure portraits have been delivered and received by the yearbook staff.

We cannot be responsible if we do not receive your photo.

WRHS Yearbook Senior Salutes

It's Your Child's Senior Year!

Here's your opportunity to purchase senior salute space in the yearbook.

Senior salutes are spaces for parents, grandparents and friends to congratulate, honor and recognize their senior with photo(s) and text.

Salute sizes range from 1/8 of a page to a full page and are available in color or black & white. Custom designs can be submitted (as a JPEG), or you may choose from one of the prepared layouts on the attached pages.

To order a salute: (1) detach and fill out the form below.

(2) gather your pictures.

*Do not cut photos.

*Do not submit wallet-sized senior pictures: (these often have a texture on them which makes them difficult to scan) please contact your photographer and have senior salute portraits emailed to:

wrhssalutes@usd437.net

(3) Based on your layout selection, write the appropriate amount of text you'd like to appear in the salute space. (Please limit any quoted text to 4 lines or 10% of original material. No song lyrics will be printed.)

Two Ways to Send: (Option 1): Mail these items to WRHS Journalism Department, Attention: Senior Salutes, 5900 SW 61st Street, Topeka, KS 66619. **If you'd like the pictures returned, simply include a self-addressed and stamped envelope, and we'll send your photos when the salute is complete.**

(Option 2): If all of your content (photos & text) is digital, email content + order form to wrhssalutes@usd437.net

*Photos MUST be high resolution scans: 300 dpi - if not, mail original images.

Payments must be mailed or delivered to WRHS prior to the deadline.

Hurry, space is limited!

Salutes and/or payments submitted after the deadline may not be published.

Salute deadline: first Friday in December

Yearbook Salute Order Form

Purchase Information - (Salutes will not be printed until payment is received.)

Buyer's Name: _____

Senior's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ (in case we have questions)

Buyer's E-mail: _____
(so we can send you a salute proof when completed.)

Payment Type: Cash or Check # _____ (to WRHS Yearbook)

**Salute Deadline:
first Friday in Dec.**

Questions? Please call 339.4252
or email: wrhssalutes@usd437.net

Salute Size & Color

(check size & circle layout letter - sample layouts included)

Black & White Salute Space

____ 1/8 Page \$50 Layout: A B C D (circle)

____ 1/4 Page \$100 Layout: E F

____ Half Page \$200 Layout: G H I J

____ Full Page \$300 Layout: K L

Color Salute Space

____ 1/8 Page \$100 Layout: A B C D (circle)

____ 1/4 Page \$200 Layout: E F

____ Half Page \$300 Layout: G H I J

____ Full Page \$400 Layout: K L

2026 WRHS YEARBOOK

Name: _____

Grade: 9 10 11 12

Yearbook Prices: \$60.00 ☐

\$75 for available extra copies at 2027 enrollment

Name to appear on the cover (optional): \$5.00 ☐

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to WRHS YEARBOOK

Check # _____

Paid Date _____

**Mail Order form & Payment to: WRHS Yearbook
5900 SW 61st Street, Topeka, KS 66619**

OR ORDER ONLINE!

**www.yearbookordercenter.com
school code: 33333**



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