



Junior Blues News



October 2020

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Featured Story



**NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Washburn Rural High School provides a progressive environment of world-class academics, athletics, and activities to foster all students' desires to learn and achieve through open discussion and self-discovery. As educators in pursuit of student success, we continually enhance our skills and knowledge so we may offer the most relevant, effective curriculum in order to achieve our vision.

Produced by: Business Communications
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Sponsor: Brian McFall

From the Desk of Our Principal



Hello again!

I can't begin to tell you how glad we are to have students back in the building. It is so good to see them! Covid 19 has certainly presented a challenge to all of us in finding a whole new approach to learning. Our students and staff are working very hard to adjust to these unusually challenging times balancing safety and success.

A very important upcoming event that I would like to direct your attention to is Parent-Teacher Conferences. They will occur on Wednesday and Thursday, October 14 and 15 respectively.

Conference times are:

- Wednesday, October 14, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 15, 7:30 - 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, October 15, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 15, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

One of the most important things that you can do as a parent to help your child achieve is to establish regular and open communication with their teachers. Parent-Teacher Conferences provide a very effective means of establishing this dialogue. During the conferences, I would encourage you to ask questions about the following: your child's progress toward the learning objectives for each of their classes, what you can do at home to assist your child in reaching those learning objectives as well as any concerns that your child may have with the class. I would also encourage you to share any other information about your child that would assist us in better understanding their needs.

Unlike previous years when we used our scheduling platform myconferencetime.com exclusively for student-led conferences, this year we thought it might be helpful if you could schedule with as many of your student's teachers as you need to. Ten minute appointments will be available and you'll have the opportunity to choose virtual or in-person meetings. Our counseling and administrative staff will also be listed on myconferencetime.com and available during conferences. Please do not hesitate to schedule with one of us.

As we approach the end of the first 9-weeks, we are aware that some students may be struggling. Wednesday Interventions recently began and are a great opportunity for students who need more time on campus to work. If your child is referred by our staff, we certainly hope you will support our efforts to ensure their success by encouraging attendance. It is our mission to ensure that every student learns to the best of their ability.

Please let us know how your student is doing. We hope to see you during conferences!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Raines". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Raines, Principal
rainedw@usd437.net

WRHS Counseling Office

Counseling Website: <https://sites.google.com/a/usd437.net/counselors/>

Follow us on twitter for updates: @wrhsgo

Counseling Staff Contact Information

24 Hour Crisis Hotline: 785-232-5005

Social/Emotional Resources

The WRHS counseling website has several social/emotional resources available that address several common teen issues: <https://sites.google.com/a/usd437.net/counselors/home/personal-social>

Senior Transcript Requests

Seniors who need a transcript sent to a college need to create an account at www.parchment.com and complete a request. Please view the Parchment Tutorial for more information.

Senior Planning Letter

All seniors and their parents/guardians were emailed a Senior Planning Letter in September. Families are encouraged to review this letter closely. It can also be found in the announcements on our website. Counselors will meet individually with seniors in October to review the information and make second semester schedule changes.

Junior Planning Letter

All juniors and their parents/guardians were emailed a Junior Planning Letter in September. Families are encouraged to review this letter closely. It can also be found in the announcements on our website.

FAFSA

The FAFSA opens for senior families on October 1. Please see our website for resources and video tutorials on the FSA ID, Financial Aid Estimator, completing the FAFSA, types of awards, and more.

Ichabod Senior Academy: As seniors consider second semester schedule options, some families may want to explore the Ichabod Senior Academy. Students with a 3.5 GPA can enroll in 9 hours (three classes) on Washburn University's campus at a 50% reduced tuition rate. Information can be found at <http://www.washburn.edu/academics/center-student-success/senior-academy.html>. Students should discuss this option with their school counselor.

PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Competition (NMSC)

The PSAT will be offered on October 14 at 8 am. If your student has registered please ask them to read the email reminders. They should get enough rest the night before and eat breakfast in order to do their best. Practice materials can be found on the PSAT website.

National Merit Scholarship

Washburn Rural High School is excited to announce four Semifinalists out of the 16,000 Semifinalists in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Daniel Hashmi, Nibandh Kulkarni, Tyler Norsworthy, and Emily Scott are this years Semifinalist. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. Washburn Rural High School also has three commended scholars (top 5% in nation) Alexander Harper, Cole Kucera, and Cale Marsh.

Over 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and more than half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title. NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 400 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. The number of Semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A Semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, and write an essay.

From the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists, about 15,000 are expected to advance to the Finalist level, and in February they will be notified of this designation. All National Merit Scholarship winners will be selected from this group of Finalists. Merit Scholar designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies, without regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, or religious preference.

National Merit Scholarships

Three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered in the spring of 2021. Every Finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit® \$2500 Scholarships that will be awarded on a state-representational basis. About 1,000 corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards will be provided by approximately 220 corporations and business organizations for Finalists who meet their specified criteria, such as children of the grantor's employees or residents of communities where sponsor plants or offices are located. In addition, about 180 colleges and universities are expected to finance some 4,100 college-sponsored Merit Scholarship awards for Finalists who will attend the sponsor institution.

National Merit Scholarship winners of 2021 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 353,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

◆ Career and Technical Education

Discover a CTE Pathway that is right for you.

WRHS has established fifteen Career Pathways for the 2020-21 school year! Each of these pathways encompasses a plan of study that provides a student the opportunity to explore all aspects of an industry or career field. Each pathway has three level of courses offered to students; introductory, technical and application. Introductory courses are designed to stimulate the students' appetite towards rewarding careers. In the technical courses of the pathway students begin to learn detailed information on the careers available within the industry and gain skills to help them in the application level which is final phase of the plan of study. The application courses can give students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a career through work-based experiences, both at school and off-site in local businesses.

Each of the fifteen Career Pathways at WRHS have articulation agreements with several KS colleges. For more details ask your CTE teacher or visit ([Kansas Department of Education](http://www.ksde.gov)). The benefits are for those students who complete all courses the pathway. Students can then gain further knowledge and skills as they continue their education at the articulating college or technical school, giving them a head start to a high wage, high demand, and high skill career.

WORKED-BASED EXPERIENCES AT WRHS



WRHS Pathways

The fifteen pathways available at WRHS are: **Agriculture:** Animal Science, Comprehensive Agriculture Science, and Power Structural Technical Systems; **Business:** Finance pathway has two strands (Accounting and Banking & Investing); and Marketing pathway; **Communications:** Digital Media. **Family and Consumer Science:** Teaching & Training; **Industrial Technical:** Architecture & Construction with two strands Construction & Design; **Science Technical Engineering and Math (STEM):** BioMedical, BioChemistry and Health Science pathways. **Information Technology:** Web & Digital Communications and Programming & Software Development pathways. Law, Public Safety, **Corrections & Security:** Corrections, Security, Law and Law Enforcement Services pathway.

CTE helps students; find their passion:

- Learn real-world skills
- Enhance the high school experience
- Lead to fulfilling, rewarding careers
- Explore career options and what you are passionate about
- Earn college credits
- Receive hands-on experience
- Instill "leadership" and "confidence"

Every student at Washburn Rural High School has the opportunity to take advantage of these career pathways while being involved in their core classes. The time is NOW for EVERY graduate of WRHS to be college AND career ready, and PATHWAYS can make that happen!

For more information contact Teresa Golden, CTE Career Coordinator at goldeter@usd437.net or 785-339-4250

◆ Career and Technical Education



Sponsored by Silver Lake Bank

State Treasurer Promotes Financial Literacy

State Treasurer Jake LaTurner is promoting the need for greater youth financial literacy by bringing awareness to a student-run bank model started by a local Kansas bank and school district that he feels could be used statewide to teach youth important financial skills.

With the help of the Auburn-Washburn Unified School District, Topeka-based Silver Lake Bank set up a branch of their bank inside Washburn Rural High School, and put the task of running the bank almost entirely in the hands of the students. Treasurer, LaTurner, had the opportunity to visit this school and produced a video of the operation which can be found on the State Treasurer's website at www.kansascash.ks.gov/student-bank with the goal of encouraging other school-districts and their potential bank partners to team up and develop a similar program for their students.

"In a world where credit is being offered to our kids at every turn, it is more important now than ever for us to be teaching the next generation about money; how to use it, how not to use it, and most importantly how to save and invest it for their future. This school-bank partnership is a fantastic way to do just that," said LaTurner.

In the model used at WRHS, students and faculty are encouraged to make regular deposits, using incentives to teach the students to save their money and watch it grow throughout the year. Students that get the chance to work in the bank leave high school with a working knowledge of the world of finance, and fresh job skills for their resume.

In addition to the valuable lessons on saving, the school also utilizes the bank branch to streamline cash-handling by student clubs and organizations. Tickets for school dances, fees for band trips, spirit wear and much more are purchased through the school bank. This set up alleviates the need for faculty advisors to have the added responsibility of keeping the books for extra-curricular clubs and organizations.

"Everyone I have spoken to that has been involved with this project says it has been well worth the time and investment," said LaTurner. "We hope that the success of this program will inspire other school districts and their local banks to team up and try it. These kinds of efforts to educate the rising generation on the proper handling of money, investing and saving can have a lasting effect on their future."

A complete list of frequently asked questions as well as contact information for help starting a student-run bank can be found on the State Treasurer's website, www.kansascash.ks.gov/studentbank.

wrhsccommongrounds.square.site



ORDER ONLINE



PICK UP IN STORE

HOURS

Monday - Friday

Before School 7:00 - 7:45

During Lunch 11:27 - 1:11

Washburn Rural
The Shack
a t-shirt company

- Sales for Junior and Senior Women Shirts opening again; t-shirt and long sleeve available
- Don't forget to take our survey sent via email
- Tennis and Cross Country pick up your spirit wear at the shack

COMING SOON

- ▼ New Inventory
- ▼ Topeka Strong Fundraiser

◆ 7 Cups

WHEN YOU NEED TO TALK,
7 CUPS IS AVAILABLE 24/7.
IT'S SAFE, CONFIDENTIAL & FREE.



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SUPPORT WHEN YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH...



ADHD
ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE
ANXIETY
BREAKUPS
BULLYING
CUTTING AND SELF-HARM

DEPRESSION
EATING DISORDERS
FAMILY OR RELATIONSHIP STRESS
GRIEF
LGBTQ+ ISSUES
LONELINESS

AGES 13-17

FREE

◆ WRHS Media Center

WRHS Library "Browse for You"



Miss browsing the shelves for books?
Don't know what to read next? Let the
library staff make personal selections
just for you!

Complete the Browse for You Google
Form today!

<https://tinyurl.com/y3n6bu7x>



Connect with us @wrhslib for:

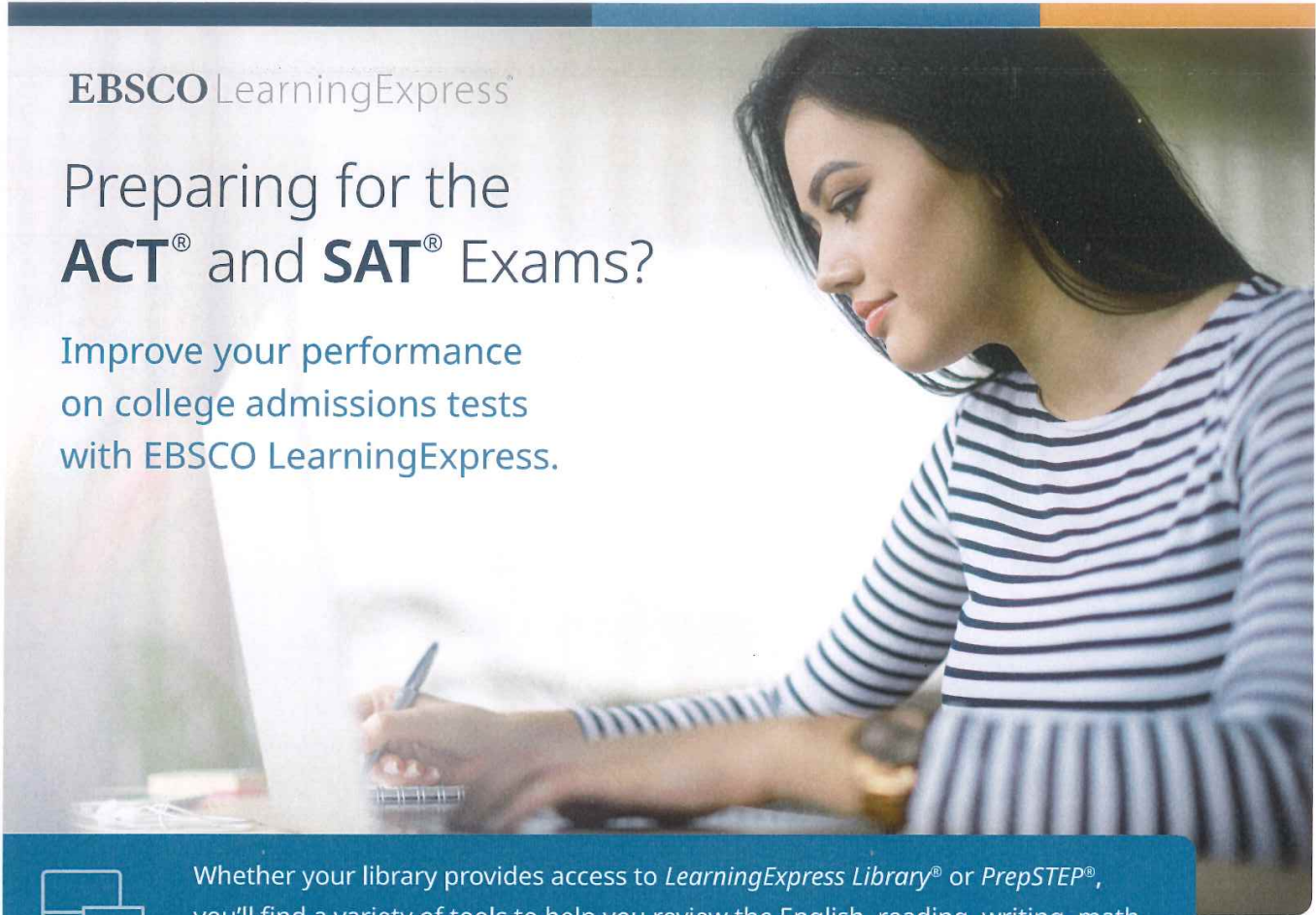
- technology support
- homework help
- reading recommendations
- area job openings
- school activities and more



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- Authentic practice tests
- Test-taking strategies and tips
- Interactive tutorials with full-length pre-tests, unit quizzes and post-tests
- Essay practice with sample essays, annotations and scoring guides
- Detailed answer explanations
- Simulated test options designed to mimic test-day conditions
- Personalized study plans identifying strengths and areas that need further practice and review
- Diagnostic score reports

<http://kslib.info> - Online Resources - Skill Builders
Learning Express
Text 4 Help 785-260-0015



Connect with us @wrhslib for:

- technology support
- homework help
- reading recommendations
- area job openings
- school activities and more



Text 4 Help: 785-260-0015

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TEST DATES

United States, US Territories, and Puerto Rico



2020 | 2021

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINES		
	Regular Deadline	Late Fee Required	Photo Upload/Standby Deadline
September 12, 2020			
September 13, 2020 (Sunday)	August 31	No late fees	September 4
September 19, 2020			
October 10, 2020			
October 17, 2020			
October 24, 2020	September 25	No late fees	October 2
October 25, 2020 (Sunday)			
December 12, 2020	November 6	November 7-20	December 4
February 6, 2021	January 8	January 9-15	January 29
April 17, 2021	March 12	March 13-26	April 9
June 12, 2021	May 7	May 8-21	June 4
July 17, 2021*	June 18	June 19-25	July 9

Additional Resources are available via this website, <http://bit.ly/ACTPrep4Test>

◆ The Chimes Yearbook



Monday, October 19 & Friday, October 23

SENIOR PORTRAITS

Senior Portrait Specifications for Yearbook

The WRHS Yearbook staff encourages every senior to submit a senior portrait for the “People Section” of the yearbook. Portraits are due on/before the **first Friday in December**.

OPTION #1: Inter-State Studios

Inter-State is the school’s portrait photographer. During enrollment & on retake dates seniors may take a senior portrait at no charge to the student. The yearbook staff will have access to these images.

OPTION #2: Select Your Photographer & Submit Your Image

Seniors complete this option on their own.

All images are sent electronically.

Please send the ORIGINAL (uncropped) file in JPEG format.

Email Subject: Student’s first & last name.

Send your portrait file to:

wrhsporthraits@usd437.net

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

While most major photography studios in the area already have these specifications, please have your photographer send a digital file that matches the following:

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

- *Special note to photographers:*

Digital images must be 300 dpi. They can be submitted on CD or emailed to us at:

wrhsporthraits@usd437.net

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.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the WRHS Journalism Department at 339-4252.

Don’t forget the December Deadline! (first Friday)
Questions? Call WRHS Journalism 339-4252 or email: wrhsporthraits@usd437.net

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



BUY YOUR YEARBOOK LIKE, NOW

**YEARBOOKS ON SALE
ORDER TODAY**

YEARBOOKORDERCENTER.COM

Keep your order number handy when you log on.

Washburn Rural High School

33333

HERFF  JONES.

WRHS PTO/Blues Backers

2020-2021

The WRHS PTO/Blues Backers are Parents, Family, Friends and Teachers who take pride in WRHS by helping to fund the needs of our school.

How can you support WRHS and become involved?

- **Membership** - membership dues support activities for all students. WRHS Blues Backers support students by funding teacher and sponsor requests. Supporters' names will be listed in the WRHS newsletter and on the Blues Backers/PTO page. Become a member today by clicking on the link

<https://usd437.net/schools/wrhs/pto/membership-form.html>

- Junior Membership - \$10/family
 - Blues Membership - \$25/family
 - Backer Membership - \$50/family
-
- Volunteer - there are on-going and one time opportunities to get involved. Volunteers are needed in a variety of ways
 - Organize concessions
 - Appreciate school staff
 - Post-Prom
 - Hospitality
 - Attend PTO Meetings - we are always seeking new ideas. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month. See the PTO page on the WRHS website for the schedule of meeting dates. *Bring your friends*

If you have any questions or want to know more, please contact any member or our Blues Backers Board

<http://usd437.net/schools/wrhs/pto/>

WRHS PTO 2020-2021 BOARD POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Hospitality
Spring Concession
Other positions available throughout the year

Please contact a current board member for more information!

PTO was happy to support the Organizations, Sports, and Clubs listed below during the 2019-2020 year. This, in turn, is possible through the support that PTO receives from the high school community.

Dancing Blues: \$2,064.00 for uniforms
Boys Basketball: \$750.00 for HUDL Program
Band: \$5,000.00 for Program
ROTC: \$885.00 for marksmanship range

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!



[@WRHSBluesBackers](https://www.facebook.com/WRHSBluesBackers)

2020-2021 PTO Contact Information

CO-PRESIDENTS:

Jenny Lang jenlang4@gmail.com
785-608-1145

Ann Rausch rauscann@usd437.net
785-383-4219
785-339-4110

SECRETARY:

Erinn Bradstreet bradser1@usd437.net
785-224-8039

TREASURER:

Angie Bachelor bachelorange@cox.net
785-230-3399

ACTIVITIES/ATHLETICS:

Penny Lane lanepen@usd437.net
785-224-3292

CONCESSIONS FALL CHAIR:

Ann Rausch rauscann@usd437.net
785-383-4219
785-339-4110

CONCESSIONS WINTER CHAR:

Amy Landis amielandis71@gmail.com
785-608-4098

CONCESSIONS SPRING CHAIR:

TBA

CONCESSION PURCHASING:

Angie Rea a.rea@cox.net
785-213-5173

CONCESSIONS DRINKS:

Ann Rausch rauscann@usd437.net
785-383-4219
785-339-4110

CONCESSIONS FINANCE:

Kelly Pert kellypert@gmail.com
785-554-4715

MERCHANDISE CHAIR:

TBA

CONCESSIONS SCHEDULING:

Jenny Howard howarjen@usd437.net
785-224-4252

HOSPITALITY:

TBA

POST PROM:

Michelle DeWeese bmdeweese@sbcglobal.net
785-608-3388

NEWSLETTER CHAIR:

Erinn Bradstreet bradser1@usd437.net
785-224-8039

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Kelly Pert kellypert@gmail.com
785-554-4715

STAFF APPRECIATION:

Barb Alstrom alstrbar@usd437.net

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Kelly Pert kellypert@gmail.com
785-554-4715

Merchandise Sales

PTO merchandise will be available for sale at the Football game on October 18, 2019.

You can browse items available for sale at:

<http://usd437.net/schools/wrhs/pto/merchandise.html>

Contact our Merchandise Co-Chairs for more information.

Volunteers Needed!

PTO is looking for volunteers to help plan Post Prom. Planning will begin soon! If you are interested in helping, please contact Michelle DeWeese at bmdeweese@sbcglobal.net

We are always looking for people who can volunteer in the concessions stand during games.