



WASHBURN RURAL HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR BLUES NEWSLETTER



FEATURED STORY

NATIONAL MERIT

Washburn Rural High School is excited to announce four Semifinalists out of the 16,000 Semifinalists in the 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Kavinayashri Chidambaranathan, Aditi Nimishakavi, Camden Sayers, and Parker Williams are this year's Semifinalist.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 6,870 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million that will be offered next spring.

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From the Desk of Our Principal



Greetings once again! I'm thrilled to share that the school year is off to an incredible start! Our students are working hard, and we're fully engaged in the hustle and bustle of fall activities and athletics. So far, it's shaping up to be an exciting and dynamic year!

I'd like to draw your attention to an important upcoming event: Student-Led Conferences. These will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, October 16 and 17. The specific conference times are as follows:

- Wednesday, October 16, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 17, 7:30 – 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, October 17, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Thursday, October 17, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

As parents, one of the most impactful things you can do to support your child's success is to establish regular, open communication with their teachers. It's equally important to stay informed about the courses and programs your student enjoys, as well as how their high school experiences connect to future goals. Student-Led Conferences provide a fantastic opportunity for these conversations, with the support of your student's Advisory Teacher.

At these conferences, Freshmen will share insights from a personal strengths survey and set goals for their high school journey. Sophomores will reflect on various surveys they've taken, such as the Strengths Explorer and Career Cluster Finder, and align these with their future aspirations. These assessments in Naviance offer valuable information on students' personalities, interests, and potential career paths. Juniors will discuss future plans and the goals they've set, while Seniors will reflect on their Career Interest Profiler and how it relates to their post-secondary plans, charting out the next steps toward achieving their goals.

We'll be utilizing myconferencetime.com platform for scheduling both student-led and regular class conferences. Students will sign up for their Student-Led Conference during Advisory, after which you'll have the opportunity to schedule meetings with your student's other teachers. These 15-minute appointments can be either virtual or in-person, based on your preference. Our Counseling and Administrative teams will also be available through the platform, and we encourage you to schedule time with us if needed.

As we near the end of the first 9-week period, we recognize that some students may be facing challenges. Our Tuesday/Thursday After School Tutoring Labs have started, offering a great chance for students to spend extra time on campus to catch up. If your child is referred, we appreciate your support in encouraging their participation to ensure their success. Our goal remains to help every student reach their fullest potential.

We're eager to hear how your student is progressing and look forward to seeing you during conferences!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Raines". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ed Raines, Principal
rainedw@usd437.net

◆ WRHS Counseling Office

[Counseling Website](#)

Crisis Hotline: 785-232-5005

Junior and Senior Planning Letter

All juniors and seniors and their parents/guardians were emailed a [Junior Planning Letter](#) and [Senior Planning Letter](#) in September. Families are encouraged to review this letter closely.

Apply Free to Kansas Colleges October 7-9

The first step in going to college is to apply! For many students, applying to college can be a daunting task. WRHS is joining the [Apply Kansas](#) month-long, state-wide initiative to increase the number of students applying, enrolling, and succeeding in college or other postsecondary goals. From [October 7-9](#), Kansas applications are free!

PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Competition (NMSC)

The PSAT will be offered on October 14-16 at WRHS. 350 students are registered; students should check their email for PSAT updates. The night before the exam, they should get rest and in the morning, eat breakfast in order to do their best. Practice materials can be found on the [PSAT website](#).

Free ACT for Juniors on February 25

The State of Kansas offers a free ACT to juniors on February 25. Juniors must register by October 31 to take the test. Registration must be completed from a USD 437 student email. The form is [HERE](#).

Test Dates	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Photo Upload and Standby Deadline
September 14, 2024	August 9	August 25	September 6
October 26, 2024	September 20	October 7	October 18
December 14, 2024	November 8	November 22	December 6
February 8, 2025	January 3	January 20	January 31
April 5, 2025	February 28	March 16	March 28
June 14, 2025	May 9	May 26	June 6
July 12, 2025*	June 6	June 20	July 4

College Planning Resources for Low Income Students

Many college planning resources and programs are available to students who qualify for free/reduced lunch (fee waivers, scholarship programs, etc). We encourage families to research opportunities and visit with your school counselor about these programs. Click [HERE](#).

Importance of Sleep

The American School Counselor Association recently promoted “Sleep Week” which highlighted the importance of sleep for teens and children. A recent report by the CDC noted that 78% of high school students don’t get sufficient sleep on an average school night. Getting enough sleep is critical to the health and well-being of students of all ages. Sufficient sleep helps students:

Excel in the classroom by maximizing attention, memory and learning abilities

Perform better in sports by being faster, stronger and more accurate

Feel positive and have a more optimistic attitude toward life

Look their best and maintain a healthy weight by making better decisions and staying safe

The entire article can be found at [HERE](#).

◆ National Merit Semifinalist

Washburn Rural High School is excited to announce four semifinalists out of the 16,000 Semifinalists in the 70th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Kavinayashri Chidambaranathan, Aditi Nimishakavi, Camden Sayers, and Parker Williams are this year's Semifinalist. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 6,870 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$26 million that will be offered next spring. To compete for National Merit Scholarships, Semifinalists must advance to the Finalist level of the competition by fulfilling several additional requirements. A Semifinalist can become a Finalist and compete for a Merit Scholarship award in only one program year. About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about 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 280 business organizations, higher education institutions, and individual donors that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Over 1.3 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools entered the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2023 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. WRHS also had 2 National Merit Commended Scholars which represent the top 5 percent in the nation. Congratulations to Jackson Harader and Ananya Anaparathi.



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, write an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test.

From over 16,000 Semifinalists, more than 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 Scholarship winners of 2025 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July. These scholarship recipients will join more than 382,000 other distinguished young people who have earned the Merit Scholar title.

Kansas Apply Free Days

October 7-9, 2024



No application fee from
Monday, Oct 7-Wednesday, Oct 9
kansasregents.org/applyfree

Who Can Apply?

- Any Kansas Resident
- Seeking a certificate, 2-year or 4-year degree
- Returning & Transfer students also eligible!

(Graduate program applications not eligible)

**Kansas Public & Private* Universities,
Community Colleges & Technical Colleges**

Washburn Rural High School Care Closet

Your counselor can help with:



Coats,
Shoes,
Clothing



Hygiene Products
like Deodorant,
Soap, Toothbrush,
Femine Products



Food Supplies
& Free/Reduced
Lunch Forms

WRHS
Counselors



SCAN ME

Reach out for items
included or any other
hardship you need help
navigating

Cost
for
exams
like
PSAT
or ACT



Free Academic Assistance

AFTER SCHOOL LABS

Library

- **English**
- **Math**
- **Science**
- **Social Studies**

Room E554

- **AF-JROTC**

Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:05-4:15pm

Need a ride home?

**Sign-Up in the Main Office for Transportation
Before or during lunch**

2024-25 UNSUNG HERO PORTRAIT

-Mr. Harvey-

Students enrolled in this year's A.P. Studio Art class started the school year by collaborating on a massive 7' x 9' portrait in the style of contemporary artist Chuck Close.

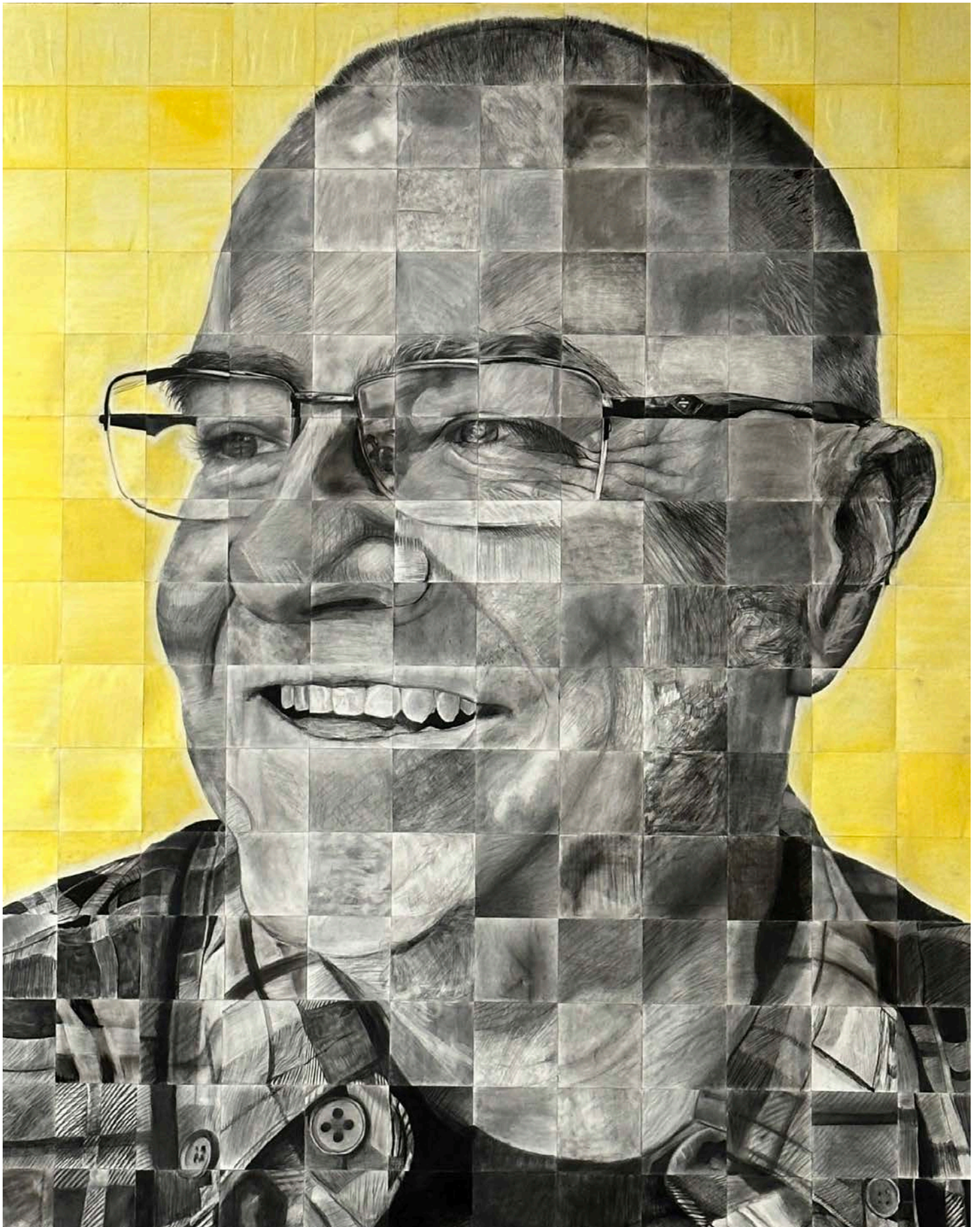
Students began the project by selecting their topic from any person in our local school community, based on who they wanted to honor as an Unsung Hero. After contacting their Hero, they shot photos to work from, laid out a grid to enlarge the photos for proper proportions, and began work on the portrait. The project promoted communication within the group and required them to work collectively, striving to create a work with unity/variety that captured the likeness of their Hero.

Artist Chuck Close (1940-2021) was the project's inspiration. Close reinvented the "portrait" in the late 1960's by working on a large-scale format. He became an overnight sensation in the art world when he created a series of seven portraits, beginning with himself, that were done with one tube of black mars acrylic paint, applied with an airbrush. His original portraits were done on canvas in this exact size using a grid to assist in a photo-realistic image transfer from his photograph to canvas. Chuck Close recently passed away on August 19, 2021.

Special thanks and congratulations to Mr. Harvey for being selected as one of this year's Unsung Heroes!

Below are the students responsible for the creation of the portrait:

SENIORS: Anna Brighton, Kyleigh Chrisman, Aradia Freed, Phoebe Harrison, Luke Lemke, Meagan Sanderson, Micah Ward and Clairia Zeyer.



Mr. Harvey

Written by Meagan Sanderson

Although Mr. Harvey, a teacher at Washburn Rural for 16 years, humbly describes himself as “easily forgettable,” his lasting impact on countless students tells a different story. Whether said impact is assisting with an English essay, building a house, or making a student feel valued, all of his students would agree; he is a teacher to remember.

From a young age, this self-proclaimed “tough guy” has always been witty and sharp. He recalled a pivotal moment with his sixth-grade teacher, “She took me into the janitors closet, had me pull a broom down off of the shelf and put it in my hands and told me to get used to that feeling because that was going to be the only thing I would accomplish in life...that pissed me off.” Leaving a burning impression and lasting spite, he became determined to succeed at whatever he put his mind to.

Initially pursuing a career as a diesel mechanic, Harvey soon discovered he was living out the dream of his shop teacher rather than his own. From there he switched to finance. With just seven credit hours left to complete his degree, he quit; “scared of not being marketable enough,” but also to seize an opportunity to coach wrestling. “Everybody expected to win a state championship, but nobody wanted to practice like a champion.” This drove Harvey out of coaching and into the realm of teaching. These “wrong reasons” ultimately shaped him into the inspiring educator he is today.

One of the qualities that makes Mr. Harvey truly exceptional is his commitment to building meaningful relationships with his kids, inside and outside the classroom. The mutual respect and vulnerability he shares creates a meaningful and priceless bond. Not only does he care about his students during their time at Washburn, but he makes a point to know them personally and provide them with the opportunities he feels he missed. Stern yet kind, Harvey embodies a selfless and caring mentor.

When asked what he wants to be remembered for, Mr. Harvey said, “Doing the best I could at whatever I set my mind to accomplish...that I gave 100% to do the absolute best I could...even if I hated it.” After getting to know him through this creative process, there is no doubt he will always be remembered for just that. Mr. Harvey is motivational. Mr. Harvey is hardworking. Mr. Harvey is inspirational.

Because his father was one of the most influential people in his life, he works tirelessly at everything he does to make him proud. A pretty portrait or essay is not enough to fully capture how amazing Mr. Harvey is. Through his life, career, and character, it can be difficult to find one person who wouldn't be proud of the person who stands before us today: Mr. Harvey, the English and woodworking teacher.

2024-25 UNSUNG HERO PORTRAIT -Mr. Beasley-

Students enrolled in this year's A.P. Studio Art class started the school year by collaborating on a massive 7' x 9' portrait in the style of contemporary artist Chuck Close.

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Special thanks and congratulations to Mr. Beasley for being selected as one of this year's Unsung Heroes!

Below are the students responsible for the creation of the portrait:

JUNIORS: Kaja Hamilton, Elia Smith and Lee Stimpfle.

SENIORS: Kyle Carpenter, Ashlynn Kolbaba, Keara Leiser and Miriam Smith.



MR. BEASLEY ESSAY

Written by Elia Smith

Mr. Beasley teaches theater and history here at WRHS. He teaches theater due to its inherent creativity and the significant effort it demands. Additionally, he teaches history as he values understanding and believes deepening his knowledge fosters a greater respect for the world. He finds great fulfillment in witnessing the positive influence he has on his students by providing them with valuable learning experiences and celebrating their achievements. The most crucial aspect of his role as a teacher is to exemplify kindness, respect, and dignity in his interactions with others.

Mr. Beasley attended WRHS and believes that not much has changed since his time here for better or worse. He thinks we are still facing the same challenges that existed when he was a student; however, he has noticed some improvement. This improvement is seen in the theater department where he is able to see students passionate about their projects and able to put in the work to accomplish them. His past experiences here at WRHS weren't always great, so he didn't expect to return. However, he needed a job and when he saw an opening, he took it. He's glad he can still be involved in theater and direct productions. He is working hard to try to foster a space where all his students feel safe and included. As for his future, he's uncertain whether he wants to start teaching more history, further his education, or continue teaching theater. For now, he is satisfied with his current situation.

His family is his greatest source of encouragement, and working at his former school provided him with valuable support during the early years of his teaching career. He claims to be 5'4" when he is 5'6" to counter those who focus too much on height. More importantly, he strives to be open with his students recalling the challenges he faced in high school while figuring out his queer identity. Beasley wants to show students like him that success is possible. He is authentic with students as he was taught that pretending to be someone else can be draining. He wants students to understand that teachers are just regular people who don't always have all the answers and are sometimes learning alongside them.

The best advice he received was "What is the point of failure if you don't learn from it" which he received while he was still in high school from Mr. Ellis. Beasley believes that everybody should "do what they can." That they shouldn't put themselves in an impossible situation but still need to challenge themselves without fear of failure. He also tells the students in his class to "be good, stay safe." Beasley's goal is to foster a good environment for learning and growth where people are comfortable doing both of those things. He wishes he could go back and tell his younger self that he doesn't know as much as he thinks he does, and to relax a bit. He also wants to remind students to simply "be kind to others."

◆ AFJROTC

Last year was a remarkable period for our AFJROTC program, filled with memorable experiences, community service, and outstanding achievements. One of the highlights from that year was the C.I.A. (Curriculum In Action) trip to Ohio. We had the opportunity to visit Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Air Force museum, and many other amazing sights.

Our commitment to community service was evident through our numerous volunteering efforts. One of our key volunteering events was Hand Up Stand Up with the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars). They hosted a motorcycle ride from the Harley Davidson Museum to their post. Last year, we volunteered at the museum, assisting in setting up American flags, selling raffle tickets, and much more. Another main event was the 190th ARW (Air Refueling Wing) Christmas Party. Our unit did a lot with the 190th, but this event was one of the overall favorites. Cadets assisted in setting up the party for the families of the 190th. After setting up, they actively participated in running the party. Cadets helped with face painting, ornament decorating, and cookie decorating. These experiences not only benefited the community but also enriched our personal growth and understanding of service.

We also had one of the best drill seasons in our history. Our cadets' dedication, discipline, and hard work paid off as we earned two first-place trophies in Armed Regulation and Unarmed Regulation, as well as a second-place trophy in New Cadet. Our marksmanship team also had a relatively successful season, taking first place at the Topeka West Open Shoot by a wide margin.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the new initiatives we have planned for this year. One of our main goals is to make the corps more involved and engaged. We are introducing a new approach to welcoming new cadets, ensuring they feel supported and integrated into the program from the start. This includes promoting more of our extracurricular activities and starting them off with a modified uniform to allow them to get comfortable with our standards before wearing the official uniform.

Additionally, we have an important inspection in December. This inspection is a significant opportunity for us to demonstrate our progress, discipline, and the effectiveness of our training. It is a chance for us to showcase our hard work and dedication to excellence.

As we move forward, we remain committed to building on our past successes and striving for even greater achievements. Our focus persists on developing strong leaders, serving our community, and upholding the values of the AFJROTC program. We are confident that that year would be another outstanding chapter in our unit's journey.



◆ Career and Technical Education

Innovation Center at WRHS

Students at Washburn Rural High School (WRHS) will soon benefit from a new state-of-the-art facility designed to enhance career and technical education. The Innovation Center at WRHS will open to students on October 14, 2024, the first day of the second quarter of the 2024-25 school year. Auburn-Washburn celebrated this historic milestone with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, September 24, 2024. The 50,000-square-foot center is part of an ongoing series of construction and renovation projects taking place across the Auburn-Washburn district to enhance the student learning experience.



While addressing those gathered at the ribbon cutting ceremony, Auburn-Washburn Superintendent of Schools Dr. Scott McWilliams shared, "This facility is more than just a structure filled with cutting-edge equipment; it represents a bold vision for the future of education. It is a commitment to nurturing creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving in our students. The Innovation Center will serve as a dynamic hub for exploration and discovery, equipping our students with the skills and resources they need to thrive in an ever-evolving world."

WRHS currently offers 18 career-focused Pathway programs approved by the [Kansas State Department of Education](#). A remarkable 75 percent of students will take at least one Pathway course during their time at the high school. Nine of the Pathway programs – Animal Science; Comprehensive Agriculture; Power, Structural & Technical Systems; Construction & Design: Construction; Construction & Design: Design; Digital Media; Biomedical; Restaurant & Event Management; and Programming & Software — are housed in the new Innovation Center.

"Each of these programs is more than a subject," shared WRHS principal Ed Raines. "They are the means by which we prepare our students for a rapidly changing world. In these spaces, they will learn how to think, how to lead, and how to transform. These are the qualities that will allow them to face the future with confidence and resolve."

That future is one of constant transformation. According to the Georgetown Workforce Study, 70 percent of jobs will require specialized skills by 2031, but only 35 percent of those jobs will require a four-year degree.

◆ Career and Technical Education

"It is clear that the future demands new ways of thinking and learning, and that is precisely what this Innovation Center will provide," said Raines.

The center will empower students to engage in hands-on learning, collaborate on real-world projects, and develop the skills they need to meet future challenges head-on. "We are not just cutting a ribbon and opening our doors to this facility," said McWilliams. "Much more importantly, we are opening the minds of teachers and students to a world of new possibilities."

To see additional photos from the ribbon cutting ceremony, visit <https://usd437.net/albums/ribbon-cutting-ceremony-at-wrhs-innovation-center>.

Workplace Experience Opportunities

Work-based learning provides high school students with valuable hands-on experience and exposure to real-world work environments. By participating in job shadow experiences or internships, students have the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom to practical situations. This practical experience helps students develop a deeper understanding of a career field, gain valuable industry-specific skills, and build professional networks. Work-based learning prepares high school students by equipping them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and confidence to succeed in the workforce after graduation. If you are interested in WPE contact Teresa Golden goldeter@usd437.net

This past summer three students from WRHS earned a place at Sam's Club Internship Program. The students are trained in all departments at Sam's Club. They were able to carry that experience over to position at Sam's Club for the school 2024-25 year.

"The Sam's Club Internship was a great experience that exposed me to the whole operation side as well as the behind-the-scenes decisions the managers make daily that make the Sam's Club in Topeka so successful",
Senior Aydin Weiler

Certificates and Industry Recognized Credentials

[YouScience](#) is a valuable tool for classrooms that helps students explore their interests, skills, and potential career paths. It provides personalized assessments and career recommendations based on a student's aptitude and interests. With YouScience, students can make more informed decisions about their future education and career choices, leading to greater engagement and success in the classroom. Most CTE teachers will be offering YouScience exams in their classrooms beginning spring 2024.

[NCCER](#), or the National Center for Construction Education and Research, offers industry-recognized credentials for high school students in construction-related fields. By participating in NCCER programs, high school students can gain valuable skills and knowledge that prepare them for careers in construction and related industries. NCCER certifications provide students with a competitive edge in the job market and open doors to a wide range of opportunities in the construction industry. Students are eligible to participate this semester.

Ms. Dible is offering the [ServSafe](#) Food Handler and Manager exams in the culinary courses. These exams verify that a manager or person-in-charge has sufficient food safety knowledge to protect the public from food borne illness, ensures proper personal hygiene, prevents cross-contamination, controls time and temperature when handling food, and proper cleaning and sanitizing.

◆ Career and Technical Education

Biomedical Research Students will be preparing for the [BACE](#) certification exam which will take place in the spring. The exam serves as a hiring benchmark, providing evidence for mastery of industry defined standards. This may reduce training time, allowing for rapid transition to higher level class work or supporting a move from school to work.

[Excel in CTE](#) was launched in 2012 as a plan to enhance career technical education in Kansas and better prepare high school students for college and careers. Kansas high school students qualify for state-funded college tuition in approved technical courses offered by Kansas technical and community colleges. WRHS students have the opportunity to attend [Washburn Tech](#) as part of their regular school day, or they may elect to take online courses outside of school hours.

Resources

Naviance, [Pathful](#), and YouScience are resources available to all students and can help students explore career options, employment trends in those industries, and the training or education needed.

Community Partners

Advisory Committees assist in the development and operation of the CTE cluster/pathway by keeping instructors up to date on industry standards and trends. They also provide students the opportunity to build a professional network and may offer job shadow experiences or internships.

If you are interested in serving on one of our pathway Advisory Boards please connect with Teresa Golden at goldeter@usd437.net.

Biomedical Research

Mr. Steinert is demonstrating a disposable pipette, and the intent of this discussion was to introduce students to fluid measurement with accuracy and precision. The instrument being displayed was shown as an example of what NOT to use for accurate and precise fluid measurement for transfer. The students are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to work in the new Biomedical Research Lab located in the Innovation Center set to open mid October.



◆ Career and Technical Education



To ensure distribution of the degree prospectus information published by the Kansas Board of Regents. [DegreeStats](#) to students 7-12 grades and their families. Students should be researching and planning for their future careers.

- The [Kansas Training Information Program \(K-TIP\)](#) report.
- Other information relevant to the student's understanding of potential earnings.
- [Kansas Labor Information Center \(KLIC\) - LMI Home Page \(ks.gov\)](#)
- The potential earnings of the branches of the armed services of the US Military.
 - [KBOR Military and Veteran Resources](#)
 - [CareerOneStop \(Includes Military Options\)](#)
 - [O*NET OnLine \(onetonline.org\)](#) (Military Crosswalk)
- [Kansas Career Guidance Handbook 2025-2026 \(ksde.org\)](#)

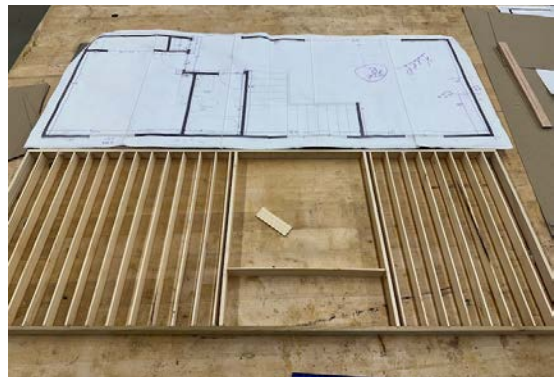
Construction & Design Pathway

Residential Carpentry students in the Construction & Design Pathway are busy working on their first project.

Residential Carpentry students are building scale models 1/1 (1" reps 1') of the house. The structures are built in two halves --mimicking the manner in which we will construct the full scale project. This picture represents the floor joint layout. Students will add subflooring, build walls, build roof trusses and apply roof sheathing.



There are two groups --each group is building a full scale model. Within each group there are subgroups responsible for one half of each house. Halves must be separately built, but be precise enough to connect to the other group's opposite half.



Project will be an exact model-to-scale of the house to be built starting in November in the Innovation Center
By students in Residential Carpentry classes.

For Sale!

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

◆ Career and Technical Education

DECA Students have been hard at work showcasing what great things they are doing in the WRHS Business Department.

SBE (School Based Enterprise) Certifications

Each year student-employees certify The Shack, Bank, and Common Grounds on three standards. Once the recertifications are submitted, judges will determine the tier of the certification: Gold, Silver, or Bronze. Gold certified and gold re-certified SBEs are eligible to bring up to two student manager(s) to the 2025 SBE Academy at the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Orlando Florida. During the SBE Academy, students experience professional development sessions, network with other SBE managers and compete in front of judges with a prepared oral presentation based on one of the standards.

Stock Market Game

Participants in the SIFMA Foundation Stock Market Game develop and manage an online investment portfolio of stocks, mutual funds, bonds, ESG investments and cash. The Stock Market Game is available via web browser on any device or on The Stock Market Game mobile app available on Android or Apple. SMG allows DECA members to test their investment knowledge and skills against other DECA members in an online competition. The goal of the competition is to provide participants with the skills needed to be successful in their future financial lives by managing a diversified investment portfolio. The DECA Stock Market Game will contain one ICDC qualifying event to take place from Monday, September 9, 2024, through Friday, December 6, 2024.

Team 1
Mina Alrawi
Olivia Ellis

Team 3
Talon Ludvick
Ben Tryhus

Team 5
Nicholas He
Ashley Billups

Team 2
Cora Genovese
Kailyn Petersen

Team 4
Cale Deutscher
Keegan Knudtson

Team 6
Jackson Keller
Tim Gaines

For more information check out the following link: <https://www.deca.org/compete/stock-market-game>

Congratulations to the 2024-2025 DECA Officers!

President - Keegan Knudtson
Vice President - Marianne Christensen
Secretary - Nicholas He
Membership - Cora Genovese
Treasurer - Talon Ludvick



WRHS

BANK

Get Started

It's never too early to start saving!




4.5%

INTEREST ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

*May be subject to change

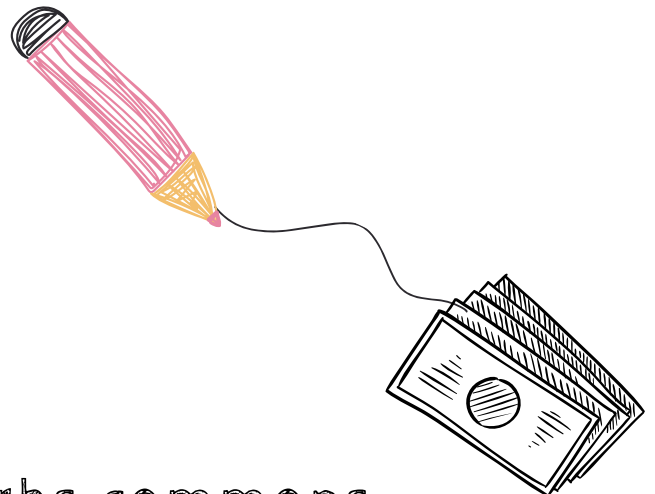
Stop living in the past, and start living in the future. Open an account today!

 785-339-4131

wrhsbank@usd437.net

 open during 5th Hour - wrhs commons

Click here for more information or to ask a question!



COMMON GROUNDS

NEW!

**PUMPKIN
FLAVOR!**

**AVAILABLE
FROM
OCTOBER TO
NOVEMBER**

**DRINK
SPOTLIGHT**

**PUMPKIN
CHAI**





Pink October

PINK OUT FOOTBALL GAME!

**PINK OUT GARMENTS WILL BE
AVAILABLE AT THE SHACK
DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF
OCTOBER**

OCTOBER 4 2024



**Support the WRHS Football team and help bring
awareness to Breast Cancer.
All proceeds will be donated to the
National Breast Cancer Foundation!**

**[HTTPS://RURALSPIRIT.SQUARE.SITE/PINK-
OUT-FOR-BCA](https://ruralspirit.square.site/pink-out-for-bca)**

2025 WRHS YEARBOOK

Name: _____

Grade: 9 10 11 12

Yearbook Prices: \$55.00

\$75 for available extra copies at 2026 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**

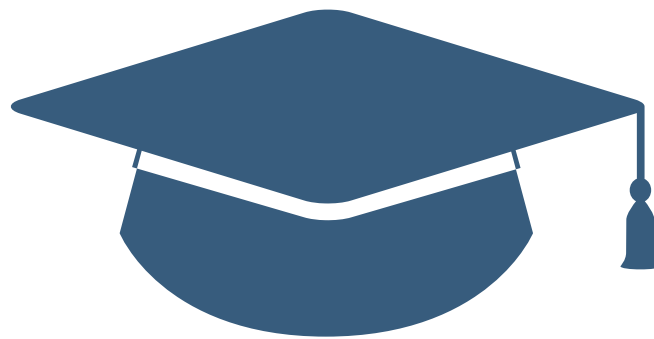
OR ORDER ONLINE!

www.yearbookordercenter.com

school code: 33333

**CLASS OF 2025
MAKE PLANS TO TAKE YOUR**

*Senior
Portraits*



**THE DEADLINE FOR PORTRAIT
SUBMISSION IS FRIDAY, DEC. 6TH**

Questions? Call WRHS Journalism @ 339-4252
See the next page for more details

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:

wrhsporraits@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:

wrhsporraits@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: **wrhsporraits@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 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

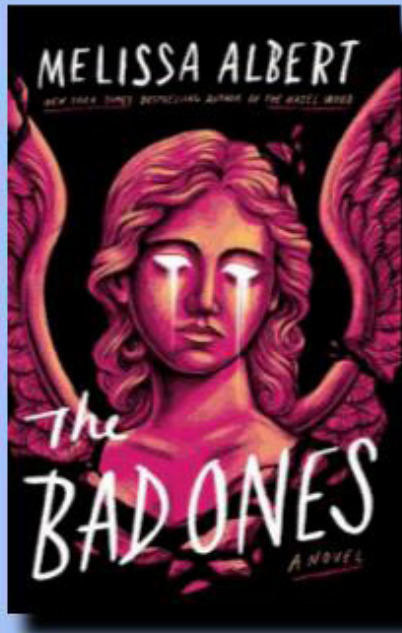
**Salute Deadline:
first Friday in Dec.**

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

◆ WRHS Media Center

Mrs. Finney's Monthly YA Book Recommendation

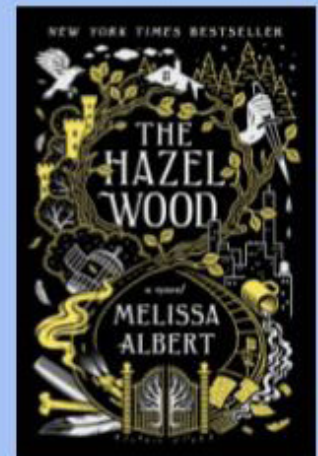
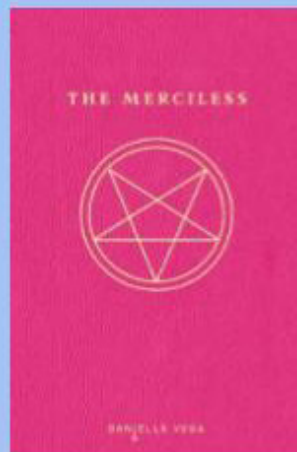
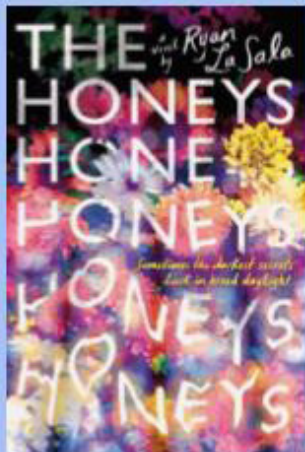
October 2024



The Bad Ones
By Melissa Albert
F ALB

In one night four people mysteriously disappear, including Nora's estranged best friend Becca. Even though they last spoke on bad terms, Nora knows Becca wouldn't just run away, so she does her best to piece together the clues, only to find that her town is filled with a series of sinister disappearances that all went unsolved. Oh, and the spontaneous blackouts where Nora forgets hours of time - that's normal, right?

Similar Titles Include:



Connect with us @wrhslib for:

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



Visit the WRHS Library to place a hold on or check out one of these amazing books today!

Text 4 Help: 785-260-0015
Marcy Sandberg sandbmar@usd437.net
Victoria Finney finnevic@usd437.net



WRHSLib 1st Semester Reading Challenge

bit.ly/wrhsfallreadingchallenge

How do I participate in the challenge?

- **Make an account on TheStoryGraph.com, and register for WRHS Library 1st Semester Reading Challenge!** You must log your books under the challenge for them to count! Need help? Visit the library and ask Finney for a [simple demo](#).
- **Pick a book and read!** You can read any genre (mystery, fantasy, non-fiction, etc.), and any format (print, eBook, or audiobook), BUT each book must be at least 200 pages (or pre-approved by Mrs. Finney). Books read for classes DO NOT COUNT.
- **Have Fun!** Choose books that interest you and enjoy the reading journey!*
- **What if I can't read 10 books this semester?** That's okay - while we would love you to read 10, there are prizes for reading 3 books, 6 books, and completing the challenge with 10 books.
- **How do I get prizes?** Email Finney a screenshot of your Story Graph log when you've logged 3 books, 6 books, and completed the challenge with 10 books. She will deliver prizes to you as you earn them. All readers who complete the challenge will also be entered into a drawing at the end of the School Year for additional prizes!
- **Challenge Deadline:** All books must be logged by Friday, December 6th, 2024, to be eligible to earn prizes! Second semester begins on Monday, January 6th 2024.

*Librarians will review submissions and make the final judgment on any questionable submissions.



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



<http://library.usd437.net> - Text 4 Help: 785-260-0015

Mrs. Sandberg: sandbmar@usd437.net - Mrs. Finney: finnevic@usd437.net

Sign up Here!



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Science news written especially for students. Perfect for research, ideas for reports and learning what's happening in science today. Filled with interviews with real scientists and much more!

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Visit https://library.ks.gov/students/middle_high_school for these resources.

Parent & Educator Resources



The Mailbox Plus is a teacher-created, editor-reviewed resource in print and online. Resources include worksheets, crafts, forms, songs, games, graphic organizers, patterns, clip art, cards and more for pre-kindergarten to grade 6.



educator's Edition explora



Online database for reading recommendations, reviews, articles, lists and more.

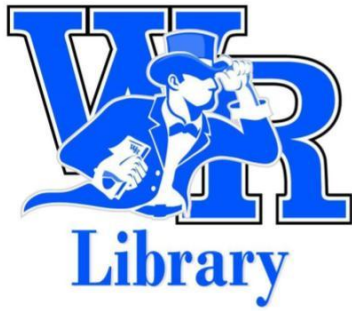


The World Almanac for Kids
The World Almanac Elementary
Bloom's Literature
Ferguson's Career Guidance Center
Health Reference Center
Issues & Controversies
World News Digest

Access to these resources was made possible through funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services



◆ WRHS Media Center



Connect with us for:

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



@wrhslib

Text 4 Help: 785-260-0015

Marcy Sandberg sandbmar@usd437.net

Victoria Finney finnevic@usd437.net



WASHBURN RURAL THEATRE
PRESENTS



THE BEST MAN

By Gore Vidal

October 24-26th 7pm

@warutheatre

| warutheatre.org

◆ Drama Department

The Best Man

By: Gore Vidal

Classic 1960 Satirical Comedy

Do the ends justify the means? At the 1960 presidential primaries, two contrasting candidates maneuver to be the party's pick. Secretary of State William Russell lives by his principles, but will principles keep the nation safe as the Cold War looms? Senator Joe Cantwell has mastered using the media to project his image, but can he handle having his own ruthless tactics turned against him? Come see the behind-the-scenes decisions get made in Gore Vidal's humorous send up of the new politics.

Cast:

Secretary William Russell - Aiden Olson

Alice Russell - Annie Lightcap

Fanny Jensen - Liana Murphey

Catherine - Bailey Harding

Senator Joseph Cantwell - Weston Widman

Mabel Cantwell - Dillyn Fager

Don Blades - Isidro Bacon

Ex-President Arthur Hockstader - Connor Kressly

Mrs. Sue-Ellen Gamadge - Jocelyn Escalante

Senator Clyde Carlin - Ashton Antrim

Dr. Artinian - Austin Casebeer

Sheldon Marcus - Eli Loyd

First Reporter - Holly Sorrenti

Second Reporter - Miriam Smith

Third Reporter - Lee Stimpfle

Fourth Reporter - Tillie McIlvain

Fifth Reporter - Milo Douglas

Additional Reporters/Delegates/Hotel Staff - Jordan Brown, Ashton Antrim

Stage Manager - Owen Tremblay

ASM/Shift Chief - Elliott Elliott

Shift Crew - Cedric Goets

- Jess Cooper

- John Kirsch

- Jacob Lawhon

- Jessie Guay

- Alaina Hylton

- Kylie Kirk

Mics - Sevyn Combes

Sound effects - Genevieve Martinez

Light design/operation- Gabe Fawl

- Calvin Wilson

Costume Chiefs - Corrinne Fullmer

- Micah Ward

- Victor Hawkinson-Penny

Props Chiefs -Harley Wires

-Addisyn Hummell

-Enzo Cabrillo

-Rain Gonzalez

◆ Miss Juneteenth

Topeka Family and Friends Juneteenth Celebration, Inc. crowned the 2024 Miss Juneteenth.

Liana Murphy, junior at Washburn Rural High School, was excited to be chosen for the crown and found it to be a huge responsibility. "The whole experience was unforgettable and amazing. I met many wonderful people and made many friends along the way. I learned to cultivate my confidence and the importance of Juneteenth. It was difficult at times, but with the support and encouragement of my family and sponsors, I was able to keep pushing. Now, I am Miss Juneteenth Kansas and I am excited to compete in the National Miss Juneteenth Pageant" Murphy said.

TFFJC hosted the scholarship pageant where Murphy was joined by seven other candidates who competed for the crown. They each participated in a four month program learning about the history of Juneteenth, doing community service and learning skills prior to the pageant. Miss Juneteenth Kansas Queen Liana Murphy will represent the entire state of Kansas at the Miss Juneteenth USA in October 2025.

Juneteenth, short for June Nineteenth, honors the end of legal slavery in the U.S. Though it has been celebrated for years, it became an official holiday in 2021.

Norma Avery, one of the pageant coordinators, established the TFFJC as a way to provide the Topeka community a chance to learn about Juneteenth as well as African American history and culture. The organization seeks to continue providing education and resources to the community to preserve the legacy of Juneteenth.

On June 19, 1865, the enslaved people of Galveston, Texas, first learned of the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared them free citizens. This day marked the beginning of the annual commemorative celebrations that included sharing stories of black history, singing, dancing, and good food. Juneteenth celebrations have been occurring for decades across the nation. Communities have celebrated via week-long festivals, parades, and pageants to showcase our rich heritage and cultural awareness.

The National Miss Juneteenth Scholarship Pageant Program is designed to encourage young African American women to embrace their diversity and culture while pursuing higher educational goals. This national platform aims to showcase the beauty, poise, and rich culture of African Americans that ultimately preserves, represents, and embodies what black excellence means today.

For more information please use the following link:

<https://www.missjuneteenthusa.org/>





An Update from Food Services

Auburn-Washburn food service workers prepare and serve hundreds of in-house meals every day

Each and every morning, the Food Services team starts the day by serving breakfast to around 180 students. Biscuits and gravy is a daily staple, along with another hot item, such as made-from-scratch breakfast burritos, French toast, or breakfast casserole. Grab-and-go options, fresh fruit, juice, and milk are also provided. Breakfast is available from 7:00 am until school starts.

“We take great pride in our lunch program,” said Food Services Director Stan Vallis. Each day, seven to eight entrée choices are offered – from pizza, wraps, and salads to hot and cold sandwiches, parfaits, and more. The main entrée rotates daily to keep things fresh and exciting.

Most meals are prepared in-house using their own recipes. The team of talented cooks and bakers is dedicated to making meals fresh, rather than relying on pre-made, heat-and-eat products.

Special Requests

Did you know the Food Services team takes special requests? If there’s something you’d like to see on the menu, reach out to kitchen manager Barb Alstrom. Meals have to follow USDA guidelines, but they are always open to suggestions and will do their best to make your requests a reality.

“Once we develop a new recipe, we test it in small batches to ensure it meets our quality standards,” said Vallis. “Principals often volunteer as taster-testers—one of the perks of the job!”

After testing and tweaking, they scale up production and train staff to prepare and serve the dish efficiently. When a new menu item is introduced, they typically prepare between 600 and 700 servings within just 90 minutes! That’s quite a feat, making them one of the largest “restaurants” in town!

Each week, around 650 cases of products are ordered to keep the kitchen stocked. They rely on trusted suppliers like Sysco for bulk foods, Highland Dairy for dairy, and Bimbo Bakery for bread. Said Vallis, “We’re grateful for the fantastic kitchen, equipment, and support we receive from our warehouse and service teams to keep everything running smoothly.”

Principals, teachers, and staff help ensure that meal times run like clockwork, but the real stars of the show are you—our amazing students. Vallis remarked, “Everything we do, we do for you! We can’t wait to see you in the cafeteria!”



A la Carte

A la carte items are offered for those desiring alternate options. Many items are pre-packaged, but a growing number of selections are made from scratch in the kitchen. Be on the lookout for new options in the future!

Helpful Tips

- A la Carte is extra. It is not part of breakfast and lunch meal prices, but it is still regulated for fats, sugars, and salts.
- A la Carte includes many snack items and drinks, as well as some special entrée choices.

Best Practice Tips for Meal Service

- When you come to the lunch room, have your student ID card ready. Your ID is used for many things throughout the day, so get in the habit of keeping it with you.
- Be kind in the service rooms. We have plenty of food and plenty of time to feed everyone. It’s okay to talk with your lunch staff. They work very hard to make good food for you. Thank them and be friendly. They enjoy being there for you!
- Keep things tidy. We serve hundreds of students per lunch period. Please don’t leave a mess.
- Practice good manners. A “thank you” and smile go a long way.
- Don’t be wasteful with food. Take only what you plan to consume. If you have whole fruits, milk, or other packaged items that you don’t eat, put them in the bins for recycling instead of throwing them in the trash.
- Enjoy your lunchtime with friends and clean up your area when done. The next 600 kids are coming in after you leave.

Remember

- You can not purchase anything with a negative account balance. Make sure you have money in your account.
- You must take a tray to place your items on. No tray = no service.
- If you do not intend to purchase anything, please avoid the area. There is limited room in the service area.
- Please be kind and treat food staff with respect. They work hard for you!
- Keep in mind there are cameras everywhere. It would be embarrassing to get busted for stealing!

"There's No place like Homecoming" Highlights



Thanks to all those that volunteered to help at our Homecoming tailgate.



Congratulations to Bodie King and Molly Worley, our 2024 Homecoming King and Queen!



Congratulations to the parade float winners!

First Place (Tie):
Women's Wrestling & Girl's Tennis

Second Place:
Cheer

Third Place:
Dancin' Blues

