



## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Newsletter 2019



### Julius A. Wendt Elementary John C. Thomas Middle School



#### **Wahkiakum School District Mission Statement:**

We strive to provide a quality education that empowers and inspires all students to be productive, confident, contributing and respectful citizens.

#### **Wahkiakum School District Vision Statement:**

Wahkiakum School District strives to prepare all students to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens ready meet the challenges of the future. In partnership with families and community, our goal is to create relevant learning opportunities for students, both inside and outside the classroom, that help them develop the knowledge, critical thinking skills, and the character necessary to succeed in a technologically advanced world.

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#### **A Message from Mrs. Reese...**

Dear JAW & JCT Families,

As I type this letter, it is overcast and misting outside. It sure doesn't look like late summer, but the calendar says otherwise! In less than two weeks, the classrooms will be buzzing with the excitement a new school year brings. I can't wait!

There are new staff that have joined the JAW/JCT family over the last few months. As you know, Ms. Tarabochia retired in June. Mrs. Wegdahl is our new secretary and is doing a fantastic job. She is excited to meet the students and families. Mrs. Wegdahl has fond memories of her elementary school secretary and she can't wait to make connections with the students at JAW/JCT.

We have two new teachers that are joining the JCT staff this year. Joe Stranjord is taking George Scott's place and will be working with students that receive extra support through special education. Jennifer Berry was hired as the new middle school science teacher and is excited to create a project based/hands-on learning experience for students. We're in the process of solidifying the hire of two new para-professionals for the elementary school and will be ready to go by the first day of school.

Like past years, K-5 students will be released at 11:30 for the first four days of school (9/3-9/6) so that parent/teacher conferences can take place in the afternoons. You should have received an invite in the mail specifying the date and

time your conference has been scheduled with your child's teacher. Please call Mrs. Wegdahl at the main office if you didn't receive your invitation, or you need to reschedule your conference (360) 795-3261.

Thursdays will continue to be a one hour late start day. Staff uses this time to set goals for student growth, discuss instructional strategies and analyze student growth data. We are very grateful to have this uninterrupted time to collaborate with one another.

I'm very excited for what I know is going to be a great year at JAW/JCT and look forward to seeing K-5 families on the 27th for our "Meet the Teacher" event (5:30-6:30)! K-5 students are asked to bring their school supplies with them on the 27th. A middle school open house is scheduled for October 16<sup>th</sup>. Middle school students can pick schedules up beginning this Tuesday (8/27). The office is open from 8:00-4:00.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Reese



### **Important August/September Dates:**

Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Orientation 9:00-1:00 (Lunch Provided),  
K-5 Meet the Teacher Night, 5:30-6:30

Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> – First Day of School. Early Release K-5 at 11:30

Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> – Early Release K-5 at 11:30

Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> – One Hour Late Start, Early Release K-5 at 11:30

Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Early Release K-5 at 11:30

Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> – School Picture Day, JCT Volleyball @ Napavine (5 p.m.)

Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> – JAW PTO Meeting in the Library (3:30), JCT  
Volleyball @ Adna (5 p.m.)

Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> – One Hour Late Start

Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> – JCT Volleyball Home vs. Winlock (5 p.m.)

Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – School Board Meeting (5.30 p.m. @ the HS Library)

Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> – JCT Volleyball Home vs. Toutle Lake (5 p.m.)

Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> – One Hour Late Start, JCT Football Home vs. Toledo (6  
p.m. – bus leaves at 3:35)

Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> – JCT Volleyball at Toledo (5 p.m.)

Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> – JCT Volleyball Home vs. Mossyrock (5 p.m.)

Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> – One Hour Late Start, JCT Football Home vs. Toutle  
Lake (6 p.m.)

Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> – JAW Popcorn Day

Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – JCT Volleyball @ Rainier (5 p.m.)



### **Important October Dates:**

Wednesday, October 2nd – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Mid-Term (grades 4-8)

Thursday, October 3rd – One Hour Late Start, JCT Football Home @ Winlock (6 p.m.)

Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> – JCT Volleyball at Kalama (5 p.m.) JAW PTO Meeting @ 3:30 in the Library

Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> – JAW PTO Meeting in the Library (3:30), JCT Volleyball Home vs. MWP (5 p.m.)

Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – One Hour Late Start, JCT Football @ Napavine (6 p.m.), JAW Title/LAP Family Night (5 p.m.)

Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> – JAW Popcorn Day

Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> – JCT VB @ Onalaska (5 p.m.)

Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> – Lions Vision Screening, JCT Open House/Family Night (5:00-6:30)

Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> – One Hour Late Start, JCT FB Crossover Game (TBD)

Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> – Girls' Basketball Begins (tentative)

Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – One Hour Late Start

Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> – Picture Retake Day, JAW Popcorn Day

Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> – One Hour Late Start, Halloween



### **Important November Dates:**

Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, No School (Local In-Service)

Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – One Hour Late Start

Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> – JAW Popcorn Day

Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – No School (Veteran's Day)

Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> – JAW PTO Meeting in the Library (3:30)

Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> – One Hour Late Start

Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> – One Hour Late Start

Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> – JAW Popcorn Day, 11:30 Dismissal (K-8 conferences)

Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 Dismissal (K-8 Conferences)

Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 Dismissal (K-8 Conferences)

Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> – 11:30 Dismissal (Thanksgiving Break)

Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> – No School, Thanksgiving Holiday

Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> – No School, Thanksgiving Break

\*Note: Girls' Basketball games and Wrestling start date/meet Schedule TBD (will be shared as soon as published by league)

## **For You to Know:**

**LOST and FOUND** – Please mark your child’s belongings with their first and last name so that we can return them if left outside or somewhere else in the school. We are really trying to keep our lost and found to a minimum. Thanks for your help.

**Student Handbook** – Each family should receive a student handbook each school year so please make sure to review the handbook with your child/children and help them to understand the importance of following handbook procedures and rules. The handbooks should be sent home by the end of the first week of school.

**ASB Officers** – Our ASB officers for John C. Thomas Middle School are:  
President – Arwynn Haney, Vice-President – Montana Stephens , Secretary – Reagen Hoogendoorn, Treasurer – Thain Russell, Communications Coordinator – Elizabeth Davis  
Please encourage your child to run for class representative or join ASB by attending meetings. The more kids involved the better!

**Meal Prices** – Meal prices will not change for the 2018-2019 school year. Breakfast will cost \$1.75 for students K-12 and \$2.25 for adults. Lunch will be \$3.00 for students K-5 and \$3.25 for 6-12 and \$4.50 for adults. Entrée only meals are \$1.75. Reduced prices are \$0 for breakfast, \$0 for K-3 and \$.40 for 4-12 for lunch. Milk only is \$.40

Please remember the best time to put money on your child’s account is before school between 8:00 and 8:30 in the cafeteria. We do send reminders with students when their account is getting low and you can also check Family Access to see your lunch account activity and balance.

If you have not been given a form to see if your family qualifies for free/reduced breakfast and lunch please let the office know and we will get that paperwork to you. If you need assistance please call Krista Fritzie in the kitchen at 795-3261.

Sack lunches will be offered on all early release days and will be eaten before students go home at 11:30. Students will order a lunch just like any other school day if that is their routine. If a student orders a sack lunch, they will be charged the regular price of a lunch. Students that qualify for free or reduced lunch will receive their lunch for no charge or the reduced price. Please discuss what your child’s plan for lunch is each early release day to ensure your child receives a lunch if needed, or doesn’t order a lunch when they don’t need one to avoid an unnecessary charge to their account.

**Updating Records** – It is very important for us to have the most current information to communicate with you so please update any address/phone or email information as soon as possible with the office. We need to know how to contact parents/guardians in case of emergencies or to share things about your student. If you have family access, your information will be shown there and you can call or send a note with the changes needed.

**Medications at School** – There are state laws regarding medications at school. Any medications, **prescription or over the counter**, when taken at school **must** be stored in the office in its original container and **must** be accompanied by an “Authorization for Administration of Medication” form. If your child needs to take medication of any kind at school please pick up and complete the form. A physician’s signature is required for all medications on this form. These forms need to be updated every school year. **Some students who use inhalers can carry them with them, but still need to have the paperwork on file in the office.**

**Restraining Orders/ Parenting Plans** – If you possess a current restraining order against another person or if you have a parenting plan, it is very important that you provide the office with the most current documents bearing the signature or stamp of the judge. We are legally unable to deny parent contact with a child unless the proper documents are on file at school.

**Pay to Participate** – Once again to offset the program costs the district will be charging a “pay to participate” fee to all athletes. The cost for middle school athletes is \$30 per sport. This fee must be paid no later than one day prior to the first contest in which an athlete is eligible. Low income students who request assistance may tap the “donation pool” for 50% of their fee as long as there are monies available in that pool.

Donations are welcome and should be delivered to the main office. If desired, your donation can be earmarked to assist a specific extracurricular program; otherwise they will go to a general fund for pay to participate. If you would like to make a 100% donation for a specific athlete we will certainly honor your request.

**Sports Eligibility at the Middle School** – Students at the middle school level that participate in sports have their grades checked every Friday. If a student is failing a class or classes, the student will be notified on Friday. They may work on assignments over the weekend and turn in their work **before school** on Monday to see if they can become eligible. At times there is no make-up work to be turned in (ex. PE) so it is a good idea to keep your grades passing at all times. Please be aware that at the beginning of the quarter when only a few assignments are in the grade book one missing assignment or poor score can really affect the overall grade. It is the athlete’s responsibility to make up the work and return it to the teacher before school on Monday. If they are passing after the work is graded they get to participate that week, if they are not passing they practice with the team but do not travel to away contests or participate in any contests. If a student is not eligible for three weeks they will no longer be a part of the team.

**Family Access and Website** – Please remember to get signed up for [Family Access](#) so that you can easily monitor your child’s grades, attendance and lunch account. You can also email teachers through this site. Every parent is automatically enrolled for family access when they have students in the school. Your login should be first.last name and your password should be password. Please call the office if it does not work.

There is a huge amount of valuable information about Wahkiakum School District on the website – [www.wahksd.k12.wa.us](http://www.wahksd.k12.wa.us). Check it out!

**Student Accident and Sickness Coverage Available** - All student athletes are required to have health insurance coverage. For those who do not have it, the school district makes available to parents a relatively low-cost student accident and sickness coverage for their children. Families without student athletes are also allowed to purchase this coverage if they are so inclined. There is however, no requirement on the District's part for student non-athletes to have this coverage. Forms are available through our student registration process, as well as in both school offices. Feel free to contact your student's school office for more information and/or the form.

**Title/LAP Programs:** Our elementary and middle schools qualify to receive federal funds under the "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA). [Title I, Part A funding](#) requires that schools create a positive and supportive learning environment that results in high levels of achievement for all students. Funds are available for academic programs, staff development, materials and supplies, and parent trainings. Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provides financial assistance to states and school districts to meet the needs of educationally at-risk students. The goal of Title I is to provide extra instructional services and activities which support students identified as failing or most at risk of failing the state's challenging performance standards in mathematics, reading, and writing.

We invite all parents in our District to become involved in their child's education and the [Wahkiakum School District's Parental Involvement Policy \(4130\)](#) describes our Title 1 Community Relations Policies and Procedures in detail. It is posted on our website, <http://www.wahksd.k12.wa.us>, and available in the office.

"Parent's Right to Know" Regarding Teacher and Paraprofessional's Qualifications - Parents can request information regarding the professional qualifications of the classroom staff working with their child. Parents also have the right to request information regarding the qualifications of the paraprofessional assisting their child's teacher (if they are receiving Title I, Part A services from a paraprofessional). This year, the following teachers are teaching outside of their endorsed area(s): Mike Thomas, Carrie Badger, Joe Strandjord and Monique Plank. If you would like more information or have questions please contact me by email or phone ([nreese@wahksd.k12.wa.us](mailto:nreese@wahksd.k12.wa.us) or 360-795-3261).

For more detailed information about the Title I, Part A federal program, visit the [Title I, Part A and Learning Assistance Program \(LAP\)](#) on the Washington State OSPI website or contact Nikki Reese or Janine Oman, our Title I/LAP Coordinators, by email or by phone at 360-795-3261.

**Bus Notes – PLEASE HELP!** It takes a large amount of office staff's time and effort to write and deliver bus notes. Our office staff often deals with an average of 30 to 40 notes a day because of parent phone calls. We are concerned that students may not get to the correct place because the number of changes and notes create a greater chance of error. We are trying to reduce the number of changes to after school plans in order to keep better track of where students are going when they leave us. Your help with this is appreciated. Ideally if your child is going somewhere other than home or daycare (their regular route) it would be great if they could just be picked up.

**Procedure for Bus Notes –**

- 1. Students must bring a note to school in the morning if they are going somewhere other than home or their regular drop off site (i.e. daycare).**
- 2. Teachers will collect parent notes in the morning and send them to the office. All bus notes for the day will then be written.**
- 3. If plans change and you need to pick your child up, please come to the foyer area of the office at 3:00 so you can meet your child as he/she is dismissed at 3:05.**
- 4. Please, only call the office if an unexpected emergency arises.**
- 5. We appreciate your cooperation!**

**Student Information** – Periodically we put student pictures in our local paper or list students who have earned awards. If for some reason you do not want your child's name or picture used in school publications, programs, or area newspapers let us know. It is best to put your request in writing so that we can keep it in your child's permanent file. We will control all that we can but cannot guarantee that an outside photographer may be at an event taking photos.

**Smarter Balanced Assessment and Washington Comprehensive**

**Assessment of Science** – Your child's assessment results for last spring's Smarter Balanced Assessment in ELA (English/Language Arts) and Math will be mailed out in late September. If your child was in 5<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade last year, you should also receive results for the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science. If you do not receive results or have questions about your child's progress please contact Nikki Reese at 795-3261.

**8<sup>th</sup> Graders and High School Classes** – Once again, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have the opportunity to take some high school level classes. Beginning this year, 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will automatically receive high school credit for these classes unless a parent requests otherwise. The requirements for Algebra, are the same for 8<sup>th</sup> graders as for the high school students in the class but the Band requirements are a little different. You will need to contact Darla Mead at [dmead@wahksd.k12.wa.us](mailto:dmead@wahksd.k12.wa.us) to find out if your child is up to high school standards in Band.

**Book Fair** – Our PTO group is hoping to schedule the fall book fair to coincide with fall parent/teacher conferences. Stay tuned for more information about this event!





**Electives, Advisory & Warrior Success** – This year, students will take elective courses Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Advisory will occur each Thursday during second period. Students got to choose their electives last spring. Advisory classes will be grade level specific (like last year) and students will stay with the same advisory teacher for the entire school year. Teachers will begin to address [High School and Beyond planning](#), use lessons from [Career Guidance Washington](#) to meet college/career standards and conduct weekly grade checks during the Friday advisory class. We are looking forward to continue providing this opportunity to our students!

**We're excited about a new offering we've added to our schedule this year.** On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, students that don't qualify for Title math or reading services will be enrolled in a [28 minute "Warrior Success" class](#). Students will spend two days a week completing their iReady online math lessons, one day on organization/assistance with classroom work and one day on their individual reading goals. This will be a pass/fail course. Students that qualify for Title math and/or reading services will receive their additional academic support during "Warrior Success" time instead of during the second period elective hour. This allows all students to choose two electives. In the past, students that qualified for both Title math/reading support didn't get to take an elective class.