

Wahkiakum High School



Today's decisions create tomorrow's successes!

All students will graduate from Wahkiakum High School with the tools and skills necessary to persevere in their pursuit for a successful life.

August 24, 2017

Stand Up, Stand Out, Take a Risk

Welcome Back

Welcome to Wahkiakum High School! After a beautiful summer, a solar eclipse and many hours of training, our staff is refreshed and excited to begin the 2017-18 school year! This year we welcome three new staff members to the high school. Eli McElroy is a recent graduate of the University of Portland and will be teaching Physics, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus and two new classes, Computer Science and Financial Literacy. Joel Stetzer also joins our math department and will be teaching Geometry, Honors Algebra II, College Math 152&153 and Title Math which is a class that provides extra support for students that want to build their math skills. Joel was previously a math professor at Lower Columbia College and is looking forward to returning to the high school classroom. We also welcome Haannah Ohrberg who will be joining our office staff. She is the new friendly face and voice that answers the phone and takes care of anything you need. Our student ASB leadership team met and selected a theme this year around being brave enough to be yourself and taking advantage of opportunities. Last year we focused on ensuring that all students belong with our theme – *Being Different, Belonging Together*. This year we are extending that by encouraging students to be themselves and take advantage of opportunities. Having a growth mind set and striving to continually improve takes a willingness to try, “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.” We want our students to know Wahkiakum High School is a safe place to take a risk; “**Stand Up, Stand Out, Take a Risk!**” This quote illustrates the culture we strive to create, one that values individuals, their talents, dreams and goals. Being willing to take one risk can change your whole life. The staff and students are here to support and encourage each other. Go Mules!

Schedules

You will find student schedules on Skyward and if completed, a hard copy of that schedule is attached to this letter. To help the first few days of school go smoothly, all schedule changes should be made **before** school begins. Please take a moment and together look over your student’s schedule. Make sure all classes are correct and in line with graduation requirements and academic goals. If there are any errors, Mr. Niemeyer is available to help with schedule changes. Please call or email him to make an appointment, mniemeyer@wahksd.k12.wa.us

All schedule changes need to be completed by August 31st. ☺

Freshman & New Student Orientation

We would like to invite all 9th graders and any new students to Wahkiakum High School Orientation on Thursday, August 31st from 9:00-12:00. The WHS student Link Leaders organize a fun-filled morning that introduces students to life at Wa-Ki-Hi. Students will have the opportunity to meet other students and staff. In addition to a variety of activities, students will also tour the campus and learn tips for success. Students should gather in our front entry way right outside the gym doors at 9:00. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a positive, enthusiastic attitude. Go Mules!

School Supplies

Organization is key to success in both high school and college. These skills are learned and require practice. We will provide all students with a planner on the first day of school. **Please make sure your student comes to school on the first day with a three ring binder, dividers, notebook paper, a pencil pouch, pencils, pens, highlighters, colored pencils, a glue stick and scissors.** If taking a PE class, students are required to have PE shoes, shorts and a t-shirt. Starting the school year off prepared pays off! Please contact the office if you need help obtaining supplies or are willing to donate supplies for those in need.

School Pictures and ID Cards

This year, picture day is September 11th beginning at 8:30 am in our cafeteria. Picture packets will be handed out on Thursday, September 7th. This year, ID cards will be issued instantly and given to each student on picture day at no cost. Thank-you Bell Studios! ASB stickers will be placed on the ID cards (at the office) when students pay the \$40.00 for their ASB card. The ASB card is needed to play sports and to get into events free and/or at a discounted rate. Bring your smiles!

Skyward

Skyward is the system we use to track student grades, attendance, and lunch accounts. If you do not have a login, please see Pam or Haannah in the office. You are also encouraged to sign up for weekly email notifications about student grades. Please be sure all contact information is current and we have an email address for your family on file.

Lockers

Students are issued both a hall locker and a PE locker and encouraged to keep both lockers locked at all times. Please remind your student that *the school is not responsible for lost or stolen items that are not kept in locked lockers*. It only takes a second – lock up your valuables!

Late Arrival

As all student works toward on-time graduation, teachers will also be striving to improve during late start Thursdays. While students are sleeping in or catching up on homework, teachers will be closely analyzing student data and striving to improve instruction to meet the needs of all students. Just like last year, school doors will open at 9:00 instead of 8:00 on Thursdays and class will not begin until 9:30. Each period will be shortened and lunch will be at noon. Late

arrival will begin the first Thursday of the school year – September 7th. Our library is open from 8-9 on late start if students need support or a quiet place to study.

Attendance Awareness

Every absence, excused or unexcused, is a learning opportunity lost and can have significant impacts on a student's success in school and life. A student who misses 10% or more of their school days, which amounts to 18 or more days in a school year—or just two days a month—for any reason is considered chronically absent. Chronically absent students are more likely to fall behind in reading and math and less likely to graduate from high school. Addressing chronic absenteeism and developing good attendance habits is a solvable problem for which we all share responsibility. The state and WHS is working to improve overall attendance and encourage students to take the challenge and strive for perfect attendance!

Student Involvement

Make a difference and join an extracurricular activity. Research shows that involved students perform better in high school and are more likely to graduate. We would like to see all Wahkiakum High School Students involved in extracurricular activities. This year, we welcome a new cheer advisor, our own, Darla Mead, a 4H Robotics and Radio Club run by Ron Wright and we will continue to have Drama with Shawn Deal. We also encourage students to start new clubs and activities, if students have ideas – encourage them to share.

Online Classes

Online classes will be offered this year for students who have a scheduling conflict or academic need that is not met with our regular schedule. Priority is given to juniors and seniors. To enroll, students must first talk to Mr. Niemeyer to determine if an online class is their only option. If it is determined that an online class is needed, students fill out an application which is available in the office and on our website. If accepted, online students stay on campus and complete their assignments in the library. Online applications for first semester are due August 29th.

Advisory

At Wahkiakum High School we have advisory every other Friday during Mule Success Time to help students understand graduation requirements, work on their senior portfolios/projects and learn about post high school options. (Mule Success Time is a 30 minute period Monday – Wednesday that allows students to receive individualized academic support.) On student report cards, this class is called College Ready and it is worth .25 credits each year and counts toward graduation as an elective credit. It is important for students to do this work to ensure they have a solid post-secondary high school plan. The class is recorded on student transcripts.

College Readiness Assessments

Students who are interested in attending college after graduation need to take college readiness assessments – the PSAT, SAT/ACT. We encourage all sophomores and juniors to take the PSAT and juniors and seniors need to take the SAT or ACT. The PSAT will be given at WHS in October. We will also be giving the ACT on campus for the first time this year. Watch our

website for more information. To sign up for the SAT at various locations in Longview and Vancouver, visit collegeboard.com. Joyce, Mrs. Freeman or Mr. Niemeyer can help.

Graduation

At WHS, we want all students to graduate on time and with a plan for their future. The beginning of the year is the perfect time to start fresh with a positive and focused attitude. We want our students to be goal oriented, willing to take risks and believe in themselves. Mr. Niemeyer will be meeting with all students to help them create a vision for their future. To us, "College" is a plan for the future. No longer is a high school diploma enough to ensure success. Our goal is to expose students to a variety of possibilities and help them form a plan. College can include a four year university, community college, a trade school, internships, certifications, etc. ***We want all students to graduate from WHS with the tools and skills necessary to persevere in their pursuit of a successful life!***

Set a goal, get involved and make Wahkiakum High School the best it can be!

We are here to support you in all that you do. We are excited to begin a new year.

Please call or email me anytime with questions, concerns or ideas.

360-795-3271 or sleitz@wahksd.k12.wa.us

Go Mules!

Stephanie Leitz

Principal

Important Dates & Fees

August 29th Online Applications Due

August 31st 9:00-12:00 Freshmen & New Student Orientation

August 31st Last Day for Schedule Changes

September 1st, 7:00pm - Away Football Game vs. Naselle

September 5th – 8:30, 1st Day of School

School Starts at 9:30 on all Thursdays

September 5th – 5:45, away Volleyball Game vs. RA Long

TBA - Home Cross Country

September 11th - School Pictures 8:30

ASB Cards are \$40.00

Pay to Participate is \$60.00

Breakfast \$1.50 Lunch \$3.00