

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 22, 2018

Brighten the Light!

Welcome Back

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year at Wahkiakum High School! Our student leadership team selected "Brighten the Light!" as this year's school wide theme. We believe that all students have a light and if we support each other we can all learn to shine brightly! Relationships and learning go hand in hand. We want all students to know, as soon as they walk through our door, they belong and are a valued member of our learning community. We hope students feel comfortable enough to be themselves, are willing to explore a variety of opportunities to ensure they find their passion and that they leave WHS with a positive plan for their future. Having a growth mind set and striving to continually improve takes a willingness to try. I believe "Failure is success in progress!" We want our students to know Wahkiakum High School is a safe place to take a risk; to learn to shine brightly. Staff and students are here to support and care about each other through this journey called "high school". We strive to create a positive culture, one that values individuals, their talents, dreams and goals. Thank-you for being a part of our school family. 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 30th. ☺

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.

Freshman & New Student Orientation

We would like to invite all 9th graders and any new students to Wahkiakum High School Orientation on Thursday, August 30th from 9:00-12:00. The WHS student Link Leaders organize a fun-filled morning that introduces students to life at WHS. 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.

School Pictures and ID Cards

This year, picture day is September 11th beginning at 8:30 am in our cafeteria. 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. Mark your calendar and remind students to bring their 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 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 if they play a sport or have a PE class. Students are 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 students work 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 6th. Our library is open from 8-9 on late start days 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!

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/best 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 are due August 30th.

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.

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

Wahkiakum High School



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Important Dates & Fees

August 30th Online Applications Due

August 30th 9:00-12:00 Freshmen & New Student Orientation

August 30th Last Day for Schedule Changes

September 1st, 1:00pm - Home Football Game vs Colfax

September 4th – 8:30, 1st Day of School ☺

School Starts at 9:30 on **ALL** Thursdays

September 5th – 5:00, Home Volleyball Game vs. R.A. Long

September 5th - Cross Country @ LaCenter

September 11th - School Pictures 8:30

ASB Cards are \$40.00

Pay to Participate is \$60.00

Lunch Prices TBD

Please remember to fill out the blue Free & Reduced Lunch Form every year to receive assistance with meals. Please contact the office if you have questions.