

# 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 21, 2019

*Be your own Superhero!*

## Welcome Back

Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> is the first day of the 2019-20 school year! Our student leadership team selected "Be your own Superhero & Make Today Marvel-US!" as this year's school wide theme. We believe every student has strengths and/or a passion that makes him/her a superhero. If we help each other identify our strengths, together we can make every day Marvelous! We want all WHS 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 graduate from WHS with a positive plan for their future. I believe "Failure is success in progress!" We want our students to know Wahkiakum High School is a safe place to take a risk. Staff and students are here to support and encourage each other on 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!**

## New Staff

We welcome three new staff members this year. **Kaitlyn Kincaid** will be teaching math and computer science. She comes to us from the Longview/Kelso area and is excited to be a part of a "small town". She has two beautiful puppies and loves to travel. **Elsa Clark** is going to teach math, art and ALE for us in addition to being our academic support specialist. She will teach a 7<sup>th</sup> period every day to help students make up credits and better understand key math/English concepts. **Kellyn Pakenen-Hazen** is joining our team as our Intervention/Prevention Specialist. Her job will be to support and educate students about healthy choices. All three are excited, full of energy and going to add a lot to WHS. They are excited to meet every one – stop in and introduce yourself! Welcome Miss Kincaid, Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Hazen.

## Schedules: [Online WHS Master and Bell Schedule](#)

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](mailto:mniemeyer@wahksd.k12.wa.us)

**All schedule changes need to be completed by August 29<sup>th</sup>.** ☺

### **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 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 9<sup>th</sup> graders and any new students to Wahkiakum High School's New Student Orientation on Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> 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 team building 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 9<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 8:30 am in our cafeteria. ID cards will be issued instantly and given to each student on picture day at no cost. Thank-you Bell Studios! Office staff will place ASB stickers on the ID cards when students purchase an ASB card for \$40.00. The ASB card is needed to play sports and to attend 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 to monitor your child's progress, please see Haannah in the office. You are also encouraged to **sign up for weekly email notifications about student grades**. Please be sure the office has correct contact information and we have an email address for your family on file.

### **Lockers**

Students are issued a hall locker and an additional PE locker if they play a sport or have a physical fitness 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 5th. Our library is open from 8-9 on late start days if students need support or a quiet place to study.

### **Attendance Awareness**

A student who misses 10% or more of their school days, which is 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 achievable if we work together. The state and WHS wants to improve overall attendance and encourage students to take the challenge and strive for perfect/improved attendance! **Let's Go Mules!**

### **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 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Advisory**

At Wahkiakum High School we have advisory every other Friday during **Mule Success** 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 .5 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. To us, “College” is a plan for the future that can include a four year university, community college, a trade school, internships, certifications, etc. 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. ***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, be 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](mailto:sleitz@wahksd.k12.wa.us)

*Stephanie Leitz*, Principal

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Mules

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## **Important Dates & Fees**

August 28<sup>th</sup> Online Applications Due

August 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00-12:00 Freshmen & New Student Orientation

August 29<sup>th</sup> Last Day for Schedule Changes

September 3<sup>th</sup> – 8:30, 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School ☺

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

September 9<sup>th</sup> - School Pictures 8:30

September 10<sup>th</sup> – 3:45, Cross Country @ Onalaska

September 13<sup>th</sup> – 7:00, Home Football vs. Adna

September 17<sup>th</sup> – 5:45, Home Volleyball vs. Naselle

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 even if you don't receive/want assistance with meals. This form provides us with grant funding. Thank you!*