

VOLUME 29
ISSUE 1
AUGUST 2023



THE CAT CONNECTION



MISSION

WILDCAT
Mission Statement
To achieve personal excellence we:
🐾 ENGAGE IN LEARNING
🐾 ACCOMPLISH GOALS
🐾 BUILD RELATIONSHIPS
🐾 DEVELOP CITIZENSHIP
"TOGETHER we succeed!"



VISION



MOTTO



23-24 THEME



CONTACT US:

MAIN OFFICE: 309-557-4402

ATTENDANCE LINE: 309-557-4451

COUNSELING OFFICE: 309-557-4969

ATHLETIC OFFICE: 309-557-4975

Click on the [LINK](#) for an all staff phone list to find your contact info for your assistant principal, counselor, nurse, and all of our staff.

Visit our Normal West Website: <https://www.unit5.org/normalwest>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/normalwesthighschool>



BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION



ANGIE CODRON

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

It is truly an honor to serve as the Normal West principal. This is my 18th year at Normal West and my 8th year as an administrator, previously serving in the Associate Principal role. I **LOVE EVERYTHING** about Normal West and have since the first day I arrived and read the mission statement hanging on the wall of my classroom. We believe working as a #teamWorks best which begins with trusting one another (students, families, and our staff) to help our students reach achievement level for whatever that may mean for them and their journey through high school.



#TEAMWORKS TRIANGLE

INSTAGRAM: success4west
TWITTER: @NCWHSACodron

EMAIL: codrona@unit5.org
SCHOOL PHONE: 309-557-4579
SCHOOL CELL PHONE: 309-275-0885

WILDCATS ARE...RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, INVESTED IN LEARNING, + COLLABORATIVE







KATTITUDE

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SYSTEM (PBIS)

Please view the 1 pagers for each of our 4 learner characteristics. Review the common expectations for this year that we will be working on school-wide. We will be focusing on a new learner characteristic every 4 weeks during the 1st semester.

- ★ [RESPECTFUL](#)
- ★ [RESPONSIBLE](#)
- ★ [INVESTED IN LEARNING](#)
- ★ [COLLABORATIVE](#)


WILDCATS ARE...RESPECTFUL

 PARKING LOT PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ GOT A STUDENT DRIVER OR PLANNING ON PICKING UP YOUR STUDENT AFTER SCHOOL? ★ Check out the parking lot plan. This plan was created with our student, staff, and family's safety in mind. Thanks in advance for helping to follow these procedures.
 PARKING PASSES	<p>JUNIORS AND SENIORS DRIVING TO SCHOOL...NEED A PARKING PASS!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ There are a limited number of parking spots available. Juniors and Seniors will be able to purchase their permits first using THIS LINK. The parking pass fee must be paid in Infinite Campus "store" before a parking permit will be issued. Not obeying the parking lot plan or other rules of the road while on school property could result in loss of parking/driving privileges.
 STUDENT DELIVERIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Normal West High School does not accept deliveries of food, drinks, flowers, candy, balloons, or gifts for students. Fast food lunch deliveries will not be accepted for students. Students taking blended, BACC, internship, work program, or computer science cohort classes are not allowed to bring in drinks/food for other students. Fast food purchased for themselves must be eaten before entering the building. Students are always allowed to bring sack lunches or lunch boxes from home to school.
 BELL SCHEDULES	<p>Bell Schedule Regular School Day Bell Schedule Half Day-NO HOMEROOMS ON ½ DAYS THIS YEAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Please be on time to school. The school doors open at 7:15am daily. Students are able to arrive early, gather in the cafeterias, upstairs or downstairs hallway, IMC, or meet with teachers. Walking in at 8:30am (or after 😞) does not give students enough time to get breakfast and get to their class by the 1st hour bell to engage in the great lessons our teachers have planned for them!



WILDCATS ARE...RESPONSIBLE



REGISTRATION MEMO

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT REGISTERING YOUR STUDENT?

- ★ All families are required to complete online registration through Infinite Campus. Please do so, if you have not completed this process so we can welcome back all of our wildcats on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 for the first day of school.
- ★ Click on the [Registration Memo Link](#) to learn about registration stations, parking passes, PE clothes, PTO spirit wear, purchasing a lock, etc. Join us for registration times to be able to find your locker, get your schedule, take yearbook photos, and turn in physicals. School fees and extras (parking pass, yearbooks, athletic passes, etc) will be in Infinite Campus parent portal for you to view/choose/pay.
- ★ **MOVED?** If you have moved recently you will need to show **3 items as proof of residency**: utility bills, closing documents, lease agreements, and driver's license are a few of the forms of proof we can accept to enroll your student.



STUDENT IDS + SCANNING

- ★ It is imperative that ALL students scan their ID when boarding and exiting the bus. **This includes all field trips and athletic events.** Pictures of IDs on phones will not work.
- ★ Lanyards, bungee backpack cords and/or phone pockets are available for any students that need these items through our IMC (library).
- ★ Student IDs are required for use in lunch lines as well.
- ★ Replacement IDs can be purchased in our IMC (library).



NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

- ★ Unit 5 and our High Schools (NCHS and NCWHS) are happy to share that our district will be adopting School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. Unit 5 elementary and junior high schools have already adopted these programs, and our high schools are excited to join for the upcoming 23/24 school year.
- ★ While there will be some changes to the food offerings, many of the changes will be minor. Different food and beverages will be offered as a la carte options in the cafeteria, sold during extracurricular events, club and fundraising opportunities (on specific dates during the year) throughout the school day, and available for purchase in vending machines and other kiosks/venues within the school.



SCHOOL SAFETY

Normal West High School has a full time School Resource Officer on campus. His goal is to help provide a safe learning environment and provide valuable resources to staff members.

- ★ Each school has an emergency plan. All staff are trained on these plans yearly. Safety drills are conducted throughout the school year for tornado, fire, and evacuation.
- ★ All Visitors must enter through the main entrance. **Be prepared to show your State ID/Drivers License as we will be piloting a new system that scans these IDs, runs a background check, and creates a sticker badge to wear while on-site.**
- ★ All exterior doors remain locked during the school day. Students and staff should never open any door for another adult or student during school hours. Students should only enter and leave through the main entrance of the school.
- ★ Security cameras are located throughout the school for safety.
- ★ Doors should never be propped open by students or staff. Any door found propped open should be shut/locked and reported immediately.
- ★ If you see something on social media, hear a conversation, or witness something that is concerning or unsafe, please contact the school immediately.



WILDCATS ARE...INVESTED IN LEARNING



BLENDED CLASS + VIRTUAL STUDY HALL PROTOCOL

View the following Blended Class Protocols (updated for 23-24 school year) or check out the virtual study hall options. ****NOTE: FLEX DAYS FOR BLENDED COURSEWORK OR VIRTUAL STUDY HALLS WILL NOT START UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST 10 DAYS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.**

- ★ [Unit 5 Blended protocol](#)
- ★ [Student/Family Blended Communication](#)
- ★ [Virtual Study Hall Family/Student Email](#)



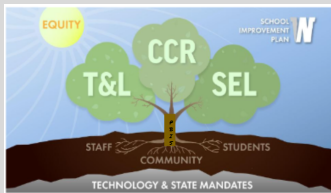
ATTENDANCE LINE

ATTENDANCE LINE: 309-557-4451

- ★ If your student needs to be absent all day, part of the day, or needs to be released at a certain time, please call our attendance line to report the absence or early release.
- ★ Chronic absenteeism is a success marker that our school is evaluated on yearly by the State of Illinois. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing more than 10% of a school year. Approximately 180 school days per year means that missing more than 18 total days or more than 2 days per month would put a student over the threshold to be considered chronically absent.



SIP



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING (SIP)

Normal West staff is working on improvement of our practices as educators constantly. We are able to use our SIP (pictured on the left) as a guide to help focus our work for what our students need from us the most. We will be looking for ways to incorporate our students and families into our School Improvement work, so be on the lookout in future newsletters for these opportunities to engage with us!

- ★ CCR College Career Readiness
- ★ SEL Social Emotional Learning
- ★ T & L Teaching and Learning
- ★ Equity
- ★ PBIS Positive Behavior Intervention System



WILDCATS ARE...COLLABORATIVE



FMP/AMP

- ★ FMP: Our Freshmen Mentoring Program helps find ways to make sure our incoming freshmen learn the Wildcat Way as they transition from junior high to high school. Freshmen are mentored by junior and senior leaders.

It takes an adult 7 days to 7 weeks to make an impact on a student's life, but it only takes another student their age or slightly older 7 seconds to 7 minutes to make a difference!

- ★ AMP: Advanced Mentoring Program with sophomores who opted into a specialized homeroom that will be led by Corey Ostling, our post secondary counselor, and juniors and senior AMP mentors with a focus on leadership.



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

- ★ Please join us for the Back to School Night Open House scheduled for Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 6:30pm starting in the Auditorium. Enter in Door A Main entrance or Door D Bus lane doors. Have your student's schedule available for viewing and follow [this bell schedule](#). Refreshments will be provided in the atrium area during lunch hours and study halls.



SHOUT OUT LINK

WANT TO SHARE SOME GOOD NEWS ABOUT A STAFF MEMBER?

- ★ Click on this [LINK](#) to complete a shout out form anytime throughout the year and we will share it with our Normal West staff for you!



MAKING AN APPOINTMENT

- ★ Family involvement is an integral part of the success of each student at Normal West. We want to be able to give you the dedicated time you need to speak with our staff members. Please make an appointment with the staff member (admin, counselor, nurse, teacher, social worker, etc) you need to meet with to help support your student. Contact the staff member directly via email or phone to schedule appointments or call our main office: 309-557-4402. Our staff may not be available to meet with you without a pre-scheduled appointment.



PTO + OTHER PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

LOOKING FOR SPIRIT WEAR TO SUPPORT NORMAL WEST?

- ★ Click on the flyer or the [LINK](#) to visit the Spirit Wear store. Store closes August 23rd so act fast!
- ★ PTO meets on the first Tuesday of the month in the Normal West IMC (library) with virtual link available to join meetings available as well.
- ★ Reach out if you want to learn more about Booster Club or Post Prom!!



GET INVOLVED

- ★ IHSА ATHLETICS and ACTIVITIES: If you student is interested in participating in any of our IHSА athletic teams or IHSА Activities for the upcoming school year, contact our athletic director, Wes Temples, with any questions on eligibility, practices times, tryouts, etc.
 - Phone: 309-557-4976 or Email: templesw@unit5.org or 8 to 18 Athletic Website: <http://il.8to18.com/ncwhs>
- ★ CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS: Please visit our [Normal West Website](#) to find out more about our clubs and organizations.



**IMPORTANT
DATES**

**IMPORTANT DATES TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 23-24
SCHOOL YEAR:**

[Unit 5 Calendar](#)

August 14 (8-10:30am) and August 15 (1-3:30pm)-Make-up Registration:

August 16 - First Day of School for ALL Wildcats

August 22 - Parent/Guardian Open House

September 4 - No School

September 12 - ½ day of School

September 29 - No School: Institute Day

October 2-6 - Homecoming Week

October 7 - Homecoming Dance

October 9 - No School

October 18 - ½ day of School

November 3 - Parent/Guardian Conferences

November 9 - ½ day of School

November 22-24 - No School

November 29 - Incoming Freshmen Night

December 7 - ½ day of School

December 19-21 - Final Assessment Days (Special Schedule)

December 22-January 8 - Winter Break

January 9 - 1st Day of School for 2nd Semester

January 15 - No School

February 2 - ½ day of School

February 19 - No School

February 20 - No School: Institute Day

March 4 - ½ day of School; Juniors IL Science Testing Day

March 25-29 - SPRING BREAK

April 10 - ALL SCHOOL TESTING DAY (9th-11th); Non-attendance for Seniors

April 12 - No School: Institute Day

April 20 - PROM @ ISU Ballroom

May 1 - ½ day of School

May 17, 20-21 - Tentatively set as Final Assessment Days (Special Schedule)

May 22 - LAST ½ day of School (pending no emergency days used)

May 25 - GRADUATION 2pm

EVERYDAY - A GREAT DAY TO BE A WILDCAT