



WSD NEWS

September 2023



Important Dates

September 29: Independent Learning Day

October 25: No Elementary Class

No PM Class Secondary

October 26-27: No School

November 22-24: No School

December 8: Independent Learning Day

December 25-29: No School

School Board Meeting Agendas

WSD Calendar

WSD E-FLYERS

WSD Planetarium



New Environmental Learning Center Open House November 13!



The new Environmental Learning Center is complete and we're excited to provide you with an opportunity to check it out for yourself! We are currently planning an open house event during the evening of Monday, November 13th. Please watch for more information in the coming weeks!



September 2023

Wausau School District Receives Multi-Year Grant to Support Mental Health Programming for Students



The Wausau School District is able to support the mental health of students even more thanks to a multi-year grant from Connexus Cares -- the philanthropic program at Connexus Credit Union. During the Education/Operations Committee Meeting on Monday, September 25, they presented the School Board with a check for \$120,000 (\$40,000 per year for the next 3 years). In addition, the Wausau School District also received a \$20,000 check from the WEA Member Benefits Foundation to support the cause. The remaining funding of \$40,000 will come from the state Department of Public Instruction over the next three years.

The money the District received, will allow us to hire a Homelessness Mental Health Navigator. This person will lead initiatives around school-based counseling services, increased academic-career planning for secondary students experiencing homelessness, as well as increased community collaboration with other local school districts and the Marathon County Health Department.

"The Wausau School District is so grateful to Connexus Credit Union and the WEA Member Benefits Association, as well as DPI, for this amazing gift that will allow us to improve mental health services and programs for our students, parents, faculty, and staff. The ability to focus solely on the students' overall well-being and mental health, when combined with academics, will no doubt help them reach their full potential," said Wausau School District Coordinator of Pupil Services Andy Grimm.

"When the Wausau School District shared their recent findings with us regarding the state of mental health among Wausau-area students, the statistics really spoke for themselves," said Boyd Gustke, Connexus President and Chief Executive Officer. "It was an immediate call for help that we didn't hesitate to answer, knowing that the time is now to advocate for our future generations. The students are our leaders of tomorrow, and it's critical that we do everything in our power to address mental health issues early on and set our children up for success. Connexus is grateful to have the opportunity to support this initiative, and we encourage others to join us in our efforts to create stability and meaningful change in our community."

The Wausau School District is fortunate to have such wonderful state and community partners that work to support our students. It means so much to us and we're extremely grateful.



September 2023

District Restructuring Updates

The Wausau School District is working extremely hard to ensure the restructuring is done well and that it benefits our students, their families, and our staff. As we plan for that, we're exploring possible solutions to inadequate Science spaces at Wausau West. We've been working closely with staff at Wausau West and Wausau East to work through this challenge. To ensure transparency, we also want to make sure the Board, and the broader community, are aware of it too so that collectively we can come together to discuss and work through possible solutions. At the end of the day, our goal of the restructure is to ensure that students have expanded developmentally-appropriate opportunities and stronger supports.

As we work through that, the results of the second mascot survey are in! THANK YOU so much for taking the time to submit your feedback - we had more than 2,500 responses!

Here are the mascot ideas that received 150 votes or more, in no particular order:

- **Raptors**
- **Gladiators**
- **Wolverines**
- **War Hawks**
- **Wolves**
- **Granite Crushers**
- **Woodsmen**
- **Wolfpack**
- **Titans**
- **Loggers**
- **Mountaineers**
- **Patriots**
- **Wildcats**

So, what's next? Our focus groups will be meeting in mid-October so that they can come together to talk about your top ideas and identify which ones will move on to the next round. Warjacks will also go before the focus groups as a potential mascot for our newly merged junior and senior high schools.

Once the focus groups meet, we will take the results of this second survey, along with the feedback from the focus groups to the School Board for discussion and consideration in November. Following that, we will launch a third community-wide survey to help inform the School Board's decision. As always, thank you for your partnership and feedback – we do appreciate it!

[Click here to stay
up-to-date](#)





September 2023



West High National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Congratulations to Madeline Hahn and Luke Kedrowski, West High seniors, for being named National Merit® Scholarship Semifinalists in the 69th annual National Merit® Scholarship Program!

Over 1.5 million juniors in about 21,000 high schools enter the National Merit Scholarship Program each year by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). To become a Finalist, the Semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application to provide information about the Semifinalist's academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received.

This year, 16,000 talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship® award, Semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the Finalist level of the competition. About 95 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and approximately half of the Finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title.



West High National Merit Commended Scholar

Congratulations to Jacob "Jake" Hahn, senior at West High, for being named a National Merit® Commended Scholar in the 69th annual National Merit® Scholarship Program! Over 1.5 million juniors enter the National Merit Scholarship Program each year by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). Commended recognition is given to students in approximately the top 96th percentile of all scores.





September 2023

Wausau Girls Golf Earns 2023 Wisconsin Valley Conference Championship

Congratulations to the Wausau Girls Golf Varsity team for taking first place at Conference Leg 7 at Wisconsin River Golf Club and becoming the 2023 Wisconsin Valley Conference Champions! They were led by Tally Schlindwein (East High) in 1st place, Ella Lambrecht (West High) and Ayla Trollop (West High) tied for 5th place, and Ella Wendling (West High) in 9th place. The JV Girls finished in 3rd place. They were led by Sam Gaffney (West High) in 3rd place and Anika Creisher (West High) in 6th place.



Wausau School District players also earned the following All-Conference Awards:
Top Player in the Conference - Tally Schlindwein
1st Team All-Conference - Tally Schlindwein and Ayla Trollop
2nd Team All-Conference - Ella Lambrecht
Honorable Mention All-Conference - Ella Wendling

Wausau Girls Golf is a combined high school golf team of athletes from East High and West High.



Wausau Area Builders Association "Build My Future" Event a Success

Technology Education and Engineering students from East High and West High joined other area high schools for the 2nd annual "Build My Future" event hosted by the Wausau Area Builders Association in partnership with Kolbe Windows & Doors! Professionals from over 50 businesses in the building, agriculture, and transportation industries demonstrated house wrap, insulation, carpet installation, plumbing, electrical, cabinet trimming, door hanging, house design, land surveying, utilities, and much more to over 800 students. Thank you Northcentral Technical College, the many businesses, and volunteers for hosting this awesome opportunity for the students!



September 2023

Buy Wausau School District
High School Sporting Event Tickets
at [GOFAN.CO](https://www.gofan.co)

All the Sporting Event Schedules
can be found [HERE](#).

REMINDER:



Buy East High and West High
Sporting Event Tickets
Online at GOFAN.CO



WIRED Conference 2023

The 2023 WIRED Conference is in the books! What an amazing couple of days it was! Full of learning and collaboration for our Wausau School District staff! We are so grateful to offer this opportunity in collaboration with the D.C. Everest and Mosinee school districts!



September 2023

67th Annual Bill Smiley Invitational Cross Country Meet



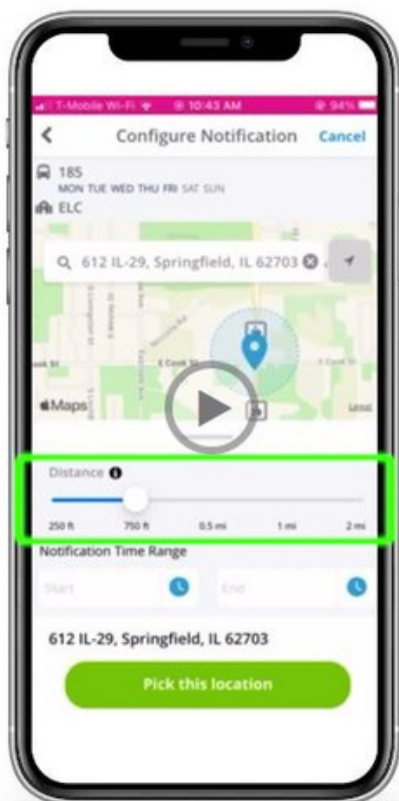
The 67th Annual Bill Smiley Invitational Cross Country Meet was a success! It is Northern Wisconsin's oldest invitational cross-country meet held on the new Bill Smiley Memorial Course at East High for the 4th year now! The meet continues to provide the best competition for the greatest number of runners. This year East High hosted 55 schools with more than 1,100 runners!

Three new course records were set:

Division III Boys Race which also broke the all-time meet record by 6 seconds

Division III Girls Race

Division I Large Boys Race which rebroke the all-time course record by another second.



Download FirstView®: A Vital Communication Tool

Now that we are a month into school, we want to remind you to download a vital communication tool for parents of students who utilize First Student (yellow buses) to get to and from school.

The FirstView® app tracks your student's bus AND it can provide updates on bus cancellations: weather, or otherwise. Since the start of the school year, there have been a few glitches with the app. We've worked through those and now it's officially working as it should! So, if you haven't yet, now's the time to download it. You can [click here](#) to learn more.

To help ensure you have everything you need to get set up, we are providing you with a Quick Start Guide available by [clicking here](#). If you'd prefer to register with your student's ID, [click here](#). If you don't have your student's ID or can't remember what it is, remember you can access it in Infinite Campus. If you have any issues, please call the Longfellow Administration Center at 715-261-0500.

An IMPORTANT NOTE: In order to receive bus cancellation notifications, you need to ensure notifications are allowed for FirstView® in your phone settings. We encourage you to add up to 3 emails that will receive these notifications. You can do this by navigating in the app to Settings > Notification Recipients.



September 2023

Thank you to all of our Wausau School District Technology Department Staff for keeping all of our schools and systems running smoothly!

Director of Technology and Media Services
Jon Euting

District Techs
Dennis Wendt
Scott Romang
Mike LaPorte
Travis Bruch
Jason Kurzinski
Julie Abraham

District Level Technical Resource Assistant
Jenny Johnson

Building Level Technical Assistants
Kori Zastrow - MOB
Joe Newman - Rib Mountain, South Mountain, Stettin, and Lincoln
Hou Yang - Hawthorn, Franklin, Marshall, and GD Jones
Greg Glovinski - Maine, Riverview, and Thomas Jefferson
Lauri Utecht - John Muir and Grant
David Vang - West High, School Forest, JDC, and Longfellow
Matt LaPorte - Horace Mann, Montessori, Hewitt-Texas
Kelly Camarato - East High and EEA Learning Academy

AV Technical Assistants
Glenn Peters - East High
Kong Thao - West High

Automation and Tech Admin Asst
Linda Christiansen

Student Accounting and Tech Admin Asst
Vicki Karo



Thankful for all of our
**Incredible
Tech Department
Specialists!**

Integration Specialists

Reggie Smith
Kirsten Rock
Melissa Piette
Laura Morris
Jeremy Jaeger

Tech Mentors

Jessica Smith - Franklin
Theresa Webb - Grant
Michele Anderson - Hawthorn Hills
Olivia Sinkler - Hewitt-Texas
Jill Ebersold and Heather Trollop - Thomas Jefferson
Katelynn Neidner and Stacy Kelly - GD Jones
Megan Gast - Lincoln
Lindsey Sorenson and Dana Rassmussen - Maine
Mariah Thimm and Kerry Euting - John Marshall
Halie Koebe and Stephanie Zingler - Rib Mountain
Joshua Her and Sana Wressel - Riverview
Jayme Rusnick - South Mountain
Thomas Dziadosz - Stettin
Carolyn Maronek - Montessori
Nate Grams - Horace Mann
Sara Hinke and Rebekah Cveykus - John Muir
Kimberly Zimmermann - EEA Learning Academy
Jannel McCallum - East High
Adam Ellenbecker and Kim Elzinga - West High



September 2023

West High Dual Credits Earned

Over 400 students from West High earned dual credits worth over \$200,000 in tuition with 1,686 attempted credits during the 2022-2023 school year! Thanks to the West High faculty and our partners at Northcentral Technical College for providing this amazing opportunity to our students!



Thank you for the Generous Donations Received by the Wausau School District



Thank you to the customers, clients, and staff of Prevail Bank in Wausau for their generous donation of school supplies and funds to help out Wausau School District students this year! Branch manager Jarrod Spinnato dropped off the donations just in time for the schools' open houses.



Thank you to the members and staff of Halama's Championship Martial Arts in Wausau for their generous donation of school supplies to help out Wausau School District students this year! Owner Jessica Halama is pictured center with district staff from the Pupil Services Department and the Education Department.



September 2023

Miss America Visits the Wausau School District

Current Miss America and Wausau West High alumni Grace Stanke stopped in to visit with students from South Mountain Elementary School last week!



Miss America Also Helps Kickoff Homecoming 2023 at Wausau West High



Miss America also visited Wausau West High School to help kickoff Homecoming 2023! She spoke with students to share an important message: DREAM BIG!

To watch a video of her visit, click the icon below!





September 2023

Make a Plan to Visit the Wausau School District Planetarium Shows!

See the full schedule and purchase tickets here:
<http://www.wausauspace.org/public>

Tickets are \$5 per person and only available online via this website.
There is no in-person box office.



Check out all these fantastic shows and programs at the Wausau School District Planetarium located at West High School! Full dome content is displayed on a large hemispherical ceiling all around you, so you feel like you're in space!

The First Stargazers - Fridays - September 29, October 6, 13, and 20 at 6:00pm

Journey back in time to explore how the first stargazers experienced the sky above. Your guide is Nashira, a friendly time traveler who has visited Earth many times before. Witness the very first stargazer making a Moon calendar out of animal bone 30,000 years ago. Discover the ancient pyramids of Giza and their alignment to the skies. See stunning digital re-creations of the Parthenon, Alexandria Library, Stonehenge and Abu Simbel Temple and be inspired by the first stargazers who laid down the foundations of modern-day astronomy.

Ooky Spooky Space - Fridays - October 27 at 6:00pm AND 7:30pm

Looking for cosmic fun this Halloween season? Would you like to hear the story of the holiday's heavenly origin and meet the stars -- the stars of Halloween? Monsters, zombies, and ghosts -- and their far more terrible counterparts in space? Oh yes, space has its monsters: Black holes, zombie stars, and spectacular ghostly nebulae! Note: Flashing lights and loud music.



September 2023



Wausau East Volleyball Team Visits Madison to Watch Wisconsin Volleyball Play

The Lumberjack Volleyball team from Wausau East High traveled to Madison to watch the No. 1 Wisconsin volleyball team come out of the Big Ten home opener with yet another sweep, as they downed Indiana, 25-13, 25-23, 25-18!



East High International Club Prepares Greek Dinner

Thirty-three members of the East High International Club gathered to prepare and enjoy a Greek dinner! A Greek salad, hummus, tzatziki sauce, marinated chicken, and baklava were all part of the delicious menu!



September 2023



Building Trades and Advanced Manufacturing Students Attend the Bricklayer 500

Building Trades and Advanced Manufacturing students from West High attended the Bricklayer 500 in Fond du Lac and visited with masons and multiple companies from all over the state. West seniors Sawyer Zyzdik and Timmy Gospodarek both competed in the Jr. Bricklayer 500 event building their first-ever brick wall.



West High DECA Adopt-A-Highway

The West High DECA Leadership Team kicked off their Adopt-A-Highway program for the year! DECA members clean up their adopted highway sections throughout the year.



ONE Network for VOLUNTEERS

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3 EASY STEPS

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My Impact Profile



Volunteer Handbook



KATIE CROTTEAU
VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY
INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR
715-261-0584
kcrotteau@wausauschools.org





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The Wausau School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex (including transgender status, change of sex, or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes").