



WIDEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 3

THE WIDEFIELD WAY

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Webster Elementary's mascot, the Wildcat, proudly wears a cap and gown during the WSD3 Community Parade.



Why Widefield?

BY SAM BRIGGS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

In the vibrant community of Widefield School District 3 (WSD3), families have a wonderful array of educational choices for their children. Nestled in the southeast part of Colorado Springs, this "small town in a big city" offers not just quality education but several options to meet every student's unique needs.

School Options:

- Traditional Schools (PreK-12): WSD3 boasts a variety of traditional schools that cater to the educational journey from Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade.

- Charter School: For families seeking a different approach, WSD3 includes a charter school for students in grades K-8.
- The Haven School (K-12 Virtual School): Embracing modern needs, The Haven School provides a full-time and part-time virtual model allowing K-12 students in-person access and resources.
- Discovery High School: As an alternative high school, Discovery uses specialized learning materials, giving students flexible options to complete their education. Night classes are also available!

See **Why Widefield?** page 2

Did You Know?

WSD3 provides before and after school programs at all elementary schools

WSD3 has safety and security coverage for all schools in the district

WSD3 saves families money - no bus fees, no classroom fees



BY ERIC HULEN
DIRECTOR OF WIDEFIELD PARKS AND RECREATION

Widefield Parks and Recreation (WPR) is now offering even more opportunities for learning, creating, playing, and staying fit. With the recent opening of our new recreation center in July, we have expanded our space and resources, allowing us to grow existing programs and introduce exciting new options.

This fall, we introduced the Colorado Universal Preschool for 4-year-olds, providing a tuition-free preschool experience for 61 students. They attend either a morning or afternoon session five days a week, engaging in a developmentally appropriate curriculum that prepares them for success in kindergarten. Our focus is on literacy, math, science, and essential life skills for a smooth transition to full-day kindergarten. Recently, our preschool classes enjoyed a STEM Day activity at the Security Public Library, where they explored the new Makerspace and experienced 3D printers, a laser engraver, a flight simulator, and robots.

Andrew O' Such, Recreation Specialist – Children's Programs, noted, "The addition of Colorado Universal Preschool has provided parents and students throughout the community with an affordable, safe, and engaging learning environment."

We've also seen a significant increase in youth and adult participation in sports leagues and open play. This past fall, our sports fields were bustling with young athletes having fun, being active, and learning the fundamentals of cheer, soccer, and flag football. As we move indoors for the winter, the recreation center has become a central hub for youth sports practices and games. Adults are enjoying softball, volleyball, cornhole, and our new pickleball league. For those who prefer a more casual approach, open gym times are available throughout the day at the recreation center.

Sam Low, Recreation Specialist – Sports, highlighted, "Since the opening of the recreation center, the gymnasium has become a dynamic sports hub for all ages, including junior high and high school students. It's evolving into a preferred destination for pickleball enthusiasts during colder weather and a central location for WPR youth sports league practices. The gymnasium embodies the spirit of togetherness in our multigenerational Widefield community."

Our fitness area at the recreation center is vibrant and welcoming. Whether you're just starting your fitness journey or looking for something new, we have something for everyone. The cardio, weights, and track areas allow you to work at your own pace. If you prefer group activities, join one of our group fitness classes, including High-Intensity Interval Training (HIIT), cycling, weightlifting, yoga, and the popular bungee classes. Best of all, fitness classes are included with a daily pass or membership. For those seeking more personalized guidance, we offer personal training at an additional cost.

Jason Dandino, Recreation Specialist – Health and Fitness, shared, "The new fitness classes have created a supportive community to help people on their fitness journeys. Our instructors are skilled at meeting individuals at their level, making in-class adjustments to ensure everyone feels comfortable and challenged, regardless of age."

WPR remains committed to offering high-quality programs that foster community engagement. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to our guest service experts at the front desk of the recreation center.

Upcoming Important Dates
November 20 & 21 - Aquatics Center and Child Watch Closed
November 22 - Aquatics Center Open from 1pm to 2:30pm
November 23 - WPR Closed - Happy Thanksgiving!

Why Widefield? From page 1

- Pathways to Success:**
WSD3 doesn't just educate; it paves pathways. Whether students aim for college or the workforce, the district provides tailored programs such as:
- **STEAM:** Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math programs inspire and prepare students for high-demand careers.
 - **Computer Science:** In an ever-evolving digital world, WSD3 places emphasis on computer science, equipping students with critical tech skills.
 - **Project-Based Learning:** Real-world problems meet classroom solutions, encouraging students to learn by doing.
 - **Performing Arts:** For those with a creative spark,

- performing arts programs including music, art, and theater offer a stage to shine.
- **Industry Trades:** Hands-on skills in construction, cabinetry, and welding at the Manufacturing Industry Learning Lab (MiLL) open doors to in-demand, practical career paths.

College Credit & Industry Certifications:
An exciting highlight in WSD3 is the dual enrollment program, where students can earn college credits while still in high school. This not only gives students a head start but also introduces them to college-level work in a supportive environment.

Students can also earn industry certifications which show they have a specific skill set and ability to perform. This increases their workforce opportunities after graduation. Some of the certifications include:



November 24 - Recreation Center Holiday Hours (5:30am - 1pm)
November 24 - Aquatics Center Hours - 5:30am - 2:30pm
December 5: Holiday Tree Lighting
December 18 - January 1: In order to complete a portion of the construction project all classes, activities and daily use at the Recreation Center will be canceled - the pool will remain open.

Stay Connected
Check out our website at parksandrec.wsd3.org, download the Widefield Parks and Recreation app, and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and X.

Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration

Join us for our 18th annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration at Widefield Parks & Recreation (WPR), presented by Children's Hospital Colorado! It's happening on Tuesday, December 5, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Santa will light the tree at 5:30 pm to kick off the fun.

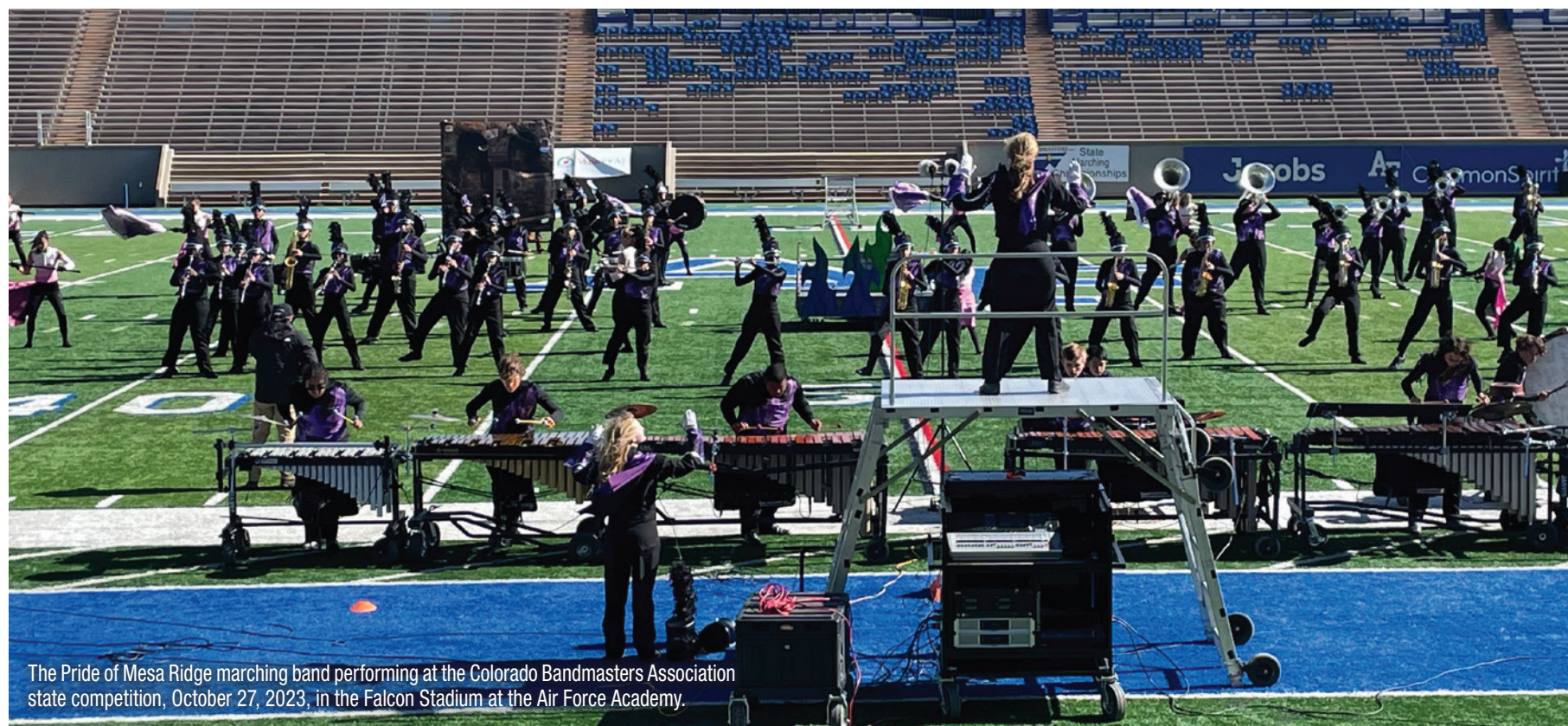
Activities for the whole family include singing carols, enjoying hot drinks and cookies, writing letters to Santa, hayrides, taking photos in a booth, shopping at a craft fair, making s'mores, and more! Don't forget your camera to snap a picture with Santa.

We'll also have food vendors like Tuns of Fun Hot Dogs, Go Fish, and Amazing Kettle Corn on-site with delicious treats. The event will be at the new WPR center parking lot.

Traffic will stay open around the circle drive this year, and you can park in any lots around the recreation center except the main parking lot, which will be closed for the event.

For more information, contact the WPR office at (719) 391-3515 or visit our website at ParksAndRec.wsd3.org. Come celebrate with us!

- AVID Certified Pro Tool User certifications
 - ASE Maintenance & Light Repair Automotive certifications
 - Phlebotomist certifications
 - Automotive certifications
 - Home Builders Institute certifications
 - Woodwork Career Alliance certifications
- Make Your Choice**
In Widefield School District 3, education is not just about learning; it's about choice, opportunity, and pathways to a bright future. Here, every child finds a place to learn, grow, and achieve, every day. The open enrollment period for all schools is December through the end of February for the 2024-2025 school year. The Haven School is accepting applications for second semester which starts January 8, 2024. Go to wsd3.org to learn more or call (719) 391-3000.



The Pride of Mesa Ridge marching band performing at the Colorado Bandmasters Association state competition, October 27, 2023, in the Falcon Stadium at the Air Force Academy.

Widefield Students Hit High Note: Music Programs Win Big and Earn Spotlight Performances

BY JACK SELTENRIGHT
WSD3 MUSIC DIRECTOR

Orchestra Selection for CMEA

In January 2024, the Janitell Junior High School Select Choir and the Widefield High School Orchestra will take center stage at the prestigious Colorado Music Educator Association (CMEA) Convention. Their selection is a testament to the exceptional talent within the district's music program.

Mesa Ridge High School Classic Choral

The Mesa Ridge High School Classic Choral group is in the spotlight, as they have been chosen to sing the national anthem at the 2023 CASBE convention. This remarkable opportunity showcases the excellence of the Mesa Ridge music program.

Marching Band Triumphs

Both Mesa Ridge High School and Widefield High School have shown their musical prowess on a competitive stage. The Pride of Mesa Ridge marching

band achieved an impressive 8th place in the state, while the Widefield Gladiator marching band claimed the 14th spot in the Colorado Bandmasters Association competition.

SWACDA Honor Choir Selection

The WSD3 music program has reason to celebrate, with ten talented students from Mesa Ridge and Widefield accepted into the 2024 SWACDA (Southwestern American Choral Directors Association) honor choir. Their performances at the upcoming convention in Denver will undoubtedly be a highlight.

Upcoming Music Events:

- Don't miss the Winterfest concerts at both Mesa Ridge and Widefield High Schools, a perfect way to enjoy the festive season with melodious tunes.
- Mark your calendars for the District 3 Honor Choir Festival on December 9th at 2:30 PM, hosted at Widefield High School. It promises to be a day filled with exceptional vocal performances.



The Widefield Gladiator marching band performing at the Colorado Bandmasters Association state competition, October 27, 2023, in the Falcon Stadium at the Air Force Academy.



The Pride of Mesa Ridge marching in the WSD3 Community Parade, September 22, 2023, in Security/Widefield, Colorado. Photo by Randall Jr. Photography



The color guard and band at Widefield High School marching in the WSD3 Community Parade, September 22, 2023, in Security/Widefield, Colorado. Photo by Randall Jr. Photography

Important Dates

Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration

December 5

Elementary & Jr. High Choir Festival

December 9

WSD3 Toy Drive

December 19

VEX VRC Robotics & Aerial Drone

January 20

Elementary & Jr. High Chess Tournament

January 31

Science With A Twist (SWAT)

February 3

Spelling Bee (grades 4-5)

February 6

First LEGO League Festival (grades 2-3)

February 24

Coding in Action Competition (grades 3 -5)

March 9

**Please check your child's school calendar, the District calendar, and the District Music Calendar for upcoming activities and events.



WIDEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 3

To Learn, Grow, Achieve:
Every Child, Every Classroom, Every Day

CAREERS IN WIDEFIELD!



- Hiring All Positions
- Free Health Center
- Parks & Recreation Center
- Mentorship Programs

wsd3.org/careers-in-widefield

719-391-3015

