



Williamston High School Bi-Weekly News & Notes February 7, 2025

Dear WHS Students and Families,

Below are updates and reminders that we hope you find helpful. If you have any questions, please visit the [WHS website](#) or contact the main office at 517-655-2142.

Important Upcoming Dates:

February 12	Winter Count Day
February 14	Half day K-12 AM only
February 17	No School K-12 - Presidents' Day; WHS offices closed
March 7	Half day K-12 AM only
March 13	Half day K-12 AM only WHS parent/teacher conferences 12:30-2:30 PM & 4-7 PM
March 21-30	No school K-12 - Spring break; WHS offices closed
April 18	No school K-12 - Good Friday; WHS offices closed
May 3	Junior/Senior Prom
May 26	No school K-12 - Memorial Day; WHS offices closed
June 4	Half day WHS AM only - 1st & 2nd hour exams 2025/26 scheduling drops & adds 11:30 - 2:30 PM
June 5	Half day WHS AM only - 3rd & 4th hour exams 2025/26 scheduling drops & adds 11:30 - 2:30 PM
June 6	Half day K-12 AM only; last day of school - 5th & 6th hour exams
June 8	WHS Commencement Ceremony 1:00 PM

Winter Count Day - February 12

Winter count day is Wednesday, Feb 12. We ask that students are in attendance for the entire school day; however, if an appointment is necessary, please provide a medical note on the student's return to school. This would apply to any of the following: doctor, dentist, physical therapist, therapy, urgent care, orthodontist. If you have any questions about count day, please contact the main office at 655-2142.

1st Semester Report Cards

Report cards were emailed home on January 29. If you have questions about report cards, please contact the WHS main office at 517-655-2142.

WHS Credit Tracking Sheets

All 10th-12th grade students and parents have access to a Google Form that contains the student's graduation credit progress. Lori Enfield originally shared this Form with you via email. Current 9th grade students and parents will receive an email from Lori Enfield providing access to the student's credit tracking form in the next week. The counselors have editing rights to these forms and update them after each semester. Students and families are able to make comments on the forms, viewable by the counselors, if there are questions or thoughts about the student's credit progress. An example credit tracking form can be found [here](#).

We are hopeful these tracking forms, which are to date through the end of the 1st semester of the current school year, provide students and families with enhanced clarity with regard to each student's earned credit standing as he/she works towards graduation. If you have any questions about the credit tracking forms, please contact the WHS counseling office at 517-655-2142 ext 7012.

WHS Spring Conferences - Thursday, March 13

WHS spring conferences will take place on Thursday, March 13 from 12:30-2:30 PM & 4:00-7:00 PM.

Parents will have the choice to attend conferences in person or virtually (via Google Meet) based on the following schedule:

March 13

- 12:30 - 1:30 PM -- In person conferences in the WHS commons and old gym
- 1:30 - 2:30 PM -- Virtual conferences via Google Meet
- 4:00 - 6:00 PM -- In person conferences in the WHS commons and old gym
- 6:00 - 7:00 PM -- Virtual conferences via Google Meet

WHS is scheduling parent/teacher conferences online at:

www.myconferencetime.com/williamstonhs/. This enables WHS to honor parent/guardian time as well as to inform teachers of who they will be speaking with so as to better prepare for each conversation. The online scheduler will go live at 8:00AM on Monday, February 10.

When scheduling conferences, each teacher has two scheduling links, one for in person and one for virtual via Google Meet (If you elect to attend through Google Meet, information on how to access virtual conference links will be provided as we get closer to conferences). Please only take one time

slot per student/household, per teacher/class so that all families who wish to meet with teachers have the opportunity to do so.

If an appointment with the social worker is desired, an appointment may be made through the guidance office at 517-655-2142 ext 7012.

If you have any questions about conferences, please call the WHS main office at 517-655-2142.

Scheduling for the 2025-26 School Year

It is hard to believe, but it is already time to start thinking about scheduling for the 2025-26 school year! As such, we have developed online scheduling procedures that will support students through the scheduling process. Detailed scheduling information will be emailed to students and families according to the following schedule:

- Juniors (class of 2026):
 - Feb 6: Scheduling overview with counselors during AOT; scheduling information emailed to students/families
 - Week of Feb 10: Required meeting with counselors during the school day to review schedule requests
 - Feb 18: Schedule requests due (submitted online via Google Form)
- Sophomores (class of 2027):
 - Feb 13: Scheduling overview with counselors during AOT; scheduling information emailed to students/families
 - Week of Feb 18: Required meeting with counselors during the school day to review schedule requests
 - Feb 24: Schedule requests due (submitted online via Google Form)
- Freshmen (class of 2028):
 - Feb 20: Scheduling overview with counselors during AOT; scheduling information emailed to students/families
 - Week of Feb 24: Required meeting with counselors during the school day to review schedule requests
 - March 3: Schedule requests due (submitted online via Google Form)
- 8th graders (incoming freshmen - class of 2029)
 - Feb 27: Scheduling informational screencast and forms emailed to students/families
 - Week of March 3: Required meeting at WMS during the school day with WHS counselors to review schedule requests
 - March 10: Schedule requests due (submitted online via Google Form)

Once the student scheduling process is complete, we will spend the next couple of months building the 2025-26 master schedule and creating student schedules. Our goal is to distribute 2025-26

schedules to students a week before the end of the school year. We then plan to offer drop/add sessions for all students requesting a class schedule change for the 2025-26 school year on June 4 & 5 following exams (this is the same schedule change request format offered in August prior to the start of the school year). If you have any questions about the scheduling process, please contact the WHS counseling office at 517-655-2142 ext 7012.

Senior (Class of 2025) Information

Detailed information about graduation will be emailed home after spring break, but for planning purposes, please be aware of the important information below:

Important Dates

- Senior Awards Night will be held in the WHS McGoff Auditorium on Tuesday, May 20 at 6:30 PM.
- The seniors' last day of school (graduation rehearsal, luncheon, parade of graduates through K-8 schools) will be Friday, May 23.
- The WHS Class of 2025 graduation ceremony will be held at The Wharton Center on Sunday, June 8 at 1:00 PM.

Scholarships

- Williamston High School has several college scholarship opportunities for seniors. Scholarship information can be found on the [WHS counseling webpage](#). This year, over \$10,000 in local scholarships will be offered to Hornet seniors! Scholarship applications are due on April 25 at 4:00 PM.

Caps/Gowns

- If your senior has not yet ordered his/her cap and gown for graduation, you may do so [online](#) or call 1-800-JOSTENS. Contact Michelle Smith, WHS Secretary, with any questions at 517-655-2142 ext. 7005.

WHS Math Teacher at Saturday Academic School

WHS math teacher Tom Hampton will be available to work with students in need of math support at Saturday academic school on the following dates: 2/1, 2/14 (Friday 12-3:30), 3/1, 3/15, 4/26 & 5/31. Saturday academic school is offered on scheduled Saturdays from 8:00-11:30 AM in the WHS library and is open to all students needing additional academic support. Students should enter the school through the Dome entrance (Door 27) as other entrances will be locked.

MSUFCU Art Competition

Please take a moment to vote for Williamston and for your favorite artwork at www.msufcuart.com. Congratulations and best of luck to our 10 student artists with artwork on display at MSUFCU Headquarters #1 through March 2nd!

Join the be nice. CONNECT Crew for 2025-26!

Attention all current 10th and 11th grade students, now is the time to apply to become a CONNECT crew member for the 2025-2026 school year! Are you interested in stepping into a leadership role and being a mentor to incoming freshmen? If you are a student with excellent character, who wants to make a difference in our school, then this program is right for you! 11th and 12th grade CONNECT leaders will help kick off freshman kickoff, and will support a small group of freshman students for next school year. To apply or get more information, see Mrs. Wilcox (wilcoxc@gowcs.net) in room A4. You can also apply online [here](#).

Be nice. Varsity Basketball Mental Health Awareness Event

Join us for the Williamston vs. Haslett Varsity Girls and Boys Basketball Games on Friday, February 14 starting at 5:30 PM where you will be able to learn more about the be nice. Action plan, find out about local mental health resources, help reduce stigma surrounding mental health, and more! Don't forget to wear your be nice. colors and gear to the event! Click [here](#) for the informational flier.

Williamston Quiz Bowl Trivia Night Fundraiser

Williamston Quiz Bowl is proud to announce our 3rd Annual [Triviapalooza Trivia Night!](#) This event will raise funds to support the HS and MS quiz bowl teams for their trips to the National Championships in Chicago, Illinois! ccYou and your teammates (up to six people total) can play against other trivia teams at the Brookshire Inn & Golf Club on Tuesday, March 11, 2025! The doors open at 6:00, and the Trivia starts at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$100 for a team of up to six people. You can [order online at this link](#) - hope to see you there!

Williamston Baseball Can Drive

Williamston Baseball Boosters are looking for your support to raise money for the upcoming baseball season!

WHERE: Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park (next to football field)

HOW: Just drop off your cans/bottles to our baseball players between 5:00 - 7:00 PM on Wednesday, February 19.

You can also arrange for a pick up by emailing williamstonbase@gmail.com, and we will send a player to pick up your returnables!

2024-25 WHS Yearbooks

The 2024-2025 "We Are Williamston" Yearbook is available for purchase through the Yearbook Form in the main high school office or at Yearbookforever.com. Simply search for "Williamston Senior High School" to order your yearbook online. Senior ads may also be purchased through the website or by sending information to the yearbook staff at hsyearbook@gowcs.net.

Daily Breakfast Provided for all Students

Did you know all Williamston Community School students are eligible for school breakfast? The Michigan School Meals Program provides breakfasts to students of the district at no cost.

Breakfast is available at each of our schools every school day.

Explorer & Discovery Serve Breakfast: 8:30-9:00

Williamston Middle Serves Breakfast: 7:30-8:45

Williamston High Serves Breakfast: 8:00-8:45

You can find the breakfast menu at: <https://williamston.nutrislice.com/>

Illness Prevention Strategies

As we enter cold and flu season, there are many things that can be done to keep our schools, homes, and communities healthy:

- As a general rule, students should stay home when they are feeling ill. It is recommended that sick individuals stay at home until their symptoms are improving and they are fever-free for at least 24 hours **without the use of fever-reducing medications.**
- You can lower the risk of getting and spreading illnesses by:
 - Washing hands often with soap and running water for at least 20 seconds
 - Using hand sanitizer if hand washing is not available
 - Coughing and sneezing into upper shirt sleeve or elbow
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
 - Avoid close contact with others, such as shaking hands and sharing drinks and eating utensils
 - Clean frequently touched surfaces such as door knobs, desks, countertops, and cell phones

- o Stay up to date on recommended vaccinations
- o Maintain a healthy diet, adequate rest, and proper hydration

We thank you for working together to keep our school community healthy. Please feel free to contact WCS School Nurse Amanda Gailitis (gailita@gowcs.net) if you would like any additional information.

Tutor.com Help through Capital Area District Libraries (CADL)

As a WCS student, you are automatically signed up for a CADL library card. You can use your CADL library card to access free live online tutors without an appointment from 2-9pm. You can also access drop-in essay review services, resume/cover letter help, test prep resources and more. To access these resources or to learn more, please visit cadl.org/tutor.

Homework Lab & Saturday Academic School

Homework lab and Saturday academic school are opportunities for students to get assistance with their homework, make up a test, or complete a project. These academic support sessions are run by WHS paraprofessional staff members and any student in need of academic support is encouraged to attend.

- Homework lab is held in the WHS library and is offered Monday and Wednesday after school (3:20-4:20 PM) and Tuesday and Thursday before school (7:30-8:25 AM).
- Saturday academic school is offered on scheduled Saturdays from 8:00-11:30 AM in the WHS library and is open to all students needing additional academic support. Upcoming 2nd semester dates include: 2/14 (Friday 12-3:30), 3/1, 3/15, 4/12, 4/26, 5/10, 5/31. Students should enter the school through the Dome entrance (Door 27) as other entrances will be locked.

Student Mental Health Support Information

Throughout the school year, students will continue to have access to mental health support services in the school setting through a variety of sources. Our school counselor, Mrs. Linda Ereg (eregl@gowcs.net) and school social worker, Mrs. Caitlin Wilcox (wilcoxc@gowcs.net), are in the building to support students when in need. Students can also access a comprehensive list of strategies and mental health resources by joining the be nice. Mental Health Support Google Classroom (class code: pa5t2tg), or by visiting the [Mental Health Support website](#) found under the resources tab on the WHS web page.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Wilcox (wilcoxc@gowcs.net) if you have questions about our program and or would like to make a donation to help support our group.

Additionally, “988” is the three-digit, nationwide phone number to connect directly to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Anyone can call or text 988 if they or a loved one are in a suicidal or mental health-related crisis.

College Board Accounts

All students will need to create a College Board account (if they have not already done so). Students will need the account in order to access past and future College Board test score reports. Each student will need to remember his/her username and password so make sure to write it down. Click here to get started <https://www.collegeboard.org/>. Please contact the counseling office at 517-655-2142 ext 7012 with any questions.

OK2SAY

OK2SAY is the student safety program which allows students to [confidentially report tips](#) on potential harm or criminal activities directed at students, school employees, and schools. It uses a comprehensive communication system to facilitate tip sharing among students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and law enforcement officials about harmful behaviors that threaten to disrupt the learning environment.

Weekend Survival Kits

WHS is participating in the Weekend Kit program for the 2023-2024 school year. This program is supplemental to the free breakfast and lunch programs offered at school every day and is intended to meet the nutritional needs of children during non-school hours, specifically over weekends or longer breaks.

Weekend Kits are designed to slip discreetly into your child’s backpack and are distributed to participating children [every other week](#) on Thursdays or Fridays and are available at no cost to your family. **There are no eligibility requirements to participate in this program.**

Each Weekend Kit includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and snack items and contains enough food to last each child two weekends. Foods included are kid-friendly items and easy for your child to prepare or help prepare.

Participation forms can be found [here](#) if you wish to register your child for the Weekend Kit program. For more information, please contact Michelle Smith (WHS administrative assistant) at 517-655-2142 or smithm@gowcs.net or email the Greater Lansing Food Bank at glfb@glfoodbank.org.

If you would like more information about additional food assistance resources available to your family, please visit glfoodbank.org.

Pay-to-Play Fee Waiver

WHS recognizes the importance of students participating in school extracurricular activities as such participation enables students to develop leadership qualities, make friends, participate in new activities, pursue special interests, and simply to have fun. As such, WHS does not want any student to be deterred from participating in an extracurricular activity due to financial hardship, so we would like all students/families to be aware that a waiver for athletic/extracurricular fees may be obtained in the following ways:

- Families who qualify for free and reduced lunch also qualify to have pay-to-play fees waived. If interested, please complete this [form](#) and submit it electronically to HSNews@gowcs.net or return the form to the WHS main office.
- Per the WCS Athletic Handbook, “It is the position of the Board of Education that no athlete should be denied the opportunity to participate in our athletic programs as a result of financial need. Therefore, financial hardship will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, at the request of the athlete’s parent/guardian, through the athletic office.” The athletic office can be reached at 571-655-2142 ext. 7008.
- Exchange students are exempt from the athletic fee.

If you have any questions about pay-to-play fees, please contact WHS at 517-655-2142.

WHS Building Hours & Check-In Procedures

The WHS office is open from 7:45 AM- 4:15 PM. All visitors must use the buzzer system at the main office entrance and check into the main office upon entering the building. The main office can be reached by phone at 517-655-2142.

Before School Drop Off

When dropping students off before school, please utilize the community pool/fitness entrance. Many students have been getting dropped off in the bus lane, which is reserved for bus drop offs from 7:45-8:30 AM. Morning traffic in front of the main entrance area impedes the buses and is a safety concern for students using the front entrance crosswalk.

Attendance Information

Please call the Attendance Line at 517-655-2142 (press #1) to excuse (apart from tardies) a late arrival or an absence. On the recording, state the student’s name, grade, date of absence and reason

for absence. If sick, please leave a description of symptoms as illness must be reported to the state. If excusing an absence or tardy due to a medical appointment of any kind (doctor, dentist, therapist, chiropractor, orthodontics, etc.) a medical note will need to be provided. Student absences that have not been verified with the main office within 24 hours will be considered unexcused. Once they move from unverified (UNV) to unexcused (UNX), they will not be changed.

If calling after 8:30 AM to have your student released during the school day, please press 0 for the main office as messages get checked throughout the school day.

PowerSchool

PowerSchool can be accessed on the [WHS website](#). PowerSchool parent/guardian passwords remain the same as the previous school year.. If you are having problems with PowerSchool, please email webmaster@gowcs.net.

WHS Student Handbook & Code of Conduct

The [WHS Student Handbook and Code of Conduct](#) can be found on the [WHS website](#).

2024-2025 WILLIAMSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CALENDAR

The 2024-2025 WCS calendar can be found on the [WCS website](#) or by clicking [here](#).

Community Enrichment Opportunities

Families and students can check out and enroll in fitness center memberships and activities [online](#).