WILLMAR SENIOR HIGH
# CARDINAL COURIER

Volume 34~ Issue 1 Fall 2025

Parent/ Teacher Conferences for TERM 1 Will be held on **Monday Oct. 6th from 4:00-7:00 pm**

## Reminder

There will be

**NO SCHOOL**

**October 15th & November 3rd for Teacher In Service**

**&**

**October 16th & 17th for Fall Break**

## Direct Admissions is Coming to Willmar Senior High School!

As your child nears the end of their high school years, they are likely thinking about their career goals and their many postsecondary options, as well as the college admissions process if they are planning to continue their education in college. To provide a valuable starting point to navigating post-high school options, Willmar Senior High is participating in a new state program called Direct Admissions.

This fall, Willmar seniors will be notified of multiple Minnesota colleges and universities that are offering them Direct Admission for their college freshman year in fall 2026.

**What to expect:**

- **All participating seniors will receive a personalized Direct Admissions letter in the fall of 2025**
  This letter will list the names of each participating college and university that is offering them admission to their institution in fall 2026.
- **Seniors must confirm the colleges and universities to receive Direct Admission**
  To move forward with Direct Admissions, senior's next step is to confirm which colleges and universities that they would like to receive Direct Admission to. We encourage parents to review your child's letter with them. Submit the digital letter back to your high school, answer the questions in the application portal, and they will receive their official acceptance letters. In some cases, colleges and universities will request additional application information. The colleges and universities will email seniors with their next steps.

We invite you to watch this **Direct Admissions video** to learn more about how this process will work:

There are over 50 Minnesota colleges and universities that are participating in the Direct Admissions program, including a full range of community, technical, tribal, public and private institutions. As part of the Direct Admissions program, **all application fees for participating colleges and universities are waived**, so it is FREE to apply to any of the institutions on your child's list!

Direct Admissions Minnesota is here to offer Minnesota seniors a look at many postsecondary possibilities that await them in fall 2026. We encourage you and your child to keep Direct Admissions in mind as you prepare and plan for their senior year of high school. We look forward to supporting your child's postsecondary journey each fall!

# Zero Hour at the High School

As you are aware, Willmar Senior High School starts late on Wednesdays with 1st block starting at 9:00 AM instead of our regular 8:00 AM starting time. We call this time Zero Hour and serves two primary and separate purposes:

First, it will allow staff to have much needed regular staff development time from 7:15am until 8:50am. Part of what we will do each Wednesday morning will be to prepare for our "Ramp Up" curriculum to be delivered to the students at 1:05 PM on Wednesday. The remaining staff development time on Wednesday mornings is devoted for teachers working together to advance their teaching and to increase student engagement and learning.

Second, our Wednesday morning Zero Hour is designed to support students learning and give them the opportunities for enrichment. Room 115H is available for students who need help in Math. Other school tutors will be assisting students in Room 115E for other subjects. In addition to tutor-led homework help, students also have opportunities to study in groups or catch-up on tests or quizzes. Room 105B is the dedicated Test/Quiz Make-Up room.

Zero Hour is an opportunity for students who have busy schedules before or after school, or for those who ride the bus and cannot make it to school outside of the school day, to catch up on missing tests or do a re-take if the teacher allows. We are encouraging our students, especially those with college level classes, to use study group learning strategies and start study groups in the library or other areas of the school. Peer-led group study has been proven to be a very helpful tool for students and with our increase in college level classes at WHS, we are excited to be able to offer dedicated time for students willing to put in the work.

Besides the academic opportunities, students who are on track in their classes are still welcome to be in our building on Wednesday mornings. Our cafeteria will be open from 7:30 until 8:45 serving breakfast. We will have staff in the gyms for students who would like to get exercise or play basketball, volleyball or soccer. Also, the music pod will be open and available for music students to come in and practice individual lessons.

Although the Zero Hour opportunities are optional for some students, Zero Hour will be mandatory for others. Any student who has an NC in a current class or on their transcript (NC's are generated by unexcused absences or having excessive tardies) will be required to attend our detention room in the IMC computer lab until their time is made up. Those students will not be allowed anywhere else in the building if they are here between 7:50 and 8:50 on Wednesday mornings.

Students who are falling behind in class or are not completing their homework will also be "ticketed" to one of our study rooms. The ticket process begins with the teacher having a conversation with the student. The teacher will lay out the expectations for the student of what is expected in class with a timeline for those expectations to be completed. If the expectations are not met, a contact home will be made. The parent and student will be informed that the student has been "ticketed" for Zero Hour and attendance from 7:50 until 8:50 on Wednesday is mandatory for that student until they are meeting expectations. That student must attend the study room they have been ticketed to or they will be marked unexcused absent from Zero Hour. Once the ticketing process has been done once in a class and the parents and student know the expectation, the teacher can re-issue a ticket if the student falls behind again by simply emailing the student by Monday night for the Wednesday morning Zero Hour. Not doing what is academically expected is not an option at Willmar Senior High!

The 2025 WHS musical **School of Rock** explores themes of self-discovery through music, the relationship between children and their parents, and the pressures children face to meet their parents' expectations. School of Rock follows Dewey Finn, a failed rock musician who cons his way into a substitute teaching job at a prestigious prep school, only to find that his students have untapped musical abilities. The show is composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber, with lyrics by Glenn Slater and a book by Julian Fellowes. The performance dates are November 6 -9 in the Brau PAC. Tickets go on sale to the public October17th on line on the WHS website or at the WHS main office. All performances are reserved seating.

## Fall Showcase Concert!

Monday, October 13th is the Fall Showcase Concert at 7:30 p.m. in the big red gym. This concert consists of performances from all four choirs, three concert bands and two orchestras. The evening will culminate with a combined performance of all music groups performing together.

## WIHISEAN YEARBOOK 2025- 2026 Sales

Yearbooks can be purchased for **$70.**
You can ORDER ONLINE at **willmaryearbook.com**

Once again, these full color yearbooks will be packed with photos and memories from the ENTIRE year in a **176 page color book**. We will order only a few extra copies - All of the events up to graduation will be included and yearbooks will be printed in the summer. **YEARBOOKS will be shipped DIRECTLY to your HOME.** Shipping and Tax is included in the final price when you order from
**willmaryearbook.com**

**OR**
**https://hovlandwillmar.wixsite.com/wihiseanyearbook**

**LAST YEAR'S SALES:** Mr. Hovland has **8** copies left if you are interested. These 8 (2024 2025) **books** are on **sale for $70.** If you are interested, contact Mr. Hovland at hovlandl@willmar.k12.mn.us as soon as possible. Purchases are based on first come, first serve

## Senior Meeting

**Class of 2026**

Meeting: Wednesday, Oct. 29th during

Ramp Up in the BPAC.

Students will vote on class song, motto and flower.

## NEWS in the Athletic Department

All tickets and Activity passes for Willmar High School home events must be purchased online through GoFan. **No** cash sales at the door.

Follow Willmar Senior High Activities on:

1. Twitter @cardsathletics
2. Willmar Public School mobile app found on the Apple App/Google Play Store
3. Online at www.arbitersports.com
   Click on Willmar High School CLC Calendar

**There you will find game times, directions to event venues, ticket links and livestreaming information.

### Winter Sport Athletes and Parents!!

Winter Sports are just around the corner! Don't wait until the last minute to register. You need to be registered online and have a current sports physical on file before the first day of practice or you can't participate.
**Register at arbitersports.com**

Dance starts Monday, October 20

Girls Hockey begins Monday, October 27

Gymnastics, begins November 3

Boys Hockey, Girls Basketball and Nordic Ski begins Monday, November 10

Boys Basketball and Wrestling starts Monday, November 17

Boys Swimming & Diving begins Monday, November 24

**Students Coming's and Going's**

-**Plan ahead!**
-Student appointments should be scheduled before or after school if at all possible. (Last minute appointments require classroom interruption.)
-There is no open lunch policy.
-Attendance line has 24 hour voice message capability with office staffing 7:15 am – 4:30 pm.

ENGLISH 320.231.8462
SOMALI 320.231.8307
SPANISH 320.231.8305

**Interpreters can be reached directly for your needs as follows:**
Abdullahi Ibrahim (Somali) – 320.231.8353
Michelle Vazquez (Spanish) – 320.231.8390

## Student Data Privacy Notice

Willmar Public Schools uses a variety of digital resources and tools to support student learning. For reference purposes, we refer to these resources and tools as "Technology Providers," as they are defined in Minnesota statute. Our district takes great pride in ensuring that student information and academic data is protected to the highest of standards. Our technology/teaching and learning staff routinely evaluate providers utilized for digital assessment, online testing, digital curriculum resources, and digital curriculum activities to ensure that contractual requirements that ensure the safety.

As a part of our ongoing process to inform you of the safety and privacy of the data that is held by technology providers utilized by our district, we have made a listing of the Technology Providers utilized within the school district available for your review. Included in this listing you will find the data elements that the resource stores and utilizes as well as the grade levels in which the resource is authorized for use in.

Please visit: http://www.willmar.k12.mn.us/SDP to access the current listing of Technology Providers that we utilize.

Please reach out to Jason Hulstein by Email hulsteinj@willmar.k12.mn.us or phone 320-231-8545 for additional questions regarding specific digital tools used in classrooms, or if you would like to arrange for an in person appointment to inspect any of our Technology Provider contracts.

# Ramp Up Notes

### 9th Grade: How To Do High School

Students have been learning about the different resources available at the high school to help them be successful and meet their needs. Upcoming lessons will provide opportunities for students to learn skills related to organization, studying, decision making and test taking to help them be successful in their classes. High school graduation requirements will also be reviewed so students know what is expected each year for required credits.

### 10th Grade: Career Investigation

Students have been doing activities to help better understand themselves and how their personality fits with different career opportunities. They have also performed a reality check to learn about possible careers that match the life they hope to have in the future. Students will continue to research and investigate possible careers and what they entail. Students will also have an opportunity later in the year to meet with local professionals related to their career interests.

### 11th Grade: Career Pathways

Students have been reviewing and selecting careers they are interested in pursuing. Later in the year, students will have an opportunity to meet with local professionals related to their career interests. Upcoming lessons will focus on the different Career Pathways available to gain education and/or credentials for a career of their choice. These pathways will include 4-year colleges, community colleges and trade schools, and the military. Students will be researching what these different pathways require and have to offer so they can make a decision that best fits their plan.

### 12th Grade: Life After High School

Students have discussed and chosen a possible career pathway for their life after high school. These pathways included 4-year colleges, 2-year colleges, on the job training/ trade schools or the military. Some upcoming lessons will provide opportunities for students to learn about applying within their chosen pathway, financial aid & scholarships, budgeting, interviewing skills, and other topics related to graduation and life after high school.

# From the Health Office

**Joy Wohlin Oman LSN 320-905-5575**

**Darla Hammerschmidt 320-231-8457 LPN**

The school health offices are staffed all student days by a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or a health paraprofessional during the LPN's breaks. A licensed school nurse (RN) supports the LPN and/or Health paraprofessional on call within the District.

**Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)**

- Provides basic nursing care under the direction of a Registered Nurse (RN) or other licensed healthcare provider.
- Medication administration
- Health care procedures/treatments
- First Aid
- Assist with health screenings
- Maintain health records
- Immunization review
- Promote a safe and healthy school environment

**Licensed School Nurse/ (RN)**

- Perform health related assessments
- Provide consultation and referral services
- Provide health counseling and health education
- Prepare individual health plans
- Delegate and supervise medication administration
- Monitor student health status
- Assist with health prevention and promotion

**Parents should not send their child to school** if he or she:

1. Has a fever of 100 degrees or more. The student should stay home for 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal without fever-reducing medication.
2. Has vomited or had diarrhea. The student should stay home until 24 hours after the last episode

**Illness during the school day**–If a student becomes ill or sustains an injury during the school day, a parent/ guardian will be notified to provide transportation home. The school does not transport ill or injured students. If the student's condition is emergent and an ambulance will be called.

**Prescription Medications**

If your child must take medication at school, the medication must be kept in the Health Office and must be given to the student by the Health Office staff. Authorization forms are available in each school health office and the school website.

Parents are asked to provide:

1. The licensed provider's authorization and directions for administration at school
2. Parent permission for the medication to be administered at school
3. The medication must be in its original prescription container from the pharmacist (please ask the pharmacist to provide a separate school prescription container)

**Hearing and Vision:** Screenings will only be done at the request of a teacher or parent during the school year.

# October 2025

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 1 Ramp Up | 2 Picture Retakes | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 **Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7 pm**<br>Senior Parent info Mtg @ 5:30 pm in BPAC<br>Financial Aid Meeting @ 6:00 pm in BPAC | 7 | 8 Ramp Up | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13<br>Fall Showcase Concert 7:30 in the Gym | 14<br>ASVAB test for JRs & SRs (voluntary) | 15 Teacher In Service Day<br>**NO School for Students** | 16 Fall Break<br>**NO SCHOOL for staff and students** | 17 Fall Break<br>**NO SCHOOL for staff and students** | 18<br>National ACT test |
| 19 | 20<br>Dance begins | 21 PSAT test for Juniors and invited sophomores | 22 Opportunity Day | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27<br>Girls Hockey begins | 28 | 29 Ramp Up<br>Sr Meeting in the BPAC 1:15 pm | 30 | 31**End of Term 1** | |

# November 2025

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 Teacher In Service Day<br>**NO School for Students**<br>Gymnastics begins | 4 **Term 2 begins** | 5 Ramp Up | 6<br>Musical 7:00 pm | 7<br>Musical 7:00 pm | 8<br>Musical 7:00 pm |
| 9<br>Musical 1:00 pm | 10<br>Boys Hockey, Girls BB and Nordic Ski begins | 11 Pre ACT for students in a 10th grade Ramp Up | 12 Ramp Up | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17<br>Boys BB and Wrestling begins | 18 | 19 Opportunity Day | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23<br>30 | 24<br>Boys Swim & Dive begins<br>**FAFSA Work Night 4-6 pm in IMC Lab** | 25<br>Blood Drive | 26<br>**NO SCHOOL for staff and students** | **27**<br>**NO SCHOOL for staff and students** | **28**<br>**NO SCHOOL for staff and students** | 29 |

## From the Guidance Office

- Invited 10th graders & interested 11th graders will take the PSAT test on October 21st, 2025
- **All students in a 10th grade Ramp Up** will take the Pre ACT test on November 11th, 2025
- **Juniors** will have the opportunity to take the ACT plus writing on April 21, 2026
- **Important meetings**

**12th grade Parent Meeting**

October 6th, 2024 5:30 pm

**Financial Aid Meeting**

October 6th, 2025 6:00 pm

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available October 1st.

We've scheduled an informational meeting for October 6th.

**FAFSA work night** will be on November 24th from 4-6 pm in the IMC Lab.

## ACT Tests

Signup is available at
www.act.org
Information packets are available in
the Guidance Office.

| Test Date | Regular deadline | Late registration deadline |
|---|---|---|
| October 18, 2025 | September 12 | September 30 |
| December 13, 2025 | November 7 | November 24 |
| February 14, 2026 | January 9 | January 23 |
| April 11, 2026 | March 6 | March 24 |
| June 14, 2025 | May 8 | May 29 |

## For SENIORS Class of 2026

**Class of 2026 SENIORS….**

**Your SENIOR PHOTO SUBMISSION is due DECEMBER 19th,2025.**

**That DATE will come sooner than you expect!!!** If not submitted on time, **there is a $10 late fee, OR** we can just use your school photo for **FREE!** All of the information for 2026 Senior Photo Submissions and yearbook purchases can be found in SCHOOLOGY and on our Wihisean Yearbook Site at **https://hovlandwillmar.wixsite.com/wihiseanyearbook**

Come see Mr. Hovland **before or after school** in room 117, if you have any problems or questions.

**SENIOR PHOTO SUBMISSION is due DECEMBER 19th, 2025.**

Cardinal Courier
Willmar Senior
High School
2701 30th Street NE
Willmar, MN 56201

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Willmar MN
Permit 667

## HOMEWORK

**Homework for students who have been absent can be received by contacting the individual teacher through parent/ student portal or emailing the student's teacher directly using the district website directory.**

**Students may also access homework on their IPad. The Main Office is open until 4:30 Monday through Friday for homework pickup.**

# WHS Main & Guidance Office Staff

*The following people are available for questions or concerns on WHS policies, activities, or individual student matters.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Paul Schmitz, Principal | | 231-8310 |
| Nick Clasemann, Ass't. Principal | Grades 9 & 11 | 231-8311 |
| Scott Hisken, Ass't Principal | Grades 10 & 12 | 231-8312 |
| Ryan Blahosky, Activities Coordinator | | 231-8331 |
| Jen Hess, Counselor | A — G | 231-8321 |
| Megan Erickson, Counselor | H — N | 231-8322 |
| Leah Rosendahl, Counselor | O — Z | 231-8323 |
| Natalie Campos, Social Worker | A-L | 231-8464 |
| Monica Crow, Social Worker | M-Z | 231-8381 |
| Darla Hammerschmidt, Nurse | | 231-8457 |
| Joy Wohlin Oman, Nurse | | 905-5575 |