

WEST CHICAGO
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

CHSD94



FROM THE HALLS OF WEGO: SEPTEMBER CAPTURED

Welcome to the *CHSD94 Review*, your all-access pass to the stories that shaped WCCHS this past month. Inside, Principal Pueyo shares her latest insights in the **Principal's Corner**. We shine a spotlight on a standout member of our community in our **Student of the Month** feature, celebrating their dedication and contributions.

Get to know the passionate and dedicated staff who make our school special with our **Educators of the Month** spotlights. We also bring you the **Good News of the District**, highlighting achievements that make us all proud to be part of WEGO.

See what's happening in the classrooms with our **Classroom Highlights**, and relive the moments of triumph and teamwork with the *Wildcat Chronicle's* coverage of **Athletics**.

Finally, connect with the heart and soul of WCCHS through the *Wildcat Chronicle's* touching **Humans of WEGO** feature. And don't miss the latest **WeGo Places** alumni podcast, catching up with graduates who are making their mark on the world.



Leo Posada
WCCHS Senior, Soccer

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 94 STRATEGIC PLAN

D



MOTTO
LEARNING.
LEADING.
LIVING.

94

MISSION

Ignite a passion for learning,
foster leadership & responsibility, &
empower all learners to live their personal best.

VISION

Today's Wildcats will become tomorrow's
leaders, designers, & builders by

- C**ontributing to an ever-changing & challenging world.
- H**onoring individual & cultural differences & well-being.
- S**triving to achieve personal growth through a pathway leading to academic excellence.
- D**emonstrating responsibility & accountability for their own learning & success.



GRADUATE PORTRAIT

- Critical Thinker
- Inclusive Collaborator
- Effective Communicator
- Responsible Decision-maker
- Self-directed & Confident Learner
- Empathetic & Resilient Friend

EDUCATOR PORTRAIT

- Student-centered Advocate
- Team Players & Collaborator
- Lifelong Learner
- Ethical Decision-maker
- Problem Solver
- Empathetic & Resilient Mentor

CORE VALUES

- W**ell-being & cultural awareness
- E**xcellence in all endeavors
- G**rowth through respect, service, & trust
- O**pportunities for innovation & exploration

SYSTEM PORTRAIT

- Continuous Improvement
- Relationships & Safety
- Innovation & Relevance
- Learner Interests, Voice, & Choice
- Collaboration & Engagement
- Stewardship & Accountability



www.d94.org

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Community High School District 94 Portraits

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Graduate

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences October 23 & 24, 2025

We're looking forward to welcoming families to our upcoming Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 23rd from 5:00pm-8:00pm and October 24, 2025 from 8:00am-11:00am.

Parent Teacher Conferences serve as a valuable opportunity for parents and guardians to meet with teachers and learn about their student's academic progress. It also serves as an opportunity for parents to get a glimpse into the learning taking place in their student's classroom. At West Chicago Community High School, we believe that strong family and school partnerships are key to student success and host Parent-Teacher Conferences in both the fall and winter. We encourage all of our families to schedule appointments with their student's teachers using the following link to PTC Wizard **[Click to Schedule](#)**.

As students grow more independent in high school, staying involved may look different than it did in elementary or middle school but it's just as important.

Your participation can help you stay informed about graduation requirements, academic support opportunities, and college or career planning. Do not miss this opportunity to connect, ask questions, and stay informed about your student's high school journey.

If you need assistance with scheduling conferences online, please contact Jackie Reese (Spanish/English) at 630-876-6305 or jreese@d94.org. You can also contact Janette Hernandez (Spanish/English) at 630-876-6243 or jhernandez@d94.org.

Your partnership makes a difference!

Dr. Limaris Pueyo
Principal



STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Matthew Krynski - Class of 2026

"Find your people and hold onto them. Wego is a very positive community, and everyone can find others that they can really connect with. Having a group of people you can rely on not only makes high school more enjoyable, it makes it easier and gives you something to look forward to."

— *Matthew Krynski*



West Chicago Community High School is proud to announce senior Matthew Krynski as its latest Student of the Month, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the school community through academics, leadership, and extracurricular involvement. A dedicated member of Wego Drama and the Marching Band, Krynski exemplifies excellence in both the arts and in his personal commitment to service.

A standout student, Krynski is a member of multiple honor societies, including the National Honor Society, Music Honor Society, and Foreign Language Honors Society. He has made a significant impact through his deep involvement in the school's vibrant arts scene. Having participated in Wego Drama all four years, he has appeared in numerous productions, medaled at a state competition, and currently serves as one of the club's co-presidents. In the Marching Band, he has been a student leader and a top ensemble member for four years.

"My favorite high school memory is going to state with Drama last year," Krynski said. "It was incredible to be part of a production and a team that was so amazing. We were recognized for our hard work and were able to perform at a truly special level."

Wego Drama sponsor Mark Begovich praised Krynski's character and leadership. "Matthew is an exemplary human being! He is a caring and compassionate person who acts as the 'big brother' to the Drama and Music students."

Looking to the future, Matthew plans to attend a four-year college to study computer hardware engineering, with Purdue University being his top choice.

The West Chicago Community High School community extends its congratulations to Matthew on this well-deserved honor and wishes him the very best in all future endeavors.

FROM PORTRAIT TO PRACTICE

Heather Lindgren Selected as the WCCHS Educator of the Month

THE MOST POWERFUL LESSONS ARE NOT JUST FOUND IN TEXTBOOKS BUT IN THE CONNECTIONS AND INSPIRATION FOUND IN OUR CLASSROOMS EVERY DAY.

It is with this spirit that **D94 proudly announces mathematics teacher, Heather Lindgren, as the WCCHS Educator of the Month.** A beloved teacher who embodies our school's *Portrait of an Educator*, Lindgren's impact is felt by students and colleagues alike.

Lindgren's innovative approach and unwavering support have been particularly powerful in the unique Geometry in Construction course, where she co-teaches alongside our Career and Technical Education (CTE) department. She has shown remarkable patience and flexibility in helping students connect abstract mathematical concepts with hands-on building projects.

Mathematics Division Head, Steve Balhan, noted, "Her willingness to take the lead in figuring out how to pair geometry topics with the construction



(Photo by Miley Pegg, Wildcat Chronicle)

skills has been truly amazing." Balhan added that the program "would not be as successful as it is without the hard work from Heather."

For sophomore Naomi Odom, it was her teacher's welcoming personality that made all the difference. "What I appreciate most about Mrs. Lindgren is her personality," Naomi shared. "She was always really patient when I didn't understand something, and I never felt afraid to ask for clarification."



(Photo by Miley Pegg, Wildcat Chronicle)

Naomi added that Lindgren's humor and wit—her ability to "fire back" with jokes—made her classroom a fun, relaxed environment.

Junior Sam Mueller further highlighted Lindgren's commitment, saying, "What I appreciate most about Mrs. Lindgren is that she's a teacher that you can always count on; she will make time for you when you need help."

"She always holds us to a high standard, and even if you don't believe in yourself, she believes in you." — *Samantha Mueller*

WCCHS, Class of 2027

Beyond her classroom, Lindgren's positive influence radiates throughout our school, making her an invaluable staff member. Balhan notes that Heather **"makes a significant impact at WeGo on a daily basis,"** a sentiment echoed by all who work with her. Join us in celebrating Heather Lindgren's exceptional work and her commitment to shaping students' lives. She is a truly inspiring Wildcat.

FROM PORTRAIT TO PRACTICE

Jen Ward Selected as the WCCHS Educator of the Month

THE HEART OF EDUCATION BEATS STRONGEST WHEN EDUCATORS LEAD WITH PURPOSE, ASK THE HARD QUESTIONS, AND PUT STUDENTS AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING THEY DO.

With that spirit in mind, **D94 proudly recognizes English teacher, Jen Ward, as the WCCHS Educator of the Month.** A passionate advocate for student success and a true teacher leader, Ward's impact is felt throughout the school community.

As a newer member of the Wildcat family, Ward wasted no time diving into meaningful work. She volunteered to serve on the Goal Planning Committee for Student Growth and Achievement—bringing curiosity, collaboration, and a tireless drive to improve outcomes for all students. Her thoughtful approach and fearless questioning have helped shape conversations around how WCCHS supports learning, especially as it relates to ACT preparation and academic equity.



(Photo by Miley Pegg, Wildcat Chronicle)

Language Arts Division Head, Lauren Stewart, praised Ward's dedication: "She asks the tough questions and collaborates with anyone who's ready to work on the solution. Her integrity, belief in all students, and willingness to go above and beyond is an asset to our school community."

Inside the classroom, Ward's authenticity and creativity resonate strongly with her students. Calysta Sokolewicz, a WCCHS sophomore, shared,



(Photo by Miley Pegg, Wildcat Chronicle)

"I appreciate Mrs. Ward's humor and unique approach to teaching us content! I can always count on her kindness, wits, and authentic personality to make English class enjoyable. She has provided me with a new, intriguing way to interpret literature, and an entertaining, engaging teacher that I know I can rely on!"

Jen Ward's impact reaches far beyond her classroom. She brings leadership, heart, and action to the forefront of education at WEGO. Please join us in celebrating her outstanding contributions. **Jen Ward is not only shaping minds—she's shaping the future.**

GOOD NEWS OF THE DISTRICT

AP Scholars with Distinction

"Each of these students has shown exceptional dedication and academic excellence. We congratulate them on this remarkable achievement."

Dr. Limaris Pueyo

Principal



The Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar Awards are granted each fall by the College Board's AP Program to recognize high school students who demonstrate outstanding college-level achievement through their performance on multiple AP Exams.

At West Chicago Community High School, 138 students earned AP Scholar recognition this year. The highest honor within this program is the AP Scholar with Distinction Award. To achieve this award, students must earn an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken and a score of 3 or higher on five or more exams.

This year, 52 students earned the AP Scholar with Distinction Award. Of these, 24 were graduates of the Class of 2025. We proudly recognize the remaining 28 students from the current Senior class at WCCHS, who will also receive cords to wear at graduation. Each of these students has shown exceptional dedication and academic excellence. We congratulate them on this remarkable achievement.

Valeria Ballines	Lesley I. Garcia	Kody Albert U. Leano	Lucas B. Rudden
Jacob D. Benitez	Sneha George	Aaron P. Lorenc	Magdalena L. Schave
Peter H. Bovey	Jacob Hayward	Jessie Myers	Daniel Szacilowski
Brockton Brown	Rachel E. Knaack	Brian Nguyen	Hailey L. Teran
Guadalupe Carreto	Julia S. Koput	Gwenneth S. Nika	Dirk A. Ulbrich
Alex M. Durkin	Joshua C. Kotke	Mason A. Ostapa	Nataniel F. Valenzuela
Alyson A. Dusing	Matthew R. Krynski	Nick W. Riconosciuto	Leo W. Volk

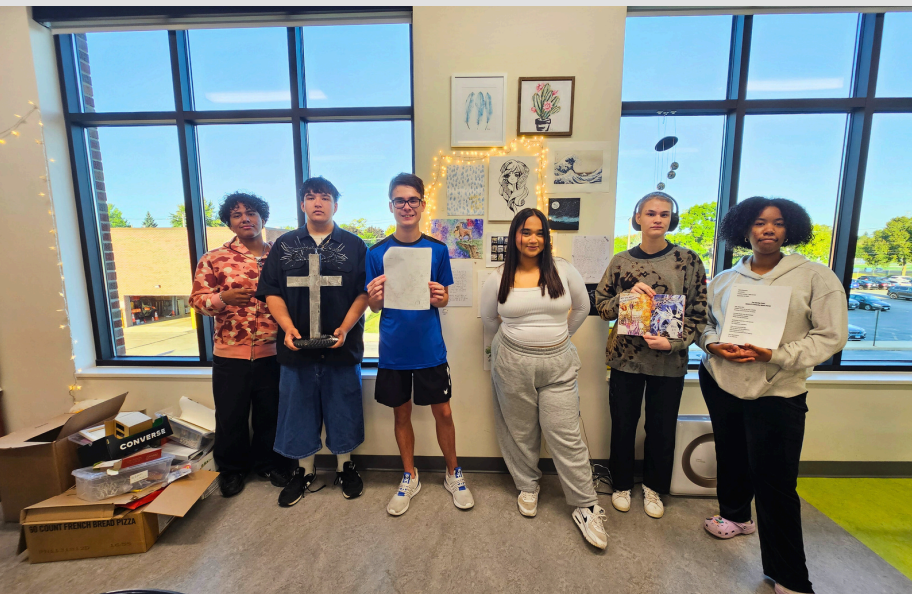
CREATIVE WRITING

Unlocking Creativity, One Free Write at a Time

In Tara Deleon's creative writing class, the journey from a flickering thought to a finished work of art is a testament to the power of imagination. Far from the typical writing assignment, Deleon's students are not just telling stories with words, but with a vibrant array of artistic mediums.

The process begins each week with three 8-minute free writes, a chance for students to put their raw ideas on the page. From these quick drafts, students select a single piece to become their "Free Write Expansion" project." I give students three choices for expansion: written, visual, and video," Deleon explains, "and the original free write must be a part of the finalized piece."

This approach encourages students to think beyond the page, pushing them to explore how their narrative can take on a new life. As Deleon points out, the "process itself is where the true magic takes place," and the results are a vivid showcase of student ingenuity. Past projects have included welded statues, narrated videos, comic strips, screenplays, and charcoal sketches, each one starting from a simple idea and transforming into something truly special.



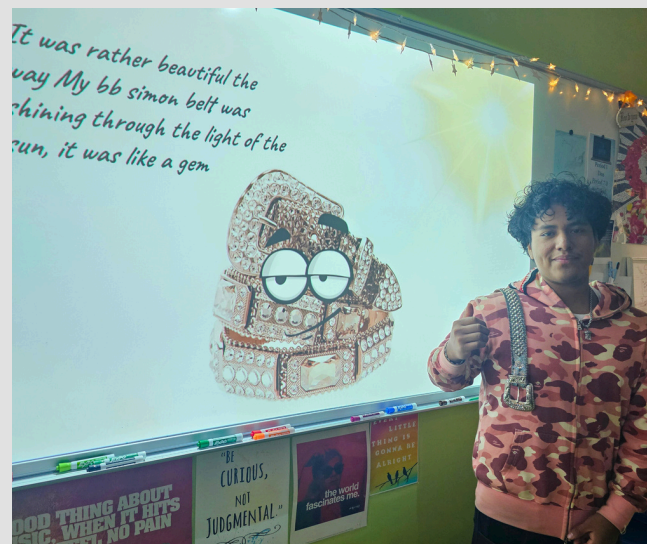
**“Creative Writing class helps
me untangle my thoughts.”**

— Yamile Banuelos

The projects offer a unique window into the personal experiences and perspectives of the students themselves. For Rodrigo Hernandez Rubio, the expansion project became a spiritual expression. "The poem and welded art piece was a powerful, religious creation that allowed me to express my faith," he shares.

Other students used the opportunity to explore their imaginations and find new ways to tell a story. As Jason Merino notes, "Creative Writing class allows me to bring what's in my imagination to reality. I can give inanimate objects like my favorite belt a life of their own by personifying them!"

By giving them the space to explore both their inner thoughts and their artistic talents, Tara Deleon's creative writing class is helping students see their own potential in entirely new ways. The finished products are a beautiful glimpse into their minds, showing how a small spark of an idea can grow into a meaningful work of art.



GEOMETRY IN CONSTRUCTION

Real-World Skills, Real-World Impact

The hammers are swinging and saws are humming as the Geometry in Construction program kicks off its second year at WCCHS with an impressive start! Students are getting their hands dirty on practical, real-world projects that not only teach valuable skills but also directly benefit our school community.

This year, the program is helping the AVID department bring a special vision to life. AVID seniors from the Class of 23-24 painted rocks to represent their individual post-secondary pathways, while juniors created Wego-themed rocks to begin filling a planned AVID Rock Garden. When the location for the garden was reassigned to another project, the AVID program needed a creative new solution to display these meaningful rocks and continue the tradition of adding to the collection each year.

That's where the Geometry in Construction classes stepped in. Under the guidance of Mr. Kleffner and Mrs. Lindgren, students are constructing large, letter-shaped display cases that spell out "AVID." These letters will provide an impactful way to showcase the rocks and promote the program at key events like 8th-grade open house, parent nights, and the Senior Signing Awards Ceremony. The displays will also serve as a daily reminder of the AVID program's mission to the entire student body.



**Geometry isn't just on
the page—it's in the world
all around us.**

Meanwhile, Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Lindgren's students are continuing to make an impact by crafting detailed bird, bee, and butterfly houses and hotels. These structures will soon be installed in Club Green's prairie area with Mrs. Burchaki, providing a welcoming environment for local wildlife and enriching our school's outdoor spaces.

These projects highlight the program's unique blend of math, construction skills, and community impact; giving students practical experience while giving back to the Wildcat community, proving that geometry isn't just on the page—it's in the world all around us.



Penalty shoot-out secures the win for WEGO's soccer team

The WEGO boys' soccer team came out on top of Fenton with a intense penalty shoot-out on Sept. 23.

By [Ana Hurtado](#) and [Ja'Nyah Villa](#)
September 24, 2025



(Photo by Ana Hurtado)

[PHOTO ESSAY] Diving into greatness

The yelling of encouragement, the splashing water, and the electric beep of the start signal. The swimmers dive into the pool with fierce determination.

By [Juliet Payton](#), Sports Writer
September 21, 2025



(Photo by Juliet Payton)

ATHLETICS



Presented by the *Wildcat Chronicle*

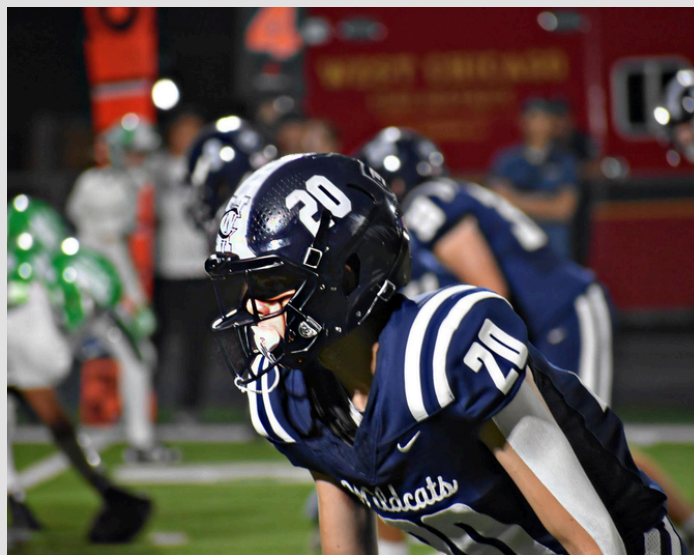
The official student-run, award-winning, news publication of WCCHS



[PHOTO ESSAY] Rain, cheers, and grit: Wildcats bounce back against Ridgewood

The WEGO boys' soccer team came out on top of Fenton with a intense penalty shoot-out on Sept. 23.

By [Joselyn Duran Corona](#), Reporter
September 20, 2025



(Photo by Joselyn Duran Corona)

Running out of time

On Sept. 13, the Girls and Boys Cross Country team at West Chicago Community High School held their home meet at Kress Creek Farms

By [Miley Pegg](#), Sports Writer
September 14, 2025



(Photo by Miley Pegg)

HUMANS OF WEGO

Presented by the *Wildcat Chronicle*

The official student-run, award-winning, news publication of WCCHS

The *Wildcat Chronicle* is composed of dedicated student journalists who work tirelessly to provide accurate, timely, and compelling content for readers. The *Wildcat Chronicle* has been recognized for its excellence in scholastic journalism, earning accolades from various prestigious organizations.

Humans of WEGO: Making history and setting the future

History teacher Jaime Garcia has influenced students by reflecting positivism and going the extra mile for students, teachers and those in his community.

By Josue Flores, Reporter
September 22, 2025



This podcast is inspired by our alumni Wildcats who embody the spirit of "following their bliss." Each episode explores the unique path these graduates took to find their success and leave the listener with pearls of wisdom they learned along the way.

Do you want to be a guest or know of an alum that would be perfect for the podcast?
Contact bturnbaugh@d94.org.

WILDCAT ALUMNI PODCAST HOSTED BY

MR. BRIAN TURNBAUGH



[Click to listen!](#)

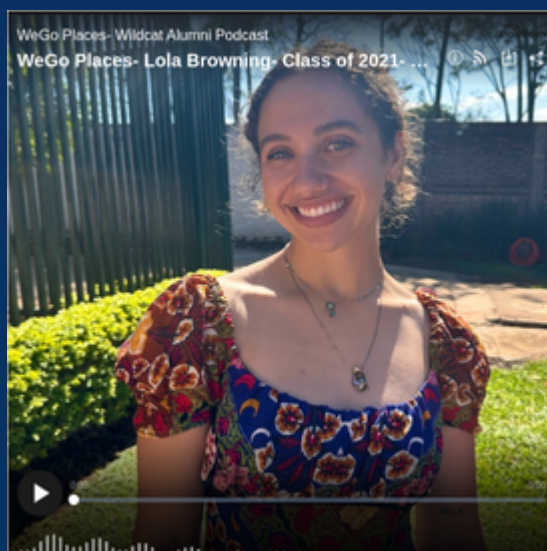
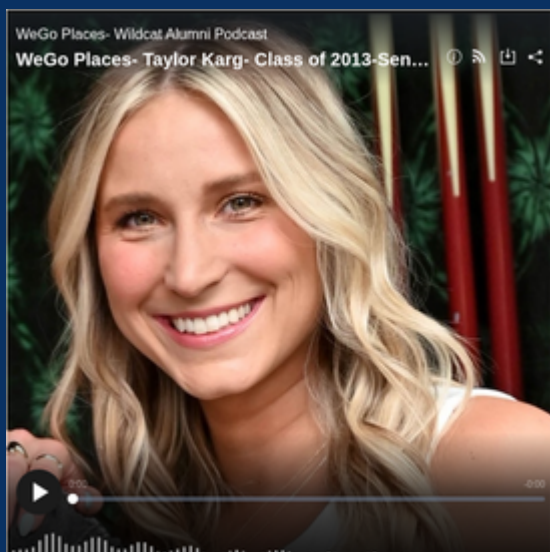




Photo by Leslie Fireman,
Wildcat Chronicle, Adviser

#WEAREWEGO