



Parent/ Teacher Conferences

for
TERM 2

Will be
held on

**Thursday
Dec. 4th
4:00-7:00
pm**

**Junior
Parent/
student
meeting at
5:30 in the
Brau
Performing
Arts Center**



State Reading Test Comes to Willmar Senior High

This year, all students in grades 9–12 at Willmar Senior High will take a new state reading test called **Capti ReadBasix**. This test is part of the **Minnesota READ Act**, a state law focused on improving reading skills for students across Minnesota.

The READ Act says that students in grades 4 and higher who are **not** reading at grade level must be checked for reading difficulties. Because of this statewide requirement, and because we do not currently have a reading test for all high school students—like the MCA tests in earlier grades—Willmar Public Schools chose to give the test to **every** student in grades 4–12 this year. This is not only to make sure we comply with the law, this is to make sure all students are getting the support they need.

Capti ReadBasix is a short, computer-based test that looks at six important parts of reading, including:

- Word recognition
- Vocabulary
- Morphology (understanding parts of words)
- Sentence processing
- Reading fluency
- Reading comprehension

We know some families may wonder, “My child is in advanced classes—why do they need this test?” The reason is simple: we need a clear picture of every student’s reading strengths and the high school does not currently have another test that gives us this information. Taking the assessment also ensures we meet state expectations for identifying students who may need extra support.

After students take the test, families will receive a report showing how their child performed in each of the six areas. We do not yet know whether this will be a test students take every year, but we will keep families informed as the state provides more guidance. At Willmar Senior High, we want every student to feel confident as a reader. This new assessment is one more tool to help us understand and support our students’ learning.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your child’s guidance counselor.



Willmar Senior High E-Learning Days Update

Willmar Public Schools will continue to implement E-Learning Days for days of inclement weather instead of making up days during the school year or summer. All inclement weather days will be e-Learning Days, up to 5 days as needed. Activities and practices will be canceled for e-learning days.

Attendance for E-Learning

- Based on coursework being accessed and attempted
- Students are encouraged to touch base with their teachers, but are not required
- Teacher "Office Hours" on E-Learning days: 10:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
No internet is required. Each student should have E-Learning lessons pre-loaded on their ipads.



Attendance line has 24 hour voice message capability with office staffing from 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



Health Services Update

A few reminders as we enter the cold and flu season...

In an effort to maintain the health of all students and staff, the following guidelines are recommended:

Students should not attend school if:

- **Temperature over 100° F**
- **Skin Rash (undiagnosed)**
- **Vomiting or Diarrhea.**

They may return approximately *24 hours after* symptoms resolve, *and are able to tolerate a normal diet.*

A student must be fever free for a full 24 hours *without* fever reducing medications before returning to school.

Medications can only be administered in school if the medication authorization form is completed and signed by the doctor and parent.

School attendance is required by law and is of great importance to your child's educational success, however, there may be times when a child is ill and cannot attend. If your student will be absent, please call the school attendance line English **320-231-8462**, Somali **320-231-8307**, Spanish **320-231-8305**.

Protect yourself and others from Covid-19, Flu and RSV

It's common to get sick from these respiratory viruses especially in the fall and winter. For more information visit

<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/index.html>

The symptoms from respiratory viruses can include:

- Fever that starts suddenly
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Body aches
- Headache
- Chills
- Tiredness
- Sometimes diarrhea and vomiting



The following will also reduce the risk of spreading the flu:

- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Cover your cough and sneeze.
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are sick. Stay home when you are sick.
- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends vaccines for Covid-19, Flu and RSV.





WIIHSEAN 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 (24-25) 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



From the Music Department

Dec. 8	Holiday 9-12 Orchestra Concert	6:00 pm
	Brau Performing Arts Center	
Dec. 8	Holiday Band Concerts-All Bands	7:30 pm
	Brau Performing Arts Center	
Dec. 15	Holiday Choir Concert -All Choirs	6:00 & 7:30 pm
	Brau Performing Arts Center	
Dec. 16	Holiday/Alumni Pep Band	6:30 pm
Jan. 23	Fruit Fundraiser #2 Kick off	
Jan. 31	Men's Choir Festival-all choir guys	All day/BPAC
Feb. 4	8AA Vocal S/E Contest-All Choirs	All day/Becker HS
Feb. 5	Fruit Orders Due-All	
Feb. 6	NDSU Jazz Festival-(Jazz Band)	NDSU
Feb. 11	8AA Band S/E Contest	All day/Big Lake
Feb. 12-14	All State Performances-Selected students	Minneapolis
Feb. 25	8AA Orchestra S/E Contest	All Day/Tech HS
Feb 26	Fruit Delivery	3:00-4:30 pm
	WHS Band Room	
Mar. 9	Orchestra Concert 9-12- All orchestras	6:00 pm
	Brau Performing Arts Center	
Mar. 9	Band Concert -All Bands	7:30 pm
	Brau Performing Arts Center	
Mar. 12	Willmar Jazz Festival-BPAC	All day/Willmar
Mar. 16	Choir Concert-All Choirs	6:00 & 7:30 pm
	Brau Performing Arts Center	
Mar. 30	CLC Music Festival Honor's Rehearsal	4:00-8:00 pm/Tech
Apr. 2	CLC Music Festival-Cardinal BCO	All day/Apollo
May 11	MS/Varsity Orchestra Concert	7:30 pm
	Brau Performing Arts Center	
May 18	Varsity/Concert B/C Concert	7:30 pm
	Brau Performing Arts Center	
May 20	Commencement Concert-C, CH	8:00 pm
	Brau Performing Arts Center	
May 25	Memorial Day Program-All Bands	10:30 am
	Fairview Cemetary	
May 31	Graduation-C Band, CCHV Choirs	2:00 pm
	Civic Center	

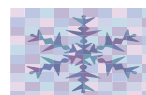
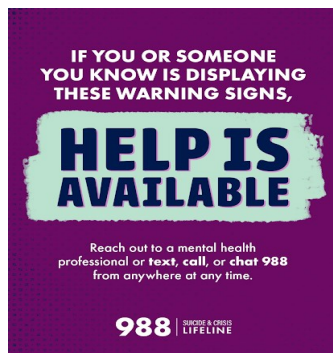
Winter Break

December 22nd-January 2nd

No School for

Staff & Students

School resumes on Monday January 5, 2026





December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Capti testing for online and PSEO students at 9:00 am or 1:15pm	3 Ramp Up Mid Term Capti testing-ALL students during 3rd block	4 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00 pm Junior Parent/Student Meeting 5:30 pm in BPAC	5	6
7	8 Orchestra Concert 6:00 pm Band Concert 7:30 pm	9	10 Ramp Up Capti testing-ALL students during 3rd block	11	12	13
14	15 Snow Week begins Choir Concert 6:00 & 7:30pm	16	17 Opportunity Day	18	19	20
21	22 Winter Break	23 Winter Break	24 Winter Break	25 Winter Break	26 Winter Break	27
28	29 Winter Break	30 Winter Break	31 Winter Break			

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Winter Break	2 Winter Break	3
4	5 School Resumes	6	7 Ramp Up	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Opportunity Day	15	16 End of Term 2	17
18	19 Teacher In Service NO SCHOOL for students	20 Term 3 Begins	21 Ramp Up	22	23	24
25	26 National Honor Society Induction 7:00 pm	27	28 Ramp Up	29	30	31

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Opportunity Day	5 CIS/PLTW/AP Info mtg 5:30pm /PSEO Info mtg 6:00pm	6	7
8	9	10	11 Ramp Up	12	13 Teacher In Service NO SCHOOL for students	14
15	16 NO SCHOOL for staff and students	17	18 Ramp Up Mid Term	19 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:30 pm	20	21
22	23	24 Blood Drive	25 Ramp Up	26 Parent Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:30 pm	27	28





Registration information for the 2026-2027 school year 9th - 11th Grade Students

Wednesday, February 11th

Presentation of Student Curriculum Guide for staff and students in Ramp Up

*Registration forms will be handed out or downloaded

*Students take forms home for parent review and signature.

*Forms must be returned to Ramp Up Advisor at your conference in February

Thursday, February 5th

5:30-6:00 p.m. Advanced Placement (AP), College in the Schools(CIS) and Project Lead the Way information for parents and students in the IMC.

6:00-6:30 p.m. Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) information for parents and students in IMC.

Course offerings and staff assignments are based on registration. **It is important that students be prepared to continue with a course once the registration process is complete.** Students and/or parents who wish for additional information when selecting classes are encouraged to contact one of the counselors in the Guidance Office.

For 8th Grade Students

Tuesday, February 17th

*Counselors will be at the Middle School presenting the Curriculum Guide and registration process during social studies classes.

*Registration forms will be sent home with students for parents to review and sign.

*Registration forms must be returned by Tuesday, February 24th to Social Studies teachers. Changes may be requested via email to High School counselors after this.

A video will be sent out to all 8th grade parents at the beginning of February. This video will detail the transition to the High School and how the registration process works. High School counselors will be available during the Middle School parent teacher conferences on Tuesday, February 17th and Monday, February 23rd for any questions, or if students want to turn in their High School registration sheet. We will send the information in a mailing as well as through an email to all 8th grade parents.

PSEO Meeting Scheduled

The Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program allows high school students to attend a post secondary institution either full or part-time with tuition, books, and fees paid through PSEO. PSEO has a dual purpose: 1) to promote rigorous educational pursuits and 2) to provide a variety of options for students. Qualifications for enrolling in this program are ranking in the upper one-third of your class as a junior and in the upper one-half of the class as a senior.

Students and parents interested in the PSEO program and/or wanting additional information **MUST** attend an **informational meeting on Thursday, February 5th, from 6:00-6:30 p.m.**

Applications for PSEO must be completed and returned to the Guidance Office by May 15th. If you have questions regarding the PSEO program, contact the Guidance Office at 231-8320.



TERM 3 Conferences

Term 3 conferences will include a 15 minute meeting with each student's Ramp-Up advisor in their Ramp-Up classroom. **This meeting is required before a student can register for classes for the 2026-2027 school year.**

Term 3 Conferences will be held at 2 different times:

Thursday, February 19 4:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 26 4:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Letters will be coming out in January with more Information.





Willmar Senior High School Class of 2026 Calendar of Events



Class Motto: "In the Middle of difficulty lies opportunity" Albert Einstein

Class Song: "I Lived" by One Republic

Class Flower: Red and White Dahlia

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
Tues., Dec. 20 th	Deadline for senior photo to: whisean@gmail.com		
Thurs., Mar. 19 th	End of 3 rd Term		
Mar. 23-27 th	Spring Break		
Mon., Mar. 30 th	School Resumes; 4 th Term begins		
Fri., April 3 rd	Deadline for athletes who lettered to provide action or group photo for the Spring Athletic Awards event.		To Main Office Athletic Secretary (Brenda)
Sun., April 12 th	Senior Athletic Awards Social Senior Athletic Awards Program	6:30pm 7:00pm	Willmar Conference Center
Fri., May, 1 st	Sr Midterm Grades due		
Fri., May 1 st	Prom-No School for students Grand March Prom		@ WSHS @ 5:30 @ Stonewall Farms
Wed., May 6 th	Class of 2025 meeting w/Principal followed by cap & gown distribution	1:07pm	Brau Performing Arts Center
Fri., May 8 th	Deadline to sign up for the May 14 th SR. RETREAT		Main Office
Mon., May 11 th	Varsity Orchestra Concert w/ 7 th & 8 th Grade Orchestra's	7:30pm	Brau Performing Arts Ctr.
Wed., May 13 th	Senior Retreat	8:30am	Civic Center
Mon., May 18 th	Varsity Band/Choir Pop Concert-All V, CN	7:30pm	Brau Performing Arts Center
Wed., May 20 th	Senior Scholarship & Awards	6:00pm	Brau Performing Arts Center
Wed., May 20 th	Commencement Concert	7:30pm	Brau Performing Arts Center
Fri., May 22 nd	Graduation Practice	8:30am	Willmar Civic Center
Mon., May 25 th	All bands for Memorial Day Ceremony	10:30am	Fairview Cemetery (Gorton Ave NW)
Thurs., May 28 th	LAST classroom day for Seniors		
Fri., May 29 th	LAST day for Seniors 2 nd Graduation Practice	8:00-2:45 8:30	Willmar Civic Center
Sun., May 31 st	Commencement	2:00pm	Willmar Civic Center





Ramp Up Notes

Students will receive a pass/fail grade on their next report card for Ramp Up. The first grading session took place on November 1st. After this date, the in-progress grade can be found on Parent Portal. The scoring rubric for all assignments are as follows:

- 2 = Fully completed
- 1 = Partially completed, but not fully completed
- 0 = Did not submit

9th Grade: How To Do High School

Students have had opportunities 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 and 11th Grade: Career Investigation and Career Pathways

Students are getting ready for a career day. Students will select a career of interest from over 40 options. They will get to learn all about that career choice from a local individual currently working in that profession.

12th Grade: Life After High School

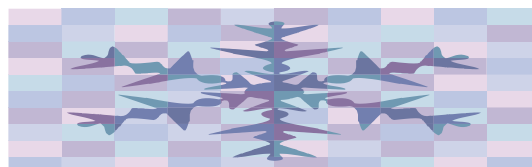
Students have discussed and chosen a possible career pathway for their life after high school. These pathways included 4-year colleges, 2-year colleges, On the job training/trade schools or the military. This winter, students will have the opportunity to hear from experts in these pathways and ask questions to better understand what their pathway choice will entail.

Student Council Notes

WHS Student Council has been working hard this fall. We started off the year with our first day handbook video and giving tours during open house, and then dove into all things Homecoming. We had a great PowderPuff and PowderTuff tournament to kick off the week, a lovely Royal Tea and Coronation on Monday, many fun dress up days filled with color and creativity, participated in the spirit parade at the elementary school buildings and finished up at the high school for the first time, held a fun Tailgate Party, and finished off with a great HoCo Dance on Saturday! After Homecoming our team focused on being thankful for our custodians, kitchen staff, and principals. Our Student Council celebrated Unity Day with a thankful chain created by the student body as well as posters for students to leave messages for our veterans for Veterans Day. And finally for fall, we wrapped up October with a Pumpkin Contest. For December our student leaders are planning a fun Snow Week before we go on winter break.

Cardinal Cabinet

The Willmar Senior High Key Club has been collecting items for our students. Hygiene Products and school supplies are available for students who could use them. All supplies are in the cabinet labeled "Cardinal Cabinet" in the back of the IMC for students to pick up anytime.





Cardinal Courier

Willmar Senior

High School

2701 30th Street NE

Willmar, MN 56201

Non Profit Org
US Postage
Paid
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/Joy Wohlin-Oman, Nurse	231-8457

