

MARCH 1, 2026

APPLETON WEST

PARENT NEWSLETTER

From the Principal



Dear Families,

As we move into March, I'm thrilled to share the wonderful energy and excitement happening here at West! Spring is not only arriving on the calendar—it's arriving in our hallways, classrooms, and on our athletic fields.

This month, we're looking forward to showcasing the incredible talent of our choir and band students. Our spring concerts are always highlights of the school year, and I encourage you to mark your calendars and join us in celebrating these young musicians. Whether it's the rich harmonies of our choir or the dynamic energy of our band, these performances represent months of dedication and hard work. We can't wait to share these moments with you!

The warmer weather also means the start of spring sports practice! Our student-athletes are gearing up for baseball, softball, track, tennis, and more. If you haven't already, please encourage your student to get involved—there's something special about being part of a team and representing West with pride and sportsmanship.

West students, save the date! We're hosting a Spring Dance on March 14th exclusively for our West community. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to celebrate together, enjoy great music, and make lasting memories with their classmates. More details will be coming soon!

Looking ahead to April, we have even more to celebrate! Our spring musical production of *Bye Bye Birdie* is scheduled for the weekend of April 23rd. Our cast and crew have been working incredibly hard to bring this classic show to life, and we can't wait to share their talent and energy with you. Mark your calendars for what promises to be an unforgettable performance!

Also coming in April is Prom on April 18th—a special evening for our students to dress up, celebrate with friends, and create memories they'll cherish for years to come. *(cont. on page 2)*

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As the days grow longer and the weather warms up, there's a real sense of renewal on campus. Spring break is just around the corner—a well-deserved break for our students and families to recharge and spend quality time together.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Here's to a wonderful March and an exciting spring ahead!

Warmly,

Mr. Chudacoff

Activities/Athletics



Any students interested in competing in a fall sport (baseball, softball, boys & girls track, boys golf, boys tennis, girls flag football, boys & girls lacrosse, girls soccer) make sure you have completed the following items prior to being able to actively participate in practice/tryouts:

1. Online forms that are found in Infinite Campus. These need to be completed by a parent/guardian and the student. This only needs to be done once for the entire school year.
2. Active medical physical on file with the business office.
3. Stop in the business office and declare your winter sport of choice at least one (1) week prior to the start of the season.

WIAA start dates:

March 09 - track

March 16 - lacrosse, softball

March 23 - baseball, girls soccer

March 30 - boys golf, boys tennis

Please contact us in the business office if you have any questions or need assistance.

Please visit <https://www.foxvalleyassociation.org/public/genie/240/school/3/> to stay up to date for upcoming Terror events.

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Academic Information



Testing season is upon us!

Tuesday March 10th- ACT Day for juniors only.

Only juniors report to school. All 9th, 10th, and 12th graders must complete virtual learning assignments in Canvas. The assignments must be completed by 3:15 in order to count for attendance for the day.

Tuesday, March 24th- PreACT Day for 9th freshman and sophomores only.

Student Services



Being on time to class matters:

Arriving on time to class sets the foundation for academic success. When students are punctual, they:

- Start strong – Catch important instructions, warm-ups, and lesson introductions
- Build responsibility – Develop habits that carry into college and careers
- Reduce stress – Avoid the anxiety of rushing or feeling behind
- Show respect – Demonstrate consideration for teachers and classmates

Improve grades – Miss fewer key concepts and assignment details

If your student is experiencing difficulty arriving to class on time, please contact the Student Services office. We can work together to help support your student being on time to classes.

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Counseling Office

Hygiene Drive Kicks Off February 23!

We are proud to share that this year we have district-wide participation in the annual Fox Cities "Help for the Homeless" hygiene drive organized through The Family Radio Network! All of our schools will be collecting NEW hygiene and cleaning items from February 23th to March 13th. Please send your donations to school with your student, or stop by to drop them off in the Help for the Homeless collection box located at your child's school by Friday, March 13th.

Donations received at our AASD collection sites are used within our AASD school community to stock our Basic Needs Care Closet for students/families in need. These donations are also the primary source of hygiene products provided to students and families experiencing homelessness. Our AASD homeless support program provides services and support to over 640 families last school year. Our school district collection efforts also contribute to the greater Fox Valley area crisis agencies.

The most frequently needed items are laundry detergent, hand soap, dish soap, shampoo/conditioner, body wash, toilet paper, and deodorant.

*Financial donations can also be made (cash, checks made out to "The Family" with "Help for the Homeless- AASD" written in the memo line or online Help For The Homeless-The Family.

The goal of the drive is to supply a year's worth of products to each AASD school site and our district homeless support program. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

When a family is experiencing homelessness and in survival mode, a kind helping hand means the world to them. Giving a family in crisis a Care Package with diapers, bath and shower supplies, toothpaste and toothbrushes, laundry soap, and toilet paper can allow them to feel supported and able to take care of their families needs. Sometimes parents struggle with the feeling that there is "no one to help us" and having a Care Closet in our school district allows me to help in a tangible, immediate way. Watching little kids' eyes light up having their own new toothbrush and fun bath soap and knowing their mom can wash their clothes for school at the laundromat reflects how much this community project impacts the lives of families in crisis.- Molly McGregor, Homeless Liaison, Appleton Area School District

From the Nurse's Office



Is Your Child Well Enough to Go to School?

It is not always easy to decide if your child is sick enough to stay home or well enough to be in school. Children who come to school are expected, with few exceptions, to participate fully in school activities.

Here are some guidelines that might help in a parent's decision-making.

Fever: A fever of 100.4 degrees or more signals an illness that is probably going to make a student uncomfortable and unable to function well in class. Your child should stay home until his or her temperature is less than 100.4 degrees (without the use of fever reducing medication) for 24 hours and he/she is feeling better.

Vomiting, Diarrhea or Severe Nausea: These are symptoms that require a student to remain at home until a normal diet is tolerated for 24 hours.

Infectious Diseases: Diseases such as impetigo, and strep throat may require a health care visit and prescription for medication. Contacting the health care provider and using the medicine as directed for the full recommended length of time are necessary. A student may return to school 24 hours after the first dose of an antibiotic and if he/she is feeling well.

Rashes: Rashes or patches of broken, itchy skin need to be examined by a health care provider if they appear to be spreading or not improving.

In the AASD, we monitor illness rates within our schools and community with the collaboration of the City of Appleton Health Department, and we will continue to do so. As rates increase, our site teams, Student Services team, and Facilities team communicate and increase cleaning efforts and family communication as preventive measures. Families can help us with these preventive measures by following the guidelines above.

Here are some things you can do to help prevent illness:

- Frequent handwashing, sanitizing if soap and water are unavailable
- Coughing or sneezing into a tissue or sleeve
- Drink plenty of water (send a water bottle with your child to school)
- Eat a well balanced diet (includes when sending snacks/ lunches to school)
- Clean and disinfect commonly used surfaces
- Don't share personal items
- Get enough sleep

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Referendum Information

Did you know? The AASD Board of Education has approved placing an operational referendum on the April 7, 2026 ballot. The referendum question will ask voters to approve \$15 million per year for four years to support:

- maintain existing programs and services and address the district's ongoing budget deficit
- a school counselor in every neighborhood school, every day, and a 50% increase in access to social workers, allowing students to receive help faster when facing mental health, family, or social challenges that are barriers to learning

The estimated tax rate impact for the four-year Operational Referendum is about \$15 per year on a \$100,000 home, or \$45 per year on the average Appleton area home (\$300,000).

In this video, Superintendent Hartjes provides an in-depth explanation of how the district's financial crisis unfolded and outlines factors that led to growing deficits.

We also highlight the district's careful financial management over the past decade, including building reserves and paying down debt early, and explain why a community referendum is now necessary to ensure the district can continue providing essential services and support for students.

Ways to Learn About the April 7 Operational Referendum

- Join us at a Referendum Information Session: Open to all community members, our next in-person session is Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m. at Wilson Middle School in the Multipurpose Room
- Visit the Referendum Webpage: Access videos, FAQs, and submit your questions

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From the Business Office



Senior Caps and Gowns: The deadline for caps and gowns has been extended! If your Senior student has not ordered their cap and gown yet, please order by using this [link](#)!

Senior Scholarships: There are many opportunities for college scholarships available to our students. Please follow this [LINK](#) to access the full list that has been shared with students.

Summer School Information and Registration:

Summer school registration officially begins on April 20th. If you have any questions, please reach out to your counselor.

[AASD Summer School Information](#)

[AASD Summer School - Spanish Form](#)

[AASD Summer School - Hmong Form](#)

March Calendar of Events

5 - West Band Concert

10 - ACT Testing

14 - Spring Dance

19 - West Choir Concert

24 - PreACT Testing

26 - End of Quarter

26 - Talent Show

27 - No School - Conference Compensation

March 30 - April 3 - NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK

UPCOMING SENIOR EVENTS

ALL SENIOR MEETING

In April there will be an all senior meeting - you will receive an email with more information regarding this so keep an eye out!

PROM

Saturday April 18th is Prom!
Watch for info
about ticket sales!

TERRORS ON THE RISE

Tuesday May 19th - This is a required event for all seniors. More information will be coming soon!

AWARDS NIGHT

Wednesday May 20th will be Awards Night in the Auditorium at 6:30 pm. This event is invite only so you only need to attend if you receive an invite.

POOL PARTY

Wednesday May 20th
After Awards Night there will be a Pool Party at the Appleton West Pool for anyone in the graduating class. This will run 9:00-11:00 pm.

WALK THRU ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

You are welcome to visit the elementary school that you attended on May 27th at 2:00 pm.

GRADUATION

Wednesday May 27th
Arrive in Emanuel Gym at 5:15 pm. The ceremony starts at 6:00 pm.

POST GRAD PARTY

All graduates are invited to the Post Grad Party being held at Urban Air in Appleton from 9:00 pm to 12:00 am. This event is free for Appleton West graduates.

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Important Links and Contacts

USEFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION:

[Appleton West High School Website](#)

[Appleton West Bell Schedule](#)

[Appleton West Calendar](#)

[Athletic Forms](#)

[Athletic Calendar](#)

Business Office Contact Information:

Amanda Nushart - Business Administrative Assistant
(920-852-5410, Option 4)

Debby Andrews - Athletics Secretary
(920-852-5410, Option 3)

Student Services Contact Information:

Marie Deley, Julie Ossmann, Mindi Blake -
Student Services Secretaries
(920-852-5410, Option 4)

Counseling Office Contact Information:

Cresta Buss - Registrar
Morgan Still - Guidance Secretary
(920-852-5410, Option 2)

PLEASE TAKE OUR PARENT COMMUNICATION SURVEY!!: Go to this [LINK](#) to take our anonymous survey. THANK YOU!