



Williamston High School

Bi-Weekly News & Notes

October 9, 2026

Dear WHS Students and Families,

Below is new information, updates, and reminders about various WHS groups/activities 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:

October 14	Jostens during Lunch - Ask questions or complete orders
October 15	No School; Parent/teacher conferences 12-3 PM; 4-7 PM WHS offices closed 7:45 AM - 12:00 PM
October 16-19	No School - Fall Break
November 3	No School - Staff Professional Development (Election Day)
November 25-27	No School (Thanksgiving Break)
December 21-January 3	No School (Holiday Break)
January 4	No School - Staff Professional Development
January 13-14	Final Exam half days - WHS AM only (8:30 AM - 11:45 AM) 2nd semester drops & adds 12:15 - 3:15 PM (more info to follow)
January 15	Half Day whole district - End of 1st Semester
January 18	No School - MLK Day
January 19	Start of the 2nd Semester

Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences - October 15

WHS fall conferences will take place on **Thursday, October 15, from 12:00 - 3:00 PM and 4:00 - 7:00 PM.**

Parents will have the choice of attending conferences either in-person or virtually (via Google Meet). Please see this [Fall Conference Information letter](#) for more specific information and the link to sign up for conferences.

If you have any questions, please contact the main office at 517-655-2142.

Senior Graduation Information - Jostens Representative: Thursday, October 14th during Lunch

Our Jostens representative will be here to discuss with seniors how to order caps/gowns for graduation and other graduation items (announcements, sweatshirts, etc.) they offer. Every Senior is required to purchase a cap, gown, and tassel package for graduation. You can go to [Jostens.com](#) now and enter Williamston High School to see what is available. Paper packets will also be available for those who don't want to order online.

The Jostens representative will be here on Tuesday, October 14, to accept orders for those who don't want to order online or who have questions about ordering online. Please contact Michelle Smith, WHS Secretary & Graduation Coordinator, at smithm@gowcs.net or 517-655-2142 ext. 7005 if you need financial assistance for this purchase or have any questions.

College Night at LCC

College Night will take place from 6-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at the Downtown Campus. Representatives from more than 50 colleges and universities will be in attendance, so that students and community members can explore options for their future! This is one of the largest college fairs in the area. We hope that you and your student can attend.

AP Exam Registration Information - Deadline November 12th

Advanced Placement Exam registration is now open. The deadline to register to take an AP Exam this school year is November 12, 2026. Any student who is interested in signing up, please refer to this [AP Testing Sign-up document](#) for information on how to complete the process. If you have any questions, please stop in the counseling office and talk with Ms. Enfield or email her at enfiell@gowcs.net.

WHS Drone Club

Any student interested in joining WHS Drone Club should see Mr. Sprague in room F8. Drone club will be meeting on Thursdays from 4-5 PM. Students will learn to pilot drones, race FPV drones, and learn about applications of drone technologies, including experience with aerial photography and videography.

Quiz Bowl Fundraiser

Williamston Quiz Bowl is happy to announce our fifth annual Fall Cravings Popcorn fundraiser! Support our High School and Middle School Quiz Bowl teams as they gear up for the 2027 National Championships in Chicago, Illinois!

- * **Sale Starts/Ends:** September 20, 2026 - October 11, 2026
- * **Selection:** Choose from ten delicious flavors
- * **Student Credit:** Be sure to enter your Quiz Bowl player's name at checkout!

Click the link below or scan the QR Code to order your popcorn by October 11!

<https://michiganfundraisers.com/products/williamston-quizbowl>



WHS Student Government - Haunted Forest

On October 24 -26 from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM, our WHS Student Government is running a Haunted Forest experience. The cost is \$5 per person (cash only). [Click here](#) to view a full-size flyer.



10th Grade Wilson Talent Center Presentation and Tour

The Wilson Talent Center will be coming to the high school on October 26th to present to the 10th graders! Students will learn about the program options that they offer and have the chance to ask any questions they may have. During the presentation on October 26th, students will fill out a tour form for programs they would like to visit. The tour at the Wilson Talent Center will occur in mid-November during the school day. More information will be sent to 10th grade students and families once the tour date is scheduled. If you have any questions, please stop in the counseling office or email Ms. Boyes, boyesmy@gowcs.net.

Voice of Democracy: 26-27 Competition through VFW - Deadline October 31st

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6464 announces the 2026-2027 Voice of Democracy Audio Essay competition for 9th through 12th grade students. This year's theme is "What A Veteran Taught Me About America". The application deadline is October 31st. You can check out the VFW646 website and the Voice of Democracy page [here](#). Please see other informational documents below as well if interested in entering the competition.

[Voice of Democracy News Release](#)

[Voice of Democracy Flyer with QR Code](#)

[26-27 Official Entry Form, VOD Competition](#)

E-bike Use Expectations

Although the high school may not have many E-bike users, as a district, we are sharing expectations with all students and parents. Due to their speed, E-bikes have been identified as a potential safety concern during arrival and dismissal times. If your student rides an E-Bike to school at any time,

- E-bikes should be parked and locked away from drop-off and pick-up areas. There is a bike rack located near the Athletic/Fitness Center entrance, and bikes can be parked by the main office entrance (no bike rack).
- All E-bikes must be powered to “pedal mode” (manual mode) for arrival and dismissal once students arrive on campus sidewalks.
- There are no E-bike ordinances at the city level. These safety measures at the High School (and across the district campuses) are to ensure walkers, drivers, buses, and bicyclists can all safely share the same arrival and dismissal spaces.

School Drop Off and Pick Up

When dropping students off and picking up, please use the Athletic/Fitness Center entrance and the new one-way lane. Students should **NOT** be dropped off or picked up in the front main entrance bus lane or in the staff parking area. The front bus lane is reserved for bus traffic from 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM and 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM.



Reminders and Rotating Announcements below

Yearbooks

The 2026-2027 "Y{our} Story" Yearbook is available for purchase through the Yearbook Form in the main high school office or at www.jostens.com/yearbook. Simply search for "Williamston High School" and "Michigan" to order and personalize your yearbook online. Senior ads may also be purchased through the website or by sending information to the yearbook staff at hsyearbook@gowcs.net. [Senior Pictures & Baby Photos](#) information can be found on the linked Google Doc. Thank you for supporting a yearbook that is focused on capturing the moments, memories, and stories of the 2026-2027 school year.

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 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 Tuesday and Thursday after school (3:25-4:25 PM) and Monday and Wednesday before school (7:45-8:25 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 1st semester dates include: 10/24, 11/7, 11/21, 12/12, 1/9, 2/6, 2/20, 3/6, 3/20, 4/24, 5/15, and 5/29. Students should enter the school through the Dome entrance (Door 27), as other entrances will be locked.
- WCS math teacher Tom Hampton will be available to work with students in need of math support at Saturday academic school (see dates above).

NEW Youth Work Permit Law: *Effective October 2, 2026

A new Michigan law (Public Act 196 of 2024) is changing how work permits for minors are processed. Starting October 2, 2026, schools will no longer be responsible for issuing and revoking work permits; the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) will take over this responsibility.

Key Changes:

- New Online System: Minors and employers must use LEO's free registration website to apply for and process work permits.
- Work Hour Restrictions:
 - 14- and 15-year-olds may only work between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. from June 1 to Labor Day and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. the rest of the year.
 - During the school year, work is limited to 3 hours per day and 18 hours per week.
 - When school is not in session, minors may work up to 40 hours per week.

For more information, visit [Michigan LEO's website](#), which will be updated as the transition approaches and when the change takes effect on October 2nd.

Helpful Resources:

- [Michigan LEO - Youth Employment Standards Act \(YESA\) information page](#)
- [Michigan LEO - Youth Employment information page](#)
- [Michigan LEO - Youth Employment Permit Portal](#)

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, Ms. Myah Boyes (boyesmy@gowcs.net), and school social worker, Mrs. Caitlin Wilcox (wilcox@c@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.

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.

Emergency Snack Donation:

The Counseling Office and Calm Room are in need of emergency snack donations for our students who may feel hungry throughout the day. We would appreciate any snacks that our community could provide! We are able to accommodate some small refrigerated snacks (apple sauce, cheese sticks, etc.), and please make sure all snacks are nut-free.

Please contact the school counselor, Myah Boyes, at boyesmy@gowcs.net with any questions. Donations can be dropped off at the main office. Thank you!

OK2SAY

OK2SAY is the student safety program that 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.

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.

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 in at the main office upon entering the building. The main office can be reached by phone at 517-655-2142.

WHS Student Handbook & Code of Conduct

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