Go Wildcats!

THE WRIGHT CITY CONNECTION

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Homecoming Week: Another Year of Tradition within the Wright City Community

By Emma Manner and Ryle Canizales, Staff Writers

Wright City High School's Homecoming Week took place Monday, September 28. The week kicked off with spirit days in which the whole district had the opportunity to participate in and ended with the parade and the Wright City High football team winning 48 - 18 against South Shelby.

The dance brought students together to enjoy a night of music, laughter and fun. The homecoming game and spirit week was an opportunity to spread the school spirit by bringing everyone together for the big night.

"I'm excited to see what our O-line and defense has in store for South Shelby! I feel if the boys really stick to what they know and not get in their head then we'd have a solid chance against them," senior cheerleader Allison Thomas said.

The homecoming dance was held at Wright City High School on October 3. The dance spanned between the hours of seven and nine. At the dance, students had the chance to dance, play board games, and take photos with backdrops that were created by the art classes at the high school.

"I am excited for homecoming because I get a night to dress up, dance, and be with my friends for a night with no stress for what's going on the next day," junior Calie Robertson said.

The homcoming dance is a tradition that the majority of high schools participate in, giving students opportunties to spend time and have fun. To students, homecoming is a chance to make new memories with the people they surround themselves with everyday.

"Don't stress about everything being perfect [for the dance]! Just have fun, be yourself, and make the most of the night because it goes by way too fast," senior cheerleader Hailey Patterson said.

This homecoming wasn't just about the dance or winning the game, but it was about making memories with peers who surround you. Everyone needs to take advantage of the time you have in high school and the people you meet, not only because it flies by, but you'll never have a chance to do that again.

"One piece of advice I would give someone if it's their first time attending is to just dance. Even if nobody's dancing. If you start dancing, someone will join in," Thomas said.



#WILDCATSTRONG

Student Volunteers Impact Community

By Riley Rapa, News Editor and Idali Santos-Rivera, Staff Writer

High School students at Wright City were given the chance to volunteer which in turn created a positive impact on the Wright City community. One of the volunteer opportunities that was provided by the high school is assisting the school nurses with the health screening. These health screenings have allowed student volunteers to practice medical skills and participate in basic testing under the supervision of the nurses. Students have already conducted hearing tests and taken measurements like height and weight.

"Volunteers from the high school show our community that we are united in service and collaboration, and that is what Wright City is all about," Health Occupations teacher, Leigh Beasley said.

The health screenings take place every year and once the time comes around, students get the opportunity to volunteer. This year, they took place at Wright City West Elementary school October 19 through October 23, East Elementary October 13 through October 17, and are planned to take place at Wright City Middle School November 17 through November 19.

Studnents like senior Juliana Lopez-Luna have participated in the health screenings for at least two consecutive years. The health screenings are one of the first volunteer options students get freshman year and are one of many that allow students to interact with members of the community.

"My favorite thing about volunteering is to help out of the community and seeing how thankful the staff are knowing they get help. This [health screening volunteering] is an amazing experience for one to go through, especially if you want to work with kids," Lopez-Luna said.

This opportunity impacts both the students and staff alike. By engaging in this opportunity students gain practical insight. Staff members and students are able to create meaningful connections and work toward a common goal.

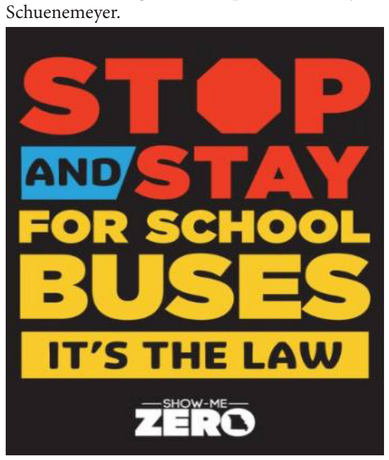
"I believe that having volunteers for the health screenings is important because it helps the screenings to flow easier, keeps the kids more in order, and the kids love to see new faces! The volunteers have helped me get through these screenings through interacting with the kids, taking their weight, and taking their heights," West Elementary School Nurse, Jordyn Callahan said.

The helath screenings are just one of many volunteer opportunities that allow the high school students to interact with multiple members of the community. It allows students to learn from school nurses and interact with students of many ages and staff of many roles.

"Collaborating with our school nurses not only gives HOSA and Health Occupations students real-world, work-based learning opportunities, but it also shows our lower-grade students that when they get to high school, they can join health-related organizations and classes. Our nurses work so hard for our students every day, so in essence we're 'paying it forward' by helping the younger students," Beasley said.

The high school plans to continue these health screenings next year and for many years to come according to HOSA sponsor Whitney Schuenemeyer.





Finding What's Next

Warrenton High School hosts Annual College and Career Fair

By Ada Ferrell, Sports Editor

The Warrenton High School gym was packed as students streamed in for the Annual College and Career Fair. With representatives from 37 colleges and universities all over Missouri, along with major branches of the military, the event gave Wright City High School students a chance to explore their post graduate goals.

At the college fair, there were tables displaying college banners, pennants, and informational pamphlets lined the gym floor. Admissions representatives were at ease of access for students to talk about everything from campus life and majors to application deadlines and financial aid. Whether students were just starting to look or finalizing their top choices, having all these representatives in one room made a big difference.

"I came here with a direct hit-list: three out-of-state universites and two local ones," said senior Marli Burkhardt. "Getting to ask admissions reps face-to-face about their specific engineering program prerequisities gave me answers I couldn't easily find scrolling through their websites."

For others, the fair gave them the opportunity to pla a long-term career path in order to set them up for success after graduation.

"I've known I wanted to go to law school since my sophomore year, so today was all about finding the right stepping stones," said senior Olivia Wilson. "I spent my time asking reps about their pre-law advising programs, mock trial teams, and how high their graduate school acceptance rates are."

Alongside traditional four-year and community college options, students also had the chance to meet with representatives from military service pathways, including the Air Force Academy, Air Force, Army National Guard, Marines, and Navy. Recruiters talked with students about career fields, service commitments, and opportunities for college tuition assistance through programs like ROTC [Reserve Officers' Training Corps].

"The college fair helped me learn more about different colleges and what they offer. It made me feel more prepared to decide where I want to go after graduation," said senior Maura Juden.

No matter where students are in planning their future, the fair offers plenty of direction and a clear reminder that graduation is fast approaching.

"The college fair helped me start thinking about what I might want to do after high school. I learned a lot about different colleges and opportunities they offer," said freshman Dean Juden.



Behind the Scenes

By Brayden Swayze, Website Editor

Whether performing on-stage, designing sets, or building props, the school's theatre club provides students with the opportunity to build communication, confidence, and concerntration skills.

Led by Luke Englert, the theatre club has meetings throughout the year and puts on various plays. Each one features local Wright City High School students as both actors and crew members. Through this activity, students can explore different aspects of threatre while developing essential life skills. The club also aims to be as inclusive as possible, offering opportunities to students regardless of skill level and previous experience.

Selecting a play involves considering both the students participating and the audience members who will attend.

"I read a lot of plays in my free time and try to find something that not only the kids would enjoy, but also the community of people coming to see the show," Englert said.

This also goes hand-in-hand with the meetings members have throughout the year, where they discuss and plan upcoming activites. One previous production Englert recalled was the 12 Angry Jurors which was performed during his first year at Wright City High School. Englert said he thought the production went really well.

Although acting is one part of theatre, students can also contribute through technical and creative work. Putting on a show requires students to help with designing, building props, and organizing everything to bring a performance together.

"There's a lot you can learn from theater, from designing, to building, to acting," Englert said. "There is so much you can learn."

According to Englert, participation can also help students strengthen their public-speaking and organizational skills while encouraging them to think creatively. This allows students to contribute and learn no matter their strengths.

For any students hesitant to participate or try theatre, Englet emphasized the support available from within the club.

"Just go for it. There are so many students in our club who are so supportive and ready to welcome you," Englert said.

As the school year progresses, Englert said he is looking forward to helping the theatre program grow. With opportunities in acting, design, and construction, the club offers students several ways to become involved.





Students Celebrate Cultural Diversity

By Idali Santos-Rivera, Staff Writer

Halloween isn't the only thing that students of the Wright City community can look out for at the end of October. Wright City High School's Spanish Club allows students to participate in activites involving Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), a Spanish holiday where families honor and welcome the souls of their deceased ancestors or relatives. The holiday takes place on November 1 through 2, but the Spanish Club prepares ahead of time to host activites prior to the holiday with sugar skull painting that took place on October 18.

Sugar skull painting involes artistic painting on skulls that are made out of solid sugar. Spanish Club sponsor, Julie Hernandez provides the skulls. Students are in charge of painting and decorating to display their creativity while some students even attempt to imitate traditional Mexican folk art.

"Participation in different cultural activites invites students to experience another culture more from the 'inside' of the culture, rather than on the outside looking in," Hernandez said.

Senior Adelina Ortega-Tso, a Spanish Club member, attended the sugar skull painting activity. This tradition has been a part of the Spanish Club for around three years, allowing several students throughout the years to experience Spanish culture during the fall.



"What I have enjoyed is making new friends and learning more about the culture behind the Spanish language. What has been my most favorite activity so far is making the sugar skulls and getting to paint them. I have also enjoyed learning about this holiday. It is very unique and interesting to me," Ortega-Tso said.

Through activities like sugar skull painting, students are able to immerse themselves in traditions outside their own experiences. By learning to appreciate cultural differences, students can develop greater understadning of cultural diversity and the importance of respecting other cultures.

"Ideally, these activites not only provide an outlet for students to have fun, but they provide a path for students to better understand other cultures and themselves as well. I think it's important for students to participate in different cultural activites because it allows them to explore the beauty of a different culture in a more meaningful way," Hernandez said.

#TEAM WC






















Wags and Whiskers October Pets of the Month

Meet Misty and Miley!

By Maura Juden, Features Editor

Misty and Miley have spent their lives together, and now the six-year-old sisters are looking for a new plce to call home. The bonded pair is being featured as October's Pets of the Month at Wags and Whiskers, an adoption center located in Wright City.

The sisters arrived at Wags and Whiskers approximately eight weeks ago after their previous owner had to move into assisted living and could no longer care for them. Now, Misty and Miley are looking for a new family where they continue to receive the love and attention they enjoy.

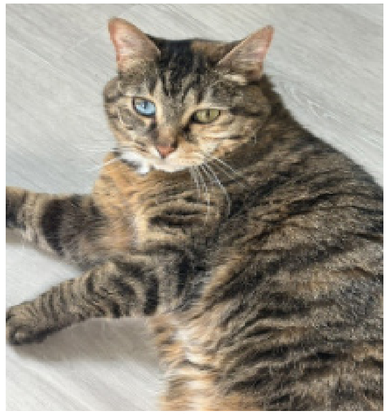
According to Kristin Schuble, the shelter manager at Wags and Whiskers, both cats are affectionate, playful and energetic. They enjoy pets, cuddles, and playing with toys.

"They're super lovable cats," Schuble said. Both sisters are affectionate and playful, enjoy being petted and playing with toys. Even at six years old, they are energetic and love spending time together. Their bond is especially noticable when they cuddle and play with each other. Misty also has a unique feature that makes her stand out: one blue eye and one green eye.

"They are very bonded," Schuble said. "So they like to cuddle with each other, play with each other, and be around each other."

For anyone interested in adopting the sisters, Schuble recommends spending time with them at the shelter before making a final decision. She believes they could fit into a variety of households, including families with children. The sisters also get along with kittens. Since their previous owner was home frequently, a household where someone can be home often could be another good fit.

"Definitely spend some time with them, get to know them, and see if it's a good match," Schuble said.



Misty



Miley

A New Resource for Wright City

While Misty and Miley wait for their forever home, Wags and Whiskers is working to make a difference for animals throughout the community. The adoption center recently opened in Wright City after years of planning and fundraising.

According to Kristin Schuble, the project took more than five years to develop. Tracy Sator, the organization's board president, helped move the project forward after recognizing the need for a safe place for stray animals in the area.

Wright City board members worked to raise funds and complete the necessary organizational and legal steps to open the center. Local businesses and volunteers also contributed their time and materials to help make the project possible.

The shelter's opening provides a new resource for the community, giving animals a place to stay while they wait for adoptive families. It also offers community members a place to get involved to help animals in need.

Kristin encourages people to support Wags and Whiskers in whatever way they can. Community members can donate supplies, volunteer their time or share the shelter's social media posts to help spread awareness about the animals available for adoptions.

"Just supporting us," Schuble said. "It goes a long way."

As Wags and Whiskers continues to establish itself in the community, Misty and Miley are among the animals that are waiting for their next chapter. Those interested in adopting the sisters can contact the shelter to learn more about them and finding out how to begin the adoption process.

For these two sisters, the hope is to find a family that will welcome them and give them a place to call home.

JOIN OUR TEAM

Together WE CAN

APPLY TODAY

Scan the QR Code or Visit
https://wrightcity.schoolspring.com

Wright City R-II

Facebook Page

Stay connected with the Wright City R-II School District on Facebook!

Join our community online to celebrate student achievements, share important reminders, and stay informed. Like us at facebook.com/WrightCityr2 to stay in the loop!

The Wildcat Den

Field Trip Highlight

By Stella Keimon, Staff Writer

Wright City HOSA students got the opportunity to take a trip to the Wright City firehouse for the Firefighter demo field trip. Students got to experience firefighters getting into uniform and even got the immersive experience to put the uniforms on themselves. The firefighters went through various scenarios and demonstrated the different types of equipment while also showing students how to utilize them, such as materials to get into vehicles and houses. At the firehouse, students over the age of 18 were encouraged to join the volunteer group to allow them to build connections within this career, no matter what branch they'd choose.

"I really liked this field trip and hope HOSA continues to go on it or do similar trips. It allowed students to see what firefighters actually do during the day, ad what their schedules look like," said HOSA president and senior Allison Thomas.



This OR That

Halloween

CHOCOLATE	GUMMY
DRESS UP	STAY IN
HAYRIDE	CORN MAZE
CARVING PUMPKINS	PAINTING PUMPKINS
PUMPKIN PIE	APPLE PIE



Each month Wright City Connection chooses to highlight one student as the Wildcat of the Month. This month we chose freshman Gage Lehmen. Lehmen is described as being a lively, outgoing person who makes sure everyone is included no matter what the reason may be. Lehmen participates in various activites such as basketball, golf, FBLA, DECA, Student Council, Key Club, and Spanish Club.

"I am an outgoing person and like to help the school be more fun and inclusive," Lehmen said.

When choosing our Wildcat of the Month, the Wright City Connection looks for students demonstrating school spirit, a positive attitude, good work ethic, and showing kindness to everyone. Being a Wildcat is about more than just academics. It's about the effort you're willing to put in to make Wright City a better place for the community.

"To me, being a Wildcat means showing up, doing the work, and looking out for each other. It means taking responsibility for our choices, treating people well, and making the most of our opportunities. Being a Wildcat means we prove what's possible, together," Lehmen said.

Between balancing school work and extracurricular activities, Lehmen makes sure to stay involved in many parts of school life. He makes sure to make new connections everyday, build relationships with his classmates, and be a positive representative in the classrooms for our teachers. Lehmen is always making sure to include everyone whether that includes inviting kids to join his group project or talking to one of his many club members.

"I was always taught growing up to treat people how you wanted to be treated, and I know that I would always want to be included in everything," Lehmen said.

Lehmen dedicates his qualities to his eigth grade math teacher Mrs. Hurst, who helped influence his love for math and helped him become who he is today. Even though Lehmen is a math lover, his favorite class is Principles of Biomedical Science. Lehmen mentions that his favorite part of the school year so far is the crime scene they did in Biomed class.

"Even though the crime scene challenged me a little, I loved getting to solve the murder case. I also thought it was cool because I felt like a detective," Lehmen said.

Through his hard work ethic, positive attitude, and helpfulness towards others Lehmen has helped make the classroom better and a more positive environment for everyone around him. As Wildcat of the Month, Lehmen represents the importance of the school spirit, kindness, and making a difference in the lives around him.

WRIGHT CITY R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT

WRIGHT CITY MEDIA
WRIGHT CITY CONNECTION

STAFF

- Alexis Slayden
- Brayden Swayze
- Emma Manner
- Emma Rapá
- Idali Santos-Rivera
- Kaylee Kneemiller
- Maura Juden
- Maxi Gonzalez
- Phoenix Mendenhall
- Rylie Canizales
- Sam Mintner
- Stella Keimon
- Adalyn Ferrell
- Angelina Wright-Harris
- Ashlynn Yount
- Janya Davis
- Riley Rapá
- Tiana Sims

2026-27 School Calendar

WRIGHT CITY R-II SCHOOL DISTRICT
2026-2027 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

LEGEND: [Beginning of School/Semester] End of School/Semester
Holiday - District Closed | No Student Attendance | Half Day Student Attendance

AUGUST 2026

M	T	W	R	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
[24	25	26	27	28
31				

13-14: New Teachers
17-20: Staff Development
24: Students Begin (full day)

SEPTEMBER 2026

M	T	W	R	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

7: NO SCHOOL- Labor Day
18: Staff Workday
21: NO SCHOOL: Staff Development

OCTOBER 2026

M	T	W	R	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23]
26	27	28	29	30

5: PTC for East and MS 4-7 pm
6: PTC for West and EC 4-7 pm
7: PTC for HS 4-7 pm
8: Early Release for 4 hours of PTC
9: NO SCHOOL
23: End of 1st Quarter
30: NO SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2026

M	T	W	R	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				

2: NO SCHOOL- Staff Development
25-27: NO SCHOOL- Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2026

M	T	W	R	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18]
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

18: 1st Semester Ends
21-31: NO SCHOOL- Winter Break

JANUARY 2027

M	T	W	R	F
				1
4	[5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

1: NO SCHOOL- Winter Break
4: NO SCHOOL- Staff Development
5: 2nd Semester Begins
18: NO SCHOOL- MLK Day
possible makeup day

FEBRUARY 2027

M	T	W	R	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

8-11 Parent Teacher Conferences
12: NO SCHOOL- Staff Development
15: NO SCHOOL- Presidents Day
possible makeup day
26: Staff Workday

MARCH 2027

M	T	W	R	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12]
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

12: End of 3rd Quarter
22-26: NO SCHOOL- Spring Break
29: NO SCHOOL- Easter Break
possible makeup day

APRIL 2027

M	T	W	R	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

MAY 2027

M	T	W	R	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27]	28
31				

27: Last Day of Semester/Year
if no additional snow days
(half day)

MAKE-UP/INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS:

1-2: Traditional snow days may be made up on January 18, February 15 or March 29, depending on if there are at least 10 school days before the makeup day.

3-7: 5 days of AMI (Alternative Methods of Instruction)

Any additional days will be added to the end of the school year if needed.

