

WILLARD CITY SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Superintendent's News

Performing and Visual Arts

In the former Willard High School, we were fortunate to have a Performing Arts Center. One could tell the space was used constantly from the wear and tear that began to show in later years. Unfortunately, the state funding for new buildings does not account for Performing Arts Centers in the plan. Because of the way the PAC was built into the original foundation from 1925, it was not feasible to keep only that section. Now that we have settled into our new facility, the time has

come to pursue funding for a new Performing Arts Center. Did you know our largest school program is the performing and visual arts, with more students than all our athletic programs combined?

The best part about bringing a Performing Arts Center to Willard City Schools is that it means bringing it to our entire community. The facility will be available for use for performances, exhibits, meetings, public forums, banquets, seminars, conferences, small trade shows...the possibilities are endless!

In May, a 1.25% earned income tax levy will be on the ballot. This levy will generate approximately \$1.9 million dollars annually, and will be used to fund the realization of a Performing Arts Center for our students and our community. Once the income tax is passed, the Willard City Schools PAC Committee will accept charitable donations to help enhance the quality of the facility through upgrades and additional amenities.

Already the industrial and commercial farming hub of Huron County, with a

modern hospital and beautiful new school campus, a new Performing Arts Center will be the place for those who are "Proud to Call Willard Home" to not only illuminate their commitment to the arts, but ignite an exciting future for our school and community.

Jeff Ritz
Superintendent

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Willard High School

Here at WHS, we are rolling out our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. Our team has come up with three habits that we want to stress with our kids and staff: Respect, Responsibility and Resilience. It is important that we practice these three habits in the classrooms, hallways, during extra-curricular activities and outside of school. Our entire staff kept an inventory and noted when our students demonstrated one of the habits in the classroom in February, and will reward

those students in early March. We need to make a fundamental shift in our thinking and reward our students that demonstrate positive habits and behaviors, rather than focus on those that do not. We have an outstanding group of students here at WHS!

Our winter sports season has come to an end and we are now in tournament play. We are firm believers that students benefit from involvement in school activities and we would like to thank our students involved in those activities in the winter

season. Congratulations to our girls' basketball team for winning the SBC Bay Division Championship! The girls' bowling team and two members of the boys team advancing to the district level. Four of our swimmers advanced to districts with Nick Bauer advancing to the State swimming meet, the first swimmer in our history to do so! We have had a successful wrestling season, as our numbers are improving and they are headed into tournament action this Friday. Our boys basketball team has provided excitement all season as they have played hard and have shown improvement. Our cheerleaders, pep band members, and our student cheering section make our athletic events a positive experience for all of our athletes and community members in attendance. Our orches-

tra, band and choir sounded great at their winter concerts and all three groups will soon perform in large group contests. Finally, our students involved in FFA and Academic Challenge have competed at numerous events over the past several months. We hope all students are able to look back with fond memories of their

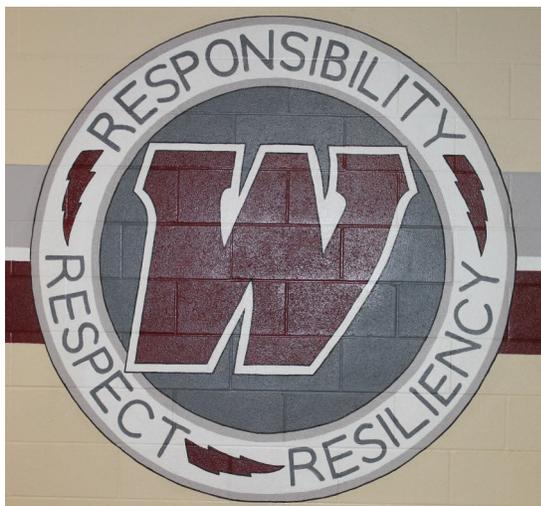


time here at WHS!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 419-935-0181.

Chris Schaaf
Principal

Joe Crawford
Assistant Principal



Willard Middle School

Improving Our Skills

It's hard to believe that we have reached the half-way point in the 2017-2018 school year. The Middle School students and staff have been engaged this semester on improving our students' academic, social and technological skills. In the second quarter we had 132 students make the Honor Roll by achieving a 3.5 grade point or higher. Of those 132 students making the Honor Roll, 40 had all A's. We also had 72 students make Merit Roll by achieving a 3.0-3.4 grade point in the second quarter.

We Have PRIDE!

Our teaching staff has worked diligently on providing a learning environment which

stresses the importance of respect for self, others and our school. This semester we have recognized 476 students for demonstrating positive behavior in our classrooms, cafeteria, hallways, buses and assemblies. We will be hosting our second trimester PRIDE assembly in March, celebrating positive behavior, good attendance, participation in extra-curricular activities, and achieving all A's.

"Whoville"

Our eighth grade team took time to spread Christmas spirit by creating "Whoville" so all of our students in the Willard School community could receive a visit with Santa and take home a Christmas present. The team

incorporated literacy and the arts into this year's program.

Intervention

Our second quarter ended January 12th and grade cards were sent home to parents on January 20th. The Middle School Intervention Assistance Team, led by School Psychologist Ryan Mock, met with teachers to discuss Tier II interventions for our students that struggled academically or behaviorally in the second quarter.

The winter sports teams began SBC tournament games on Saturday, February 3rd. The seventh grade girls basketball team advanced to the semi-finals and three wrestlers placed at the SBC wrestling tournament. Shadrick Slone placed first, Ricardo Gomez Santos placed second, and Jordan Sweet placed fifth.

Congratulations to all teams for demonstrating Flashes Pride!

Mike Eicher
Principal

Dave Hirschy
Dean of Students

Flashes Pride!



Willard Elementary School

Importance of Reading

As most of you are aware, the State of Ohio has required a lot more testing of our students and a lot more is expected of them at a very young age. The Ohio Department of Education has put into place the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. This means that all third grade students must receive a passing score on the AIR Reading Test to be promoted to the fourth grade. We need to encourage our students and families to read and to discuss and talk about what they are reading to help prepare our students for these tests.

Preschool Christmas Program

Our Preschool students put on an adorable Christmas program for their families. After their performance, the students and their families did some crafts together and Santa Claus stopped by to hear all of their Christmas wishes.

First Grade Family Night

Our first grade students performed a medley of Christmas carols for their family and friends in the month of December. They did a wonderful job and helped to kick off the Christmas season. After their awesome performance, the students and their families went back to their classrooms to discuss Reading and Math strategies with their teachers.

Fourth and Fifth Grade Family Night

Our fourth and fifth graders held performances with recorders and ukuleles for their families as part of family night activities. Along with their awesome musical performance, the students were able to visit their classrooms.

Kindergarten

Our Kindergarten students did a magnificent job once again singing the National Anthem at the Willard Lady Flashes Basketball game in

February. We want to thank Mrs. Hall, Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Kearney for working with our Kindergarten students to prepare them for this performance.

School Volunteers

We are always looking for parents, grandparents and community volunteers at Willard Elementary. The students enjoy working with volunteers and the teachers appreciate the opportunity for volunteers to help students in their classrooms. If you are interested in volunteering in our school, please call the Willard Elementary office at 419-935-5341.

Tracy Stephens
Principal

Mandy Polachek
Assistant Principal



Food Services

Let's talk student lunch accounts! Would you like to know what your student buys each day? Would you like to see their balance? Although you cannot make a deposit, you may access your child's lunch account online to view their balance and see how they are spending their money. The website is:

<https://meal-magic.willardschools.org/mealmagic/mylunchaccount>

You will need your child's ID number and birthdate to sign in. Please contact me if you need help obtaining their ID number.

Did you know that you can receive an email when your child's lunch balance falls below a predetermined amount? To sign up for this feature, please send me an email at king.shannon@willardschools.org and include your student's name. I will sign you up immediately!

You can now receive a text message of the lunch menu. The text arrives a day ahead at approximately 7:00 pm and will tell you breakfast and lunch menus for the next day. The middle and high schools also receive a text with a la carte information. To sign up for elementary information, text @eda0 to 419-434-9624.

To receive MS/HS information, text @ef8d5 to 419-434-9624.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about school lunch or breakfast, please contact me via email or phone at (419) 935-3821.

Shannon King
Food Service Director

Flashes Health Corner

Flu season has peaked in our area with several students having tested positive. The flu viruses are spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. People with the flu can spread it to others up to about

6 feet away. A person may also get the flu by touching a surface or object that has the flu virus on it and then touching his or her own mouth, eyes, or even their nose.

The main symptoms of the flu are: fever or feeling feverish/chills (not everyone with flu will have fever), cough, sore throat, runny or

stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue (tiredness), vomiting and diarrhea (although this is more common in children than adults).

If you do not feel "good," do not ignore it. Sometimes you may think you only have a cold but it's actually the flu. If you have any questions, please contact

your physician immediately, visit the Mercy Health Walk-in Clinic, or feel free to contact me and I will help you navigate your symptoms.

Stay Healthy!

Ricky Branham RN,
BA; MBA; COHC
School Nurse/Health
Coordinator
Phone: 419-935-0181 Ext. 46016

Student Services

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched—they must be felt with the heart.

- Helen Keller

I should start by introducing myself. I am Juanita Megger, the new Director of Student Services at Willard City Schools. The other new addition to our department is Ryan Mock, School Psychologist. Even though we were strangers when the school year started, we quickly realized that we have the same goals in mind and heart. We both share a passion for our students and their success.

The district is moving forward with new ideas and hopes for the students in our district. We have had a wonderful year and are on track with being compliant in all areas required by the state and federal government. A large portion of these laws consist of getting all reports and meetings completed in a timely manner. This can be somewhat challenging when students move into the district with reports that are out of compliance or being close to the compliance date. We work closely with the parents, teachers and support staff to ensure that these deadlines are being met.

We have begun the transition to full inclusion classrooms with

the exception of those students with significant cognitive disabilities. At the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, our students with special needs will be able to access the general education curriculum throughout the day with their peers. Supports and services will be provided to allow the students to be successful in the general education curriculum. In the past we have had classes in math and English which were geared toward students with learning difficulties using a modified curriculum in these areas. In an inclusive classroom the general education teacher and the intervention teacher work together to meet the child's needs. The key points that guide the decision for fully inclusive classrooms are that students will receive differentiated instruction within the general education classroom, supportive teaching strategies for all students, reduced stigma, effective use of resources, and high expectations for all students.

Mr. Mock has been working closely with the teachers at the Elementary, Middle School and High School, imple-

menting a strong intervention program. This program targets the students that the teachers have identified as needing extra supports to be successful. There are several factors that could be the underlying cause for their struggles, such as maturity or lack of exposure in their earlier years in the basic fundamentals of learning. Many times these students simply need to be taught strategies and skills to help them build individual skills, which translates to better overall academic achievement. The intervention program allows for the teachers to implement interventions that target those areas of need. Through this process we can determine if the student needs to be evaluated for more in depth services after first attempting multi-tiered interventions in the general education classroom.

First and foremost our goal is to help all students be successful not only in their school careers, but into adulthood.

Juanita Megger, Director
Student Services

Ryan Mock
School Psychologist

Buildings and Operations / Transportation

Buildings and Operations

One of the greatest assets in the new K-12 campus is our kitchen facility. This area is maintained by a caring and dedicated staff. Just a few short years ago we had seven (7) cafeterias and kitchens in our district. Today with our 21st century campus we are serving our students with one centralized kitchen. This has been one of the most cost effective spaces in regards to the

operational budget. We simultaneously serve preschool through fifth grade on one side and grades sixth through twelfth on the other side. We have been able to downsize our equipment list and have been able to deliver services with less human capital. The kitchen workers are excellent at keeping this most used facility looking clean and sharp. They clean daily with the micro-fiber cleaning program that I instituted

with the opening of the new campus.

Transportation

A reminder to parents that you can use our "Here Comes the Bus" app to view your child's real-time location on your smartphone, tablet or computer. Go to www.synoviasolutions.com/here-comes-the-bus. The school code is 81475 and you will need your child's ID number. There are days that are unavoidable in delaying

your child's pick-up and/or drop-off time. This app enables you to see the location of your child's bus, confirm your child's arrival to the bus stop, at school, or both.

Michael A. Lillo
Buildings/Operations
Transportation

Know! What's Trending—the Tide Pod Challenge

If you are raising teenagers, you have no doubt heard of some of the ridiculous internet challenges that exist among this age group. While some of these new-age "dares" are silly and harmless, many more are dangerous and even deadly, like the one currently trending – the 'Tide Pod Challenge.'

It has nothing to do with laundry and everything to do with getting internet "famous." The videos that have spread like wildfire across social media look something like this – laughing, joking teens sink their teeth into one of the colorful, dessert-like looking

laundry pods, then cough and gag while toxic, stain-fighting chemicals ooze from their mouths. The purpose? A few laughs from their friends and as many social media "views" as possible.

The American Association of Poison Control Centers, however, says the 'Tide Pod Challenge' is no joke. These pods have caused children to be hospitalized with difficulty breathing, loss of consciousness, and temporary vision loss due to chemical burns to the eye. Additionally, Consumer Reports say the ingredients in these pods can burn the

mouth, digestive system, and stomach, cause gastrointestinal distress and respiratory arrest, and if they make their way into the bloodstream or organs, they can be fatal.

While concerns surrounding these types of detergent pods are not new, we used to worry that children under the age of five would unintentionally ingest them. Who would have guessed that our 13 to 19-year-olds would be intentionally biting into them? What is a parent to do? By reading this tip, you are already taking a step in the right direction by becoming

AWARE. But you must also be aware that as this Internet challenge fades out, another is sure to follow, which is why it is so important to talk with our teens about the health and safety dangers of this and other online challenges.

It would be naive to think we will ever keep up with all the latest internet trends, dangerous or not. What we can do is talk to our children, set clear boundaries, and teach them to think critically before the next risky challenge presents itself.

Technology

Drone Club and Racing League

We recently started a drone club and racing league for grades 7-12. We have met twice and will continue to meet after school on a weekly basis for the rest of the year to learn about several types of drones, regulations, and do lots of flying.



WCS is also taking part in a larger group racing league versus several other schools in the area. The goal is to compete in a few events this spring. We will be providing four small racing drones, complete with remote controls and headsets to view drone flight in first person view.

This is a great opportunity for our students and we hope this will be the start of something big that will spark an interest with some of our students to learn and possibly make drones and/or robotics a future career choice.

Community Tech Classes

Community Tech Nights are being offered to any adult that would like to learn some basic tech skills. Sessions are FREE to the public. We invite community members who are interested in learning some basic technology skills to come in and learn some of the great things available with today's technologies.

The classes are scheduled most Wednesdays from 6 to 7pm in the IVDL Computer Lab (HS 101). You may park and enter from either side of the building, but the closest entrance are the doors labeled D22, which are located on the west side of the building, one set of doors west of the main entrance. Please contact me at 419-935-0181, extension 46005 or email white.mark@willardschools.org to sign up or learn more about it. We hope to see you there!

Digital Citizenship and Safety

We believe in the importance of providing our students with the skills and tools to best

prepare them for their futures. Technology is a big part of the picture and it is our belief that every student should be well-rounded in these skills and all the positives and negatives that go hand-in-hand with using technology.

Digital citizenship is an extremely important skill set. We strongly believe that along with learning 21st century skills, students must also be taught digital citizenship skills, including anti-bullying, cyber safety, digital footprints, netiquette, etc. Our technology teachers, along with the majority of our regular classroom teachers and administration have strived to make digital citizenship as critical as learning tech skills and the core curriculum.

"My Digital Footprints" was an event open to any adult or student to learn more about taking responsibility for their own digital footprints and the digital trail we leave behind while online.

The event was sponsored by Project Leadership of Huron County and a grant from Huron County Job & Family Services. It was an evening spent promoting a message about digital footprints, while also providing each person in attendance with a My Digital Footprints t-shirt, pizza and other snacks.

We are not finished! March 16th we have arranged for Internet Crimes Against Children to speak to all Middle and High School students. We aim to reinforce all of these concepts again. We must continue to provide our students with information to help them to learn to be more responsible cyber citizens. This is a job for all of us. We encourage all parents and grandparents to speak to your children often about these pressing topics. It takes a village.

Mark White
Director of Technology



Curriculum

You have all heard the adage “It Takes a Village to Raise a Child,” and here at Willard City Schools that is a statement we truly believe in. Working together we can help to raise thoughtful, hard-working, productive citizens. This year we have put a focus on inviting families and community members into the building. We love seeing the community support at musical/drama performances, sporting events, and grade level Family Nights. This year we have opened the doors for additional opportunities as well.



Survival Tips for Families

Kelli Shook from Team Family Coaching and Consulting has led meetings centered on positive parenting. Since October, Kelli has spoken on topics including ways to create peaceful home environments, managing stress, signs and symptoms of poor mental health, and how to react/respond to others when depression is suspected. These informational sessions are concluded with interactive time in order for additional questions to be answered and thoughts to be shared. There will be one final opportunity in April to attend a session with Kelli, so watch our Facebook page for further information.

Family Movie Nights



Each quarter there is a night set aside to welcome families into the High School Auditoria for a FREE Movie and FREE popcorn! So far this year we have watched the popular movies “SING” and “Cars 3”. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on both **Saturday, March 3, 2018** and **Friday, May 18, 2018!** The movie will begin at 6:30pm and the featured presentation will be posted on our Facebook page. Come on out and bring the family (and maybe even a blanket to sit on)!

Community Engagement Nights

Community/Family Engagement meetings are scheduled to create time to openly share thoughts and ideas for working together and improving communication. We appreciate the feedback on current practices and have gleaned many new ideas from your suggestions. If you haven't been able to join us yet this year, we hope to see you **Tuesday, April 3, 2018**, in the High School Library beginning at 4:30pm.

Don't forget to come in and check out our Community Tech Nights as well!

Flashes Pride - District Wide!

Jenni Smith
Curriculum Director

Together We Succeed



WILLARD CITY SCHOOLS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**Willard City Schools
Board of Education Office
110 S. Myrtle Avenue
Willard, Ohio 44890**

**Phone: 419-935-1541
Fax: 419-935-8491**

Capital Campaign

Would you like to have your name or business recognized as a supporter of the K-12 school building?

Consider purchasing a granite paver. Please call the Board of Education Office at 419-935-1541 for more information.

Invest in the Future of Our Kids!

Treasurer's News

The Willard City School District participates in the Medicaid School Program, also known as MSP. The MSP program was created to include federal matching Medicaid funding for traditional and community schools. Under this program school districts can receive Medicaid dollars for services such as speech, physical

therapy, occupational therapy, nursing, psychology and counseling. The district receives this funding when a student received one or more of the approved services and the student has current Medicaid insurance coverage. The Ohio Department of Medicaid and the Ohio Department of Education oversee this program.

In order to bill for these Medicaid services, our district must first obtain a signed parental consent to share information and access Medicaid form. The consent is voluntary and parents or guardians can withdraw their consent at any time. Billing Medicaid does not require the families to incur any expenses such as deductibles or co-

pays. It does not affect any lifetime coverage. Whether parents grant consent or not, students requiring services listed in their IEP will be provided the services at no cost to the family of the student.

**Cyndi Shoup
Treasurer**