

Westfall



MUSTANG MONTHLY eNEWSLETTER #RISEABOVE

FEBRUARY 2024

EVENTS AROUND THE DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 1

WES Parent-Teacher Conferences | 5:00 PM-8:00PM

FEBRUARY 5

WES Candid Photos

FEBRUARY 6

WES Parent-Teacher Conferences

FEBRUARY 8

MS/HS Parent-Teacher Conferences

FEBRUARY 9

Interim Ends

FEBRUARY 10

OMEA District 15 Solo & Ensemble
Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

week of FEBRUARY 12

WES Candy Grams Sale
WES After School Book Fair

FEBRUARY 12 -14

WES Mobile Dentist

FEBRUARY 15

Westfall Way Forward
4th Grade Field Trip to Statehouse

FEBRUARY 16

WES Friendship Parties
WMS Spring Dance | 2:30 -4:00 PM
3rd Nine Weeks Interims Available

FEBRUARY 19

NO SCHOOL | Presidents Day

week of FEBRUARY 20

FFA Week

FEBRUARY 21

ACT Prep Class | Community Room | 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Board of Education Regular Meeting | Community Room | 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 23

ASVAB Interpretation
WES Author Wes Molebash Visits

FEBRUARY 24

Party With A Purpose | Dry Run Farms | Doors open at 5:00 PM

FEBRUARY 27

WMS Band & Choir Concert
High School Auditorium | 6:30 PM

FEBRUARY 29

WHS Band Concert & OMEA Preview
High School Auditorium | 6:30 PM

Message from the SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Mustangs,

When I was hired at Westfall, the school board gave me four areas on which to focus and have continued to be the focus during my five years at Westfall.

- Safety
- Educating the whole child
- Permanent improvements
- Communication

While three areas might be self-explanatory, what do we mean by educating the whole child?

The Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) states that educating the whole child involves promoting long-term development and success by developing transitions from focusing on narrowly defined academic achievement to promoting the long-term development and success of all children.

While focusing on the state standards has benefits, educating the whole child means recognizing the specific needs of our children in the Westfall community.

ASCD states that the "five tenets" of educating the whole child are health, safety, engagement, support, and challenge. Notice that each of these tenets overlaps with the areas of focus that the board has established. To address these five tenets successfully, we realize that our students' needs are constantly changing. They change because our world and community change, and our student body changes, one student at a time. Each new student might bring a new challenge to the district as we strive to apply the tenets to the individual needs of each student.

Some of the methods used to recognize the reality of our students in this community are our agricultural program, food science classes, visual and musical arts programs, and a digital academy. Even involving our students in community service is a method of educating the whole child. By incorporating these programs and activities into our curriculum, we are not only offering our students a well-rounded education but also showing them that their interests and passions are valued.

Our agricultural program teaches students about sustainable agriculture and how to care for livestock. Our food science classes allow students to explore the science behind food and culinary arts. Our visual and musical arts programs provide an outlet for creative expression and allow students to showcase their talents. Our digital academy provides a platform for students with unique circumstances to follow the curriculum, complete assignments, and receive assistance from a certified instructor outside the traditional classroom setting.

By involving our students in community service, we also teach them the importance of giving back to their community while developing a broader sense of responsibility. Our goal is to inspire and empower our students to reach their fullest potential, preparing them for the future by equipping them with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their chosen paths, whether in college, a trade school, or the workforce.

Go Mustangs!

Happy Birthday

TO OUR STAFF

FEBRUARY

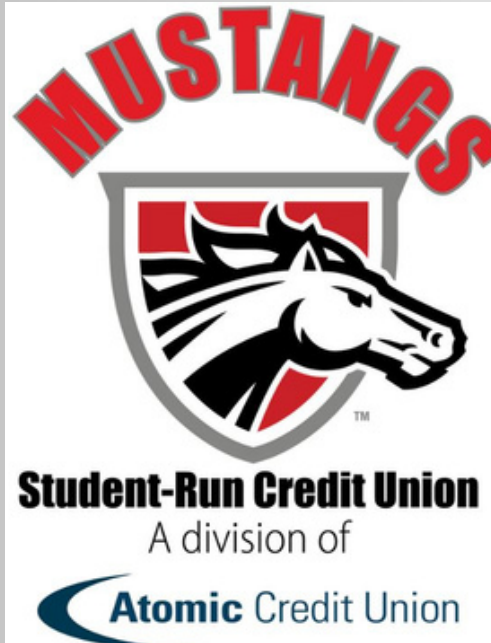
2	Suzie Rice	WES
2	Candy Webb	WES
4	Rachel Whaley	WES
6	Jay Miller	WHS
6	Dianna Swain	WES
8	Logan Stepp	WHS
8	Dalton Barnhill	WES
9	Renee Ingram	DISTRICT
12	Michelle Gamboni	WMS
15	Talea McGinnis	WES
14	Christian Payne	WES
15	Kathy Fuller	WMS
19	Daija Joseph	WMS
21	Nancy Downing	DISTRICT
21	Brooklyn Brandstetter	WES
28	Dakota Dowden	WES



SURPRISE, KEVIN!!

The staff at Westfall Elementary School surprised daytime custodian, Kevin Helsel, with a birthday surprise party on Monday, January 22. Staff gathered in the library and requested he be called up to clean up a "mess." To his surprise, the room was filled with friends and chocolate cupcakes! Happy Birthday, Kevin!

STUDENT-RUN CREDIT UNION COMING TO WESTFALL



Westfall Local School District is introducing a student-run credit union to K-12 students to promote financial literacy through a hands-on academic experience. This initiative aims to empower students with practical knowledge about finances while allowing them to gain work experience as employees within a banking setup while at school.

The student-run credit union project is a partnership between Westfall Local School District and Atomic Credit Union to foster financial responsibility and prepare students for real-world banking scenarios. The credit union will provide an educational platform for students to learn about banking operations, customer service, and money management.

Starting in February 2024, students will begin financial literacy lessons to aid in the program; then, they will have the opportunity to apply for positions as tellers. Successful candidates will work once a week on Friday mornings to serve their peers under the supervision and guidance of an Atomic Credit Union employee, who will officially submit all transactions. Students interested in becoming tellers will be provided with an application to complete and undergo a selection process that includes an interview and training from an Atomic Credit Union employee.

The credit union will be set up in a common area of each building, accessible to students to visit and conduct banking transactions. Westfall Elementary will participate in the student-run credit union weekly on Fridays during breakfast, while middle and high school students will participate during their Flex period.

As a welcome into the program, when students open a savings account through the student-run credit union, Atomic Credit Union will contribute \$2 to each new student member account. Each member will also receive a money pouch to keep their transaction safe and organized. At division schools, ACU will award \$500 scholarships to qualifying seniors with established accounts. The credit union experience will serve as a platform for practical learning and encourage students to consider future careers in finance or related fields.

This is a unique opportunity for Westfall Local Schools. As the first school in Pickaway County to participate in this program, the student-run credit union is expected to become a cornerstone of the school district's commitment to providing students with the tools they need to successfully navigate adulthood's financial aspects. For more information regarding the program, please visit the [Atomic Credit Union Student-Run Program](#).

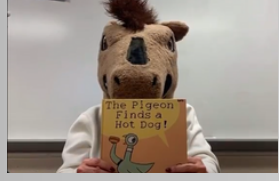


WESTFALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

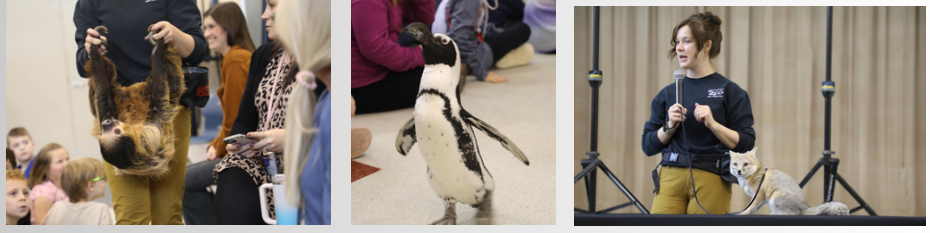
MASKED READERS REVEALED!



Our Character Quest Literacy Night was an absolute success! Our Masked Readers have been reading stories and providing clues about their true identities to students since December. Thank you to all of our staff members for participating in this fun event! To view the reveal video, scan the QR code below.

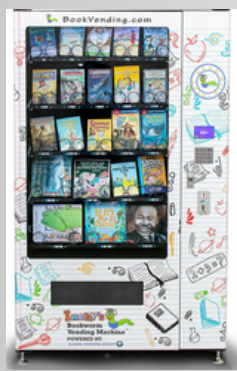


COLUMBUS ZOO VISITS WESTFALL ELEMENTARY



In January, students were visited by special guests from the Columbus Zoo. The groups were treated to engaging lessons on the animals' habitats, diets, behavior, and survival in the wild. They also learned the importance of conservation and simple steps to protect endangered species. Thank you, Westfall CIA for sponsoring this fantastic learning experience!

BOOK VENDING MACHINE



We are thrilled to announce that the book vending machine has been fully funded! To recognize our community's efforts to make this possible, we plan to showcase all donors' and organizations' names near the book vending machine. We are still accepting donations for books. Monetary donations can be sent to Westfall Elementary School. If you have any further questions, please email:
alissa.streitenberger@westfallschools.com
courtney.wiater@westfallschools.com
allison.zombek@westfallschools.com

INTERESTED IN PRESCHOOL?



Westfall Preschool is open for the upcoming year. If you are interested in having your four-year-old child attend the Westfall Preschool program, please complete the [2024-2025 WES Preschool Interest Form](https://bit.ly/3w76pPq) at <https://bit.ly/3w76pPq> **February 23**.

If you have concerns with speech, behavior, or learning for your three-year-old child, you may also complete this form for a screening. Please include your concerns. This interest form is our first step! Completing this interest form DOES NOT GUARANTEE your child's enrollment.

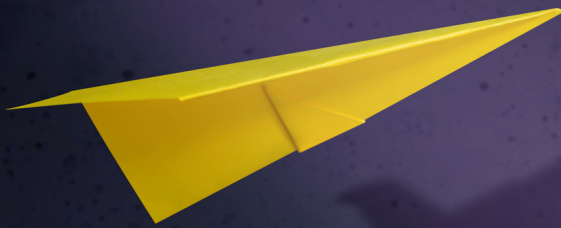
Completing this interest form allows the Westfall Preschool Coordinator to prioritize the ages and needs of the children. The **second step** is when the Preschool Coordinator emails you in **March** with a screening appointment, a request for income verification, and two proof of residence documents.

Income verification is required by the state to determine the placement of your child according to state funding. Third, once the children's screenings are complete and income and residency are verified, families will receive another email about enrollment. Last, if your child is eligible for any of our three preschool units, a full enrollment packet will need to be picked up, completed, and submitted to the school secretary, and complete FinalForms by April 19. Please DO NOT complete FinalForms until you are directed by a school staff member.

STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



Mindy Stonerock, Kindergarten; **Abbey Kroeger**, Reading Intervention; **Rachel Whaley**, Intervention Specialist; **Marci Wippel**, 2nd Grade; and **Joy Sharrett**, Reading Intervention;



WESTFALL MIDDLE SCHOOL

IDENTIFYING PROPAGANDA TECHNIQUES IN ADVERTISING



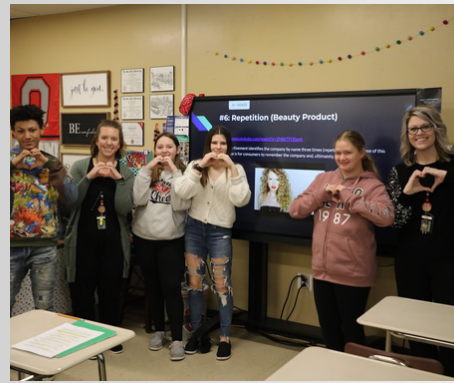
Over the past few weeks, students in Mrs. Davey's class have been learning about propaganda in advertising and how these strategic advertisements manipulate us as consumers.

In preparation for the Super Bowl and the flurry of high-dollar advertisements being aired, students were asked to analyze the messaging behind some of these ads. They were encouraged to work together, consider the techniques used to persuade viewers and present their findings to the class.

FPS LEARNS ABOUT ANTARCTICA



Our Middle School Future Problem Solvers students will submit booklets to qualify for a chance to be invited to the state bowl on the topic of Antarctica. To conduct further research on the topic before they start working, they enjoyed a presentation from Jan Shannon, who spoke of her experiences visiting Antarctica. She spoke of the vast landscape, the species that call this continent home, and the importance of being environmentally conscious, respecting the surroundings, and leaving only footprints behind. Future Problems Solvers will be completing their qualifying booklets on February 7.



STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



Karen Wing, Language Arts and **Matthew Pentiu**, Assistant Principal



Westfall Community Service class
TENNIS SHOE DRIVE
FEBRUARY 1-29

Tennis shoes of all varieties and sizes are accepted.
Drop off Locations are by the High School or Middle School offices.
The shoes will be sorted and sent to countries around the world.

Westfall Community Service Class, led by Ms. T, is hosting a Tennis Shoe Drive during the entire month of February. Clean out the closets and donate any pairs that you no longer wear!

Drop-off bins will be located by the middle and high school front offices.



WESTFALL HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT VS STAFF VOLLEYBALL PEP RALLY



Westfall Community Service Class is hosting a Tennis Shoe Drive during the month of February. Clean out the closets and donate any pairs that you no longer wear! Drop-off bins will be located by the middle and high school front offices.



Let's PACK THE DOME this Saturday, February 3, and cheer on the Basketball Team as they take on Lynchburg Clay. Freshmen tip off at 3 PM, with JV & Varsity to follow.

BASKETBALL READERS AT WESTFALL ELEMENTARY



Four members of the WHS Varsity Boys Basketball team and Head Coach Kyle Joseph visited Mrs. Woods' second-grade students! They read stories to the class and answered questions about when they started playing basketball and who their role models were growing up. Stay tuned: student-athletes are making rounds to visit more classrooms soon!



Admission is by DONATION, with all proceeds being donated to the Robinette family, who recently experienced a tragic house fire. Any donation amount is welcome - Thank you for your support!

STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



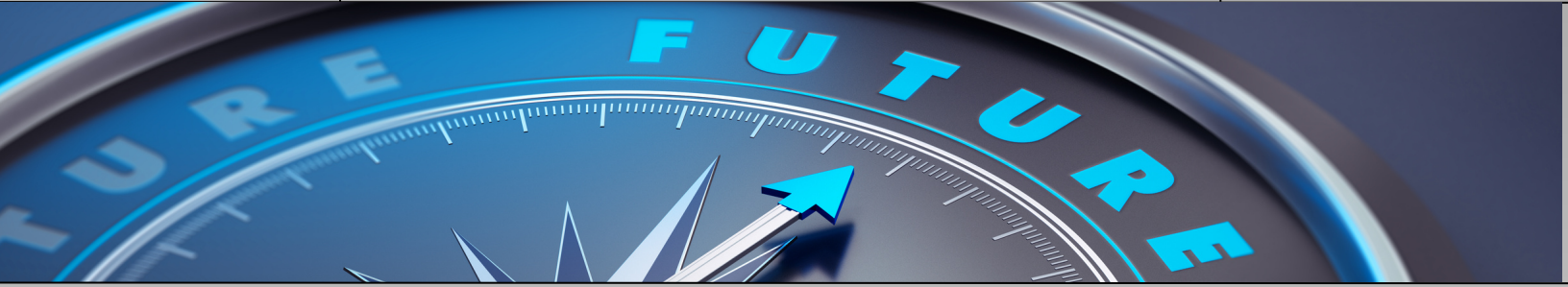
Westfall Athletics is proud to announce the 2023 Hall of Fame inductees:

- Jerry Post
- Randy Alkire
- Bill Davis
- 2001 WHS Boys Golf Team

The Hall of Fame Induction ceremony will be held on Saturday, February 10, before the tip-off of the Varsity Boys Basketball game vs. Piketon



Chris Norris, Technology and Sharon Link, Intervention Specialist




**WESTFALL
WAY
FORWARD:
CAREER DAY**

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY
15
2024**

Periods 1-4
7:30-10:30

**SAVE
THE
DATE**



Westfall Way Forward | February 15

Westfall Way Forward Career Day planning is well underway for the February 15 event! Senior sessions include mock interviews with community leaders, banking and budgeting, renting an apartment vs. buying a house, and a real-life roundtable chat with Westfall Alums!

Underclassmen can choose from a variety of career speakers, including dentists, auto mechanics, real estate agents, heavy machine operators, cosmetologists, nurses, firefighters, concrete workers, business managers, and culinary artists, just to name a few!

Westfall Way Forward is an excellent opportunity where students can gain knowledge and helpful tips for transitioning into the workplace.



Junior ASVAB Exam

The ASVAB test, or Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, is a standardized test that assesses a student's abilities in math, science, reading comprehension, and mechanical knowledge. This test is often used by the military to determine a person's eligibility for enlistment and to identify which career paths may be best suited for their skills and interests.

For our junior class who took the test, the score reports will be available later this month and can be used as a valuable resource in helping to plan their future, whether that be in the military or the workforce. These reports provide insight into strengths and weaknesses, as well as offer guidance in selecting courses and career paths that align with interest and ability.

We thank Mr. John Weber for administering the test and SSG Jonathan Stafford for proctoring.




Apply for 2024

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship season is already here!

List of local scholarships. More added weekly!



SEE MRS. SMITH OR TAMMEE IN GUIDANCE IF YOU NEED HELP!