

# Westfall



## MUSTANG MONTHLY eNEWSLETTER #RISEABOVE

APRIL 2024

### EVENTS AROUND THE DISTRICT

**APRIL 1 & APRIL 2**

NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

**APRIL 5**

WES Pajama Day

**APRIL 8**

NO SCHOOL - Solar Eclipse Day

**APRIL 10**

Community FFA Breakfast

**APRIL 15**

Board of Education Meeting | 6:30 PM  
Westfall Community Room

**APRIL 16**

2nd Grade Music Program | 7:00 PM  
WMS ELA I Exam  
WHS ELA 10 Exam

**APRIL 17**

WMS ELA II Exam  
WHS ELA 10 Exam

**APRIL 19**

Interim Ends  
FFA Banquet

**APRIL 23**

WMS Math I Exam  
WHS Biology/Geometry Exam

**APRIL 24**

WMS Math II Exam  
WHS Biology/Geometry Exam

**APRIL 25**

WHS Spring Jobs Fair

**APRIL 26**

Interims Available  
Kindergarten Screenings | 8:30 AM-3:30 PM  
NO SCHOOL for Kindergarten Students

**APRIL 27**

WHS Prom

**APRIL 30**

WMS Science I Exam  
WHS Algebra/Government Exam

Dear Westfall Community,

Recently, Westfall Local School District Superintendent Jeff Sheets has announced he will retire at the end of July 2024, ending a 44-year career in education. Prior to his time at Westfall, Sheets spent eight years as Superintendent of Teays Valley School District before stepping down in 2014.

Sheets took the helm as Superintendent in August 2019 and has led the district through a pandemic, a successful bond issue, and a construction project that resulted in a 62,000-square-foot addition connecting the newly renovated middle and high schools. Mr. Sheets' impact on Westfall Local Schools will be felt for years, leaving a lasting legacy of distinction and leadership.

The Westfall Board of Education accepted Mr. Sheets' retirement at the Special Board Meeting held on March 28 in the Community Room. Westfall Schools sincerely thanks Mr. Sheets for his years of service to the District and wish him well as he embarks on his next chapter of life, enjoying retirement with his family.

During March 28's Special Board Meeting, the Westfall Local School District Board of Education voted to appoint Mr. Jason Fife, a dedicated and committed member of our school community, as the district's next Superintendent. Mr. Fife currently serves as Principal at Westfall High School and will continue in that role until assuming his new duties as district superintendent beginning August 1, 2024. For the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year, Mr. Fife will work closely with Mr. Jeff Sheets, Superintendent, to ensure a smooth handover of responsibilities and a seamless continuation of the district's operations and initiatives until July 31, 2024.

The Westfall Local School District Board President, Mark Ruff, expressed the Board's confidence in Mr. Fife's leadership. "Mr. Fife will be presenting a strong focus on student achievement and curriculum alignment and will work with the Westfall Board of Education to continuously ensure:

- Safety on our campus.
- Providing educational opportunities for the whole child.
- Being a good steward of the finances and assets of the district."

The Board of Education believes that approving Mr. Fife's Superintendent contract will be highly beneficial to the District. His appointment allows the District to continue to benefit from his extensive knowledge, experience, and leadership abilities. As the new Superintendent of Westfall Local School District, Mr. Fife will be a visionary leader who will continue moving the district forward, raising the bar for student achievement, and successfully preparing students for their futures.

*Emily Clark*  
Director of Communications



# Happy Birthday

TO OUR STAFF

APRIL

4	Denise Arledge	WMS
6	Mindy Stonerock	WES
8	Madison Cameron	WES
10	Tabitha Skaggs	WES
13	Eric Horvath	DISTRICT
17	Matt Corder	DISTRICT
17	Morgan Persinger	WES
18	Mark Justus	WMS
24	Brandon Speakman	DISTRICT
26	Annameren Armentrout	WHS
27	Paula Dumm	DISTRICT
29	J.D. Williamson	DISTRICT
30	Caryn Dinneen	WMS

## ECLIPSE

With the rare total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8, 2024, casting parts of Ohio into temporary darkness, Westfall Local School District is proactively adjusting its academic calendar for the safety of its students and staff.

As the eclipse coincides with many schools' dismissal times, we understand the potential traffic concerns. Following guidance and consultation with local law enforcement agencies, Westfall Local Schools has decided to cancel school for students and staff on Monday, April 8, 2024, to ensure everyone's safety during this unique celestial event.

We understand this schedule change may impact families' plans for the day. However, our top priority is always the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

### WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, *tiny Mustangs!*



**ADA LEE BARTHOLOMEW WEBER**

Granddaughter of Westfall High School Educational Aide Karla Bartholomew

**BIRTHDATE**  
February 28

**Proud Parents**  
Ashton (Bartholomew) and Sean Weber



**KAIDEN REIGN**

Granddaughter of Westfall District Payroll Clerk Melinda Sarratt

**BIRTHDATE**      **WEIGHT/HEIGHT**  
February 16      7 lbs, 10 oz, 19.5" long

**Proud Parents**  
Taylor & Colton

### WESTFALL CARES



Westfall Cares would like to thank Darby Fine and Dandy 4H Club, as well as members of the Westfall High School National Honor Society, for assisting in packing food for our students during the month of March. Volunteers sorted food and packed 225 weekend meal bags for Westfall students. We will meet to pack for the month of April on Wednesday, April 3. Volunteers are appreciated.

**WESTFALL LOCAL SCHOOLS**

**2024-2025 OPEN ENROLLMENT**  
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS APRIL 1 - MAY 15

Open enrollment applications and guidelines for the 2024-2025 school year are now available on our district website through Explore > Enrollment.

As received until two approved proofs of residency are submitted. Applications have been mailed to current open enrolled students. A separate application must be filled out for each student applying for open enrollment.

To ensure your application is considered, it must be returned to the district office by May 15, 2024, along with two forms confirming proof of residency. The date will not be marked

at this time, please mail your application(s) with your proofs of residency to Westfall Local Schools Attn: Open Enrollment 19463 Pherson Pike Williamsport, OH 43164. Decisions on open enrollment acceptance will be made promptly after May 15, 2024. Families will be notified of their 2024-2025 school year status as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please email paula.dumm@westfallschools.com or call (740) 986-3671.



# WESTFALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## LIVING WAX MUSEUM



History came to life in Mrs. Brandstetter's classroom as her second-grade students presented facts they had learned about historical figures while dressed as historical figures, such as Milton Bradley, Amelia Earhart, and Thomas Edison. The students impressed their guests with their hard work, research, and planning, showcased in the best way - as a "Living Wax Museum."

## DARE GRADUATION

Congratulations to our 5th-graders for committing to the DARE promise! We're so proud of you as you graduate from the DARE program. We look forward to you utilizing all the skills you learned as you continue onto higher levels of education—a special thanks to DARE officer Deputy Hamlin and the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office. We appreciate everything you do for our students!



## RIGHT TO READ WEEK

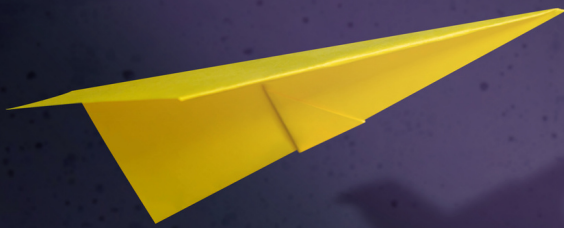
We celebrated Right to Read Week with special guest readers, Deputy Hamlin, and the Westfall High School Varsity Baseball Team. All three of our classroom wings met their Right to Read Week reading goals, so as a reward for their hard work, they enjoyed a visit from Inspiration Station, the new hands-on museum coming soon to Circleville. Student volunteers were challenged to build a foam dinosaur skeleton without instructions and test their handwashing skills under the black light! Teachers engaged in a friendly door decorating competition and, as a grand finale, an outdoor Storybook Character Parade!

## STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



**Morgan Persinger**, Intervention Specialist; **Stephanie Leatherwood**, Kindergarten; **Erica Whitt**, Third-Grade; **Velvet O'Day**, Reading Intervention; **Angela Ware**, Guidance Counselor; and **Vanessa Arnett**, Educational Aide



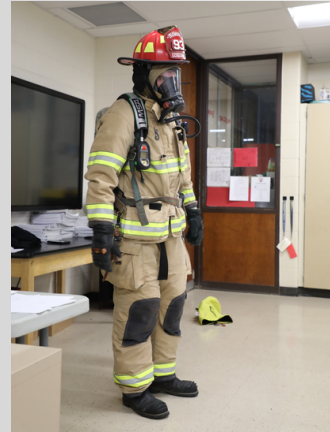


## WESTFALL MIDDLE SCHOOL

### LEARNING NEW CAREER PATHWAYS

It's never too early to start learning about amazing careers! Mrs. Cline's Pathways to Careers classes hosted Washington Twp.'s Fire Lieutenant Jeremy Elkins to answer questions about his job and becoming a professional firefighter in Dublin, Ohio.

Several student volunteers practiced 'Turnout Time' drills, which means the firefighter is timed on his ability to get in full gear and leave the station as quickly as possible to respond to a call. Turnout time for all incidents is within 1 minute and 45 seconds. Talk about FAST!



### INSECT SNACKS

Students in our sixth-grade writing classes recently wrote argumentative essays on whether eating insects should be considered an adequate food source for humans or if they should be left off the dinner plate. Generally viewed as cringe-worthy little creatures, research shows they are packed with beneficial nutrients, are rich in protein, and contain high sources of minerals such as iron, zinc, copper, and magnesium, essential in a healthy diet. To further support their analysis, students were given the opportunity to taste-test a selection of insects, large or small, flavored and unflavored, and evaluate whether their initial argument still stands - if they believed insects should be considered an adequate food source for human consumption or if they should be kept in nature.



### STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

### SISTER'S CLOSET



Sister's Closet is accepting gently used age-appropriate formal wear for both boys and girls to help ease the financial burden and help students enjoy the experience of school dances. All sizes are needed, along with dress shoes

and accessories. Donations can be made at the middle school or by emailing Michelle Gamboni at [michelle.gamboni@westfallschools.com](mailto:michelle.gamboni@westfallschools.com).



**Cindy Daniels**, Language Arts and  
**Ryan Day**, K-12 Digital Instructor (Not Pictured)



# WESTFALL HIGH SCHOOL

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUR-WAY TEST SPEECH COMPETITION



Twenty-four of Mrs. Hook's Speech II students participated in the Rotary Four-Way Test Speech Competition. Each student selected a critical issue to present to a panel of judges, making sure to apply solutions to Rotary's four ethical questions on truth, fairness, and friendship.

Our top finishers, Addyson Beebe, Nick Brooks, Sophia Graham, Ben Egbert, Crystal Candlish, Joni Snyder, Lydia Colahan, and David Kirk, advanced to compete at the Pickaway County Library on March 23.

Crystal Candlish, with her exceptional performance, emerged victorious along with Julia Weller from Logan Elm, clinching the top spots in the competition. Crystal's outstanding achievement will see her advance to the District Competition on

April 19. Receiving second place honors, Nick Brooks and third place, Laina Welch, also deserve our recognition. Lydia Colahan, Sophia Graham, Dalton Bush, Rachel Baird, Ben Egbert, and Addyson Beebe's impressive performances contributed to the event's success.

## ANASTASIA

Our talented students recently took to the stage with their performance of Anastasia last month. Anastasia tells the story of Anya, an orphan in the 1920s, who embarks on a journey to discover the mystery of her lost family. Along the way, Anya, played by senior Allie Copeland, encounters two colorful characters—ex-aristocrat Vlad (Noah Cohen) and the sly conman Dmitry (Nick Brooks)—who convince her of the possibility that she is actually the long-lost Romanov duchess, Anastasia, rumored to have survived the Russian Revolution. Together, they adventure to Paris, where the two men hope to present Anya to the exiled Dowager Empress (Marianna Packer), Anastasia's grandmother, who happens to be offering a reward to anyone who finds her granddaughter. The cast, led by Director Megan McCune, shined on stage, earning rave reviews from the audience and leaving many in anticipation for next year's show!



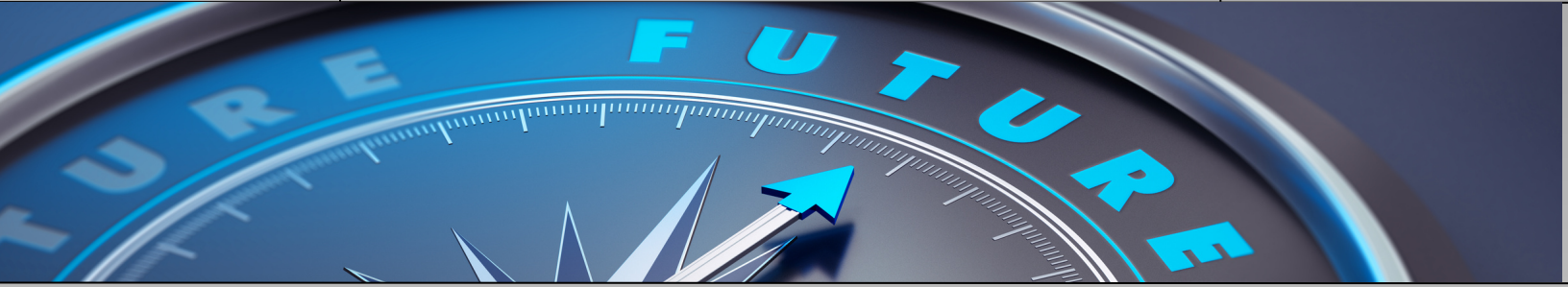
## STAFF MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



Jessica Yeager, Family & Consumer Science, and Hayden Biedenbarn, Instrumental Music



# COLLEGE & CAREER



## PICKAWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ON YOUTH LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

Senior and Westfall High School Representative Allison Copeland did a fantastic job speaking at the Pickaway County Council on Youth Leadership—PCCYL Luncheon at Ohio Christian University. Allison and other seniors from Pickaway County shared their experiences from the National Town Meeting of Tomorrow for Leaders held this past fall in St. Louis, Missouri!



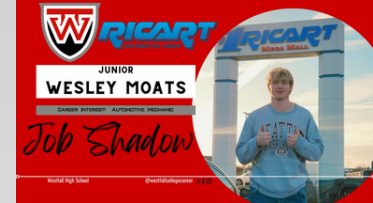
## JOB SHADOW YOUR FUTURE CAREER



Sophomore Noah Cohen recently found out he was accepted into the Automotive Technology program at Pickaway-Ross CTC. After his orientation, where he met his new classmates and program directors, he job shadowed the professional auto mechanics at Ricart Automotive!



Pickaway-Ross CTC Early Childhood Education student and Westfall Senior Haley spent the day job shadowing at the elementary school! Getting observation hours and experience in her career field is a great opportunity and a step in the right direction for her future!



Wesley Moats met with the team from Ricart Automotive during our Career Day last month. Today, he is job shadowing with several of their auto mechanics at the Groveport location! Another great opportunity for our Mustangs



Senior Lance Chalk has been interested in Law Enforcement and recently job shadowed the Dispatchers and Deputies with the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office. Sgt. Keeton gave him a glimpse of what a career in law enforcement might look like.



From Career Day to Job Shadow to College Visit! Junior Caroline Sever is very interested in architecture. She signed up to hear the Architect career speaker at Westfall last month from SHP. A few days later, she requested a

job shadow with the same company at their Cincinnati location. She spent the day shadowing multiple architects at their firm in Cincinnati and even met their co-op intern, a senior architectural major at the University of Cincinnati. The day ended with Caroline visiting UC, seeing their classrooms and labs, and taking a tour of campus!

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Scan the QR code to read about scholarships, see if you are eligible, learn about upcoming deadlines, and find out what details/ items are needed to apply. Are they time-consuming? YES! However, one hour of time for an application could be a minimum of \$500. When else in your life will you make \$500 an hour? Word of Advice: STUDENTS should be applying and completing the scholarship applications! If you need items printed (applications, transcripts, resume/activities sheets, essays, letters of recommendation, FAFSA Submission Summary, etc.), please let me know, and continue to use the College Career Center as a place to work on your scholarships.

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!