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Western Reserve Local School District 3765 U.S. Rt. 20, Collins, Ohio 44826 Volume 30, Issue 5, April 1, 2024 NEXT EDITION: June 10, 2024 SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 30, 2024





by Will Snyder, Superintendent Inspiring Hometown Pride, Instilling Excellence, Unlocking Pathways to Success

As we continue to explore the core elements of our district vision, we now turn our attention to the third statement: "Unlocking Pathways to Success."

"Unlocking Pathways to Success" embodies our commitment to providing students with the tools, resources, and opportunities they need to achieve their fullest potential. It's about empowering them to navigate their paths to success, whether in academia, career pursuits, or personal growth.

One key aspect of unlocking pathways to success is fostering a culture of innovation and adaptability. For instance, our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs have expanded and encouraged students to engage in hands-on projects and experimentation over the last two years. Beginning as early as elementary and middle school, students explore STEM disciplines, igniting their passion for discovery and equipping them with critical thinking and teamwork skills essential for success in STEM fields and beyond.

In addition to STEM initiatives, personalized learning experiences are paramount in our approach. The YouScience

program, introduced during freshman year, assesses students' cognitive abilities, interests, and aptitudes. This data creates personalized learning profiles, guiding students toward pathways aligned with their strengths and passions. Whether selecting elective courses or connecting with mentorship opportunities, students can pursue paths tailored to their individual talents.

Moreover, we understand the pivotal role that extracurricular activities play in shaping wellrounded, focused individuals. Participation in clubs, sports teams, community service projects, and the arts not only fosters teamwork and leadership skills but also instills a sense of discipline and dedication. Whether rehearsing for a school play, practicing with the choir, creating artwork for a gallery exhibition, or competing on a field, students develop essential soft skills such as communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and time management.

During our enrichment time, we strongly emphasize cultivating these soft skills. For instance, we hosted a workshop where adults from various professions taught our students the importance of a handshake. Through interactive demonstrations and practice sessions, students learned how a confident handshake communicates professionalism, respect, and confidence.

Together, as a community dedicated to Inspiring Hometown Pride, Instilling Excellence, and Unlocking Pathways to Success, we embark on this journey with enthusiasm and determination. Our vision becomes a reality with each student's success, and our collective future becomes brighter.

Go Riders!

Working Together

by Chris Sheldon, Assistant Superintendent

One of the greatest rewards of working at Western Reserve is witnessing the collaborative efforts of employees as they unite toward a common goal.

We all know how important our teachers are to the growth and development of our students. A teacher is the number one contributing factor that impacts the growth or regression of students in the classroom. Additionally, our support staff that is behind the scenes fill a vital role and impact the everyday learning experiences for our children.

Our dedicated team of bus drivers, educational aides, food service workers, custodians, and secretaries is instrumental in getting our children to and from school safely, providing quality meals to fill hungry bellies, preparing clean and safe places for students to learn and all while providing a warm and caring adult in the office, at recess and lunch. They go above and beyond every day to meet the needs of our students in critical areas that impact student achievement.

Research shows that students who eat breakfast and lunch at school experience a positive impact, feeling better about their learning environments, and achieving higher academic performance compared to those who skip these meals. Our food service team dedicates significant

time and effort into crafting a menu with diverse and appealing options that cater to our students' preferences and requirements. They invest countless hours in meal preparation, ordering, stocking, cooking, and cleaning. Additionally, several of our bus drivers take on extra assignments between their morning and afternoon routes to ensure uninterrupted delivery of food services, ensuring that our students are well-fed and satisfied.

There is plenty of evidence that students' academic performance and attendance improve when classrooms and buildings are clean. Our

See TOGETHER page 3

High School News

two critical components:
1. Student behavior.

Student behavior. The Behavior Matrix clearly communicates expectations for behavior and ensures that consequences are consistently and fairly applied.

2. Student attendance. If students are not present in school, they cannot take advantage of academic and social interaction with teachers and peers.

Next year the BLT will focus on data-driven best practices to improve classroom-level instruction and assessment.

As we enter the final grading period of the 2023-24 school year, here are some important reminders:

Standardized testing

begins this month. Parents may familiarize yourselves or your student with Ohio's State Tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies by taking a practice test and reviewing released test items

https://oh-ost.portal. cambiumast.com/families.html. The high school testing spring schedule is as follows; please ensure your child is well-rested and prepared for these important assessments:

ELA 10 – April 4 & 5 American History – April 23 & 24

Biology – April 30 & May 1 Algebra and Geometry – May 2 & 3

See WRHS page 3

Elementary News



by Lisa Border, Principal

Leadership

The high school Building

Team

meets monthly to identify and

implement strategies to improve

students' academic performance.

This year we have focused on

improving student behavior in

order to minimize distractions to

teaching and learning utilizing

by Leah Solomon, Principal

It is so exciting to be moving into spring break already. We are starting the last 9 weeks at the elementary school when we return in April. Over the last month our students have experienced some exciting opportunities both on and off campus. Second grade

students visited Green Circle Growers and were able to see the green house, the production line and see how things operate. They have also been working with the Huron County 4-H extension office program coordinator on some in-class STEM experiences. So far they have done coding and worked with robots and will all hatch eggs this spring. We are excited to build this partnership in the whole elementary as it is free programming and there are many offerings that align with what we are teaching in the classroom. Fifth grade students visited the Sidney Frohman Planetarium in Sandusky last week. While there, the students learned more about the upcoming solar eclipse and discovered that our community is

in the path of totality and will get a once in a lifetime view of this natural phenomenon. Teachers and students will be planning some activities around the eclipse to allow for stellar science experiences!

Did you know that our district trained our K-5 teachers in one of the best early literacy programs available, Orton Gillingham plus, before the school year started? It has been such an impactful investment that has shaped how we are teaching the foundational skills needed to be a reader. This is our core literacy instruction at the K-3 level currently. Our teachers have embraced this new challenge head on and are committed to

See WRE page 2

Middle School News



by Dane Bonnigson, Principal

As we embark on the final stretch of the school year, it's hard to believe that testing season is already upon us. With pencils sharpened and minds focused, our dedicated teachers and diligent students are working tirelessly to cover the remaining state standards before the big day arrives. I am incredibly proud of

See WRMS page 2

Western Reserve District Calendar April 2024

No School April

6:30pm PTA Meeting April 10

April 17 6pm Board of Education Meeting April 18 6:30am Senior Panaramic Picture

April 23 6:30pm Music Program - Dragon, Ritz

April 25 6pm Elementary Art Show 7pm Spring Band Concert April 25

April 26 No School - Professional Development

Western Reserve District Calendar May 2024

7pm Dinner Theater May

7pm Dinner Theater May

6 5:30pm Endowment Board Meeting May 15 6pm Board of Education Meeting May May 22 10:50am Senior Class Ice Cream Social

May 27 No School - Memorial Day

May 31 Students' Last Day/End of Fourth Quarter

Western Reserve District Calendar June 2024

2 2pm Graduation June 3 Teachers' Last Day June

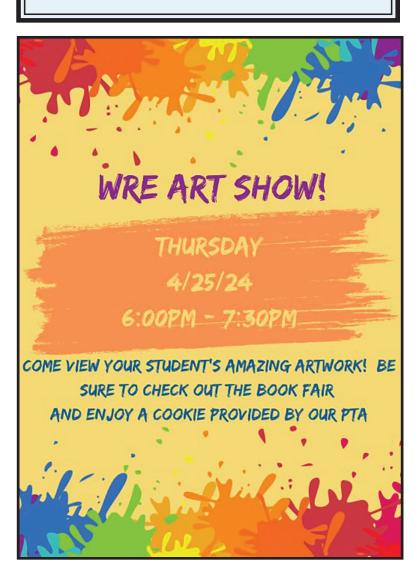
3 5:30pm Endowment Board Meeting June

12 June 6pm Board of Education Meeting

June 26 6pm Board of Education Meeting

> **PLEASE VIEW SCHOOL WEBSITE CALENDAR** FOR A MORE UP TO DATE AND **COMPLETE SCHEDULE**







WRMS from page 1

the hard work and determination displayed by both our educators and learners alike.

That's why I'm thrilled to announce that Middle School students, based on their individual efforts, will have the opportunity to earn themselves a reward day through their persistent effort and dedication during testing. The expectations will be reviewed and each student will have the opportunity to earn themselves a reward day if they put in the appropriate amount of effort on the testing days. The expectations will be clear and regardless of ability, all students can earn the reward through appropriate effort. Of the very few things in life that we can completely control, one of those is effort!

Personally, as I approach testing season in my first year as principal, I am filled with excitement and anticipation. I can't wait to see how our students rise to the occasion and showcase their knowledge and skills on the state tests. Together, let's cheer them on and support them every step of the way.

Here's to a successful testing season and a bright future ahead for our Roughrider community!

Weight Room Open!

by Jamie Muenz

Coach Stevenson runs a weightlifting program for students on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 2:30.

It's a great way for athletes in their offseason to stay in shape, but any student in middle or high school can participate.

Sophomore Frankie Hoover said, "It's a great environment and a great way to stay active."

WRE from page 1

seeing it through. It has been so exciting to see it take shape in the classroom and how much our students are showing growth. We are adding in the next level training in our upper elementary, grades 3-5, this summer called morphology. This is the next step in taking them from word attack skills to building their fluency and vocabulary development. WRE is focused on reading, and our efforts are paying off!

Kindergarten and preschool registration is in full swing. So if you or someone you know has a student who lives in the district and will be 5 by August 1st they are eligible for kindergarten. Students who live in the district and will be 3 by August 1st are eligible for our preschool. Registration for both of those takes place by accessing our website and filling out Final Forms for them.

We are holding an Incoming

Kindergartener Information Night on April 10 from 5:30-6:30. This will be a time for parents and students to learn more about how to get ready for Kindergarten and what to expect as the school year gets started. This event is held in the elementary auditeria. Immediately following the event is our monthly PTA meeting from 6:30-7:30. Come join us for both and learn how to be involved with our students here at the elementary.

We have an upcoming music concert at the elementary that includes some kindergarten and some first grade students. If your child is in Mrs. Stang, Mrs. Conklin, Mrs. Eddington, Mrs. Buck, Mrs. Dragon and Ms. Ritz class, you will be performing on Tuesday April 23 at 6:30. Doors will open at 6:00 and students should be in their place in the auditeria.





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Members from the High School Academic Team celebrate a mid-season win. Pictured L-R: Kara Woodruff, Maya Ommert, Reagan Roland, Katelyn Libertowski, Addison Gibson, Gracie Thomas, Lyndsey Sprowls. Not pictured: Mayleen Sell, Corbin Studd, Ava-Grace Thornburg, Alexis Wheeler. Photo by Valerie Miller.

The next deadline for On the Western Front is May 30, 2024.

Contact Valerie Miller for article submissions

westernfrontinfo@ western-reserve.org

Western Reserve Board of Education

3765 US Route 20 Collins, OH 44826 419.660.8508

www.western-reserve.org

Board Members and Contact Information

NOTE: Please contact through email when possible.

Board President Mr. Caleb Buck 6922 Townline Road 162 Wakeman, OH 44889 cbuck@western-reserve.org

Board Vice President Dr. Scott Ommert 2820 St. Johns Road Wakeman, OH 44889 sommert@western-reserve.org

Mr. Kris Green 5147 Fitchville River Road Wakeman, OH 44889 kgreen@western-reserve.org

Mr. Jim Todd 3621 Butler Road Wakeman, OH 44889 jtodd@western-reserve.org

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SALES and MARKETING: James Wiles, ext. 2041

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WRHS from page 1

Graduation will take place in the high school gym on Sunday, June 2 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are not required, and seating is first-come, first-served. Top 10 of the class will have four reserved seats on the floor for family to enjoy.

The scholarship submission deadline is April 15. Students may access the applications at https://www.western-reserve.org/page/student-services-and-guidance. Here is a list of the awards our generous community offers each year to the graduating class:

A Reason to Continue
Dale Patrick Memorial
Dalton Music Scholarship
John Speer Memorial

Kevin Zimmerman Memorial 4-H Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. William J. Phillips Memorial

Nolan Leadership Award OAPSE

Peter A. Motolik Athletic Soboslai Family Scholarship Western Reserve Alumni

Western Reserve Athletic Booster Club

Questions?
Call Principal
Lisa Border
419-668-8470
ext. 2001 or
email lborder@
western-reserve.org

Western Reserve Education Association

Western Reserve FFA Alumni Western Reserve Ruritan Community Service

Western Reserve High School Student Council

William B. Dauch Memorial Western Reserve Endowment Scholarships

Western Reserve 4-H Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Dalton Scholarship

Leroy, Beverly, and Daniel Stober Legacy Community Leadership Fund Scholarship

Diane Chairez Memorial Scholarship

Lynn K. Johnson-DelMedico "Strive for Success" Memorial Scholarship

Vic Barson Trust Scholarship The Ommert Family Scholarship

Regular attendance is crucial for your child's academic success. If your child is unable to attend school, please call the office at (419) 668-8470 and send in medical excuses as soon as possible.

Open communication between home and school is vital. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or call Principal Lisa Border at (419) 668-8470 ext. 2001 or email lborder@western-reserve.org. We appreciate your continued support and partnership.

TOGETHER from page 1

elementary building is over twenty years old and the original high school building dates back to 1963. Maintaining the equipment and daily cleaning of the building is pivotal to our students' success. Our custodial team is comprised of eight people who provide break-fix support, preventative maintenance responsibilities, and daily cleaning services starting as early as 5 a.m. and working until midnight every week. They as well have been supported throughout the year when custodial services have holes that need to be filled by educational aides, food service workers, and custodial members working double shifts to make sure our facilities are clean. Because of their dedication, students' learning environments are consistently up to standard for the upcoming day's events.

One of the key elements for students to thrive in school is having at least one trusted adult they interact with daily. Building relationships between students and staff who engage with them in various roles significantly contributes to meeting our students' emotional needs. Our four building secretaries and eight educational aides are on the front lines working with students through smiles, tears, bumps, bruises, and providing plenty of hugs in between. These women are often the first adults on the scene when our children need support the most. Outside of their daily responsibilities, they work extra hours helping at Ridercare and end-of-day dismissal, and they fill in as teachers on days we have sub shortages and some even stay after work to provide custodial support on an as-needed basis. These ladies provide emotional support to our little kids which is a critical lifeline that can't ever be measured by a grade or a state test score.

We are fortunate to have many dedicated staff members who are exceeding expectations to meet the needs of our students and district. Ninety-seven percent of our support staff members reside in the Western Reserve community. The backbone of our community and school district resides in the individuals who consistently serve our children each day.

Suppose we have community members looking for part-time or full-time employment within our district. In that case, we are currently seeking a full-time bus driver, and we always have weekly needs for part-time/substitute aides, teachers, and second-shift custodial support. If you are interested in joining our team, please reach out to me at 419-660-8508 ext. 2606 or csheldon@western-reserve.org.

The rewards of serving students will fulfill your heart in ways you may have never imagined were possible. #HomeTownPride



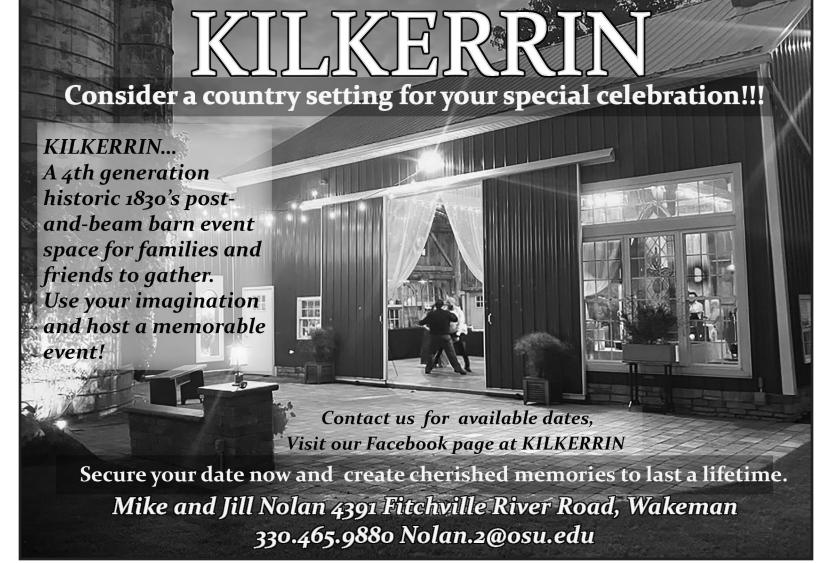
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Teacher Spotlight: Tracy Harvey

by Brianna Ewards

Mrs. Harvey is a second Western teacher at Reserve. She has been in the district for 24 years. She started teaching kindergarten in a church basement, then later on moved to 4th grade.

She said, "My goals for this school year are to continue to improve as a teacher and to continue to help my students gain some perseverance when working on new skills or skills that are difficult."

Mrs. Harvey started the year with a Lilo and Stitch theme, with the focus on Ohanan, meaning family. She started with that because she wanted to build on the element of family in the classroom and to encourage her students to take care of one another by being kind.

One of her goals is to build her students' confidence. She wants her kids to know how special they are and that they are capable of learning. But she can't do it alone. She said, "I would also like parents to feel like they are partners with the teachers in helping their children to succeed in their educational goals."

Her goals for the district are to make school a safe place and to let the students know that they are learning to be successful. Her goals for life are to make a positive impact on both WR and her home community, Monroeville.



Nate Lowe ziplining during the senior trip.

The Hovercraft Project

by Meaghan Schrader

Imagine building and riding your very own hovercraft. For the past two years, our fifth grade students have been granted the opportunity to do just that. They spend one full school day building, test riding, and racing their hovercrafts.

The Hovercraft Project is a fully immersive STEM experience presented by Matt Chase, a former fifth grade teacher. Through the experience, students not only build a hovercraft, but they also learn life lessons. Students learn to build, analyze, and problem-solve while experiencing conflicts and working to resolve them. Most importantly, students leave the experience knowing that they are a valuable member of a team.

The lessons learned are priceless and essential. Based on feedback from students and parents each year, it is our goal to continue this program for our fifth grade student body. This program is fully funded by donations and fundraisers conducted throughout the year. Thus far, our Wakeman Red Caps have donated \$1,500 toward the cost of the program. This is a step in the right direction, and we will continue to seek additional funding. It is our goal to create partnerships that will allow us to continue to provide this experience annually.

We will be holding a "Dine to Donate" fundraiser on April 17, 2024 at Chipotle in Norwalk from 4-8 pm. When dining there, show them our flier or mention that you are supporting Western Reserve Elementary, and a portion of your meal price will be donated to our Hovercraft Project funds. You may also order online and pick up at the store using the code X2C4Z7Q. Additional fundraisers will be announced in the coming months.

If you have any questions about The Hovercraft Project, or would like to make a straight donation, please contact fifth grade teacher Meaghan Schrader at mschrader@western-reserve.org or the Western Reserve Elementary office at 419-660-9824.

Powerlifting Results:

Boys' Team: Finished third with 9,215 pounds Girls' Team: Finished third with 1,460 pounds **High School:**

Travis French (225)	7th	960
Peyton Friend (155)	2nd	495
Jon Kerby (165)	7th	755
Austin Kolb (145)	6th	720
Colton Meagrow (135)	9th	540
Xzavian Meagrow (135)	2nd	825
Jamie Muenz (135)	1st	485
Will Taylor (210)	7th	905
Landyn Wiegel (175)	2nd	1,135
Braylon Witherspoon (185)	7th	865
Marcus Witherspoon (155)	3rd	800

Junior High: Addie French (175) 480 1st Peyton Kerby (135) 650 1st Walker Stevens (250) 1,040



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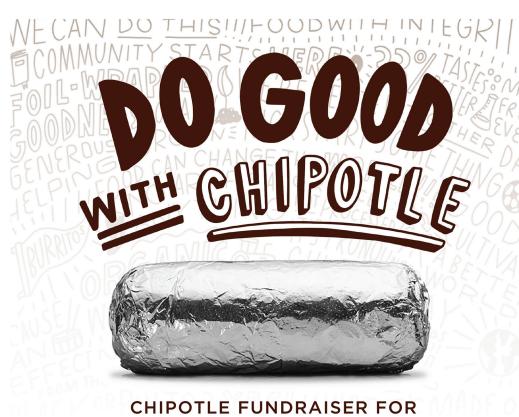
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Spring Sports								
Date Time H/A Opponent								
Softbal			орронени					
04/02/24	5:00 PM	Н	Crestview					
04/05/24	5:00 PM	Α	Buckeye Central Double Header					
04/09/24	5:00 PM	Α	St. Paul					
04/10/24	5:00 PM	Н	St. Paul					
04/13/24 04/15/24	10:00 AM 5:00 PM	Н	St. Mary Central Catholic Double Header South Central					
04/16/24	5:00 PM	A	South Central					
04/18/24	5:00 PM	Α	Monroeville					
04/19/24	5:00 PM	Н	Monroeville					
04/20/24	10:00 AM	Н	Norwalk Double Header					
04/23/24	5:00 PM	Н	New London					
04/24/24	5:00 PM	A	New London					
04/29/24	5:00 PM 5:00 PM	A H	Mapleton Mapleton					
05/06/24	5:00 PM	A	Plymouth					
05/07/24	5:00 PM	Н	Plymouth					
JV Basek	hall							
04/02/24	5:00 PM	Α	Crestview					
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04/09/24	5:00 PM	Н	St. Paul					
04/10/24	5:00 PM	A	St. Paul					
04/12/24	5:00 PM 10:00 AM	Н	St. Mary Central Catholic Double Header					
04/15/24	5:00 PM	A A	South Central					
04/15/24	5:00 PM	Н	South Central					
04/18/24	5:00 PM	Н	Huron					
04/20/24	11:00 AM	Α	Norwalk double header					
04/23/24	5:00 PM	Α	New London					
04/24/24	5:00 PM	Н	New London					
04/27/24	10:00 AM	Α	Wellington Double Header					
05/03/24	5:00 PM	Α	Vermilion					
05/04/24 05/06/24	10:00 AM 5:00 PM	H A	Bellevue single game - Huron					
			Tidion					
Varsity E 04/02/24	5:00 PM	Н	Crestview					
04/04/24	5:00 PM	Α	Margaretta					
04/09/24	5:00 PM	Α	St. Paul					
04/10/24	5:00 PM	Н	St. Paul					
04/12/24	5:00 PM	Α	Elmwood					
04/13/24	10:00 AM	Н	Crestline					
04/13/24	12:00 PM 5:00 PM	Н	Crestline South Central					
04/16/24	5:00 PM	Α	South Central					
04/18/24	5:00 PM	Α	Monroeville					
04/19/24	5:00 PM	Н	Monroeville					
04/20/24	10:00 AM	Н	Norwalk double header					
04/23/24	5:00 PM	Н	New London					
04/24/24	5:00 PM	Α	New London					
04/29/24	5:00 PM	A	Mapleton					
04/30/24	5:00 PM 5:00 PM	Н	Mapleton Vermilion					
05/03/24 05/06/24	5:00 PM	H A	Plymouth					
05/07/24	5:00 PM	Н	Plymouth					
05/09/24	5:00 PM	Α	Buckeye Central					
HS Track	and Fie	ld						
04/02/24	4:30 PM	Α	New London (HS and MS event)					
04/09/24	4:30 PM	A	Mapleton High School					
04/13/24 04/16/24	9:30 AM 4:30 PM	A	Edison Invite Tri at Plymouth w/ South Central					
04/16/24	4:00 PM	A	Brookside Invite					
04/23/24	4:30 PM	A	Tri at Monroeville w/ crestview					
04/26/24	4:00 PM	Α	Colonel Crawford Invite					
05/04/24	9:00 AM	Α	New London Invite					
05/08/24	5:00 PM	Α	FC meet at Crestview					
05/10/24	5:00 PM	Α	FC meet at Crestview					
05/15/24	4:00 PM	A	Districts day 1 at Colonel Crawford					
05/17/24	4:00 PM	Α	Districts day 2 at Colonel Crawford					
05/22/24 05/24/24	4:00 PM 4:00 PM	A	Regionals at Heath day 1 Regionals at Heath day 2					
			and Field					
04/02/24	4:30 PM	A	New London (HS and MS event)					
04/11/24	4:30 PM	Α	Mapleton					
04/18/24	4:30 PM	Α	Tri at Plymouth w/ South Central					
04/22/24	4:30 PM	Α	Crestview High School					
05/01/24	4:30 PM	A	Mapleton ms invite					
05/07/24	4:30 PM	Α	FC JH meet at Mapleton					



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For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

INCOMING KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION KIGHT

Kindergarten Registration will be

available at this event.

If you plan to register, please bring the following items for your child

- Birth certificate
- Shot record
- Social security card
- Two proofs of residency
- Custody papers (if appicable)

DO YOU HAVE A STUDENT WHO WILL ENTER KINDERGARTEN FOR THE 2024-2025 **SCHOOL YEAR?** JOIN US FOR AN **INFORMATION** PRESENTATION, REGISTRATION, **CLASSROOM** TOURS, MEETING THE TEACHERS AND TO HAVE **ANY QUESTIONS**

ANSWERED

Wednesday,

April 10th

5:30-6:30

<u>In the Western Reserve Elementary</u> <u>Audeteria</u>

No commitment needed, just let us know if you think you will try to make it! RSVP to the google form link!

https://forms.gle/KhFpKhDXNSnFAja3A



Mrs. Conklin and several elementary students at the send off for Kelsey Lasch's trip to the state wrestling tournament. Photo by Sarah Beck.



Mr. Rowlinson's enrichment class stuffed envelopes to be sent home with all WR students for the Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, 2024. Students packaged 1000 solar eclipse glasses with detailed instructions into specially designed envelopes for this once in a lifetime event for most Ohioians. These envelopes will be sent home with students during the week of April 1 (no April Fools!). The envelopes contain the solar eclipse glasses along with instructions for safe viewing of the total solar eclipse.



WRE Principal Mrs. Solomon poses with a group of Kindergarten students who used their hard-earned classroom dollars to purchase "Popcorn with the Principal" coupons. Students earn dollars in their classroom for working hard, being kind, showing respect, helping others and being great Roughriders!



Alumni Spotlight

by Kennedy Drennen

As another class of Western Reserve seniors nears the finish line and is about to head out into the world, the question, "Where do they go when they leave WRHS?" is often asked. This month I interviewed 2023 Western Reserve graduate, Brodey Suhr, to find out what he's been doing, what his plans for the future are, and what advice he has for current Western Reserve students.

Drennen: When you were at Western Reserve, what was your favorite class, and why?

Suhr: My favorite class at Western was Film Studies with Mrs. Miller. It was a lot of fun, and a change of pace from our traditional classes. We watched and discussed a lot of movies that I would never have watched on my own.

Drennen: What is your favorite memory from Western Reserve High School?

Suhr: My favorite memory from high school was becoming Homecoming King.

Drennen: What did you do after graduation?

Suhr: After graduating from high school, I joined the United States Air Force and left for basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas on September 19, 2023. I graduated from Basic Military Training in November, and then moved to Shepherd Air Force Base for technical training.

Drennen: What are you doing now?

Suhr: I'm currently stationed at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, Georgia. My job in Valdosta is maintaining aircraft as crew chief for the 71st Rescue Generation Squadron.

Drennen: What are your plans for the future?

Suhr: I am engaged to be married to Grace French in March 2025. I'm looking forward to her being able to join me here in Georgia.

Drennen: If you could give this year's graduates one piece of advice, what would it be?

Suhr: Pay attention and don't assume you know everything. You don't.



Airman First Class Brodey Suhr stands in the back of a C-130 upon graduating from tech school in March.



Western Reserve Local Schools Kindergarten Registration 2024 – 2025

Registration through Final Forms!

Kindergarten Registration for the Western Reserve 2024-2025 school year is March 1, 2024, through April 30, 2024. Parents with children who will be five years old by August 1, 2024, are eligible to register their child for kindergarten.

Online registration for kindergarten students is available through Final Forms. Please see our WR webpage https://www.western-reserve.org to register your child. You will find an enrollment option on our home page / Registration / Kindergarten Enrollment / Final Forms. If you live outside the district, please also fill out the Open Enrollment Form located on this page. Open Enrollment deadline is May 15, 2024. The kindergarten program is a five days a week, all day program.

Registration Requirements:

Child's birth certificate Immunization records Social Security Number Two proofs of residency Custody Papers, if applicable



*Registration for students who will be open-enrolled will be processed, but the students will be placed on a waiting list. Open Enrollment deadline is May 15, 2024.

Determination letters will be sent out June 3, 2024.

Parents/Guardians will be contacted regarding a screening appointment.

Please contact Leah Solomon, Principal Isolomon@western-reserve.org or Autumn Thomas, Administrative Assistant athomas@western-reserve.org 419-660-9824 with any questions.



Western Reserve Powerlifters. Back: Walker Stevens, Austin Kolb, William Taylor, Braylon Witherspoon, Travis French. Middle: Peyton Kerby, Landyn Wiegel, Colton Meagrow, Xzavian Meagrow, Payton Friend, Jamie Muenz, Addie French. Front: Marcus Witherspoon, Jon Kerby. Photo by Sarah Beck.



Varsity Basketball: Carli Ashley

by Brianna Edwards

The team motto for the 2023-24 season was "Progress over Perfection," and they used this mindset for goal setting. Coach Ashley said, "For each game, we set realistic, obtainable goals that would help us to feel successful with our growth regardless of the outcome."

Some of these goals were to "limit the team to x amount of transition points, get at least x amount of offensive rebounds, and score x amount of points in transition," she said. These were how the coaches evaluated individual and team performances, not just focusing on the scores.

She values good sportsmanship in her players. This includes leading by example, being a team player, and communicating. She said basketball isn't just about a player's athletic ability, but their willingness to have a bigger picture, as well.

She believes there are three characteristics for a coach to possess: "The ability to form positive relationships, the ability to adapt to what your players need, and to know the x's and o's of your game." These qualities have helped her help her team become better players.



Coach Carli Ashley talks to freshman Kara Woodruff at the Monroeville game on Jan. 25. Photo by Sarah Beck.



Senior Mayleen Sell was chosen as a Student of the Month for Norwalk Elks #730 for her academic and extracurricular achievements. John Evans, Exalted Ruler, Mayleen Sell, Na Li and Walter Sell.

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OHIO'S GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS CLASS OF 2023 AND BEYOND

Ohio's long-term graduation requirements take effect for the class of 2023. For students entering ninth grade on or after July 1, 2019, Ohio's new high school graduation requirements provide more flexibility to choose a graduation pathway that builds on a student's strengths and passions – one that ensures students are ready for their next steps after high school. Students in the classes of 2018 through 2022 may also use these requirements as a pathway to graduation.

As a part of this pathway to graduation, students must show that they have completed all three parts of these requirements.

1. Credit Requirements:

Students must earn a minimum total of 20 credits in specified subjects and take your required tests. Schools can locally require more than 20 credits. Schools are still required to administer all the high school end-of-course assessments. These are: English Language Arts II, Algebra I (or Integrated Math II), Geometry (or Integrated Math II), Biology, American History, and American Government.

2. Competency:

Students can demonstrate competency by earning a passing score on Ohio's high school Algebra I (or Integrated Math I) and English language arts II tests. Students who do not pass the test will be offered additional support and must retake the test at least once. If students have not met the competency score on these tests, there are four additional ways to show competency.

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
Algebra I and ELA II	Career Readiness	College Credit Plus	Military Enlistment	ACT or SAT

Refer to the back of this page for a brief discription of each option.

Page 1 | Graduation Requirements | September 2022



Department of Education

Option 1. To demonstrate competency using Ohio's state tests, students must earn a score of 684 or above on both the Algebra I (or Integrated Math I) and English language arts II end-of-course exams.

Option 2. To demonstrate competency by Career Readiness, students must demonstrate two career-focused activities, at least one must be a foundational option.

- Foundational options: 1. Cumulative score of proficient on 3 or more WebXams. 2. Earn 12-points of industry credential. 3. Complete a registered pre-apprenticeship, an apprenticeship, or show evidence of acceptance into an approved apprenticeship. 4. State-issued license for a practice in a vocation.
- Supporting options: 1. Work-Based Learning. 2. Earn the workforce readiness score on the Workkeys.
 3. Earn the OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal

Option 3. To demonstrate competency through the College Credit Plus Program, students must earn credit in a non-remedial math or English course for the subject area not passed.

Option 4. To demonstrate competency through Military Enlistment, students must provide evidence of enlistment in a branch of the armed forces to demonstrate competency.

Option 5. To demonstrate competency using the ACT or SAT, students must obtain a remediation-free score in the math and/ or English subject area on the ACT or SAT. To demonstrate competency in English, a student must be remediation-free in the subjects of English and reading on the ACT or SAT.

3. Readiness:

Students can meet the readiness requirement by earning two diploma seals. In alignment with their graduation plan, students should be choosing seals that align with their goals and interests. These seals give students the chance to demonstrate academic, technical and professional skills and knowledge that align to their passions, interests and their post-high school pathway.

Of the two seals students are required to earn, at least one of the two must be State-Defined. Ohio's 12 diploma seals are:

- OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal (State-Defined)
- Industry-Recognized Credential Seal (State-Defined)
- College-Ready Seal (State-Defined)
- Military Enlistment Seal (State-Defined)Citizenship Seal (State-Defined)
- Citizenship Seal (State-DefineScience Seal (State-Defined)

- Honors Diploma Seal (State-Defined)
- Seal of Biliteracy (State-Defined)
- Technology Seal (State-Defined)
 Community Service Seal (Locally)
- Community Service Seal (Locally-Defined)
 Fine and Performing Arts Seal (Locally-Defined)
- Student Engagement Seal (Locally-Defined)

Want to learn more?

Contact your school counselor or visit education.ohio.gov/graduation





BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT MATRIX

1st Offense 2nd Offense 3rd Offense 4th Offense **Bullying 1st Offense** Disruption **Dress Code Level** Insubordination/Disrespect Verbal Written Wednesday One Line Jumping/Saving Spaces Detention Warning Warning Non-academic Use of Technology Profanity/Inappropriate Language Sleeping Tardy to Class **Unprepared for Class** Cell Phone **False Reports** Falsifying Information/Forgery Written Level **Detention** ISS Improper Use of Equipment and/or Supplies Warning Detention Two Loitering **Physical Contact Public Display of Affection** Disruption of Education Plagiarism/Cheating (Zero on Assessment and) **Level** Roughhousing ISS or OSS OSS OSS Three Skipping Class Using Profane Gestures/Swearing at Staff Member 5+ Level 1 Offenses **Fighting** Insubordination Towards Administration OSS with notification **Level** Making Threats Toward Staff or Students OSS to law enforcement and Four Theft recommend for expulsion Transmission or Possession of Illegal Data Vandalism 5+ Level 2 Offenses Alcohol Possession/Consumption/Distribution Arson **Assault Bullying 2nd Offense** OSS with notification to law enforcement and **Level** Criminal Acts recommend for expulsion **Five** Dangerous Threats/Inciting Panic Drug/THC/DAB Possession/Consumption/Distribution Possession of Nicotine/e-cigarette/Tobacco Weapons Use/Possession

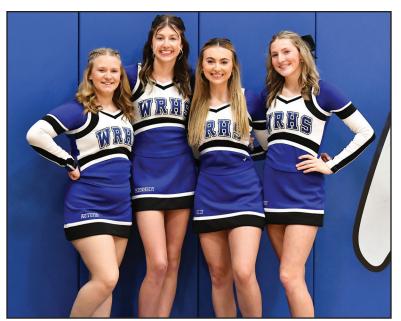
Allegations of Bullying and Hazing will be investigated and consequences assigned per WR Board policy.

Administration has the right to increase consequences based on severity up to and including emergency removal and recommendation for expulsion. See the student handbook "Code of Conduct" for more information.

School starts at 7:30a.m. Students who are tardy to 1st period are tardy to school and must report to the office to sign in and get a pass.



(top left) Senior Kelsey Lasch faces her opponent at the state wrestling tournament. This was Lasch's second year to qualify for state, and she placed seventh. Photo by Sarah Beck.



Varsity Cheerleaders pose at the Cardinal Stritch game. Autumn Jamison, Kennedy Drennen, Ally Benesh, and Avery Kinney. Photo by Sarah Beck.

(bottom left) Kelsey Lasch controls her opponent during the state wrestling tournament. Lasch placed seventh at her second state tournament. Photo by Sarah Beck.

JV Basketball: Coach Jarrett

by Abbigail Fertig

Coaches often have many goals for their season, and for Coach Jarrett, one of them was a look toward the future. "As the JV coach, my goal is to always help the players improve and prepare them to be successful varsity players someday," he said.

Another goal was to keep the balance between hard work and fun for his girls' team. "I like to challenge players to get better while also trying to make basketball enjoyable. It is not always enjoyable to put in the effort to get better, but when they do, the results of their work are enjoyable for them."

When it comes to playing time, high school is different than middle school. "Once athletes get to high school, playing time is not guaranteed. They have to earn it during practice in the season and the off-season," Jarrett said. "Players that work hard and do the things they are asked to do generally play the most."

Jarrett is proud of his team and is looking forward to next year!



Spring Musical a Success!

by Mary Ana Hicks

The Western Reserve Music Department just finished a successful run of the musical Once Upon A Mattress, selling over 100 tickets a show.

This year's production included 32 students in grades 6-12 on stage, backstage, and in the pit orchestra. It featured five seniors: Clara Hunt, Javar Powers, Reagan Roland, Mayleen Sell, and Aries Weisenberger. In addition to the students, eight professional musicians played in the pit orchestra.

I am beyond proud of the hard work and quality performances that they gave, and I'm glad so many people came to support them.

In order to enhance the quality of our performances, we are giving the community a chance to help us continue to put on great shows. The fundraiser will help support rising production costs and lets community members sponsor a dance, help us hire live musicians, upgrade lighting, etc. These sponsors will be recognized in next year's program. Access it by using the QR code:





Members of the Class of 2024 pose in front of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum during their class trip to Nashville, TN.

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Coaches' Corner

Josh Good - Varsity Baseball – 8 Years at Western "What is your goal as a varsity coach?" My primary goal as a coach is to teach my players the proper ways of becoming the best men they can be. It requires work ethic, drive, passion, respect, consistency, positive relationships, handling adversity, and proper ways of communicating. These are traits I expect from everyone in our program. I try to take every hard moment of baseball (the "Game of Failure") and put it in perspective of reality as young men starting their careers, handling tough moments in marriage, raising children as leaders of their home, and the reality that "life is just hard" sometimes. At the end of the day, everything we focus on in our baseball program is preparing them to be the leaders their future spouse, children, co-workers, employees and employers deserve.

Guy Schuler - Track & Field -- 3 Years at Western. "What are you most excited about?" I am very excited about the renovations happening at the school's athletic facilities. It's amazing to come to practice every day and see the progress being made here. Both Tim Weisenberger and John Picket have done a tremendous job spearheading the project from the front lines.

As the Head Track & Field Coach, it is easy to see the benefits of the stadium renovations. We are able to get a good amount done at practice and make the most of each day.

project is Once the completed, our program plans to use the new stadium to host both middle school and high school meets and invitationals. We are also planning other events such as alumni meets and summer youth camps.

Western Reserve has a rich history in Track & Field and we can't wait to continue to build upon that tradition. Go Riders!

Stephanie Varsity Softball - 5 Years at Western "What is your goal as a varsity coach?" My ultimate goal is that the young ladies on my team understand and learn the skills to make them strong, successful young women. I want them to be women who make an impact on our community and beyond. Softball is just a game. We work together to build a team that can compete and win. While we are doing that, they are growing in character. At the end of the day, I want these ladies to know that they can accomplish hard things and be women with great character.



Highlights from the 23-24 **Winter Season**

by Ryan Falknor, Athletic Director

Girls Basketball

The girls' basketball program graduated three seniors: Joslin Cain, Brooklyn Prince, and Anastin Hoover. Along with these upperclassmen, the team was able to gain valuable experience for freshman and sophomore participants, who throughout the year learned what the speed and physicality of varsity basketball is. We look forward to seeing what they can bring to the floor in the future. This group has the talent and work ethic to compete.

Two athletes were recognized by the conference for their performance. Senior Joslin Cain earned Second Team All FC honors, and sophomore Layken Barnhart earned Honorable Mention.

At the middle school level, the seventh grade team finished second in the Firelands Conference tournament.

Boys Basketball

The boys' team graduated five seniors including Grant Bethard, Rylee Supeck, Braxton Balog, Tim Gregory, and Spencer Pippert.

For two of these young men, the season was derailed by injury before it began. However, with those injuries, opportunities arose for underclassmen to gain valuable experience for the future.

Two athletes were recognized as all-conference performers. Sophomore Chase Hipp earned Second Team FC honors and sophomore Brexton Fraelich earned Honorable Mention.

At the middle school level, the eighth grade team placed second at the Firelands Conference tournament.

Wrestling

This year, our wrestlers gained valuable experience and had some very good showings at invitationals. On January 27 at our Western Reserve Terry Munroe Invite, the team placed fourth out of 12 teams.

Our wrestlers placed fourth as a team at the Firelands Conference meet, and had six athletes finish third or better individually.

We were able to advance five athletes to the district tournament (placing fourth or better), with two additional placing fifth and serving as alternates.

For the second time, senior Kelsey Lasch advanced to the state tournament in girls wrestling in the 115 lb weight class. She placed third at regionals and seventh at State, going 46-7 for the season.

She is working toward becoming a 4-year letter winner for three different sports, cross country, wrestling, and track & field.

Former Western Reserve athletes having success at the college level! Lillian White, freshman at Heidelberg, earned playing time on their women's basketball team.

Libby Weisenberger, a freshman at Tiffin University, earned playing time on the women's volleyball team this past fall.

Bella Thornburg, a freshman at Shawnee State, began her collegiate career in basketball, but dealt with injury and was unable to participate

Sydnie Prince, a freshman at Muskingum, has just started her collegiate athletic career in softball.

Matt Jarrett, a sophomore at Mount Union, has been a member of the golf team, though has yet to participate due to injury.

Aliyah Perez, a junior at Lourdes University, earned team best time in the 800m dash for track & field, and was selected as the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference Runner of the Week for cross country as a

Jake Jarrett, a sophomore at Mount Union, placed 7th in the 400m hurdles as a freshman and competed at the conference indoor track meet in the 500m dash this winter.

JJ Weisenberger, a senior at Wittenberg University, competed in the conference indoor finals in long jump and was part of a 4x200 relay team that finished 3rd in the conference.

Cody Benesh finished up a four-year career playing football at Heidelberg University. He played on the defensive side of the ball, along with many special teams opportunities.

Luke Rowlinson, a junior at Cornerstone University, scored his 000th career point and has been a large part of his team's success in earning a conference tournament championship, and automatic bid to compete in the NAIA national tournament.



Eighth grader Walker Stevens placed first at the South Central Powerlifting Meet on Feb. 24, 2024. Photo by Sarah Beck.

Celebrating FFA

by Parker Friend

The week of the Feb. 18 through the 24 was National FFA Week. Western Reserve FFA helped to promote the celebration by selecting specific dress/apparel themes for each day of the week. Such themes as "Case IH vs. John Deere" and "National Blue & Corn Gold Day" were utilized to help raise awareness of FFA and Agricultural Education. Furthermore, the officers wrote "Questions of the Day," and those students who correctly answered them were placed in a drawing to win t-shirts sponsored by AgCredit. Finally, on Friday, there was an assembly that involved students participating in the Agricultural Olympic Games such as "Hungry Hungry Cows" and "Pin the Tail on the Goat."

Mark Starkey, Western's Ag teacher and FFA advisor, said, "National FFA Week was initiated by the National FFA Organization — a youth leadership organization, and the largest in the U.S., to make a positive difference in the lives of young people by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career through agriculture success education. The National FFA Organization, formerly the Future Farmers of America, was founded by a group of young farmers in 1928. The FFA mission, during National FFA Week, is to prepare future generations for the challenges of feeding the growing population of the United States by teaching members various topics relating to agricultural technology, science, business, including Ag Business, Ag Mechanics, Ag Sales, Dairy Cattle, Agronomy, Food Science & Technology, Plant Science, and Natural Resources."

Across the country, FFA members participate in agricultural, leadership, and service-based activities during the week. The organization also hosts Career Development Events, or contests, in which student members compete to test the skills they learned through agricultural education instruction from the program.

Mini Cheer Clinic

by Kennedy Drennen

The Western Reserve Cheerleaders hosted a Mini Cheer Clinic in February for grades Pre-K through 6th where they learned a few new chants and a dance. The girls played games and had snacks while they also learned how to be a cheerleader. They performed at the high school during the JV Boys' Basketball halftime.

Coach Lisa Balog said, "We were so grateful for all the support and we had an amazing time working with all the girls." Getting to perform and work with all the mini cheerleaders is always such a fun experience!



Students in Mrs. Buck's class conducted an experiment in science using Skittles to learn about and make a rainbow!

(top right) Mrs. Stang's first graders practiced building and reading compound words. As they walked around, they collaborated to find their correct partner that would build a compound word.

Alumni Spotlight: Jenny Wilson

by Abbigail Fertig

After Mrs. Wilson spent her childhood growing up on a farm, she says coming back to the area was natural for her.

Mrs. Wilson has many memories from attending Western, but her favorite was in band! "A definite highlight was when our band performed in Washington, D.C. in front of the Lincoln Memorial," she said.

Another memory she shared was about the pep rallies. "When I was a student, spirit weeks and pep assemblies were something to behold! So much fun competition to show our school pride and spirit! Riders, Riders, what's your cry? V-I-C-T-O-R-Y!"

She said she also loved the teachers. "The teachers both cared and challenged me. Shout out to Liz Koleno and Marilyn Knechtges!"

Mrs. Wilson has been a teacher at Western for 22 years. "Brenda Toney, one of my high school English teachers, was retiring, and I applied," she said. "I taught mostly 9th grade in the high school for 16 years before shifting to teach 8th grade in the middle school."

Even though she's changed teaching assignments, one thing hasn't changed. "The tradition I want to continue is one I started. The culmination of our poetry unit is a Coffee House. We decorate the room to look like a cafe and enjoy snacks while the students share the poetry they wrote. It's a special day that students remember."

Overall, Mrs. Wilson is a great asset, and we should all appreciate her and everything she's done for the goodness and success of our school!





Elementary students celebrated Read Across America Week March 4-8. Monday's theme was Hats Off to Reading, and students wore different hats to school.



During Read Across America Week, Tuesday's theme was Snuggle Up to Reading, and students wore their pajamas to school to celebrate.

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Members of the cast, crew, and pit orchestra for this year's production of Once Upon a Mattress. Director Mary Ana Hicks said, "I am beyond proud of the hard work and quality performances that they gave." Photo by Sarah Beck.



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