

# Brooklyn Bridge

A monthly newsletter connecting you to Wetzel County Schools' County Office

VOL. 2, ISSUE 1



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## TEACHER OF THE YEAR TO COMPETE AT STATE

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### Leslie Lively



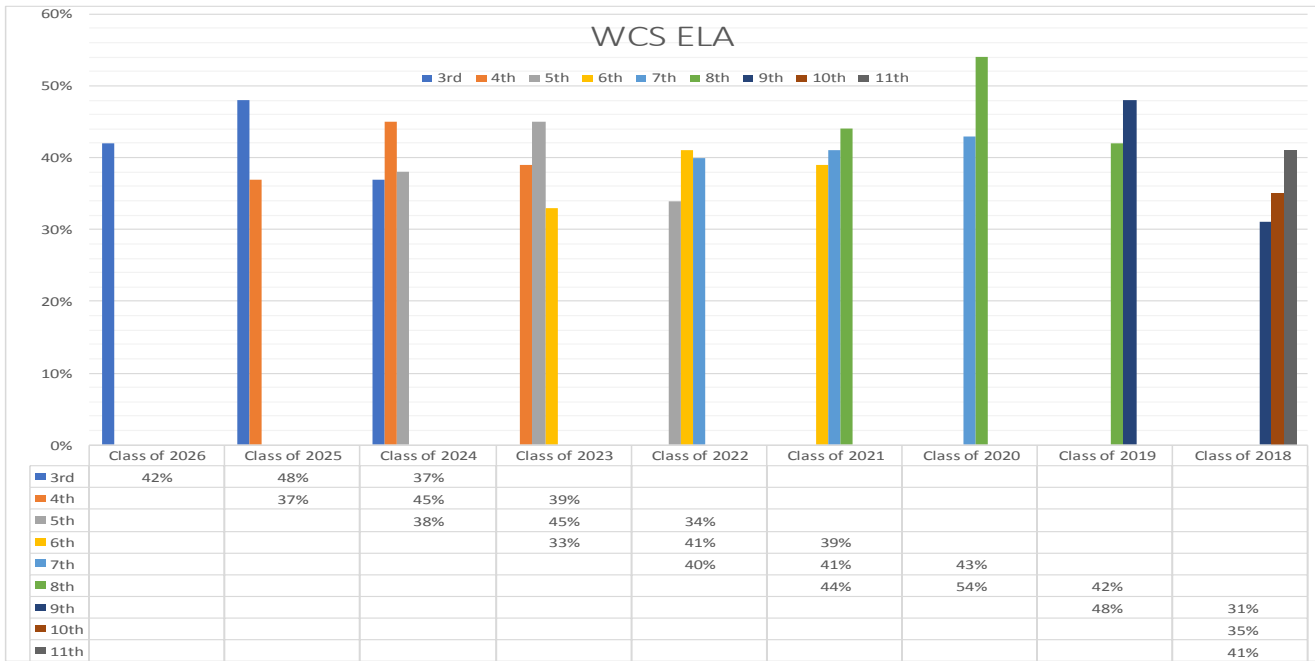
Photo and story from the WVDE News Release—8/16/17

Leslie Lively has been an educator for more than 20 years with a focus on STEM education. Lively has built the Engineer Energy Program in Wetzel County, which engages nearly 100 students in hands-on exploration of STEM subjects. The program allows students to coordinate with their local Board of Education, businesses, and community at large to present their STEM based projects throughout the school year.

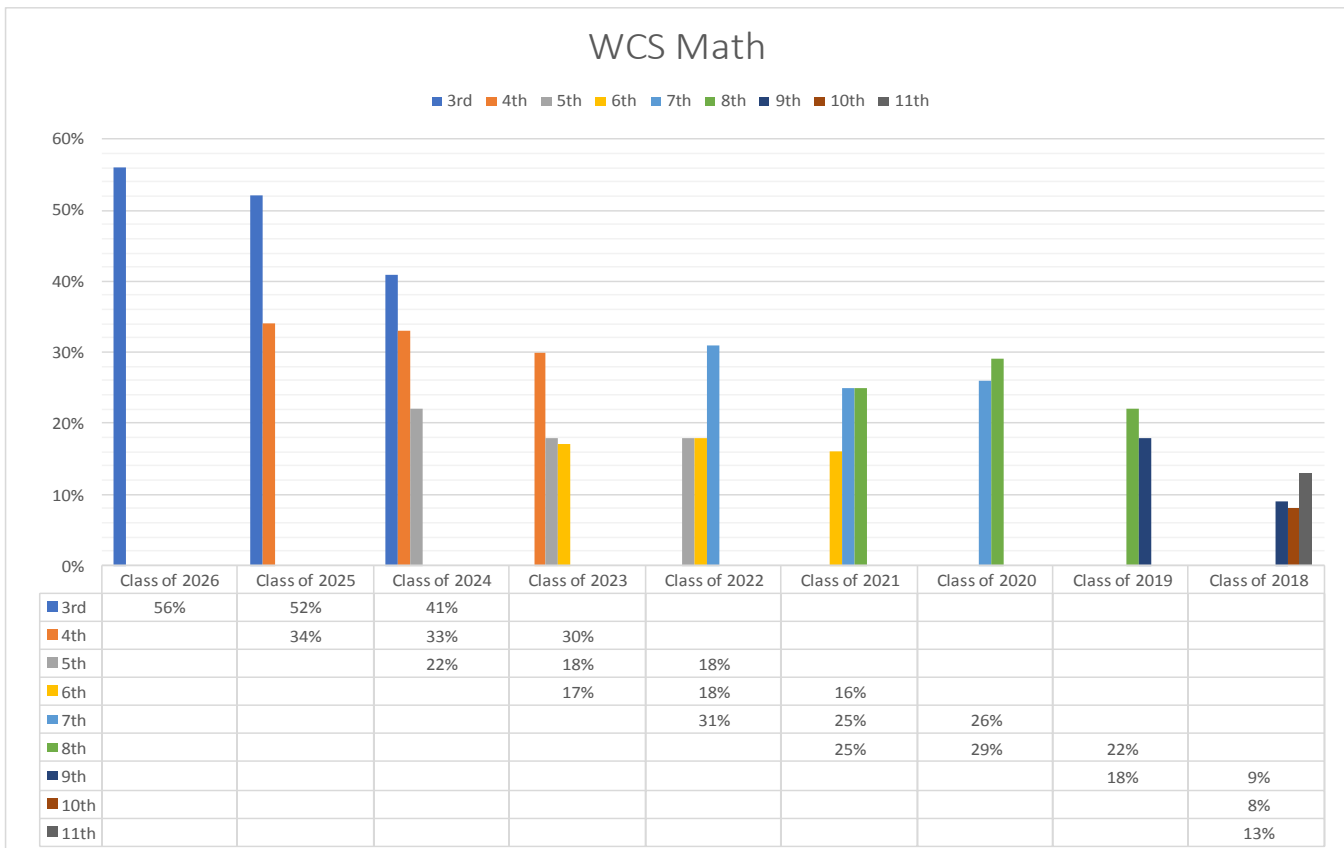
West Virginia's Teacher of the Year will be announced during a ceremony on September 18th at the Clay Center in Charleston. The winner of the state recognition will go on to represent West Virginia at the national level.



# Summative Assessments



While summative assessment results were shared with the board and press in August, the Individual Student Reports (ISRs) are just now getting to schools and must be distributed to parents no later than September 22. The chart above details the cohort achievement of our students for the years 2014-17. Please remember that 9th and 10th graders did not test in 2017, so there are only two bars for those grades.



# September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

## September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

—a time to share resources and stories in an effort to shed light on this highly taboo and stigmatized topic. We use this month to reach out to those affected by suicide, raise awareness and connect individuals with suicidal ideation to treatment services. It is also important to ensure that individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention.

According to the WV American Foundation for Suicide Prevention chapter chair Michelle Toman, one person a day in West Virginia takes their own life. More than 44,000 people in the United States died by suicide in 2016.

“That breaks down in the United States to every 13 minutes,” she said. “When you think about it that way — how many people could potentially take their lives — that’s really staggering.”

Toman said most people who attempt suicide are also dealing with mental illness that may be undiagnosed.

“We can tell sometimes through their environment, through their talk,” she added. “There are different ways that we can tell that may warn the rest of us that may not know what that looks, sounds or feels like.”

The warning signs include a person talking about being a burden to others; increased use of alcohol or drugs; withdrawing from activities; sleeping too much or too little; feeling depressed; and having a loss of interest. A person may also be affected by factors such as family history of suicide attempts and stressful life events.

If you are or know someone who is thinking about suicide, the following resources are available:

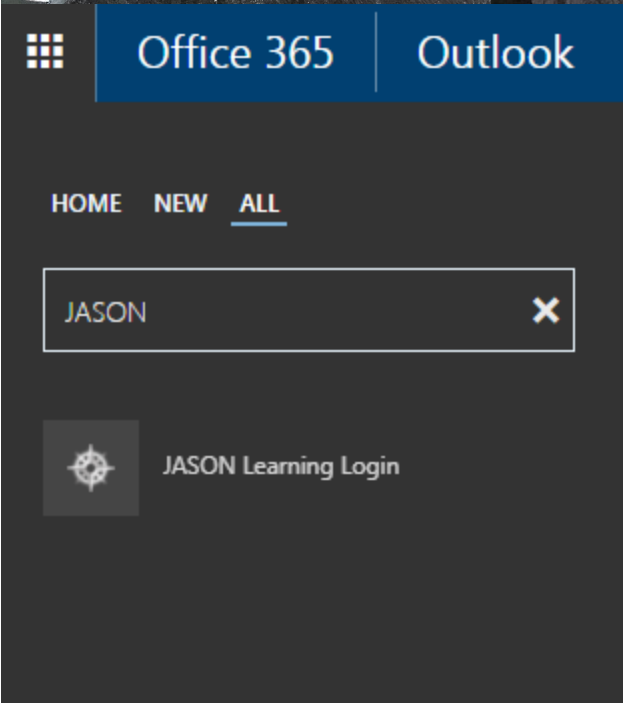
- ⇒ [Help for West Virginia](#); 1-844-HELP-4-WV (1-844-435-74980);
- ⇒ [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#); 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255);
- ⇒ [Vets 4 Warriors](#) for veterans; 1-855-838-8255; and
- ⇒ [Crisis Text Line](#) for text messaging; text “TALK” or “HELLO” 741741.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) also has resources posted at <https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Suicide-Prevention-Awareness-Month>.



# JASON Learning Argonauts Return from the Amazon

For more photos and information, check out @LeslieLively22 on Twitter



Did you know that you have access to JASON Learning through Office 365? After you log in to Office 365, click on your waffle menu. If you can't find it, select "ALL" and search JASON.



# Trainings

Don't forget to use the ERO system to register and check for updates!

<http://ero5.eschoolsolutions.com>

District ID:  
26155



**D**rug awareness—Drug awareness lessons have existed for numerous years in various forms. These include lessons concerning the dangers of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, which will be taught by the classroom teacher, school counselor, and school resource officers. This also includes lessons in advisor-advisee, activities during red ribbon week, presentations, various speakers, and clubs. Unfortunately, these lessons

are more important now than ever due to the serious drug abuse problem our society as a nation faces today. It is crucial we continue as a school system to speak to our students concerning the dangers of all types of illegal drugs and to maintain documentation of these lessons as we strive to defeat this problem in our communities across America.

**J**amie's law—Jamie's law mandates that information concerning suicide prevention be presented to middle school and high school students in West Virginia. Individuals who are contemplating suicide usually reach out to someone first. The school counselor(s) will arrange for this information to be presented for their school as soon as possible.



## No Such Thing As A Free Lunch

“Why are we so worried about meal counts?  
They're all free for kids, anyway...”

This statement has been heard throughout the county and while meals are free for students, they're not actually 'free'.

Wetzel County School participates in the Community Eligibility Provision, or CEP. This allows us to offer free meals to all students without collecting Free & Reduced Meal Applications. Wetzel County is given the number of students who receive benefits from the state from the WVDE Office of Child Nutrition. The amount is then multiplied by a number determined by the government to account for the lack of paper applications. This gives us the percentage of meals which are reimbursed at the free and paid rates. This year, out of all of the meals served in a single day, Wetzel County Schools is reimbursed at the free rate for 85% of meals, and the paid rate for 15% of meals. Wetzel County Schools pays the difference between the actual cost of producing the meal (food cost, labor, etc) and the federal reimbursement. If we serve 1500 lunches a day, reimbursement will be 1275 free and 225 paid, or \$4308.00. If we serve 1500 lunches, but only record 1400 lunches, reimbursement will be 1190 free and 210 paid, or \$4020.80. This is adding an additional \$287.20 to the cost of meals that day. Multiply that over 180 school days, that's an additional \$50,000!

Meals also are a factor when calculating cook positions. The more meals a school serves, the more cooks that are needed. If those numbers are not correct, this can affect the number of cooks at a school and the quality of meals served. A few missed meals a day can greatly affect the data used in these calculations.

So, please be sure that every student and adult that participates in our breakfast and lunch program is being counted, whether you highlight a name on a roster, scan a finger, or enter by classroom.



## SAT CHOSEN AS STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

According to news sources across the state, the West Virginia Department of Education has chosen the SAT as the new statewide standardized test. This will replace the Smarter Balanced Assessment previously administered. As more information is released to county administrators in the coming weeks and months, more information will be shared with everyone concerning the new exam.

## PAC Meetings

The following dates have been chosen for the Title I—Parent Advisory Committee meetings. All will fall on Thursdays, from 10:00 to 11:00 am at the Wetzel County Board Office in the Board Room.

October 12

December 7

March 8

April 12



WCS WELLNESS

## FLU SHOT CLINICS

Rite Aid Pharmacy will be visiting Wetzel County Schools during designated times to administer flu shots. The cost is free if you have PEIA or the Health Plan. You will need to bring a copy of your insurance card the day of the flu shot clinic. Below is a list of the flu shot clinics.

Wetzel County BOE	Fri Oct 20th 1:30 – 3:00 pm
MHS	Tues Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> 7:30 am - 9:30 am
PCE	Tues October 17th 10 am to 12 noon
PCHS	Tues Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> 1 pm – 3 pm
SLS	Wed October 18th 9:30 am – 12:00 noon
VHS	Wed October 18th 7:30 – 9:00 am
NMS	Fri Oct 20th 10 am – 1:00 pm
LDS	Mon October 16th 9:30 am – 11:30 am
HHS	Mon October 16th 12 noon – 1:00 pm

