

Wellston High School Newsletter



Principals Message

October, 2013

Hello WHS Students and Parents:

It is hard to believe that the first 9 week period is over. It seems each school year goes by faster than the year before. In order for our students to be successful, I need help from home to ensure that academic achievement can happen for all our kids.

Attendance: it is very important, and the law, for kids to attend school. There is a proven correlation between good attendance and academic success, so it is crucial for parents to make sure their child(ren) are in school every day, unless they are sick. Think about the world of work: one of the top priorities of any business is to ensure they have good employee attendance. We are training our kids that attendance matters, so to help them in life beyond high school, making sure they are getting to school is one of the most important and helpful things parents can do for them.

Effort: We know that getting good grades is important, but the learning of the material is even more important. Sometimes we learn more through failure than success, especially if we have had to put effort into something that is new for us to learn. Parents can help us by encouraging their child to put forth their best effort every chance they get by being active participants, ask questions when confused, and to reassess if their test score wasn't very good. Parents also can help with effort by asking about their child's day and what kind of homework they have and also just encouraging them to try their best.

Behavior: We have limited behavior issues here at the high school, but we can always help our students to do better. Parents can help, too. Social media seems to be the weapon of choice among young people today. I ask parents to help us, and their child, by monitoring their child's electronic devices and social sites, be nosey and ask questions, and remind your child that anything placed in the virtual world never disappears, even when they hit delete. Parents also need to remind their child that cyber bullying is not okay and will not be tolerated.

I encourage all parents to assist us with these three simple, yet important, areas. Together we can make our students successful adults.

On a side note, please visit our school website often for up-to-date info from the WHS office, the guidance department and senior information.

As always, feel free to contact me with questions, comments and concerns: 384-2162.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sowers

Mrs. Megan Sowers
High School Principal

Wellston High School would like to welcome...



Mr. Bray
Physical Education



Ms. Bruck
Spanish Student Teacher



Ms. Ernst
Guidance Counselor



Mrs. Godwin
Librarian



Ms. Hammond
Math



Ms. Osburn
Science



Ms. Titus
Band/History of Rock Student Teacher



Parent Teacher Conference will be held at WHS on October 30th & November 5th. For more information or to schedule an appointment call the High School office at 740.384.2162



Elective News

In Ms. Cosby's Spanish II, a white rose on my desk means that it is poetry reciting time. The students learned about the life of Jose Marti and then recited "Cultivo una rosa blanca" or "I grow a white rose" in which Marti offers the white rose of friendship to his enemies as well as his friends.

Spanish III and IV have already authored books about a crazy mixed up family (III) and the people in school (IV). In the future, Spanish III will be telling stories about an adventure from the past, and Spanish IV will become advice columnists for friends who are having trouble. Stay tuned... it's hard to say what roles they will take on next...

In Mr. Sites' Auto-Cad Drafting and Design Classes are Mechanical, Machine, and Architectural by design.

Then Mechanical Drafting introduces the concept of "three view drawings" commonly called Orthographic Projection. This type of drawing shows an object from three major sides, with dimensions and details, which allow a Craftsman to construct the object in detail.

In Machine Drafting the Students are taught to draw various Machine Parts, such as Bolts, Gears, and other machine parts. Accuracy is very important, therefore measurements are made in .0001 of an inch.

Architectural Drafting teaches the Student to Design a Private Dwelling with the necessary space and accommodations the average family will need. The student will draw and calculate the materials needed to construct the dwelling, as well as the cost.

Architectural Drafting IV deals with Houses with multiple floors, split levels, and multi-angle walls.

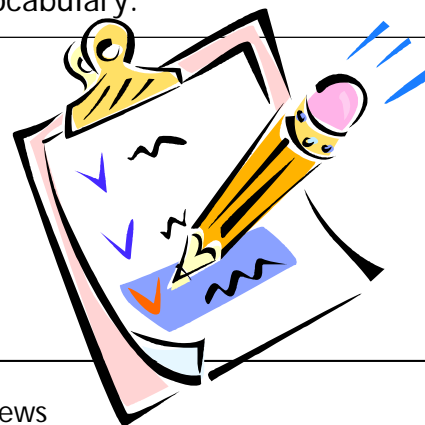
The Students will learn the operations of the Auto-Cad Drawing Program (Auto-Cad 2014) which enables them to use the computer to draw all the necessary details, with precision, whether they are drawing a Mechanical, Machine, or Architectural item.



Freshman Language Arts News:



This first 9 weeks the freshmen have been working very hard in English class. We started out with the basic elements of a story as a review. Although students struggled at first, we prevailed together as I re-taught and they re-tested. Currently we are reading William Golding's, Lord of the Flies. Before we began reading, the students were grouped randomly and told they were to pretend to be on a deserted island. Their task was to figure out what kind of government and rules would work best for their society. There were many intelligent discussions and debates on how to go about creating their government and rules. While we are only on chapter 4 the students seem to be grasping the ideas of why rules in our society are necessary. Throughout the reading we are also discussing the common core state standards dealing with characterization, theme, irony, figurative language, symbolism and context clues for vocabulary.



Guidance News

During Parent/Teacher conferences on both October 30th and November 5th, there will be an opportunity to ask questions and gather information on High School Graduation Requirements, College Basics, and the ACT test.

If you are not able to attend, please feel free to contact the office with any questions.

Thanks,

Ms. Ernst
School Counselor

Math News

In Mrs. Bowditch's Algebra III classes' students have reviewed a lot from Algebra 2 and have gone more in depth on a few topics, such as factoring and simplifying radicals. Because the ACT is quickly approaching, students are spending much of October in preparation. The next test date is October 26. An excellent, free, ACT prep site is www.number2.com. Students can practice for all sections of the ACT, not just the math. Remember, there is NO formula sheet on the ACT and there are 60 math questions in 60 minutes. Students interested in borrowing a graphing calculator for the ACT should see their math teacher.

Pre-Calculus classes have jumped right in with a chapter on Exponential and Logarithmic Functions. This was a new topic for all students and despite some early struggles, they worked hard and have survived. They have spent time learning about the effect of compound interest on savings and loans giving students a more informed appreciation of the benefits of saving money and the power of regular investments and regular payments on loans. The next several weeks will be spend on Trigonometry.

In Calculus they have started the first of the two major topics in Calculus: Derivatives. They have learned several rules of differentiation and were relieved to learn the "short cut." Students spent the first quarter reading the book Fermat's Enigma, about the history of one of the greatest unsolved problems in mathematics: Fermat's Last Theorem. Ask your Calculus student whether or not it has been solved!

In Mr. Graves' Algebra II classes, students have just started graphing parabolas using vertex form. Barbie Bungee will be coming up since we just finished graphing linear equations! This will be a fun activity for all students to test their skills in linear equations! Barbie's life depends on it!

Mr. Graves' and Mrs. Hammond's Geometry classes have finished their first chapter and are now moving into parallel lines cut by a transversal. We are building all the skills needed to prove congruent and similar shapes in the future.

Mrs. Lundeen's and Mr. Harness' Algebra I students are hard at work solving equations. This is an essential skill for all levels of math and will provide students with problem solving strategies that they can use in their future careers. As we close the quarter with equations we will soon move into ratio, rates, proportions and percent's. In this chapter students will be given real world situations where they will use these topics to solve tricky problems.



Mrs. Bowditch's Calculus class participated in their annual pumpkin carving.

Science News



WHS Juniors take a trip to gaseous diffusion plant.

Pictured are the members of the junior class who attended a field trip on October 2 to the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio. This rare opportunity to visit the Department of Energy site included a bus tour and a daylong event in which students rotated through 12 informational presentation stations.

Students learned about the history of the plant site, the decontamination and decommissioning process, the new centrifuge technology, recycling programs, environmental consequences and STEM opportunities at local university. Students and teachers were very appreciative to have this unique and free opportunity that wouldn't have been possible without the US Department of Energy, Fluor-B&W and the many others who presented or contributed to the day.

Need extra help in science? Ms. Kussel is offering science tutoring on Tuesday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's during W.R.A.P.



Social Studies News

The first quarter of the current year was a busy one for the members of the Wellston High School Social Studies Department: Joe Briggs, Greg Hollback, Erin Cohan, and Jim Downard.

In Greg Hollback's government classes junior and seniors had the privilege of meeting and talking to U.S. Congressman Bill Johnson, who represents our community in the U.S House of Representatives, at a town hall meeting held at the Jackson Middle School. Greg and his classes enjoyed dinner with the Congressman at Cardo's Pizza Parlor.

His classes have finish their review of political parties which enabled his students to determine their personal political philosophy and perhaps identify a political party that suits that philosophy and their interests.

Currently, Greg's classes are gearing up for the first ever mock election at WHS. The Jackson County Board of Elections will bring in voting machines for Greg's students to use on the same ballot their parents and other citizens will use in the November 5th General Election in Ohio. This will give Wellston's students as close to "real life" experience in voting as it is possible for minors to have. Our department is very proud of Greg for arranging this experience for our students.

After the election Greg says his students will briefly explore, as he put it, the "what, why, and how's for the Electoral College System" the Framers designed for Americans to select the President every four years. Starting on November 1st, his students will "jump right into the U.S. Constitution and cover all 27 Amendments until Christmas.

Meanwhile, Mr. Joe Briggs has been instructing his very large sophomore class in the closing of the frontier following the Civil War, the growth of American industrial might in the losing years of the nineteenth century and the opening decades of the twentieth before World War 1. Soon his classes will be studying the development of the Progressive and Reform movements that led to, among other things, the elections of Presidents like Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson.

The year's sophomore class may be the last to be required to takes Ohio's old OGT [Ohio Graduation Test] in social studies as a requirement for graduation and diploma. The state hasn't yet decided yet but Joe is working hard to see that all of his students pass the exam next March. While the exact nature of the test is unclear, it's apparent that some kind of end-of-course test or other standard measure will be required in social studies for graduation.

Mr. Downard's freshman have studied the Reformation, 1516 to roughly 1650 A.D., when the Holy Roman Catholic Church split into two warring camps, Protestants and Catholics. The ensuing conflict rent Europe with nearly 150 years of religious wars. The freshman also studied the current political geography of Western Europe, learning to locate 12 to 14 major countries in Western Europe. Next quarter they'll identify the major countries of Eastern Europe. Luxembourg, one of the smallest countries in West Europe, seemed to give the freshman some trouble, but Mr. Downard said he was personally well please that every freshman correctly identified his ancestors homeland, Ireland and it's capital Dublin. Erin Go Bragh.

The entire Social Studies Department at Wellston High School wishes to congratulate our colleague in the Math Department, Mrs. Catherine Bowditch, on being honored as one of the best math teachers in Ohio. We can think of no more deserving teacher.