



WEST CENTRAL WIRE

“To prepare all students for learning and living in a changing world.”

www.westcentral49-7.com.

-West Central Schools Mission Statement

GREETINGS

from the
Superintendent's Office



As we embrace the spirit of gratitude during this Thanksgiving season, we are delighted to share the joys of recent achievements and upcoming endeavors at our school. Our heartfelt congratulations go to our outstanding football team for their remarkable runner-up finish—a testament to their hard work and dedication. A special thank you to our coaches for their hard work and dedication to the players this season. As winter approaches, we eagerly anticipate the launch of a host of engaging seasonal activities, from festive concerts to spirited competitions. Moreover, our students continue to shine academically and creatively, showcasing their talents in recent performances that have left us inspired and proud. This season is a reminder of the collective achievements and resilience within our West Central family. Wishing you all a joyous Holiday Season filled with warmth and gratitude.

School Performance Index

Each school year the South Dakota Department of Education gives school districts a school performance ranking based on several data points. In the elementary and middle school, schools are evaluated based on student achievement on the Smart Balanced Assessment, student improvement on that same assessment from previous year's data, and attendance. In the high school, we are evaluated based on our junior class student achievement on the Smart Balanced Assessment, high school completion, and college and career readiness standards.

The elementary schools scored very well this year. Out of 100 points possible, we scored a 72. They were able to achieve 36.5 points out of 45 on student achievement, 25.3 out of 45 on student progress, and 9.9 out of 10 on school attendance. The middle schools scored 32.5 out of 45 for student achievement, 18.9 out of 45 on student progress, and 9.2 out of 10 on attendance. Our high school scored 31.8 out of 43.34 for student achievement, 27.3 out of 28.33 for high school completion, and 22.4 out of 28.33 for college and career readiness.

One of the things that I have truly enjoyed in my transition to West Central is our shared competitiveness. We compare ourselves to other Dak 12 schools in athletics, fine arts, performing arts, and other co-curricular activities, I will do the same from an academic achievement standpoint. Our elementary ranked 4th among Dak 12 schools. Our middle school ranked 5th among those same conference schools, and our high school also ranked 5th among Dak 12 schools. We will utilize those scores and other data points to improve our rankings, instruction, and student achievement.

Strategic Planning

After the 2023-2024 school year, the West Central School District's 5-year strategic plan has come to an end. The District, School Board, and Leadership Team are working on generating a new 5-year plan. This plan is intended to be a living document, the plan is for this one to be evaluated and adjusted bi-yearly. The school board has established five goals that center around: student achievement, school governance, community engagement, safe schools, and district staffing. From these goals, each building and department will build goals to fall under the umbrella of the board's goals.

Yours in Education,

Mr. Knight

DISTRICT-WIDE NEWS

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WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD

- Alison McGillivray, President** 701-650-1397
 508 Mulligan Cir, Hartford, SD 57033
Alison.McGillivray@k12.sd.us
- Alexia Klinkhammer, Vice President** 201-3495
 509 N Sagehorn Dr, Hartford, SD 57033
Alexia.Klinkhammer@k12.sd.us
- Justin Eich** 359-9710
 26208 462nd Ave, Hartford, SD 57033
Justin.Eich@k12.sd.us
- Amanda Kayser** 201-7510
 26646 461st Ave, Hartford, SD 57033
Amanda.Kayser@k12.sd.us
- Kim Lanham** 310-4803
 605 N Sagehorn Dr, Hartford 57033
Kim.Lanham@k12.sd.us

Please note: Regular school board meetings are held the second Monday of each month in the Board Room at the Administration Office, unless otherwise indicated by published agenda. Meetings begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted. All meetings are open to the public. If a person desires to have an item placed on the agenda, please contact the Administration Office one week prior to the scheduled meeting. All meeting agendas can be located on the West Central webpage under District Board of Education. All school board proceedings are published in the Minnehaha Messenger.

WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL DIRECTORY

- | | |
|---|----------|
| Eric Knight , Superintendent | 528-3217 |
| Dr. Andrew Barron , High School Principal | 528-6236 |
| Mark Rockafellow , Middle School Principal | 528-3799 |
| Amy Johnson , Humboldt Elementary Principal | 363-3131 |
| or | 528-3325 |
| Ashley Bahrenfuss , Hartford Elementary Principal | 528-3215 |
| Krista Stuessi , Business Manager | 528-3217 |
| Michelle Becker , Director of Special Services | 528-3210 |
| Carrie Schaefer s, Curriculum Director | 528-3217 |
| Andrea Johnson , Activities Director | 528-6236 |
| Chris Waltner , Director of Technology | 528-3217 |
| Tanya Thomas-Parsons , Food Nutrition Director | 528-6238 |
| Rick Coker , Transportation Supervisor (Bus Garage Office) | 528-6235 |

EARLY DISMISSAL FOR 2023-2024

School will dismiss early for teacher work time, parent/teacher conferences, winter break, and the last day of school. **School will dismiss at 1:30 pm** on the following days:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| December 22 | March 8 |
| February 15 | May 17 |

2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

December 22 School Dismissal at 1:30 pm
 Winter Break Begins, End of 2nd Quarter
December 25-29 NO SCHOOL -- Winter Break
January 1 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
January 2 NO SCHOOL - Staff Development
January 3 Return from Winter Break
January 15 NO SCHOOL --Teacher In-Service
February 15 School Dismissal at 1:30 pm
 Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:00-9:00 pm
February 16 NO SCHOOL - Comp Day for Teachers
February 19 NO SCHOOL - President’s Day
March 8 .. School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, Teacher Work Time
 End of 3rd Quarter
March 18-21 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
March 22 NO SCHOOL - Comp Day for Teachers
March 29 NO SCHOOL
April 1 NO SCHOOL
May 17 School Dismissal at 1:30 pm, End of 4th Quarter
 Last Day for Students
May 18 Graduation
May 20 Last Day for Teachers

Inclement Weather or Make-Up Days: The first five make-up days are built into the school calendar. After five days, each additional day will be made up at the end of the school year.

SUBSTITUTES WANTED

Flexible hours – we will work with your schedule.

Wages range from \$125 - \$140/day

Visit www.westcentral49-7.com to apply or call Naomi
 at: (605) 528-3217 ext. 1003

West Central on the WEB
www.westcentral49-7.com

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The West Central School District #49-7 does not discriminate in its employment policies and practices, or in its educational programs (including career and technical education programs) on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, or other human differences and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Requirement for admission to the Career and Technical Education courses is completion of prerequisite coursework of each area.

Career and Technical Education offered at the West Central School District

Agriculture – Floriculture, Horticulture, Animal Science, Natural Resources, Bio-Technology, and Agriculture Leadership

Architecture and Construction – Introduction to Technology, Production Technology, Computer-Aided Drafting, Carpentry, and Building Trades

Food and Tourism Classes – Independent Living, Food Management, and Family Relations

Technology – Multi-media, Web Design, Animation, Computer I, and 3-D Programming

Inquiries specifically concerning the application of Title VI, Title IX, or section 504 may be referred to:

Title VI (discrimination based on national origin/ race) Special Services Director

Title IX (discrimination based on gender)Activities Director

Section 504 (discrimination based on disability)Special Services Director

Both Special Services and Activities Director can be reached at:

West Central School District
705 E. 2nd St.
Hartford, SD 57033
605-528-3217

Or

Kansas City Office
U.S. Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037
Kansas City, MO 64114-3302
Phone: 816-268-0550
Fax: 816-823-1404; TDD: 877-521-2172
E-mail: OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov

SCHOOL CLOSING

The Campus Messenger System is our primary notification system for parents/guardians and staff. It will be utilized for school closings, delays, or early dismissals. Please call **Caryl Nolz at 528-3217** for changes in phone numbers.

In addition, the following TV stations will be notified in the event that school should be cancelled or dismissed early due to inclement weather conditions:

Television Stations: **KELO, KDLT, KSFY**

We make every effort to provide this information to families prior to 6:30 a.m. However, the changing weather in South Dakota may make this a challenge on some days. In any case, we will notify these stations as soon as possible.

We care very much about your children and do our best to make appropriate decisions based on student safety and student achievement. Please remember that as a parent or guardian, you have the right to keep your child home on any day that you feel it is unsafe for your student to travel to school due to weather conditions.

West Central Giving Trees

All West Central Schools have a Giving Tree located in each of their buildings. The trees are decorated with ornaments which contain the wishes of students in our school district who could use a little help this holiday season. If you are able to provide some assistance, please take an ornament and purchase one or more of the items listed. We ask that you return the gift with the ornament/tag attached by December 8th. Please do not wrap your items. We will see to it that the gifts are delivered to each family in time for Christmas. We also accept donations of gift wrapping supplies, gift cards, etc. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions, please contact the following:

High School: Amy Lupkes or Sara Jost

605-528-6236 or amy.lupkes@k12.sd.us or sara.jost@k12.sd.us

Middle School: Kathy Lutter

605-528-3799 or katherine.lutter@k12.sd.us

Hartford Elementary: Summer DeJong

605- 528-3215 or summer.dejong@k12.sd.us

Humboldt Elementary: Sheryl Mallinger

605-363-3131 or 605-528-3325 or sheryl.mallinger@k12.sd.us



The Giving Trees are sponsored by Hartford Hometown Christmas, local churches and businesses, local families, and the West Central School District.

SCHOOL NURSE'S CORNER

While the weather has been beautifully mild this fall, it is likely that colder days are ahead. Colder weather means more time spent indoors and often times, less physical activity. The good news is, exercise is free and it is a great way to improve both mental and physical health and increase positive interactions amongst family members and friends.

While starting an exercise regimen can sound like a daunting task, it can be tailored to each ability level.

Circuits are a quick and easy way to exercise the whole body and challenge one another. Circuit workouts use a station system where each station serves to host an individual exercise for a set period of time. Just pick an exercise for each muscle group i.e. lower body, upper body, and core; set your times, and get to work!

Below is a brief list of exercises to help kick start your circuit training:

Lower body (legs): Squats, lunges, calf raises

Upper Body (arms): Push ups, arm raises, shoulder press

Core: Planks, sit ups, V ups



If you're unsure how to perform each exercise, YouTube is an excellent resource!

For example, one circuit workout could involve lunges, pushups, and sit ups. The times could be 30 seconds for each exercise with three rounds. Each individual would work to achieve as many repetitions in 30 seconds and then move on to the next exercise until he or she has completed three rounds of each exercise. This circuit workout will exercise the whole body in a short period of time.

I hope you're inspired to gather your friends and family, workout together, and improve your overall health!

Carly Boom, RN, BSN

Upcoming Concerts at West Central School District

Please
Join Us!

Hartford Elementary Presents:
Thursday, December 7th at the High School Gym)

1st Grade - 6:00pm
Kindergarten - 6:45pm
2nd Grade - 7:30pm

Humboldt Elementary Presents:
(at the Humboldt Elementary Gym)

5th Grade Concert
Monday, December 11th at 6:00pm

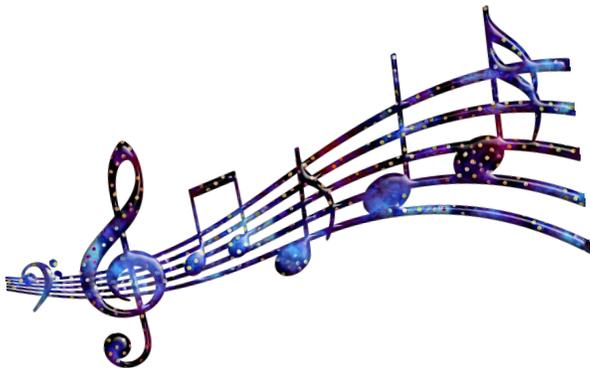
Kindergarten through 2nd Grade Concert
Tuesday, December 12th at 6:00pm

4th Grade Concert
Monday, December 11th at 7:00pm

3rd Grade Concert
Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00pm

High School Madrigal:
Thursday, December 14th and Friday, December 15th
at 7:00pm in the High School Auditorium

High School Band Concert:
Friday, January 19th at 7:00pm



TRANSPORTATION

WALKING BETWEEN BUSES AND CROSSWALK USE.

Please **do not** walk between buses at the schools where they are parked to load and unload students. This is the most dangerous place to be around buses! Students and parents should use crosswalks and be vigilant around buses. Children chasing blowing papers or rolling balls are dangerous around buses!

RIDING A DIFFERENT BUS?

If your student is riding a bus other than their regularly assigned bus, you must first contact the school and have them send a note to the driver. Seating is assigned and room is not always available. Please communicate with the school **a day or two before** you want your child to ride home with someone else. They will approve the change and send a note to the driver with your child.

BE WAITING FOR THE BUS AT LEAST 5 MINUTES EARLY.

Although you were given an approximate time for the bus to arrive, it may arrive earlier than you expect, or it may arrive a little later. You should be standing at your stop prior to the bus arriving. In addition, being ready for the bus allows us to get students to school on time. Please keep in mind that weather, mechanical problems, some students not riding on a particular day and other factors beyond our control affect when the bus will arrive.

IN-TOWN BUSING.

If you didn't sign up for in-town busing at the beginning of the school year but now have busing needs, you may sign up by completing a transportation request and submitting payment. Applications will be considered on an available space basis. To complete a transportation request form, go to the transportation tab on our website at www.westcentral49-7.com. Payments may be made online at the "online payment" link (also on the website) or by sending your payment to West Central School District, PO Box 730, Hartford, SD 57033.

CONSTRUCTION.

Construction continues at Hartford Elementary. Changes may be made to pickup and delivery locations as the year and construction progresses. Parents will be notified in advance of any changes through campus messenger and/or Class Dojo. Thank you for your patience!



BUS DRIVERS WANTED

4 hours per day. Will help you obtain a CDL.

\$29.75/hour

Visit www.westcentral49-7.com to apply or call Naomi at:
(605) 528-3217 ext. 1003

ELEMENTARY NEWS

Amy Johnson, Humboldt Elementary Principal
605-363-3131 or 605-528-3321

Ashley Bahrenfuss, Hartford Elementary Principal
605-528-3215

West Central Elementary families,

Can you believe that we've already reached the point in the school year where children are going to start needing to bring their *snow gear*?! We've had a wonderful start to the school year for both Hartford and Humboldt Elementary. We have had some special opportunities to learn over the last two months and some other great reasons to celebrate!

This year, both schools are putting a big focus on our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) practices. One of our focuses is on the 3 B's; be responsible, be respectful, and be safe. Students are working hard to show those three characteristics in all areas of the school, and it's our hope that they are also showing them to you at home! Hopefully you've also seen a few Trojan Tributes coming home with students. That's another area of focus for this school year; positive communication both to students and to families. So far, both buildings are seeing positive impacts of our PBIS focuses. We're looking forward to continuing those focuses throughout the year!

Throughout the last few months, our students have experienced some pretty cool learning opportunities! First, both Hartford Area Fire and Rescue and the Humboldt Fire Department volunteered their time to visit with students at both schools and discuss the importance of fire safety and what to do if there was ever a fire risk. Students had the opportunity to explore the fire trucks and equipment that first responders use when they get emergency calls, learning what each tool is used for and how it helps people. Second graders at Hartford Elementary also had the opportunity to go through the Fire Safety House, experiencing and practicing first hand what to do if they were ever in a fire situation!

Earlier in November, the Great Plains Zoo came to both schools to showcase the Zoo Mobile! Students were able to see and learn about many different animals, including snakes, cockroaches, skinks, hedgehogs, turtles, and tortoises. During their presentations, the staff of the Great Plains Zoo explained each animal in detail from what they eat to what they like to do! They focused on teaching students about their habitats and the characteristics of each animal that helps them thrive in those habitats. Our students asked incredible questions and it was a wonderful learning experience for both students and staff!

As we head into December, we want to give you a heads up of some important dates coming up. We know it's a busy time of year, so please be sure to check your child's Dojo for information on upcoming events!

- **December 7th** - Hartford Elementary concerts
- **December 11th** - Humboldt Elementary 4th/5th concert
- **December 12th** - Humboldt Elementary K-3rd concert
- **December 22nd** - Early Dismissal (1:30); End of 2nd Quarter
- **December 25th - 29th** - No School; Winter Break
- **January 3rd** - School Resumes

As always, thank you for your continued support of both Hartford and Humboldt Elementary Schools. We are looking forward to a great rest of the year!

Kindergarten Options at West Central

West Central School District offers two options for children of Kindergarten age. Children who turn five years old on or before September 1, 2024, are eligible to enter Kindergarten in the fall of 2024.

Junior Kindergarten is offered for children who turn five by September 1, 2024, as well, but need more time to mature (either socially or academically). The Junior Kindergarten program is half days of school, five days a week at WC Hartford Elementary. Transportation is provided within the district at mid-day. Children who attend Junior Kindergarten will attend regular Kindergarten the following year.

Kindergarten is all day, every day at both Hartford and Humboldt Elementary. There are currently 4 sections of Kindergarten and 2 sections of Junior Kindergarten in the WC Hartford Elementary School. There is currently 1 section of Kindergarten at the WC Humboldt Elementary School.

Kindergarten Screening Information

The West Central School District **requires** that all Kindergarten-eligible children (who turn 5 on or before September 1, 2024) be screened. West Central will hold three different scheduling options for Kindergarten Screening. The first option will be on **Tuesday, February 27th from 4:00-8:00 PM at WC Humboldt Elementary**. There will also be options on **Thursday, February 29th from 4:00-8:00 PM and Friday, March 1st from 8:00 AM-4:00 PM at the WC Hartford Elementary**.

Appointment times start every 20 minutes. The screening takes about one hour to complete. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to choose the day and location that works best with their schedule. Please remember that the screening location of Hartford or Humboldt does not determine the school placement. Parents/Guardians and children being screened should plan to attend the screening together. The children will be screened by the kindergarten staff while the parent completes registration forms and necessary enrollment information. Parents need to bring a **certified copy** of their child's **birth certificate** (state law), **verification of residency**, and **immunization documentation**. Also, if your child is on Medicaid, please bring along their Medicaid card.

Kindergarten Registration/Screening Appointments

This year, all screening appointments will be made online through SignUp Genius. The link is below, along with a QR code. All prospective junior kindergarten and kindergarten students **MUST** be screened. Families must register by February 20th for the West Central School District to plan for the upcoming kindergarten classes.

Registration link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084AAEAE22A7F94-45644444-west>

No School for Kindergarten

There will be NO SCHOOL for current Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten students on Friday, March 1st due to Kindergarten Screening.



Scan to register!

VETERAN'S DAY HARTFORD ELEMENTARY SECOND GRADE

The students in the second grade classrooms at Hartford Elementary were treated to a visit from Veterans from the Hartford American Legion. Stan Beckstrom, Jerry Price, Chuck Andersen, Mark Winter, Erik Edberg, and Ricky Edberg. did a presentation for all of our second graders on flag etiquette and the history of the flag. They also folded the flag and taught us what each fold meant. They even presented each student with a flag. They did such a great job and we thank them for their time.



Thank you for your service to our country. Your bravery, sacrifice, and strength did not go unnoticed. We are so thankful for our Veterans!
HAPPY VETERAN'S DAY!



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS - Mark Rockafellow, Principal

The extended warm Fall weather has been enjoyable. We have been able to continue our outside free time after lunch for most of October and November. Unfortunately, I believe the fair weather will come to an end before we would like. Much like Fall will end before winter break, so will our first semester.

There are few items to address as we enter the winter season. One, winter activities. Many of our students participate in school sponsor activities and/or out-of-school activities. Regardless, students need to be reminded that academics are a priority. Students need to keep up on their school work. Also, eligibility is determined on a weekly basis and is based upon students not having missing work, not earning a grade of 'Insufficient Evidence', and not having more than two behavior incidents in a week. Generally, students and parents can review grades online using Infinite Campus. Please let teachers know if you have any questions.

Two, PBIS(Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). Our middle school is full of students and adults who strive to do the right thing and to be good people. As a school, we are working to identify and recognize those who are responsible, respectful and safe. Parents and students are able to review positive referrals on the student and parent portals in Infinite Campus.

Three, attendance. Please be sure to call the office to report when students will be absent. Students are considered excessively absent if they miss more than ten days in a semester. The reason for those absences is not considered unless the absence is verified with a doctor/dental note. Please remember to get notes when visiting a doctor or dentist. Students are responsible for any school work missed for any absence and need to contact teachers to make certain that they have all work completed. A student who misses more than ten days in a given semester may be required to produce a doctor note for any absence over ten. Additionally, a student who is considered to be excessively absent may be required to make up missed time. Failure to make up the time may result in the student being required to attend summer school. The vast majority of our students will never be in a situation where their attendance is ever called into question.

Four, illnesses. This topic is related to the previous topic. We are in the midst of the cold and flu season. Students are encouraged to use proper hygiene and to stay home when ill. Many illnesses spread easily and rapidly in the school setting. Please be diligent in helping to keep these illnesses in check.

Lastly, the craziness of the season. Please find time to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Take time to enjoy the time you have with your family. The craziness of the season can be overwhelming so take time for yourselves.

Mark Rockafellow, Principal
605-528-3799, mark.rockafellow@k12.sd.us

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS - Dr. Andrew Barron, Principal

Teenagers Need to Sleep

I usually spend my articles here promoting some of the phenomenal work our teachers and students are doing at the high school, but today, I want to turn my attention to an important topic that comes up again and again in my work with teenagers—sleep.

Teenagers need at least nine hours of sleep a night and most do not get it. Good sleep is to a teenager's brain what good nutrition is for the body. It is essential for healthy functioning: it enhances memory, concentration, and problem-solving skills, emotional well-being, and physical health. If your child exhibits unusual moodiness or lack of attention, the root of the problem might be lack of sleep. Beyond the day to day problems of being sleepy, chronic lack of sleep can contribute to serious mental health problems such as depression and anxiety.

Teenagers often face challenges in maintaining healthy sleep patterns. The schedules of teenagers become more complex right as parents are trying to give them more independence. Parents often feel torn between letting teenagers manage their own sleep and enforcing limits they know are healthy. As hard as it is, parents have an important role to play in setting expectations and limits with their teens.

Effective Strategies for Improving Sleep Hygiene

As a principal, I often have conversations with parents about how their child might benefit from better sleep. These are the strategies I usually share:

Establish a Consistent Sleep Schedule: Encourage your teen to go to bed and wake up at similar times every day, even on weekends. This consistency helps regulate their body clock.

Create a Conducive Sleep Environment: Bedrooms should be dark and "screen-free" for sleep. Some teens want to bring their phone to bed or listen to music as they fall asleep, but this is a recipe for less sleep and shallower sleep.

Limit Screen Time Before Bed: Enforce a "screen-free" hour before bedtime. The blue light emitted from screens can interfere with the production of melatonin, the hormone that controls sleep-wake cycles. One way to enforce this is to have all devices plugged in a central location like the kitchen before bed time.

Cut Back on Caffeine: There are two problems with teenagers and caffeine. The first problem is *too much* caffeine. The American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry recommends no more than 100 mg of caffeine in a day. One can of Monster Energy Drink has 160 mg of caffeine. A medium iced coffee has 230 mg of caffeine. Even one of these drinks in a day could be disrupting your child's sleep and making them more anxious. The second problem with caffeine is *when it is consumed*. Caffeine consumed after noon has a stronger disrupting effect on sleep than caffeine in the morning.

Be a Role Model: With teenagers, it is hard to enforce any rule the adults in their lives are not living out themselves. The more you can model the same rules you want them to live by, the more likely they are to follow your lead.

If you notice persistent sleep issues in your teenager that do not respond to some of these strategies, there might be a medical issue worth discussing with your child's doctor.

I am not usually one to hand out health tips, but this is a problem that seems to be growing more prevalent. I think it is because we are up against strong headwinds when it comes to sleep. Red Bull, Monster, and Starbucks spend millions of dollars marketing to teenagers while the proliferation of cell phones has put a screen in every teenager's hand. It is hard to overcome these cultural pressures, but when parents talk to their children about how to take care of themselves, they listen—even if they don't always seem to. The health of our children depends on us teaching them how to take care of their bodies and their minds.

LIBRARY NEWS

State Library Recognizes West Central As A 21st Century School Library

Each year the SD State Library, a division of the SD Department of Education, recognizes school libraries as Effective, Enhanced, or Exemplary, based on performance in three areas: The Place (both physical and online learning environments), The Program, and The Professional.

West Central Library received Exemplary recognition. They have been recognized by the State Library for the past 12 years.

Exemplary Award Recipients:

- Alcester-Hudson Elementary School Library; Librarian Nola Corner; Administrator Tim Rhead
- Alcester-Hudson Junior High/High School Library; Librarian Nola Conner; Administrator Jason Van Engen
- Belle Fourche High School Library; Librarian Karen Schlekeway; Administrator Mathew Rama
- Douglas Badger Clark Elementary School Library; Librarian Kristyn LaBine; Administrator Troy Volesky
- Rapid City West Middle School Library; Librarian Shelley Rath; Administrator Dan Conrad
- Rapid Valley Elementary School Library; Librarian Jennifer Backhaus; Administrator Cher Daniel
- Sioux Falls Discovery Elementary School Library; Librarians Angela Klopstad and Jennifer Breidenbach; Administrators Dan Fischer and Kristina Becker
- Sioux Falls RF Pettigrew Elementary School Library; Librarians Nicole Ulvestad and Jennifer Breidenbach; Administrator Kevin Dick
- West Central Middle School/ High School Library; Librarian DaNann Tirrel; Administrator Eric Knight

High School Library Hosts Book Tasting

Mrs. Coker's students were guests of Mrs. Tirrel's for a Book Tasting at the Library. They had a chance to sample items from a variety of genres. Students picked their favorites and formed Lit Circles for upcoming work in the classroom. Stomping Grounds made hot cocoa for the students to enjoy during the Book Tasting.



Humboldt Elementary Library Hosts Book Tasting

Students at Humboldt Elementary took part in a book tasting in the library with Mrs. DeCou. They had a chance to "sample" a wide variety of books and rate them based on their personal preferences.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES - Andrea Johnson, Activities Director

It has been a fast and furious fall. These kids have had some incredible successes both in and out of the classroom. As we move into the holiday season, I am reminded just how amazing our students, schools, and community truly are. To be a Trojan is a true blessing.

Fall Recap

Boys Golf - Anthony Lanham is the Class A State Champion!!!

Girls Soccer - Lost to Tea in the second round of playoffs.

Boys Soccer - Had a great second season!

Cross Country - Both the girls and the boys teams qualified for State as a team! Boys took 7th place and Girls took 8th place.

Volleyball - Put up a great fight against SF Christian in Round 1 of Regions!

Football - 2nd Place in South Dakota 11A Football!

Fall Play - Another spectacular performance by our drama department!

Band - Marching Band did a fantastic job this year in competition and performances!

Oral Interp - 8 advance to State competition to be held December 1 and 2.

FFA - Traveled to Indianapolis last month where they saw continued success!



Winter Activity Start Dates

October 30 - HS Gymnastics
October 30 - MS Girls Basketball
November 13 - HS/MS Wrestling
November 20 - HS Girls Basketball

November 27 - HS Boys Basketball
January 2 (or 3) - MS Boys Basketball - Info will be emailed before Winter Break

Sportsmanship

Being a good sport is a big deal in high school sports. It's all about playing fair, respecting everyone on the court, and enjoying the game. It is not just about who wins or loses; it is how you handle the game. This is true for participants and fans equally. Athletes with good sportsmanship give props to the opponents, officials, and teammates, win or lose. When winning, do not let it go to your head; stay down-to-earth and give credit where it's due. If losing, handle it with grace and learn from the experience. Fans demonstrate good sportsmanship by cheering for your players in a positive manner and avoid yelling or even acknowledging the opposing team and/or players. Focus on the good things our players are doing to encourage them to keep up the good work. The last thing players, coaches, and fans should refrain from doing is addressing the officials. The job of an official is to provide a safe and fair environment for the game, following and enforcing the rules as they have been taught to them by a certification process. These individuals have been trained and tested. They are the experts in the field. And we need them. So, let's treat them with dignity and respect.

West Central School events and activities can be located on the website calendar at:

<http://westcentral.mhsoftware.com/ViewNonBannerMonth.html>

BAND NEWS:

The award-winning Marching Trojans had a fantastic competitive season last Fall! The students have now shifted to Concert Band, Jazz Band, Solo/Ensemble Contest, All-State Auditions and continue to play Pep Band. Their annual Winter Band Concert will be held on Friday, January 19th at 7:00 in the Colosseum. The concert will feature the high school jazz band and concert band.

On Monday, January 29th, members of the band will travel to Augustana University to perform at the Region II Solo/Ensemble Contest. Students have the opportunity to perform for judges, receive feedback, and earn medals for Superior ratings.



High school band members Allison Brost (French Horn) and Whitney Pageler (Flute) were selected by audition to perform in the High School All-State Orchestra on October 28th!

Daniel.Eye@k12.sd.us
<https://danieleye.wix.com/westcentralband>
Director of Bands



HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

THOU ART CORDIALLY INVITED TO
THE WEST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
MADRIGAL ON THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 14TH AND FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 15TH
IN YE AUDITORIUM

TICKETS ARE \$5 FOR ADULTS AND \$4 FOR STUDENTS

West Central High School Theater
presents



The Show Must Go On **(During the Zombie Apocalypse)**

A One-Act Play by Bradley Walton



Presented as part of the WCHS Fine Arts
Showcase

on Thursday, January 18th @ 7:00pm

****FREE ADMISSION****

Performed in the WCHS Auditorium

The Fine Arts Showcase features performances by students involved in our West Central fine arts activities. Students in choir, band, dance, oral interp, theater, and visual arts all take part in this event! Student performances will be presented on the auditorium stage, while any project displays and student artwork may be on display in the commons. Admission is free. Plan to attend this exciting night, and prepare to be impressed by our students!

The Show Must Go On will be performed at regional contest at Canton HS on Tuesday, January 23rd. If the team qualifies, State One-Act will be held Feb. 1-3 in Brandon.

Musical Auditions for



The dates for Musical Auditions will either be **the first or second week of February** (depending on if the one-act qualifies for State).

Mr. Freier will send out a more definite email to students before the end of January.

NUTRITION SERVICES - Tanya Thomas-Parsons, Director

It has been un-seasonally warm and it is hard to believe that we are already in the holiday season. 2024 will be here in no time.

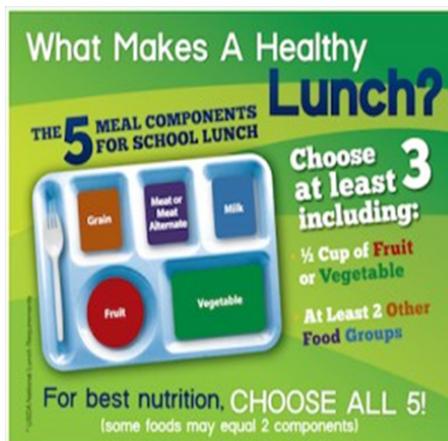
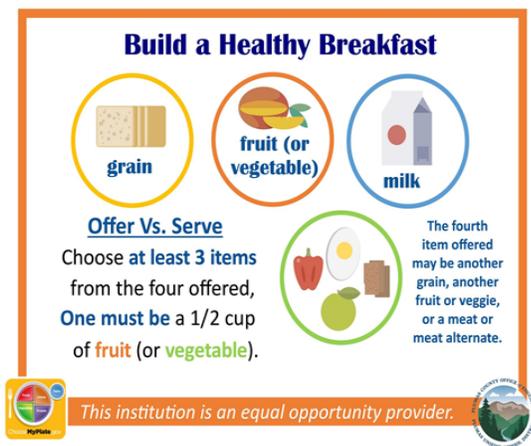
I would like to take this time to remind families that West Central is an Offer vs Serve (OVS) district for our breakfast and lunch programs.

Breakfast OVS requires that we offer students at least three of the required food components. At West Central we offer four and your child has to pick three. The three required components are: grains (with optional meats/meat alternatives allowed), vegetables/juice/fruits (half a cup required), and milk.

Lunch OVS requirements: meat/meat alternatives, grains, fruit, vegetables, and fluid milk. We are required to give a ½ cup of either fruit or vegetables.

In addition to the choices above all schools at West Central offer a fresh salad bar with fresh/canned fruit options. The fresh bar is a great way to introduce students to new items they may not have had an opportunity to try otherwise. Some items that have gone over great with the student body have been sweet potato sticks, jicama, and sugar snap peas.

We encourage kids to make their selections on what they like/dislike. Too many times we are seeing kids decide based on their peer's selections causing waste and potentially kids going away hungry.



At WC we do have other options for grades 6-12 with our ala carte items for purchase. In conjunction with a positive meal balance all items are Smart Snack approved. Families do have the option of putting a spending limit on ala carte. Just give the Nutrition Office a call if you would like to put a limit on an account.

Please call or email me with any questions or concerns.

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Tanya Thomas-Parsons, West Central Child Nutrition Director

Tanya.Thomas-Parsons@k12.sd.us

(605) 528-6238

ORGANIZATIONS

Students Compete on National Level

The 96th National FFA Convention and Expo was held November 1-4, 2023 in Indianapolis, IN with more than 72,000 in attendance for the annual event. Members traveled by charter bus with FFA members and advisors from Doland and Northwestern Area. West Central took two teams plus several additional FFA members for a total of 10 FFA members attending from WC. Teams competing at the national level earned a berth to the contest by winning their respective event at the State Leadership Development Events held in December of 2022 in Pierre.



The Ag Communications Team of **Lexi Nichols, Sydney Neel, Allison Brost, and Shayne Luzmoor** placed 14th in the nation earning a Silver team medal. In Ag Communications, teams play the role of communications consultants and develop a media plan for an assigned scenario. The scenario will identify a client with communications need and a budget. Each team member takes written exams and participates in an individual practicum ranging from web development to journalistic writing, as well as presenting their media plan to a panel of judges. Individual medals were awarded to each team member with Lexi Nichols and Sydney Neel earning Gold, Allison Brost - Silver, and Shayne Luzmoor - Bronze. Lexi Nichols earned a cash scholarship for placing 9th in the national competition.

The Marketing Plan team of **Addi Bahrenfuss, Mya Davidson, and Madison DeMent** earned a Bronze team medal. In the Marketing Plan Event, teams of students determine a local community need and create a complete strategy for marketing a new agricultural product or company to fill that need. Team members are scored on their written Market Plan as well as a 30 minute presentation to judges on the plan and the financial benefit to the specified business followed by questions from the judges.





Lexi Nichols - on stage being recognized for placing 9th in the nation in the Ag Comm Contest.

FFA Members Test Their Leadership Skills

Congratulations to West Central FFA members who competed in the District Leadership Development Events in Hartford on November 21st. The following teams and individuals advance to the State LDEs in Rapid City in December:

Lexi Nichols - 1st place - Employment Skills

Lexi Nichols - 3rd place - Public Speaking

Market Plan - 2nd place - Lyric Riepma, Sydney Neel, and Allison Brost

Ag Communications - 1st place - Hailey Goebel, Mya Davidson, Taylor Borgen, and Lola Galpin

Ag Issues - 1st place - Holly Berg, Alex Siemonsma, Sam Handberg, Lexi Nichols, Stella Siemonsma, Kenasyn Johnson, and Cain Grocott

Others competing and not advancing to the state level include:

Ag Sales - 3rd Place - Jude Jarding, Sam Handberg, Cody Opitz, Aidan Healy

Eva Healy - 4th place Public Speaking

Kasey Kalb - 6th place Ag Broadcasting

Evangeline Gerlach - 6th place - Creed Speaking



Ag Comm - L to R: Hailey Goebel, Mya Davidson, Taylor Borgen, and Lola Galpin



Market Plan - L to R: Lyric Riepma, Sydney Neel, and Allison Brost



Ag Issues - L to R: Holly Berg, Alex Siemonsma, Sam Handberg, Lexi Nichols, Stella Siemonsma, Kenasyn Johnson, and Cain Grocott

Public Speaking and Employment Skills:
Lexi Nichols



West Central Booster Club

Our Mission Statement: *To provide support to athletes & athletic programs at West Central School through volunteer projects, fundraising, business & personal donations.*

WHO

The WCBC is a team of elected officers, parent representatives who collaborate with coaches & teams, as well as any parent or guardian of a 7th-12th grade student athlete at West Central.

WHAT

The WCBC provides funding for each athlete on a team, approves fund requests from coaches to enhance programs, seeks donations from businesses for funding, coordinates West Central Trojan merchandise sales & manages concession stand at Football Games & Track Meets.

HOW

You can get involved by volunteering to help with concessions when your athlete's team is assigned for an event! The reps send out sign-up sheets to register for the event. You can also assist with our Trojan merchandise store at events, Open Houses, Parent/Teacher conferences, etc. We are a volunteer-run organization & every helping hand matters!

Go to the West Central School District 49-7 home page; Click on *Community*, find *WC Booster Club*

Email: westcentralboosterclub@gmail.com

Find us on  **WEST CENTRAL BOOSTER CLUB**

Come on out to join us at the next event and cheer on your Trojan Athletes!

While you're there, check out our store for all your Trojan Wear needs! New items added every year.

And remember, our online stores are always open! Each sport season will have their own specialized order for athletes & their families, so keep an eye out for the notification! Let's Go Trojans!



