

AROUND THE BASIN

Williston Basin School District #7 Monthly Staff Newsletter



Williston Basin
School District #7

A Message from Dr. Thake

Superintendent

I would like to be the first to welcome you to our first year as Williston Basin School District #7! We have been working tirelessly to ensure as smooth of a transition as possible. It's hard to imagine where we were when we look back in time to one year ago. It is mind boggling to see where we are. It is just as mind boggling to see how far we have come as a combined school district!

The 2021-2022 school year has truly been filled with unprecedented changes. Being in a position where a new district is formed from the ground up as of July 1, 2021 has been quite a process. Our new school district needed board policies and operational procedures. Curricular alignment and the establishment of continuity across 13 schools has been the priority. These two tasks are nearing completion.

All of these critically important tasks have taken place during a pandemic that never seems to end. We have experienced delays in the delivery of vital resources and materials. We have identified differences as well as similarities between what was once two school districts. Ultimately, we continue to find common ground as we establish a new District 7 culture.

Williston Basin School District #7 is committed to establishing our first ever strategic plan. We are also developing the necessary guiding principles needed for our long-range facility plan. By 2025-2026, Post-Covid RSP data projects an enrollment increase of 600 students' K-12. It is critical that we plan accordingly for this projected growth.

We are pleased to have our students and staff in school. We learned that distance learning does not work for all students. We know that traditional learning does not work for all students either. The last time our students experienced a 'normal,' uninterrupted school year was 2018-2019. The guidance and support I will continue to give our amazing teachers and staff is simple: Meet your students where they are. Make sure your students feel a sense of belonging. Take care of yourselves, and each other. Continue to prioritize empathy and grace as we recover from the world drastically changing in March 2020. Continue working to personalize the learning experience for your students.

We are all in this together. With the proper support, I am confident our students will come out of this stronger than ever. Our staff across all of our schools and offices have demonstrated uncharted resilience with everything that has happened over the past 19 months. Students and staff have my deepest gratitude.

I am truly proud and humbled to serve as the superintendent of Williston Basin School District #7. Together, we are strong. THIS IS US!

IN THIS ISSUE:

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Superintendent

Our Libraries are L.I.T.!

Good News!

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And Much More!

October is...

- National Bullying Prevention Month
- National Book Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- National Pizza Month
- Global Diversity Awareness Month

World Bullying Prevention Month

Week of October 4th: Make friends with someone you don't know

Wear **BLUE** on October 4th

Week of October 11th: STAND UP for Others

Wear your favorite color on October 13th

Week of October 18th: Week of Inclusion

Week of October 25th: Start the Week with Conversations

[#BLUEUP_Flyer](#)

How do I...?

[Change my email signature?](#)

[Submit a tech help ticket?](#)

[Find the Initiative Handbook?](#)

WEEKLY SUCCESSES!!!!

- From Garden Valley: Thanks to LeAnne, we got all of our EL students tested!
- From WHS: An awesome para transferred to WHS EL department as our EL tutor!
- From Garden Valley: We got the assessment back from the North Dakota Safety Council. His first "commendable" portion of the report was the following, and I could not be any more proud of my team: "The school has an obvious strong staff presence with students; relationships are key to a positive school culture and climate."
- From Garden Valley: Spoke with another Principal in the state today about a transferred student who we had in Tier 3 at the end of the year. He wanted to follow up on a few questions and said that because of our documentation on MTSS in the students file they were able to start the same corresponding interventions day 1 of school. He said my team was very organized and helped this kiddo get off on the right foot at the new school right away. Feels like a great win!

[Share your successes here!](#)



Compassion

October's SEL word of the month is: Compassion - In a world where you can be anything, be kind.

"Give Compassion: Every day the average person fights epic battles never told just to survive." - Ken Poirot

"Compassion and tolerance are not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength." - Dalai Lama

[Where Does Compassion Really come From?](#) YouTube Video



WHS Band up early for Homecoming practice



Lewis & Clark Fun Run!



Learning about dots at Garden Valley



9/11 Ceremony at ASB



3-D Printing fun at Rickard



Back to School Assembly at Wilkinson



Get to know...

Robert Conley
Athletics/Activities Director

Audra Zimmerman
Principal, ASB Innovation Academy



Good News!

Congratulations to WHS's Kari Hall for being the recipient of the 2020-2021 Smart/Maher VFW Citizenship Education Teacher Award at the High School Level!

Congratulations to Colby Simonson, Assistant AD, and family on the birth of their new baby, Reid!

Congratulations to Erin Bearce (formerly Wegner), Accounts Payable, on her recent nuptials!



Have good news to share? Send it to: communications.specialist@willistonschools.org

Policy Roundup

Every month, we will be highlighting various policies that you should know! You can access all policies [here!](#)

Here are some notable ones:

[AAC : NonDiscrimination and Anti-Harassment](#)

[ABBA : North Dakota's Comprehensive Model School Policy for Tobacco Use](#)

[ACF : Whistleblower Protections Policy](#)

[DDA : Sick Leave](#)

[DEBD : Maintaining Professional Employee-Student Boundaries](#)

[DEBF : Employee Speech](#)

[HBCC : Fundraising](#)

[KAAA : Visitors in Schools](#)

[KAAB : School Volunteer Program](#)

[KACB : Complaints About Personnel](#)

If you read this,
[click here!](#)



WBSD#7

L.I.T. LIBRARIES

Our Libraries are L.I.T.!

By Lesley Allan, Library Director

The beginning of school has been busy for libraries!

- Missouri Ridge has been Genrefied over the summer! If you are not familiar with what genrefication is - it's when a library moves away from the dewey decimal system into a more user friendly classification process. If you were looking for books on space in a Dewey library, you would need to look at 500 for planets, 600 for space vehicles, 921 for astronauts biographies...but when genrefied, those can all be in the same space!
- Welcome to Jefferson Hofeldt at McVay and Mark Holman at Wilkinson! These two are the newest members of the library department. Mark is already making Makerspace waves at his school and Jefferson is working on a special reading project with his students. Welcome!

- Maggie Lorenz & Rebecca Michelson are the Library Rockstars of the Month! Send your congrats to the library duo at Rickard Elementary School! They are innovative and collaborate with teachers to provide the best library services. Maggie is offering PD time for her teachers on different library features, she is rocking the Rickard website, and collaborating on 3D printing projects - way to SHINE! Becky goes out of her way to help others, tag teams with Maggie during library lessons, and keeps the library colorful and welcoming with seasonal displays. What a dynamic duo they are! They will both receive Library Rockstar certificates and a gift card for Amazon. Rock on!

The Highlight Reel

The Williston Coyotes are coming in strong so far this season. Here are some of the highlights:

- Boys Soccer won it's 1st WDA Conference match in the program's young history
- Boys Tennis made it to the WDA Tournament and Mason Haugenoe is the WDA Singles Champ!

Girls Cross Country has been ranked #1 for weeks!

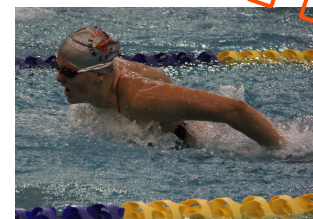
- Eleni Lovgren is ranked #1
- Dru Zander is ranked #7



Boys Cross Country has been ranked #1 for weeks!

- Ivan Askim is ranked #2
- Fynn Krenz is ranked #5
- Ethan Moe is ranked #9

COYOTES!



Girls Golf made it to state! Carrie Carmichael qualified for the WDA Girls Golf State Tournament. She has also been named All Conference and All State, and the Girls Golf West Region Senior Athlete of the Year!



Spotlight on...

Del Easton

So far this year, we have

- 41 classes completed
- Served 27 students
- 2 Graduated
- 2 Dismissed
- 23 Continuing



Did you know...?

- We have approximately 4,997 students enrolled
- We have approximately 748 staff members
- There are approximately 329 Homeschool students registered



At The Board Table

School Board Meeting Recap

Some Highlights from the Regular Board Meeting - September 13, 2021

- Strategic Planning is underway. Sending out surveys and utilizing focus groups, and hope to have a plan sometime this Spring.
- Formed a Technology Committee.
- Approved policies ABABA, ABBDA, ABBF, ABCA, ACAB, ACBC, BBBB, CAAA, DBAA, and KAB.
- Approve board regulations AAC-BR1 and AAC-BR2.
- Amended policy DJA.
- Set new substitute teacher pay at \$175.00 per day.
- Approved COVID-19 Survey to be sent to stakeholders.
- Discussed creating a survey for stakeholders related to WHS Friday schedules.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, October 7th at 5:30 p.m.

Formal meeting minutes can be found on our [District Website](#).



Homecoming Week - Staff



Missouri Ridge Staff showing school spirit and MD awareness!



Hagan Elementary in Holiday spirit!



Wilkinson Staff Coyote Pride!



ASB Innovation Academy rocking the Neon!



Rickard PJ Day



Mr. Rooke showing WHS Pride



Rickard's Willis Family for PJ Day!

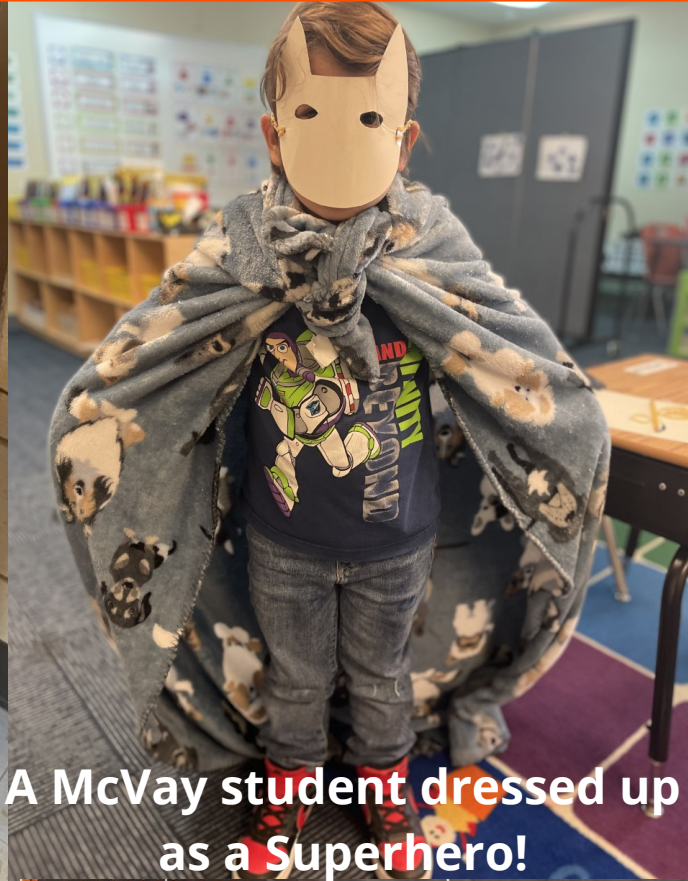
Homecoming Week - Students



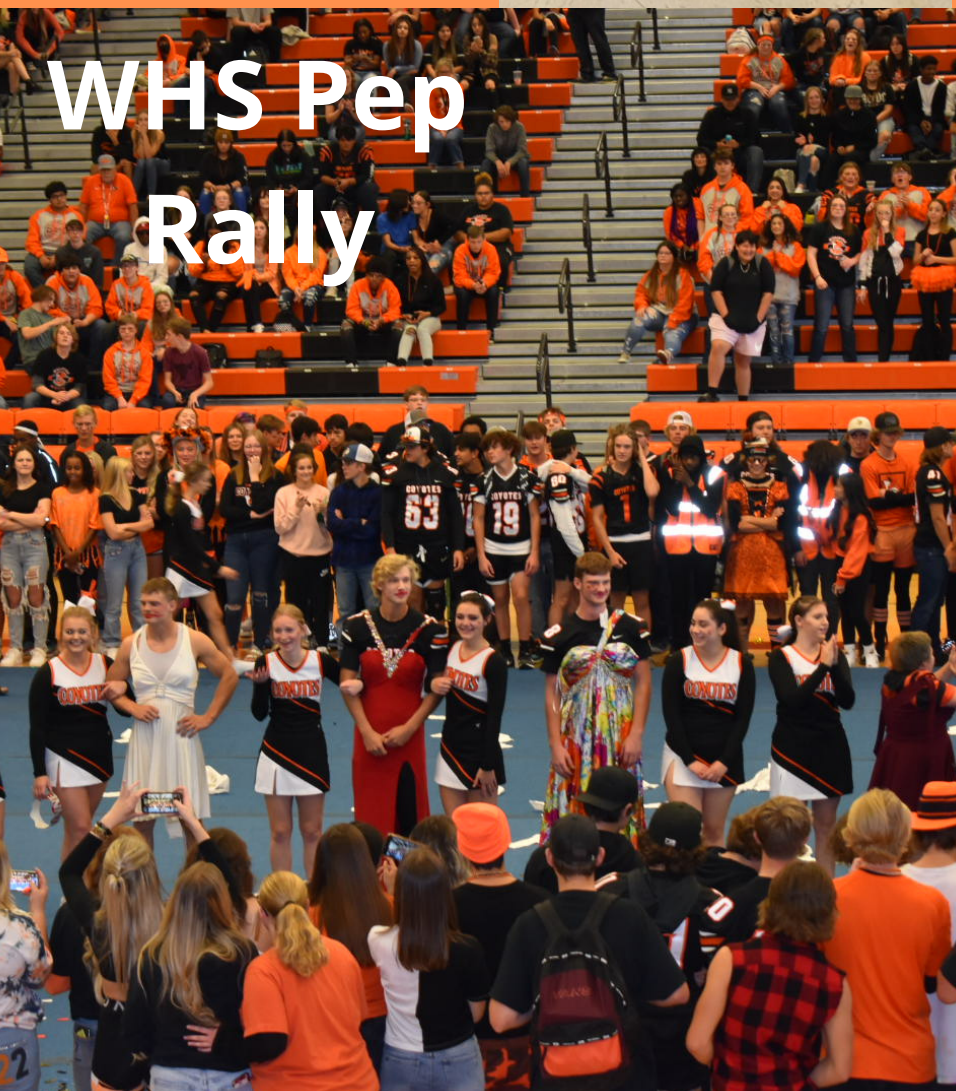
Toney Hanson's daughter getting into the spirit at preschool!



Rickard's PJ Day!



A McVay student dressed up as a Superhero!



WHS Pep Rally



ASB Neon Day