
Wakefield School News

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FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

STUDENT, STAFF SAFETY

Working together

To protect students & staff in a secure learning environment

The Valentine's Day school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland has shocked the nation and caused administrators to stop and reflect on safety and security measures at our own schools. Tragic events like this resulting in the loss of life threatens the safety and security of all students and adults in every community. These events leave all of us questioning what can be done to keep all children safe at school. I cannot guarantee that your son/daughter is 100% safe, however we can all work together to help keep everyone as safe as possible.

First and foremost the school staff, parents, citizens, students and law enforcement must collaboratively work together on safety. Incidents like this remind us that we all must remain vigilant and share information concerning circumstances that are unusual or questionable. I find it interesting that school shooters are generally known by people in the community. According to Dr. Peter Langdon's research, most school violence is perpetrated by people having some association with the school. Perpetrators'



ages range from 13 to 27. Historically adult perpetrators age 19 – 27 have had the highest number of victims. His fifty year study of school shooting dispels the common belief that most are Caucasian males. In fact, most are males however their race and ethnicity are varied.

Research from professionals tells us that building strong relationships with students is a fundamental safety component. We need to spend time listening and talking to one another. Growing up is difficult for all children and as parents and staff we need to spend time listening and interacting with our children. I believe Wakefield does a good job in this area but we can improve. Teaching and learning is an on-going activity requiring collaboration from all of us – parents, school staff, clergy, and our community – to teach essential life values.

I am thankful for our TeamMates program, which matches adult mentors and mentees for

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weekly thirty-minute visits at school. TeamMates provides another venue for communication with our children. Developing positive relationships with all children at Wakefield Community School is our best defense against unwanted violent behavior.

Another key component is schools maintaining a positive, safe, school climate where everyone is respected. The staff and students work together to build a positive school climate. I am pleased with the “family group” activities initiated by teachers that are teaching character education to a multi-grade mix of students. The high school is using Trojan Pride activities that promote “belonging and caring.” I believe that we have a truly devoted staff that cares about all students.

Another key component is to continue revisiting all school safety procedures and protocols in place. Wakefield Community Schools, along with city officials and the sheriff and fire departments, continues to review and revise our school crisis

management plans. Currently our school safety team is working with the Dixon and Wayne County Sheriff’s offices to conduct a crisis drill in April involving a school shooting. The drill is expanding this year by adding a student reunification plan. Drills of this nature help everyone involved train and improve our safety practices. The school safety team convenes frequently to make sure we are maintaining and improving our safety protocols.

All of these activities and safety drills are created to protect our students and maintain a safe learning environment. While these drills may seem annoying, they help decrease the chance of our safety being compromised. I realize that practice drills can cause additional stress to students, but understand they are an essential component to successful safety implementation. Keeping everyone safe is essential to maintaining a positive school learning environment for all Wakefield students.

Superintendent Mark Bejot

Principal’s Notes

Jason Heitz, 7-12 Principal

Teachers working with new evaluation system

All teachers at Wakefield Community School are using a newly adopted Teacher Evaluation policy and procedure. Some new things about the policy:

**SLO. Each teacher must write a SLO (Student Learning Objective) in the fall. Student Learning Objectives are very similar to SMART goals (Strategic, Measurable, Attainable, Results-Based, Time-Bound) that teachers write for specific groups of students. Teachers revisit their SLO during the 2nd semester.

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**Video-taped lessons. Nearly every year, teachers must video-tape themselves teaching a lesson, then fill out a self-evaluation form. The videos are saved and the feedback forms are turned in to administrators.

**Ticket to visit. As a part of professional development, each teacher must visit another teacher's classroom once per semester. This is for the purpose of getting ideas and learning from each other. Again, teachers fill out a feedback form and turn it in to administrators.



Orientation meetings April 30 *~ for next year's 7th, 9th graders & parents ~*

Parents of current 6th graders and 8th graders...there will be a meeting for students and parents in order to register for next school year.

This meeting will provide a chance for parents and students to learn about the scheduling process, as well as learn about the difference between elementary, junior high, and high school. Some of the topics of discussion that evening include attendance requirements, graduation requirements, planning for college, figuring GPA's, etc. All

6th and 8th graders, and their parents, are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We will also be discussing our new Drug Testing Policy with the parents of 6th graders. Two years ago, we instituted an Extra-Curricular Drug Testing Policy. Parents of current 7-12 graders have heard this information, but parents of 6th graders may be hearing it for the first time.

Both meetings will take place on April 30, with 8th graders meeting at 6:00 and 6th graders meeting at 7:00.

7-12 assembly planned for March 16



Below is an email I received from the presenter who is coming to Wakefield on March 16:

A few years ago our company did an anti-bullying assembly at your school as R5 Productions. We have now re-branded to Value Up. Our program is similar in that we use a multilayer approach with video, audience participation and powerful story telling. We do have a right choices piece in the program as it relates to substance abuse, but we have as of late put our focus on social anxiety, respect and dignity. The assembly is an excellent way to break up the winter "blahs" and we also have follow-up material.

Students from Emerson-Hubbard will also join us that day. Go to <https://value-up.org/> for more information about the program.

Winter sports season closes

It's that time of year again! The time of year in which winter sports are ending...and as always, a little sooner than planned for athletes and coaches!

The wrestling season ended with THREE state medalists. Isaac Verzani placed 5th, and both Julio Sanchez and Cesar Sandoval brought home 6th place medals.

Both the boys and girls basketball teams ended their seasons in sub-district play. All our student athletes should be proud of themselves and should have no regrets about their successful seasons.

Onward to track, and golf season!

Speech season nearly complete

This year's speech team has 19 participants. The conference meet was held in Winside on March 7. The district speech meet is March 14 in Hartington and state speech is Friday, March 23.

For more information about our students and their speech meets go to www.speechwire.com.



LOCKOUT



LOCKDOWN



EVACUATE



SHELTER

Lockdown drill planned for April

We are tentatively planning a lockdown drill during a school day in April (date TBD). We are planning on involving several law enforcement officials. More news to come on this topic.

Reminders...

- Our next 2:00 dismissal is scheduled for Monday, March 19.
- THE BIG SHOW (Wakefield Art Show) is Wednesday, March 21.
- Junior high spring concert is Thursday, March 22.
- The junior high science fair is Wednesday, March 28.
- No school Friday, March 30 and Monday, April 2.
- Required ACT test day is Tuesday, April 3. All juniors required to attend.

*There are never
moments of failure,
only moments of
learning*





From the Principal's Pen

Jerad Wulf, PK-6 Principal

Testing

Please do
not disturb.

 Thank you! 

NSCAS testing

Students in grades 3-6 will begin to take the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) in various categories over the next few months. All students in these grades will participate in the reading and math assessments. Fifth graders will additionally take the NSCAS science assessment. These tests are administered on the computer and assess students on their level of mastery of state standards. All standards can be found on the Nebraska Department of Education website. Results will be shared with students upon notification from the state.

Please make an effort to ensure that your child has regular attendance. The schedule will be posted on the school district's Facebook and sent with students.

Test Taking Tips for Parents

If you or your child is anxious about the test, it's ok but remind them to try to keep cool.

Encourage your child to do well but don't pressure him/her.

It is important for your child to stay relaxed for the test.

Mark down test days on your calendar so you and your child are both aware of testing dates.

Make sure that your child gets enough sleep on the night before the test.

Ensure that your child eats a healthy breakfast and avoid heavy foods that may make him/her groggy and avoid high sugar foods that may make him/her hyper.

Good attendance important

On a regular basis, Mr. Wulf and Mrs. Anderson review the attendance records to determine if there are concerns regarding student attendance, whether they are excused or unexcused.

Students who have excessive absences will receive a letter and/or phone call from Mr. Wulf. Please keep us informed of situations that may be interfering with your child's attendance so we are aware of what is going on. All students in PK-6 are expected to be at school. We understand that situations occasionally arise as well as illnesses but it is important that students are in school.

There are very specific processes and procedures for attendance laid out in the student handbook, including legal action. If you have questions or comments about the attendance process, contact Mr. Wulf. If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please call the office.

If Mrs. Anderson does not hear from you, she will contact you. If you are going to email a teacher about an attendance item, please include both Mrs. Anderson (landerson@wakefieldschools.org) and Mr. Wulf (jwulf@wakefieldschools.org).

One final suggestion is that any time your child goes to a medical appointment of any kind, please bring a note from your doctor.

No kindergarten on March 16

Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year is quickly approaching for kindergarten students. On Friday, March 16, Mrs. Steinman and Mrs. Jech will complete various assessments/activities with four-year-

old students who will be entering kindergarten in the fall.

There will be no school on March 16th for current kindergarten students.

Due to the majority of students attending our district preschool program, kindergarten round-up has changed. Instead we have a quick evening meeting in order to discuss changes in criteria.

Enrollment for both kindergarten and preschoolers who will be attending school in 2018-19 will be held in April, with the date to be announced. Please watch for more details.

Counselor Corner

Information for Parents and Students about Graduation, Scholarships & College, Bullying and more.

By Lori Harding (lharding@wakefieldschools.org)
7-12 Guidance Counselor

Seniors should soon be receiving financial aid award notifications from colleges they listed on their FAFSA. Award notifications detail the scholarships, grants, work-study, and student loans the colleges are offering towards the cost of attending their institution. Respond to each notification to accept or decline the awards. Once you've made the college decision, let your college of choice know as well as others you've applied to. It is common courtesy to notify colleges that you have decided not to attend as others may be waiting to get in to those colleges.

Sophomores took the Pre Act test on February 28. The revamped Pre Act test will give students a more accurate prediction of what they may score on the ACT test. This will be a very useful tool to help students concentrate on areas they may need to work on.

Juniors took a practice ACT test on March 6 in preparation for the upcoming April 3 State of Nebraska mandatory ACT test date. Do not schedule any doctor appointments or family trips for

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April 3. All students need to be in school by 7:30 a.m. that day. Students are encouraged to get a good night's sleep the night before the test and also eat a good breakfast before coming to school that day.

Students in grades 8 - 11 have registered for classes for the 2018-2019 school year. The schedule is in the process of being reworked with plans to have it completed by the end of March. Students will then review and receive a copy of their proposed schedule for 2018-2019 during the month of April.

Spring is a busy time for testing.

Here are some strategies to consider for both students and parents.

STUDENTS' TEST-TAKING STRATEGIES

Prepare for Tests

- Maintain good study habits: Do your class work.
- Seek and use past homework assignments, class notes, and available review materials.
- Follow directions.
- Find out when tests will be given.
- Get a good night's rest and eat a normal breakfast before testing.

During Tests

- Read and pay careful attention to all directions.
- Read each passage and accompanying questions.
- Read every possible answer — the best one could be last.
- Read and respond to items one at a time rather than thinking about the whole test.
- Reread the parts of a passage needed for selecting the correct answer.
- Decide exactly what the question is asking; one response is clearly best.
- Don't spend too much time on any one question.
- Skip difficult questions and return to them when others have been answered.
- Work as rapidly as possible with accuracy.
- After completion of the test, use remaining time to check your answers.
- Keep a good attitude. Think positively!



Student Strategies for Reducing Test Anxiety

- Share your feelings of anxiety with parents and teachers.
- Think of the test as an opportunity to show what you know.
- Review homework and materials which pertain to the test topics.
- Relax breathe deeply and stay focused on the test.
- Remember the test is only one way your academic performance is measured.

PARENT TEST-SUPPORT STRATEGIES

Preparing for Testing

- Note test dates on your home calendar; schedule appointments on non-testing days.
- Encourage your child to take responsibility for homework and class study.
- Praise your child for work done well.
- Encourage your child to ask questions at home and in class.
- Get to know your child's teachers.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- Assure your child knows that you value a good education.

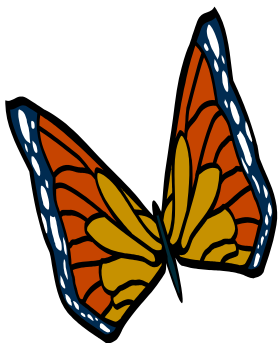
Testing Day

- See that your child is rested and eats breakfast.
- See that your child arrives at school on time and is relaxed.

Parent Strategies for Reducing Test Anxiety

- Encourage your child to do the best work possible.
- Discuss the test openly and in a positive way.
- Have realistic expectations of your child's performance while encouraging his/her best efforts.
- Emphasize that the test is only one measure of academic performance.
- Emphasize that test scores do not determine a person's worth.

Information taken from: "Test-Time" Strategies for Students, Parents, and Teachers



*The object of teaching
a child is to enable
the child to get
along without the
teacher.*