

Watertown High School Newsletter

Strange and Wonderful Behavior

A few minutes after our 11th grade students finished taking the NYS English Language Arts Regents test this January, I asked a few students how it felt to have that test out of the way. They said that it felt good and then they **proceeded to thank me for letting them take the test** in January. Since when do students thank you for having them take a regents? A very strange thing indeed. Yet many of our 11th grade students were grateful to have the opportunity to take the test in January instead of June when they will have a lot of other regents tests to take. Not only did our juniors get to take something off of their to-do list in June, but they performed very well on the test. We had a 90% pass rate on the exam! The credit for this good planning and hard work belongs to our very own WHS English Department. The teachers within the department were certain that they could help the students be prepared by January and that it would help alleviate some of the pressure that the students will have with testing in June. Thank you WHS English Department for making this happen for our students!

On another note - what would you imagine it looked like to feed a hot lunch to nearly 1000 high school students in 45 minutes and then dismiss them to go home before freezing rain hits our city? If you guessed that it looked chaotic, you would be incorrect. Our students did an amazing job coming to the cafeteria (in 3 shifts), picking up their lunch, and heading back to classes to enjoy french toast and hash browns. They were polite, orderly, and good-willed throughout the process. We really do have an excellent group of young women and men that make up our student body. They continue to impress me.

Yours,

Chad Fairchild

(PS - Well done to our friends and colleagues who work in the cafeteria!)



February 15	Staff Development ½ Day – 10:30 Dismissal @ WHS
February 18-22	Mid-Winter Recess – School Closed
February 27	Brownies with the Board @ WHS, 5:30 pm
February 27	Winter Sports Banquet @ WHS, 6:15 pm in Café B
March 1-2	Odyssey of the Mind @ WHS
March 9	SAT @ WHS, 7:45 am
March 12	Music in our Schools @ WHS, 7:00 pm in the gym
March 22	Parent / Teacher Conferences – 10:30 Dismissal
March 22	WHS Musical – “Seussical”, 7:00 pm
March 23	WHS Musical – “Seussical”, 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
March 29	WHS Musical – “Seussical”, 7:00 pm
March 30	WHS Musical – “Seussical”, 7:00 pm & 7:00 pm

STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Please be sure that your child’s emergency information is up to date. Your child’s safety is priority one.

Attention Seniors,
It’s time to order caps, gowns, tassels and other graduation supplies. Please visit www.nygrad.com to place your orders. Order early for the best prices!



Important Phone Numbers:

Attendance	315-785-3828
Nurse	315-785-3830
Guidance Office	315-785-3820
Athletic Office	315-785-3833
Main Office	315-785-3800
Administrative Office	315-785-3814
Principal’s Office	315-785-3811



Our lost and found collection is already filling up this school year. Please have your child check in the Main Office for any lost items. We have **eye glasses**, water bottles, jewelry, clothing and much more!

www.watertowncsd.org

Check out our website for important information, upcoming events, and student highlights.

You can also find teachers’ email addresses and websites; this is a great way to reach out to your student’s teachers.

Parent Portal:

To access your student’s grades online go to www.watertowncsd.org and click on the SchoolTool/Parent Portal link or stop by the Guidance Office to pick up a consent form. All you need is an email address and your password will be emailed to you once your account has been set up.

NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE



COURSE SELECTION - This semester, the counselors will begin meeting with students individually to select courses for next year. Once this has occurred, your student should bring home a sheet with the proposed courses for you to review and sign. Once you sign, your student needs to return the sheet to the guidance office so that we can be sure we are all on the same page in terms of the schedule for next year. Please encourage your student to go to the guidance office when they receive the pass. As always, please call if you have any questions – 785-3820.

SENIOR INFORMATION – If your student is planning on attending college in the fall, he/she needs to remember to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). This must be completed if your student is to receive any type of student aid for college expenses. The website for this application is www.fafsa.ed.gov. Do not use any other site – some others charge for the application to be submitted – it is free. If your student plans to possibly attend a college in New York State, be sure to also complete the TAP application (Tuition Assistance Program). There is a prompt to complete that separate application as part of the FAFSA.

If your student plans on attending Jefferson Community College in the fall, that application should be completed now. While JCC will accept applications throughout the spring semester, applying earlier provides a better chance for a student to be awarded any available scholarship monies. That pool of funds is limited.

JUNIOR INFORMATION – Registration deadlines for upcoming SAT and ACT exams are fast approaching. Students apply directly to the testing agencies to register. Links to both sites can be found on the high school guidance page of the Watertown City School website.

SAT – Test dates and deadlines: 5/4 (4/5) and 6/1 (5/23)

ACT – Test dates and deadlines: 4/13 (3/8) and 6/8 (5/3)

Free on-line test preparation for the SAT can be found under Khan Academy on the college board website. ACT has its own on-line test prep on its website.