



Blue Devil News



News from 3rd Grade

Wow! The school year has flown by! It seems like only yesterday when we started the school year.

In science we will be finishing up the unit "Motions and Matter". The students began by exploring the forces of magnetism and gravity using magnets. They really enjoyed making a "talking magnet". The third graders also explored patterns of motion by designing wheel-and-axle systems and rolling the systems down ramps to observe the pattern of motion. We will be ending this unit by tackling a fun and engaging engineering challenge. The students will be asked to design a cart using only the materials provided. We are looking forward to seeing their carts!

In literacy at the beginning of the year we introduced students to several classic children's stories that use rich language and a variety of vocabulary. We explored various themes and characters in these stories. We are currently studying and reading how scientists classify animals. The students will learn about five groups of vertebrates, why scientists classify animals into groups, and the characteristics by which they make these determinations. Students love learning about this!

In math, we started the year by reviewing second grade material related to addition and subtraction strategies. We are now off and running with multiplication and how it is related to addition. Please have your child continue to practice his/her math facts and read at home!

Let's make this month our best one yet!

-Mrs. Milius & Mrs. Lincoln

West Central Homecoming 2026 was a success! Thank you to all of our students, staff, families, and community members who helped make the week such a great experience. A special thank-you goes to our Student Government members and sponsor, Sara Bender, for all of their hard work planning and organizing the week's activities.

It's hard to believe we are already moving toward midterms! Please continue to encourage students to stay focused and keep up with their work.

Parent-teacher conference sign-up information will be coming soon, so be watching for details.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make Homecoming 2026 a memorable one!

Mr. Molumby

As I age, it is unbelievable how fast time goes by. By the time you read this, Homecoming 2026 will have come and gone, fall sports seasons will be more than halfway over, and first-quarter parent-teacher conferences will be approaching. Make sure you get out and see the students perform. If you have any questions about your student's academics, please contact the instructor.

The District is also working on creating a digital "yearbook" of the school's history and people. If you are interested in creating articles and submitting pictures, please contact the office. Examples can be found at touchpros.com.

In addition to student enrollment, the Iowa Legislature determines our school budget. With the upcoming election, we encourage you to support candidates who prioritize public education. To learn more, visit the Rural School Advocates of Iowa at www.rsaia.org.

Thank you for allowing us to educate your children this year. As always, I ask that you to become involved in the educational opportunities for our young people and help us make West Central one of the best schools in the State of Iowa. Thank you for taking the time to read these articles as we move into an exciting 2026-2027 school year. If you have ideas for improvement or concerns, please contact me by phone at 637-2283 or by email at rbusch@wc.k12.ia.us.

Your Partner in Education,
Rob Busch

Upcoming Dates

- October 9th - No School
- October 22nd - End of 1st Quarter
- October 23rd - 1:10 Early Dismissal
- October 27th & 29th - 2:10 Dismissal
- October 27th & 29th - Parent/Teacher Conf
- October 30th - No School

September was a busy and exciting month at the elementary! It was great seeing our students dress up, have fun, and show their Blue Devil spirit during Homecoming Week. We are also very proud of the effort our students put into FAST testing. Thank you for encouraging them to do their best!

You should have received information about signing up for fall conferences. Please take a moment to sign up for a time as soon as possible. We are looking forward to connecting with you and sharing about your child's learning and growth. We hope to see you on October 27 or October 29.

Please join us on October 13 at 8:30 a.m. for our first Blue Pride Assembly. This will be an opportunity to celebrate our students and all of the wonderful things they have already done to make this a great start to the school year!

~Mrs. Parmely

ATTENTION SENIORS & PARENTS

As we begin senior year, it's time to start thinking about senior portraits!

If you had senior pictures taken this summer, I would love to have them sent to me as soon as possible.

We need photos for: Senior Spotlight, Yearbook, and Senior Composite. You may use the same portrait for all three. However, the composite portraits must be a headshot. We also need one or two baby photos for the Senior Spotlight and yearbook.

Deadline for Senior Composites is Feb. 15th.

Senior Composite Photo Requirements:

-The photo should have the senior's full face, not a side profile. No hands or arms should be visible

-nothing should be on top of the head - no hats, caps, etc.

NOTE: If your senior is unable to have a headshot taken, they can have one taken at school picture retakes or I would be happy to take one for them at school.

EXAMPLES:

SENIOR COMPOSITE



Deadline for compsite: Feb 15th

YEARBOOK



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Photos can be sent digitally to:
rfliehler@wc.k12.ia.us



Support West
Central
Speech

The West Central Speech Group is selling Rada Cutlery, Pans, and more. It is an online sale, so please use the link <https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=9321168.fc86746> to order and support our speech groups. It is open until October 30. Your items are delivered to you, so you don't need to come to the school to pick them up. If you have questions or would like to order through a person, please contact Rachel Martin at rmartin@wc.k12.ia.us

Alternative Calendar Feasibility Committee Update

The Alternative Calendar Feasibility Committee, made up of parents, community members, teachers, school board members, and district administration, continues to explore the feasibility of an alternative four-day school calendar for the 2027-2028 school year.

The committee's purpose is to carefully investigate the questions and concerns raised by our community and determine whether a four-day calendar could realistically meet the needs of West Central students, families, staff, and the broader community while protecting student learning and educational opportunities.

Committee Work Groups

Committee members have divided into work groups to research several key areas, including:

Childcare and Off-Day Programming — exploring possible childcare assistance for families, and opportunities for student programming on the off day.

Student Nutrition — investigating ways to ensure students who depend on school meals continue to have access to adequate nutrition on non-school days.

Student Achievement and Instructional Time — reviewing research and experiences from four-day school districts on academic achievement, instructional time, attendance, and student learning.

Student Needs and Support Services — examining the potential effects on younger students, special education services, IEP requirements, student fatigue, and other student supports.

Staffing, Recruitment, and Retention — examining potential effects on teachers, paraeducators, bus drivers, custodians, and other employees, as well as whether an alternative calendar could assist with staff recruitment and retention.

Transportation, Activities, and Scheduling — considering transportation, athletics, extracurricular activities, school schedules, and other operational issues.

Learning From Other Schools

The committee recently held a Zoom meeting with Saydel Community School District to learn directly from its experience with a four-day school calendar. Committee members were able to ask questions about implementation, challenges, benefits, and lessons learned.

This will not be our only conversation. The committee plans to continue meeting with and visiting other Iowa school districts that currently operate four-day calendars so we can learn from a variety of experiences before making any recommendation.

Keeping Our Community Informed

As this work continues, the committee is committed to sharing what we learn—including both potential benefits and concerns that still need to be addressed. Updates will be provided throughout the process so families and community members can follow the committee's work. Our goal is to gather reliable information, explore realistic solutions to community concerns, and determine whether an alternative calendar is feasible and appropriate for West Central.

We Welcome Community Participation

Parents and community members who would like to participate in the Alternative Calendar Feasibility Committee are welcome to join us. Having a variety of perspectives at the table is important as we work through these questions.

To join the committee or share questions and feedback, please contact: westcentral@wc.k12.ia.us

The committee will continue its work over the coming months, with a final recommendation planned for presentation to the West Central School Board in March.

NEWS FROM MRS. DRALLE

5th grade has been busy learning in literacy, math, and science! In science, we are currently exploring mixtures and solutions and learning how they can be separated. We have experimented with separating different mixtures and even evaporated salt to get it back to its solid form. We are also getting ready to begin our Flag Essay, where students will write about the meaning of the flag and how we can respect it. We are excited for all the learning and writing ahead!

In math, we have been working hard on Expressions, Equations & Volume! So far, we have learned how to solve multi-step multiplication and division story problems, multiply and divide multi-digit numbers, and find volume using multiplication. We have been working hard, asking questions, and practicing different strategies to solve problems!

In Unit 1 of Amplify, students have been focusing on personal narratives. We have learned how to write about real experiences using first-person point of view, descriptive details, dialogue, and feelings. Students have also practiced reading comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, and using evidence from texts to support their thinking.

Please continue to check your student's planner each night to see what we are working on and make sure any homework is completed. Thank you for supporting your child's learning!



WHO WE ARE

The West Central Booster Club is an organization of parents, administration, and community members who volunteer and are committed to helping West Central Schools maintain a competitive edge in its extracurricular activity programs. We raise funds through memberships, fundraising events, merchandise, concessions, business sponsorships, and generous donations, all of which directly impact all students. In addition, the WCBC awards scholarships to graduating seniors each year who personify the Booster Club mission to strengthen the West Central community!



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