Blue Devil News



During cold weather, make sure your child is dressed appropriately. Bulky coats and boots can be stored in classrooms or other designated areas in addition to student lockers, so don't be afraid to bundle them up.



From the Desk of Mrs. Parmely

It is hard to believe we are almost halfway through the school year! Our students are showing tremendous growth and making gains every day. I am proud of the hard work, progress, and positive attitudes we continue to see throughout our elementary. We have lots to celebrate as we head into the holiday season! Thank you for your continued support of West Central Elementary.

Take a Bow!

BRAVO to Lincoln Sick for representing West Central at the Iowa All-State Music Festival November 20-21 in Ames. Lincoln overcame incredible odds to be accepted to the All-State Chorus. He is the first WC student to participate in the All-State Festival since Kurt Buhr played the euphonium in the All-State Band in 2000; the last WC singer accepted to the All-State Choir was Nancy (Samuelson) Libke in 1970. Congratulations, Lincoln, on your musicianship, determination, and perseverance!!









Emergency School Closure Process

The district understands the implications of emergency school closures. We realize that when schools shut down, parents must make alternative plans, bus and food services must change, class and test schedules must shift, and events must be canceled. We also believe our students' education is best served when they are in class; however, safety is our number one priority. We will always do what is best to safeguard the well-being of our students and staff, but sometimes closing schools is not the obvious choice. The school district covers almost the width of an entire county. Sometimes the weather changes, road conditions deteriorate, or a storm stalls over the area, and we make a last-minute decision to close. We make these late decisions to protect our students and staff. Many factors are considered.

You can obtain school closings, late starts, early outs, and cancellations at the following locations:

- text messages; available through JMC
- school website
- local television stations: KWWL-TV 7, KCRG-TV 9, and KGAN-TV 2.

Since parents are the primary protectors, they will need to decide what is best for their children regardless of any decision by the school district. The option to keep children home when weather conditions are extreme is always at the parents' discretion. All families should make advance arrangements for their children in case of school closures and for the rare situation when it is necessary to close school because of a power failure or another circumstance. Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home and how to contact parents and guardians. Make sure your parent contact information, including work telephone numbers, are **up-to-date** with the school.

Alternative School Week Research Continues

The West Central Alternate School Week Committee continues to explore the possibility of implementing a four-day or modified four-day school week. The committee is gathering information from families, staff, and other Iowa school districts to better understand the potential benefits and challenges. The committee reviewed the results of the recent parent survey. Of the district's 194 families, 94 submitted responses.

Survey highlights:

- Grade levels represented: 68% of responses came from elementary families, with middle school and high school evenly sharing the remaining 32 percent.
- Calendar preference: 56% favored either a traditional four-day or modified four-day school week.
- Preferred day off: 40% preferred Monday, 30% preferred Friday, and 30% had no preference.
- Additional instructional time: 44% preferred splitting the additional time between the beginning and end of the school day, 36% preferred adding time to the end of the day, 17% had no preference, and approximately 3% preferred adding time to the beginning.

Childcare and longer school days remain the primary concerns expressed by families. The committee has contacted several Iowa school districts operating on alternative calendars to learn how they have addressed support staff work hours and compensation.

The superintendent is working with school officials to calculate the potential financial implications for West Central.

The committee will continue reviewing options and considering the impact of a calendar change on support staff as well.

The committee continues to communicate with other districts using alternative calendars to learn how they have addressed these challenges.

The committee plans to hold a work session with the West Central School Board in December to continue discussions, review findings, and consider potential calendar options.

Community input remains an important part of this process. Anyone interested in joining the Alternate School Week Committee is encouraged to contact the district at westcentral@wc.k12.ia.us.

The committee anticipates beginning community roundtable discussions in January. These conversations will provide additional opportunities for community members to ask questions, share concerns, and offer feedback as the committee continues its work.

The committee will continue gathering information and sharing updates as the exploration process moves forward.

News from the Spanish Room

¡Buenos días de la clase de español! This year has gotten off to a great start in the Spanish Classes. I currently have half of the the 6th graders and half of the 8th graders in Exploratory classes and at semester, I will have the other half. Spanish 1-4 are year long classes, so I will see them the entire year. I am using Comprehenisble Input with your students, which is similar to how they learned their first language. Your students are not memorizing vocabulary lists or conjugation charts, like you might have done in school. They listen and read in Spanish, starting with simple words and phrases, then I increase the level of vocabulary throughout the year. There is repetition of words everyday to help the students learn the words. I also use gestures, pictures, and sometimes props to help enforce the vocabulary. We create a new story for every unit with the vocabulary used multiple times.

Your students have been working hard at learning Spanish, even if they don't use it at home. Many students go through a silent/receptive phase, where they understand more than they can say. Then, students go to an early production stage, where they start producing short phrases or memorized vocabulary in class. The students then enter the speech emergence stage, where they start building original thoughts and short sentences in Spanish. It may take some students a couple of years before they reach the last stage, but your students are learning. You can help your students at home by encouraging them to watch shows in Spanish, or with Spanish subtitles, or listen to Spanish music. You could also ask them to teach you a Spanish word or phrase every week. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at rmartin@wc.k12.ia.us.

Gracias,
Profe Martin

Booster Club





Upcoming Dates

- December 8th - Blue Pride Assembly 8:30am
- December 10th - Elementray Concert KG-4th Grades, 6:20pm in Klinge Gym
- December 11th - 1:10 Dismissal
- December 17th - High School Choir/Band Concert 7pm in auditorium
- December 22nd - 1:10 Dismissal
- December 23rd-January 4th - Winter Break
- January 5th - classes resume

News from Preschool





It's hard to believe it is almost the holiday season already! The first day of preschool seemed like it was just yesterday. The saying "Time flies when you're having fun" is true for us! We have been busy learning, playing, making new friends, and growing in so many ways! We have spent a lot of time learning about feelings and emotions, what it means to be a good friend, and how to follow our class-room expectation. Our preschoolers have been working hard to show kindness, respect, and responsibility each day!

We had a wonderful field trip to Red Rock Farm and have enjoyed spending a lot of time outdoors while the weather was warm.

In literacy, we have been learning to recognize letter names and their sounds and have read a lot of great books! We have also been practicing writing our names. In math, we have been building our skills in number recognition, counting, identifying shapes, and creating patterns. We even did a science experiment where we learned that pumpkins float in water! We are excited to continue learning and growing as we move closer to the holiday season.

Happy Holidays from our West Central Preschool Classes!