



Wiregrass Ranch High School
2909 Mansfield Boulevard
Wesley Chapel, Florida 33543

Newsletter-December 2015/January 2016

From the Principal.....Robyn White

As we enter the last month of the first semester and the holiday season is almost here, please remember to keep up with all the activities planned during this short month of school. The most important activity is always attending school, arriving on time (leave early to avoid the traffic and always drive slow with students everywhere) and being prepared for the rigorous schedule leading up to semester and end of course exams. Our exam schedule is posted on the website along with other December state required testing. Please keep in mind that first semester does not end until January 14th this year. All students take semester exams. This is important for all college bound students regardless of grade level. Semester grades are the reporting grades provided to colleges and universities. For the class of 2016, this semester grade will be the final grade calculated for class ranking. In addition, class of 2016 college bound students should follow the timeline related to requesting transcripts from Student Services. Transcript requests must be submitted by December 11th to be processed before winter break.

Finally, the WRHS ABC (Assist, Believe, Care) program is open to help needy families in our community. Our school provided food and gifts to five needy families during the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanks to our students, teachers, clubs, families, PTSA and community sponsors, we've collected "tons" of food items and gifts for our communities most needy. Contact Mr. Matthew Felderman in Student Services if you need assistance or would want to provide food or gift items. Thank you all for a very successful first semester. Enjoy a safe holiday season and visit our website for information about our wonderful school and programs. Contact WRHS @ 813-346-6000 or visit our website for information or to view our newsletters online @ <http://wrhs.pasco.k12.fl.us>

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Teacher hours - 7:00 - 2:30 pm Classes in session - 7:25 - 1:56 pm Student Services - 7:00 - 5:00 pm Administration office hours - 7:00 - 5:30 pm
2nd Session hrs - 9:30 - 5:00 pm 2nd Session classes- 10:18 - 4:44 pm

WRHS Outstanding Senior

We are pleased to announce that Rachel Baber has received the WRHS Outstanding Senior Award. Rachel demonstrates a high level of scholarship, leadership, service, and citizenship and stands out as one of our top seniors. She was among 10 seniors nominated by the student body and then received the highest number of faculty votes to make her our Outstanding Senior of the Year. Please be sure to congratulate Rachel.

Long Run at the Ranch 5K&1 Mile Run

The 10th annual Long Run at the Ranch 5K and 1 Mile Run will be held some time in February of 2016. This event is a great experience for established runners looking to run a fast 5k and for beginners as well. Details will follow soon.

ABC Committee

The ABC committee would like to thank our WRHS students, parents, faculty, and PTSA for another successful Thanksgiving food drive. This year we were able to serve 5 families complete holiday meals. This was only possible with everyone's support. The next venture for us will be looking for volunteers to "adopt" a student or family for Christmas. Last year was a great success and we look forward to this year being as well. If you would like more information on helping a family for the holidays or are in need of assistance please call Matthew Felderman at 813-346-6031. Thank you from the ABC Committee.

Chorus and Band

JLMS band under the direction of Adam Hollenbeck and WRHS Band under the Direction of Patrick Duncan, will present a Winter Concert on Monday, December 7 at 7:00PM.

The Wiregrass Ranch Chorus under the direction of Solangi Santiago will present their Winter Concert on Thursday, December 10 at 7:00PM. Finally, The WRHS Orchestras under the director of Justin Baggett will present their winter performance on Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 PM. All performances will be held at The Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel. Admission is free.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are still on sale for \$75. Prices will increase to \$80 on 1/5/16, so order your copy today! Orders may be placed by visiting www.yearbookforever.com, or see Ms. Khalaf in room 3-159.

FBLA

FBLA Competition and Awards Ceremony information:

12/8/15 - Online Skills Event 8:00 am @ WRHS)
12/10/15 - Performance Events (3:30 pm @ Mitchell High School)
12/17/15 - Awards Ceremony (10 am- 12 pm @ River Ridge High School)
Remember permission forms are needed for these dates. Also, dress in FBLA dress code to attend these events.

Calendar

Winter Vacation-school closed	12/21/15-1/4/16
Students return	1/5/16
End of Semester	1/14/16
Planning Day-no school for students	1/15/16
Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday- No school	1/18/16
Report Cards	1/25/16

Winter NGSS and FSA EOC Testing

Dec. 2nd & 3rd – Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and Geometry Testing
Dec. 4th – Algebra Testing
Dec. 7 – Biology Testing and Make-up testing
Dec. 8 – US History Testing

Letters have been sent to the homes of every student on November 19th, who has been scheduled to test. The letter includes the test the student needs to take, testing date, time, and location.

Semester Exam Schedule

The exam dates for WRHS are as follows: Monday, 1/11-Periods 1,4 & 8; Tuesday, 1/12-Periods 2, 5 & 9; Wednesday 1/13-Periods 3, 6 & 10; Thursday, 12/14-Period 7 & Make-up exam day. First semester does not end until after winter break on January 14th this school year.

Cheerleading

WRHS Cheerleading will be attending their first competition of the season on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at the Tampa Convention Center. The dates for their other competitions are: Chase the State – 12/19/15 @ Bartow HS, Best of Pasco -1/9/16 @ Fivay HS, Regionals 1/16/16 @ Flagler Palm Coast HS, States 1/29 & 1/30 @ USF Sun Dome and UCA Nationals at HP Field House/Wide World of Sports (Disney World).

ART NEWS

Come one, come all! Enjoy the signature drink "The Black Forest Bull" at the "Winter Art Showcase and Book Fair", Thursday December 3rd from 5pm. to 8pm at the Wiregrass Barnes and Noble. The fine arts department will be showcasing the talents of our art students at Barnes & Noble. There will be Jazz music, caroling, a Holiday skit, "Artist in Action", story telling, face painting, gift-wrapping, and more. Come and show your support and win a glow lite nook, original paintings or a bag of WRHS goodies donated by the PTSA. We hope to see you and your family on the 3rd of December. If you cannot make the event, shop online from 12/3/2015 to 12/5/2015 using voucher code 11704327 using BN.COM/bookfairs and a percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit the fine arts department at WRHS.

Challenging All Wiregrass Ranch Dads and Male Role Models

The All Pro Dad organization was founded in part by former NFL coach, Tony Dungy. The All Pro Dad theme is "Family First". The focus of the meetings is to help coach dads and male role models on topics like opening the lines of communication with their children and dependents. Families participate in fun and interactive activities that reinforce positive communication between children and their male role model. The platform offers the opportunity for a father to publicly recognize his child's achievements, both big and small, which means more to the children than words can describe. It also allows for the child to express what it is he/she appreciates about dad; the little things that mean the most to him or her, giving dad a chance to reflect on what he's doing right and where he can improve as a male role model.

The challenge is simple. Enter the date, time and location below on your calendar and then **make a commitment to dedicate this hour to the relationship you're building with your children.** Give yourself plenty of advanced notice so it doesn't creep up on you and enter the meeting as a recurring event. Meeting will be held the second Monday of each month. The next meeting is here at Wiregrass Ranch High School in the cafeteria from 6-7pm on Monday, December 14th. Join us for refreshments and an experience your children will appreciate when they look back.

Student and Scholarship Info

Seniors – Financial Aid Activity & Info

All Seniors will be working w/Mrs. Batchelor through their English classes to complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (this includes Bright Futures) during the week of 12/7-12/11). If you do not have an English class on campus, you need to contact Mrs. Batchelor to set up a time to get this completed. We will also be starting on the Pasco Education Foundation Scholarship application which opens in December. If you have any questions, please email jbatchel@pasco.k12.fl.us

Student Lunch & Learns & Parent Workshops

Student Services and the Student Success Committee have developed various workshops for both students and parents. Topics cover everything from on-line classes, to understanding taxes, navigating financial aid, and much more. You can register directly on our school's webpage!

Great American Teach In a Success!!

Thanks to all who participated in our Great American Teach In Week!! The students and faculty really enjoyed the presentations & look forward to having you come back out. If you would like to, at any time, present or share with a class here on campus, do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Batchelor at jbatchel@pasco.k12.fl.us. We will get it scheduled! It is a great benefit for our students to hear about career choices and experiences from people out in the community!

Take Stock in Children Scholarship Program

There is a scholarship opportunity available for 9th & 10th grade students who qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch. The on-line application will be open from December 1st thru January 24th. Reference the website for specific eligibility criteria and application information: www.pascoeducationfoundation.org

9th Grade Student Screenings

This year we will be screening all freshmen Dec 14-17 during 6th and 7th periods. We will be screening vision, hearing and blood pressure. If you do not want your child to participate, please notify the school nurse Amy Ponce via email aponce@pasco.k12.fl.us.

2015-2016 iPad Program Info

iPad teachers have been collaborating to identify what is working and what is not working for the program. There has been a great increase in the amount of students who bring their iPads to school, charged and ready to go, so we thank you for that. Students have been using many programs to complete their work within their classes. Goformative and KaHOOT have been great for sharing student work and reviewing content.

Parents: Please make sure you have a parent canvas and Esembler account so you can keep up to date with your student's progress.

Students: Keep charging your iPads overnight and bringing them to school ready to go. All iPads should be in protective cases. We have had five cracked iPads so far this year. Cases are critical.

Great Big shout out to our iPad leaders and Mrs. Kerrigan who give up their lunch time to host iPad Friday Meet – Ups. Friday Meet-Ups are scheduled Fridays when any iPad student can come to room 5-105 in the media center to get help with any iPad issue. Issues can include: App use, web use, online textbook use, ebook check out, and much more. Have a Happy New Year and thank you so much for your support with the WRHS iPad program.

Volunteers Needed

Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

Wiregrass Ranch High School is in need of volunteers to assist the school in multiple areas. If you access the school's website, and scroll down to "Volunteer Information" located on the main page, click on this link. You will be directed to the Volunteer Information Page. You will find a link about specific volunteer roles that are needed at the school. There is also a link to the Wiregrass Ranch High School Volunteer Form that you will use to register as a volunteer at the school. On this application, you will designate in what capacity you can serve the school.

For individuals who have not registered with the school district to become a District-Approved Volunteer, please click on link to District School Board of Pasco County's website. Once you are directed to the school district's main webpage, on the right side of that page you will find the school district's online volunteer application – all Wiregrass Ranch High School volunteers must be approved by the district through using their online application.

PTSA News

The end of the first semester is fast approaching which means the holidays are almost here. If you are looking for ideas, PTSA have many spirit wear items at the school store located in front of the cafeteria. You can also view and purchase all items at our "online store" at <http://www.wiregrassptsa.org> and click on the store tab on the top. Thank you for supporting your PTSA.

WRHS PTSA will once again purchase wish list items for our very own WRHS ABC (Assist, Believe & Care) families. We cannot wait to start shopping and making all of our ABC families' wishes come true!

DRIVE TO BENEFIT ANCLOTE HIGH SCHOOL:

PTSA is still accepting gently used blankets, deodorant and especially much needed **snack foods** through December 9th to assist Anclote High School. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Key Club for assisting our PTSA with the deodorant drive once again this year. A marked bin is located in Student's Services. Thank you in advance for your donation.

SAT PRINCETON REVIEW PRACTICE TEST AND STRATEGY SESSION:

It is being held on **Saturday, January 30th, from 10:30am to 5:30pm** in the Cafeteria. Lunch will be included. The fee for the entire day is \$15 pre-pay by January 29th and \$20 at the door. This is a great way to help prepare for the real SAT. Forms are located on our PTSA website, and in Student Services. If you need further information please contact Deb Rottum at debrottum@yahoo.com.

WRHS PTSA SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE WINTER BREAK

Each year the PTSA awards a number of scholarships to deserving graduating seniors. This year a total of \$2,800 will be awarded to several deserving students. A high GPA is not necessarily required (3.0 Weighted GPA minimum). Applications are available on-line at www.wiregrassptsa.org, and in Student Services. Applications **must be turned in no later than Friday April 1, 2016 at 2:30 p.m.**

PTSA NATIONAL REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

This year WRHS had a total of 49 entries; 15 photography and 34 visual art. The Reflections celebration was held on November 17th at our Media Center where we honored the following winners: Visual Arts: Payton Forehand - 1st

place; Jon Acosta - 2nd place; and Matthew Scott - 3rd place. Photography: Mikhaela Free - 1st place; Sabrina Dinan - 2nd place and Louise Turner - 3rd place. We would like to thank all the students who participated at this year's Reflections Program. Winner entries at the school level are now currently being judged in the countywide competition. Winners will be notified in early February.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. Whatever holiday you celebrate, may you find peace, happiness and health in the up-coming year.

Fondly, Mari C. Blank, PTSA President

Academic Honor Code for WRHS

As a student at **Wiregrass Ranch High School**, you have entered a community of student scholars and educators who are committed to excellence in education. Take the time to read and think about what you want your education to mean to you. It is assumed that all students will pursue their studies with integrity and honesty. This means that all work for which the student wants to receive a grade, credit or recognition will be the work of the individual student. Academic honesty is a very serious commitment to make so please do not do so lightly.

Students have the responsibility (1) uphold the highest standards of **academic integrity** in the student's own work, (2) refuse to tolerate violations of **academic integrity** in the school community, and (3) foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of your class and in the Wiregrass Ranch High School community.

Violations of the following infractions will result in severe disciplinary action by your teacher, which will include – but are not limited to – a grade of F on the assignment/test, a referral, and parental contact. The following are considered egregious infractions of the academic honor code:

I. Cheating

- A. Copying, in part or in whole, from someone else's test;
- B. Altering or interfering with grading;
- C. Using or consulting any of the following during an examination; any sources, consulting with others, use of electronics equipment including cell phones and PDAs, or use of materials not authorized by the instructor; or
- D. Committing other acts, which defraud or misrepresent.

II. Plagiarism

- A. Incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs or parts of another person's writings without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as your own;
- B. Representing another's scholarly works such as written assignments or projects as your own;
- C. Submitting a paper purchased from a research or term paper service, including the Internet; or
- D. Undocumented Web source usage.

III. Other Specific Examples of Academic Dishonesty

- A. Purposely allowing another student to copy from your paper during a test;
- B. Giving your homework, written assignments or other academic work to another to plagiarize;
- C. Having another person submit any work in your name;
- D. Lying to a teacher to improve your grade;
- E. Altering a graded work after it has been returned, then submitting the work for re-grading;
- F. Stealing tests;
- G. Forging signatures of parents or other students on documents; or

H. Collaboration without permission of your teacher



School Board Members: Allen Altman, Joanne Hurley (Chairperson), Cynthia Armstrong, Alison Crumbley and Steve Luikart
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