

December 2020 / January 2021

# WEST CENTRAL WIRE

West Central Public Schools  
Humboldt/Hartford  
SD District 49-7



*"To prepare all students for learning and living in a changing world."*

www.westcentral.k12.sd.us

-West Central Schools Mission Statement



## GREETINGS

from the  
Superintendent's Office

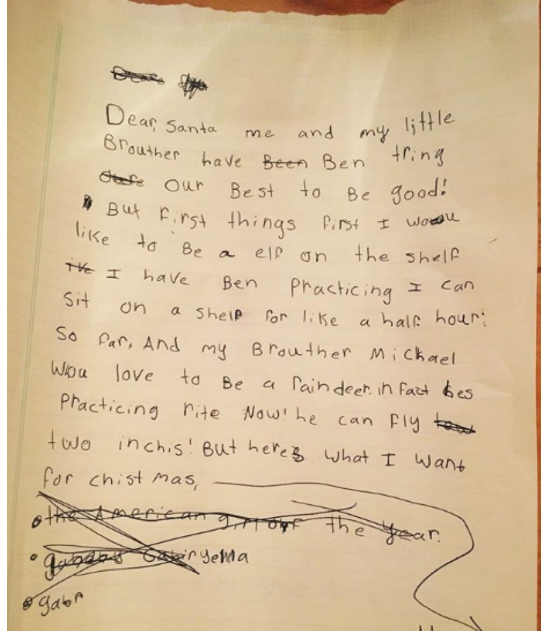
### Dear Santa:

Have you ever had the opportunity to read a collection of elementary school kids letters to Santa? The letter below is just one example of a letter to Santa. You may have a family collection of your own, letters written by your children over the years. If you are an elementary teacher or the parent of an elementary child (past or present) you have an idea of what the letters are like. The mind's eye of a child is often exposed, in a good way, when they write their letter to Santa.

Writing is often a very useful exercise that their thoughts, express their feelings, or just wings. Putting their thoughts on paper may be topic is something that is of great interest, like writing a letter to Santa.

From elementary school to middle school and writing naturally increases in frequency and also become more academic in nature but that void of expression. For example, middle students are asked to journal in some classes share personal views and personal

Thankfully, West Central teachers give our opportunities to develop their writing skills. our elementary schools are often used to on a plethora of subjects from what they want up to what their teacher should be for writings often include some great drawings! high school students may not have their hallways, but they are given ample opportunities to develop their academic and creative writing skills. It is encouraging that many of them appreciate the opportunity to express themselves via the written word.



allows students to share spread their creative challenging unless the an elementary student

high school, student length. The writing may is not to say it will be school and high school which allows them to experiences.

students ample The hallway walls of display student writing to be when they grow Halloween. The Our middle school and writing displayed in the

The topic of writing seemed to fit well this time of year when so many students may be writing a letter to Santa. I hope Santa continues to share those letters when he is done with them!

Brad Berens, Superintendent of Schools

## DISTRICT-WIDE NEWS

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### WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD

**Paula Hawks, President** ..... 254-2440  
 405 S Tessa Ave, Hartford, SD 57033  
[Paula.Hawks@k12.sd.us](mailto:Paula.Hawks@k12.sd.us)

**Alison McGillivray, Vice President** ..... 701-650-1397  
 508 Mulligan Cir, Hartford, SD 57033  
[Alison.McGillivray@k12.sd.us](mailto:Alison.McGillivray@k12.sd.us)

**Alexia Klinkhammer** ..... 201-3495  
 509 N Sagehorn Dr, Hartford, SD 57033  
[Alexia.Klinkhammer@k12.sd.us](mailto:Alexia.Klinkhammer@k12.sd.us)

**Justin Eich** ..... 359-9710  
 26208 462nd Ave, Hartford, SD 57033  
[Justin.Eich@k12.sd.us](mailto:Justin.Eich@k12.sd.us)

**Anna Johnson** ..... 595-5404  
 407 W Opal Ln #1, Hartford, SD 57033  
[Anna.Johnson@k12.sd.us](mailto:Anna.Johnson@k12.sd.us)

**Please note:** Regular school board meetings are held the second Monday of each month in the Board Room at the Administration Office, unless otherwise indicated by published agenda. Meetings begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise posted. All meetings are open to the public. If a person desires to have an item placed on the agenda, please contact the Administration Office one week prior to the scheduled meeting. All meeting agendas can be located on the West Central webpage under District Board of Education. All school board proceedings are published in the Minnehaha Messenger.

### WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL DIRECTORY

<b>Brad Berens</b> , Superintendent	528-3217
<b>Melinda Jensen</b> , High School Principal	528-6236
<b>Mark Rockafellow</b> , Middle School Principal	528-3799
<b>Amy Johnson</b> , Humboldt Elementary Principal	363-3131
or	528-3325
<b>Ashley Bahrenfuss</b> , Hartford Elementary Principal	528-3215
<b>Krista Stuessi</b> , Business Manager	528-3217
<b>Michelle Becker</b> , Director of Special Services	528-3210
<b>Sarah Weber</b> , Curriculum Director	528-3215
<b>Andrea Johnson</b> , Activities Director/Dean of Students	528-6397
<b>Chris Waltner</b> , Director of Technology	528-3217
<b>Tori Wittrock</b> , Food Service Director	528-6238
<b>Rick Coker</b> , Transportation Supervisor (Bus Garage Office)	528-6235

### EARLY DISMISSAL FOR 2020-2021

School will dismiss early for parent/teacher conferences, Thanksgiving break, Winter break, end of semester, and the last day of school. **School will dismiss at 1:30 pm** on the following days:

**December 22**  
**January 8**

**February 11**  
**May 18**

## 2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

<b>December 22</b> .....	Winter Break Begins 1:30 pm dismissal
<b>December 23-31</b> .....	NO SCHOOL -- Winter Break
<b>January 1</b> .....	NO SCHOOL -- Winter Break
<b>January 4</b> .....	Return from Winter Break
<b>January 8</b> .....	End of 2nd Quarter 1:30 pm dismissal-Teacher Work Time
<b>January 18</b> .....	NO SCHOOL --Teacher In-Service
<b>February 11</b> .....	School Dismissal at 1:30 pm MS/Elem Parent-Teacher Conferences 2:00-9:00 pm HS Parent-Teacher Conferences 7:00-8:00 am, 2:00-8:00 pm
<b>February 12</b> .....	NO SCHOOL
<b>February 15</b> .....	NO SCHOOL - President's Day
<b>February 26</b> .....	NO SCHOOL
<b>March 12</b> .....	NO SCHOOL
<b>March 16</b> .....	End of 3rd Quarter
<b>March 19</b> .....	NO SCHOOL
<b>April 2</b> .....	NO SCHOOL
<b>April 5</b> .....	NO SCHOOL
<b>May 15</b> .....	Graduation
<b>May 18</b> .....	Last Day for Students School Dismissal 1:30 pm End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Teacher work time until 8 pm
<b>May 19</b> .....	Staff Development - Last Day for Teachers

**Inclement Weather or Make-Up Days:** The first five make-up days are built into the school calendar. If we exceed five days of absence, one day will be scheduled onto the end of the school year for each day missed. The days that will be utilized if necessary are: May 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25.

West Central  
on  
the WEB

[www.westcentral.k12.sd.us](http://www.westcentral.k12.sd.us)

## NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The West Central School District #49-7 does not discriminate in its employment policies and practices, or in its educational programs (including career and technical education programs) on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, or other human differences and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Requirement for admission to the Career and Technical Education courses is completion of prerequisite coursework of each area.

### Career and Technical Education offered at the West Central School District

**Agriculture** – Floriculture, Horticulture, Animal Science, Natural Resources, Bio-Technology, and Agriculture Leadership

**Architecture and Construction** – Introduction to Technology, Production Technology, Computer-Aided Drafting, Carpentry, and Building Trades

**Food and Tourism Classes** – Independent Living, Food Management, and Family Relations

**Technology** – Multi-media, Web Design, Animation, Computer I, and 3-D Programming

**Inquiries specifically concerning the application of Title VI, Title IX, or section 504 may be referred to:**

**Title VI** (discrimination based on national origin/race) ..... Special Services Director

**Title IX** (discrimination based on gender) .....Activities Director

**Section 504** (discrimination based on disability) .....Special Services Director

**Both Special Services and Activities Director can be reached at:**

West Central School District  
705 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Hartford, SD 57033  
605-528-3217

Or

Kansas City Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights  
8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037  
Kansas City, MO 64114-3302  
Phone: 816-268-0550  
Fax: 816-823-1404; TDD: 877-521-2172  
E-mail: [OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov)

## SCHOOL CLOSING

The Campus Messenger System is our primary notification system for parents/guardians and staff. It will be utilized for school closings, delays, or early dismissals. Please call **Caryl Nolz at 528-3217** for changes in phone numbers.

In addition, the following TV stations will be notified in the event that school should be cancelled or dismissed early due to inclement weather conditions:

**Television Stations:**      **KELO, KDLT, KSFY**

We make every effort to provide this information to families prior to 6:30 a.m. However, the changing weather in South Dakota may make this a challenge on some days. In any case, we will notify these stations as soon as possible.

We care very much about your children and do our best to make appropriate decisions based on student safety and student achievement. Please remember that as a parent or guardian, you have the right to keep your child home on any day that you feel it is unsafe for your student to travel to school due to weather conditions.

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## Giving Tree

If your family has been financially blessed this year and you would like to pay it forward, please consider sponsoring a child on our Giving Tree. The Giving Trees are set up in each school building. We ask that the tag and gift be returned to school by **December 11th**. We are also accepting gift cards, gift wrapping supplies and “stocking stuffers”. The goal of our Giving Tree is to ensure that every West Central School District child is remembered during the holidays. We appreciate your help! If you have any questions, please contact one of the following:

**Amy Lupkes**, West Central High School Counselor

Phone: 528-6236 or Email: [amy.lupkes@k12.sd.us](mailto:amy.lupkes@k12.sd.us)

**Sara Jost**, West Central Middle School Administrative Assistant

Phone: 528-3799 or Email: [sara.jost@k12.sd.us](mailto:sara.jost@k12.sd.us)

**Pam Graham**, Hartford Elementary Administrative Assistant

Phone: 528-3215 or Email: [pam.graham@k12.sd.us](mailto:pam.graham@k12.sd.us)

**Lois Thompson**, Humboldt Elementary Administrative Assistant

Phone: 363-3131 or 528-3325 or Email: [lois.thompson@k12.sd.us](mailto:lois.thompson@k12.sd.us)





# YOUTH VAPING

## WHAT ARE THE DANGERS?

Kristi VanDeRostyne - Carroll Institute Prevention Counselor

**By now you are probably aware** that e-cigarette use or "vaping" is dangerous for youth. But do you know what makes e-cigarettes unsafe? This month we will explore what is in an e-cigarette and the impact they can have on the adolescent brain and body.

### What's in a Vape??

The liquid used in e-cigarettes does not contain any water, but has many other substances that are known to be harmful for humans. These substances can include:

- **Nicotine:** Highly-addictive, especially for young people; very toxic if inhaled, swallowed, or if it comes into contact with the skin; increases heart rate and blood pressure and can cause dizziness, nausea, and stomach pain. Nicotine is found in 99% of e-cigarette juices, even in some products that claim to be 0% nicotine.
- **Propylene glycol:** Also found in antifreeze, artificial smoke/fog and food coloring; causes irritation of the throat, nose and eyes; potentially toxic to the liver and kidney over long term exposure.
- **Formaldehyde:** Also found in embalming fluid, nail polish and foam insulation; can cause irritation to the nose, eyes, skin, and throat; also linked to increased risk of certain types of cancer.
- **Flavoring chemicals:** Many of the flavors used in vape juice are rated "safe for human consumption." This means these substances have been found safe for eating and entering our gut and digestive system but that does not mean they are safe for inhalation into the lungs. One common flavoring ingredient is **diacetyl**, which can cause the irreversible lung condition Popcorn Lung.
- **Lead:** prolonged exposure can lead to abdominal pain, constipation, depression, irritability and nausea; affects children more than adults; can cause developmental and neurological effects
- **And many others!**

### Vaping and the Adolescent Brain

Young people are more susceptible to the harmful brain effects of e-cigarette use than adults due in large part to brain development (or lack of). The brain develops in stages with the first parts to develop controlling physical activity, emotion and motivation. These parts of the brain are more focused on survival and reward. The last part of the brain to develop controls impulse control, reasoning and judgement. Introducing drugs into the adolescent brain can slow or even stop normal development.

Because of how the brain normally develops, the teenage brain has been compared to a car with a gas pedal but no breaks! Adolescents often find it hard to control their emotions and use good judgement, while being more prone to exhibit risky and impulsive behaviors in search of pleasure.

The underdeveloped adolescent brain is also more susceptible to addiction. Research consistently shows that one of the best ways to avoid addiction is to delay the first use of substances.

If you would like information on how to talk to your child about nicotine or other substance use or are concerned your child may be using substances, please reach out to me at 336-2556 or [kvanderostyne@carrollinstitute.org](mailto:kvanderostyne@carrollinstitute.org).

For more information:

[smokefree.gov](https://smokefree.gov)

<https://preprod.drugfree.org/article/brain-development-teen-behavior/>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0bqT\\_hxMwI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0bqT_hxMwI)



## NURSE'S NOTES

Hello everyone!! Maybe it doesn't feel like it to you, but for me, time is flying! It is incredible that we are already at Thanksgiving and Christmas is just around the corner. While Covid continues to be at the forefront of most people's conversations, influenza is also making its appearance in the state. The SD Department of Health is reporting 37 confirmed cases of influenza in the state as well as 3 probable cases. These numbers will likely go up by the time this is sent out. It is NOT too late for a flu shot if you haven't already gotten one!

### SD 2020/2021 Influenza Weekly Summary Week Ending November 14, 2020 (Week 46)

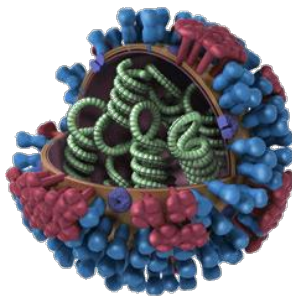
Provisional numbers, \* Lab confirmed: PCR, Culture or DFA. Rapid Antigen tests are Probable cases



Lab Confirmed Cases	Nov 8-14	Season to Date
Type A, H1	0	0
Type A, H3	0	0
Type A, Unspecified	0	3
Type B Unspecified	0	1
B Yamagata	0	0
B Victoria	0	0
Total*	0	4

Rapid Antigen Tests (25) sites reporting	Nov 8-14	Season to Date
Total Tested	127	1,301
Total Positive	3 (2A/1B)	37 (19A/18B)
% Rapid Antigen Tests Positive	2.36%	2.84%

	Nov 8-14	Season to Date
Hospitalizations	1	2
Deaths	1	1



3D Influenza Virus

**SD Influenza Geographic: SPORADIC**

**SD Influenza Activity: MINIMAL**

US Influenza Activity: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivitysurv.htm>

International Flu Activity: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/intsurv.htm>

South Dakota Influenza information:  
<http://doh.sd.gov/diseases/infectious/flu/>

Whether it is Covid, influenza, colds, or other illness, being sick can cause a lot of stress on families. Many families are altering their normal holiday plans to try to avoid spreading illness. During these times, I encourage you all to continue to be kind to each other. Having seen first hand how kind, caring, and supportive this community is, I know we will get through these trying times. Thank you all for your kindness and support as we try to navigate through this challenging school year together!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me via email or phone. Thank you!!

Annette Sichmeller, RN, West Central District Nurse  
Hartford Elementary 605-528-3215 Ext 1302  
Middle School 605-528-3799 Ext 1235

## Tidbits from the COVID COORDINATOR

### COVID-19: Calculating Isolation and Quarantine

One of the more difficult aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic is figuring out how long you will be required to quarantine or isolate in situations where you either test positive or are a close contact to someone who tested positive. We receive questions regarding these issues frequently.

**Isolation** is the term used for those who are infected with COVID-19 and must be separated from others while they are potentially infectious. People in isolation should stay home until it is safe for them to be around others. The CDC defines release from isolation criteria for those infected with SARS-CoV-2 as: at least 10 days from when symptoms first appeared AND at least 24 hours fever free AND symptom improvement. This means if you test positive for COVID-19, you should look back to the day when your symptoms started and remain isolated until 10 calendar days have passed since that date and all other criteria is met. The Department of Health will talk you through these dates and discuss your symptoms with you to determine when it is safe for you to go around others again.

**Quarantine** keeps someone who may have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. According to the CDC, quarantine helps prevent the spread of disease that can occur before a person realizes they are sick. If you were around someone (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the CDC recommends 14 days away from others. West Central School District's policy for close contacts: if a student was exposed to someone with COVID-19 while wearing a mask at school, they do not have to quarantine at home and may attend school and school functions as long as they have **NO** symptoms **AND** wear a mask. The school highly recommends those close contacts who were exposed without a mask outside of school, or with a known case of COVID-19 in the home, to follow quarantine directives given by the SD Department of Health. The length of this quarantine will be 14 days from the day the student was last within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer to the person who tested positive.

The South Dakota Department of Health has a quarantine and isolation calculator that can be useful in determining the dates you or your student will need to isolate/quarantine. This can be found at <https://doh.sd.gov/COVID/Calculator/default.aspx>.

As always, we encourage you to call or email with questions or concerns.

Heidi Freemark, RNBC  
COVID Coordinator, West Central School District  
605-310-4141; [heidi.freemark@k12.sd.us](mailto:heidi.freemark@k12.sd.us)

### WEST CENTRAL IS IN NEED OF FACIAL MASKS FOR STUDENTS



- Facial masks are used by students grades Pre K – 12. The masks are used to mitigate COVID-19 in our schools.
- Approximately 1380 masks are needed every day.
- Families are asked to provide their students with masks, however we still need additional masks.

PLEASE DROP OFF MASK DONATIONS IN THE OFFICE OF ANY WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL

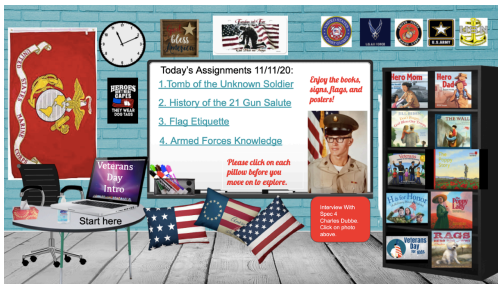
## ELEMENTARY NEWS

**Amy Johnson, Humboldt Elementary Principal**  
605-363-3131 or 605-528-3321

**Ashley Bahrenfuss, Hartford Elementary Principal**  
605-528-3215

Hello from Hartford and Humboldt Elementary Schools! We have had a very full and fun few months as we roll on with the school year! We wanted to update you on a few events that we've had happening in our buildings, as well as a few things to be on the look out for.

**Parent/Teacher Conferences:** On Monday, October 5th, our district conducted Parent/Teacher conferences. Due to precautions, conferences looked different than they have in the past. This year, all of our conferences were done virtually through Zoom. We greatly appreciate the understanding and flexibility of our families to allow this needed change to happen! Parent/Teacher conferences were very successful in both buildings, with participation rates of 98% at Hartford Elementary and 96% at Humboldt Elementary!



**Veteran's Day:** Although our buildings couldn't celebrate Veterans Day with the annual assemblies that we have done in the past, we still wanted to make sure that our students and staff learned about Veterans Day and that they had the chance to recognize and thank veterans for their service. Hartford Elementary hosted a drive-by parade for veterans and their families in which students stood along the sidewalk with signs and flags cheering as cars drove by! Students and staff created a Wall of Honor in the entry way of the building where stars were placed recognizing veterans in their lives. Lastly, Hartford Elementary counselor

Nichole Gruber came to school in her full military uniform and visited each class, discussing what it's like to be a soldier and what it means to her. It was such a wonderful day and an important celebration. A sincere thank you to all military veterans and their families. We appreciate your service and sacrifice!

At Humboldt Elementary, Veteran's Day commemoration took on a virtual twist. Humboldt Elementary Student Council created a virtual, interactive presentation to educate students about the holiday. The presentation taught students the history of Veteran's Day, and also included military songs, military stories, and many other interactive activities. One of the highlights was a pre-recorded interview with local veteran, Charles Dubbe. In the interview, Student Council members asked Dubbe questions about his service and what Veteran's Day means to him. Humboldt Elementary students also colored pictures and wrote letters to U.S. soldiers around the world through the nonprofit organization, Operation Gratitude. At 11:11 a.m. on November 11th, students and staff took two minutes of silence to remember the brave Americans who serve and have served our country. All in all, it was a great day showing appreciation for the soldiers that have sacrificed and continue to sacrifice so much for our freedom.



As we continue through the year, here are some things to be on the look out for!

- Winter Concerts:** We will not be hosting Winter Concerts in person this year. However, our music department is hard at work to create a virtual showcase of our students and all of their work! Within the first few weeks of December, be on the lookout for our virtual showcases coming home through Class Dojo!
- Winter Break:** Our district will have its Winter Break beginning with an early dismissal on Tuesday, December 22nd. School will resume on Monday, January 4th.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

**Mark Rockafellow, Principal**  
605-528-3799

Wow! Where have the first few months of the school year gone? Folks say that time flies when you are having fun. We must be having loads of fun. Perhaps those months flying by just means that we have been busy.

What has been keeping us busy? Well, the obvious has been the constant adjustment of procedures for Covid-19. But, we have also been busy with the ongoing review learning data and switching from Empower to Infinite Campus.

Our procedures for dealing with Covid-19 remain fluid. Staff continue to clean desks and frequently-touched surfaces often throughout the days. Students and staff continue to be required to wear masks. Hand sanitation is encouraged frequently throughout the day with hand sanitation stations located in the rooms and throughout the building. Students are spaced as best we can in the classrooms.

Most agree that students need to be in school to provide the most effective opportunity for them to learn. When students can't be in school, the next most effective way for them to learn is by them engaging in learning from home. One of the greatest challenges is to keep learning moving forward for students who miss multiple days after testing positive for Covid-19 and students who are considered close contacts and stay out of school for extended days. Regardless of the reason students are out for extended days, when students are well enough to engage in learning, they must engage. Students have access to learning materials through Google Classroom, Infinite Campus and other tools. Teachers post assignments and communicate with students when they are out. Parents should contact teachers if their children are struggling with content or accessing materials.

Keeping learning moving forward is directly linked to attendance and the data reviewed by staff. All parents should have received a copy of the Fall NWEA assessments. Overall, the achievement data shows that our middle school students out grew their peers from across the country. The results indicate that while not ideal, our distance learning from last March through May was reasonably effective. We will continue to monitor student progress and make adjustments to instruction based upon the results for the next two NWEA benchmark assessments.

Reviewing data is also possible through the use of Infinite Campus. We do this by monitoring student master of standards through assignments and assessments. The report card in Campus provides students and parents a summary of learning in the quarter. A closer inspection of the learning can be done by looking at mastery scores in the grade book portion of Parent Portal. Please contact your child's teachers if you have questions regarding assignments and assessments.

As always, please contact me if you have questions or concerns. Thank you for all you are doing to help your child be successful in school.

-- Mark Rockafellow, Middle School Principal

## HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

### NEWS FROM WEST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL - December 2020 - January 2021

Principal: Melinda Jensen 605-528-6236.

Hello Parents and WCHS Community:

I know many people are looking forward to the end of 2020 and its challenges. Let's take time to reflect on some of the **GOOD** things, too: January, February, and March in school with WCHS students; a wonderful graduation ceremony for class of 2020; we were back to school in August, and fall activities were "almost" normal ... even though we might have to look a little harder, 2020 had many **positive** moments, too!

I just counted: we are **19 school days away from Christmas vacation** and **23 school days from the end of our first semester on January 8.**

**SEMESTER TEST DAYS are scheduled for January 7 and 8.** High school teachers and upper class-men/women students offer study sessions for the Semester Tests. Teachers will announce those opportunities to their students, and I will talk about them on daily announcements. HS students are encouraged to use all their resources and do their very best.

I am writing this newsletter on **Nov 20th**. We have been Distance Learning for one week and most HS students are doing well.. At this point in time, plans are to return to school on November 30th. You will be notified if things change.

#### Observations about being ON-LINE:

1. **It is NOT confusing for HS students** once they get the hang of a new schedule. They know exactly what to do to log in, attend Zooms, and keep pace with teachers' expectations. Please don't let them tell you differently! Students must persist; if they need help, they should email teachers.
2. **Teachers are working IN school (even when students are online).** We have **20-130 students in the HS building** each day. Some students stay all day; some stay 2-3 hours; some come in for band; some work in construction class, take a test, work on projects, or get more help from teachers. If your son/daughter is behind - send him/her to school.
3. If you do **not** have **dependable internet**, **send your child to school**. We will not excuse missing work, missing attendance, or neglecting responsibilities because of internet issues. Some students need to come to school and spend the day here!
4. **Attendance is taken EVERY day.** Your son/daughter knows that. Attendance is taken by attending Zoom, handing in assignments ON TIME, and completing a daily assignment. If students neglect attendance, they are marked absent just like attendance expectations while they are in school.
5. **WCHS attendance policy** (p. 8 student handbook) "If a student accumulates **more than 6 absences from a class per semester**, a student may be removed from the class (regardless of the grade). If removed from a class, the student's grade is WF (withdraw fail) and no credit is given."

**NWEA, MAP Test.** I hope you've seen your son/daughter's MAP test results for grades 9-11 (our second year). Administrators presented grade-level results to the School Board in November and results indicated that distance learning last Spring did not have a negative impact on overall student learning.

**The second round of tests (to measure students' growth since the beginning of the year) are scheduled January 19-20-21.** I will send an email when those dates get closer. These tests compare our students' progress with the progress of millions of other high school students at the same date in the school year. This year they also measure your child's growth since last year. Take time to discuss the results with your son/daughter.

Another measure of success in high school is the **ACT test**, a curriculum-based measure of college readiness - including tests in English, math, reading, science, and writing. On average, about 75% of WCHS students per graduating class take the test during their junior and senior year. **WCHS 2020 test average was 22.34** (state average 21.82).

A teenage health concern that is often in the news: **Teenage issues in Mental Health.** Here is interesting, important information, "6 Facts Parents Should Know About Mental Health in Teens." <https://www.pennmedicine.org/updates/blogs/health-and-wellness/2017/may/teens-mental-health>

Please encourage your son/daughter to follow **safety guidelines** to slow the spread of Covid:

1. Wear a mask (over nose and mouth)
2. Wash hands frequently
3. Practice social distancing
4. Don't take chances with your health or others - be responsible.
5. If you feel sick - stay home
6. Keep abreast of updated requirements and recommendations

**Also, let us know if your son/daughter has tested positive to the Covid virus.**

**WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER!**

**Parents**, you have an incredibly influential role in your teenager's success! Please encourage your son/daughter to follow school rules, respect peers and adults, and make the most of educational opportunities.

I hope you enjoy the 2020 holidays. Remember, "Make it a Great Day, or not ... the Choice is Yours." It's a maxim we share and live by every day at WCHS.

**THANK YOU!**

Mrs. Jensen, High School Principal



## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

**Andrea Johnson, Activities Director**  
605-528-6397

That's a wrap on Fall Activities! What a fantastic start to activities for the 20-21 school year.

### Fall Recap

**Softball** - 5 peat State Champs! Senior Brooke Opitz, Freshman Caitlyn Hoff, Freshman Jocelyn Nilson, and Junior Sammie Mallinger - All State Team



**Boys Golf** - 3 boys qualified for state in Hot Springs! Sophomore Trey Even - ties for 20th place, Junior Peyton Bettcher - tied for 49th Place and 8th Grader Anthony Lanham - tied for 66th place.



**Soccer** - State Champions! 4th state title in 5 years. Senior Jada VanOverbeke, Junior Rylee Haldeman, Sophomore Cambell Fischer - All State Team. Junior Lily Sidel & Sophomore Tessa VanOverbeke - Honorable Mention







**Cross Country** - 4 runners qualified for state in Rapid City! Senior Abbie Cain, Senior Justin Schumacher, Freshman Ben Strunk and 8th Grader Reagan Stallman

**Volleyball** - Ended the regular season 6 and 14. Junior Jenna Lueth named 3rd Team All Conference and Seniors Cassidy Siemonsma & Rachel Bucher - Honorable Mention

**Football** - Made it to the Semi-finals! Ended the regular season 5 and 4. Seniors Derek Eidsness, Ryan Healy, Josh Livermore, Carter Sandholm, and Sophomore Justin Zirpel made the All Conference Team with Senior Jaxon Skinner and Junior Braden Dierickx with Honorable Mention.

**Rake the Town** - Over 120 students raked 15 homes in Hartford and Humboldt. Student-athletes collected over 500 bags of leaves. Groups included football, volleyball, cross country, wrestling, soccer, and golf.

**Fall Play** - Spectacular performance! Low numbers due to voucher restrictions, but otherwise a fantastic show!

**Band** - Marching Band did a fantastic job this year in competition. The competition schedule was extremely limited, but they performed extremely well.

**Oral Interp** - Competing virtually this year. Kids are working really hard and learning from one another.

**Quiz Bowl** - Also competing virtually this year. Tied the first 2 matches against O'Gorman and Dell Rapids. Lost against Brandon Valley, but beat Dell Rapids recently.

**FFA** - Recently competed in the Jackrabbit Invite, all virtual. Jackrabbit Invite is a regional contest to help students prepare for their district and state Leadership Development Events. Placements went as follows: Public Speaking 8th, Market Plan took 4th, Ag Issues took 2nd, Ag Communications took 5th, Ag Sales - Team 1 took 1st, Ag Sales - Team 2 took 6th, Extemporaneous Speaking took 8th, Creed Speaking took 12th, Ag Broadcasting took 22nd, and Employability Skills took 2nd, 5th, 12th, and 13th

**FCCLA** - Just finished Socktober. Collected over 3,000 pairs of socks!

We are so very proud of all of our students and their accomplishments in and out of the school!

I want to take a moment to thank all of the students who have been so helpful this Fall. Whether it is setting up facilities for events or cleaning up garbages after events, your help is greatly appreciated.

I'd like to encourage everyone to continue to be diligent about precautions in terms of Covid-19 and other illnesses. As we move into the winter season we need to continue wearing masks, social distancing, and self screening to help mitigate the virus. Our hope is to be able to participate in winter activities in their entirety. Help us make this happen!

Watch the West Central Activities facebook page for information about events and spectator guidelines.

### **Winter Activity Start Dates**

November 2nd - MS Girls Basketball, HS Gymnastics

November 16th - HS/MS Wrestling

November 23rd - HS Girls Basketball

November 30th - HS Boys Basketball

January 4th - MS Boys Basketball

January 22nd & 23rd - MS Fall Play Rescheduled

West Central School events and activities can be located on the website calendar at:

<http://westcentral.mhsoftware.com/ViewNonBannerMonth.html>

## **BAND NEWS:**

The Middle School & High School band have been busy working on their Winter Concert Music. The Middle School Band Concert will no longer be on December 4th. It will be pre-recorded during the school day and sent out to parents during the week of December 14th.

The High School band concert is still set to be on January 29th in the HS Auditorium at 7 pm. If something changes, families will be notified.

Congratulations to Emily Hofer (flute) and Audrey Prostrollo (Mallets) on being selected to the 2020/2021 South Dakota All-State Orchestra. They performed their auditions virtually this year and the concert is set for April 20th, 2021 at the Denny Sanford Premier Center.

[Daniel.Eye@k12.sd.us](mailto:Daniel.Eye@k12.sd.us)

<http://danieleye.wix.com/westcentralband>

Director of Bands

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## Upcoming Concerts at West Central School District

All Elementary Concerts to be posted and available to parents through Classroom Dojo.

Middle School Band & Chorus Concert and the High School Chorus Concert to be held Virtually  
Available Mid-December @ <https://www.westcentral49-7.com/virtualconcerts>

High School Band Concert  
January 29th, Details to Follow

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## West Central High School Theater Presents

# 16 Reasons Not to Be in a Play

A One-Act Play by Alan Haehnel



Presented as part of the  
WCHS Fine Arts Showcase  
on Friday, January 15th @  
7:00pm

**\*\*FREE ADMISSION\*\***

Performed in the WCHS  
Auditorium



The Fine Arts Showcase features performances by students involved in our West Central fine arts activities. Students in choir, band, dance, oral interp, theater, and visual arts all take part in this event! Student performances will be presented on the auditorium stage, while any project displays and student artwork may be on display in the commons. Admission is free. Plan to attend this exciting night, and prepare to be impressed by our students!

*16 Reasons Not to Be in a Play* will also be performed at regional contest at Canton on Friday, January 22nd. (The SDHSAA has set up a contingency plan if we are forced to move online instead of having an in-person Regions contest).

## LIBRARY NEWS

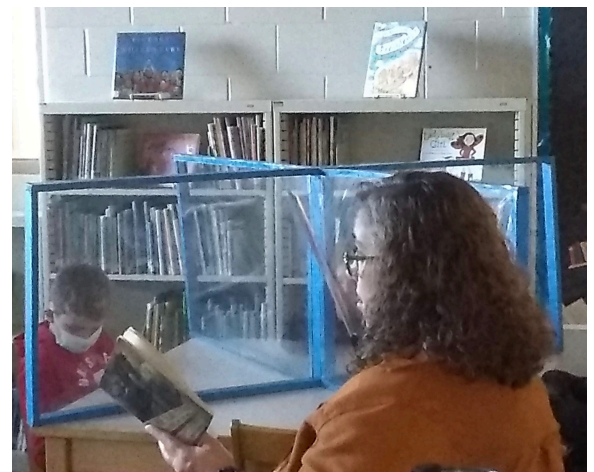
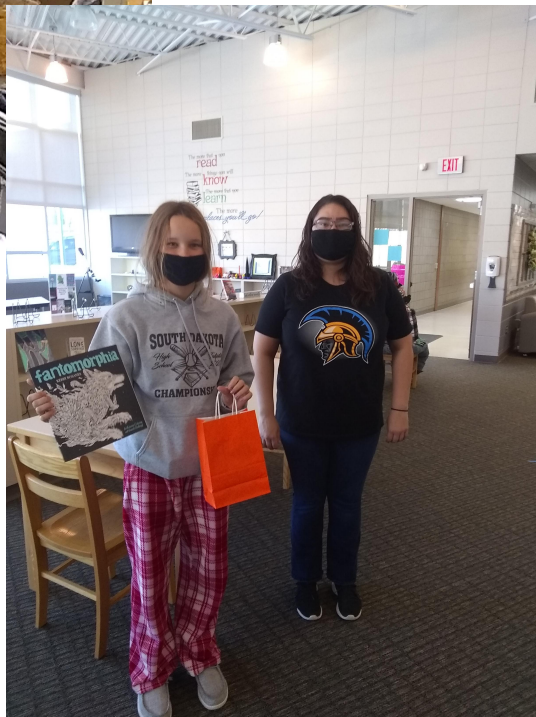
### THEY'VE FOUND THE GOLDEN TICKET!



Humboldt third grade classes are listening to the Librarian read *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. This year David Klein, original developer of Jelly Belly jelly beans is sponsoring a worldwide treasure hunt. A “golden ticket necklace” has been hidden in each state in the nation. This information was shared with the students simply for the fun of knowing the contest was going on while we read the book.

Three families in our district got together and took up Mr. Klein’s challenge to register for the contest and clues. The weekend of November 14th they found the golden ticket in Sisseton!!!. Now they are on to the second round of searching for the keys to one of Mr. Klein’s candy factories, and an all expense paid trip! Good Luck treasure hunters!!

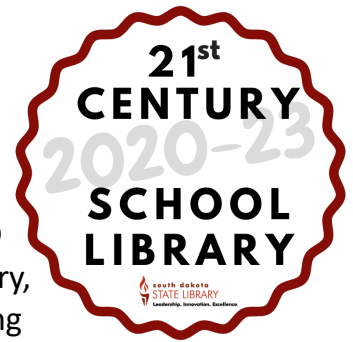
WC Libraries served up some spooky fun during the month of October! Mrs. DeCou & Mrs. Johnson hosted story times with seasonal books for the students to enjoy. Ms. Garreaux sponsored a Halloween scavenger hunt and other themed activities for the middle school and high school students.





## State Library Recognizes 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Libraries

**West Central HS / MS Library**, led by teacher-librarian DaNann Kistler and supported by administrator Melinda Jensen was awarded the state-level 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Library Award. Each year the SD State Library, a division of the SD Dept. of Education, recognizes school libraries as Effective, Enhanced or Exemplary, based on performance in three areas: The Place (both physical and online learning environments), The Program, and The Professional.



Applicants conduct a self-assessment and provide artifacts and evidence of their ability to meet South Dakota's guidelines for school libraries. Award status is valid for a three-year period.

### Exemplary Award recipients:

- Douglas Middle School Library, Box Elder; Librarian Melissa Hubbell, Administrator Greg Seefeldt
- Harrisburg Middle School Library, Harrisburg; Librarian Kristi Jones, Administrator Darren Ellwein
- Horizon Elementary School Library, Harrisburg; Librarian Leslee Reiland, Administrator Lisa Garrett
- Madison Central School Libraries, Madison; Librarian Joanne Kallhoff, Administrators Adam Shaw, Cotton Koch, Janel Guse
- Robert Frost Elementary School Library, Sioux Falls; Librarian Korey Erickson, Administrator Lynn Gillette
- West Central Middle/High School Library, West Central; Librarian DaNann Kistler, Administrator Melinda Jensen
- West Middle School Library, Rapid City; Librarian Shelley Rath, Administrator Dan Conrad

### Enhanced Award recipients:

- Elk Point-Jefferson School Libraries, Elk Point; Librarian Deedra Holdhusen, Administrators Janet Ries, Skyler Eriksen

### Effective Award recipients:

- Piedmont Valley Elementary School Library, Sturgis Elementary School Library, and Whitewood Elementary School Library; Meade 46-1; Librarian Heidi Kruse, Administrators Ethan Dschaak, Chantal Ligtenberg; Brittan Porterfield
- Rapid Valley Elementary School Library, Rapid City; Librarian Jennifer Backhaus, Administrator Cher Daniel

## ORGANIZATIONS

This October, West Central FCCLA carried out the tradition of Socktober. Each year the West Central FCCLA chapter partners with the school and community to collect new socks for the homeless. Many homeless walk miles daily to access food, water, and essentials. It only takes 30 minutes to get frostbite in sub-zero temperatures. With this information, our FCCLA chapter finds that providing socks to those in need is very important, especially with the hard times we are in right now.

Seniors, Kenadee Hackett and Taylor Even took on the role of leading Socktober this year. Together with the rest of the chapter, they made posters and presentations to inform all high school and middle school students of the importance of bringing socks. The chapter set a goal of 2,000 pairs of socks in total, or 100 pairs per SRB, also known as a study room. Each week members walked around to each SRB to collect the socks brought by students. At the end of October, prizes were awarded to the three SRB's that brought the most socks.

In past years, the results haven't been up to the standards that FCCLA holds for themselves, but this year was different. With the help of students, staff, and the community, we were able to collect 3,079 pairs of socks. These socks will be donated to St. Francis House, Union Gospel, Children's Home Society, and Children's Inn. We want to thank everyone for their participation in this year's Socktober, and we hope that we can continue on this high note for many more years!



## West Central Booster Club

**Our Mission Statement:** *To provide support to athletes & athletic programs at West Central School through volunteer projects, fundraising, business & personal donations.*

### WHO

The WCBC is a team of elected officers, parent representatives who collaborate with coaches & teams, as well as any parent or guardian of a 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade student athlete at West Central.

### WHAT

The WCBC provides funding for each athlete on a team, approves fund requests from coaches to enhance programs, seeks donations from businesses for funding, coordinates West Central Trojan merchandise sales & manages concession stand at Football Games & Track Meets.

### HOW

You can get involved by volunteering to help with concessions when your athlete's team is assigned for an event! The reps send out sign-up sheets to register for the event. You can also assist with our Trojan merchandise store at events, Open Houses, Parent/Teacher conferences, etc. We are a volunteer-run organization & every helping hand matters!

Go to the West Central School District 49-7 home page; Click on *Community*, find *WC Booster Club*

Email: [westcentralboosterclub@gmail.com](mailto:westcentralboosterclub@gmail.com)

Find us on  **WEST CENTRAL BOOSTER CLUB**

*Come on out to join us at the next event and cheer on your Trojan Athletes!*

*While you're there, check out our store for all your Trojan Wear needs! New items added every year.*

*And remember, our online stores are always open! Each sport season will have their own specialized order for athletes & their families, so keep an eye out for the notification! Let's Go Trojans!*

