

DISTRICT NEWS

We have so many good things to share throughout the district. We have had a very successful beginning of the school year, our students are doing wonderful things academically, artistically and athletically, and our PTO fundraiser once again was a community-wide success matching the spectacular results of previous years. We have many things to be grateful for, and our students, staff, families and community are a large part of why we are thankful. Waseca never fails to pull together and support each other whenever it's needed, and these points are good indicators of how much we support is in our community.

We started the year by welcoming 34 new staff members to the Waseca Public Schools at the annual Rotary New Teacher luncheon in August. We added over 100 students to our bus routes by changing from a 2 mile driving limit to a 1 mile radius of the schools. We added a bus pass system (the first in the region and perhaps even the state) to assure accurate and timely tracking of student ridership. This was yet another enhanced safety measure.

All of our athletic teams did themselves proud not only in their success, but also in the demonstrated sportsmanship. Our Marching Jays continue represent themselves, their school and their community as they compete in Minnesota and South Dakota. Our choir held a very moving and powerful concert a few weeks ago and will continue their excellence in a series of upcoming holiday performances. Our fall play was a huge success and very entertaining!

We begin the year with a new Strategic Plan that can be found on our website. Our focus areas over the next few years include student achievement, student support, workforce, community engagement, academic program and teaching & learning. We commit to improving our performance in all of these areas. To learn more, please visit our website at www.waseca.k12.mn.us.

We completed our construction at the JSHS this past summer by redoing 4th Avenue on the west side of the JSHS and adding a new bathroom/concession facility to the stadium. We also added a visual notification emergency system at the JSHS as the result of a Safe Schools grant from the MN Department of Education. Additionally, renovated the preschool classrooms at Central Building with new cabinets, countertops, sinks, etc. We look forward to completing an update of the Board room so that recorded Board of Education meetings will be more easily watched both on our website and on community television.

As the fall season fades into our memories, the winter season is quickly upon us. We anticipate great seasons for our wrestlers, gymnasts, hockey teams and basketball teams. We anticipate outstanding seasons for our Robotics, Math, Law and Science Olympiad teams. As this reaches you close to Thanksgiving, we wish your entire family the blessings to the holidays. We are so thankful for your continued support of our students and staff.

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HARTLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Greetings Hartley Elementary Families,

We have just wrapped up our first trimester of the 2019-2020 school year. It always amazes the school staff how the days and months fly by. It seems like just yesterday we were holding beginning of the year conferences. Speaking of beginning of the year conferences, we were thrilled in the turnout and continued support of families attending these meetings. This fall we connected with 96% of our families for these beginning of the year conferences. Thanks to all those families that attended.

This year Hartley also implemented the 16 Habits of Mind. If you google “16 Habits of Mind” they will come up in your search results. These habits, or skills, are the backbone of years of research on what are the necessary habits that can help ALL people have success. Hartley is working on two of these Habits each month and we have introduced monthly all school morning meetings to introduce, role play, and recognize students who are displaying these Habits! We have had 3 all school morning meetings and the students are loving them!

Lastly, we are always thankful for our PTO. The hard work and commitment of the leadership and volunteers does not go unnoticed. A huge thank you also goes out to the Bluejay Blast committee on another successful silent and live auction that benefits our district and the students that are a part of it.

Have a great winter season and thanks for all of your support.

Ben O'Brien, Principal

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JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

A Journey to Commencement

Jeanne Swanson

As a parent of a graduating senior I have a heightened awareness of how quickly the school year is passing. We have completed fall trimester and have much to celebrate from all of our fall athletic and arts activities as well as academics. We congratulate the state appearances of our football team and Ella Dufault in Cross Country. The fall play production of Clue was a success and 41 students were inducted into the Minnesota Honor Society. The Tour of Manufacturing was held in October. Industrial Technology students were brought to businesses and organizations in Mankato and Waseca to give them exposure to career and technical trades.

Second trimester has begun. Senior parents may ask, "What should we expect during the last two trimesters of senior year?" Parents can watch for updates in regard to senior credits and progress toward graduation. Students must complete all 74 credits and meet graduation requirements and fulfill all financial, technology returns, costume and other obligations in order to participate in the May 31 Commencement ceremony. Local scholarship information will be shared with seniors in late February and will be due in early March. Jostens has already met with seniors and have taken cap and gown orders. A special letter will be sent in early May with final notes for seniors. Don't forget to submit Graduation pictures to the Yearbook in January.

Students in grades 8 through 11 will be involved in registration for the 2020-2021 school year in February and March. The development of a new registration guide is in progress. Parents and students can look forward to a guide organized with Career Pathways to assist students and parents with course choices. You will receive information when online registration is open. Counselors will meet with students ahead of time to explain the registration process.

Being a student in 2019-2020 is hard work. Being the parent of a student in 2019-2020 can sometimes be harder work. The student who does the work is the one who learns. We as parents need to be there to support, encourage, and advocate for our kids, but we must liberate our children to be able to do their work on their own. Some students are self-motivated, but some do not possess the same excitement of learning. If you are worried that your child is not making adequate progress think about these motivational strategies.

- Offer rewards and privileges for completing homework. ...
- Review your child's work when they've finished. ...
- Help them break overwhelming tasks into smaller parts. ...
- Praise them for small successes. ...
- Look into getting a tutor or extra help from the teacher. ...
- Identify underlying causes for not making educational progress.....

The road to commencement began in kindergarten. Every school year passes quickly. If your child needs help reaching this goal, don't wait, address it now. "A diploma is your child's passport to the future." Let us work with you as your tour guide and let's enjoy the journey together. Seniors, you are almost there.

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Get Ready To Laugh



More information regarding Jesters Comedy Improv at jesterscomedyimprov.com or on Facebook

In the same vein as the hit television show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* Jesters Comedy Improv features a hilarious troupe of off-the-cuff performers who'll do just about anything for a good laugh. This fast-paced, game-oriented comedy performance will keep you on your toes and in stitches as these Grade-A comedians bounce from topic-to-topic with ease, creating comedic scenes, hilarious songs, and original jokes, all built off of suggestions from the audience and volunteers.

Saturday, January 11, 2020 *7:00 pm* *\$10 – General Seating*

Waseca High School Performing Arts Center

Tickets available through the Waseca Community Education Office in person (cash, check, credit card), or at the door the night of the event (cash and check only).

THINK BLUE



ACHIEVE GOLD!

Waseca Public Schools

Waseca Public Schools
ISD #829

District Newsletter
Winter 2019-2020

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501 East Elm Avenue
Waseca, MN 56093

Waseca Community Education