



It is Western High School's mission to achieve excellence in learning through high expectations, commitment and support.

WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL

A Newsletter for Parents

February/March 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parent Involvement Committee meeting

February 21st
March 21st
6pm—Staff Lounge

Booster Club Meeting

February 21st
March 21st
7pm—Staff Lounge

Touchdown Club Meeting

February 22nd @ 6pm
March 15th @ 6pm
Meetings in the Staff Lounge

WHS Booster Club Millionaire Las Vegas Party

February 12th
5-10 p.m.
K of C Hall in Auburn

Board of Education Meetings:

February 14th
at 7:00 p.m.
Central High School

March 14th
at 7:00 p.m.
Washington Elementary

NO SCHOOL!!

There will be no school for students on February 7th or February 18th

The offices will be closed on these days as well.

VISIT WHS WEB PAGE FOR CALENDARS AND CLASS TIMES

www.baycitywestern.com

WHS Athletic schedules are now available on-line at:

www.highschoolsports.net

A Note to All Parents

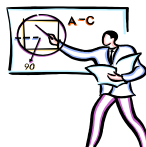
There will be **no school** for students on the following dates:

School closed: **February 7th** **February 18th**

MME Testing for all Juniors will be March 1st. There will be no school for 9th, 10th or 12th grade students this day.

UPCOMING STUDENT EVENTS

Coming Home is going to be here soon! Spirit week is February 8th-11th, with a pep assembly on Friday the 11th. Saturday, February 12th will be the students' Coming Home dance from 8pm until 11pm. Guest passes are available from Mrs. Schumacher in the Attendance/Discipline Office and are to be turned in to her no later than Friday, February 4th. More details will be coming thru the daily announcements!!



MATH TUTORING

Help is available for your student with their math class. Math Lab is offered after school every week on Tuesday and Wednesday in Mr. Kieser's room and Thursday in Mr. Taylor's room from 2:30-3:30pm.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to Stacy Lang who placed first at the District Voice of Democracy contest! Stacy also placed second at the State level competition and she was awarded a \$3,500 scholarship! Western High School is proud of you!!

Congratulations to Juniors John Costello (Alto Sax) and Daniel Schindler (Trombone) who were selected to the Michigan School Band and Orchestra All-State Band. These two Western High School students joined approximately one hundred other high school students from around the state for this honor which is one of the highest individual honors an instrumental music student can achieve in the state of Michigan. As part of their selection, the students participated in a concert at the Devos Hall Auditorium in Grand Rapids on January 22, 2011.

College Preparation Services

F.A.F.S.A. Part II Nights are being held on February 17th, 2011 from 6-8:00 p.m. at CHS, and on February 22, 2011 from 6-8:00 p.m. at WHS. Delta College will be on hand to meet with students/parents in the computer labs for 1 on 1 Financial Aid assistance. Please visit www.fafsa.com for more information on what materials you will need to bring with you in order to complete this application.

The B.A.C.F. (Bay Area Community Foundation) Scholarship Application deadline is March 7, 2011! Please visit www.bayfoundation.org for more information on how to apply and what scholarships are available for you!

MME Testing

This year, the State of Michigan will be giving all juniors the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) which includes the ACT test on March 1-3, 2011. This test is of no cost to the student and ACT scores are reportable to colleges and universities. ALL juniors must take the MME as part of the Bay City Public Schools graduation requirement.



Exam Schedule

Exams for Second Trimester will be March 10th and 11th. The following schedule will be observed those two days:

Day #1

7:30am—First Hour
9:15am—Break
9:30am—Second Hour
11:15am—Lunch
12:15pm—Third Hour
2:00pm—Student Dismissal

Day #2

7:30am—Fourth Hour
9:15am—Break
9:30am—Fifth Hour
11:15am—Student Dismissal

Spring Trimester begins Monday, March 14, 2011!

Exams

All classes administer a final exam at the end of each trimester. The only exception to this is for seniors during their **spring** term if they meet the following criteria:

- 1) they have no more than three excused and no unexcused absences in the class (school-related absences do not count.)
- 2) they have at least a B average in the class (**for the twelve weeks in the term**)
- 3) they have no suspensions or detentions.

The student handbook contains an error on page 13 stating the final two terms. This should state final term which was the district's intent.

Center Stage Theatre

As have many theatre folk before her, Bailey Banks has been bitten by "the bug," and the staff at Center Stage Theatre couldn't be happier! Bailey currently attends Bay City Western High School and joined the backstage crew at Midland Center For The Arts last year during *Ragtimes* and *Peter Pan*.

During her senior year she hopes to gain a wealth of experience by working as a volunteer with Kristen Lences! Bailey has already worked as an assistant stage manager for *The Sound of Music* and worked on the stage crew for the professional program: *Cirque Mechanics* (where she got to test the trapeze!).

Bailey plans to attend Western Michigan University next year to pursue her degree in theatre. Welcome Bailey!

National Honor Society

ATTENTION Parents of prospective National Honor Society members! A letter of invitation will be mailed February 17, 2011 to those Juniors and Seniors who have achieved a cumulative 3.20 grade point average. These students will be invited to join NHS based on their character, service, and leadership as shown on their Eligibility forms along with teacher input. Please read details regarding the selection process when you receive your student's invitation. Forms must be turn in by Friday, March 5, 2011.

A meeting will be held March 2, 2011 at 6:50 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to answer any questions regarding the completion of the Eligibility form. Feel free to contact Mrs. Gwenyth Kieser or Mrs. Lisa Welch with questions.

Counselor's Corner

Co-op News:

Currently Western has over 70 co-ops in educational opportunities throughout the tri-county area. WHS Co-op Officers for 2010-2011

President – Rebecca Roy

Vice President – Amanda Buchman

Secretary – Rene Behmlander

Treasurer – Shannon Sebald

Information Technology – Skylar Burley

Juniors interested in **applying for Co-op next year** should sign up in the counseling center and pick up an application. This does not obligate a student to be on co-op. It helps with matching students to available opportunities that come through the co-op office. Ms Oberlies will be available Monday, Wednesday and Friday to discuss the co-op process, various opportunities and pass out applications. Students may also find their own co-op job. If parents or students have any questions, please feel free to call 662-4481 extension 6415 or stop by the co-op office.

Many co-op jobs require a resume and it's not too early to start. Students should check with Ms. Oberlies in the Counseling Center to get information about writing a resume.

MME Testing Strategies

Below are some strategies to help your junior prepare for the Michigan Merit Exam (MME).

Pace Yourself. Try not to spend too much time on any one passage or question.

Read the Directions to each test carefully.

Read each Question carefully.

Answer the easy questions first.

Use logic and use elimination to narrow your choices on difficult questions.

Answer every question. **There is no penalty for guessing.** You will be scored based on the number of questions you answered correctly.

Review your work.

Make sure you fill in the correct ovals on your answer document.

Erase completely if you want to change an answer. Smudges or unintended marks may cause errors in scoring.

*** Students, just a reminder that we have free practice tests available in the counseling center. In addition, it would be a good idea to visit www.actstudent.org where you can take free on-line practice tests and see a detailed description of the type of tests questions and subject areas that are covered on the test. Students will participate in some test prep activities during the school day as well. If you haven't already signed up for the BAISD Career Center free MME Test prep session on Saturday, February 26th, please consider doing so. Sign-up is in the counseling center and space is limited to 120 students ISD wide.

Career Center News

For juniors currently enrolled in the Career Center - If your son or daughter is currently attending the Career Center as a Junior and would like to return to the Center as a Senior in the same program they are in now, he/she will automatically have a slot **if** he/she fills out an application, signed by a parent and turns it into counseling center **BEFORE February 4, 2011.** If your child wants to attend the Center as a returning student but in a DIFFERENT program, he/she must follow the regular Career Center application process listed below.

February 4 – All sophomores and juniors, who want a class at the Career Center in the fall of 2011-2012, must turn in their applications to the Counseling Center beginning February 8. Applications may be picked up in the Counseling Center starting Jan 3, 2011. Western receives a limited number of slots for each Career Center program. Slots are primarily filled on a lottery basis. GPA and attendance are considered for the medical courses. However, there is one Career Center class that is an exception to this policy: the Health Technology Program. For this class only, students can sign up at any time from now through February 8. Career Center staff will interview interested students in these classes, and students will be selected for the program based on their attendance, grade point average, and career goals. Students may still sign up for classes after February 8, but they will have to pick from whatever slots are still available

Rotary Club Job Shadow Opportunities - The Bay City Rotary will be sponsoring two days of job shadow opportunities for our junior students on March 8 and March 22. The following careers are generally available for students to visit: Accounting, Architecture, Banking, Dental, Electrical, Engineering, Finance, Fitness, Medical, Optometry, Paramedic, Pharmacist, Photography, Restaurant, Veterinarian – plus many others. The students will also be treated to a delicious lunch at Lumber Barons. This was a wonderful learning opportunity. All job shadowing positions will be posted in the counseling center on Friday, January 21. Students should listen to announcements for details. See Ms Oberlies in the Counseling Center if there are any questions. The website www.opportunityconnection.net is a large centralized database of Bay Area employers offering opportunities and resources FREE to students and educators. Students can search the site for: Job shadowing, Tutoring, Internships, Site Visits, Mock Interviews, Mentors, Summer Jobs, Scholarships, Volunteer Opportunities – just to name a few. Opportunities are continuously updated and monitored daily by the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. CHECK IT OUT.

OPT-OUT INFORMATION

Opt-out information and applications are available from your counselor for the Spring testing cycle. The completed form is to be returned to your counselor no later than January 21, 2011. Late applications will not be processed. Please read the application carefully - it contains important information regarding testing materials and testing dates. Testing will take place the third full week of February (February 21 - 25).

World Language

The World Language Club continues to meet every month. Each month we discuss a different culture topic. We have crafts, food and fun! February is Chinese New Year, March is French Mardi Gras, April is German, May is Spanish Cinco de Mayo. Please refer to the daily announcements posted on the Western High School website] if you have questions or inquire about the meeting dates. Also, there is still room on the Spanish trip to Chicago. You do not have to be in Spanish to attend. The trip is March 18-19, the cost is \$360. Please see Señora Hildinger if you are interested.

Western High School Presents... "Happy Days—The Musical"



A performance of a very talented group of WHS students of "Happy Days—The Musical" will be on the following days:
Thursday, February 24th Friday, February 25th Saturday, February 26th

All performances will be in the WHS auditorium beginning at 7pm. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students.

Millionaire Las Vegas Party!

The Western High School Booster Club is sponsoring a Millionaire Las Vegas Party:

When: Saturday February 12, 2011

Time: From 5-10pm (doors open at 4pm)

Where: K of C Hall in Auburn

Cost: \$75 per ticket (admits 2 people and includes dinner)

For tickets, please contact Jeff Shann at (989) 415-1241, Debby Bragiel at (989) 697-5148 or Marcia Reder at (989) 662-6437.

A Message from the Principal

SCHOOL POLICIES

As we approach the midway point of the school year, we often find it necessary to remind our students of the policies and expectations at WHS. In an effort to work together and to educate our students on these issues, I would like to provide you with some of our most frequent concerns and information as you discuss these with your children.

Cell phones and Listening Devices

These are not to be used in the school building during the school day. These items may be confiscated and then returned at the end of the day. Repeat offenses may lead to suspensions.

Hats and Hoods

These are not to be worn in the building during the school day. Hats may be taken and returned at the administrations discretion. Continued disregard can lead to suspension.

After School

Students not involved in supervised after school programs are expected to wait in the commons for their ride if they stay for detention or if their program has ended before their ride arrives. The hallways are locked at 3:45. Parents can help by not permitting students to stay after school unsupervised.

Tardies

Students are expected to be in classes when the bell rings. Attendance and participation in class will lead to success in academics. After 9 accumulated Tardies students will be assigned after school detention from 2:30-3:00pm. Failure to report for after school detention may lead to suspension.

TECHNOLOGICAL SOCIAL MEDIA - PARENT INFORMATION

This is a growing phenomenon in schools across the county, including our own. Students are using Facebook and texting over their cell phones at an ever increasing rate. Sometimes this is at school and more so from home or outside of school hours. We are experiencing increasing social issues during the school day, disrupting learning opportunities, which originate outside of school hours. We are asking that you monitor your child's social media and help us to educate them on the appropriate use of such technology. Below are some links to help you during your discussions.

<http://www.stopcyberbullying.org/index2.html>

<http://www.bewebaware.ca/english/cyberbullying.html>

<http://www.netsmartz.org/Teens>

SCHEDULING FOR NEXT YEAR

Soon students will be choosing courses for next year. Please take time to look over the course selection guide and work with your child to create a meaningful schedule for next year. Encourage your child to challenge themselves with advanced classes or experience an elective they might not have considered. Please contact your child's counselor to answer any questions you may have.

Parents, you are part of our educational community and we thank you for your support with these concerns. As always, if you have any concerns, please call 662-4481.

YEARBOOK NEWS!

The final deadline to purchase a 2011 Yearbook is March 15, 2011. We cannot accept payment after this date due to final count to our publisher. You may also purchase a yearbook with your credit card through our publisher at www.yearbookforever.com also until March 15, 2011.

We are unable to guarantee that extra books will be available in the fall for purchase. This depends solely on the printing process, and how many (if any) extra the publisher chooses to send us. Thank you!! THE YEARBOOK STAFF



YEARBOOK COUPON

\$10 off a 2011 Yearbook was \$65----- NOW \$55 YEARBOOK STUDENT:

YOUR NAME _____

GRADE: _____ Phone: _____

Authorized by: Amy Schmidt, Yearbook Adviser _____

Expires: **March 15, 2011** Bring payment to room A 224 or mail to _____

Western H.S. Yearbook
500 West Midland Rd
Auburn, Mi 48611
(989) 662-4481 ext. 6243

We are no longer able to mail back receipts- please ask your student to pick their receipt up from the YB Lab if you would like a copy.

From the Music Department

High School Band Parents: The high school bands will perform at MSBOA District band festival on **March 11th** at the following times: **Concert band - 6:20 PM** **Symphonic band 8:55 PM**

There will also be a Band Parents Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 1st at 7pm in the High School band room. All Band parents are welcome to attend!

Athletic News

The WHS Booster Club is sponsoring the Millionaire Raffle Las Vegas Party on Saturday, February 12, 2011 from 5-10:00 p.m. at the K of C Hall in Auburn. Tickets are \$75/couple and include all you can eat dinner and drinks. 13 cash prizes are awarded including the grand prize of \$4000. You do not need to be present to win. Proceeds go to the WHS Booster Club.

The deadline to sign up for Spring Sports is March 14th, 2011. Your student must have a physical on file and pay a \$75.00 pay to participate fee in order to try-out.

The final Spring sport offered for WMS is boys and girls track which starts April 4th, 2011. Students must have a physical on file and pay a \$30.00 pay to participate fee in order to try-out.

For the most up to date sports scheduling information please visit www.highschoolsports.com.


Bay City Western Post Prom/Senior Party Fundraiser

A great cause and some great food!! All friends, family and supporters of the Bay City Western Post Prom/Senior Party are invited to participate in their fundraising event on **Wednesday, February 9, 2011**. Everyone is invited to gather at Buffalo Wild Wings in Bay City (4050 Wilder Rd.) for lunch, dinner, or a snack. On this day, 20% of purchases accompanied by the certificate below will be donated to the **Bay City Western Post Prom/Senior Party**.

Bay City Western Post Prom/Senior Party Fundraiser
Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Present this certificate to your server at the time of your order and 20% of your purchases* will go to support the **Bay City Western Post Prom/ Senior Party**.

*Valid towards Dine-In and Carry-Out. Not valid towards gift card purchases.



Only valid at 4050 Wilder Road, Bay City, MI (989) 671-3377

February 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Friends of Bay City Public Schools,

I hope you are staying warm during this cold winter. I would like to share some of recent happenings in the Bay City Public Schools.

At January's board meeting, during board member appreciation month, we honored our board members with some tasty treats provided by our Food Service Department. It is important to remember that board members serve as volunteers in what is unquestionably one of the most difficult times for education in decades. And they do it for no pay, no stipends, and no benefits.

Central High School was above the state and nation in Mean Scores in all three areas of the PSAT results: Critical Reading, Math, and Writing Skills. Also in College Readiness, they were 1.4% above the national percentage. Well done!

Hampton Elementary will once again participate in a French student exchange. 27 French students will spend approximately three weeks here in May with families from Hampton, McAlear, Kolb and Handy acting as hosts. Our student group will travel to France for three weeks in May/June. This is a great cultural learning opportunity for students and families.

We are very fortunate to have representation from each school in the district with 17 parents who have agreed to participate in a Parent Advisory Committee. Our first meeting in January held great conversation and good input and we plan to meet again this month.

Our "College Bound: It's Not All About the Money" events at Central and Western High last month were very successful with a combined total of approximately 450 parents/students attending! This event offers great informational sessions about the college process.

Coming this Month: Delta College Financial Aid office representatives will be on hand to provide parents and students assistance with the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form and on-line completion. The events are: Feb. 17, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at Central High; Feb. 22, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Western High.

Annual Blood Drive: You are welcome to participate in our annual blood drive, planned for Tuesday, February 8, 2:00-6:00 p.m. in the boardroom. Please call Sue at 671-8165 to schedule an appointment. ALL are welcome!

Safety Drills: If you happen to be present in our schools when an emergency drill occurs, please follow staff instruction on how to proceed. These drills are intended to make our schools as safe as possible and we need your cooperation as part of this. Thank you.

If you have comments or questions, please feel free to email (newcombed@bcschools.net) or call me at 671-8165.

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Newcombe

Interim Superintendent

WHS Business/Technology Department News

Scheduling for the 2011-2012 school year is fast approaching. The Western High School Business/Technology Department offers courses that meet graduation requirements in Technology and Math. We offer courses that are articulated with Delta College (if a student successfully completes the course during 11th or 12th grade they earn credit for a corresponding course at Delta). All technology courses meet .5 credits of the technology graduation requirements. Please consult the curriculum guide for course descriptions, and contact the business department with questions by phone at ext 6252 or email clementse@bcschools.net.

Technology Courses:

- Technology 1 (required for graduation)
- Technology 2
- Web Design
- QBASIC Programming
- C++ Programming
- Desktop Publishing
- Advanced MS PowerPoint and MS Access
- Advanced MS Word and MS Excel

Business Courses:

- Intro to Business (articulated with Delta College)
- Personal Finance/Financial Mgmt. (two-term course; meets senior math requirement)
- Business and Consumer Law
- Sports and Entertainment Marketing (offered spring trimester only)
- Retail Marketing



**Western High School
Saginaw Valley League
"Teacher of the Year"
Nomination Form**



The Saginaw Valley League Teacher-of-the-Year Award was established to recognize excellence in teaching. This award is presented annually to one teacher from each Saginaw Valley member high school. ***Any teacher who has taught for at least five years and who is currently teaching full or part-time at Western High School is eligible to receive the award.***

If you wish to nominate a teacher for this award, you should submit a letter explaining the nominee's specific qualifications for the award. The letter may consider, but not necessarily limited to, any or all of the following criteria of the nominee:

- Creative teaching
- Involvement in school activities
- Commitment to improving student learning
- Enthusiasm for teaching
- Respected by students and staff
- Involvement in community groups or activities
- Professional honors
- Evidence of community respect

Nominations should be directed to: **Mr. Joe Bruessow**
SVL Teacher of the Year
Western High School
500 W. Midland Rd.
Auburn, MI 48611

Previous recipients are NOT ELIGIBLE for nomination. They include: Deb Bruzewski, Kelly Coates, Ron Mindykowski, Lori Smith, Paul Morand, Ann Riffel, Mike Nesbitt, Lora Keenan, Matt Offenbecker, and Joe Bruessow.

NOMINATION FORM

Due: Monday, March 7th, 2011 by 3:30 pm

Name of Nominee: _____

Nominated by: _____ Date: _____

Class or classes taught –

Number of years taught –

What sets this individual apart from other teachers? -

Please remember to attach this form to your nomination letter. Thank You!



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Saginaw, Michigan
Permit No. 487

Western High School
500 W. Midland Road
Auburn, MI 48611

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/ PHONE/ EMERGENCY FORMS

It is very important that parents notify the school office of any changes in address, home and work phone numbers, etc. When we have emergencies, it is important that we have the correct information to reach a parent as soon as possible.

SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY

During the school day, all exterior doors to the building are locked, except the main entrance doors. The main entrance to the building is open from 6:45am—4pm and the offices are open from 7am—3:30pm Monday thru Friday. When you visit, please sign in at the main office before proceeding into the school.



EDLINE

Our web based communication software for parents to view students' grades, attendance and class schedules is available and you can get connected by requesting a code in order to access your account. It is also a way to easily contact and stay in touch with your student's teachers—you will be able to see exactly what your student can see with the added benefit of getting Email updates from the Principal and notifications from teachers. If you have not already signed up, please contact Mrs. Clark at 662-4481 or email clarki@bcschools.net.

MATH TUTORING

Help is available for your student with their math class. Math Lab is offered after school every week on Tuesday and Wednesday in Mr. Kieser's room and Thursday in Mr. Taylor's room from 2:30-3:30pm.



ATTENDANCE POLICY

Your child may be absent from school for a variety of reasons throughout the school year. These are usually unavoidable situations resulting in an absence for the full day, half day, or maybe just an hour out of the school day. We encourage you to try to schedule appointments so that your child does not miss classroom instruction. In the event that this is not possible, please contact our Attendance Office at 662-4481, ext. 6433 to report your child's absence from school. You may receive a voicemail message when calling this number—please record your child's name and the reason for the absence (all messages will be retrieved by the end of that day).