

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

February 2021

Elementary:

The elementary schools are back in the swing of on-site learning, we are thrilled. We are focusing on core instruction and trying to avoid too many distractions. As an elementary team, we are putting forth full effort to rework our celebrations such as Rocking the Oscars, Laketown Pride Celebrations, and Valentine's Day. 5th grade enjoyed a visit to the middle school for a glimpse into what next year will look like for them as 6th graders. Fifth graders are also looking forward to their skiing field trip later in February. We realize these events are some much needed fun for our students. We are grateful for the amazing weather that has allowed us to be outside for recess all but one day in January.

Middle School:

Waconia Middle School's Math Team had another great season. Their final competition was on January 26th, but we are still awaiting both the team and individual results of the league due to this crazy, COVID related season. Sadly, in this school year's season, our team had to conduct all of their practices and meets via Zoom gatherings. In normal competition years, we are able to practice in person, and actually travel to other schools for in-person math meets. Even with these unfortunate changes, our students worked hard, and made Waconia proud. This year's team was comprised of four 8th graders (Brynn Schochenmaier, Jayden Kisner, Justin Thomas, & Sara Schoenfelder), five 7th graders (Aiden Stoner, Annie Stroschein, Henry Peitersen, Luke Stineman, & Mya Sannes), and one 6th grader (Wyatt Kinkel). Stay tuned, as we hope to share our league results with all in the near future. Thank you to the WMS math team coach, Mr. Kinkel, for another successful year.

5th-grade students from Laketown, Bayview and Southview had the opportunity to take their first field trip of the year to visit WMS this week. They ate lunch in the WMS lunchroom, listened to a presentation about class choices in 6th grade, had a tour of the building with an 8th grade WEB Leader, and had the fun chance to ask a panel of 8th grade experts questions about being a student at Waconia Middle School. In a year without a pandemic, administration and a group of staff members typically go to the elementary schools for presentations. This year we needed larger spaces to put all of the students together at a safe distance and the WMS auditorium was the perfect size. Our 8th grade WEB leaders were fantastic hosts and the 5th grade students were respectful, enthusiastic, and inquisitive guests. We look forward to welcoming them as 6th graders next fall.

On Monday, we honored our January WMS Teacher of the Month for the 2020-21 school year. 8th-grade Math teacher, **Mr. Kinkel**, was nominated by eighth-grader Svea Johnson. Svea wrote about his exceptional talents as a teacher that he makes online math learning enjoyable and easier to learn. Svea also highlighted that he goes fast but always makes sure students know what they need to do before they take tests, and he has ways to make math interesting even if it is pretty boring. Lastly, Svea shared how his energy levels in the morning match hers pretty well and she enjoys that. Congratulations to Mr. Kinkel, the WMS January Teacher of the Month and thank you to Svea for submitting a great nomination letter. Both Mr. Kinkel and Svea received treats including Laketown chocolates and Target gift cards as tokens of appreciation from the WMS PTO.

This year the WMS PTO created an avenue to recognize the essential groups at WMS that go above and beyond to make WMS such a great school. The January Above and Beyond Group is the WMS Health Services Staff. The award states, "On behalf of the parents, students, and staff, THANK YOU for going above and beyond to ensure that our students have a safe and healthy environment to come to every day. We couldn't do any of this without you. "

Presented to: **Jodi Anderson and Angie Klym-- WMS School Nurses**

High School:

It's been great to see students taking advantage of our Academic Support sessions being held before and after school. Between the support sessions, targeted services, and athletics there are more and more students in the building.

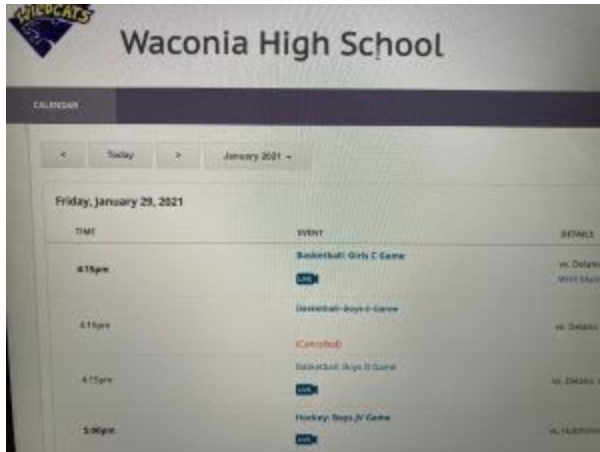
The high school completed the 2nd trimester Parent-Teacher Conferences virtually. Participation numbers were solid, with many positive comments from parents and teachers. Regardless if we're back to full-time face to face in the future, we will likely continue to allow parents to sign-up for conference times instead the "arena-style" conferences we've used in the past.

Registration for the 2021-22 school year continues. The process has been slower than normal, but we'll be in a position of determining our sectioning and staffing needs for next year by mid-February.

Activities: www.waconiaathletics.com

Don't miss out on the exciting action as Waconia Wildcat winter sports teams compete against Wright County Conference and non-conference teams! Find a complete schedule, including direct links to live streaming of our home and away events at wconference.org!

To view the live stream, just click on the "video camera" for the event you would like to watch!



For a complete Wildcat Roster for each of our winter sports, please click here: [Winter Sports Rosters](#)

We appreciate your continued support of Waconia Wildcat Activities! GO WILDCATS!

Community Ed:

Things have been very busy in Community Education lately! It is great to have our early childhood families and children back in the building. It is great to hear children's voices in the hallways.

Right now we are in the middle of our basketball season and indoor soccer practices. We are busy working on the spring/summer brochure and recreation programs. This brochure will be made live online to the public the week of March 15. We are again going to just be offering an online version of our brochure instead of printing a hard copy.

Preschool registration for the 2021-2022 school year has been moved back to March instead of January. We will be offering a virtual preschool open house for families on Tuesday, February 23. Registration for current families will open on March 1 and go through March 12. New families will be able to register starting March 17.

Human Resources:

The School District's Insurance Advisory Committee has reviewed initial medical proposals from multiple health insurance carriers for the plan year beginning on July 1, 2021. Under Minnesota law, initial bids must be maintained as private data until after the final bids have been received and opened. Final proposals will be reviewed at our March 2 meeting, with Committee recommendations expected shortly thereafter. As in past years, open enrollment for the new insurance plan year is currently scheduled to begin in mid to late April.

New Educational and Administrative Support Professionals received training in January on the application of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act to their positions. The training is focused on a school employee's duty to maintain the privacy of student educational data. With little exception, information about students maintained by a school district constitutes private

data and cannot be shared with others without a legitimate educational purpose. Our school district's data privacy training includes an interactive component to allow new employees the opportunity to apply their learning to typical situations commonly found in schools.

Student Services:

We are excited that early childhood through elementary school are providing in-person special education services. Thank you to the staff's efforts pivoting back to in person. Middle school services are provided in a distance format with some targeted in person special education support on Wednesdays. Preparation is underway for a return to hybrid at the middle school. High school has been providing additional in person support to identified students. Education Support Professionals continue to do a great job supporting students in person and in a distance learning format.

In Early Childhood, all classrooms are at the fidelity level in implementing the Pyramid Model. This is a significant accomplishment!

Superintendent:

Safe Learning Plan Continues

This year continues to bring incredible challenges that staff, students, parents, administration and the school board have met with resilience and amazing teamwork to provide the best education possible for our ONE10 students. We are on target to follow through with the expectations that were approved at the January 11th school board meeting. All students in grades E-5 are back to In-Person Learning. WMS has one more week of Distance Learning and will return to Hybrid on February 16th with a staff planning day set for February 12th. WHS has four more weeks of the Trimester and will finish in Distance Learning. On March 16th, after spring break, the high school is set to return to Hybrid.

Currently we are watching Covid numbers in the county, the school district and within our schools. We continue to be on the bubble for grades 6-12 to be in Distance Learning or Hybrid. We are monitoring the learning impact and staffing needs during quarantines. All this data will determine next steps. The [Determining Factors](#) used when deciding on which Safe Learning Plan to offer will continue to guide us. At the February 22nd work session, we will discuss when and how we might be able to bring all of our students back to In-Person learning. I will work with the MDE Regional Covid Support Team to see if we can get back sooner than they normally allow, and to find out what safety protocols we will need in place in order for this to happen. It is our hope that, by mid-March, most of our employees will be given the opportunity to get the vaccine to make their return to In-Person learning that much safer.

Planning for the 2021-21 School Year

As we look to the future for ONE10, what have we learned from education in a pandemic? Virtual learning is something that we had not experienced before and now it is something that all students and staff know how to do. We realize that some students and families may wish to continue this learning model into the future. So, we have begun conversations with SWMetro

Intermediate School to see if we can collaborate with them to provide this option to our students/families. We are currently in the design process of making this happen.

We are currently assessing our students and will use this data to determine if we have any learning gaps that have developed throughout this pandemic. The data will help guide our curriculum planning. We will look at summer school and credit recovery options to help keep our students on pace for their age appropriate academic expectations. We will roll back curriculum where needed to keep a sequential learning pace for students.

Covid Relief Funding

We are concerned about the inequity in Covid Relief Funding that we are receiving from the state. Please see the [comparison chart](#). We will express our concerns with officials at the Capital and we will further publicize the inequity if needed. It is important to know that other schools in the state will have more Covid relief money to offer more recovery programs for students.

Covid Vaccination Opportunities and Saliva Tests

The rollout of the Covid Vaccine to educators from the State of MN has been somewhat frustrating. The first four weeks have been completely random on where, when and how many vaccines are available to our employees. The expected return time for registering has been very tight and the registration has not been guaranteed. We have followed the prioritization guidelines and emailed staff as they became eligible. The state has now taken over how to prioritize and communicate to our 1000 staff members when they will have a vaccine opportunity. With all that said, we are thankful that the Covid Vaccination has been offered to about 20% of our staff. We are hopeful that the remaining staff will be given the opportunity for the vaccine over the next six weeks.

On February 3rd we were able to start our bi-weekly Covid Saliva Testing for staff who are working In-Person with students. The saliva test will be offered to staff every two weeks to help identify those who are asymptomatic to reduce the spread of Covid in our schools. We know this could increase our positive cases, but it will also reduce the overall spread.

District Management Group 2021 Superintendents' Strategy Summit

The District Management Group is an educational research group out of Harvard that uses national research to support school operations in becoming even more effective and efficient. I have been a part of this organization through a SWMetro membership for five years. The topics covered in their conferences have helped to streamline programs yet increase student learning. Now, the virtual conference being offered on Feb. 4-5 matches our work with Cultural Competence. I will be able to use this information to help our work to ensure we have a welcoming and inclusive school.

Resources used for Covid-19 related decisions at ONE10:

- [Carver County Covid-19 Dashboard](#)
- [MDE State Covid-19 Data](#)
- [Unofficial Current Covid-19 Trends by county or school district](#)
- [MDE Covid-19 Updates and Resources](#)
- [Executive Order 20-82](#)
- [Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year](#)

**A Big Thanks for the Wonderful ONE10 Partnership in Providing the
Best for Kids!!
WE Are ONE10!!**