

WESTFORD ACADEMY

2017-2018



Parent Newsletter Vol. II

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL...

JAMES P. ANTONELLI



Dear Parents and Students:

The end of the first quarter has come very quickly. Thanksgiving is this week and before you know it the December break will be around the corner. It has been a wonderful fall around Westford Academy with great weather and I look forward to the remainder of the school year.

During the fall, many of you received the results of our MCAS tests. The results were yet again very impressive system-wide, as our students continue to achieve and be successful in the statewide assessment. Again this fall, Boston Magazine rated Westford Academy as one of the best high schools in the September 2017 issue. In addition, Niche ranked Westford Academy #12 in the state for public high schools out of over 350 + public institutions. Our academic success is a direct result of the tremendous efforts of our teachers, students, and parents.

We've again enjoyed much success with many of our athletic teams making it to the MIAA tournaments. The girl's varsity soccer team (WAGS) made it to the Division I North State Championship and played an outstanding game against Wachusett Regional High School. This is the first time the girl's soccer program has made it to the State Championship Game. Unfortunately, the team lost in double overtime 2-1. It was a great game to watch and the players, coaches, and our community should be very proud. The girl's volleyball team made it to the Division I Central West finals with coach Brandon Eang, losing to a fierce opponent Hopkinton High School at Shrewsbury High School. Our golfers continued to improve with fourth year coach, Mr. Dave DeLong. The boy's cross-country team had a great fall season capturing second place overall in the Dual County League Championship meet and winning the Dual County League Sportsmanship Award. Senior Jason Dolan went undefeated in league meets and won the DCL Championship and was named DCL Runner of the Year. The girl's cross country finished in eighth place and took a second in the DCL Sportsmanship Award. W.A. boasted another DCL Championship this fall in varsity cheerleading, after a stunning performance! Congratulations to our players, coaches, and parents.

The football team has struggled this fall, but be will ready for battle at Acton-Boxborough on Thanksgiving Day at 10:00 AM. Best of luck to the team! The Thanksgiving Day Game will be held in Westford this year; I hope to see you at the game.

I would also like to mention our Westford Academy Marching Band and Colorguard under the direction of Mr. George Arseneault and Adelle Girvan. This year's music was from the Beatles and filled the air with the music from Sgt. Peppers Lonely Heart Club Band. The band and colorguard had many students involved again this year and the students played fantastic music to fill the fall air. In addition, our National Anthem has never sounded better! Our Theater Arts Department is in the middle of THE LITTLE MERMAID, directed by Mr. Larry Souza and Musical Direction by Chris Gosselin. A final performance will be held on Tuesday, November 22, 2017 at 7:30 PM. General Admission Seats will be sold at the door: \$18.00 for Adults and \$12.00 for seniors and Students.

Spirit week was a lot of fun this fall. The atmosphere at our outdoor student rally was exciting and students really appeared to enjoy the friendly class competition. Ms. Jen Ganley and Maddie Kendall, advisors to the Student Council, did an outstanding job organizing the week with all of the student-leaders. Thank you very much to our student body for making spirit week enjoyable.

Westford Academy School Calendar 2017-2018

- Nov 22 Thanksgiving Recess, early release
- Nov 23 - 26 No School, Thanksgiving break
- Nov 27 Winter sports begin
- Dec 2 Holiday Bazaar, 9-3:00 PM
- Dec 6 Career Exploration Breakfast (Juniors 1st block, Sophomores 2nd block)
- Dec 7 Half Day, Professional Development
- Dec 7 WA Music Concert, 7:00 PM, PAC
- Dec 25 - Jan 1 Holiday Break
- Jan 12 ASVAB, 7:30 - 11:00 AM
- Jan 15 No School, Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 16 No School, professional Development
- Jan 18 Midterms (A & B)
- Jan 19 Midterms (C & D)
- Jan 22 Midterms (E & F)
- Jan 23 Midterm (G & Make-ups), Dodge ball Tournament 10:15 AM, Main Gym
- Jan 24 End of 2nd Quarter, All classes meet (F through E)
- Jan 25 3rd Quarter begins
- Feb 7 1/2 Day Professional Development
- Feb 19 - Feb 23 Winter Break

(Dates are subject to change)



Nurse's Notes

Epipens: The Westford Academy Handbook states that in order for a student to participate in any field trip they must have their current Epipen paperwork on file in the Nurses' Clinic. There are no exceptions.

Freshman: Scoliosis screening is in progress. The school physician will recheck some students and then letters will be sent home to those students who are identified as needing follow-up care.

Sophomores: We are in the process of screening all students for vision and hearing. Letters will be sent home to those students requiring follow up with their doctors.

The nurses will be screening all 10th grade students for height and weight in order to calculate their BMI's. If you don't want your child to participate, please notify the clinic in writing. An e-mail is acceptable. Please call the clinic with any questions or concerns.

Massachusetts State Law requires that all 10th graders provide the clinic with a copy of a current physical, dated after August 1, 2016. Please submit your son's/daughter's physical as soon as possible.

For questions or concerns please call the clinic at 978-692-5570 x 2115. Thank you for your cooperation.

Joan Mitchell, R.N. and Kathy Bourdeau R.N.

ATTENTION SENIORS-MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

University Cap & Gown will be in the upper cafeteria on February 1st and 2nd, 2018 during all four lunches to measure seniors for their graduation gown and to take orders for seniors to purchase their cap, gown and tassel. Caps are \$5, gowns are \$11, and tassels are \$2.00 (\$18.00 total for all three.) Please make checks payable to UNIVERSITY CAP & GOWN.

From the Yearbook Advisor:

Attention Senior Parents:

The deadline to submit a tribute for your graduating senior is December 2, 2017. Gina Mustoe, Yearbook Advisor, will be at the Holiday Bazaar from 9-2:00 PM for those parents who would like to scan in older photos for this purpose. Please look at this link for more information about pricing and procedures. Thank you for your support of the Westford Academy Yearbook! Please email Gina directly with any concerns: gmustoe@westfordk12.us
http://wa.westfordk12.us/pages/WestfordWA_Activities/Yearbook/parentinfo_new.html

School Store-The Ghost Post

Starting November 30th, the school store will be open every Thursday night from 6-8:00 PM for the month of December. We will also be open during the Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 3rd from 9-2:00 PM. The store accepts cash and checks only. Please contact Christine Cournoyer with any questions, email: ccournoyer@westfordk12.us, phone# 978-692-5570 ext. 7468.



WA Ghostwriter

The WA Ghostwriter has become an Amazon affiliate! Purchase your holiday gifts through the Ghostwriter and up to 10% of your purchase will be donated to the paper. Log onto <http://waghostwriter.com> and click through the Amazon ad. Thanks for supporting the WA Ghostwriter!

For all news related to Westford Academy, please check out our website, waghostwriter.com. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and Snapchat to get updates from our newspaper staff about recent news and sports.

Westford Academy Annual Holiday Bazaar

Tis the season to be shopping! Come experience Westford Academy's 48th Annual Holiday Bazaar on December 2nd from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM! With over 200 crafters and vendors, the bazaar is filled with holiday gifts, desserts, international foods, games, homemade crafts, and fun for the whole family. It's the perfect way to start off the holiday season! Admission is just \$2 with senior citizens and children under 5 admitted free of charge, and as an entirely student run event, all proceeds benefit the Student Council. Join us at the Academy for a full day of fun!

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

(Special Education Evaluation Under Chapter 766) If you know of any child attending public or private school, or who is homeless or has left school, and could benefit from a special education evaluation under Chapter 766 or educational services under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, please contact the Special Education Department in Westford at (978-692-5560). Every effort will be made to contact the parents to advise them of their rights under these laws. Thank you for assisting us in this important matter.

GRADUATION 2018

Graduation is scheduled for:
Friday, June 1st at 5:30 PM
Westford Academy Alumni Field

There are two rain dates:
Saturday, June 2nd at 5:30 PM
Sunday, June 3rd at 2:00 PM

Senior Prom 2018

The Senior Prom is scheduled for:
Saturday, May 19th, 7-11:00 PM at
The Royal Sonesta

Junior Cotillion 2018

The Junior Cotillion is scheduled for:
Saturday, May 12th at
Kimball Farm



Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) will take place Friday, January 12, 2017 at 7:30 AM at Westford Academy. Location: Lecture Hall, Room 144. If interested, please contact Mr. Brian Doherty in the Guidance Department.

From the Westford Academy Guidance Department

Juniors and Seniors (and parents)

Just a reminder that all updates from Guidance are now only being published on the Guidance Blog. Visit us at: <http://waguidance.blogspot.com/>
Sign up to get email updates using the "Follow by Email" box on the right side.

Seniors - College Updates

Please share your college news with us! We don't receive notification from the college about the decision, so we need to hear it directly from you. Thanks!

Senior Capstone Experience

We will introduce the Senior Capstone Experience to the senior class during an Advisory block in December. We encourage all seniors to begin networking with friends and family to potentially secure a host site for the late spring experience! To learn more about the Capstone Experience, please visit the website below. If your company is interested in hosting a senior intern, please visit our School to Careers website <https://sites.google.com/a/westfordk12.us/school-to-careers/senior-capstone-project> and follow the link on the bottom to our "Site Development Form."

AP Exams

Any student who is currently taking an AP course and has not yet registered for the May 2018 AP exams is reminded that registration closes on December 1, 2017 at 11:59 PM. Complete information on registration can be found on the WA Guidance website under AP Testing. Questions with regard to AP Exams can be addressed to Mrs. Jill Karatkewicz jkaratkewicz@westfordk12.us or Mr. Brian Doherty bdoherly@westfordk12.us.

Career Exploration Breakfast - Juniors and Sophomores

The WA Guidance Department will be hosting the annual Career Exploration Breakfast on Wednesday, December 6 for junior and sophomore students. This event gives students the opportunity to select two careers of interest and spend time in a small group with a professional in that field. Speakers share their interests, educational background, and skills needed to perform their jobs. For more information please contact Mrs. Karen Halloran khalloran@westfordk12.us or Mrs. Jill Karatkewicz jkaratkewicz@westfordk12.us

College Financial Aid - Seniors and parents

Please be sure to check each college's financial aid website regarding specific deadlines to file the FAFSA and the CSS Profile. Check out our financial aid resource page under college planning.
http://wa.westfordk12.us/pages/westfordwa_guidance/finaid/Financial_Aid_Info/Financial_Aid.html

Junior Job Shadow Day

Juniors will select a site to shadow a career professional on Wednesday, May 23 as a career exploration opportunity. More information to come.

ASVAB

The ASVAB is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. The date for this assessment will be January 12 at 7:30 AM. For more information, please contact Mr. Brian Doherty bdoherly@westfordk12.us