

Wilmot Union High School WUHS TODAY

ISSUE 9 • APRIL, 2024



Mrs. Adrienne Burch English Language Arts Teacher

Letter to the Community

Wilmot is adding opportunities, so many opportunities that it is impossible to do each part justice. As you are looking at high schools, think about the qualities that your child holds. Wilmot has hope, a future, and a dawn that most don't see until the noise is pushed aside. I urge you to push aside the noise and explore Wilmot for yourself.

It's often said that it get darkest before the dawn. The best part of that saying is the hope; hope in a new day, new life, and a new tomorrow. Wilmot High School is brimming with hope and while many people are discussing our 'dark,' I

want to share our dawn. My name is Adrienne Burch, and I have been a teacher at Wilmot High School for seven years. My husband and our two girls live in the Salem Lakes, our oldest is a student at Trevor-Wilmot. When I think of her future as a Panther, one word comes to mind: *OPPORTUNITIES*.

These opportunities often get lost in the noise of our time. But I want that one thing to rise above the noise. The opportunities within Wilmot Union High School do not just benefit our students. They benefit our families, and our community.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS:

WORKING SESSION: MARCH 4TH - 4:30 PM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING:
MARCH 20TH - 6:00 PM

LOCATION: WUHS LIBRARY

CLICK HERE FOR THE 23-24
BOARD OF EDUCATION CALENDAR

CLICK HERE

TO

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

WILMOT UHS NEWSLETTER

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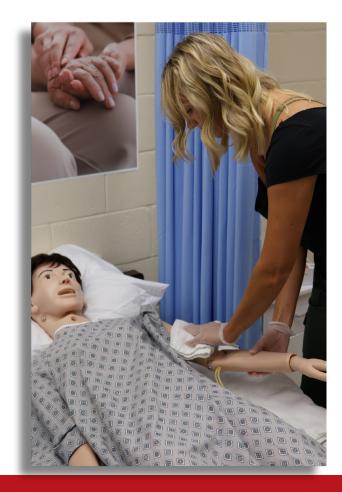
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Career & Technical Education:

Students at Wilmot have opportunities that usher them down the path of Career/Technical education and help them connect the day-to-day classroom operations to real-life skills. Beginning their first year as Panthers, students have access to over 35 Gateway Transcripted classes and can begin their high school career earning dual credit through Gateway Technical College in courses related to child care, culinary, metals, welding, drafting, automotive, electronics, and construction. These classes begin students on a path that if followed, can lead to a full certification in these programs. These are the workers that our economy and community desperately need. Just last year, we had a student who completed both his high school degree and his welding certification through this program. We have students who are graduating from Wilmot, with certifications to become CNAs, welders, and childcare providers.



Music & Theater Program

The richness of our music, theater, and choir programs has allowed our students to thrive. Just last week, our high school students performed Beauty and the Beast for over 900 students from our feeder schools. The connection between our students and the future Panthers was magical. The hopeful elementary children filled our theater, waiting with trepidation for the show to begin. As the final curtain closed, students scrambled to the front for a chance to talk to or take a picture with Belle, and other high school cast members, who became immediate role models for these young students. This magic at Wilmot is not all rooted in emotion. It is also rooted in academic challenges. Next year, our students get to turn their passion into college credit. We are beginning our first PACC (Parkside College Credit) courses in music. Students can pursue their musical passions and earn college credits while still in high school. They will walk away from Wilmot High School with a University of Wisconsin transcript and college credits. It is no wonder that this group has been nominated and won many Jerry awards, which honors high school students for their excellence in theater production. Wilmot's music and performing arts programs are truly a sight to behold.



AP & PACC Courses

That is not the only way that students can earn college credit in high school. By the time students walk across our Wilmot High School stage donning their cap and gown for graduation, they have the opportunity to complete up to 18 college credits through the University of Wisconsin system. This equates to over \$3,800.00 in savings for families per course completed and allows students to begin college ahead of their peers. This is in addition to our numerous AP classes that students can take as early as their freshman year. These AP classes are the backbone of our honors program, and instead of reducing these options, we are adding more! We have AP classes available for all grades and interest levels, and the new courses that have recently been added are AP Precalculus/Trig, AP Government and Politics. Wilmot also has the incredible bragging rights of earning a Level 3 Advanced Placement Pacesetter Award, which means at least 10% of the student population took an AP test and of that group, 60% earned a three or better. In addition to that, we had one AP class that 100% of students had a 3 or better and three other classes that had 90% or more of students earn a 3 or better. Not only do we have an incredible catalog of AP courses, but our students are incredibly successful in these classes and earning college credit for their hard work.

Introduction of Special Education

vith disabilities from children, adolescents, and young

lified class that studies students





Career & Technical Partnerships

Academics are often the main priority of a school, but if a school can't create connections with local businesses a part of a very vital community puzzle is missing. Over the past calendar year, we have begun to develop these vital relationships in an incredibly meaningful way. This school year alone we have had 28 businesses. trade unions, corporations, and military groups having lunch and all of the sharing amazing opportunities thev have students at Wilmot. We have four students in the student learner program through Scot Forge, students in Youth Apprenticeship positions at Kwik Trip and Golden Years in Lake Geneva. In addition to students aainina invaluable experience on the job, they are also earning academic credit which shows the value Wilmot places on students learning within the workforce. These workforce partnerships have truly enriched the social, moral, and academic development of our students.



Athletics

When your arm or team is raised in victory it creates a memory that is cemented in school history. Even when a team doesn't win, the camaraderie, grit, and perseverance that is built in athletics transcends the playing field. Wilmot had athletes this year that revealed the excellence within our school. Our wrestling program is bursting at the seams. Students are investing in this program and the results show. Six of our Wilmot wrestlers made it to the state championships in Madison and two of those wrestlers took their rightful place on the podium. One at fifth place and one at 1st place as a freshman. This was not the only accomplishment for Wilmot athletics. Our Boy's Volleyball team excelled their way to the regional championship along with our Boy's Baseball team. These athletes are continuing their academic careers into college with five out of seven baseball players moving into collegiate athletics. These young men and women are building lifelong skills and memories that go beyond the mat, field, and court. The largest point of pride for this team is the community members who have surrounded these students and pooled all of their skills and talents to pour into these kids. Wilmot Athletics is a testament to what can be accomplished when we all work together.



Activities

A high school experience is built by the richness of the activities that students can participate in that will launch students into their careers. Wilmot takes tremendous pride in providing countless opportunities for students outside of the classroom. The club programming at Wilmot allows students to participate in theater productions, academic competitions, entrepreneur experiences, gain experience in future career clubs, video gaming competitions, learn life-long skills such as chess or crocheting, or participate in non-traditional high school sports like shooting, bowling, or mountain biking. While many of the clubs provide tremendous opportunities to be involved at Wilmot it also provides students with the opportunity to compete at the state and national level. Within the past year, Wilmot has won a national championship (their 5th overall) in the Academic Decathlon, sent students who qualified for nationals in Skills USA, DECA (business entrepreneurs club), HOSA (health occupations club), and our Wilmot Shooting Team. In eSports, our top video gaming team finished 2nd in their state competition in Wausau, our competition cheer team qualified for state in Appleton. Other clubs provided opportunities to work directly within the community. Some of those opportunities included our Key Club holding Relay for Life, which brought the community together for a cancer walk, the club Educator's Rising spent numerous nights providing childcare for the local elementary schools during their parent/teacher conferences, and our Student Government Club holding two community blood drives each year. In the end, Wilmot is passionate about producing and supporting the passions of students both in and out of the classroom.





Dr. Michael Plourde District Administrator

PROGRESS 2024: Wilmot Union High School advances teaching and learning with standards-based instruction and grading

Very few things in education increase the volume of learning like high-quality, timely, and specific feedback. Traditional grading, the assignment of a percentage or single letter grade (A, B, C, etc.), lacks clarity for students, parents, and teachers to truly understand what students know and can do.

For example, a C- does not tell you what skills a student has gained.

There is an alternative, known as standards-based grading (SBG), that provides students with much more detailed information about their learning.

The curriculum at Wilmot UHS is aligned with the Wisconsin Academic Standards which specify what students should know and be able to do in the classroom. After years of research and a large pilot program last year, we implemented SBG during the first semester of the 2023–2024 school year. Student work is now assessed using rubrics with clearly defined performance levels ranging from beginner to advanced based on those standards.

Most primary schools have used SBG for years. While it's different than you and I experienced when we were in high school, it's actually simpler than you might think. We started by identifying the most important knowledge and skills students need to acquire in each of our classes. Next, we determined how we'll know if they've learned those things. After that, our teacher leaders created what we call "absolutes" which are the guidelines for consistency from class to class. Lastly, we adopted a new online gradebook to better communicate our students' progress with families.



Dr. Michael Plourde District Administrator

In SBG, practice doesn't count toward the final grade. In this way, we prevent grades from punishing students who take longer to learn. Cheating is far less prevalent, as students actually have to prove what they know by demonstrating it in the classroom. Students are also provided with additional opportunities to show their skills by reassessing when they want to achieve higher grades. To ensure our graduates remain competitive for

scholarships and college acceptance, we crosswalk their final standards' grades back to a letter grade in each class for grade point average purposes. These strategies are all part of our student-centered commitment to excellence.

Alicia Acosta, who teaches Geometry in Construction, Statistics, and Honors Algebra 2, explains, "We are transitioning our students to start thinking about their level of understanding for the necessary skills within each class and to stop focusing on chasing points. Our students are having conversations about how well they understand a skill or topic rather than their overall grade in the class. We have a more targeted focus on the content of the standards instead of focusing on chapters and units as whole entities. Rephrasing the conversations, learning, and grading for a standards-based classroom has given our students more ownership of their individual learning and has given them the empowerment to be an active participant in their education journey."

There have been challenges enacting SBG. Developing a common understanding of the system with over 70 faculty members is an ongoing process. Students and families have had to be taught to think of grades as communication about learning instead of compensation for work completed. Our new online gradebook is an additional software program that everyone has had to learn. Lastly, motivating some teenagers...



Dr. Michael Plourde District Administrator

...to complete practice assignments which do not count toward their grade is difficult. We often use the analogy that musicians practice all the time, but it's the actual performance during concerts that determines their success.

The same is true with SBG. Despite all of these obstacles, we are improving. SBG remains a work in progress as our teachers continue to learn and refine our practices.

We know we're not perfect, no district is, but we have a staff focused on continuous improvement.

I'm excited to be part of a district at the forefront of 21st-century schooling. Along with our robust career and technical education programs, expansive college credit course offerings fifty co-curricular sports and activities, and diverse special education programming, Wilmot UHS is a place where everyone can feel they belong.

The district's leadership and board of education believe SBG is the best way to fulfill our mission of preparing college, career, and civic ready graduates. The number of schools using SBG is growing, and we often receive questions about how to implement it from other districts. It's reassuring to know many other schools and districts want to get to where we are at now.

To learn more about SBG, visit https://www.wilmothighschool.com/

Visit the link below to go directly to the article:

Kenosha News



Rob Kreil Principal

After a year and a half of committees, meetings and conversations with students, parents, and staff, I have made the decision to switch our daily schedule to an 8-period day that includes WARP and Homeroom every day. That means there will be no more block days during the '24-'25 school year.

Thank you all for your feedback regarding how to better educate our students. More information will follow in the coming weeks with details regarding WARP/Homeroom. I look forward to working with Student Government, clubs, and staff to make this WARP/Homeroom time a success for ALL students.

Period 1	7:35	8:15
Period 2	8:20	9:00
Period 3	9:05	9:45
Homeroom WARP	9:50	10:30
Period 4	10:35	11:15
A Lunch	11:15	11:45
Period 5A	11:50	12:30
Period 5B	11:20	12:00
B Lunch	12:00	12:30
Period 6	12:35	1:15
Period 7	1:20	2:00
Period 8	2:05	2:45

SUMMER SCHOOL

From June 10–July 17, the Summer Enrichment courses will meet for the traditional six week summer school schedule. These courses will be made available to all students interested in pursuing credit acquisition. If a student misses three (3) days of summer school, teachers and administration reserve the right to drop the student from class. Three (3) tardies will equal one (1) absence. Any 9th – 12th grade student has the opportunity for credit acquisition.



WILMOT UNION HIGH SCHOOL
PROUDLY PRESENTS.

Prom 2024 A Starry Might

Saturday April 13th, 7-10pm, The Riviera Ballroom, Lake Geneva

\$35/person \$70/couple

Guest passes due April 4th

Ticket Sales April 2nd - April 5th

Purchase your tickets at lunch

Dj, Dancing, Photobooth

Assorted Pastries, Sweet Treats, and Refreshments Available

A MESSAGE FROM STUDENT SERVICES & CTE

24-25 Course Selection is Complete:

Now that all of our students have selected their classes for the 2024-25 school year, we begin the work of taking all of the selections into consideration as we create the master schedule for every student in the building.

It is important that the alternate choices are accurate. Please take time to review your student's course selections for next year one more time. You can see your student's course selection in Skyward under "Schedule," then "Course Requests."

Students have until **June 3rd** to request to make changes to their course selection.

If you have any questions and/or want to talk through your student's courses more, as always, please contact your student's counselor.





Jessica Runte School Counselor



Karl Richter School Counselor



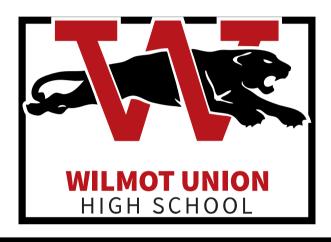
Melissa Sweatman School Counselor



Kristen Pye School Counselor

FEATURED RESOURCES

Click the WUHS logo below to visit our Annual Notices page for important information including Title I, Title IX, Policies, Educational Options, and more...





Don't miss out!
Click the logo and
follow our page
for daily updates!

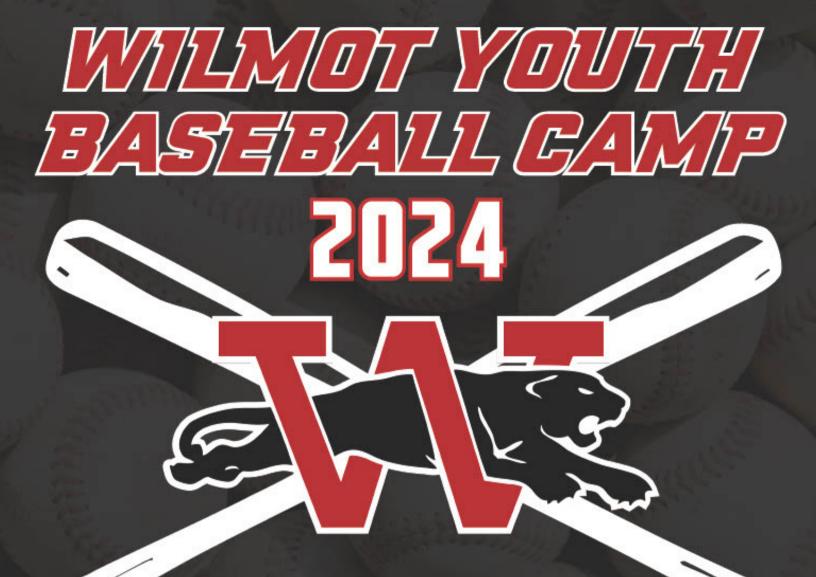




April 2 is Election Day!

Head to My Vote Wisconsin to register and locate your polling place!





When: Saturday, April 6th 2024

Session 1: 9:00am - 11:00am (3rd - 5th graders) Session 2: 12:00pm - 2:00pm (6th - 8th graders)

Where: WUHS Field House & Maki Gym

Cost: \$30/Player - free t-shirt included!!! *Additional \$2.00 Registration Fee (online registration only)

Contact Info: richterk@wilmoths.k12.wi.us Register using the QR code



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

BECOME A FITNESS CENTER MEMBER TODAY!







<u>Membership Pricing</u>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Non-Resident</u>
Family Membership	\$180	\$280
Individual Membership	\$100	\$200
Individual 6 month Membership	\$60	\$120
Individual Quarterly Membership	\$35	\$70
College Student Membership	\$35	\$35
Wilmot UHS & Feeder School Retiree Membership	\$35	\$35
45 minute classes- 8 classes	\$45	\$45
60 minute classes- 8 classes	\$55	\$55
Drop in fee	\$8	\$8



WILMOT UNION HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY OUTREACH

WANT YOU! To Get (nvolved)!

Do you have knowledge, talents, or passions that you would like to share with others? Do you have a great idea for a class you would like to teach?

Consider teaching a Community Outreach class!

Contact Erika Hering at heringe@wilmoths.k12.wi.us for more information

We strive to offer a wide variety of programs to promote community engagement and lifelong learning for community members. Offerings in adult enrichment have included classes in fitness, the arts, photography, cooking and more. If you have an idea for a class we'd love to hear from you!



Spring Fitness Classes are in full swing! All you need is \$8 cash or check.

Get your day off to a great start with **Total Body**:

Thursdays: 5:30 AM – 6:30 AM

& Saturdays: 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM.

Monday evenings is our **Spin/Cycling** class: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

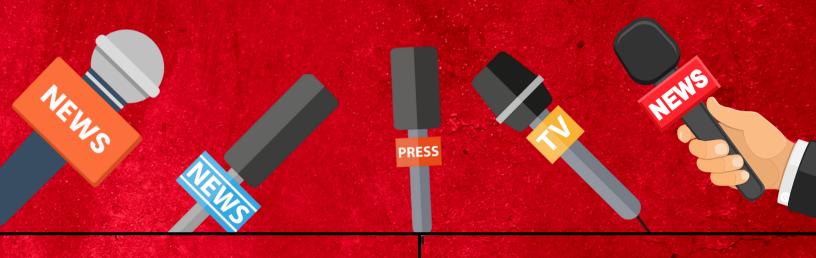
Check-in for all classes at the Fitness Center front desk.
Classes run each Monday, Thursday & Saturday
through the first week of May.







Panther News



THE PAW



Scan the QR code to visit our online store!



PAW PRINTS



Order your 2024 Graduate yard signs and megaheads by clicking the link above.

We will begin taking orders Tuesday, April 2nd.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR APRIL EVENTS:

Tuesday, April 2nd: Spring Election

Wednesday, April 3rd – April 9th: National School Librarians Week

> Wednesday, April 10th: Regular Board Meeting

Saturday, April 13th: 7:00pm-11:00pm Prom

Monday, April 22nd: Regular Board Meeting – New Board Member Swear-In

> Friday, April 26th: 11:00am-3:00pm Gateway Student Meetings

WILMOT UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Board of Education - Calendar:

https://www.wilmothighschool.com/BOE%20CALENDAR% 202023%202024.pdf

Newsletter Email List:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/IFAlpQLSfP6W4NQC zyg4OdRT60MXWjPrSOXiCwcxyrt8CT2MNl4mgU0A/viewfo rm

Kenosha News:

https://kenoshanews.com/news/local/progress-2024-wilmot-union-high-school-advances-teaching-and-learning-with-standards-based-instruction-and/article_5beee762-c6a5-1lee-993c-7f9902637ecb.html

Wilmot Youth Baseball Camp Registration:

https://l.facebook.com/l.php? u=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fforms%2Fd%2Fe %2F1FAlpQLSexk-

zaXGwoiTT6fLbsuKpEJgmiWxpBNddW_tonA4MdU6nuqw%2 Fviewform%3Fpli%3D1%26fbclid%3DlwAR0EGW_3XfT3E3SK OVa2LZIDNPuBYNXTk3qkzJcExiHqi0tvNq Z-

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RQ8XfIJnnL0nuBUxHqTcjt4cYw0RdIMDWXmITy4r9bkNk

Summer School Registration Form:

https://www.wilmothighschool.com/Summer%20School%20Registration%202024.pdf

Wilmot - Annual Notices:

https://www.wilmothighschool.com/about/annual_notices.cfm

My Vote Wisconsin:

https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/wilmotuhs

<u>Instagram:</u>

https://www.instagram.com/wilmotuhs/

X (Twitter):

https://twitter.com/wilmotuhs

Fitness Center Membership:

https://www.wilmothighschool.com/about/fitness_center.cfm

Panther News:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist? list=PLW9QGjlYZw6Qf3_WugWzdNdJW_2bjROw0

The PAW:

https://www.wilmothighschool.com/about/the_paw.cfm

Community Outreach Registration:

https://wilmothighschool.cr3.rschooltoday.com/public/home/

Additional Resources:

Athletics Calendar:

https://southernlakesconference.org/public/genie/86/school/1/

School Calendar:

https://www.wilmothighschool.com/about/calendars.cfm

WUHS Newsletter:

https://www.wilmothighschool.com/wilmot-updates.cfm















