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December 22, 2020

Thank You to Our District eNews Sponsor:





Holiday Message from Dr. Cain

Dr. Cain shares a [heartfelt message](#), wishing everyone a joyful break that hopefully includes time to rest and rejuvenate following a challenging year. We look forward to welcoming all in-person students back on January 4, following the break. As a reminder, Monday, January 4 is no longer a Late Start, but will be a regular school day.

"We are encouraged by news of the vaccine and we are working with the St. Charles County Department of Public Health as to the details of when and where the vaccine will be available for staff and families," said Dr. Cain. "In the meantime, the plan for January includes continuing to monitor conditions in our community and our schools. If staffing becomes an issue at a particular school, that school may need to move levels for a period of time. We will all need to remain flexible as we navigate our way out of this pandemic. Please continue to engage in the universal precautions and keep your gatherings small to protect yourself and others. May the New Year bring us hope, health, happiness and more students back to in-person learning. Happy Holidays everyone!"



Wentzville School District Selects Constance Hallemeier as WSD Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Mrs. Constance Hallemeier for being named the 2020-2021 Wentzville School District Teacher of the Year, sponsored by District marketing partner Allstate Insurance agent John Larson. The announcement was made at the December 17 Board of Education Meeting where all building Teachers of the Year were recognized. This is the second time in Mrs. Hallemeier's career that she has been named District Teacher of the Year. She previously held the honor in 2006-2007.

[Read More](#)



Two WSD Educators Selected as Finalists for Presidential Teaching Award

Congratulations to Amy Bielke and Rebekah Messick for their selection as Finalists for the 2020 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). The award is the highest recognition that a K-12 mathematics or science teacher can receive for outstanding teaching in the United States.

[Read More](#)



WSD Principal Named Exemplary New Principal

Dr. Megan Sutton, Principal at Heritage Primary, has been named Exemplary New Principal by the St. Louis Suburban Elementary Principals Association. This is Sutton's second year as a principal at Heritage. Previously, she served as an assistant principal in the WSD at Crossroads Elementary and taught kindergarten prior to that at Heritage for 10 years. Sutton was named Teacher of the Year at Heritage in 2015-2016.

"(Dr. Sutton) is a consummate professional who does what is best for her students and staff every single day," said Heritage Intermediate Principal Dr. Jodi Oliver in her nomination letter. "She is such a great model for all principals. She is passionate about her job and has very high expectations, but she has a lot of fun along the way while asking everyone to work hard and also models hard work. Throughout this pandemic, Dr. Sutton has shown positivity, realism, and has shown she will stick through tough times with her staff. Not only is Dr. Sutton kind, knowledgeable, positive, and fun, she also just flat out loves her school and everyone knows it!"



Timberland High School Students Elected as Presiding Officers at Youth and Government Conference

The Wentzville School District is proud to announce that three Timberland High School students have been elected as Presiding Officers after their participation in the 72nd annual Youth and Government Conference held virtually December 2-5. Junior Lucas Lowry was elected Youth Governor, junior Nora Pryor was elected Lieutenant Governor, and junior Kamden Hill was elected Speaker of the House. Students will develop these positions throughout the year, culminating as they serve as Presiding Officers at the 2021 Youth and Government (YAG) Clark Convention.

Noteworthy performances were made by Senior Abby McCallum and junior Kamden Hill who were each named Outstanding Statesperson due to their well thought out speeches and ability to speak strongly both for and against bills and ask informed questions. Freshman Daniel Wilson's bill, entitled "An Act to Ensure Salary Equality in Missouri," was named Outstanding Bill.

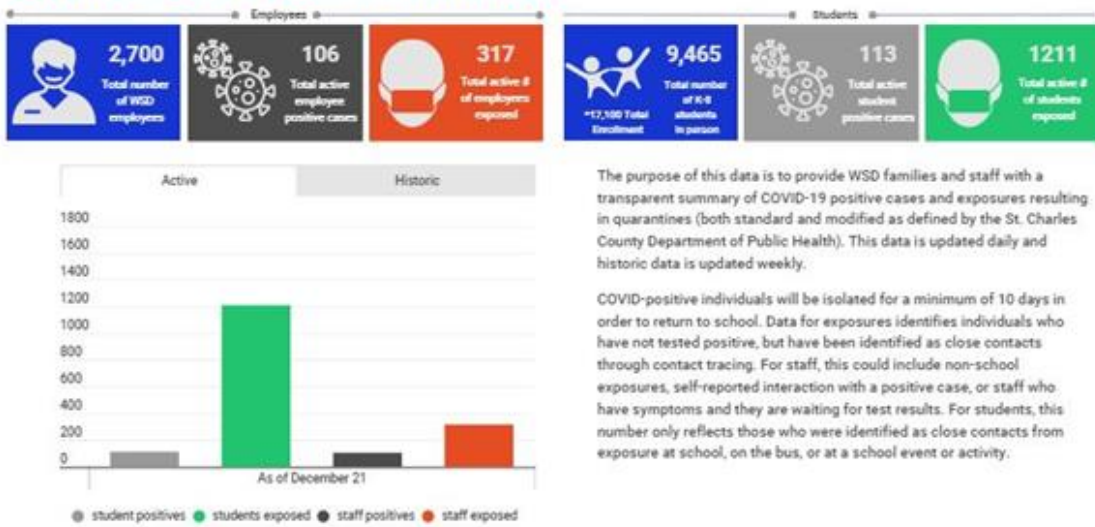
[Read More](#) 

COVID-19 Updates

The WSD is committed to the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. The [COVID UPDATES page](#) on the WSD website has information related to the pandemic in our District and our community and it is updated regularly. Please note the number of staff quarantines include non-school exposures, but the number of student quarantines are only those who were exposed at school.

Recently, the St. Charles County Department of Public Health released updated guidelines for modified quarantines in schools. [Here is the message](#) that was sent to all WSD families.

COVID Dashboard - Conditions in the WSD



The purpose of this data is to provide WSD families and staff with a transparent summary of COVID-19 positive cases and exposures resulting in quarantines (both standard and modified as defined by the St. Charles County Department of Public Health). This data is updated daily and historic data is updated weekly.

COVID-positive individuals will be isolated for a minimum of 10 days in order to return to school. Data for exposures identifies individuals who have not tested positive, but have been identified as close contacts through contact tracing. For staff, this could include non-school exposures, self-reported interaction with a positive case, or staff who have symptoms and they are waiting for test results. For students, this number only reflects those who were identified as close contacts from exposure at school, on the bus, or at a school event or activity.

Friendly Reminders

December 23 - January 3

No Classes - Winter Break

January 14

Early Release for Grades 9-12

January 15

Early Release K-12, Last day of First Semester

January 18-19

No School



WSD Students Recognized as Athletes of the Month

The WSD/Lou Fusz Student-Athlete of the Month aims to recognize varsity student-athletes for their achievements in the classroom, commitment, sportsmanship, and teamwork. These student-athletes were honored for their performances during December 2020. For the full write-ups on these students, visit the [WSD Marketing Webpage](#).



WSD Providing Free Meals with Covid Funds

The District continues to provide free meals for all students through June 30, or until available federal funding runs out. The meals are being provided regardless of eligibility as a result of the extension of waivers by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) related to the Seamless Summer Option program. This includes children ages 1-18 who reside in the Wentzville School District boundaries but are not enrolled in a WSD school.

[Read More](#)





Ethan Dunsworth



WSD Nominee
for the MSBA John T. Belcher Scholarship



Holt High School Senior Selected as Nominee for John T. Belcher Scholarship

Holt senior Ethan Dunsworth has been selected by the WSD Board of Education as the District nominee for the John T. Belcher Scholarship. The Missouri School Board Association (MSBA) and Future Builders established the statewide scholarship program in the memory of Mr. Belcher who was instrumental in developing innovative financing programs for Missouri school districts. "The learning environment for thousands of Missouri's public school students was improved as a result of his work," says the scholarship description. "Though Mr. Belcher lost his battle with cancer in 1989, his courage was an inspiration to all who knew him."

As the District nominee, Dunsworth now has the opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship, which is awarded to a student in each of MSBA's 17 regions. Following the selection of regional winners, a statewide winner is chosen and will receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. Applicants are judged on the basis of academic performance, extracurricular activities and the quality of an essay.

[Read More](#)





Wentzville School District Students Celebrate Computer Science Week and Hour of Code

Students across the District joined millions of other K-12 students learning computer code as part of Computer Science Education Week (December 7-11). "Hour of Code" is a global campaign designed to get students interested in computer science – the skill that programs our modern world.

Hour of Code offers web-based lessons in computer coding that are aimed at every age group. Schools held Hour of Code sessions, and some classes took

advantage of the popularity of the video games like “Minecraft” to teach coding by having elementary students code characters in these games to dance or perform other tasks. Students used Chromebooks, iPads, and Spheros to complete programming activities and some learned to code their own video game.

[Read More](#)

SAT vs. ACT Testing

WSD College and Career Counselors would like to remind families that every college in the US accepts both the SAT and ACT for admissions. One is not preferable to the other, it is entirely your choice which test you take. If nearby ACT test centers are full, consider taking an SAT. The cost is about the same and WSD high schools have reported many unused seats within the District.

Upcoming testing dates and registration deadlines are as follows:

SAT (LHS) - March 13

Registration deadline - February 12

ACT (THS or HHS) - February 6
Registration deadline - January 8

Learn more about test prep resources, fee waivers and links to registration [here](#).



WSD Technology Launches The Question Project

The WSD Technology Department has launched "The Question Project," an online video forum that encourages its viewers to stay curious and ask questions about what makes us happy, healthy, awesome humans. New videos are released bi-weekly to students of the WSD, but are also wonderful resources for our parents and staff members. Take a look at the [latest episode](#) of the series for tips on staying focused in a world of distractions.



WSD Holiday Assistance Program Wraps Up

THANK YOU WSD COMMUNITY! Each year in December, the WSD Holiday Assistance Program helps to provide gifts for students whose families are in need. This year, over 350 families and nearly 1,000 WSD students received gifts in the coordinated effort. Some schools participated in the District's traditional "Adopt-a-Family" program while others partnered with area churches to hold "Christmas Shops" for WSD families. In addition, the District's Communications & Community Relations Department and school counselors work with Saints Joachim & Ann Care Services and Love in the Name of Christ (LINC) to coordinate efforts and ensure there is no overlap of services in order to extend resources and reach the most possible families who need assistance.

The Wentzville School District would like to extend special thanks to the following for their contributions in the holiday effort to assist District families:

Morning Star Church
Wentzville United Methodist Church
Calvary Church
The Way Church
Bridge Church
Wentzville NEA
Love in The Name of Christ (LINC)
Saints Joachim & Ann Care Services
Lake Saint Louis Ambassadors
Wentzville Fire Protection District

All of our countless student groups who adopted families too!

Additionally, we would like to thank our school counselors for the many hours they invest in this program each year, as well as all the WSD employees, families and

individuals whose kindness and generosity make this all possible!

100 Days of Hope



September 22 marked 100 days left in 2020, so we kicked off "100 Days of Hope" and invited staff, students, families and our community to join us in our #hopehandoff as we spread hope, positivity, gratitude, inspiration and more to our #WSDfamily. What will you do to spread hope?

**SAY
GOODBYE TO
2020
HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2021!**



**NYE Family
Friendly
Event**

**Thursday, Dec. 31
8PM - 12AM**

Admission includes:

- 4 hours of All You Can Play Laser Tag, Go Karts, Trampolines, Bumper Cars, Mini Bowling & Laser Maze
- Food & Drink
- \$5 Game Card
- Countdown, Balloon Drop & Toast
- Hats & Noisemakers
- Desserts

Pricing:

**Purchase
tickets online
NOW!**

kjfun.com/newyears

In advance
\$34.99
+ tax
per person

**Ages 2
& under
FREE**
do not receive a
Game Card or socks

At the door
\$39.99
+ tax
per person

www.KJFUN.com | 636-447-5656 | 4105 N. Cloverleaf Dr., St. Peters, MO 63376



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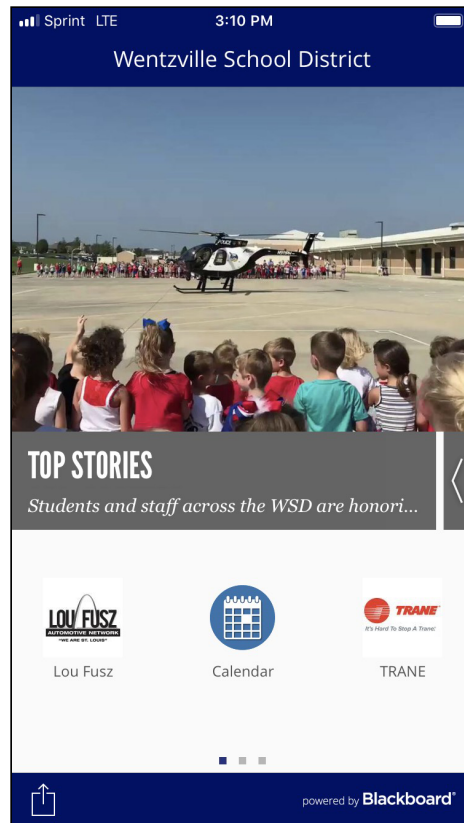




Have You Downloaded the WSD App?

Are you new to the WSD? Be sure to download the app to have important information right at your fingertips. The app is available for both android devices and iPhones. On the app, you can:

- View news stories
- View calendar info
- View lunch menus
- Access school and staff info
- Receive important alerts
- View sports scores
- Locate Directory Information



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