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December 23, 2019

Thank You to Our District eNews Sponsor:



Dr. Cain Holiday Message



[A special Happy Holidays message](#) from Dr. Cain and everyone in the WSD. Wishing you a wonderful New Year as well!

2019-20 District Teacher of the Year Announced



Amanda Buhr, a seventh grade science teacher at South Middle School, has been selected as the 2019-2020 Wentzville School District Teacher of the Year. This year's winner is presented by WSD marketing partner Allstate agent John Larson. Candidates are judged on their ability to inspire and educate students of all backgrounds and abilities, as well as their ability to lead and inspire their colleagues. The surprise announcement was made during the Board of Education meeting on December 19. Mrs. Buhr, who is a graduate of Holt High School, has worked for the Wentzville School District at South Middle School since 2012. "I am so honored to be the WSD Teacher of the Year," shared Buhr following the announcement. "I can honestly say that I am surrounded by the most loving and talented people who make me want to be the best version of myself for our kids every single day. I'm thankful for the amazing education I received as a student in

the WSD and I hope to give all of my students the same wonderful experience!"

As the winner of the District Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Buhr is now eligible to compete at the regional and state level in the Missouri Teacher of the Year program, which is conducted annually by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in conjunction with the National Teacher of the Year program.



Board Votes Unanimously to Place Two Props on April Ballot



The Board of Education has voted unanimously to place two propositions on the April 7, 2020 ballot to accommodate the continued growth of the District, as well as the need for additional staff and wage increases to close the growing gap between the WSD and neighboring districts.

The first proposition will be a \$105 million no-tax-increase bond issue to build a new middle school on the same site where the District is currently building a fourth high school, to expand and renovate the District's three existing middle schools, to address maintenance issues at existing buildings and to purchase items or systems related to school safety.

The second proposition is a \$0.49 tax levy to address staffing needs; providing additional positions across the District to support students, improve salaries to help close the gap with neighboring districts and make the WSD competitive in an effort to attract and retain talented staff, and to also ensure the District stays up to date with the latest tools to ensure staff and student safety.

The WSD continues to be the fastest growing school district in the state and the latest demographic study suggests the District will add another 5,000 students over the next decade. "The community has supported our efforts to address the growth for many years," said Superintendent Dr. Curtis Cain. "While we absolutely need to continue to build classroom space, we also need to address the gaps we have in terms of the number of staff members who are supporting students as well as the compensation we provide for those staff members who continue to do more with less as a result of our growth."

There has not been an increase to the operating levy for salaries and staffing since 2004. "We have done as much as we can with the resources we have at our disposal," said Dr. Cain. "We have reached the point of where it is no longer working and the growing gap between us and other districts is problematic."

Watch the District website for additional information about both propositions beginning in January.

New Boundaries Approved for the WSD



The Wentzville School District Board of Education has approved new boundaries for all elementary, middle and high schools in the District to accommodate continued growth and a new elementary school and new high school under construction. The new schools were part of Proposition E, a \$125 million no-tax-increase bond issue passed by voters in April 2018. The [new elementary boundaries](#) will go into effect for the 2020-2021 school year when the new elementary

school being built on Interstate Drive in Wentzville is scheduled to open. The [new middle school](#) and [high school boundaries](#) will go into effect beginning in the 2021-2022 school year when the new high school being built near West Meyer Road and North Point Prairie Road in Wentzville is scheduled to open.

The new boundaries were proposed by a Boundary Committee comprised of parents, community members, staff members and a Board member who met five times from May through November to develop the new attendance areas. The process also included an online survey and three community forums where the public was invited to provide feedback. The Boundary Committee considered current and projected enrollment numbers, birth data, free and reduced meal populations, transportation and existing feeder patterns when formulating the new attendance areas. “Everyone involved in this process appreciates how very personal and significant this change is for some students and families,” said Chief Communications Officer Mary LaPak. “We respect that, and we are confident that our caring staff will ensure a smooth transition for affected students and their families.”

The WSD continues to be the fastest growing school district in the state. The District has added, on average, nearly 600 students each year since 2001. This past year, enrollment increased from 16,789 students to 17,335 – an increase of 546 students. “Each WSD school is exceptional,” said Superintendent Dr. Curtis Cain. “At the end of the day, all WSD students will be in a school where the bar is set high and where our phenomenal educators will ensure every child has the tools they need to be successful.” [Visit the WSD website](#) to view the new school attendance areas.

WSD Senior Selected as Nominee for John T. Belcher Scholarship

Holt senior Cora Sverdrup has been selected by the WSD Board of Education as the District nominee for the John T. Belcher Scholarship. The Missouri School



Board Association 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. As the District nominee, Sverdrup 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.

Sverdrup has a 4.38 GPA, scored a 32 on the ACT, and is ranked seventh in her class. She is taking three Advanced Placement courses this year. Sverdrup is the historian

of National Honor Society and is a Link Crew leader. She is a four-year varsity tennis athlete, two-year varsity track athlete, and is on the Scholar Bowl team. Sverdrup is a section leader (tenor saxophone) in the Holt marching and jazz bands, and was chosen as the band president this year. She hopes to study cognitive science at a four-year university following graduation. [Read the full article](#) on the WSD Website.

Read More



New Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Announced



The WSD Board of Education has approved the hiring of Dr. Jeri LaBrot as Assistant Superintendent of Student Services for the 2020-2021 school year. She is replacing Ms. Cheri Thurman who is retiring after 34 years in the WSD and 45 years in education.

Dr. LaBrot is currently the Principal at Frontier Middle School, where she has been since 2016. Prior to that, she was the Assistant Principal at North High in the Fort Zumwalt School District, and she taught Spanish at West High for six years prior to that. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Mississippi State University, a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from

Lindenwood University, and an Educational Leadership Doctorate from Maryville University.

“During the last four years at Frontier Middle, I have focused on student achievement, instructional leadership, professional development, community outreach, positive student programming, special education services, and school climate. In having a wide array of experiences, I realize how important all facets of a district’s operations truly are, and I am dedicated to devoting the time and energy necessary to provide a phenomenal educational experience for each of our students in the Wentzville School District,” said Dr. LaBrot. “As the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, I look forward to building upon the traditions of the department, upholding the expectation of excellence the WSD is known for, fostering relationships among all stakeholders, and being an approachable and available resource for all students, staff, and families.”

Dr. LaBrot is a native of Missouri and lives with her husband and four children in Lake Saint Louis.

Kara Welty Named New Boone Trail Elementary Principal



The Board of Education has approved the hiring of Ms. Kara Welty as Principal of Boone Trail Elementary for the 2020-2021 school year. Welty, who is currently serving as Assistant Principal at Rockwood South Middle School in the Rockwood School District, replaces Michelle Cleve, who announced her resignation last month. Prior to becoming an administrator, Welty was a teacher mentor and technology coach in the Independence School District, taught sixth grade in the City of St. Charles School District, and taught first grade in the Fort Zumwalt School District.

Welty has her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Fontbonne University, her master’s degree in Educational Administration from Lindenwood University, and she is currently working on her doctorate in Educational Leadership through Maryville University. She has worked in education since 2012 and was the recipient of the Missouri Beginning Teacher

Award in 2013 and the METC Spotlight Educator Award in 2017.

"It is a dream come true to join the Boone Trail Elementary and Wentzville team," shared Welty. "I am filled with joy and gratitude! I look forward to having the opportunity to continue unlocking student potential, while bringing out the excellence in every student and staff member."

WSD Kindergarten Registration Dates Set



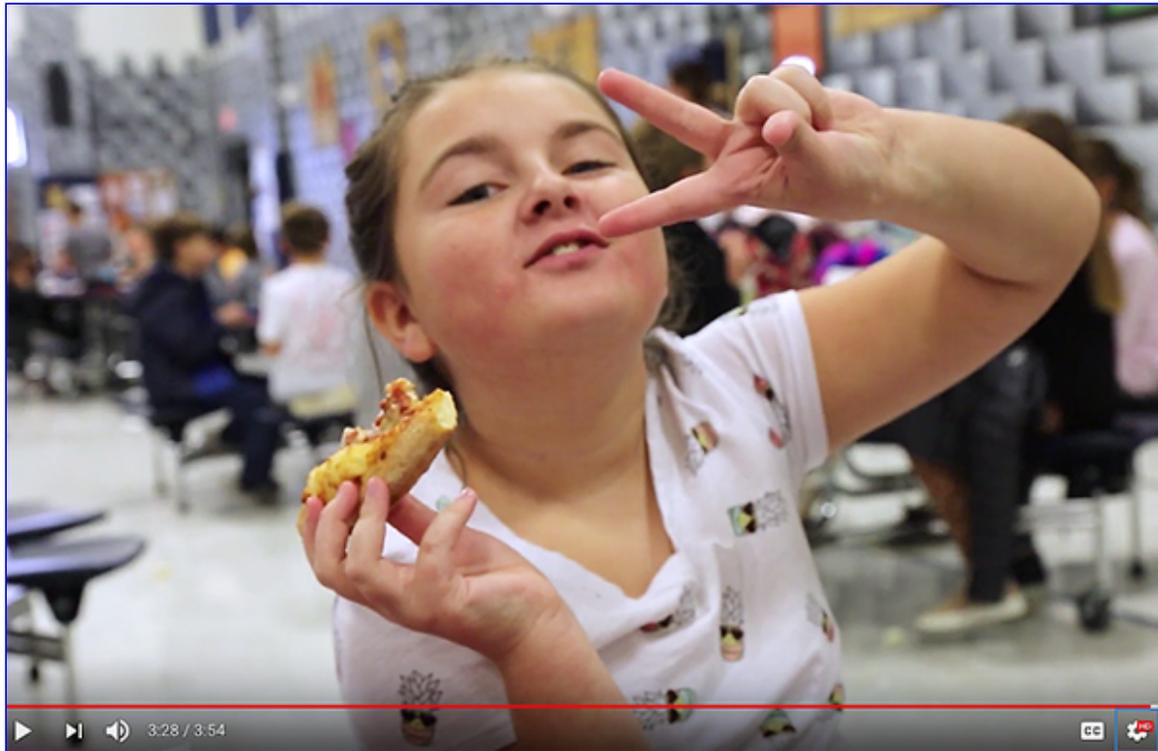
Dates have been set for the Wentzville School District's kindergarten registration/screening process. This event is for all children who will turn five **before** August 1, 2020. If your child has not been screened at the Parents as Teachers office or his/her preschool this year, appointments are required and can be made [online](#) starting December 20, 2019. Screening appointments are filled on a first come, first served

basis. While every effort will be made to accommodate you during your child's elementary school date, it is a possibility that you may have to have a screening on another elementary school's date. Please be sure to check your address with the [District's Boundary Locator](#) to determine which school your child will attend prior to scheduling a screening appointment or registering your child for kindergarten. The District has approved new elementary boundaries for the 2020-2021 school year.

All registration/screenings will take place at the Parents as Teachers Office at One Campus Drive, Wentzville, MO 63385. If your child has already been screened, you will still need to register your child for kindergarten on their school's registration date at the Parents as Teachers Office. However, you will not need to schedule a time to register, as it is only necessary to schedule screening appointments. Registration is open from 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 4:00-6:00 p.m.

For the full schedule of registration dates and a list of the information you will need to bring with you, please [visit the WSD website](#).

Lunch Heroes Video



WSD Child Nutrition Services is committed to serving students well-balanced, delicious meals in an environment that is both fun and relaxing so they are well equipped to learn and grow. Schools across the District have "Lunch Hero" accounts to help families who are struggling to pay for school breakfast and lunch.

To learn how you, your organization or business, can donate to these lunch accounts, please call our Child Nutrition office at 636-327-3858 ext. 21321 or email [Gwen Doyle](mailto:Gwen.Doyle@wdschools.org).

Donation checks can be mailed to:

Child Nutrition Services
School Lunch Heroes
101 Support Service Dr.
Wentzville, MO 63385

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 360 families and 1,003 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 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)
Lear Corporation
Air Evac Lifeteam
Allianz
Saints Joachim & Ann Care Services
Wentzville Walmart
Lake Saint Louis Ambassadors
Western St. Charles County Chamber of Commerce

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!

Timberland Senior Named to All-State Band



Lily Fisher, a senior at Timberland, has been selected as tenth in the state on clarinet in the Missouri All-State Band. On December 7, over 1,400 students from across Missouri met at Hickman High School in Columbia, MO, to audition for the honor of participating in the top honor band in the state. Only 108 students are accepted into the All-State Band.

Fischer has been preparing for this moment since her freshman year of high school and plans to study political science and international relations at Truman State University following graduation. The All-State Band will meet, rehearse, and perform at the Missouri Music Educators Association Conference on January 25, 2020, at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach,

Missouri. The conductor and clinician for the 2019-2020 Missouri All-State Band is Dr. Kevin Sedatole, Director of Bands, Professor of Music, and Chair of the Conducting Area at the Michigan State University College of Music.

Girl Scout Gold Award

A very select few young women achieve the Girl Scout Gold Award, doing so by demonstrating extraordinary leadership in their community through the completion of service projects. Madison Stumpf, a graduate of Liberty High School, has recently earned the Gold Award for her work to benefit those with autism. After doing extensive research on the subject, Stumpf constructed seven sensory boards for the Autism Department at Neuwoehner High School (Special School District). Thanks to her efforts, Neuwoehner



now has the resources to meet the needs of their students. Stumpf also produced and uploaded a video to YouTube about Autism and the importance of sensory boards. Stumpf's philanthropic legacy will be continued as Neuwoehner High

School has committed to ensuring the longevity of the boards. Stumpf was recognized with other Gold Award Girl Scouts during a special ceremony at Lindenwood University this past June. Stumpf and young leaders like here are making a difference and creating a brighter future for us all!

Barfield Polar Express Video



The tradition of the Polar Express has continued for nearly a decade now at the Barfield Early Childhood Special Education Center (and at Quail Ridge Early Childhood Center before the move), thanks to Principal Kevin Garcia and his helpful elves. Students had an opportunity to board the Polar Express, and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies while Mr. Garcia read "The Polar Express" to them—complete with train sound effects. Then Santa Claus made a surprise visit to find out what they all wanted for Christmas. To top it all off, our littlest students got to marvel at a very special Lionel Polar Express train display set up by Garcia (who's a train aficionado) and his helpers. Garcia's gift to his students each year reminds us all of the magic of the holidays and the value of remaining young at heart. [Watch this video](#) to see all the joy and excitement!

WSD Board of Education Has Open Seats in April 7 Election

The Wentzville School District Board of Education will have three open seats in the April 7, 2020 election. Each Board position is a three-year term. Filing opened on December 17 and closes Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Qualified applicants must file in person during business hours at the Wentzville School District's Administrative Center, 280 Interstate Drive, Wentzville, MO. For more information about running for the WSD Board of Education, [visit the District website](#), or contact Kaci Gross at 327-3800, ext. 20323. #GrowingTogether



WSD Board Meeting Report



The Board of Education meeting on December 19 featured the announcement of the 2019-20 District Teacher of the Year, the hiring of new personnel, a report on the Community Survey, adoption of new elementary boundaries for the 2020-21 school year, approval of a bond issue and tax levy to be placed on the April 7, 2020 ballot, and other District business.

[Board Meeting Reports](#) can be found on the District website under About Our District/Board of Education.



Dates to Remember

December 23, 2019 - January 3, 2020

Winter Break
No Classes

January 6, 2020

Classes Resume

January 13

Late Start Day
Grades K-12

January 16, 7:00 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting
Administrative Center

January 17

Professional Development Day
No Classes

January 20

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
No Classes

January 27

Late Start Day
Grades K-12

February 10

Late Start Day
Grades K-12

February 14

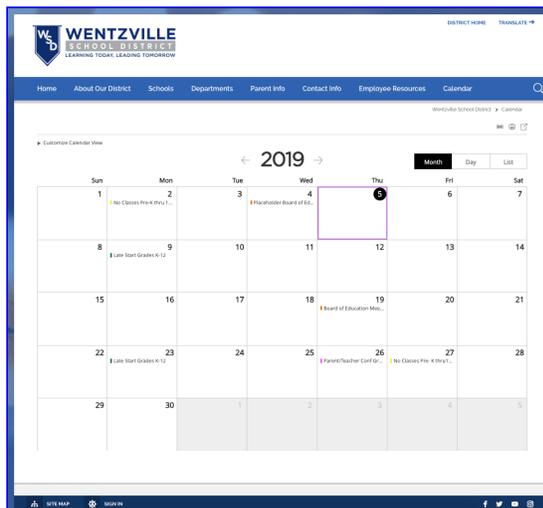
Professional Development Day
No Classes

February 17

Presidents Day
No Classes

February 20, 7:00 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting
Administrative Center





Connect with the WSD





52% OF PARENTS SAY THEY SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ON THEIR DEVICES.

47% OF STUDENTS SAY THEY SPEND THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF TIME ON THEIR DEVICES.



Tech Tip from WSD Technology Department – Screen Time Data

Check out Common Sense Media’s video that showcases data from their latest report on “insights into families’ digital media use across regions and cultures.”

For families, devices are a near-constant in everyday life. This report explores how using mobile devices has changed families’ daily routines. For the first time, parents and teens reveal their habits around screens and sleep—from where they keep phones at night to how often digital notifications wake them up. [Watch the short video](#) on YouTube. To see [the full report on data usage](#) from Common Sense Media, visit their website.

WSD Staff Earn Doctorates



Three WSD administrators and a teacher earned their Doctorate of Education earlier this month, demonstrating their commitment to being life-long learners. Congratulations to Liberty Principal Ed Nelson, Heritage Principal Megan Sutton and Timberland PE teacher and coach Colin Hannah who received their doctorates from Maryville University, as well as Crossroads Principal Damian Fay, who received his doctorate from Lindenwood University. Thank you for setting a wonderful example for students.

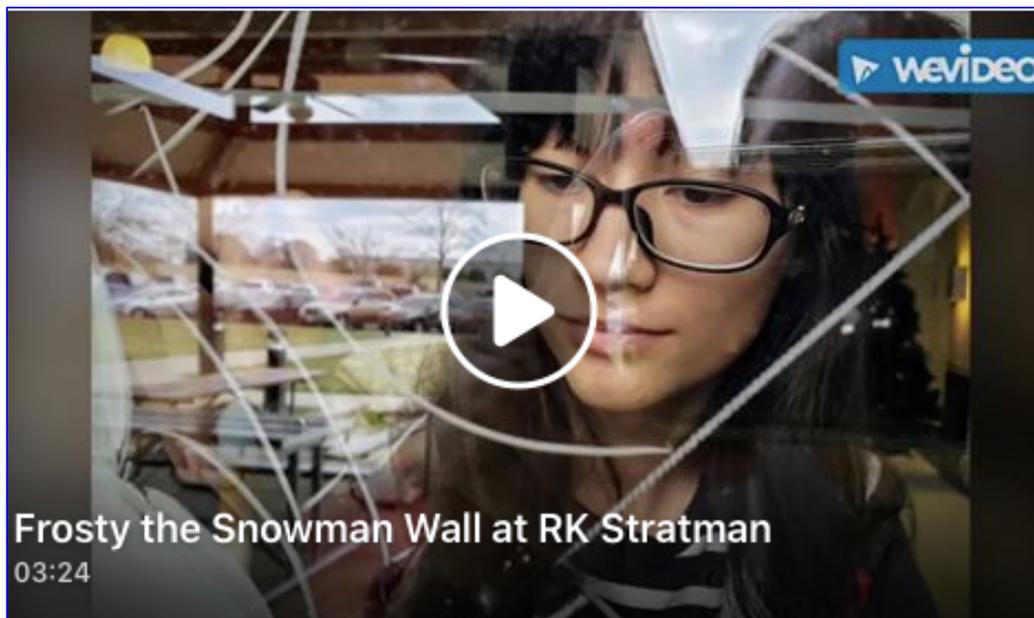
Liberty Student Earns Eagle Scout Ranking

Adam Steiner, senior at Liberty, and longtime member of the Boy Scouts of America, was awarded his Eagle Scout ranking on November 9. Only 4% of all scouts soar this high, but Steiner did. A member of Troop 968, his Scout career began in the first grade as a Tiger Cub Scout. Since then, he not only attained all the required merit badges for Eagle, but also an additional 38 badges, including Disabilities Awareness. His Eagle Project was a 12” x 16” pavilion that was built at the Tree House of Greater St. Louis (formerly known as Therapeutic

Horsemanship). Their mission is to improve lives of individuals with disabilities and their families, an extensive project that required 188 labor hours to complete. "I chose this project because of the unique and welcoming place that the Tree House of Greater St. Louis offers for individuals with disabilities and their families. It's a place where they can tackle mental and physical challenges and express their spirit in a peaceful and natural setting. The Tree House was in great need of a Pavilion for the participants and I knew this was the project for me."



Timberland Students' Painting Project at RK Stratman



Timberland High School art students recently participated in a community painting project at RK Stratman in Wentzville. The students helped them celebrate their 50th anniversary with a Frosty's 50th anniversary-inspired window painting. The students painted an area of windows 86' long x 10' tall in 4 hours, while the Graphic Design and DECA students toured the facility learning about the design and production side of screen printing.

RK Stratman has been a huge supporter of the WSD for many years, donating to the high school art departments and sponsoring annual scholarships through the Tammy Stratman Brown Foundation, established in honor of Tammy who was a talented artist and passed away in 2004 from brain cancer. This year alone, they

have donated over \$30,000 to implement a screenprinting studio at Timberland. The students that volunteered to paint the windows came from various art classes, pulling together to learn how to create a large project on a glass in a short time frame. Timberland senior Denise Trescott created [this video](#) to document the event.



WSD/Lou Fusz Student-Athlete 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 November 2019. For the [full write-ups on these students](#), visit the WSD Marketing Webpage.

Recent Videos from the WSD

WSD Teachers of the Year



Faces of the WSD – Don Hanke, South Middle



Drive for the WSD!



Dr. Cain & Chief Frisz Message



Portrait of a WSD Learner



St. Louis Post-Dispatch Teacher of the Month Contest

[Nominate YOUR favorite teacher!](#) Teachers make lasting impressions on their students daily. These dedicated professionals go above and beyond what is required to make sure their students receive the best education possible.

Show YOUR appreciation for the tireless leadership and guidance teachers provide in and out of their classrooms every day. [Nominate a current elementary through high school-aged teacher](#) to show your appreciation!

Winning submissions will receive a \$250 gift card and be featured monthly in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and on STLtoday.com.

Amazon Smile



Did you know if you go to smile.amazon.com you can choose a charity and Amazon will donate \$0.5% of what you purchase to that charity? You still have access to everything on Amazon at the same prices, but the charity of your choice will benefit from your purchase. Some WSD school PTAs have registered on smile.amazon.com and the WSD Foundation is a registered charity too. The WSD Foundation gives teachers and high school seniors over \$30,000 annually in mini grants to support innovative teaching strategies and scholarships to seniors for college. Support your school or the WSD Foundation when do your holiday shopping and throughout the year. For the direct link to support the WSD Foundation, go to [Amazon Smile](#).



Late Start Information

The next Late Start is scheduled for Monday, January 13. The supervision for students in Grades K-6 is \$10 per child for each late start day. This is separate from our Before Care Program through Chautauqua, and only for students NOT already enrolled in the Chautauqua Before School Program.

Late starts provide valuable collaboration time for our teachers across the District and yet we understand these days can be a challenge for working parents especially. The supervision option was established to assist those parents who need it. Additional information about late start supervision for students in Grades K-6, as well as the link to pay via PayPal can be [found on the District website](#).



WSD Inclement Weather/School Closing Information

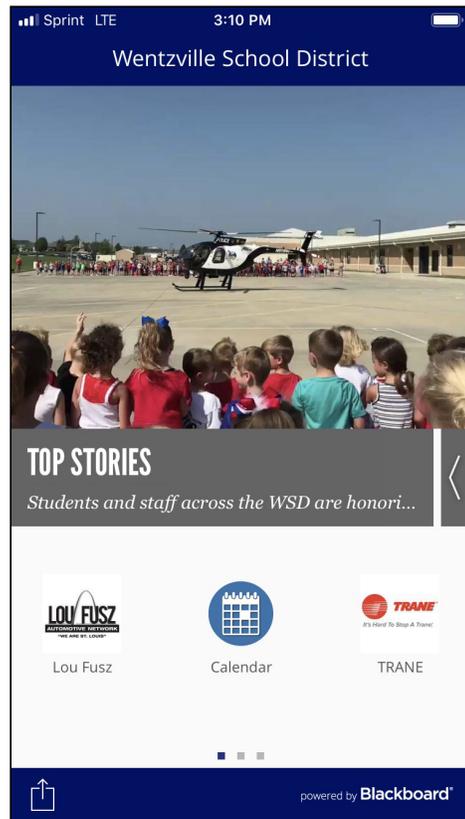
Timely communication with our District families is always a priority, but especially important in inclement weather/ emergency school closing situations. Please be sure to notify the school office about any change in your personal contact information. [Visit the WSD website](#) for complete Inclement Weather/School Closing Information.

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



[WSD NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION](#)