

BACK TO SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

August 19, 2025

All In All Year Welcome Back!



Today's decisions create tomorrow's successes!

All students will graduate from Wahkiakum High School with the tools and skills necessary to persevere in their pursuit for a successful life.

Welcome Back

As we prepare for our second year with a four day school week, the feedback received from students, staff and parents has been overwhelmingly positive. Attendance improved, fewer students failed classes, and teachers were further along in the curriculum due to the focus and hard work of students. On Fridays, we were able to offer extra tutoring, field trips, and CTE and leadership trainings, enriching the overall high school experience. Thank you for your support! Our students will continue to attend school **Monday through Thursday, from 8:00-3:30**. The school doors will open at 7:30 each morning, and breakfast will be served from 7:30-8:00. Both breakfast and lunch are free to all students. Our student leadership team selected - *ALL IN ALL YEAR - Don't count the days, make every day count!* - as this year's school wide theme. Every day does count, and we believe, with the right focus and support, all students can be successful and build a bright future. We want WHS students to know, as soon as they walk through our door, they belong and are a valued member of our MULE learning community. We hope students feel comfortable enough to be themselves, are willing to explore a variety of opportunities to find their passion, and graduate from WHS with a plan for a successful future. Staff and students are here to support and encourage each other. Thank you for choosing to be a part of our school community. Go Mules!

Freshman & New Student Orientation

We would like to invite all 9th graders and new students to **Wahkiakum High School's New Student Orientation on Thursday, August 21st from 9:00-12:15**. The WHS student leaders organize a fun-filled morning that introduces students to life at WHS. Students will have the opportunity to meet other students and staff. In addition to a variety of team building activities, students will also tour the campus and learn tips for success. Students should gather in our front entry way right outside the gym doors at 9:00 am. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a positive, enthusiastic attitude. Orientation will end with a barbeque and chromebook checkout.

Chromebooks

We would like to invite all students to come to the HS office this Thursday, August 21st anytime between 11:00 am - 3:00 pm to check out chromebooks and pick up class schedules. The [WSD Technology agreement](#) must be signed in order to check out your chromebook.



Pictures

Pictures will be on Wednesday, September 10th beginning at 1:00. In addition to pictures, Bell Studios will also create ID or ASB cards for our students at no cost. Students can purchase an ASB card for \$40.00 in the high school office. The ASB card is required to play sports and allows students to attend events free and/or at a discounted rate. If students cannot make this date, we will have retakes on October 15th beginning at 1:00.

Athletics

The first day of football is Wednesday, August 20 and volleyball, cross country and cheer begin on Monday, August 25th. Students and parents need to sign all electronic forms in Final Forms and have a current physical on file in order to be eligible for the first day of practice. Student athletes are required to purchase a 25-26 ASB card and pay a participation fee to be eligible for the first competition. ASB Cards are \$40.00 (Cash or Checks made payable to WHS) and Pay to Participate is \$60.00 (Cash or Checks made payable to WSD). These need to be paid no later than one day prior to the first game/meet. Please email Haannah or call the main office if you have any questions. 360-795-3271, hohrberg@wahksd.k12.wa.us

Schedules

You will find student schedules on Skyward. To help the first few days of school go smoothly, all schedule changes should be made **before** school begins. Please take a moment and together look over your student's schedule. Make sure all classes are correct and in line with graduation requirements and academic goals. If there are any errors or you have questions Mrs. Leitz is available to help with schedule changes or email Haannah with requests. Due to class sizes, all requests cannot always be accommodated. Thank you for understanding.

All schedule changes need to be completed by August 22nd.

Advisory & Mule Success

Our high school students start each day with Mule Success. This allows students time to prepare for the day and gain a better understanding of graduation requirements, senior portfolios/projects and post high school options. This class is called College/Career Ready and it is worth .5 credits each year and recorded on student transcripts. It is important for students to do this work to ensure they have a solid post-secondary high school plan.

Attendance

Developing good attendance habits is a key part of student success in high school and life. If your student is going to be absent, please call the office after 8:00 or email Haannah hohrberg@wahksd.k12.wa.us. We need to know your student's name and why they are going to be absent. Students are marked unexcused if the office isn't notified or if the reason isn't approved. Please refer to the student handbook on our website for specific information related to the attendance policy. The state and WHS want to improve overall attendance and encourage students to take the challenge and strive for improved attendance! Let's go, Mules!

Skyward

Skyward is the system we use to track student grades & attendance. If you need help with your login information to monitor your student's progress, please email Haannah Ohrberg



hohrberg@wahksd.k12.wa.us . You are also encouraged to sign up for weekly email notifications about student grades. Please be sure the office has your correct contact information on file, including a good email address as most school information will be emailed through Skyward.

Lockers

If requested, students are issued a hall locker, and if they have a physical fitness class or play a sport they will also be issued a PE locker. Students are encouraged to keep both lockers locked at all times. Please remind your student that *the school is not responsible for lost or stolen items that are not kept in locked lockers.* It only takes a second – lock up your valuables!

School Supplies

Organization is key to success in both high school and college. These skills are learned and require practice. We will provide all students with a planner on the first day of school. **Please make sure your student comes to school on the first day with a three ring binder, dividers, notebook paper, a pencil pouch, pencils, pens, highlighters, colored pencils, a glue stick, and scissors.** If taking a PE class, students are required to have PE shoes, shorts and a t-shirt. Starting the school year prepared pays off! Please contact the office if you need help obtaining supplies or are willing to donate supplies for those in need.

Leadership

Leadership is a before school class at WHS. Any student interested in helping plan and coordinate student activities is invited to join. The class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:15 - 7:55 am. The first class will be Thursday, August 28th. Email Mrs. Leitz to join!

Superintendent

Last spring, our school board conducted a search for a new superintendent and hired Dr. Ralph Watkins. Dr. Watkins comes to us after having led the Chatham School District in Angoon, Alaska. We're excited to have him lead our district and benefit from the knowledge and passion he has for working in rural schools. Welcome Dr. Watkins!

We are an Accredited WA State School of Excellence - Because of the hard work of our students



and staff and the support of families like you, Wahiakum High School has been named by the WA State Board of Education and OSPI as one of the top 10% of schools in Washington for our high graduation rate and Excellent Achievement in English Language Arts. **When students show up, try their best and advocate for their needs EVERY DAY, they can do amazing things.** We truly have so much to celebrate! Students are showing up every day, passing classes, signing up for honors and advanced courses, and involved in leadership and extra curricular activities. In addition to receiving these awards, we are also an accredited

institution, meaning we have met or exceeded all indicators of a successful school, and we strive to continually improve and grow to meet the needs of our students. Thank you for your continued support and for trusting us to educate your student!



Upcoming Events

Thursday, August 21st - Schedule Pick Up & Chromebook Check-Out 11:00-2:00

Thursday, August 21st- New Student Orientation, 9:00-12:15 (Chromebook Checkout after)

Friday, August 22nd - Last Day for Schedule Changes

Tuesday, August 26th - First Day of School (Doors open at 7:30 & School Starts at 8:00)

Saturday, August 30th - Football Jamboree home game vs. Naselle 7:00

Monday, September 1st - No School (Labor Day)

Tuesday, September 2nd- WHS Volleyball Jamboree @ Columbia Adventist 5:00 pm

Thursday, September 4th - WHS Volleyball home game vs. Willapa Valley 5:45

Friday, September 5th - Football home game vs. Tahola 7:00

Breakfast & Lunch is free for all students!

Please remember to fill out the Family Income Survey and the Consent to Share Eligibility form (for reduced fees), as these forms provide us with grant funding and the ability to reduce fees.

Quick Links

[WSD Technology agreement](#)

[2025-2026 Family Income Survey](#)

[2025-2026 Consent to Share Eligibility Form](#)

[2025-2026 Wahkiakum School District Calendar](#)

[2025-2026 WHS Bell Schedule](#)

Go MULES!