

December 8, 2017

Dear Wood Memorial High School and Wood Memorial Junior High School parents, guardians, and community:

Greetings from the home of the Trojans!

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017, the State Board of Education voted 7 – 4 to pass proposed modifications to Indiana’s graduation requirements. Known as “Graduation Pathways” the new requirements are expected to create a seismic shift in the ability of our students to earn a high school diploma. Indiana’s Principals, and Superintendents, had proposed changes to the SBOE, in order to ensure all students would be allowed a fair opportunity to earn a high school diploma. The SBOE did not utilize these suggestions.

The new graduation requirements begin for the class of 2023, when students will have to complete additional coursework, demonstrate employability skills by having service or work projects, or show they are ready for college by receiving high scores on identified assessments, such as the SAT and ACT. There are concerns amongst Indiana educators that graduation rates will plummet, once the new requirements are put into place. For example, a highly respected school district in southern Indiana has estimated their graduation rates would drop from the 90% levels to 10 – 15%, with the new requirements.

With the above said, the Graduation Pathways are being closely studied in order to allow us an opportunity to clearly understand changes that may become necessary to align our curriculum in accordance with the new requirements. More information will come over the next several months.

The Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP) announced their annual Rising Stars of Indiana class for 2019 during the week of November 27, 2017. Wood Memorial High School was represented by three outstanding junior students: Ryan Memmer, Adison Stone, and Hannah Thacker. Congratulations to these well deserving individuals.

Rising Stars of Indiana was launched in 2018 by the IASP with a focus on complementing their Indiana Academic All – Stars recognition program for high school seniors. Rising Starts of Indiana recognizes Indiana’s juniors.

On Tuesday evening, November 21, 2017, Wood Memorial High School’s students were recognized for earning designation as a Unified Champion School for 2016 – 2017. Being designated as a Unified Champion School is recognition for the work done by our student advisory council, in particular around the Champions Together initiative. Champions Together is a partnership with the IHSAA and Indiana Special Olympics, focused on engaging Indiana’s students in a servant leadership focus to give back to school and community. I congratulate all

of the students involved in the SAC mission, as well as the support provided by coach Kilian around this effort.

Thank you to Mr. Lee Lonzo, the Champions Together director and a first class individual, for his support and encouragement throughout the launch of our initiative. I would also like to thank Ms. Francie Smith, Gibson County Special Olympics, for her dedication and commitment to provide opportunities through Special Olympics.

This is indeed a tremendous honor for not only our students, but the entire Wood Memorial and East Gibson school – community.

For advanced awareness and planning, here is the semester one final exam schedule:

Period 7 Final Exam administered – Monday, December 18, 2017

Period 1 Final Exam administered – Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Period 3 Final Exam administered – Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Period 5 Final Exam administered – Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Period 2 Final Exam administered – Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Period 4 Final Exam administered – Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Period 6 Final Exam administered – Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Final exams will be administered to students enrolled in a high school course, one that earns a credit to be applied towards graduation. Junior high school students will be administered lesson plans through the end of the semester.

The policy for earning a final exam exemption may be found in the 2017 – 2018 Wood Memorial High School student handbook, which is located on the Eventlink tool.

First semester grades are to be posted by no later than noon on Friday, January 5, 2018, with report cards being issued on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, during period 7. Individuals with questions may contact the respective instructor.

The junior high school honor society is currently raising funds in order to support the costs for sustaining the organization as a member of the national organization, as well as to provide items for underprivileged families in the East Gibson School Community. The group is selling pop socket's as their fund raiser.

Invoices for open textbook and student fees were distributed on Wednesday, November 15, 2017. If you are unable to pay the fees currently, please contact me at the high school office and we will work out a plan for you. Fees must be paid in full in order to be able to attend the

upcoming Christmas dance, as well as prom. Please contact the high school or junior high school office regarding any questions you may have.

Ms. Hill is currently conducting the annual student four – year planning reviews with members of the sophomore class. Parents interested in taking part in the reviews may schedule a meeting with Ms. Hill by contacting the high school office. The planning reviews are an integral part around ensuring your child’s academic program is in alignment for college and career readiness. Reviews with this year’s freshman will be held in January 2018.

Congratulations to Wood Memorial Junior High School student Everett Attaway for earning the 2017 Geography Bee title. We had a number of students who performed well during the contest conducted on Friday, December 1, 2017. Everett will now proceed to phase two of the state contest in an effort to qualify for round three.

For individuals visiting our high school and/or our junior high school, you must report directly to the respective office in order to be authorized to enter the facility. Visitors are required to sign in and be given an authorization card for access to the high school and/or the junior high school. All individuals must be escorted through the facility. Anyone entering our facility must do so through the main high school and main junior high school entrance, the breezeway entrance may not be used.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Information of interest:

- The GE – Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program information may be found in the student services office area. The program awards scholarships annually to an estimated 20 college-bound students who excel in leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship. Scholarships are renewable at \$10,000, with a total opportunity of up to \$40,000 per recipient. I would encourage our seniors to take a look at this opportunity and to apply prior to the January 4, 2018 deadline.
- A reminder, as outlined in the East Gibson School Corporation Policies and Procedures, the Wood Memorial High School and Wood Memorial Junior High School adhere to the Closed Campus philosophy identified in the above referenced policies and procedures. Upon arrival to school, a student may not leave without approval of the building principal and being signed out by the respective parent.
- Information on how to join your respective class Remind and Schoology accounts has been posted to the Wood Memorial High School website. The accounts have been established as a communication and collaboration tool by the student services organization. By joining you will be able to receive pertinent information such as, scholarship opportunities, college admission dates, and much, much more. Please contact Ms. Hill or Ms. Carlton for assistance.

Thank you for all you do to support our students and the school – community.

Most Sincerely,

Kevin Smith

“Successful people keep moving. They make mistakes, but they don’t quit.”

- Conrad Hilton

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Friday, December 8, 2017

ISTEP Winter Testing – English 8:00am
Boys BB at Perry Central 5:30pm

Saturday, December 9, 2017

Wrestling team at Evansville Memorial 9:00am

Monday, December 11, 2017

RY Graduation 1:00pm
Frosh BB at Perry Central 5:30pm
Girls BB vs. Evansville Bosse 5:30pm

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

ECA Winter Testing 8:00am
Girls JHS BB at Washington Catholic 5:30pm
Wrestling vs. Heritage Hills 6:00pm

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

ECA Winter Testing – Make Up 8:00am
HS Student Council Meeting 12:15pm
Boys JHS BB at Vincennes Rivet 5:30pm
Boys BB vs. Washington 5:30pm

Thursday, December 14, 2017

Prom Committee Meeting 7:30am
Girls BB at North Knox 5:30pm
Christmas Music Concert 7:00pm

Friday, December 15, 2017

Boys BB vs. North Daviess 5:30pm
FILL THE GYM NIGHT

Saturday, December 16, 2017

WMHS and WMJHS Christmas Dance 7:00pm

Additional Dates of Note

ISTEP Retest	December 4, 2017 – December 15, 2017
Grade 10 WMHS/WMJHS Staff Christmas Breakfast	December 19, 2017
ECA – Winter	December 4, 2017 – December 15, 2017
ISTAR	January 15, 2018 – February 16, 2018
Grades 3 – 8, 10 ELA/Math/Science/Social Studies	

National Assessment of Educational Progress Grades 4 and 8 Digital Based Math, Reading, Writing, US History, Civics, and Geography	January 29, 2018 – March 9, 2018
Accuplacer – Part 2	February 12, 2018 – March 30, 2018
Red Cross Blood Drive	February 23, 2018
ISTEP Part 1	February 26, 2018 – March 9, 2018
Academic Banquet	April 6, 2018
ISTAR	April 16, 2018 – May 18, 2018
ISTEP Part 2	April 16, 2018 – May 4, 2018
ECA – Spring	April 23, 2018 – May 25, 2018
Physics AP Assessment	May 8, 2018
English 12 AP Assessment	May 9, 2018
Senior Honors Night 6:00pm	May 10, 2018
US History AP Assessment	May 11, 2018
Calculus AP Assessment	May 15, 2018
High School Chemistry Lab Day At Vincennes University	May 16, 2018
English 11 AP Assessment	May 16, 2018
2018 Graduation	May 25, 2018
ECA – Summer 1	June 21, 2018 – June 27, 2018
ECA – Summer 2	August 23, 2018 – August 29, 2018

NOTES from STAFF and/or THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

From Mr. Steve Kilian, Administrative Assistant/Athletic Director

IHSAA Student-Athlete Tip of the Week (12-4-17)

"Promoting education based athletics in Indiana"

Wisconsin linebacker Garrett Dooley was quoted in the Indy Star as saying, "If you have a bad play, you have to forget about it. I think this year we've done a really good job of forgetting about last season and moving forward, preparing every single week."

In all sports and in most games or matches, there comes a time when you must move on from a bad play, a bad call, or an unlucky break. Are you capable of doing so?

Although there is no simple answer on how to move on, I will suggest that controlling your emotions is the key. Having a short-term memory on a bad play or tough call will help get you focused and keep your emotions intact on the next play.

Athletes who can concentrate on the play ahead instead of looking back will be the ones that are the most successful!

All content property of Billy Shepherd Sports

The boys basketball game for Friday, December 15, 2017 will be "FILL THE GYM" night for Wood Memorial. All East Gibson School Corporation students will be admitted free of charge. The JV game begins at 5:30pm.

From Johnnie Bartley, Technology Instructional Coordinator

Students are reminded that they must bring their iPad to school, charged and ready for use daily.

From Ms. Beth Hill, Student Services

Student Four – Year Planning meetings are now underway with sophomore students and/or parents. If you would like to schedule a time to discuss your child's plan, please connect the high school for an appointment.

Information for the 2018 Tri – Kappa Scholarship is now available for Wood Memorial senior students. If interested, you may stop by the student services offices for details. The deadline to submit an application is January 31, 2018.

The College Board will discontinue the use of student social security numbers for the official Advanced Placement assessment score reporting. This is effective for the 2018 – 2019 school year, beginning with reports issues in July 2018.

From Ms. Kelly Carlton, Student Services

For a listing of scholarship opportunities, students may check out the Wood Memorial High School web site. A new listing of available scholarships has been created and posted on the site.

Wabash Valley College will be hosting an Open House on three dates, November 8, 2017; March 7, 2018; and April 4, 2018. Each event will be held in the Brubeck Arts Center, from 9:00am to 11:00am for anyone interested in continuing their education at Wabash Valley College.

For more information, or to register, contact student services at 618.262.8641.

Scholarship opportunities are now available through the Community Scholarship programs of the Community Foundations of Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh, and Warrick counties, regional partners in the Community Foundation Alliance.

Each county Community Scholarship program is made up of county-specific scholarship funds, each with individual selection criteria and eligibility requirements. These scholarships were created by donors to provide students within the 4 county region with opportunities for advanced education. All awards are made without regard to race, creed, color, sex, religion, or national origin.

Applicants are required to submit their applications online. Reference the following webpage for Gibson County students:

communityfoundationalliance.org/gibson/scholarships/opportunities/

For more information you may contact Kristi Rhule, Regional Scholarship Manager at (304) 541-4811, or at krhule@communityfoundationalliance.org.

The following college admissions information is provided for the awareness of our students:

College/University	Admissions Director	Phone #	DEADLINE
University of Southern Indiana	Rashad Smith	800-467-1965	August 15st (fall)
Indiana University - Bloomington	Mami Blair	812 -855-0661	Nov 1 Priority
Indiana University - Southeast	Chris Crews	800- 852-8835	Rolling
Vincennes University	Heidi Whitehead	800- 742-9198	Open
Vincennes University -Jasper Campus	Karen Mundy	800- 809-8852	Open
Oakland City University	Harrison Campbell	812- 749-1222	Open
Purdue University	Mitch Warren	765- 494-1776	Oct 15 1st Notif. March 1 - Priority
Ivy Tech, Evansville	Denise Johnson-Kincaid	888- 489-5463	Rolling
University of Evansville	Kenton Hargis	833- 232-6223	Dec. 1 Early August Aug fall sem
Indiana State University	Richard Toomey	800- 468-6478	June 1st
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis	Mike Donahue	317- 274-4591	May 1st
Western Kentucky University	Jace Lux	800- 495-8463	August 1st
Owensboro Community College	Judy Coomes	877- 734-0694	August 15th
Brescia University	Chris Houk	877- 273-7242	Rolling
Kentucky Wesleyan	Matthew Ruark	800- 999-0592	Rolling
Harrison College	Heather Walls, Pres.	888- 500-1026	Fast Track - same year as graduate
Olivet Nazarene University	Erinn Proehl	800- 648-1463	Rolling
Ball State University	Christopher Munchel	800- 382-8540	Nov 15 Priority Dec 1 full schol.

The Indiana Trial Lawyers Association's College of Fellows and The Indiana Historical Society are sponsoring the 2017 Scholarship Essay Contest for members of the 2018 graduating classes. Entries are due by Sunday, December 17, 2017, with the winner being announced on Monday, February 19, 2018. The scholarship award will be for \$4,000.

The essay topic is, "Why is the right to trial by jury (the Seventh Amendment) critical to ensuring justice and democracy?"

For more information see Ms. Carlton, or Ms. Hill, in guidance.

From Ms. Teresa Mercer, Youth First Social Worker

The University of Evansville will be hosting an engineering and computer science summer camp in June 2018. The camp is for middle school boys and girls and high school girls in the tri-state region around Evansville. The camp for the high school girls will be a 10 – day program in London, England and nearby Harlaxton College.

For more information you may use the following links:

Middle School Girls...June 10 – 13

<https://www.evansville.edu/options/msGirls.cfm>

Middle School Boys – June 18 – 22

<https://www.evansville.edu/options/msBoys.cfm>

High School Girls – June 28 – July 7

<https://www.evansville.edu/options.hsGirls.cfm>

Mr. Michael White, Music Director

Auditions for the Spring Play will be held on Monday, December 11 and Tuesday, December 12, from 3:00 to 4:30pm. Auditions will be held in Ms. McDivitt's classroom. Students interested in auditioning for a part in the play should attend one of these days. For your audition, you will need to prepare a monologue, as well as read from the script. Monologues can be found at freedrama.net. If you have any questions contact Mr. White or Ms. McDivitt.