

# The West Side Story

Parent Newsletter  
December, 2011

West High School: 832-6219

Attendance Office: 832-4108

Renaissance School: 832-5708

Excellence in teaching and learning for all.

## Calendar Highlights

Dec. 1	Band Concert - 7:30 pm
Dec. 5	Guidance Night Open House 6-8:15 pm
Dec. 12	Parent Advisory Mtg – 6:30 pm LMC
Dec. 19	Kantorei recital – 7:30 pm Auditorium
Dec. 23-Jan. 2	No school – Winter Break

**Please note: West offices will be closed for the winter break starting December 23<sup>rd</sup> and reopening on January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

## Another Chance to Give to our Field Project

This week we received some great news, Mary Beth Nienhaus has pledged to match any donations we receive for our field project, up to \$100,000. Mary Beth is a retired West physical education teacher who previously donated over \$200,000 to our baseball/softball/soccer complex.



If we are able to raise the \$100,000 for Mary Beth to match, the combined \$200,000 will put our fund raising total over \$1 million dollars. This additional \$200,000 will allow us to

purchase bleachers, and a scoreboard, as well as incidentals needed for track meets, football games, and soccer games.

Donations can be made in the business office at West, or if you would like specific donation information, please contact Mr. Hartjes at [hartjesgreg@asds.k12.wi.us](mailto:hartjesgreg@asds.k12.wi.us)

**Kwik Trip Scrip  
& Woodmans Scrip  
Great Gift  
Idea!!!**



The Terror Backers are selling \$20, \$50 and \$100 KWIK TRIP gas cards and \$50 and \$100 Woodmans Grocery cards to help raise money for the School Field Project. Cards are available to purchase in the business office between 7 am and 3:30 pm or at most sporting/activity events. Cash or checks accepted payable to “Terror Backers”.

Thank you for supporting the “Addition to Tradition” project by purchasing your gas from KWIK TRIP stores and your groceries from WOODMANS!

## Semester Exams – January 18, 19, 20

Students are only required to be in attendance at school during the times they are taking exams. Students do not have to report to school during the hours they would normally have for lunch, study halls, senior privilege, or campus option. Areas such as the library, computer labs, and the commons will be available for study if students want to be in the building during these times.

Students should time their arrival at school to coincide with the breaks or lunch times. Students will not be allowed to go to their lockers during exam times.

The schedule for semester exams is as follows:

### Wednesday, January 18

Period 6 exam	7:39 to 8:50
Break	8:50 to 9:05
Period 5 exam	9:05 to 10:15
Break	10:15 to 10:30
Period 4 exam	10:30 to 11:40
Lunch	11:40 to 12:40
Period 3 exam	12:40 to 1:50
Break	1:50 to 2:00
Make-up Exams	2:00 to 3:10

### Thursday, January 19

Period 1 exam	7:39 to 8:50
Break	8:50 to 9:00
Period 2 exam	9:00 to 10:10
Make-up Exams	10:10 to 11:20

### Friday, January 20

Period 8 exam	7:39 to 8:50
Break	8:50 to 9:00
Period 7 exam	9:00 to 10:10
Make-up Exams	10:10 to 11:20

## National Honor Society Induction



The 85<sup>th</sup> National Honor Society Induction at West High School was held on November 21, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium. National Honor Society officers are: Beau Rigstad and Kyle Welhouse, Co-Presidents, Alex Coakley and Paige Ourada, Co-Vice Presidents, Nelson Milbach, Secretary, and MacKenzie Andropolis, Treasurer/Special Projects. As the inductees receive their membership pin and card, they will have the honor of signing West's Register which dates back to 1928.

West's tradition will sustain by having the new inductees introduced by current members who share their future ambitions. This year 73 inductees will be a part of West's history. They include: Elizabeth Allen, Sam Anderson, Karla Arciniega, Rachel Baldwin, Christopher Barry, Brad Bogenschutz, Sam Bolwerk, Alex Boulanger, Nicholas Boulanger, Alyssa Braun, Chelsea Breyer, Alexa Carlson, Stephanie Carrillo, Mackenzie Ciske, Brittney Clark, Maggie Coughlin, Luke Curtis, Jordyn Daley, Maggie Dickinson, Erik Ehlers, Thomas Felton, Heather Files, Christian Filipiak, Olivia Foth, Mariah Frank, Shea Gallup, Aaron Gregg, Sara Gunderson, Jacob Havinga, Stephen Hintz, Kerry Huth, Hannah Johnshoy, David Jokipii, Jack Kelly, Francesca Knauer, Sydney Kosgard, Ashleigh Kozlowski, Kasheng Lee, YuPheng Lee, Katlyn Madson, Zachary Mau, Quinn McKinnon, Tim Meyer, Troy Mielke, Elisabeth Miramontes, Seth Munger, Cassie Nelson, Nicole Norcross, Taylor Orozco, Carina Panella, Sydney Pauling, Grayson Petit, Keyra Price, Douglas Rademan, Corey Riedl, Cassidy Ritchie, Kali Salvador, Claire Sandberg, Hugh Schuldes, Will Shecterle, Ruby Sollitto, Morgan Still, Annalecia Vallafskey, Lauren Vanderlinden, Megan Vande Walle, Abbie Van Handel, Tanner Van Stippen, Grant Verkuilen, Kaylee Viney, Pa Kue Vue, Kyle Wayner, Samantha Wederath, Panyia Xiong.

## Guidance Night Monday, December 5th

The West Guidance Department has put together an evening of valuable information to assist you and your student to make the best choices for either next year's courses or post-high school planning. Please see the attached flyer "Guidance –December Newsletter" for more detailed information.

## Parent/Student Resource - Selecting Classes for the 2012-13 School Year!!!

The time is quickly approaching when our West students for the 2012/2013 school year will be selecting the courses to take for next year. School counselors have begun speaking to individual classes about the process of selecting courses, and how important it is to be as accurate as possible when making those decisions. Over the past several years, it has become increasingly more difficult to change your course selections once the scheduling process has begun. This year, because of additional budget restraints, we will have restrictions that will be even more stringent. Please take the time to have a discussion with your child about the courses they have selected for next year. The due date for Course Request Sheets to be turned

in to the School Counseling Department is December 22<sup>nd</sup>. To better assist in the course selection process, the Course Description Guide for the 2012-13 school year is now on-line. Please review this guide to help you and your student see what classes are available. The following is the path to view next year's Course Description Guide:

Go to [www.aasd.k12.wi.us/west](http://www.aasd.k12.wi.us/west)  
Click on West Home (located on the left column, on the top)  
Click on Guidance tab (located at top of page)  
Scroll down to the link entitled Click on the 2012-13 AASD Career Planning and Course Description Guide Above

### Writing Help!!!!

Starting in January, Mr. Ron Schreier, our former associate principal, will be at West to provide writing help for any and all students. The ability to write well continues to be one of the most important skills a person can possess.



Mr. Schreier will be in the LMC every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:45 to 3:10 to work with students on writing assignments.

### Grace Lutheran Invites West

#### Students to Lunch!

Grace Lutheran Church is located across Mason Street from West High School. The pastor asked that I pass on to juniors and seniors an invitation to stop by for a free lunch of grilled cheese and soup every Thursday from 10:40 to 1:00.



Grace Lutheran would like to give students an alternative to spending lunch in our commons.

### "The Happy Movie" Screening

Join us for this free screening of The Happy Movie! *The Happy Movie* evolved from an invitation to explore "what makes people happy and why" as a shift in perspective after years of studying depression. Research has shown us that happiness doesn't just happen. The more you create, the more everyone has. This project invites the AASD

community to experience the stories of people from around the world speaking about what makes them happy. Our goal is to enrich our local conversation about happiness by engaging our staff and students in the dialogue about what makes them happy.



Dr. Richard Davidson, world-renowned brain scientist from UW-Madison's Waisman Center and the Center for Investigating Healthy Minds is one of the experts interviewed throughout the documentary. Dr. Davidson is also a participant in the ongoing conversation regarding the AASD Compassion Project.

#### Dates of Screening

Monday, January 23, 2012 3:00-4:30 @ Appleton Public Library  
Thursday, January 26, 2012 8:00-9:00 pm Lawrence University Campus Center  
Thursday, February 2, 2012 6:30-8:00 pm Appleton North High School

### Senior Year at AWHs

A committee made up of teachers and administrators have met several times over the last 2 years to look at the quality of the senior year in the AASD. Across the nation, the senior year is often a year of disengagement for many students, we are hoping to address the needs of our AASD seniors.

We have developed the following mission statement, and are working hard to bring this mission to fruition.

*Senior year in the AASD will consist of students engaging in options that are challenging and flexible, resulting in successful transitions to post high school life.*

Current juniors have the following senior-year options that meet this mission.

- Attending Renaissance School for the Arts, Tesla Engineering School, or eSchool
- Work as a Teacher's Assistant in freshman or sophomore core classes
- Enroll in multiple Advanced Placement courses
- Enroll in our School-within-a-school for at-risk seniors who are credit deficient
- School-to-work partnerships through our internship program
- Senior Seminar course that includes a variety of student-led learning opportunities

## Why Take Rigorous Courses?

### Why take rigorous courses when you may be able to get a better grade in another course?

This question is often on the minds of students and parents as scheduling for next year begins. However, the question should only be — **which courses, of the many that Appleton West offers, will challenge me to grow in skills and knowledge, given my current abilities?**

The feared impact of a lower GPA on college admission is usually the primary concern for families. However, the answer to this question falls almost always on the side of selecting the greater challenge for the following reasons:

- More challenging work is more interesting, produces more academic and personal growth, and teaches solid work ethic.
- More challenging work results in higher ACT and SAT scores, which are key admission considerations of almost all colleges.

Colleges look beyond class rank and GPAs to calculate rigor of schedule. Even though we do not weight courses, colleges look through transcripts for the “rigorous” designations for courses and, often, recalibrate class rank and GPA in light of the coursework taken.

UW-Madison periodically sends high school guidance counselors a newsletter called The Counselor Update. The information below was taken from this publication.

Dr. Rob Seltzer, Director of Admissions, states “Our review process is both competitive and selective. Our admissions counselors review each application individually, looking for students with a wide range of achievements in and outside the classroom. In all, there are six main criteria that our counselors consider when reviewing and application:

#### 1. Rigor of Course Work

Applicants must complete specific course requirements. IN addition, a student who had a more rigorous course load may have a lower GPA than a student with easier course work. We take that into account.

#### 2. Academic GPA

We look for students who earn good grades and maintain a high level of achievement in challenging course work.

#### 3. Grade Trends

The pattern of grades over time is important. An increasingly strong academic record improves the likelihood of admission; a downward trend diminishes it.

#### 4. Class Rank

We request class rank from all applicants and consider rank in our decision. Admission data indicates that those who provide rank are more likely to be admitted.

#### 5. Test Scores (ACT or SAT)

Students need to provide results from the ACT or SAT, including a standardized writing test.

#### 6. Nonacademic Qualifications

We look for students who demonstrate qualities such as leadership and concern for others in the community; achievement in the arts, athletics, and other areas; diversity in personal background and experience; and family legacy of success at UW-Madison.

### Will taking rigorous courses hurt my GPA, thus impact my chances of getting scholarships?

Below is a partial list of the scholarships given out to West students last year, along with the criteria used in the selection process. What you will see is scholarships are awarded based on many different criteria, one of which may be academics.

American Legion Post #38 – Criteria includes a satisfactory scholarship record and financial need.

Herrling-Clark Scholarship – Criteria includes that the award be given to an individual deserving of recognition for some form of public contribution to the local community.

NIE Scholarship – Criteria includes that the individual served as a Post Crescent carrier for a continuous twelve months and/or have been employed by a Fox Cities McDonald’s for a continuous twelve months.

Miller Family Music Education Scholarship Fund – Criteria includes that the students must plan to attend a two or four year college with a major in music, a strong desire to continue with a musical education, involvement in musical activities and a financial need.

Helen Spasoff Kratzer Scholarship – Criteria includes that the student will be attending a UW system school as an Education major and a young woman with a 3.6 minimum GPA.

Community Foundation Mabel R. McClanahan Scholarship – Criteria includes that the applicant must have a cumulative GPA of 3.5.

Community Foundation Coach Gene Davis Memorial Scholarship – Criteria includes that the application attends Lawrence University, a strong work ethic and extra curricular activity participation.

Community Foundation Marlyn E. Jeanne C. Olson Scholarship – Criteria includes a cumulative grade point average of 3.0, participated in family, church, school and community programs such as scouting, leadership training, mentoring programs and youth activities.

Community Foundation Mildred Ryan Disher Scholarship – Criteria includes students planning to enter a two-year associate degree program in the Veterinary Sciences or plan to attend a four year college or university in a Pre-Veterinary Program. This scholarship is based on financial need.

Fox River Branch of the Wisconsin Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers – Criteria include that the applicant must plan to enroll in Civil Engineering.

Appleton Education Association – Criteria is based on the applicant’s character, school/community involvement and academic achievement.

Kwik Trip Community Scholarship Program – Criteria includes that the student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and must exemplify the statement, “To Make a Difference in Someone’s Life.”

Community Foundation Bret Younger Track Scholarship – The applicant must have a GPA of 3.0 and have participated in Track for at least two year.

This partial list of scholarships represents the varied criteria that scholarship committees are interested in. Students generally receive scholarships based on their involvement in a variety of school and non-school activities.



## *What’s happening with West Activities*

### **~Health Occupation~**

### **Medical Mentoring Information Coming Soon!**



At the end of first semester and again at the beginning of second semester, Chemistry, Biology, and Health Occupations teachers will be presenting information to classes on the Medical Mentoring application process. Medical

Mentoring is a program designed for students who are serious about a career in the medical field. Based upon their interests, students are paired with a health professional in the Fox Valley and spend 3-4 days throughout the summer on the job with the professional. Students are selected for Orthopedic and Sports Institute’s Medical Mentoring Program based on their academic performance and the depth of their personal character. Since the number of Medical Mentoring positions is limited, priority is given to upper-class students. Students will be expected to complete an application on <http://medical-mentoring.com/>. Along with the application, they will complete at least two reference forms. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Michelle Hermus. All applications will be due by February 10 2012.

### **~National Honor Society~**

The West Chapter of the National Honor Society recognizes academic achievements while encouraging leadership, character, and service. NHS bylaws promotes relevant community service projects to help develop characteristics essential to citizens in a democracy. Since its inception West’s chapter has established a reputation for excellence, the result of years of dedication on the part of everyone involved.

Members’ school year includes assisting the Children’s Museum with Boo Bash, Outagamie County Historical Society with “School Days - Home and Harvest Activities in the 1800s” at the Grignon Mansion, Knowledge-A-Thons, Salvation Army Bell Ringing, Fox Valley Marathon, plus other special elementary, middle, high school & community events.

The chapter annually sponsors two Community Blood Center Blood Drives. The first was Friday, November 4th. West with 177 donors-saved 531 lives! Last year West won the Diamond Award of Excellence for their efforts. This was a huge honor. If you are at least 16 years old, in generally good health and weigh at least 110 pounds consider being a donor. You can pre-register by calling the Appleton West Office (832-6219) and leaving your name and desired donation time. ***The next Blood Drive will be February 24<sup>th</sup> from 7:15A.M.-2:45 P.M.***

National Honor Society members offer academic tutoring at West, Wilson & Lincoln. Plus special requests at other elementary schools. This is one of our major projects. Members’ willingness to use their skills and talents to improve opportunities for others is key to the reason why “West is Best”. Nelson Milbach, NHS Vice-President, coordinates the program. Students who want help should pick up a form in the LMC and return it to the box located there. Nelson will attempt to find a “match” between the student who wants help and an NHS member. When LMC evening hours began November 1st NHS members are

available to assist students with their studies. The LMC will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 6:30 and 9 P.M.

Through NHS, members maintain and extend the qualities that earned them selection. Membership is thus both an honor and a commitment. It's an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others and enhance the spirit of our community.

Ms. Bev Kearns, West Chapter advisor

### Parent Advisory Meeting Dates



The Parent Advisory meetings provide an informal means for parents and the West administration to interact on a variety of school issues. Everyone is welcome at these meetings. There is no formal membership, so you may attend any meeting that fits into your schedule. Following are the remaining meeting dates for the 2011-2012 school year: Meetings are held in the LMC at 6:30 pm on December 12<sup>th</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup>, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

### eBooks are in the Library!

Accessing AASD Library resources from home is easy and provides your family access to many educational resources. Just follow this path from the AASD home page: Click on the *Students* tab and then click on *Secondary Library Resources Link*. Students and parents may access the library catalog and other electronic resources using the following *guest generic log on*: username: *appleton*; password: *library*. Students may log in to the library catalog by using their *school computer username* and *log in*. Once logged in students may check **My Account** for books checked out and their due dates. Students may go into **Destiny Quest**, found on the left side menu. In **Destiny Quest** they will find a tab for **My List**. Students may drag and drop titles creating a list of books they want to read. Students and parents may also access and read *eBooks* online! To read the *ebooks*, click on the **High School eBook Shelf** as shown below.

#### Library Catalogs

- [School Library Catalog](#)
- [High School eBook Shelf](#)
- [Appleton Public Library](#)

Students will need to login to read ebooks by using the following log on:  
**Username**=school computer login (example: BAN045570)

**Password**=10 digit barcode # (example: 1000045570)

Use 1000 and then your student number which is the same as the lunch code.

Novels may be read online or checked out for 14 school days. Return of the novel *cannot* occur prior to the 14 day check out period, **so please read online where possible!** Books will automatically check in after 14 school days.  
**Please contact Mrs. Murray for more information.**

### Picking up Students For Appointments

Please be aware that if your child needs to leave school during the school day for an appointment, etc., call the Student Services Office prior to the start of the school day so we can provide them with a slip to leave the classroom at the appropriate time and meet you outside. We can then minimize the disruptions to the classrooms as well as save you time trying to find a parking spot to come into school. This also avoids situations where teachers have moved their students to another location such as the media center or computer lab or the student is at lunch and we cannot locate them easily.



Additionally, please let your student know that they do need to listen to names called to the office between class hours. If you have a message for your student or need to leave something for them, that is the only method to reach students. We cannot deliver messages to classrooms.

### LMC Hours

We would like to remind parents and students that the LMC is open from 6:45 AM until school starts, and again from 3:10 until 5:00. There are teachers available after school to work with students as part of our 9<sup>th</sup> hour program.

### Privilege Programs

In December our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive information pertaining to privilege programs for open campus and release time. For students to be eligible for these privileges, they must meet the following criteria.

1. Must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0

2. Must pass all first semester courses
3. Must be on pace to graduate, which means accumulating the following credit totals by the end of semester one.
  - 11<sup>th</sup> grade = 15 credits
  - 12<sup>th</sup> grade = 20 credits

### Inclement Weather Procedures

In case of inclement weather, every effort will be made to notify local radio and TV stations with a pertinent message by 6:00 a.m.

As the information will be broadcast in a timely manner, it should **not** be necessary to call the school for this information.

The schedule for a two-hour delay start of the school day is as follows:

#### Two Hour Delay Schedule

1 <sup>st</sup> hour	9:39 to 10:16
2 <sup>nd</sup> hour	10:21 to 10:58
3 <sup>rd</sup> hour	11:30 to 11:40
4 <sup>th</sup> hour	11:45 to 12:24
5 <sup>th</sup> hour	12:29 to 1:06
6 <sup>th</sup> hour	1:11 to 1:48
7 <sup>th</sup> hour	1:53 to 2:30
8 <sup>th</sup> hour	2:35 to 3:10



### Tutoring is Available - Here are Your Options

Option 1 - Teachers are available to tutor students after school in our LMC, Monday through Thursday. We also have open LMC hours from 6:45 AM until school starts, and again from 3:10 until 5:00. There are teachers available after school to work with students as needed in the LMC as part of our 9<sup>th</sup> hour program.

Option 2 - Our National Honor Society students offer a free tutoring service. Students can fill out a tutor request form at the front counter in the LMC. National Honor Society students are then paired with the request, with tutoring taking place during the school day.

Option 3 - The Appleton YMCA has a free tutoring program for any students grades K-12. Tutors are federal work study students at Lawrence University from a variety of majors and backgrounds. Any interest or questions can be directed to Erica Hamilton at the YMCA, 954-7618.

### Prearranged Absences

Following is a reminder of the policy for prearranged absences. Any student who knows in advance that they will be absent from school (for an “excusable reason”) beyond a single school day must have that absence prearranged at least one week in advance, in the following manner.

1. Parent is to call the Student Services Office at least one week in advance of the anticipated absence, noting the nature of the proposed absence, and requesting that a prearranged absence form be prepared, signed by an administrator, and given to the student.
2. The student picks up the prearranged absence form in the Student Services Office and takes it to each of their teachers to make them aware of their absence and to endorse the proposed absence.
3. The student takes the teacher-signed form home for parents to view and to sign.
4. The prearranged absence form is then returned to the Student Services Office once all signatures have been secured.

**Note:** All class work missed during the time of the absence must be made up at the teacher’s discretion as soon as possible upon the student’s return to school.

### Nutrition Tips from our Trainer!



Snacking on raw sliced vegetables is a good way to eat healthy. Dipping these vegetables, including; carrots, celery sticks, cucumber slices, green or red bell pepper slices, cherry tomatoes, sugar snap peas, broccoli and cauliflower, in a low fat dip will help you to fill up on healthier items, as calories are more readily available this holiday season. To add a little zest to your snack, dip the veggies in a low fat dip. Other ideas for dipping these vegetables, which offer vitamins, minerals, fiber and antioxidants, include hummus, peanut butter, black bean dip or even plain yogurt with a little bit of chive, garlic or cilantro. Make sure to include a creative platter with these items when planning your holiday menu.



## **Virtual High School Classes**

There are a few openings yet for spring courses in the Virtual High School.

There are over 200 different elective choices in VHS. Semester courses are 15 weeks in length. They begin on January 25<sup>th</sup> and go through May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Virtual High School courses are not self-paced but instead you work with a cohort of students from all around the world one week at a time.

More information and course syllabi can be found at [govhs.org](http://govhs.org).

You can register for a course at [www.appletonschool.org](http://www.appletonschool.org).