



Vol. 24 No. 1

# West Marshall Newsletter



August/September

## Registration

Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8:00a.m. - 8:00p.m.

Middle School Library

*(With current street construction, we ask you enter and exit through the west MS driveway)*

Cash, Check, or Credit Cards available for payment.

In separated or divorced parent situations, we need both parents to attend registration and fill out emergency contact information, or the custodial parent should be able to provide the information for both themselves and the non-custodial parent.

### Registration Information

Please plan to attend West Marshall registration on Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:00a.m. - 8:00p.m. Registration will be located at West Marshall Middle School at 605 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW in State Center, with current road construction in front of our buildings we ask that you enter and exit through the west middle school driveway. Staff from all three buildings will be available to assist with the registration process. We will also have representatives from transportation, food service, and health services to answer all of your questions for the 2017-2018 school year. The athletic boosters will also be selling West Marshall apparel. We look forward to seeing you there!!

For currently enrolled students, if you would like to update your student/parent data ahead of time, please follow the directions below. **Online updating will open August 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

1. Go to the West Marshall homepage <http://w-marshall.k12.ia.us>
2. Click on JMC under the Quick Links on the right hand side of the page.
3. This will take you to JMC. Choose the parent icon.
4. You will enter your username and password, click login. If you do not have this information, please contact your building secretary via e-mail or phone and they will be happy to assist you.
5. Now click on Student Registration. Update each page by using the NEXT button to advance the page. This process will take you through each one of your students enrolled at West Marshall. Click FINISH when complete.
6. After you have verified all information, click LOG OUT.

## **Planning for Action**

As summer draws to a close and families anticipate the excitement for a new school year, rest assured that work and planning have been continuing throughout these past months by many dedicated educators and staff...

One of the first changes to affect our district is the 2017-18 calendar which, weather permitting, will allow us to complete the school year in May, providing time for professional learning and work opportunities for teachers and students. Looking ahead, our calendar will also allow first semester to end prior to winter-break for all of our secondary students and teachers, with second semester starting day one after break. We also took into consideration our early-out Wednesdays that are now aligned more uniformly for parents to plan around on similar consecutive weeks during the month.

Our academic focus will be geared around standards and our alignment of these standards to provide the best instruction. The best learning occurs when students are engaged and find relevance to "what it is they are asked to do!" We are excited to continue to report student progress around not only a letter grade, but whether or not your child is proficient demonstrating knowledge of a certain standard.

As an advocate of education, I have always dissected the relevance to "what it is we ask students to do" on a daily basis. Staff are working diligently to provide choice through tasks and assignments, all while reporting methods become more meaningful to what exactly your child knows and can demonstrate. The goal to engage students in their own learning with a purpose is key. School is more than chasing a homework assign for a few points to only demonstrate a worksheet was complete, rather the child still may not know or demonstrate the standard. Therefore, please stay tuned to our work here in the classroom and visit with your child about their enjoyment for learning. Knowing the basics is one thing...applying the basics to real meaning is another...and most importantly students challenged to learn with enjoyment, will set us apart.

As we begin this next school year, I again thank all of you for our passage of the PPEL Levy which has allowed for many of these opportunities to start taking shape. For instance we will now be a 4th grade -12th grade 1:1 Chromebook learning platform for students. Each student will have a device checked out to them along with an established Google Account that can access learning materials from any device as long as it is connected to the internet. Staff are working to improve Google Classroom to allow parent and student access to learning materials electronically as an anytime or anywhere platform.

Among the "new" experiences coming this year are teachers and administrators new to our district who will bring perspective from their previous employment or colleges and who are eager to work with our Trojan families.

Lastly, my ongoing task is to answer and now defend these two questions throughout the course of this year. By doing so, we can learn from one another, uniting our personal mission and vision shaping our students' future.

- What guiding system will our community and district use to measure student success in all facets of what our school has to offer?
- What will we do once we know our results?

With sincere appreciation to our Trojan-families, thank you for your support and belief in an ever changing system to meet our students' needs. As always, success is NOT built on complacency!

**We are West Marshall!**

**Jacy**

**The newsletter is now published at the West Marshall website on a bi-monthly basis in the months of: February, April, August, October, and December. If you do not have internet access and wish to receive the newsletter by mail, please contact Annie Kemmerer @ 641-483-2165 to be put on a list to receive a paper copy.**

# High School Happenings

## - Students, Families, and Community Members -

I hope that your summer was relaxing and filled with new and exciting adventures. The summer at the high school was filled with cleaning and regular maintenance to prepare for the upcoming school year. Throughout spring, and again this summer, our staff discussed the idea of changing our end of year routine, and planned and discussed adjustments to our 1 to 1 technology policies for the upcoming year. More information on both the end of year changes and technology are provided below.

### 1 to 1 Technology

We will again review policies for families and update students and families with minor adjustments to our technology handbook. As a technology team, we've worked to establish a schedule that will give families multiple day and time options to attend. **Students must attend one of the sessions listed below, and at least one parent must attend with them in order to receive the device on that day.** If you cannot make any of the scheduled times due to family circumstances and restraints, please notify the office through email at [keinsweiler@wmcsd.org](mailto:keinsweiler@wmcsd.org) so we can set up an alternate time to meet.

- **Monday, August 14, 2017**
  - 10:00-11:00 - A-0
  - 6:00-7:00 - P-Z
- **Tuesday, August 15, 2017**
  - 10:00-11:00 - P-Z
  - 6:00-7:00 - A-0
- **Wednesday, August 16, 2017**
  - 6:00-7:00 - Last Chance

### 2017-18 - End of Year Changes

Throughout the last two years we have frequently heard about the inconvenience of 1<sup>st</sup> semester finals being held after winter break, due to the state mandated start date of August 23<sup>rd</sup> or later. With the calendar adjusted this year, we saw an opportunity to change our finals schedule to align with our winter break and add a new positive routine to the end of the year. This year, we will implement May Term, which will focus on project based learning, community involvement, and 21<sup>st</sup> century skill development. Students will choose one course from a variety of course offerings that they will choose, based on their preference. The class they choose will further expand their interests and help them pursue their own passions to cultivate learning that will stay with them for years to come. A few things to know-

- May Term will take place the last 5 days of the school year
- Students in grades 9-11 will still take second semester finals
- Students will sign up for classes during the months of March and April.

We are really excited to try this new idea, which was originally suggested by several of our teachers. Throughout the year there will be updates and information that will further explain and clarify the end of year timelines and procedures. We are excited for these new learning opportunities, and I, for one, am excited to see the unique experiences our teachers will create for our West Marshall students.

We are thrilled to embark upon another year at West Marshall and see our students and staff push themselves to find success in all areas. We are poised for another tremendous year, and cannot wait to see our students put their stamp on West Marshall and write their own story.

Enjoy the last weeks of summer, and welcome to the 2017-2018 school year.

Kristian Einsweiler  
WMHS Principal

# High School Guidance Counselor Patti Edler

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer vacation! This year marks my 25th year in education. I have been so fortunate to serve the West Marshall School District as the middle school counselor for fourteen years and I am in my sixth year as the high school counselor at West Marshall. During that time I have learned so much about students and navigating the world of post secondary. I am looking forward to working with your child during the 2017-18 school year.

Please look at my website to see classes offered, college information, and other important high school information. It can be found on the West Marshall CSD School District website under *Quick Links*. Click on "HS Guidance" to access my website.

I have several goals I set to help my students. These goals are my guideposts to be an advocate for students, parents, teachers, administrators, and our West Marshall community.

1. Assist students with educational, personal, social, career and post secondary goals.
2. Assist students in identifying and dealing with problems.
3. To serve as a resource to parents, parents, teachers, and administrators.

The schedules for the Fall of 2017 are ready to view on the JMC website. There is not a lot of room for change as we will have more students in the high school this year. It is going to be a great year! I am looking forward to working with you in the fall!

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade & New Student Orientation

Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017  
6:00-7:00p.m.

Mr. Kristian Einsweiler will speak  
7:00-8:00p.m.  
(HS Auditorium)

(Upperclassmen is optional for attendance)

*High School- it changes people into the person they said they'd never become...*

# Middle School

We are RESPECTFUL - We are RESPONSIBLE - We build RELATIONSHIPS

It is with great excitement that I write this letter to share with you a little bit about myself. My name is Mr. Casey Christensen and I am honored to be the new 4-8<sup>th</sup> principal at West Marshall Schools. Let me share more.

I grew up on a farm near Riceville, Iowa. I graduated from there and went to Wartburg College. I then married my high school sweetheart Heidi. We then moved to Parkersburg, Iowa where I taught first grade and coached football and wrestling. We started our family there and after ten years I took my first principal job at Central Springs before moving to Truro to become the principal at I-35 schools.

Heidi and I have four kids: Cecilia (freshman), Gabriel (7<sup>th</sup>), Henry (5<sup>th</sup>) and Louis (KDG). We love to be active in sports, school events, community activities, camping, fishing, and doing things as a family. For those Hawkeye fans, we do cheer for the Cyclones, but we will proudly wear West Marshall black and gold!

I look forward to helping enhance and continue the great things that have been done here at West Marshall. There will be some things that may look different as we head into the year, but I do invite you to stop by and say "Hi!" Looking forward to many great years at West Marshall!

## Making the Transition to Middle School:

As we are wrapping up summer break, we are very excited to be starting this 2017-2018 school year. We want our students at West Marshall to feel excited and prepared for the fun year ahead. While we hope it is an enjoyable year with lots of positive experiences, middle school can be a confusing time. Your child is becoming more independent yet still needs your support as much as ever. As your child's independence increases, it is important to stay involved. Here are some tips for getting involved in your child's middle school learning experience:

1. **Have students use their planner and check it each night or check Google Classroom at home.** Students will be moving from class to class and this is the best way for you as parents to know what is going on in classes.
2. **Check homework.** Checking work each night helps build upon concepts taught in class. Using a homework folder can be very helpful. Your child can use one side of the folder as "HW to do" and one side as "HW to turn in".
3. **Designate a study area at home.** Studies have shown that students who sit down, do homework, and study in the same place at home are more likely to complete homework and do better in school.
4. **Create a contact list of teachers' email addresses.** If you have questions, email is a great way to contact our teachers.

## Getting involved in school:

**Academics:** Students and parents have access to JMC. This online resource is used to communicate grades, attendance, and discipline.

**School Clubs:** Student Council, Mix It Up Committee, Youth Tobacco Prevention Committee, and fFA.

**Sports:** 7th and 8th graders can participate in the following sports: Cross Country, Football, Cheerleading, Volleyball, Wrestling, Basketball, Track, Softball, and Baseball. All athletes need a sports physical.

As our school wide expectation for PBIS states, "We are Respectful, We are Responsible, and We Build Relationships...We R West Marshall." Let's have a great year!

## Connect with Ms. Haight

bhaight@wmcasd.org

641-483-2165

**Back to School Night**  
Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017  
6:00-7:30p.m.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade & New Student Orientation 6:00-6:30p.m.  
(MS GYM)

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Cafeteria Kick-off 7:00-8:00p.m.  
(Elem. Cafeteria)

# Elementary News

Happy New School Year! This is my favorite time of year---the enthusiasm that comes with the start of a new school year is the best feeling! I am excited and honored to have been chosen to lead West Marshall Elementary and look forward to working with staff and families to continue to make West Marshall the place to be!

I grew up on a farm outside of Britt and graduated from West Hancock High School. I completed my degree at UNI, with a major in elementary education and a minor in behavior disorders. I spent 16 years teaching special education, ranging from Kindergarten to 8th grade, with a focus on behavior. For the past 4 years, I have been working with PLAEA staff, district leaders in the Spencer area, and parents to design and build a special school for students with challenging behavior and mental health concerns. I am passionate about bringing people together to create a safe, nurturing environment that pushes all students to reach their fullest potential. I look forward to working with the West Marshall team!

As we gear up for the start of the school year, please feel free to contact me anytime. I can be reached at [nsmith@wmcsd.org](mailto:nsmith@wmcsd.org) or 515-975-7697.

Respectfully,  
Nanette Smith

## Back to School Night!!!

Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017  
5:00-6:30p.m.



- Find your room
- Meet your teacher
- Bring your supplies



Meet the Principal - Ms. Nanette Smith  
At 5:30p.m. (Elem. Gym)

## Back to School Night Supper

The preschools will again be hosting a supper during Back to School Night in the elementary cafeteria from 5:00-6:30p.m. It will be a free-will donation with proceeds going to help support our preschool programs.

**The meat is donated by the Marshall County Cattlemen & Pork Producers!!!**

# Parent Teacher Organization

The West Marshall Parent Teacher Organization would like to invite you to attend our meetings. We meet the first Monday of September, November, January, March, and May at 3:30p.m. in the Elementary Library. We organize fundraisers, help with school improvements, fund field trips, fund school programs (Dr. Seuss Week, Family fun Night, Math/Science Night), collect BoxTops, and more. We would love new faces at our meetings with new ideas on how we can help the teachers and students of the West Marshall Elementary. If you have questions or are interested in helping, please contact Tara Pfantz at 641-483-2671 or [tpfantz@wmcsd.org](mailto:tpfantz@wmcsd.org).

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (DUE TO THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY)**

# All District News

## **Food Service Program:**

Converting to JMC Lunch (no longer using K12 Lunch System)  
We anticipate this working smoothly as parents will have one stop shop that will align to the same password and convenience of one program. Parents will still have the ability to pay online with RevTrak which will reflect deposits and charges made directly in JMC. The need to remember one more password has been eliminated.

## **Negative Meal Balances (Unpaid Meal Charges):**

Since West Marshall participates in the NSLP (National School Lunch Program) we along with thousands of school districts across the nation were required to implement a [Negative Unpaid Meal Policy](#) by July 1, 2017. Within this policy we must demonstrate our efforts to first, not let a child go hungry and two, our methods of communication with parents and families when students will be required to eat and alternate food item or not at all. This only affects families who are considered reduced and full-pay.

As a parent, often times our child's lunch balances slip our mind or we forget to check, however this new policy has set guidelines and communication steps we will follow for students who have a negative balance. Once this time has lapsed then no food or an alternate food item will be offered to your child depending on their age. Please make paying your child's lunch a priority or send them with a sack lunch. If you believe you will qualify for free or reduced meals, you are welcome to fill out an application and return it to your child's school at any time. All parents have the ability to set their low-lunch balance notification as they wish. The school has automatically set families to a \$10.00 notification via email reminders. If you have multiple children eating on an account, families may want to increase the notification amount to \$20.00.

## **A big step in SCHOOL SAFETY:**

Entering your child's school after the first bell will be a new process. Last spring the Board of Education and myself supported Card-Access-Push Button Intercom Request to Enter. During the 2016-17 school year all doors were locked except the front doors of each school. Now with a push button intercom system, building administrative assistants will be able to view any individual who is requesting to enter the building, and speak with them via an intercom. The door will remain open prior to school starting. Ten minutes after the first period starts, the front door will electronically lock on a timer.

### **All Visitors and Parents have a two-step process to Enter:**

**Step 1: Push the Intercom Button, Located by the school's front door**

**Step 2: Speak your name and reason for entering**

*(Hi, it's Jacy Large and I'm here to pick my child up for an appointment)*

Once you hear confirmation from the office staff, they will electronically deactivate the lock and the guest will have 30 seconds to enter.

We appreciate all the calls and emails to encourage our district to take action on student safety. We have electronically programmed multiple doors this summer as Phase I and will continue to install more doors throughout this year as Phase II so we may be able to automatically program doors electronically for students traveling from building to building and immediately return to a lock-down once the class period starts.

## Breakfast/Lunch/Milk Fees

### Breakfast

Student	\$1.60
Reduced Breakfast	\$ .30
Adult Breakfast	\$1.90

### Lunch

Elementary	\$2.35
Middle School	\$2.45
High School	\$2.50
Reduced PK-12	\$ .40
Adult lunch	\$3.75
Extra Entrée	\$1.75
Milk	\$ .50

An application for free & reduced price meals is included in this newsletter and copies will be handed out at registration, if needed. If you believe your children qualify for these benefits, fill out all applicable areas of the form and return it to the main office. If you receive a direct certification letter please bring it to the school before August 14<sup>th</sup>.

## New Staff to District

### Elementary

Nanette Smith- Principal (PreK-3)  
Alexis Chandler- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Logan Luense- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Taylor Smith- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Angela Smith- Music (PreK-5)

### Middle School

Casey Christensen- Principal (4-8)  
Kirsten Baartmans- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (Math)  
Brittnay Butler- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (S.S)  
Jeana Clough- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (Science)

### High School

Drake Van Roekel- Instrumental  
Brandon Weisert- Business

## 2017-2018 Instructional Resource Fees

Elementary	\$50.00
Middle School	\$50.00
High School	\$70.00

Instrumental Rental Fee,  
Grades 5-12 \$60.00

Band Uniform Cleaning Fee,  
(H.S. Band Students) \$10.00

Band Shoe Rental Fee,  
(H.S. Band Students) \$10.00

Vocal Robe Cleaning Fee,  
(H.S. Vocal Students) \$10.00

### Activity Tickets

K-12	\$60.00
Adult 10 Punch	\$40.00
Adult All Pass	\$85.00
Summer Sports	\$45.00
Family	\$250.00
Replacement of lost ticket	\$10.00

### "Gold Cards"

Activity card for senior citizens (age 65 & older) is FREE to senior citizen that lives in the WM district. Show ID & proof of physical address. Good for all drama & athletic events.

*Activity tickets cannot be used for state-sponsored activities. Students & adult passes also include admissions to drama events and to all summer sports. The summer sports pass is offered to those patrons who wish to attend only summer athletic events.*



**West Marshall Community School District**  
State Center, Iowa 50247

Supt. Office: 641-483-2660

H.S. Office: 641-483-2136

M.S. Office: 641-483-2165

Elem. Office: 641-483-2671

Bus Garage: 641-483-2684



## **STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

The West Marshall School District does not purchase accident insurance to cover injuries incurred by your child at school.

We encourage all families to have accident coverage on their children prior to participation in any sports or school sponsored activity. Please review the following student insurance program.

If you have a plan with a Deductible, Co-Pay, or Limited Benefits, we encourage you to consider this coverage. If you have a High Deductible or No Other Insurance on your child, we encourage you to consider including the Major Expense Benefit as well. The options provided are:

Coverage	Annual Premium
<b>Full time coverage PK-12</b> <i>With NO Interscholastic Sports Coverage</i>	<b>\$99.00</b>
<b>Full time coverage 7-12 with</b> <i>Interscholastic Sports Coverage except Football Gr. 9-12</i>	<b>\$174.00</b>
<b>School time coverage PK-12</b> <i>With NO Interscholastic Sports Coverage</i>	<b>\$16.00</b>
<b>School time coverage 7-12</b> <i>With Interscholastic Sports Coverage except Football (9-12)</i>	<b>\$91.00</b>
<b>Football Coverage Grades 9-12</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
<b>Extended Dental Coverage PK-12</b>	<b>\$9.00</b>

Enrollment forms will be available at registration on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>  
Visit [www.sas-midwest.com](http://www.sas-midwest.com) or call 1-800-328-2739 for more information.

### **SPORT INSURANCE**

The insurance brochures can be obtained at registration for those wishing to purchase coverage for a student. If you feel you have adequate insurance coverage for your child participating in sports, please sign the waiver and return it as soon as possible. If you are unable to attend registration, the form can be returned the first day of camp/practice.

### **CONCUSSION LEGISLATION**

The Iowa Legislature passed a new law, effective July 1, 2011, regarding students in grades 7-12 who participate in extracurricular interscholastic activities. Please note the important information from Iowa Code Section 280.13C, Brain Injury Policies on the enclosed fact sheet.

Every student in grades 7-12 and their parent/guardian must annually receive and sign a concussion and brain injury information sheet before the student is able to participate or practice in interscholastic sports, cheerleading, and dance in any way (practice or competition).

West Marshall Community School District uses GovDelivery as our ALL School Alert e-mail notification system! If you would like more information on this, please go to [http://wp.w-marshall.k12.ia.us/?page\\_id=2445](http://wp.w-marshall.k12.ia.us/?page_id=2445) and sign-up today!!!

## Sports Physicals

All students participating in sports **MUST HAVE A PHYSICAL** form on file with the Athletic Director before he/she can practice, or participate in a sport or camp. If your child plans to participate in sports during the 2017-2018 school year, please make arrangements to have the physical completed so he/she can participate in practice immediately.

### H.S. Volleyball & Special Camps

**August 7:** Grades K-2  
3:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.  
\$15.00

**August 8:** Grades 3-5  
3:00p.m. - 5:30p.m.  
\$20.00

**August 9:** Grades 6-9  
2:30p.m. - 5:30p.m.  
\$25.00

All camps are located at the MS Building

(Grades are based on where they are next year)

### M.S. & H.S. Cross Country Camp

Who: 7-12 Grade Athletes

When: July 31 - August 4

Time: 7:30a.m. - 9:30a.m.

NO COST

(Forms available on the WM Website)



### H.S. Football & Special Camps



#### **Punt, Pass, & Kick Camp:**

Sunday, July 23, 2017  
(Boy & Girl) (Ages 6-7 & 8-9 5:00-6:00p.m.)  
(Boy & Girl) (Ages 10-11 & 12-14 6:00-7:00p.m.)



#### **Football Camp:**

Grades 1-4 JULY 24 & 25 5:30-7:00p.m. \$25.00  
Grades 5-8 JULY 26 & 27 5:30-7:00p.m. \$25.00  
Grades 9-12 JULY 24 - 27 2:30-5:00p.m. \$40.00

(Registration forms are available on the West Marshall Website)

**First Day of Middle School Practice is  
Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> after school**



# Booster Club Information

## Music & Fine Arts

The Music and Fine Arts Booster meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday on odd months at 7:00p.m. in the high school ICN room. Anyone with a student in art, band or choir is encouraged to attend. We would like to welcome our new band director, Mr. Drake Van Roekel!!! This year, our marching band will be led by Drum Majors; Mark Van Metre, Maggie Gunderson, and Autumn Carr.

Please come support the Marching Trojans at the football games and marching band competitions this fall as they perform their 2017 production, 'The Samurai and the Maiden'. The band's first public performance will be August 18th at the West Marshall football game against Nevada, and it's first competition will be at the North Central Iowa Marching Band Invitational on September 23rd in Fort Dodge.

(Music & Fine Arts sponsorship letter is included in this newsletter)

## Athletic Booster

West Marshall Booster Club presents TROJAN TALK

When: Sunday, August 20, 2017 at 5:00 pm

Where: Lincoln Valley Golf Course

What: This is the first of many monthly events. We will start the evening with an \$6 meal with all proceeds going to the Booster Club. At the end of the meal, coaches and players from the sports that are in season will speak about the current state of the season and upcoming games, ending the the evening with a Q/A session. There will also be raffle tickets sold for prizes at every event! SO COME JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF GOOD FOOD AND INTERESTING CONVERSATION, AND HELP SUPPORT WM TROJAN SPORTS!! GO TROJANS!!!

(Athletic Booster sponsorship letter is included in this newsletter)