



Winter 2024

THE Phantastic PHANTOM

The mission of the School District of West De Pere is to create a safe comprehensive educational and social environment for students and staff which will produce life-long learners with the capacity to succeed in the local and global community.



A Vision of
Pride and Excellence
HOME OF THE
PHANTOMS



Westwood Color Run



Big Smiles With Dr. Lau



Happy Scarecrow Day From Westwood Kindergartners



District Therapy Dogs - Maverick and Arlo



Westwood Scholastic Book Fair



Hemlock Creek - Fun at Kindergarten Recess



Intermediate School Exercising Fun



Middle School Choir



High School Students visited Brown County Courthouse in Green Bay



Phantom Knights students, under the direction of Chef Ace Champion from Chef Champion LLC prepared a Thanksgiving lunch. Not only did the students work together to make a delicious meal, they learned some culinary skills, and had a blast too!



CONTINUING EXCELLENCE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Great things are happening in West De Pere



Dr. Lau
SUPERINTENDENT

WEST DE PERE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- Jenni Fuss – President
- Ryan Van Den Heuvel – Vice President
- Scott Borley – Treasurer
- Barb Van Deurzen – Clerk
- Jason Dorn – Member

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Jason Lau, Ph.D. (920) 337-1393

DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM

Amy LaPierre, Ph. D. (920) 337-1393

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES

Amy Schuh (920) 337-1393

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Scott Eggart (920) 338-5229

WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY

Grades 4K-4

1155 Westwood Dr. (920) 337-1087

Fax: (920) 337-1091

Principal: Kristin Krahn

Associate Principal /4K Director:

Jay O'Konski

HEMLOCK CREEK ELEMENTARY

Grades K-4

1900 Williams Grant Dr. (920) 425-1900

Fax: (920) 425-1914

Principal: Kathleen Held

Associate Principal/Summer School

Director: Mike Kowalczyk

WEST DE PERE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Grades 5-6

901 S. Ninth St. (920) 425-1901

Fax: (920) 425-1902

Principal: Scott Marsden

Associate Principal: Chuck Brehm

WEST DE PERE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades 7-8

1177 S. Ninth St. (920) 337-1099

Fax: (920) 337-1380

Principal: Jim Finley, Ph. D.

Associate Principal/Athletic Director:

Jason Zielinski

WEST DE PERE HIGH SCHOOL

Grades 9-12

665 Grant St. (920) 338-5200

Fax: (920) 338-5310

Principal: Russ Gerke, Ed. D.

Associate Principal: Justin Heraly

Associate Principal: Scott Eggart

PHANTOM KNIGHT

SCHOOL OF OPPORTUNITY

400 Reid St. Suite W (920) 425-1915

(920) Fax: 425-1919

Principal: Joseph Feldhausen

DISTRICT OFFICE

400 Reid St. Suite W

(920) 337-1393

Fax: (920) 337-1398

The School District of West De Pere has long been recognized as one of the top performing school districts in Northeast Wisconsin. The results from the State of Wisconsin School Report Cards continued to show that as a district, students in West De Pere Exceed Expectations based on state benchmarks. Additionally, each of the schools achieved a rating of Exceeds Expectations. This ranking is a testament to our staff, students, and parents.

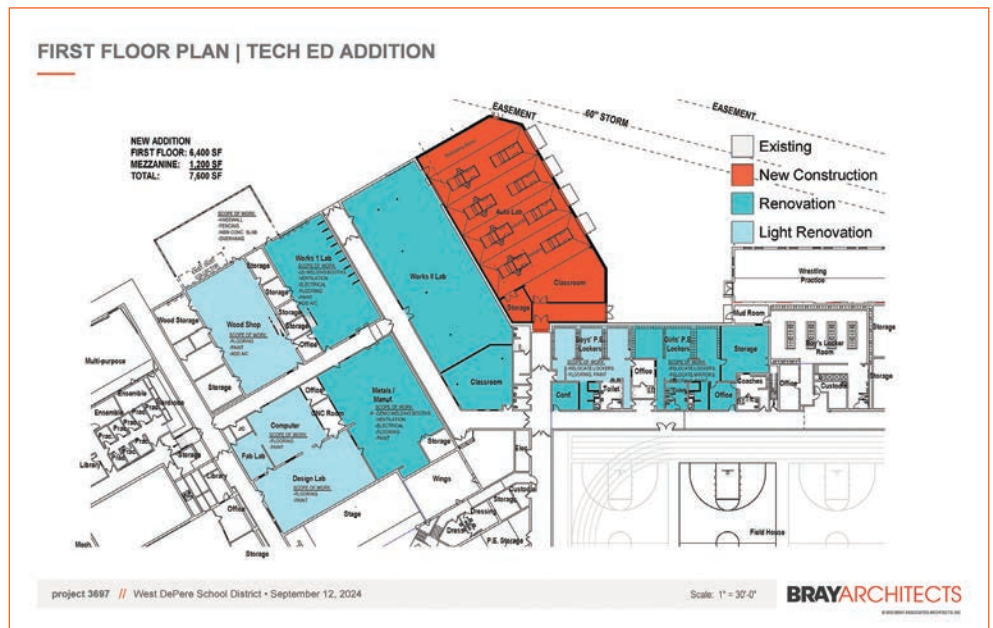
Rankings on the State Report Card is one way to measure our district's success. Another way is by the number of curricular and extra curricular opportunities our students have access to during their time in West De Pere. Over the last number of years, the district has made a commitment to increase the number of Advanced Placement and College Credit Courses at the High School. Additionally, the district and taxpayers have generously supported student learning by providing facilities that are modern and innovative learning spaces.

One of the areas that is in need of attention is the technology education department located at the high school. While many renovations have been made to the high school, the technology education department has been largely untouched since 1969. Over the past number of years, student interest in technology education related to the trades as well as engineering has dramatically increased. Given the increased enrollment in courses, the technology department no longer has the physical capacity to offer a robust offering of courses that allow students who are interested in the trades to receive the education or experience they need to be career ready.

On April 1, 2025 the School District will be asking taxpayers to support a \$9.9 million referendum to expand and modernize the technology education area at the high school. If passed there will be no impact on the current mil rate of 7.04. Because of the increased value of property in the District, it is likely taxes will increase. Those increases are not related to this referendum but the result of the increased value of homes and businesses in the area.

Our students who are interested in attending post-secondary education have multiple options to get a head start by earning credits through Advanced Placement Courses and College Credit Courses. Students interested in a career in the trades will be granted the same opportunity to get a head start by learning skills that will help them secure jobs with local businesses.

There will be more information shared in the coming weeks. In the meantime, if you have questions feel free to contact me at 920-337-1393 x8028 or Dr. Russ Gerke, High School Principal at 920-338-5200 x4205. Either of us will be happy to share our vision to offer a comprehensive and robust technology education program to our students.



April 2025: School District of West De Pere Referendum

During the November School Board meeting, the School Board unanimously approved a resolution to pursue a referendum in April of 2025. The \$9.925 million referendum will fund improvements to the high school's Technology Education department.

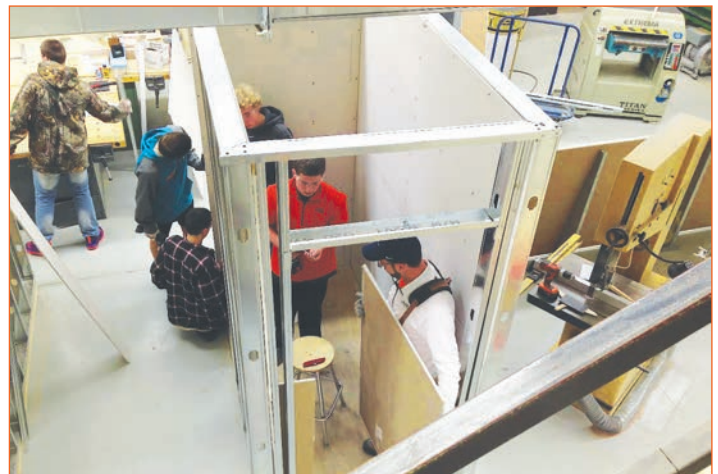
The existing facility is insufficient to meet the growing demand for course offerings for students as the current wood shop, auto shop, and metal shop have been untouched since they were built in 1969. Since the 2018-2019 school year, course requests have increased from 457 requests to 642 requests. Given our students' interest to explore classes and careers in the trades, it is our responsibility to ensure they have an appropriate instructional space to be career ready. Here are some of the goals that the district has for the referendum:

- **Add shop space so we can:**
 - Run the West De Pere Occupational Research X-ploration (W.O.R.X) courses year round
 - Develop additional Level 2 courses
 - Meet the needs of students interested in the trades
 - Spark the interest of students in the trades
- **Create a flexible automotive and technology lab that would allow for vehicle service training and instruction in repairing small engines as well as in the Power Sports courses**
- **Improve shop safety for the West De Pere Occupational Research X-ploration (W.O.R.X) courses, the Car Care courses, and the Residential Design and Construction courses**

If the referendum passes, the School District of West De Pere is committed to hold our current mill rate of \$7.04. As property values increase and other external factors cause increases, your taxes may increase regardless of the referendum results. Our commitment as a school district is to not increase our current mill rate of \$7.04.

You can expect more information related to the project in the coming months. In the meantime, if you have questions about the project, you may contact Dr. Russ Gerke, high school principal or Dr. Jason Lau, the district superintendent.

Assumptions: The mill rate is also dependent on individual municipalities (this can be affected by several factors in which the School District of West De Pere has no control). The mill rate is based on the current 2025 Equalized Valuation of \$3,569,355,425.



Proud to be a Phantom



National Honor Society

Congratulations to 51 WDPHS students on their induction to the Nicolet Chapter of National Honor Society.



INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL 2024-2025 STUDENT COUNCIL



WSMA - Wisconsin School Music Association

Great job to both Ethan Devine (9th grader) and Lilly Keehan (8th grader) who were selected to the WSMA Middle Level Honor Choir which took place in Madison in October. Ethan and Lilly went through a rigorous and anonymous audition process in April of 2024 and were selected out of over 500 students who auditioned. Congratulations Ethan and Lilly.



West De Pere FFA

Six West De Pere FFA members traveled to Indianapolis for the 97th National FFA Convention and Expo. Members were able to tour Rosy Lane Holsteins and the Hummel Livestock Farm where they learned many new things about dairy farming and different exotic livestock animals. They also visited a popcorn making facility and Purdue University's Research crop farm. Members attended many sessions, workshops, and explored the career and college expo. It was a great learning opportunity for all.

Congratulations to Roopeksha Agrawal, Elizabeth Gerrits, Brandon Reed and David Whipp on earning semifinalist status in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program competition! These students demonstrated strong academic abilities on the PSAT test last school year and share this honor with only 16,000 other students nationwide.

They will now have the opportunity to compete for finalist status before final consideration to earn one of the 6,870 National Merit Scholarships totaling nearly \$26 million offered next spring. This is an achievement that only 1.25 percent of the top test takers in the nation achieve.



Pictured from left to right: Elizabeth Gerrits, Brandon Reed, David Whipp, Roopeksha Agrawal

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) at the Middle School

In fall, the NJHS organized and participated in a leaf raking project, which was led by students with the help of teacher advisers. A total of 40 NJHS members volunteered their time after school on a Friday to rake leaves for about a dozen houses. NJHS focuses on service activities that benefit the community.



Six West De Pere High School students were chosen to be a part of the Greater Green Bay Teen Leadership team, a program that is part of the Greater Green Bay Chamber. It's mission is to build and strengthen emerging young leaders with skills, knowledge, and experiences that prepare them to be effective partners for positive change in Brown County.





A group of WDP students, led by HS staff members Natalie Buhl and Ashley Knapp, traveled to Greece for a week. While there, the students toured the bustling city of Athens, visited the home of the ancient Olympic Feats of Strength, took a cruise to the Saronic Islands, and learned to make traditional Mycenaean pottery. Students returned to De Pere with an appreciation for Greek culture, a new love of olives and feta cheese, and some Greek phrases as well!



Mrs. Seidl's 4K class learned about fire safety with the De Pere Firefighters.



Every Child Matters

High School staff and YES students wore orange shirts to honor the theme "Every Child Matters." Orange Shirt Day began in 2013 in Canada to recognize the healing journey of Native American boarding school survivors and remember those children who never made it home. The orange shirt symbolizes an actual orange shirt taken from a young girl named Phyllis who was in a boarding school.



High School DECA hosted a chalk art competition to support the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The event took place in the high school parking lot. They sold chalk and people were able to draw in the parking lot. The theme for this year's drawing was "Celebrating Diversity". The chalk art was judged by the DECA officer team, and half of the proceeds were awarded to the winner with the best chalk art, while the other half went to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

STUDENT CHANGE OF ADDRESS

It's imperative that we have the correct address information for students and parents/guardians. Any change of address and contact information should be promptly reported to the school office of attendance. Under certain circumstances, state law permits a student to continue to attend school in a district even after they move out of that district. Please contact the school office of your student's attendance or the district office for more information.

WEST DE PERE HIGH SCHOOL DONOR BRICK PAVERS

Cement the name of a loved one in West De Pere's history with a personalized brick that will be set in the plaza area of the football stadium or baseball field. For more information, contact Stacy at sschaetz@wdpsd.com or (920) 337-1393 ext. 8025

Around the District



Author Visits West De Pere Schools

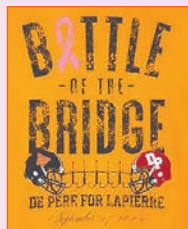
Author Mat Heagerty visited Westwood, Hemlock Creek, and the Intermediate School and blew us all away with his message AND his artwork! Many groups collaboratively created two characters and chose a setting during their session...and he did a live sketch as they told him what they wanted! Mat encouraged students to remember to work together and to keep trying when things get tough. We LOVE our author visits!



The West De Pere Varsity Dance Team held a dance clinic this past summer. The clinic was open to students 4K-8th grade and included a performance at the home varsity football game!

Battle Of The Bridge

West De Pere DECA held an event, Battle of the Bridge: De Pere for LaPierre in support of Krista LaPierre. She is a Westwood Elementary teacher who was diagnosed with breast cancer this summer. We were blown away by the amount of support that was received by the city of De Pere and family and friends from both sides of the bridge. In one minute during our miracle minute, we were able to raise over \$4000 alone thanks to the donations from both sides of the field. In all, we raised \$29,202 for the family. The community support was beyond incredible, including 50 raffle baskets.





Oh What A Game!

Big congrats to Vince Rein, the 8th grade football team manager, who scored a 2 point conversion in the game against the Redbirds! Vince really shined during his field time. Vince has powered through having Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and makes the best out of every opportunity he has to be involved in his favorite sport.

For the past two seasons, Vince has been a part of the team helping both during games and behind the scenes with the coaching staff. Vince has given his time and effort into helping the football team perform to the best of their abilities and being the hype man during games as well! What a moment for the entire De Pere Community!



Presidential Inaugural Simulation

WDPMS held an all school assembly where they modeled the recent Presidential Inauguration, with our new district Superintendent Dr. Lau, acting in the role of the president. Witnesses were present to see Dr. Lau take the "Oath of Office" to lead all students to develop their fullest potential and to provide the staff with the support necessary to do so. Dr. Lau, we thank you for choosing to lead the Phantoms. We appreciate the commitment you have made to enrich the Phantom Legacy and pass it on to future generations. West is Best for a reason!



One Act Play Attend State Theatre Festival!

Congratulations to the cast and crew of the High School One Act Play, "The Insanity of Mary Girard." 15 students attended the Wisconsin State Theatre Festival on November 22 at UW-Milwaukee.

The show earned a variety of awards including an ensemble acting award, technical theatre award, directing award, and the coveted Critic's Choice award. Additionally, seven individual actors won outstanding acting awards: David Fontana, Maris Grun, Emma Klumpp, Lauren Metcalf, Lilyona Perez, Catherine Qiu, and Isabelle Van Sistine. Great job, cast and crew!



Singing in Wisconsin Festival



Thirty two West De Pere choir students of various grades participated in an all day Singing In Wisconsin festival that was organized by WCDA (Wisconsin Choral Directors Association). Our students worked with and rehearsed with excellent clinicians all day to learn new music. The choir performed the songs at an evening concert.



School *Activities*



Intermediate School 5th Grader's Library Lesson

During a recent library lesson, 5th graders learned about various nonfiction books about bugs. Then, they got to design obstacle courses for Hexbug nanos, small robotic bug toys. They had a blast!

WESTWOOD PLAY60 DAY



MIDDLE SCHOOL/INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL FRENCH CLUB GAME EVENT



Middle School Homecoming Float Builders - Go Phantoms



School District of West De Pere
presents
4K
Learning Center
at Westwood Elementary
ALL district 4-year-old kindergarten classrooms will be combined in one location to form the WDPDS 4K Learning Center beginning the 2025-26 school year.
District boundaries for elementary school will start in 5-year-old Kindergarten.



Hemlock Creek - 3rd Grade Library Fun

WDPMS CLUE

During the week of Halloween,, WDPMS students participated in an exciting school-wide game of CLUE! Each advisory group listened to a 1940's style broadcast to learn about a "strange occurrence" that supposedly took place one night. Wadsworth, our school's nighttime butler, revealed clues to what he didn't see. (He had to follow the Butler's code of course!) Using their problem-solving skills, students deciphered riddles to eliminate a person, place or thing and located items hidden in the hallways to deduce what mystery had occurred. There was excitement in the air all week as students put their minds together, building essential skills in teamwork and critical thinking.

As a sweet reward for all their hard work, the entire school was invited to enjoy a specially decorated chocolate cake with food service's assistance that focused on the handiwork of Professor Plum. This treat served as a delicious conclusion to an engaging and memorable experience for everyone involved.

This game could not have been possible without the assistance of many people. A special thank you goes out to all involved. Characters in the game included the Principal (Dr. Finley) the Investigator (Mr. Zielinski), Wadsworth (Mr. Gibbons), Yvette (Mrs. Schlatter), Ms. White (Mrs. Pamperin), Colonel Mustard (Mr. Darrow), Professor Plum (Mr. Dworshok), and Mrs. Peacock (Mrs. Blanchard). The game was produced by Mrs. Blanchard and Mrs. Pamperin.



Hemlock Creek First Nations students participated in a Rock your Mocs parade for the school celebrating native American Heritage Month.



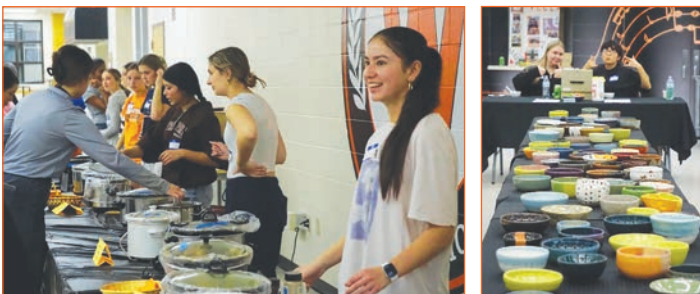
IS - The Grunch

Kudos to the entire cast and crew of The Grunch! The kids all worked extremely hard learning their songs, lines, and staging. Their hard work showed in all of the their performances!



Soup For The Soul

The 4th annual Soup For the Soul Event took place at the high school. It provided the opportunity for people to purchase beautiful handmade pottery bowls from the Ceramics students. And the Culinary Arts & FCCLA provided a variety of soups and desserts. It was a great night out!



Sports

JV SOCCER



WDPHS students, Carson and Kate, represented the Phantom community at State Cross Country this year.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



YOUTH WRESTLING



FALL 2024 FRCC ALL-CONFERENCE WINNERS

FOOTBALL

Offensive Player of the Year - Patrick Greisen
 Defensive Player of the Year - Easton Deschane

Defensive Back/Wide Receiver Player of the Year - Brock Story

1st Team Offense:

Patrick Greisen - Quarterback - Unanimous
 Brandon Schaefer - Kicker
 Jayden Peters - Offensive Lineman - Unanimous
 Evan Ott - Running Back
 Benjamin Lemirand - Wide Receiver
 Brock Story - Wide Receiver

2nd Team Offense:

Luke Schmechel - Offensive Lineman

1st Team Defense:

Easton Deschane - Defensive End
 John Kersten - Defensive Tackle
 Brenton Griffin - Defensive Back - Unanimous

Bryce Borowicz - Outside Linebacker

2nd Team Defense:

Kahli Davis - Defensive End
 Quinn Bauer - Inside Linebacker
 Patrick Greisen - Punter
 Mason Werner - Defensive Back
 Mason Werner - Return Specialist

2024 - BAY CONFERENCE/ALL CONFERENCE WINNERS

CROSS COUNTRY

1st Team

Carson Samson
 Kalli Vannieuwenhoven
 Kate Schmol
 Evan Bright

2nd Team

Caleb Scheller
 Dominic Natzke
 Sydney Nuthals

GIRLS GOLF

1st Team

Reece Osowski WSKI

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

1st Team

Lauren Tisler
 Marissa Vandehei

2nd Team

Lauren Ver Boort
 Mallory Binsfeld

BOYS SOCCER

Player of the Year - Evan Capelle
 Offensive Player of the Year - Lande Arnstad

1st Team

Landen Arnstad
 Kasey Kamler

HONORABLE MENTIONS

FOOTBALL

Jake Koch - Offensive Line
 Nicolaus Tischer - Fullback
 Jack Cygan - Defensive Tackle

Miller Marquardt - Defensive Back

BOYS SOCCER

Richard Perez
 Cooper Nimmer
 Holt Wojciechowski

VOLLEYBALL

Isabelle Dolezal

GIRLS GOLF

Sydney Reis



High School Girls Golf

Congratulations!

The WIAA Division I swim meet was held in November. Congratulations to our West De Pere athletes on the following finishes:

Kate Schmol -
16th - 100 fly

Our 200 free relay
finished in 16th

Our 400 free relay
finished in 19th
place

Great job!!

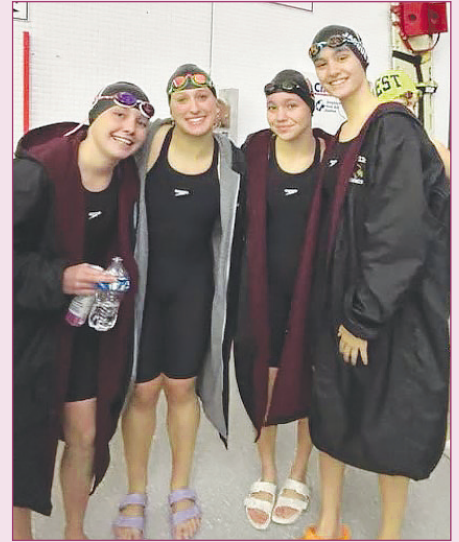


Photo credits - 400 free relay team Kate Schmol, (Carly Larson, De Pere), Kara Schmol, Kayla Jacquette



Congratulations to Faith Walder who signed with NMU for Girls Basketball!



Congratulations to the Pom and Dance team

as they kicked off their competition season earning 1st place in D3 Pom!

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

School District of West De Pere residents are cordially invited to attend regular board meetings held once a month, 5:30pm, at the District Offices, 400 Reid St., Suite W (second floor) unless otherwise posted. An opportunity is provided at each meeting for citizens to address our Board of Education. Please visit our district webpage at: www.wdpsd.com/board-of-education/ or call the District Office (920) 337-1393 ext 8025 to confirm the meeting date, time, and location.

Pre-School Developmental Screening

The School District of West De Pere offers developmental screening for preschool-aged children. The school district uses census data to mail out the Ages and Stages developmental questionnaires throughout the year, asking parents to complete the questionnaire and return it promptly by mail. As the questionnaires are returned, school professionals score them and provide written feedback to parents on the general developmental readiness of their child(ren). In certain circumstances, the school district will invite children to participate in an additional on-site screening. If you would like to request a developmental questionnaire, please call the Department of Student Services at (920) 337-1393 ext. 8012.

PHUTURE PHANTOMS

SOFTBALL CAMP

STUDENTS GRADES K-8

SATURDAY

MARCH 15, 2025

FOLLOW WEST DE PERE SOFTBALL ON SOCIAL MEDIA.
REGISTRATION WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY 2025

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEST DE PERE
400 REID ST. SUITE W
DE PERE WI 54115

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 52
De Pere WI 54115
ECRWSS

THE
Phantastic
PHANTOM



POSTAL CUSTOMER

Digital Safety Resources - Screenagers Film Series

The West De Pere community is invited to join the West De Pere School District Library Team for two upcoming Screenagers films. A discussion will be held after each film is shown.

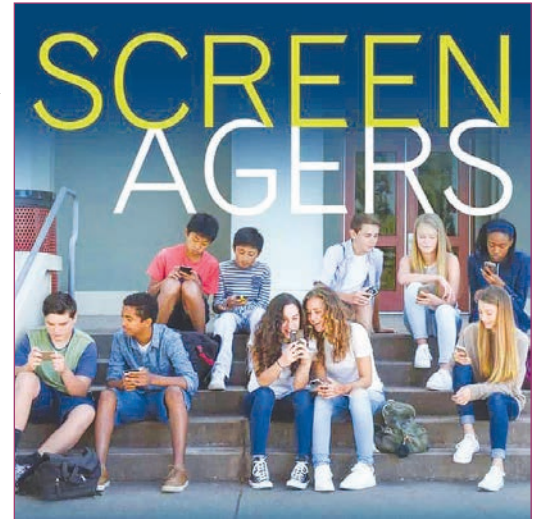
Screenagers Next Chapter: Youth Mental Health in the Digital Age - January, 15, 2025 from 6-8PM @ HS Auditorium.

Description - Millions of young people experience high stress, anxiety, and depression. We follow physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston as she discovers solutions for improved adolescent well-being in the digital age. In Screenagers NEXT CHAPTER, we follow Delaney as she finds herself at a loss on how to help her own teens as they struggle with their emotional wellbeing. She sets out to understand these challenges in our current screen-filled society, and how we, as parents and educators, can empower teens to overcome mental health challenges and build emotional agility, communication savvy, and stress resilience.

Screenagers Under the Influence: Vaping, Drugs, and Alcohol in the Digital Age - March 3, 2025 from 6-8PM @ HS Auditorium.

Description: Join Screenagers' filmmaker, Delaney Ruston, as she picks up her camera once more to examine the impact of our digital age on teens' decision-making in relation to substances such as vaping, drugs, and alcohol. Screenagers Under the Influence delves into how the tech revolution has reshaped adolescence and its effects on substance use. The film debunks myths and depicts strategies parents and schools can use to encourage healthy decision-making, support teen mental health, set limits, and create healthy home environments. The film includes ways young people are using their wisdom and strength to help each other and themselves through this complicated terrain around substance use.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/wdpscreenagers>. Questions? Reach out to Mrs. Wathke at jwathke@wdpsd.com.



School District of West De Pere Annual Asbestos Notification

This notice has been written to comply with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) regulations requiring yearly notification of asbestos activities within the School District of West De Pere.

An Asbestos Management Plan was developed in 1988 and has been continually maintained and updated since that time. The Management Plan is available to anyone for viewing during normal business hours by appointment only, when such appointment is made with the designated person at least one working day in advance.

Abatement of asbestos containing building materials is performed when necessary by accredited persons prior to disturbance during scheduled renovation or construction projects.

Any future asbestos activities will again be published along with the annual written notice.

Is your child college ready? Students who work with an admissions advisor are typically more confident in their decision to attend college and leave with a clearer idea on their next steps. West De Pere High School would like to welcome back **Carla Zellmer** from NWTC in her fourth year with us. She will compliment the high school counselors with being the technical college guru, but also supporting students with post-secondary planning. Along with the high school counselors, Carla can help students with career and program exploration, program shadows, application process, financial aid, and discussing the transition to NWTC.

In Partnership with Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Carla Zellmer will be available to meet with students on Thursdays from 8:00 am to 2:40 pm in the high school library in Ms. Knapp's office.

Students can schedule an appointment by directly contacting Carla through email, carla.zellmer@nwtc.edu or sending a text message to 920-498-5489.

About Carla: Carla is originally from Stevens Point, WI, but transitioned to Northeast WI to complete her BA at Lawrence University as a History major. She later received an MS degree in Educational Leadership from Fielding University. Carla brings 17 years of experience working in education and is passionate about student success. She looks forward to working with students in our school library the remainder of the school year.

Set up an appointment today!
Email: carla.zellmer@nwtc.edu
Call/Text: 920-498-5489

