



WJSHS Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

October 2019 Newsletter

Westport Junior Senior High School is making school climate and culture a focus during the school year. A section of the newsletters will focus a student community service and Wildcat Pride. Go Wildcats!!

October is UNITY MONTH. Unity Day is Friday October 25, 2019 at Westport Junior Senior High School. The mission of Unity Day is "Together against bullying, united for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion." Students and Staff are encouraged to wear the color orange. In collaboration with the WJSHS Guidance Department, STEEL (Students that exemplify extraordinary leadership) students have created presentations regarding bullying for the 7th and 8th grade students. Ms. Michael and the students visited both grade levels during the week, and students completed an orange chain to represent their pledge to be united against bullying.



The Westport Middle-High School had its ground breaking ceremony on October 8, 2019. Students from the Class of 2029, who will be the first class to begin their education as fifth graders and graduate, are pictured with the state and local officials, the MSBA, and Dr. Reese. The Junior and Senior High School bands played the National Anthem.



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UPCOMING DATES

October 25: Unity Day

October 29: Haunted Hallways

October 31: Halloween

November 5: Early Release 11:00 AM—End of Quarter 1

November 6—8: MCAS ELA Retest

November 8: Term 1 Report Cards Distributed

November 11: Veteran's Day—No School

November 13-14: MCAS Math Retest

November 20: Anti-

GUIDANCE UPDATES

College Visits so far:

Curry College
Dean College
Emerson College
Salve Regina University
University of Tampa
Mass College of Liberal Arts
Roger Williams University
UMASS-Amherst
URI
Merrimack College
UMASS Boston
Lasell College
Stonehill College
Wentworth University
Salem State University
University of New England

Upcoming College Visits:

MA Maritime Academy
Worcester State University
Emmanuel College
Simmons College
Westfield State University
Fisher College
Framingham State University
Johnson & Wales University

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Scholarships are open to all graduating seniors and are located in the guidance office.

-The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans. Deadline Oct 25, 2019

-Heisman High School Scholarship. Open to seniors with a 3.0 GPA, have played at least one varsity sport and is a leader in their community. Deadline Oct. 29, 2019.

-Dan Pires Memorial Scholarship. Open to all seniors. Deadline is Oct 31, 2019

-VFW Voice of Democracy Program. Open to students grades 9-12. Return to local VFW Attention Don Davidson, Commander VFW Post 8502 P.O. Box 1498 Westport, MA 02790

-Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Program. Deadline December 6, 2019



SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE SOCIAL NETWORKING STRATEGIES FOR KEEPING YOURSELF SAFE ONLINE

BY: SAMEER HINDUJA, PH.D. AND JUSTIN W. PATCHIN, PH.D. CYBERBULLYING RESEARCH CENTER, CYBERBULLYING.ORG

Social networking web sites such as and are useful Internet tools to keep in touch with friends and family, and can be utilized to meet new people with similar interests. These sites have become very popular among teens as they seek to explore/define who they are and connect with others like themselves. If used responsibly, these sites can be a positive and beneficial resource for youth. Too often, however, adolescents include too much personal information, discuss inappropriate behaviors that could get them into trouble, or otherwise place themselves at risk by what they share on their online profiles. We have heard a number of stories of youth who have been cyberbullied using information found on social networking web sites. Follow these guidelines to use social networking web sites safely and responsibly:

- Assume that EVERYONE has access to your profile (parents, teachers, future employers, and law enforcement) even if you have your profile restricted to “friends only.” Don’t discuss things you wouldn’t want them to know about. Don’t use language you wouldn’t use in front of your parents. Finally, make sure you set your profile to “private” so that you can control who has easy access to your information.
- USE DISCRETION when putting pictures (or any content for that matter) on your profile. Your friends might think that picture of you acting silly at the party last night is hilarious, but how will your parents or a potential employer react? Also remember that when your friend (or a stranger) takes your picture it may end up on their profile for all to see.
- Assume people WILL use the information on your profile to cause you harm. Don’t put anything online you wouldn’t want your worst enemy to know. Also, don’t add people as “friends” unless you know them in real life. Even if you think you know them, be skeptical. Kids often think it is cool to accumulate and have thousands of “friends.” Just remember that these people have open access to all of your posted content and information.
- Assume there are predators out there trying to FIND YOU based on the information you provide on your profile. Think like a predator. What information on your profile identifies who you are, where you hang out, and where you live? Never post this kind of information anywhere online. Your friends know how to find you.
- You may be held responsible for inappropriate content on your profile that is in violation of the Terms of Service or Acceptable Use Policies of the Internet Service Provider or website(s) you use. Moreover, school districts across the country are revising their policies to allow them to discipline students for online behavior that can be linked to a disruption in the classroom environment – even if you wrote or posted the content at home from your own computer.

Upcoming Teacher Profes- sional Develop- ment

Elizabeth Cooney:

Westport Junior Senior High School faculty and staff will participate in Understand by Design (UbD) PD on November 5 with Elizabeth Cooney. Elizabeth was licensed as a staff developer by Research for Better Teaching in Acton, Massachusetts, the organization with the longest and most successful track record of any professional development provider in the United States for building in-house professional development capacity to ensure skillful teaching. Elizabeth is also a Jay Mctighe Associate for the Europe, Africa and Asia regions helping international schools that are adopting the Understanding by Design framework to train and support their faculty in its implementation.



ATHLETICS UPDATE

Fall sports are well under way! Make sure to come check out exciting Fall games! You can access all sports related information at

[Westport Community Schools - Athletics Page](#)

**Fridays wear
pink Support
breast cancer
awareness!
For the whole
month of
October**



NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS!

We would like to welcome Nathaniel Brown to WJSHS. Mr. Brown is our new 7th and 8th Grade Science teacher. He grew up in Westport and went to Westport schools through middle school. Mr. Brown went to college in Middlebury, Vermont where he studied Biology. Before joining WJSHS, Mr. Brown spent a few years working field jobs, raising Osprey, tracking Owls, and conducting breeding bird surveys in Illinois, Utah, and Idaho. Between field seasons, he substitute taught, fell in love with teaching, and pivoted his career. After some time at Dartmouth, the Science position opened up here at Westport, which aligned with his passion. An interesting fact about Mr. Brown is that he is an avid birder and has seen almost 700 species of birds. What he love about WJSHS so far is how curious the students are.

