



Wiregrass Ranch High School  
2909 Mansfield Boulevard  
Wesley Chapel, Florida 33543

## Newsletter-September 2014

### From the Principal.....Robyn White

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time for students, parents and teachers. With new classes, new experiences, the start of Friday night football games and numerous other sports and activities - it is a great time of year. We have lots of new students to WRHS, with enrollment exceeding 2400 students, we are a very busy place. WRHS is a small city. On some days we have activities on campus from before school starts and concluding around midnight. We are open 7 days a week. With the addition of the entrances to PHSC, plus 40 buses, 200 employees, 500 student cars and hundreds of visitors, deliveries and parent drivers, traffic at peak times requires patience and early arrival. The school manages this difficult situation with safety as our primary concern. Therefore, traffic is not an excuse for students tardy to school. We start teaching @ 7:30 am. Should you arrive later than 10 minutes to school, do not rush, just walk your child into Student Services and sign him/her in for an excused tardy or unexcused tardy. Unexcused tardies include: missing the bus; sleeping late; alarm clock didn't go off; car problems, etc. Obviously, we can't have students arriving at various times. For more information on attendance and tardies, please visit our website for details. Finally, Parent Open House is Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, starting in the gym @ 6 pm. Please see the Open House information in this newsletter for the complete Open House information. Open House will provide parents an opportunity to visit their child's classroom and meet the teachers. We look forward to seeing everyone at Open House. Contact WRHS @ 813- 346- 6000 or visit our web-site @<http://wrhs.pasco.k12.fl.us>.

Teacher hours - 7:00 - 2:30 pm

Classes in session - 7:30 - 1:55 pm

Student Services - 7:00 - 3:00 pm

Administration office hours - 7:00 - 4:00 pm

#### Open House

Wiregrass Ranch High School will host an Open House on September 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Open House is an opportunity to meet teachers and get a general idea of your student's daily routine. All parents/guardians are invited to "walk" their student's schedule and meet their student's teachers to receive information regarding each class's academic goals, expectations, textbook information, and grading policies. During your child's designated "lunch" period, we encourage you to visit the cafeteria where we have much to share: club information, athletic information, PTSA, band boosters, guidance information, and absent teacher information. We hope to see you at Open House.

Security Cameras may be used to record events at WRHS.

#### Graduation Information

We are proud to announce that Wiregrass Ranch High School will be back at the USF Sun Dome for this year's graduation. The Class of 2015 Graduation will be on Sunday, May 31, 2014 at 10 am. Look for the Senior Timeline that is posted on the school website. The timeline includes all of the important dates for seniors and will be updated as we get new information.

#### Athletic Passes

Wiregrass Ranch High School athletics will once again be selling season passes for all home contests for the 2014-15 school year. A family pass is \$100.00, adult pass is \$50.00 and a student pass is \$25.00. The pass is good for admission to all regular season home athletic events excluding playoff events. Call Dave Wilson at 813-346-6052 for more information or just stop by school to purchase one.

#### PTSA

We appreciate the support we've had from our students, parents, and teachers during registration; our PTSA is off to a great start this year! Parents, it's not too late to send in your PTSA memberships. **Seniors- if you want to be eligible for the Senior Scholarships this year, you must become a member by October 4<sup>th</sup> in order to qualify.** PTSA Membership forms are available on our website <http://www.wiregrassptsa.org/Home.html> or in Student Services. We are well under way with many events already under our belts and many more to come. Our PTSA Board has set goals for the year and is working toward each of them. If you'd like to lend a hand in any area, your help is welcome and appreciated! Listed below are a few important upcoming events that we hope you take part in.

#### WRHS Driving Class

The Safe Behind the Wheel Driving Classes will be scheduled with Cpl. Justice. Please listen for dates, times and locations on the morning announcements.

#### OPEN HOUSE AND PTSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING:

Please join us on **September 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm** in the Cafeteria. If you are a member, please bring your membership card with you that night to be able to vote on this year's Budget. If you are currently not a PTSA Member you will be able to join the PTSA that evening. We will also be selling Spirit Wear outside the gym. This is also the night of Open House, which begins at **6pm** in the gym. Come hungry – **Pizza, drinks and Bruster's Real Ice Cream** will be available for purchase.

#### Tardy Policy

Please talk to your children about the importance of arriving to class on time. It is imperative that students are seated in their classrooms prior to the tardy bell sounding. Students who are tardy to class will receive consequences-1<sup>st</sup> Offense-Student receives a warning and parent/guardian is notified; 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense-Student receives a lunch detention and parent/guardian is notified; 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense-Student receives a tardy notice and after school detention; 4<sup>th</sup> Offense- Student receives a referral and after school detention; 5<sup>th</sup> Offense-Student receives a referral and Saturday. Students who are tardy to school receive the same consequences.

#### PARKS LINCOLN'S DRIVEN TO GIV has been canceled.

**ACT PRINCETON REVIEW PRACTICE TEST AND STRATEGY SESSION:** The Princeton Review practice ACT test and Strategy Session is being held on **Saturday, September, 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am to 5:30pm** in the Cafeteria. Lunch will be included. The fee for the entire day is \$15 pre-pay by September 26<sup>th</sup> and \$20 at the door. This is a great way to help prepare.

#### Calendar

Labor Day Holiday (no school)  
Open House  
Progress Reports

Sept. 1  
Sept. 15 @ 6pm  
Sept. 17

#### PTSA (con't)

Forms are located on our website or at [ampalmer68@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:ampalmer68@tampabay.rr.com).

#### Security Notice

The PTSA would also like to thank the following businesses for their support at the start of this school year: Jersey Mike's,

Taste of Boston, Panera Bread, Buster's Real Ice Cream and Sonny's BBQ.

If at any time during the school year, you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at [president@wiregrasspts.org](mailto:president@wiregrasspts.org).

Again, welcome back and have a great year!

Thank you and GO BULLS!!

Mari C. Blank  
WRHS PTSA President

## School Clubs

WRHS offers a variety of student clubs sponsored by staff and faculty. The first club meeting is on September 8<sup>th</sup> and most clubs meet before school or after school. Clubs meet usually one time a month and provide students with activities that interest them. Students should submit a club membership form available on the schools' website to be a member. Clubs are voluntary and provide an opportunity for students with similar interest to get together. These clubs are in addition to school Service Organizations, like National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, etc. For more information about clubs, ask Mr. DuBose at Open House on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

## InSync Education

InSync contains more than 1,200 academic activities aligned with Common Core State Standards in language arts, math, science and social studies. Resources can be viewed or listened to in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. This is a one of a kind tool for homework help, test prep, and college and career readiness.

Please go to the district or school website and click on the InSync logo. The district code is PASCO. Everything is free to parents, students, and teachers in Pasco County Public Schools.

## Guidance News

**Senior Presentations** – 9/30/14 – Seniors will be receiving important information regarding the year ahead, as well as college & scholarships!

**Senior Seminar** – Tuesday – 9/17/13 – Senior parents are invited to attend this informative evening! We will provide you with information to plan the year ahead with your Senior. College applications, scholarships, financial aid info will be provided as well! RSVP to Mrs. Jennifer Batchelor – [jbatchel@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:jbatchel@pasco.k12.fl.us)

**College Reps are coming!!!** Make sure your Junior or Senior students sign up to see one of the many college reps that are coming to the WRHS campus to present! Announcements will be made & sign ups will be in Student Services. To date, the following colleges have scheduled dates already: John Hopkins, UCF, FL Polytech, FIU, UF, FAU and USF St. Pete.

**College Night!!!!!!!** Reps from all of the Florida colleges & universities will be present at this expo!! Make time to come, walk around, get information, & talk to the admissions reps! Tuesday – 9/9/13 – PHSC East Campus, Dade City 6:00-8:00pm; Wednesday – 9/10/13 – PHSC West Campus, New Port Richey 6:00-8:00pm.

## Did you know?

Food Allergy Fact: [Allergens](#)

Eight foods account for 90% of all food allergy reactions. Although nearly any food is capable of causing an allergic reaction, only eight foods account for 90 percent of all food-allergic reactions in the United States. These foods are: Peanut, Tree Nuts, Milk, Eggs, Wheat Soy, Fish and Shellfish.

## Parent/Teacher Conference Procedures

The WRHS faculty knows that parental involvement is the number one indicator of student's success in school. To ensure a successful parent teacher conference, WRHS asks that the following procedures be followed. Before scheduling a parent-teacher conference, please contact and discuss the issue or concern directly with the teacher by email or telephone. If after this discussion, a face-to-face conference still needs to occur, contact guidance secretary Mrs. DelValle in Student Services to schedule the

conference. All conferences will be held before school from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. or after-school from 2:00 to 2:30 p.m.

## Protection of School Instructional Time

The primary purpose of school is to provide instruction for students, and any infringement upon time designated for instructional activities is a failure to achieve that purpose. Therefore, classroom interruptions will be limited to emergency cases only. Please attempt to schedule all appointments after-school. If you must check your child out from school, please plan ahead to allow time for a pass to be delivered to the classroom to retrieve your student for calls to the classroom are prohibited. In addition, teachers will not be checking their email during school hours. Please allow teachers 24 hours to read and then respond to your emails and telephone messages. Deliveries of essential school-related items dropped off to Student Services during school time will be limited to the last five minutes of each class period. We will not be delivering flowers, cakes, balloons, etc. to student classrooms. We appreciate your cooperation, as we attempt to make this the best year yet!

## SAT/ACT Testing

WRHS will once again be an official test site for both the SAT and the ACT. It is extremely beneficial for students to take these important college entrance exams in a familiar setting. The testing staff works hard to ensure as smooth a test day as possible. Don't forget that Reading scores from either the SAT or ACT can also be used to meet the FCAT Reading requirement! We encourage all Juniors and Seniors to take both the SAT and ACT at least once and should contact their School Counselor for more information. Dates for the ACT: 9/13/14, 12/13/14, 2/7/15 and 4/18/15. Dates for the SAT: 10/11/14, 1/24/15 and 5/2/15.

We hope to see you testing at the Ranch!

## WRHS Athletic Boosters

Membership Drive for 2014/2015 School Year has started. If interested email [wrhsboosters@gmail.com](mailto:wrhsboosters@gmail.com) for information about the WRHS Athletic Boosters and information on how to join/get involved. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 8, 2014, at 7:30 pm in the cafeteria, please join us. We can always use more volunteers! Texas Roadhouse WRHS All Sports Spirit Night is Sept. 22, 2014 from 5:00-10:00. Come out and support your favorite WRHS sport. The team with the most participation will win \$150.00 for their team.



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF PASCO COUNTY

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools

School Board Members: Allen Altman, Joanne Hurley, Cynthia Armstrong, Alison Crumley, and Steve Luikart.