

West Fargo Community High School

October 2023



Important Upcoming Dates

Nov. 10-----Veteran's Day Observation-No School

Nov. 22-24 ----- No School

Dec 5 -----Family-Teacher conferences 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 21----- Last day of school before Winter break

Jan. 2-----School Reconvenes after Winter break

Contact Our Staff

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Special Ed

Contact Community High School

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From Dr. Gravel's Desk



Welcome to October everyone! We are off and running in another great year and we have already had three graduates so far. A quick reminder to everyone that Community High offers a smaller learning environment that is more self-paced than the traditional high schools, but we do require a lot more personal responsibility. Each learner must step up and do the work, manage their time, and manage themselves to be successful.

With the assistance of my great team here, we have been keeping our enrollment slightly above our 60 capacity for a couple of reasons. First, between start dates we always have some learners that graduate, some that strike out, and some that find that “now is not the right time” for school. The second reason is that we started the year with a waiting list and it’s not getting any smaller. By adding a few more learners, we can try to keep our wait list down and to rotate more learners into Community High School. Yes, it makes it a bit tighter, but we are still able to serve our learners and create the “community” culture that makes the magic.

Shout out to my two new staff members, Nathan Walsh our math teacher who comes to us from Central Valley High School in Buxton, North Dakota and Tracie Bents, our special education teacher who came to us from her counselor position at L.E. Berger elementary school. They have fit right into our school and bring forth a lot of talent to share with our learners.

A quick reminder about how learners earn strikes at Community. They do not meet their 15 or 30-day deadline, they go over their timecard by 30 minutes, or they exceed their two health days per month. How do learners get OFF strike? They pass a class they did not earn a strike in. It’s that simple. We are preparing our learners for not only a high school diploma, but a post-secondary world as well, and for the vast majority of our learners, that means working. Workers need to meet deadlines, show up, and manage their time and health. Those are qualities that we teach and expect from our learners each and every day.

If you have any questions, need to visit with myself or any of my staff, please reach out to us at 356-2008 and we can make that happen. Thank you for sending us your learners!

Student of the Month



September – Brekka Hennix

Math

Since I'm brand new to Community High, I'd like to start off my first newsletter article by introducing myself. I've been teaching math at a small school between Grand Forks and Fargo for the past 24 years. While teaching at a small school, I was able to be involved in a lot of different things and wore many "hats". Besides being the math teacher, I coached football, boys and girls basketball and baseball for many years and also was an athletic director for about 5 years. My wife and I decided to make a big life change and moved down to Fargo in August. Our son is a student at NDSU and our daughter was having a baby and we wanted to be closer to all of them. Luckily, a job opened up here at Community and now the rest is history. The students have been great! I've already made some awesome connections with many of them. The faculty here is second to none and I feel like we all work very well together and want nothing but the best for the students. My first couple of months here have been very enjoyable and I look forward to the rest of the year.

- Nathan Walsh

English

Just a reminder: Never underestimate the power of reading! My goal as an English teacher is to make readers out of all my students. Don't love sitting down with a book? No problem! WFPS has many great audiobooks available for you to check out with different apps for your phone. The public library also has audiobooks available! Let me know if you need help accessing those resources.

New Classes:

Looking for an elective class? I have some new classes available! Along with all of the various novels classes (Harry Potter Sem 1 and 2, Sci Fi, Mythology, Novels Sem 1 and 2), I'm excited to offer a Fiction class and Speech class. The Fiction class looks at the relationship between books and movies (read novels then watch the movies). The Speech class is all about public speaking-this class is GREAT for someone who loves to perform or someone who is nervous about speaking in public and just wants some practice to get more comfortable.

- Vikki Hoss

Student Leadership

Our first event of the year was our Fall Blood Drive. We had 14 people sign up to donate! Thank you to all who participated. If you didn't get a chance to donate this fall, we will be having a second blood drive this spring.



Upcoming Events:

Oct: Fall Picnic

Nov: Thanksgiving Dinner

Dec: Cookie Decorating Contest

- Vikki Hoss

Social Studies/ PaY

On October 25th the West Fargo Community High School PaY (Philanthropy and Youth) will take students to the fall Inspire Conference at Camp Castaway. Each year the PaY program has a one-word inspirational choice as a focal point. This year's theme is Creativity. Students will have the opportunity to interact with groups from other schools around the area and collaborate on ideas involving the theme and develop their ideas.

Philanthropy and Youth is an organization that engages students from high schools in Fargo-Moorhead, Detroit Lakes, and the surrounding area. Each student-led school committee is allocated \$5,000 to use for grantmaking in the community. Student-led committees identify areas of focus, research community nonprofits, and conduct site visits before deciding how to award their allotted grant dollars.

Students will enjoy the opportunity to work on several team building and leadership exercises which include some friendly competitions and interesting challenges between groups. Students are also able to listen to incredible speakers who participate in the PaY program as well as from outside the PaY program. Their topics ranged from Creativity, Leadership, and the potential for students in this program to have learning opportunities such as internships and the possibility of obtaining scholarships.

We have a great deal of work to continue with this school year in the PaY program as students will take the skills they begin to develop at the retreat and make site visits to see where they can make an impact in the local community and work to obtain a donation from the PaY program to help non-profit organizations in the area. Our students are learning about the need for help in our community and how they can be a huge part in assisting others around us and building their own skills for life after high school.

If students are interested in joining the program, please contact Mr. Limke or Mr. Walsh to see how they can get involved in making West Fargo and the surrounding areas a wonderful place to live.

- Gregg Limke

Science

Fall of 2023 has gotten off to an amazing start! Classes have been full and students have been working hard. This year's Horticulture class had the opportunity to help in beautifying our campus. Brennan, Chloe, Cy, and Destiny were able to plant new perennial flowers in the flower beds. They also cleaned up the picnic table areas and added in some much-needed mulch. This was all courtesy of Andrew Petersen from our Building and Grounds Department. He was kind enough to bring all of the materials to us. The gutters were also renewed. We have enough to continue with other flowerbeds in the Spring.

See the next page for science in action this year.

- Lisa Foulkes

Before pics...



During...



After...



Counselor News

2022-2023 Community High School learner Ka'Majah Wright was awarded the North Dakota Alternative Education Student of the Year on September 28th in Bismarck, ND. Ka'Majah distinguished himself as an essential student leader in the Alternative Middle School/CHS Mentor Program, and demonstrated determination, perseverance, and quality citizenship as a CHS learner. Ka'Majah continues to excel at Moorhead High School.



Counselor News

One of the most common questions we hear from our learners is, “How can I graduate faster?” It certainly depends a lot on learner motivation, and there are several opportunities outside the classroom for learners to earn high school credits and accelerate toward high school graduation.

Service Learning

Serve as a volunteer in any of the Lodoen Center programs: Alternative Middle School Program, Transition Academy, YMCA Childcare, Early Childhood Center, West Fargo Public Library. Volunteer time can be during or outside of school hours. 60 hours = ½ credit, see Mr. Potter for more information.

Student Leadership

Join the student-led co-curricular organization and help run the school store, organize the blood drive, plan, and help run CHS fall and spring picnics, plus other opportunities to practice leadership and organizational skills. ½ credit. See Mrs. Hoss for more information.

Philanthropy and Youth

Join PaY and learn about non-profit organizations in our community. Be a decider in how to donate \$5,000 among these organizations. ½ credit. See Mr. Limke or Mr. Walsh for more information.

Work-Based Learning

CHS learners with paid employment may earn ½ credit for 75 documented hours of work time, or 1 credit for 150 hours of documented work time. Completion of the WBL agreement, work hours documentation, and a supervisor evaluation are required. See Mr. Potter for more information.

Dual Credit

CHS learners can earn both high school and college credit at the same time. We are partners with NDSCS and NDSU for the high school dual credit program. Dual credit classes are taken online and may be a regularly scheduled CHS class (AM or PM) or may be taken as a third class on overload. Learners who qualify for free/reduced lunch may have course fees paid for by the Bank of North Dakota for up to two dual credit classes per academic year. See Mr. Potter for more information.

Successful Skills for School and Life I, II, III, and IV

- Most new CHS learners will take SSLS-I as their first class, where they become oriented to CHS, learn, and review basic skills, and complete in-depth career exploration activities, as well as build their life plan for graduation and beyond.
- SSLS-II is worked on independently and must be completed by the second week of May. Most finish sooner. The activity packet covers 17 basic life skills. See Audrey Erickson for more information.
- SSLS-III is focused on mental health wellness, relationships, social-emotional growth, and prevention of youth human trafficking. It is a combination of guest speaker live sessions, self-reflection, and is combined with online interactive modules and group work. See Mr. Potter for more information.
- SSLS-IV, Finding Your Why, is a group-based learning and growth course focused on the core themes of the book, *The Café on the Edge of the World*, by John Strelecky. Topics include finding purpose, developing self-awareness, making good life decisions, and growing empathy and compassion. This is a partnership with F5 Project and includes adult mentorship. See Mr. Potter for more information.

- Chris Potter

Ohana News

Below is Ohana moms learning to cook healthy meals. Also, Mariam from NDSU extension will be coming for 8 weeks with a new recipe to teach the ohana girls!

