

THE CHARGER

WHS stays in class 2A

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With an enrollment number of 148, Wabaunsee High School enters the year in the 2A classification.

The classifications shifted more than usual this year due to restructuring by the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

Classifications
School/Class/ Enrollment
Wabaunsee/2A/148
St. Marys/3A/201
Silver Lake/3A/206
Rossville/2A/163
Riley County/3A/224
Rock Creek/3A/268
Mission Valley/2A/161

According to WHS athletic director Jeron Weisshaar, the state wanted to reduce the number of classifications that had swelled in recent years. 1A and 4A will no longer be split into multiple divisions, and the discrepancy in enrollment between schools in the same class should be reduced.

Several 4A schools moved to 3A and some 3A schools dropped to 2A.

While football classifications were decided in the spring, the new classifications will affect other fall sports. Volleyball heads to Herington and Wabaunsee hosts cross country October 20. Girls tennis heads to Hesston Friday for the 3-2-1A regional.

Program to address ineligible students

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WHS staff plans to implement a new academic intervention program for students who are ineligible or failing class.

WHS already has an academic intervention program called ZAP (Zeros Aren't Permitted), although it only applies to students with a failing grade and missing assignments in a particular class.

"This is intervention for students that are ineligible," WHS principal Jan Hutley said. "If a student is failing a class, then their teacher for that class fills out a pass for advisor base. Then puts the pass in the box of that student's advisor base teacher. At the start of advisor base, that student will report to the failing class."

Students will continue to report to that class until the grade improves to a passing grade. Hutley wants WHS students to be as active and involved as possible, but to remember to prioritize the important things.

"I always go back to putting first things first and that is academics," Hutley said. "But I also want them to be involved, because I think that's a part of a successful school. My biggest goal is to keep kids eligible and to assist them in prioritizing their academics."

WHS staff is gradually working to implement this new program.

KAY Club plans to 'Be the Spark' at WHS

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WHS KAY club is changing the school and community through service projects and physical activity.

Last school year the club filled out an application to receive the Be The Spark grant. After receiving the grant money, water bottle filling stations were installed over the summer on the second floor in the school and outside the weight room. A ribbon cutting for the new water fountains is still in the works to thank everyone for their help. Along with the water bottle filling stations, a physical activity was planned for each month for the students. The club held its first physical activity last week by inviting every student to play tunnel freeze tag. They are also planning to play volleyball and dodgeball.

At KAY Leadership Camp each area of

the state comes up with a service project that each school participates in. This year the service project has to include beautifying the community. For the project the KAY club will be teaming up with FCCLA and NHS and rake leaves for the community. Along with the area project, KAY club is planning to host a Halloween dance for students at the end of October.

Lisa Hull took the open sponsor position after Rachel Cox left last year. Hull is enjoying the new position with all the new opportunities. "We want to get quality over quantity," Hull said. "We want to grow, but want to have members that are involved." With a new sponsor, president Kinsey Stuewe is stepping up to keep the club running smoothly. "My goals are to get the gold award and have good active members while having proactive fun," Kinsey Stuewe said.



Freshman Sarah Vanstory fills up her water bottle with the new water bottle filling station. "It's much faster to fill water bottles up and it saves them too," Vanstory said. One filling station is near the office in the main building, the other is outside of the weightroom. As of press time Tuesday, the fountain in the main building has eliminated waste from over 1377 plastic bottles. Photo by Kaytlyn Meseke.

Sports raise funds for uniforms, equipment

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WHS sports teams are in search of funding.

Many sports teams at Wabaunsee hold annual fundraisers each year such as T-shirt sales, golf tournaments, sporting clay tournaments, Hit-a-Thons and working the concession stand at home sporting events.

"These funds are used to cover costs that come up and are not included in board policy," athletic director Jeron Weisshaar said, "such as additional meals, overnight trips, team awards and team meals. My understanding is that there is one overall budget that covers all of the sports for necessities. There really isn't a set amount for each team."

Funds pay for tents or canopies for outdoor sports, additional jerseys or uniforms, summer sport events, additional equipment, travel gear such as bags, hoodies, and sweats and any other small or unexpected purchases that are not covered by district funds.

Fall sports have already held the majority of their fundraising events.

The Football team added a new fundraiser this year in addition to their annual fundraiser at the Wabaunsee Pines Golf Course. They used Snap-Raise.com, a website that asks for monetary donations rather than asking donors to purchase items. The team used funds to purchase new practice jerseys, a water cooler, water bottles and summer weight room attendance rewards. They also hope to be able to purchase team travel bags, more practice bags, hand shields and eventually a new blocking sled to replace equipment.

"Most of what we have now is falling apart and barely able to be used," head football coach Jess Rutledge said. "The big reason why we fundraise is not just to pay for these items, but because it is extremely expensive. It is no secret that football is the most expensive sport there is available to students in this school. The district will pay for items that are deemed a necessity. However, I would not feel that it is fair to use the majority of our school-allocated funds on one



The football team lines up on offense against Jefferson County North during a loss on homecoming night. **Right:** Freshmen Cecelia Emmert pushes through at the Jason McKinney invitational at Wabaunsee. "I really like the practices and I think this season is going really well.

sport." Volleyball held a golf tournament, sold T-shirts and plans to run both a Rec volleyball tournament and a Club volleyball tournament this winter. All funds go towards additional jerseys, equipment, and summer volleyball league registration fees. The team also raises funds for Relay for Life by selling Pink Out T-shirts.

The Cross Country team has a different view on fundraising. "I really try to avoid fundraising, so the only thing we do is make a little bit of money off of our T-shirt orders," cross country coach Roger Alderman said. Tennis also sold T-Shirts, and works a concession stand each year.

Other fundraisers that have already taken place are the Boys Basketball Sporting Clay tournament September 16, the Little Charger Spirit Clinic last summer, and participation in working the concession stand at home sport functions.

Girls Basketball plans to fundraise for travel and practice gear using Snap-Raise.com as well as selling burritos. Wrestling hosts a kids club wrestling tournament every year and sells T-shirts to purchase singlets, headgear, coaches cards, and insurance. The track team also sells T-shirts annually for unexpected costs. The Cheer squad raises money by selling Red Wheel and putting on the Little Charger Cheer Clinic, as well as working all home baseball and softball concessions in the spring and summer. The Cheer squad raises funds to pay for uniform pieces, pom-poms, and fees

for summer cheer camp.

Every spring softball or baseball participates in a Hit-a-Thon. Each member bats and donors can either donate a flat fee or chose to donate per feet their player hits. Softball has a Hit-a-Thon during odd years, and baseball has one during even years.

BRIEFS | CROSS COUNTRY CONTINUES SUCCESSFUL RUN

The Wabaunsee Cross Country team ran strong despite the wet and the cold in the Centralia Invitational.

The boys continue their undefeated streak and increase their record by 11-0. The girls had a strong performance as well only losing to Jefferson County North. Their record increased to 7-1.

"I'm pleased with the times," coach Roger Alderman said, "As always, we can't just be satisfied and must continue to work hard." The team travels on Saturday to compete at Riley County.

VOLLEYBALL NOTCHES ANOTHER TOURNAMENT WIN

Coming off a clean sweep at the Onaga tournament, the Charger volleyball team enters it's next Mid-East league game against Rock Creek with a 21-7 record.

"I think the season is going good because we are all becoming more confident in ourselves and each other. Now that we all have varsity experience so we are not so nervous to play," libero Alexis Hafenstine said.

After winning September 22 at Olpe, the team now has two tournament championship wins under



its belt as well as two runner-up placings.

The team will host its senior night as well as Pink Out October 11.

After the regular season, the team will travel to Herington for Sub-State October 20. They currently sit first in substate rankings. The team will play Northern Heights, Bennington, Ell-Saline, Mission Valley, Herington, Lyndon and Salina-Sacred Heart.

"We have improved a lot since the beginning, if we keep up the winning mentality we should be good," hitter Megan Strait said.

FOOTBALL LOOKS TO IMPROVE IN DISTRICT PLAY

After starting the season 0-5, it would be easy to lose enthusiasm, but head coach Jess Rutledge said he doesn't see that from his players.

"They are still showing up to every practice ready to work, and motivating each other to be on their best."

The team is preparing to play a tough Valley Heights team at home Friday night. "These last games are very crucial to districts and our seedings in districts, so we need to perform at our best level," Rutledge said.

"From an outside perspective, I can see how the season may look to spectators. But being someone who sees these boys every day, it is a productive season, and each player is improving every practice. We are getting closer and closer to our goal of where we want to be."