

THE CHARGER

Student handbook undergoes changes

Eleanor Badeker
@ellybadeker

The WHS Student Handbook received some modifications.

The handbook states that its purpose is to serve as an aid in understanding school policies.

Last year, the government class went through the handbook and suggested changes using a legislative process. The revisions were submitted to Principal Jan Hutley. "There were very few that we weren't able to implement this year," Hutley said. "A lot of them were very common sense and needed to be changed."

Several of the changes addressed outdated policies, like the ZAP and VPL changes. "There were inconsistencies with what things were in the handbook and what was actually being done at school," Hutley said.

One major change in the handbook is the class schedule, which has been shifted from an 8-period block schedule to a 7-period day, with each class meeting every school day. This is a large adjustment for students. "I personally like it because I get bored easily and I can move around more," said senior Gracie Huff.

A few amendments largely affect juniors and seniors. Open lunch is now allowed for seniors only, and senior hour has been eliminated to make better use of academic time.

Hutley said she feels that the changes were definitely positive. "I think we're making efficient use of our school day, and I feel like students are active and energetic," Hutley said.

For the complete handbook with highlighted revisions, visit www.whscharger.com.

HERE IS A LIST OF SOME MAJOR CHANGES TO THE HANDBOOK:

- Twenty-five credits are required for graduation (down from 28) and Computer Applications is no longer a required class. This is because students can only take seven classes each year instead of eight.
- The ZAP (Zeros Aren't Permitted) Program has been updated to reflect ZAP is now Tuesday and Wednesday during AB.
- The Postsecondary Academic/Career Visit policies allow all students "5 excused absences for postsecondary institution or military visits while they attend WHS." Students must have a signed visit form from the institution.
- Seniors are no longer permitted to have "Senior hour," an hour during second semester where they are not required to

attend school.

- The Electronics policy has been revised with more specific policies.
- Public Displays of Affection (PDA) warnings and punishments are still outlined, but descriptions have been removed.
- The term "Simulated Tobacco (E-Cigarette)" has been added to the tobacco use and possession policy in accordance with state law.
- The dress code has been updated to allow hats and outdoor clothing with teacher discretion, and prohibit hazardous clothing.
- Hall passes have been updated to reflect the electronic process.
- Open lunch (the ability to spend the lunch period off campus) no longer available for juniors and is available for seniors only.

Fall Sports prepare for season

FOOTBALL PREPARES FOR FIRST JAMBOREE

Mayah Mumpower, Lauren Schutter
@whscharger

Instead of a traditional scrimmage, WHS football will participate in its first ever Football Jamboree Friday night in Lyndon.

The 2019 season will be the first year ever that a jamboree will be allowed in Kansas. WHS will compete against the Lyndon Tigers and the St. Mary's Bears in game sessions that should last around 30 minutes each.

A jamboree is when three or four teams play each other following specific rules. Each team in the jamboree is allowed 36 plays, and in-between each game session there is a required 5 minute break.

According to athletic director Jeron Weisshaar, the Jamboree benefits the team in numerous ways. "It will give us the chance to test varsity against varsity, rather than sticking within our school and doing freshman vs. seniors. You have to think about those years when we only had 15 kids going out for football, you couldn't even scrimmage 11 vs. 11."

Head coach Rutledge is also excited for the format. "This will give me the chance to finalize starters. Hopefully, we'll find out what we need to work on before the official season."

The players are excited for the new format as well. "It gives us a chance to play against other teams. I want to find out who's got it and who doesn't," junior Adam Miller said.

A football jamboree was one of many rules that the Kansas State High School Activities Association revised for football. One rule change was going from a 25-second play clock to a 40-second play clock. Tripping a runner is now a foul, and grabbing the name-plate on the back of the jersey to pull someone down is an illegal personal contact foul. These changes were made by the National Federation of State High School Associations "in an effort to reduce the risk of injury in high



Football coach Jess Rutledge coaches during tackling drills. The Chargers open the season September 7 at Christ Prep Academy. Photo by Emma Frey.

The Charger volleyball team will scrimmage at 5 p.m. Thursday, followed by introductions of the fall sports teams at 6 and a tailgate in the parking lot hosted by the booster club.

Volleyball hosts the Amy Schutter Memorial Tournament at 9 a.m. Saturday.

school football."

The football jamboree starts at 7 p.m. Friday in Lyndon. The current plan is for Lyndon, St. Marys and WHS to take turns hosting.

GIRLS TENNIS RETURNS EXPERIENCE

Brendan Dugger, Austin Henderson
@whscharger

The tennis team starts the WHS fall sports season with a lot of both players and experience.

The girls tennis team has 18 members, 14 returning from last season.

Head coach Brendan Praeger said he has high expectations for this season because so much of the team has previous experience, which wasn't the case in his first four years as coach. Nine of the current players got varsity matches last season.

Singles players Autymn Schreiner and Lily Ogden had lots of success in the past. Schreiner won several meets and came within a match of qualifying for state last year. Ogden has played varsity matches for three years, allowing her to become very competitive. Praeger said he expects

the two to push each other to become even better players.

The current varsity teams for doubles include Kendyl Bolinder and Raegan Feyh along with Kaytlyn Meseke and Mayah Mumpower. Bolinder and Feyh have played together for two seasons and have developed good teamwork. Meseke and Mumpower had both played singles last season but are now working together in doubles matches.

Other players will challenge for varsity positions. Abby and Hannah Ratts will play both doubles and singles. "They have lots of energy and work hard," Praeger said. "They are really competitive if I can keep them from arguing with each other." Shelby Wright and Natalie Moser are also likely to have varsity time, as both are entering their fourth seasons.

New players include freshman Danielle Murphy, sophomore Sarah Vanstory, junior Brianna DeVader and senior Morgan DeVader. Praeger said he likes having underclassmen join because it allows for more development as players.

The team begins competition 3 p.m. Thursday at Wamego against Wamego, Topeka, Sabetha, and Atchison. "Sabetha will be at our regionals and Wamego and Topeka will be at multiple meets in the future," Praeger said. It's great to see how we stack up against other teams early in the season.

Opinion | New Swift album will please fans of Old Taylor

Kaytlyn Meseke, Laurel Barber
@kaytlyn_nelle, @lawl_e_20

Who's still making music about her exes? That's right — T-Swift.

In April, Taylor Swift released her first single from her seventh album, "Lover." When "ME!" was released, we reviewed the single along with looking back to our childhoods and how they were affected by Tay Tay. After the full album's release on Friday, it's time to see whether the old Taylor is back.

When the release date from the album was approaching, we weren't anticipating it at all. We actually didn't even realize that it was releasing until our adviser suggested that we review it. We decided to give the album a listen because we both enjoyed "ME!" and thought Swift wouldn't release an awful album. And of course automatically, we fell in love with her all over again.

Kaytlyn Meseke: "My first thought on the album is that it's pretty catchy. There are a lot of songs that sound similar to older songs, for example "The Archer"

sounds like something she's already written, but yet I can't put my finger on what song it is. So props to her for being able to keep her original sound, but still make it really different. I also noticed how much imagery she uses, which makes the songs even more fun with all of her descriptions. But for a first time hearing the entire album, overall I really loved it."

Laurel Barber: "When I first heard the album I thought it sounded like old T-Swift. You can hear her pain and happiness in each of her songs and I love it. She never fails to add something different to her songs whether that's adding someone or a different sound it keeps people on their toes and she definitely did that in this album."

Of course Taylor Swift is known for writing about her exes and exaggerating the entire scenario in her



songwriting. Even if Old Taylor was dead, then she must still be writing her songs from the grave because multiple songs included stabs about an ex. But how else does this album compare to the others?

LB: "I think that Tay has slowed down her music from the fast pace it was in her previous few albums and I really respect that from her. She has in my opinion really gone back to her roots and made her music for the kids that fell in love with her music back in 2006."

KM: "From the sound and brightness of this album I enjoy this one much more than dark revenge vibe that was given off from "Reputation". It's truly nice to think that Old Taylor might not be completely dead and that there is hope that she can do a little bit of pop and country at the same time."

It's now been four months since "ME!" was released as a single,

meaning it's been playing on the radio for four months now and since we first discussed our thoughts on the song.

KM: "My opinion completely changed over "ME!" I didn't like it when it first came out and we reviewed it. In my mind I was pretty set on not liking T-Swift anymore because I'm just really not a fan of pop music, but as it started to play on the radio more and more I grew to like it because of its catchiness. It's still not my favorite, but it's also not my least favorite on this new album."

LB: "I was really excited when I first heard that song on the radio I was really digging it and got really into it. I absolutely loved it from the beginning and I still do!"

Tay Tay might not have us jumping on our beds anymore or recreating music videos, but she for sure has us screaming her lyrics with the windows down while driving. She did it again by making an album for everyone, for those who are hopeful for love, those who are going through a heartbreak or for those who just al-

ways have a soft spot for her as an artist like us.

LB: "My final thoughts on the album are that I think Taylor did an amazing job capturing the audience and making them notice that she is back and ready to blow off her exes in the best way possible. She does a good job expressing the feelings of people going through different things in the album and I'm so excited to have it on repeat for the next 3 months."

KM: "I really didn't think that I would like this album really at all, but I can't wait to ugly sing in the car when picking up my kids from school in the future. I expected it to be another okay album because I didn't think that it could beat her old albums. I still don't think it beats her country albums but that's like comparing apples and oranges. When comparing apples to apples, or "Reputation" to "Lover", I like this new one much better. My final thought is that Swift is still doing a great job writing about her exes and making money off of it."