

## Government classes propose facility upgrades



Government teacher Jess Rutledge helps his government class take measurements at the football concession stand while gathering information for the class' proposed bill. The class called for a new structure that would include locker rooms, storage and a wrestling room.

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When given the chance to choose improvements for the school and Alma community, the senior government class chose to focus on building and improving sporting facilities.

Every year the Wabaunsee High government class writes and proposes bills for improving the school and community.

The process begins with each student suggesting five possible bills. Once the list is combined the class begins to debate and narrow down to their top three overall. Along with debating which bills to push, students have to plan out all the possible questions the bills need to address.

This year's bill process was different than in years past. Several ideas for facility improvement relied on the passing or failing of the USD 329 bond.

Certain ideas were scrapped for lack of resources and funding. Along with having to work around the bond issue, students had to adapt to being remote for part of the process.

"The seniors this year, as opposed to years past, had more ideas that they wanted to be pushed through to become bills for improvement. I thought they all worked diligently and came up with some great ideas and plans for how to improve WHS," history teacher Jess Rutledge said.

The 2nd hour class focused on improving the sports facilities at

McKnight Park, including adding tennis courts, fixing issues with the baseball and softball fields, renovating the batting cages and repairing the concession stands and bathrooms.

The 5th hour focused on facilities at the football field. Its bill calls for a renovated concession stand that includes locker rooms for players and officials with improved storage and a place for a wrestling room, as the current room isn't even large enough for a full ring.

"As a class we decided that the multi-purpose building seemed to be the most logical choice. Some of the other options seemed too far-fetched. Also, I'm sad that I didn't get to wear my powdered wig for this activity. I sadly forgot it at home," Rutledge said.

### ATTENTION TO DETAIL

This is a small portion of the 2nd hour bill. Read the full text of each bill at [whscharger.com](http://whscharger.com).

#### Tennis Courts

Article 1: Install two new tennis courts to the east of the existing two courts. Two more courts would allow us to have a space to host 4-team meets. We would still not be eligible to host any regional or state tournaments, as they require a minimum of 6 courts.

Article 2: These new courts would be identical to the existing ones (this includes fencing, entrances, along with the courts themselves). Article 3: One, disc golf basket currency lies about 75 feet to the east of the existing fence. This would need to be moved.

#### Baseball Fields

Section 1: Redo the infield Article 1: Resurface the infield with new dirt, along with resetting the bases and digging up Homeplate to place more clay underneath and get it back to being at field level.

Article 2: Rebuild the pitching mound. Also, add a place for an additional pitching rubber for younger age groups to use.

Article 3: Purchase new bases for the field.

Section 2: Redo the outfield Article 1: Redo the grass (rototill the outfield to remove the grass and level the field to fix the uneven state). Planting new grass in mid to late July, with continued care, will have the field playable by the following spring.

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK

After learning from home for a couple weeks, what are the biggest pros and cons of online learning?

"It is very difficult to do science labs at home, so that is a huge CON. I really can't think of any pros, except the cute pets."

Science teacher Lisa Hull

"It's harder to get motivated to do your work and it sucks not seeing your friends but I liked not having to wake up as early and be able to get work done faster."

Freshman Taryn Maike

"The biggest pro is the fact that we can do the homework whenever, as long as it is finished at the right time. The biggest con is the fact that we can't see friends, we can't learn directly, and if we struggle, it's difficult to ask since we can't go straight to the teacher."

Freshman Blake Murphy

"One pro is being able to eat whenever you want."

Senior Ryleigh Jones

"I felt like I actually held myself accountable to do homework, but it felt very awkward trying to ask for help."

Sophomore Danielle Murphy

"I like learning online because I can take my time, I don't have to be dressed in real clothes all the time, food is just upstairs when I get hungry and I can play with my new puppy to keep him entertained. The only cons of online would be that I feel like I am not learning as much due to being over a screen and I don't know exactly how to ask the questions that I might have over an email. I also hate that I am missing out on a lot of the best high school memories due to COVID and going online every once in a while."

Senior Jordan Magette

"It's a lot more stressful to learn from home and if students don't understand what they are doing they are less likely to ask questions and get help."

Junior Mayah Mumpower

"It's easy, but classes like band and choir are weird."

Freshman Heather Baker

"Pros: Doing homework in bed and I didn't have to wear a mask. Cons: I didn't get to see my friends in person and I was always sitting in front of a screen."

Freshman Alexis Ford

"I feel like there are a lot more distractions, and a lack of physical social interactions, but pros are definitely having your own space and time to get stuff done."

Senior Melissa Campbell

"I feel as though the biggest issue with online learning is the having the idea that it is optional when it really isn't. It is so difficult to focus on our tasks sometimes because we don't have the interaction with others. Sometimes that can make the work a lot easier because of more frequent reminders and support from your peers. Another issue could be the stress level from working online. Something good that does come from online learning is the ability to get more sleep depending on your situation. Over those two weeks of online learning I was much less sleep deprived."

Freshman Eliza Barton

## Rutledge proud of football program's progress after 4-6 finish

Jacob Meseke  
@jacob\_meseke

After a season ending 52-6 loss against Centralia, Charger football finished the season with a record of 4-6.

"A losing season is not something we are happy with, but I am proud of the accomplishments and the direction the program is headed in. We won more games this season than the last three seasons combined and won the first playoff game in 37 years, so those are definite positives," said head football coach Jess Rutledge.

"Now, we need to build upon that and take the next step which is to have a winning season and continue playoff success."

The Chargers will be losing five seniors and will be returning 22 players, 8 starters on offense and 7 starters on defense.

Rutledge looks forward to having next year's freshman class.

"Next year's Freshmen should be a good group. I did not get to see them play as much as I would have liked this past season, but I know there are some talented young guys in that group," said Rutledge.

Cade Oliver will return to start at Quarterback after an outstanding junior season. Oliver threw for a school record 2083 yards and 17 touchdowns on a 62% completion percentage. Oliver also had 4 rushing touchdowns. Oliver led



Senior Dawson Schultz carries the ball after a reception against Jackson Heights. Schultz racked up 701 receiving yards and 8 touchdowns this season.

1A in passing yards and was the first-team quarterback for *easternsportskansas.com*. Rutledge expects more accolades as other organizations complete awards lists.

Aiden Boeckman will return to start at running back. Boeckman led the team in rushing yards with 219 yards and 3 touchdowns. The Chargers will lose running back Derek Wallin who ran for 5 touchdowns.

The Chargers will lose wide receivers Tyler Lohmeyer and Dawson Schultz who both made *east-*

*ernsportskansas.com*'s first team. Lohmeyer set a school record with 795 receiving yards, which was second in 1A, and 8 touchdowns. Schultz had 701 receiving yards,

third in 1A, and 8 touchdowns as well. Returning wide receivers are Brayden Meseke and Eli Oliver. Those two combined for 34 receptions, 481 yards and 4 touchdowns on the season.

The entire starting offensive line will return. The o-line was a young group made up of two freshman, two sophomore, and a junior.

Maverick Havenstein will be returning to start on the defensive line. Havenstein was named to the *easternsportskansas.com*'s second team and was third on the team in tackles with 72. The D-line will lose Derek Wallin who had 6 sacks and 9.5 tackles for loss.

Tate Deever and Zach Frank will both return at linebacker. Deever led the team in tackles with 75 and Zach Frank tied for the lead in interceptions with two. The linebackers will lose Jace Reves who was second in tackles on the team with 74.

The secondary will return Brayden Meseke and Eli Oliver who both had two interceptions on the season.

Coach Rutledge always talks about changing a culture, and the players think they turned a corner this season.

"The culture didn't change until this year. We just didn't accept losing this year," senior Adam Miller said.

The Chargers look to build on what they did well for next season.

"I am looking forward to seeing how we build upon what we did well as a team in 2020. Last season's successes won't matter unless we fix our mistakes and keep taking steps forward as a program. I believe next season can be a good one, but we have got to get to work now in order for that to happen," said Rutledge.

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— senior Adam Miller