



# THE CHARGER

## BACK TO STATE | WALLIN, MUMPOWER EARN THEIR WAY BACK TO HAYS



Senior Derek Wallin wrestles Wellsville's Wyatt Bird in the substate 160 pound finals Saturday in Marion. Wallin won the match by fall to secure a substate championship and a spot at the state tournament Saturday in Hays. Wallin hopes to improve on last season's sixth place finish. Photos by Mayah Mumpower.

Above: Senior Eli Mumpower wrestles Bricen Lee of Atchison County Community High School in the 152 pound division at substate. The "blood round" match sent the victor to state while the loser ended his season. Mumpower won 6-0 and advanced to a fourth-place finish. Left: Wabaunsee Wrestling coaches Joey Heersche and Travis Conrad coach from the mat during Derek Wallin's finals match. Photos by Mayah Mumpower.

### Question of the Week

Do you think sex education at USD 329 is adequate? If not, what suggestions would you make to improve the curriculum for students.

No, they don't teach anything about safety and precautions relating to sex. They mentioned abstinence and consent, but I feel like a lot of students have questions regarding it and what to avoid.

**Junior Sarah Vanstory**

No. All the teachers ever do is hire a company to tell about how we should be abstinent because they had a pregnancy scare in high school. They don't ever give us true information about it.

**Junior Kaelyn Conrad**

It shouldn't be taught. Your parents should teach you their values of sex education. Have an email that's sent out to parents saying it's sex education week at WHS. Here are some topics to discuss with your child/children.

**Special Education teacher Christian Ulsaker**

I didn't even know the school had sex education but I think it's super important, and a lot of the people who go here don't seem to have any, so I think there should be more education.

**Senior Melissa Campbell**

I think it's good enough cause kids don't really listen to whatever they teach us anyway.

**Junior Aiden Boeckman**

I think anything could be used to improve the sex education. I feel like I never really got educated on anything of that sort.

**Senior Jordan Magette**

## USD 329 cancels school for weather, energy conservation

Emma Alderman | news editor

Why did we not have school Wednesday, February 17?

USD 329 schools were closed on Wednesday, February 17 and many people are wondering why.

Going into the weekend the forecast was looking to be lower temperatures than had been experienced so far this winter. In preparation for the below freezing weather the custodians throughout the district left water dripping in the modulars and other buildings with water lines exposed to outside in the

hope of keeping the pipes from freezing.

Friday, February 12 and Monday the 15th were already scheduled off for parent teacher conferences and professional development comp time, and Tuesday the 16th was canceled due to extreme cold.

On Friday February 12 the district was contacted by the city of Alma to help with the heating gas shortage. The custodians proceeded to turn down the thermostats and continuously check the buildings throughout the weekend to ensure there were no issues. "The only place to date that's

experiencing issues is having freezing water pipes at the district office-Freddie is working on them now... and the WHS boiler trying to keep up," superintendent Brad Starnes said in an email last week.

Following the first blackout, the district contacted the Wabaunsee County Health Department to offer up the buildings as temporary heating shelters if needed. "The US Army a year ago or so had worked with us in developing a plan on how to temporarily hook up an emergency electrical generator if shelters were needed," Starnes said.

Then on Monday night the district was contacted by the city of Alma and asked to not have any school or activities on Wednesday the 17th to help with the gas and energy situation. "Due to the ongoing severe weather and unprecedented cold temperatures as well as the extended forecast the City of Alma is asking all gas customers to attempt to conserve gas usage in any way possible," City of Alma superintendent Michael Slobodnik said in a press release.

So far the district has used 4.6 of the 8 available snow days built into the 2020-21 calendar.

## OPINION | Inadequate sexual education failing teenagers



Kendyl Bolinder | editor in chief

The sex education at USD 329 is inadequate, and it doesn't prepare teens for a sexually healthy future.

Kansas schools are required to teach sexual health education as part of high school physical education curriculum. The curriculum is not required to be comprehensive, meaning that it would teach about abstinence as the best method for avoiding STDs and unintended pregnancy, but also teaches about evidence-based information, condoms and contraception to reduce the risk of unintended pregnancy and of infection with STDs, including HIV. Compre-

hensive sex ed also teaches interpersonal and communication skills and helps young people explore their own values, goals and options.

Kansas has no standard regarding education on abstinence, however, the Kansas Model Curricular Standards for Health includes abstinence-based instructions and guides, and allows parents to opt children out of lessons.

WHS students are typically required to take P.E. as freshmen. The Kansas standards for physical education regarding sexual health are not required to be comprehensive or evidence based. It's not required to include instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity. It doesn't require any instruction on consent. Of the several students I've spoken to, few of them recall receiving any form

of sex education at all.

WHS physical education instructor Garrett Eck said he doesn't teach sex ed in the freshman class because it's taught in the Human Growth and Development class.

At WHS, the Human Growth and Development class covers relationships, conception, STDs, pregnancy, labor, and early childhood development into adulthood according to FCS teacher Keely Reddick. Unfortunately it leaves out important information about contraceptives, what resources are available, such as Planned Parenthood, and sexuality/gender identity that teens should be taught as well.

When the current seniors were freshman, a group called Relate 360 was brought to the school to give a week-long seminar about healthy relationships.

*"The sex education system, not only at Wabaunsee, but in America as a whole, is failing teenagers."*

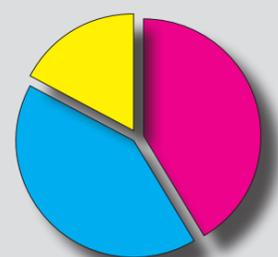
The organization claims to be comprehensive as well as medically accurate, however their information was extremely religious-based, and it seemed that the underlying message was to promote abstinence. Many students consider this the closest thing to sex education they received in their time at Wabaunsee High School, although it still failed to include much valuable information.

With more than 50% of teens in the United States being sexually active, it is crucial that we are being taught how to keep ourselves sexually healthy. Healthy students are more likely to achieve academic success.

Among all other industrialized nations, the U.S. currently has the highest unwanted teen pregnancy rate. With 1 in 4 teens contracting an STD each year, contraceptive use is decreasing while unsafe sexual practices continue to increase.

The sex education system, not only at Wabaunsee, but in America as a whole, is failing

Charger Poll | How would you rate the quality of sex education at USD 329?



■ Adequate  
■ Inadequate  
■ Nonexistent

teenagers. Students at WHS are missing out on a range of valuable information on important topics such as consent, gender identity and sexual orientation, contraceptives, and many other resources for sexually active teens. Most kids don't receive this information at home, and often rely on the school to learn about safe sex.