



THE CHARGER

WHS uses 7 Habits of Highly Effective People to address crumbling building

Emma Frey | editor in chief

Students at Wabaunsee High School are using the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People to cope with the bond failing this past November.

"It would be nice to have an up-to-date school, but this is the best we can get so we'll take it," junior Justin Carlson said. "If we saved the money our school has spent to teach Stephen Covey's book we could probably afford radiators that don't leak. This is most definitely the better option, though, and will provide us with a solid foundation in becoming "highly effective people."

The students plan to use each of the seven habits in innovative ways to address our crumbling infrastructure.

HABIT 1: BE PROACTIVE®

The real proactive thing in this situation would be to pass a bond, but being proactive about safety is the next best thing. After the Covid-19 pandemic is gone from the county, the school will continue enforcing a mask policy to protect students from the growing mold problem. "They'll already have masks left over, we might as well utilize them. Our community's health is our number one priority," county Health officials told The Charger.

HABIT 2: BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND®

With spirits low and hopes of a new school building far away, we begin with the End in Mind. Students have the future to look forward to, and the possibility of a new school being built maybe 10 or 20 years down the line. It'll be nice for our generation's children to get a quality education.

HABIT 3: PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST®

Wabaunsee put first things first by covering the massive hole in the side of the building



Senior Stanley Russo explores the new bat sanctuary in the WHS auditorium. "I really hope I can get bitten by one, so I can turn into Batman," Russo said. Photo by Emma Frey.

and openings in the roof with 7 Habits school posters. Now instead of a giant eyesore, visitors will know that we are in fact, a "7 Habits School."

HABIT 4: THINK WIN-WIN®

Habit 4 is being utilized to find common ground between students and the "Vote No" community members. The compromise they've arrived at is that while kids assume the risk of falling ceiling tiles in classrooms causing concussions, local landowners can keep their taxes \$12 lower a month.

HABIT 5: SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD®

It is important to give others the consideration and kindness you'd like to receive in tough situations, this is why students have decided to make the 3rd floor a bat sanctuary. There are lots of bats without homes in our area, and rather than forcing them to reside in the ceilings when they so badly want to socialize with students and

staff, we can all share the district facilities. "I've heard bats have rabies, but they're just so darn cute," sophomore Austin Spellman said. WHS will cut costs to feed the bats by using its supply of dead flies in the auditorium.

HABIT 6: SYNERGIZE®

Some students took the blow harder than others. For downtrodden kids who are unable to cope with the school's current condition we are offering assistance from the St. Marys school district. Many of the families in the community already send their children to other schools, and we want to synergize between the two districts since we have to share students anyway. We share students, they get the enrollment numbers, and we get their parent's votes!

HABIT 7: SHARPEN THE SAW®

The final habit the district will incorporate is Sharpen the Saw. The wood shop students are learning how to sharpen tools in order to begin repairs on the high school buildings. Many of the building problems go unanswered, such as the falling ceiling tiles, bursting pipes and black mold in the mobile units in Paxico. Rather than solicit outside help, students are being self-reliant and taking matters into their own hands.

These critical skills will help students succeed in the real world.

And who knows, maybe we will hire them to do construction in the future when the community actually comes to its senses and passes a bond.

Rutledge hired as KU football coach



Jacob Meseke | sports editor

KU athletic officials announced a "home-run" hire for their football program.

Wabaunsee's head football coach Jess Rutledge will lead the University of Kansas program into the future, the university announced on April 1.

KU parted ways with previous coach Les Miles after allegations of inappropriate behavior toward female students while coaching at LSU. He was also really bad at coaching, which was probably most of the reason the arrangement failed.

Rutledge is a Kansas State alum, but he said that wouldn't be an issue as he approached his new team. "I went to Mission Valley and had no issues switching to our rival Wabaunsee."

While hiring a high school coach may seem like an odd move for a division 1 football program, Rutledge's record clearly qualifies him to lead the Jayhawks. Rutledge is coming off a season where Wabaunsee had its first playoff win in 36 years, while KU's last bowl game was in 2008. Rutledge had more wins last season (4) than Les Miles (3)

had during his entire run at KU. In his three seasons at Wabaunsee, Rutledge is 6-22. Miles was 3-18 in two seasons at KU. Rutledge and Wabaunsee's 4 wins would have been KU's best season since 2009.

With Rutledge having Mid-East League ties, recruiting in the state of Kansas will be easy. Rutledge has a plan to stop K-State from getting all the recruits from Kansas. "I think we can really create a Wabaunsee to KU pipeline. We have a lot of extra scholarships and I have to give them to someone," Rutledge said.

Since Rutledge is a high school coach, KU won't have to spend much money on him. This will help KU continue to pay recruits in basketball. Due to the low salary, Rutledge will continue coaching at WHS. "We play on Fridays, KU plays on Saturdays. I don't think there will be any conflict."

Rutledge has been a successful assistant as well, helping Wabaunsee's boys basketball to a State Runner-up title. Rutledge said he will probably be the leading candidate for KU basketball when Bill Self is fired because of illegal activity as well.

HAPPY APRIL FOOLS!
The Charger will return next week with real news.

Art teacher to take over high school counseling position

Emma Alderman | news editor

Some people find art to be therapeutic, now it literally will be for students at WHS.

Due to budgetary cuts, USD 329 has decided to hire art teacher Brianna Guinn to take on the duties of retiring counselor Marilyn Workman at the beginning of next school year.

"Mrs. Guinn will do a wonderful job as counselor next year. I feel like I can retire without needing to worry that the students will be taken care of," Workman said.

USD 329 had been searching for a new counselor for a couple of weeks

before Guinn was brought up as an option. Students in the high school have already been going to Guinn for guidance throughout the past year, so employing her as the new counselor would make for an easy transition. "Mrs. Guinn is always willing to listen and seems to know when I need to talk about something before I do," sophomore Danielle Murphy said.

"She helped me out last week when I dropped my breakfast burrito on my way to school," freshman Miguel Hernandez said. "I was really crushed about it so she talked it out with me and even offered me a granola bar."

Guinn also has experience counseling students through more advanced trauma. "My dad said that my parents divorce was my fault but Mrs. Guinn helped me to realize that it was my siblings fault," one student said.

Guinn hopes she can make an impact on the mental health of the student body. "The kids here have a lot of drama trauma and PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). I have a lot of work to do," Guinn said.

Plans are being made for a couch to be moved into her classroom so that she can work with students on both art and life troubles anytime.



Mrs. Guinn counsels freshman Miguel Hernandez after he dropped his breakfast burrito on the way to school. Guinn is taking over counseling duties at WHS. Photo by Danielle Murphy.