



# THE CHARGER

## WHS voters head to polls

Sophia Castillo | staff writer

Some WHS students met the qualifications to begin voting. Most importantly, members of the student body are now 18 years or older, giving them the right to fill out a ballot.

Only about half of the students that were able to vote actually filled out a ballot.

Students wanting to vote have to overcome inexperience. Students may not know how or where to vote, they might not think a ballot applies to them, and some might not have even known they had to register.

Nationally, about 30 percent of voters under the age of 30 cast a ballot this year, a significant increase over usual statistics for a non-presidential election.

Of the 10 eligible WHS students, 5 cast a ballot. Although it's an extremely small sample size, that does put the WHS percentage ahead of national statistics.

For those who did vote their main concerns were the bond and the governor's race.

Senior Danielle Murphy said "I was voting for a better environment for our students and teachers and just a facility that works."

Kwinton Willier said "The school bond is important because it's to better our school district for our future generations. I also voted for the governors although I didn't really care that much because I didn't do any research on them."

Robert Potter said "I didn't know I had to register. I didn't know how because no one told me about it."

Nathan Anderson also didn't register. "I didn't care because it doesn't affect me."

As for staff members, several cited the importance of voting.

Government teacher Jess Rutledge said "It's important for students to vote because they get to choose and have input on things that impact their daily lives."

Secretary Jessica Imthurn said "It's important for students to vote so they have a decision in the direction of the way our government goes."

Media tech Kristen Berroth said "It's important for students to vote because it's important that they're a part of the electoral process and it's important that they have a say in what they're voting for or against. Ultimately that decision affects them because they are able to vote."

## Tattoos an opportunity for self-expression



Danielle Murphy | social media editor

Tattoos are a great way for people to express themselves.

Tattoos have been around for thousands of years. They have grown more in popularity in more recent years. I have always been interested in this form of body art. I have recently gotten three tattoos in the last four months. I have one on my ankle, forearm, and collarbone. Tattoos have a stigma that often comes toward them with jobs. Some believe it gives a bad reputation, but some also believe it gives a new way of self-expression. I believe it allows a form of expression and self-recognition.

My tattoos consist of a paw print, sunflower, and handwriting. My first tattoo was the paw print with a watercolor splash. I got it at Looking Glass Tattoo & Gallery. Before I went to get my tattoo I got a stamp pad and got my dog's paw print. I got it not too long after my 18th birthday. My second I got a sunflower on my forearm, this time I did a walk-in at Fine Line Tattoo and Piercing.

I went with my cousin Justice Houston. We wanted to get tattoos together before she left to go back to Wichita for

College. We both got our favorite flowers, hers being a rose and she put it right behind her ear. Third, I got my great grandma's handwriting on my collarbone. I did another walk-in. I had been planning to get something of hers tattooed on me, whether it was her favorite things combined or the handwriting. The day before I went to get my tattoo I went over to her house and had her write three different things down to pick from.

Out of the three tattoos I got, the paw print took the longest. Though, my other two are just fine lines. Each tattoo of mine does have a meaning and they turned out amazing.

There are several students and teachers who have tattoos. On their forearms, shoulders, backs, etc.

The earliest evidence of tattoos dates back to around 5,000 BCE or older. Tattoos initially were set as cultural practice, as distinguishing individuals in a group. Tattoos began off as symbols, tribal acceptance, religious, mark of status and many other factors. Tattoos began because of



View more student and staff tattoos at whscharger.com.

scaring, whilst trying to cover or they got stained.

Tattoos had a tumultuous history. They could identify criminals, people were members in which they required respect. The practice of getting tattoos today still reflects those traditions.

Some advice for those who want tattoos. I first would consider getting a tattoo that is meaningful to you. Don't make it something you'll regret 10 years from now, make it something that will allow you to reflect on a good memory. Also think about where you'd like to get it placed and how big you'd like your tattoo to get. Best way to think about how big and where

to put your tattoo could be based on your pain tolerance. Some parts of the body are more sensitive than others, especially parts where there is more bone.

If you plan to get a tattoo, do some research and see what you like and see what has lots of meaning to you. Don't judge anyone on their tattoos, they may mean a lot to a person. It expresses a person, and it's their way of communicating in a form of art.

## Xmas season starts when I say it does



Payton Wurtz | Christmas editor

It's the most wonderful time of the year... or is it?

For years, many families and friends have debated this question "When does the Christmas season actually start?" For some people, the festivities start the day after Thanksgiving, but some start the day after Halloween, or sooner.

For anyone who has ever had a conversation with me from November 1 through December 26, you know that I am a Christmas fanatic. I've been wearing a Christmas sweater since September and listening to holiday music since the end of October. It's pretty clear where I stand on the argument. Christmas starts when Cross Country season ends.

After arguing with my family for countless hours of my

life, I decided it was time to find out what everyone else's thoughts were.

I took to Instagram and posted a poll asking when the viewers thought the season started. The results were shocking to me, being an early Christmas-er.

"After Thanksgiving" won by 11 votes, coming in at 58% popularity. While before Thanksgiving trailed behind with 27 votes and 42% popularity.

To me, this just didn't seem like enough information. When do people like to put their trees up? Start watching movies? But most importantly, when do the Christmas socks come out?

But the numbers just weren't enough for me. I needed to know what my fellow classmates' opinions were. So I began questioning students and staff members.

### WHEN DOES THE CHRISTMAS SEASON REALLY START?

"After Thanksgiving." *freshman Cole Frank*

"December 16th or later." *sophomore Grady Perrin*

"Whenever I finally have all

my things organized, which is not right now."

*secretary Jeanne Parry*

### FAVORITE HOLIDAY TRADITION?

"Opening one present on Christmas Eve." *Grady Perrin*

"Going to church on Christmas Eve, then coming home and decorating Gingerbread houses." *Cole Frank*

"Getting the matching family pajamas and wearing them the night before." *Jeanne Parry*

### MATCHING FAMILY PAJAMAS YES OR NO?

"Uhh pass, maybe if it was like boyfriend girlfriend matching pajamas, that's fine I guess. But family, no." *Cole Frank*

"That is DISGUSTING." *Grady Perrin*

I'm a bit disappointed in some of the answers \*Grady Perrin\*, but to each their own.

As the holiday season continues, I too, will continue to cover the most wonderful time of the year.

## 329 Board discusses bond failure

Staff reports

The USD 329 board of education discussed the recent bond election at length during last week's meeting.

The board members spoke about the recent bond election and asked the administration to have a couple of options on how much it would cost to move all students to Alma and if there would be a safe and secure way to have all elementary and junior high students in the current Wabaunsee High School and Alma Elementary School buildings.

One member cited a desire not to cut programs or educational opportunities for students if possible. The board also thanked the community for good voter turnout and the work community members put into the election.

Listen to the full discussion at [whscharger.com](http://whscharger.com).

### OTHER BOARD NOTES:

- Former superintendent Brad Starnes, now Build Up Kansas Education Coordinator, spoke about Associated General Contractors and its program to help Career and Technical Education classes by training students for the workforce with free lesson plans, textbooks, curriculum and training for instructors. The board approved the Build Up Kansas program 6-0.

- Transportation director Clint Thompson spoke about an Environmental Protection Agency Grant worth \$790,000 which will give the district two electric school buses that will be used for routes. The grant will also supply a charging station for the buses. The board approved the grant 6-0.

- The board accepted a donation from Karen Wright of \$1,400 for a new popcorn machine.

- Kim Linck with Varney's & Associates, CPAs, LLC gave a presentation on the school district financial audit, saying it was a clean audit.

- The board approved the employment of Tim Songs (Alma PreK bus driver), Manuel Gomez (HS Spanish proctor), Tayler Sievers (AES secretary), LeeAlan Mock (HS assistant boys basketball coach) and Jaclynn Brown (HS assistant softball coach) and resignations or Erin Sutherland (AES secretary) and Sally Western (bus driver).

### AT WHSCHARGER.COM

- Listen to the girls wrestling team on the Senioritis podcast.

- Read additional stories, including photos of student tattoos and a preview of the Holiday Hustle 5K and small business Saturday.