

Hawk Happenings

A monthly publication of the Woodward-Granger Community School District

April 2020

Basketball State Qualifier



BOYS BASKETBALL

2019-20 was a record breaking season for Woodward-Granger basketball. All levels of the program showed much growth and maturation throughout the season as the 9/10 team finished with a 7-7 record and the JV was 12-5. The 9/10 and JV schedule was made of conference schools as well as playing several 3A/4A metro area teams. The varsity team finished with a 22-3 record and capped off the season with the school's first appearance at the state tournament in 34 years.

The 2019-20 team was led by seniors Bryce Achenbach, Reese Jamison, Keith Braunschweig, Kaya Bowlsby, Alex Bice, Pacey Moats, Nick Buch, Jack Grell, and Matt Hansen. They finished their career with a total of 62 wins at the varsity level. Other varsity letter winners include Dylan Backe, Coby Peters, Trevor Simmons, Walker Deputy, Worth Henry, and Brody Nardini.

Several players put their names in the WG basketball record books. Nick Buch set the season FG percentage record (64.7%) and career FG percentage record (59.4%). Bryce Achenbach broke the career made FG (466). Keith Braunschweig tied the career FT percentage record (76.5%). Bryce Achenbach also set the season assist record (145) and career assist record (512). His 512 career assists rank him 26th on the all time Iowa HS assist list. Bryce is now the career steals record holder (251) as well which is 45th on the all time Iowa HS steals list. The team's 22 total wins also set a school record.

Members of the team were fortunate to garner many postseason accolades as well. Bryce Achenbach was named Unanimous 1st team all conference, Keith Braunschweig and Kaya Bowlsby made the 2nd team all conference list, and Pacey Moats and Reese Jamison were named Honorable Mention all conference. Bryce was also named to the All Substate team as well as being named to the Iowa Newspaper Association's All State 2nd Team. There were many academic awards handed out as well. Jack Grell and Reese Jamison made the Academic All District team and Bryce Achenbach was named to the Academic All State Team.

The basketball team and coaching staff would like to thank all of the students, staff, and community members that came out to support and cheer on our team during their run to the state tournament. This included an upset of the state's #2 ranked and undefeated Van Meter Bulldogs in the District Championship and a win over an 18-3 Albia team in the Substate final.

The atmosphere at both games was something we will never forget and made us proud to be WG Hawks!

Thank you Teresa Lettow for the photos!



HAWK HAPPENINGS

Every spring I think about the old proverb, “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb”. I think it is safe to say March went out like a lion this year. Not because of the weather, but due to the impact COVID-19 has had on the lives of everyone in our school community. I think this health crisis has provided plenty of challenges as we all attempt to find our new normal. I’ve also seen our community rally around one another and provide support and assistance that has reinforced my strong belief we are better together. The whole is definitely greater than the sum of the parts.

First, I would like to thank all of our citizens that work in the healthcare industry. I admire and respect your service to others. Each day you continue to risk our own health to treat others in their time of need. In addition, this service impacts your own family dynamics as you isolate yourselves from family members to prevent potential spread to your loved ones. I know this puts additional stress on you and your children. During this time of uncertainty, please remember our guidance counselors are here to support your children if you need. Don’t hesitate to reach out to them.

We have other parents in our school community that continue to serve us during this challenging time. Our city workers continue to keep our communities thriving and operating on a daily basis. We have parents that serve in industries that provide essential resources to families across the metro area. Again, you risk your own health and well-being to service others. It doesn’t go unnoticed.

Even before COVID-19 my vision for Woodward-Granger was to create a learning community where everyone was actively engaged and connected. I was not going to allow this health crisis to distract us from this vision. Over the last couple of weeks, I’ve witnessed so much evidence of our commitment to this vision from our teachers and community. I think it is safe to say our

teachers have responded, “Challenge accepted”. I know teachers are reflecting each day to consider ways to improve participation and engagement. We’ll get better at this each week! Please continue to watch for information from our district webpage and Facebook page as well as from buildings and individual teachers. We are committed to connecting and engaging with you throughout this closure.

On a daily basis, we continue to monitor information shared by the Governor’s Office, IDPH and the Department of Education. I will provide updates to the community when warranted. As I write this article we are still planning to resume school on Monday, April 13th. Teachers and principals will continue to engage and connect with you over the next couple weeks through virtual means. Do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or building principal if you have any questions or needs. We are here to serve. Remember, we’re in this together!

Dr. Matt Adams, *Superintendent*



STAFF MINI GRANTS AWARDED

The Woodward-Granger Community School District Foundation's mission is to provide enrichment opportunities and scholarships for Woodward-Granger students and their families. With this in mind, W-G Staff were invited to apply for a \$500 grant to fund creative and innovative activities to contribute to students' success.

This fall, High School teacher, Jennifer McDaniel, was announced as one recipient of the grant that will be used to purchase biographies for her English students. Kelsi Christensen, Elementary teacher, was the other recipient. A sensory kit will be purchased to better support learning needs at the Early Learning Center.

This Spring, Jady Crnkovich, Grandwood teacher, was awarded funding to purchase manipulation materials. She said that every student in class wanted to utilize the new learning modules all at once!

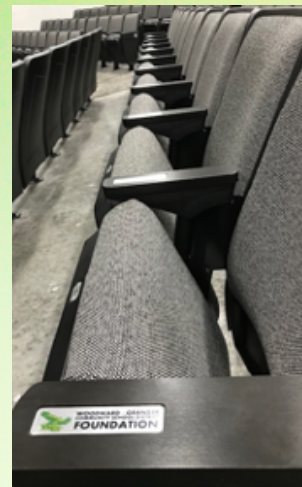


Additional grant cycles will be available next year. The application deadlines are October 1 and February 1, and any W-G Staff is eligible to apply.

TAKE - A - SEAT CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Auditorium seats are still available to sponsor! Your personalized name plate can recognize a business, family, individual or even your graduating class.

Go to woodwardgrangerfoundation.org to find out how!



HIGH SCHOOL

Hi, WG High School students! When we all left on March 12th for spring break, we were ready for a much-needed break. Many of us (students and teachers alike) were preparing for vacations or staycations. We looked forward to sleeping in, relaxing, and rejuvenating. We thought we'd set our alarms on the morning of March 23rd and head back to school to complete the rest of year. Sadly, that didn't happen. We all received notice that our school was closed until April 13th. Like you, Students, we as teachers and staff were left feeling confused and lost. No school for four weeks? What are we supposed to do? What are our students going to do? How are our students doing? How are we all doing? Even though we aren't together in a

brick and mortar building five days a week, we are still connected. We still are trying to find ways to be a support system for you, and for each other. You are in our thoughts every day, even if you aren't in our classrooms. Many of us have been in contact with you as well as posting activities and learning opportunities to keep your brains active. Please know that we are available to you at any time - just drop us an email with your questions, thoughts, or concerns. We'll get through this and come out stronger than before the doors closed on March 12th. I am looking forward to the morning I can set an alarm, head into school every day, and see the faces of all the great staff and students here at WG. I will see you all soon!

- Mrs. Buck



HS Staff meeting via Zoom, checking in with each other as well as discussing what we can do to support our students during this time.

A few messages from WGHS Staff:

“Please remember we are in this TOGETHER!! And we will all return to school to finish the year!! Stay strong and support each other!!” - Mr. Boley

“I hope you are all doing well, and that you are finding a way to balance all of the new time that you have found in your schedules. I miss teaching you already, and I look forward to getting back to school after this situation resolves. Please know we are anxiously awaiting the opportunity to see you back at school.” - Ms. Holtan

1. Your attitude still matters. Keeping the positive attitude even in the midst of hard times can still keep those around you optimistic about the future. Don't drag others down with your negative attitude. Stay positive and try to look at the bright side of things.

2. Keep the faith. This can be a religious faith in God or a faith in the doctors, researchers, and politicians on both sides that are working to try and help solve this crisis as quickly as possible. Sometimes all we have in this world is faith and hope, but many times that is enough to see us through any crisis we face.

3. Stay informed. Don't always listen to the most hyped news stories or the most shared. Make sure you are following accurate and well researched information. Don't believe everything you read on the internet, and don't get scared by all of the empty store pictures and sensationalized stories. We are in a scary time, but that doesn't mean we always have to be scared.

4. Even with schools being closed, teachers are working hard to try and keep students' minds active and engaged the best that they can. Please do your best to support all of them as they work to improve student lives.

5. Finally, do something everyday that makes you happy. In a troubling time such as this, it's easy to get down or upset about everything, but finding that one thing that makes you happy will keep your mental and emotional health strong.” - Mr. Hopper

“As we try to figure out what our new normal is, always remember you don't have to figure it out on your own. This is a new challenge for everyone, so do not hesitate to ask for help or share your thoughts and concerns. Take advantage of the time you have been given to build stronger relationships with family and friends, get lost in a good book, and find new activities to try. I am looking forward to seeing all of you when we get to go back to school!” - Ms. McDaniel

“As much as I like teaching my boys at home, I can't wait to get back to work with you guys on some more challenging topics! Stay safe!” - Mr. Combs

“Take care of yourselves. Remember the importance of sticking to a routine, getting adequate sleep and daily physical activity. Make sure to take some time to unplug from technology and spend time with your family or outdoors. Don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything.” - Mr. Chapman

“Greetings from an appropriate social distance! I miss you all very much - except 2 of my 4th quarter middle school students who won't get away from me ;). As you all are stuck at home and probably bored, I challenge everyone to cook your family a dinner or bake a treat, then send me some pictures! I'll gather them all and share them next week. I can't wait to get back, we have so much cooking and learning to do together! Until then, take care and feel free to reach out if you want to chat!” - Mrs. McCord

“**BOOKS BUILD BETTER BRAINS!** Take advantage of ebooks and audiobooks online - Teen Book Cloud, Audio Book Cloud and Junior Library Guild Digital.” -Mrs. Matheson

(continued)

A few messages from WGHS Staff:

“I know there is a lot of uncertainty during this time but there is one thing you can be certain of; your teachers really miss teaching you! Social distancing can be a great time for you to deeply examine all the content you’ve already learned this year. Go outside and examine ecosystems, read current articles about how people and the economy are being affected, watch your favorite tv show in spanish, or help out in the kitchen and use your math skills to cut a recipe by 1/3. Learning happens all the time and we are in this together even though we remain apart!”

- Mrs. Schumacher

“I hope everyone is healthy and learning to be flexible during these uncertain times. Please know your teachers miss you and the environment you help create at WG. This time apart allows for us to look inward and focus on our own well-being. I encourage you to try something new or revisit activities we don’t always have time for. It is easy to get bored and that’s okay. Some of our best creative moments happen when we are searching for something to do. Stay safe, follow the health guidelines and know you are not alone in this. We are in this together, always.” - Mrs. Ommen

COUNSELOR CORNER

The topic of discussion for the month of March was about respect. What does respect look like, how do we show it, how does it sound, and why is it important? Students and staff were able to share personal experiences of how respect was shown to them and why it is important to show respect to others. I encourage you to continue this conversation at home.

With the extended break, please utilize resources and support in your area. Make sure and touch base with friends and family members during this time.

Self Care

1. Go Outside
2. Take a break from the news and social media
3. Call your loved ones
4. Listen to your favorite music
5. Practice your favorite hobbies
6. Get at least 8 hours of sleep per night
7. Get 30 minutes of exercise a day
8. Think positive thoughts

Remember that “this too shall pass.”

Be on the lookout for information about our monthly topics and information from our district-wide initiative on bullying/harassment.

Feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Lisa Anderson
lisaanderson@wghawks.school
515-999-2231



The Woodward-Granger College and Career Fair

Before spring break students in THE BUSINESS EXPERIENCE program hosted the first ever WG College and Career Fair on March 12! Students were given the project by Mr. Boley and Mr. Chapman in order to help create an opportunity for students to experience and explore options beyond high school.

THE BUSINESS EXPERIENCE students were in charge of the whole thing! Some of the tasks that students had to accomplish for the event included contacting, recruiting and communicating with all of the attendees which included 12 colleges/universities, 24 businesses and 2 military organizations. Students created the schedule for the evening, designed the layout of the event, designed and distributed all of the promotional materials, used survey tools to understand student interest, developed an RSVP form and much more. It was awesome to see the student's collaborative efforts, communication skills, confidence, ability to manage a project and work with the career world throughout the project. It was an incredible learning experience for the students within the program and there is a ton of opportunity for growth from all that they learned in running the event.

It was awesome to see all of the students and parents that attended event participate in the experience by interacting with all of the businesses and colleges that were present and learning more about their future opportunities. The students received a number of compliments from the attendees and many said they would love to come back and participate in the fair again!

THE BUSINESS EXPERIENCE would like to extend a big thank you to the custodians for assisting the students in setting up and tearing down the fair. It couldn't have been done without them! A second thank you goes out to the WG FCS program and all of those who provided fresh cupcakes for all of our guests that evening! They were delicious! Finally, the students would also like to thank the staff and administration who encouraged and supported their efforts in sharing and communicating the event with students and families across the district!

This experience was a great first attempt at hosting a College and Career Fair for the WG Community and we look forward to hosting the fair again next year!



Students Pictured (Left to Right): Brandon Worley, Garrett Burkhart, Caden Easter, Keith Braunschweig, Tate Lettow, Matt Hansen and Alex Bice.



Woodward-Granger Education Association (WGEA)

On February 15th, the Woodward-Granger Education Association (WGEA) in partnership with Woodward-Granger Community Schools and Woodward-Granger Elementary/ELC PTO applied for an Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) Community Outreach Grant to purchase two buddy benches to be installed at our Early Learning Center (ELC) and Elementary Schools. Our ELC and Elementary school counselor, Brittany Wilkening, and fellow elementary teachers are very interested in helping with the education of the benches to all of our elementary students. As you know, our school district has created an Anti-Bullying Task Force over the past year to address our current bullying issues, and we know that the addition of these benches along with the education that will be included, will help all of our students feel welcome, loved, and supported at Woodward-Granger Community



Schools. Our Elementary/ELC Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) has been working on additions and upgrades to the ELC playground over the past few years, so we are extremely pleased to be working with them to make sure that this bench will be a good addition to their playground plans. WGEA feels that the addition of these two benches will help our students to build happy and healthy relationships at school from the very beginning. This project helps to support our WGEA mission, values, and goals to create the best possible education for each and every student at Woodward-Granger. WGEA would like to thank Dr. Adams, Mr. Brummond, Mrs. Wilkening, and the W-G Elementary/ELC PTO for their help on this project, and we hope to have the two benches installed in August and ready to go on our first day of the 2020-2021 school year.

- Kendra Spoelstra (WGEA Co-President)



Thank you to Dr. Adams for coming to read Horton Hatches the Egg to the TK and Kindergarten classes to kick off our Dr. Seuss week, March 2-6!

LIBRARY NEWS

The 2020 Spring Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success, with over \$5000 in sales! Many teachers received donations during the sale, as well as a portion of the profits in books for their classroom libraries. The remainder of the profits are used to purchase quality nonfiction books for the ELC and Elementary libraries. Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support of reading at WG!

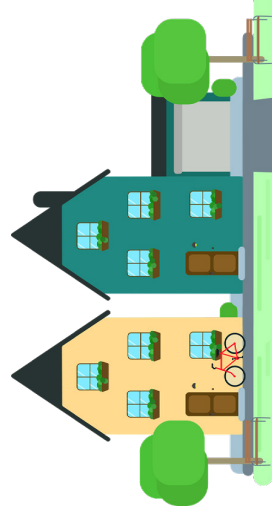
Because we had little time to prepare for our extended school closure, we were unable to check out as many books as perhaps we wished we had before students left school. However, there are a huge number of resources that PreK-12 students can access through HeartlandAEA.org - - > Library and Digital Resources. You can also visit Junior Library Guild @ Home to choose from K-12 audiobook titles. In addition, we have a temporary membership with Tumblebooks that you can link to below.



AudioBookCloud



5210 FEATURE:



April

How to practice healthy habits at home

Here's how you can put 5-2-1-0 into action this month:

Responding to COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, schools in Iowa have closed, activities have been canceled, and many parents are spending more extended time at home with their children.

During this unprecedented time, it is more important than ever to prioritize our physical and mental health by practicing healthy habits.

FREE RESOURCE: Get the whole family involved in healthy habits with the [5-2-1-0 Goal Tracker](#). Print the template to craft your own. Post in a prominent place in your home as a reminder to keep track your daily habits.

Here's how you can put 5-2-1-0 into action this month:

FREE AT-HOME RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES:

5 2 1 0

Make healthy eating a family affair

More time at home means more time to prioritize [family meals](#) and more opportunity to involve kids in the kitchen. (Check out these [age-by-age cooking guidelines!](#)) Also, remember to choose [healthy snacks](#) while at home.

2

Keep learning – don't overdo screen time

Scholastic is offering free, online [learn-at-home lessons](#) for parents. When not learning, it's important during this time to set [screen-time limits](#). Try these [tips and alternate activities](#). Now is the perfect time for Family Game Night!

1

Get creative with daily physical activity

Move for [1 hour each day!](#) It will benefit your physical and mental health during this time. Make family walks or bike rides outside a new daily habit. We also compiled our 10 favorite ways to keep kids active – check it out [here](#).

0

Water boosts your immune system

Water is a natural immunity booster – so drink up! Educate kids on how much water they should drink with this [activity sheet](#).

The 5-2-1-0 Feature is brought to you by:



Healthiest State
INITIATIVE



Healthy Choices Count!

Share your 5-2-1-0 fun on social media:

#HealthyChoicesCount



FIND MORE 5-2-1-0 RESOURCES: www.iowahealthieststate.com/5210



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Woodward-Granger Board of Education

These are the Board members who represent the stakeholders in our district:

Ashley Brandt - President
David Elliott - Vice President
Sam Behrens - Director

Tim Bogardus - Director
Troy Janssen - Director

***Thank You**
to these individuals who serve our district.*

Woodward-Granger Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact: **Rebekka Maass**, 1251 334th Street Woodward, Iowa 50276, (515) 438-3240 or rebekkamaass@wghawks.school or to the Chicago Office, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL, 60661, and (312) 730-1560.