

PANTHER PRIDE

WESTON HIGH SCHOOL'S FAMILY NEWSLETTER

2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

ISSUE NO. 1

Vision Statement

All Weston High School students think creatively and critically to problem-solve through project-based, hands-on, applied and relevant learning.



Mission Statement

Weston High School is a diverse school of choice providing innovative learning opportunities that prepares students for college, career and life.

DIVERSITY-EQUITY-INCLUSION BY MR. NELSON

The title of this column is Diversity-Equity-Inclusion. This prompts the question, What is the difference between Diversity and Equity? Traditionally, diversity was about race and gender. In the Atlantic, May 31, 2015, Gillian White writes that millennials think that diversity is less about race and gender than it is about different “experiences.” White goes on to say that this could reduce the focus on diversity in the sense of race and gender, broadening the scope of diversity to include “experiences”, at the same time this lessens the focus on racial and gender inequities. We have so much to learn from each other that gets boxed away because we are inept at confronting issues that lack a focus on diversity. Diversity is about race and gender, and if we include the

broader sense of the millennials, it includes a difference in experience. Kurt Hatch, Director of Principal Support and Diversity and Equity at the Association of Washington State Principals (AWSP), recommended the book, *Blindspot: The Hidden Biases of Good People* by Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald. The authors explore hidden biases that we all carry from a lifetime of experiences with social groups – age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, social class, sexuality, disability status, or nationality. “Blindspot” is a metaphor to capture that portion of the mind that houses hidden biases. The authors use it to ask about the extent to which social groups – without our awareness or conscious control – shape our likes and dislikes, our judgments about

people’s character, abilities, and potential. In *Blindspot*, hidden biases are revealed through hands-on experience with the method that has revolutionized the way scientists are learning about the human mind and that gives us a glimpse into what lies within the metaphoric blindspot – the Implicit Association Test. The aim of *Blindspot* is to explain the science in plain enough language to allow well-intentioned people to better achieve that alignment.



YOUR SCHOOL OF CHOICE

“BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE!”



ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT

BY MR. NELSON

Thank you for entrusting your students to us at Weston High School. We are excited for this year. Our new staff; Mr. Moore (English), and Mrs. Jordan (Family and Medical Careers), are working hard, bring quality experience to Weston High School, and a reason to be at school everyday. If you would like to meet them, let us know and we'll gladly introduce you. They would love to meet you.

As you know, Attendance is crucial to student achievement and student growth. Our staff and students rely heavily on parent/guardian and family influence on our students' attendance. Absences matter whether they are excused or unexcused; if a student isn't at school, they are missing crucial learning opportunities. There are new attendance laws that you will want to know. State law now requires that:

- after two unexcused absences, we have a parent/guardian and student conference to discuss the absences and the need to be at school;
- after 5 unexcused absences in a month, or 10 unexcused absences in a year, a petition with the court system is required.

As you can see, it is really important to call when students need to be excused for illness, doctor appointments, court appointments, etc.

Chronic absenteeism is a serious problem and only two or more absences a month lead to chronic absenteeism. A student who misses 10 days or more during a school year is 20 percent less likely to graduate from high school. A high school graduate makes on average \$1 million more than a dropout over a lifetime. If there are barriers to get to school and to stay at school, please, ask your student to talk with Katy Brown, our Counselor.

GREETINGS

BY MR. MOORE

Greetings Weston High School Families! I thought I'd take a minute and introduce myself as the new English teacher. My name is Michael Moore and I come to WHS from Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center, another alternative school in Arlington School District. Philosophically, I am an advocate of alternative education, knowing that some students simply need a different setting to be successful. Additionally, I believe in tailoring education to the individual as much as possible, knowing that each student has different needs. Finally, I believe in providing students as much access to learning as possible. This is embodied in my classroom by offering different ways to learn the concepts and content, from reading, writing, or discussing material. Educationally, I earned a Masters in Teaching degree from The Evergreen State College. I completed my student teaching assignments at River Ridge High School in Lacey, WA and Bryant Montessori School in Tacoma. In my experience, I've taught in both middle and high school. In addition to my graduate degree, I have earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree from Evergreen, focusing on poetry, philosophy, and aesthetics. I also hold a Bachelor's of Arts degree from Pacific Lutheran University, focusing on English Literature. This is the beginning of my third year teaching, and I'm excited for the opportunity at WHS. In my limited experience, I can tell that there are a lot of progressive policies and practices in place to help support students. I'm eager to be a part of a team that is on the forefront of education and believe that I can bring something to that team. If you have any questions about me, or need to get ahold of me for any reason, please email at: mmoore@asd.wednet.edu. I'm excited to be part of the team and thank you for welcoming me into your learning community.



COUNSELING CORNER

BY MRS. BROWN

Welcome to a new school year! I hope that you and your families had a nice and relaxing summer. It is my hope that each and every one of our students experiences success this year! Returning this year is our Meals 'til Monday program where students are able to take a bag of food home on Fridays for the weekend. If you'd like to sign your student up for this, please contact me at (360) 618-6346 or kbrown@asd.wednet.edu. Weston offers some great resources to all of our students here during the school day. We have a new mental health counselor team along with our new drug and alcohol counselor, Leah Buehler. If your student has any other needs, please do not hesitate to contact us. We want to ensure that we are providing all students with the tools and support to achieve academic success.

Although June seems far away, it isn't too early to start talking about graduation. I will be working on connecting with students and families to discuss where each of your students is on their path to graduation. If you have any questions, or, would like to set a time to meet, please let me know!

NEW PROGRAM “OPEN DOORS” FOR MORE STUDENTS BY MS. MCART

If you know students who have dropped out of high school, or are thinking about dropping out, get ready to share some potentially life changing news with them. They now have a way to obtain their high school diploma or GED while working, being a stay at home parent, or while managing difficult life or personal situations.

Arlington Public Schools, and Weston High School are proud to announce the debut of the “Open Doors Youth Reengagement Program.” The goal of the program is to “create a personalized educational experience for students in a flexible setting that meets each student’s life circumstances and individual educational goals. The program boasts a case manager and instructors dedicated to success in learning and in life, to offering fresh starts, and to reducing barriers.

This online, distance/limited visit learning program is specifically designed to help students complete their diploma or pursue a GED. Students are required to attend in-person twice per month for two hours each time, and then must check in once per week, as they work to complete online courses specifically designed to achieve either a high school diploma or as preparation for taking the GED test. The program also provides students with job preparation, career education/training and employment internships through a partnership with Work Source Snohomish.

The program offers flexible hours of operation designed with working students in mind. They are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Students can obtain up to 2 credits for working, and can access a strong network of support services which include electronic tutoring, shower and laundry facilities, drug/alcohol/mental health counseling, and free and reduced lunch availability. For further information, the case manager for the program can be reached at (360) 618-6336.

“Winners are not people who never fail, but people who never quit!”

District Non-Discrimination Notice Arlington Public Schools provides equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request to individuals with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

TITLE IX OFFICER AND COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR

Mr. Mike Johnson
Executive Director, Human Resources
315 N French Ave.
Arlington, WA 98223

360.618.6212
mjohnson@asd.wednet.edu

Revised & adopted October 2016

SECTION 504 COORDINATOR

Ms. Kathy Ehman
Assistant Superintendent
315 N French Ave.
Arlington, WA 98223

360.618.6207
kehman@asd.wednet.ed

Follow us on Facebook
[Facebook.com/WestonHS](https://www.facebook.com/WestonHS)

Weston High School
4407 172nd Street NE
Arlington, WA 98223
360-618-6340

