

# WYKON MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2024

## NEW SCHOOL YEAR, NEW TEACHERS

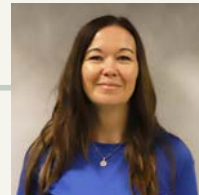
Ms. Griebel is our new math teacher. She attended Gladstone High School and furthered her education at Bay College and Northern Michigan University. This is her first year teaching. She likes to spend her time reading, playing piano and Guitar Hero, and spending time with her family and friends. A fun fact about Ms. Griebel is that she works at Camp Batawagama as a health officer and has even been a camp counselor to some of her students.



Mrs. Leonoff is back at West Iron after taking a position at the ISD. She was a West Iron student and later went to Michigan State University. This year is her 13th year in education, and 11 of which were spent at the elementary level. Mrs. Leonoff enjoys watching documentaries, attending sporting events and concerts, and spending time with her family. A fun fact about Mrs. Leonoff is that her goal is to read 100 books this year; she is currently on book 74!



Ms. Dye graduated from West Iron, and after high school, she went to college at Northern Michigan University. This year is her first year teaching. She enjoys hiking, rock climbing, and camping. A fun fact about Ms. Dye is that she has been a soccer coach for the last 10 years.



## THE BREATHTAKING BUILDING

Check out our website ([www.westiron.org](http://www.westiron.org)) to read about new staff hires for our elementary school!

The new administration building is finally up and running. It took around nine months to build. In August of 2022, the old building was torn down due to unsafe levels of radon (the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer), was not ADA compliant, and contained asbestos.



The new administration building is much safer with a fresh air exchange system, secure buzzer entrances, video surveillance, ADA accessibility, central air conditioning, and is up to current building codes. Last November, several building trades students helped pour the foundation. The building was established using federal grant funding, so no money was taken from the school.



New Look!

# CURRENT EVENTS



## PARENTSQUARE

Our past phone and text blast system is no longer available, so the district has moved to a new communication tool called ParentSquare. (ParentSquare bought Remind, so this also replaces the Remind app.) ParentSquare provides a simple and safe way for everyone at school to connect with each other.

With ParentSquare you'll be able to:

- Receive all district, school, and classroom communication via email, text, or app
- View the school and classroom calendar and RSVP for events
- Easily sign permission forms and sign up to volunteer and/or bring items
- Securely receive report cards and other important student documents

WICS sent all families an invitation email or text for you to join ParentSquare. Please click the link to activate your account. You can download the free mobile app for iOS or Android or use the desktop version. Our goal is for every family to join ParentSquare and engage with our school community. If you haven't received the invitation, please contact your student's building secretary to update your phone number and email or for any questions.

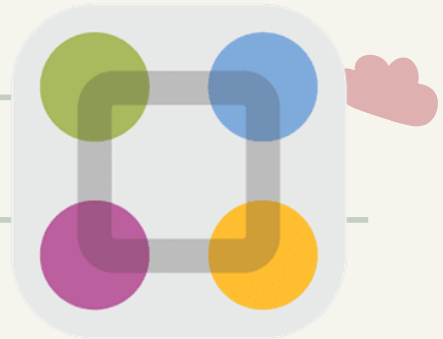
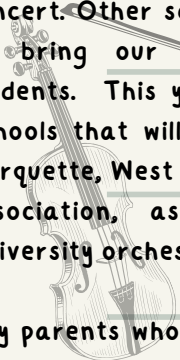
*This information is posted on our school website: [www.westiron.org](http://www.westiron.org)*

## UPCOMING EVENT

- October 16th: 2024 Big String Concert

The Big String Concert is where schools from all over the U.P. come together and play in one big concert. Other schools bring their orchestra, and we bring our full symphony, including band students. This year it will be held in Marquette. Schools that will be participating are Escanaba, Marquette, West Iron, Negaunee, Houghton Suzuki Association, as well as the Northern Michigan University orchestra.

Any parents who have a student in symphony are welcome to attend!



ParentSquare



# SPORTS

Here's an inside scoop on our fall Wykon athletes!

## WHAT'S TO COME

### Volleyball

- 10/1 Forest Park, Home
- 10/5 Wykon JV Invite, Home
- 10/8 Chassell, Away
- 10/10 Negaunee, Home
- 10/15 Ishpeming, Home
- 10/17 Iron Mountain, Away
- 10/21 Norway, Home
- 10/22 Forest Park, Away
- 10/24 L'Anse, Away
- 10/29 Houghton, Home



### JV Football

- 10/3 Manistique, Home
- 10/10 L'Anse, Home
- 10/17 Bark River, Away
- 10/24 Gwinn, Home



### Varsity Football

- 10/4 Manistique, Away
- 10/11 L'Anse, Away
- 10/18 Bark River, Home
- 10/25 Gwinn, Away



### Cross Country

- 10/1 Negaunee/Township Trails
- 10/7 Houghton/MTU Trails
- 10/10 West Pac/Wawonowin CC
- 10/19 U.P. Finals



### Girls Tennis

- 10/2 U.P.s /Iron Mountain



## CROSS-COUNTRY

Despite the low numbers and lack of home meets, our West Iron Cross-Country team keeps their spirits up and continues to work harder than ever. Local support is hard to come by when the team is always away, but our athletes encourage each other to hit new PRs and work as one as the season progresses.



## SEPTEMBER SCOOP

Here are our football and volleyball records thus far:

JV Football 1 - 3

Varsity Football 1 - 3

JV Volleyball 2 - 5

Varsity Volleyball 7 - 4

## TENNIS

As GNCs approach, the girls are putting in the hours. Each player has to focus on self-improvement while playing as a team. Excitement rises as the team works harder each day to prepare for their big match.



# STUDENT INTERVIEWS



Freshmen: Are you excited for your first year of high school?



Nickalas Perlongo

"Not really because I miss my middle school teachers and work, specifically Ms. Nichols and Mr. Kunchynski."



Jessi Makuck

"I'm kind of in between right now. I'm worried about falling behind but also happy because it's one step closer to graduating."

Sophomores: What do you enjoy most about school?



Ryker Gill

"I like seeing my friends and going to football practice."



Cami Alexa

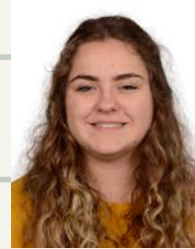
"I like coming to school for sports. I enjoy being able to play volleyball with my friends."

Juniors: How do you like to show your school spirit?



Gatlin Gillaspie

"I go to the junior varsity and varsity football games even if I can't play. I also try to adhere to the game theme if there is one."



Kloe Thunander

"I really like going to games and I dress up for homecoming spirit week."

Seniors: Are you excited or nervous to graduate? Do you have plans for after graduation?



Charlie James

"I'm excited because it's the next great step to my life. After high school I want to pursue culinary or something in the arts."



Kailey Hall

"I am excited to graduate and I hope to be able to go to school to be a vet-tech. I also want to find an advanced orchestra to play in."

Teachers: How would you define a good day at school?



Mr. Swenski

"I think your day is whatever you make it. You get to choose your day, and I choose good days because I don't like to be crabby."



Mrs. Carr

"A good day would be when my lesson plans go as they're supposed to."

# STUDENT LIFE

HOME COMING GAME  
AND HOME COMING  
DANCE:  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2024



## ABOUT OUR CLASS

This year the class officers are:

Seniors:

Eiley Meske (President), Haylie Murillo (Vice President), Sidney Storti (Secretary), Kaylee Rosengren (Treasurer)

Juniors:

Lilyanna DeSousa (President), Emma Goldbach (Vice President), Kaycee Ingram (Secretary), Gatlin Gillaspie (Treasurer)

Sophomores:

Ethan Bofinger (President), Nathan Camps (Vice President), Matthew Swenski (Secretary), Donte White (Treasurer)

Freshmen:

Calyn Jukkala (President), Isabella Jochem (Vice President), Haden Bunes (Secretary), Ryan Dallavalle (Treasurer)

## HOME COMING DRESS UP DAYS

MONDAY: P.J. Day

TUESDAY: U.S.A. Day

WEDNESDAY: Music Genre Day

THURSDAY: Decades Day

FRIDAY: Class Colors Day

Check out next month's newsletter for full Homecoming coverage!

## ART ROOM

What's Going on in the Art room? This month we took the time to speak to Mrs. Porier:

"I am really excited to do more ceramics this year because we have a working kiln this year. We also have Art III for the first time, where they'll have to pick a topic and stick to it."

A new adaptation has also been added to her art classes. They will be starting to do journals, which are multimedia based. The first ASA will likely be in October.



ART

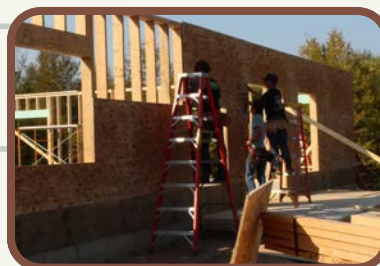
# STUDENT LIFE



## BUILDING TRADES HOUSE



The building trades students are hard at work and staying busy this year. Willow Kobriger (12) says, "In building trades, we are currently putting up the walls. The nails are really hard to remove, so one mistake and you're done, but it's really rewarding. The class teaches you to not only pay attention but also be really aware of what you're doing." This leaves us with the



burning question: what color will they paint the walls this year?



## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

### GRACYN MELSTROM



Gracyn is a motivated student. She loves to learn and embraces new experiences. Gracyn started learning violin at the age of 8. She is a leader in class and encourages others to do their best. It is a pleasure to have Gracyn involved in the orchestra. She loves classical music and gives input on pieces that we should play.

### ALEXANDRA HANSEN



Alex is a very hardworking student. She is employed at Main Street Cafe and works every weekend. She is a member of the Spanish Club and has traveled to Costa Rica and participated in Españolandia at NMU three times. Her future plans are to join her mother in her career doing electrical work or to go out into the world and seek her passion.

### EILEY MESKE



Eiley is a well-rounded individual with a strong moral compass, a commitment to excellence and a genuine passion for making a positive impact in her school and community. Eiley has excelled academically and plans on a career in the medical field.

# NEWSWORTHY NOTES

## MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

### Middle School Boys Football Schedule:

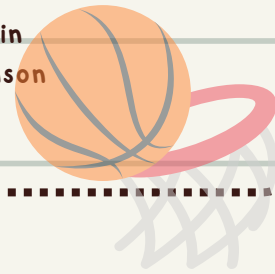
- 9/10- L'anse
- 9/17- Scrimmage: Hancock & Houghton
- 9/24- Hancock
- 10/1- Ishpeming
- 10/8- Copper Island Academy
- 10/15- Stephenson



## MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

### Middle School Girls Basketball Schedule:

- 9/3- Iron Mountain
- 9/5- Forest Park
- 9/11- Niagara
- 9/12- Florence
- 9/16- North Dickinson
- 9/19- Forest Park
- 9/23- Norway
- 9/26- Iron Mountain
- 9/30- North Dickinson
- 10/3- Kingsford



## DRESS-UP DAYS

- Monday: Yooper Day
- Tuesday: Teacher vs. Student
- Wednesday: Superhero Day
- Thursday: Career Day
- Friday: Wykon Gear

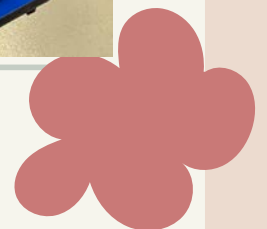


## STUDENT FEATURE

These elementary students are dressed to impress!



\*Pictures taken for a variety of dress-up days\*



# SENIOR FEATURE

## SENIOR SUNRISE

The class of '25 kicked off their senior year with a simple senior sunrise. A morning filled with bean bag toss, pictures, and laughter created memories these students will forever cherish.



## ARMY RECRUITMENT

Need college funding or benefits? Consider enlisting in the military!

Army recruitment comes with many benefits. If you're conflicted about college funds, serving time for the military will provide for these funds. Another benefit is a monthly pay after service.

Another helpful program is the buddy program. This allows you the option to enter with four other people. This is handy if you're worried about finding companions.

Many veterans, including Mr. Casari, recommend that anyone who is able to, should serve. The army helps improve work ethic, problem solving skills, teamwork, and even personal growth.





# SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE



## COOL KIDS' CLUBS

Here at West Iron, we offer various clubs for students. West Iron has Art Club, Forest Club, the National Honor Society, and Robotics Club.

We also have a communications class and a publications class. These classes work together on many occasions.

Our communications class is still a new class. They publish our monthly newsletter. Our publications class is a veteran here at West Iron, producing the annual yearbook.

## NEWSLETTER PUBLISHERS

A special shoutout to this year's Communications Class:

ALEXANDRA HANSEN  
SIENA NELSON  
COLT OLIVER

CAITLIN POLLARD  
CHEYENNE RITCHIE  
FAITH ROSS-MINEAU

COLTON SELBY  
DAKOTA SPIKINGS  
MYRIAH VERHAGEN

WYNTER WEEKS  
ANTHONY WIEGAND  
TERRYANNA WILSON

## INTRODUCING...

With the recent retirement of Mr. VanLanen, our forest club was searching for new advisors. Mr. Goodman, in his 7th year of teaching at West Iron, picked up this role alongside Mr. Casari, in his 2nd year of teaching here.

Mrs. Porier is going on her 3rd year leading the art club. This year, she has many new projects in store. She enjoys sharing her passion for art with her students.

Mrs. Berutti runs the National Honor Society. This shines a light on students who work hard academically and participate in extracurricular activities. A student's character is also considered when being considered for the National Honor Society. This is a wonderful opportunity to be a part of a group with great goals.

# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

9/11  
REMEMBRANCE

## ANIMAL SHELTER PAWSTA

On 9/25, community members enjoyed an Italian dinner for \$15 dollars a ticket.

They participated in the Hunters Raffle, won door prize raffles, and tried their hand at the 50/50 raffles!

The North Woods Animal Shelter does many great things for our community, and it's only right that the town supports them back. Events like these are essential for growth. Be a part of the community and show support to the places that contribute so much to the town.

## Events In Iron River

- The 9th Annual Harvest & Haunt Festival will be held on September 28th, at the Klint Safford Memorial RV Park. For almost a decade now, Iron County has been holding this event for the community, and it's meant to be a free, fun experience. There are vendors, job recruiters, and of course, fundraisers. This has been an effective way to shed light on opportunities around town, and with much support from the townsfolk, it will continue to provide a sense of togetherness for our community.
- Come celebrate Johnny Appleseed's 249th birthday on September 28th, in Beachwood, MI. Engage in the Apple Pie Contests, take turns at cider pressing, support the numerous vendors, and enjoy the delicious brats and hot dog lunches!

On the morning of 9/11, 2001, 246 people woke up in preparation for their flights. 2,606 people woke up in preparation for work. 343 firefighters woke up for their shifts. 72 police officers and 8 paramedics woke up for their day. None of those people lived past 10 a.m.

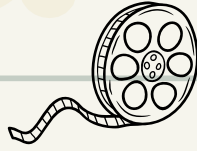


We vowed to never forget. So, in REMEMBRANCE, the Caspian Fire Dept. put up a display at Nelson Field.

## West Iron District Library Events

- Roald Dahl Day-Sept. 13th
- After School Crafts- Sept. 16th
- Lego Club- Sept. 19th
- Classic Movie Day-The Philadelphia Day-Sept. 23rd
- Family Game Night -Sept. 26th

# BEST OF ...



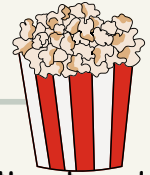
## NEW AND UPCOMING MOVIES



### BETLEJUICE, BETLEJUICE

After a family tragedy, three generations of the Deetz family return home to Winter River. Still haunted by Beetlejuice, Lydia's life is turned upside down when her teenage daughter, Astrid, accidentally opens the portal to the Afterlife.

Released September 6 ([www.plainstheater.com](http://www.plainstheater.com))



### GREMLINS: THE WILD BATCH

*Gremlins: The Wild Batch* follows Gizmo, Sam, and Elle as they travel from their home in Shanghai to San Francisco, bringing even more magic, mystery, and Mogwai mayhem. Hot on the trail of a new brood of evil Mogwai, our hero journeys deep into the American West, coming up against new supernatural creatures and picking up a few mysterious characters along the way.

Will be released October 3 ([www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com))



### SENIOR JEANS

The class of 2025 wanted to participate in something that is called "senior jeans." They all painted a pair of jeans and showed off their senior spirit at school. The picture on the left shows all the girls who engaged in this new tradition.

L-R: Kailey Hall, Eiley Meske, Julia Swenski, Hannah Guzowski, Haylie Murillo, Gracyn Melstrom, Kaitlyn Smith, Kaylee Rosengren, Savannah Parker, Sidney Storti and Cheyenne Ritchie

