

Welcome to WCHS!

**New Grade 9 Student
Orientation Handbook 2024**



new Student **ORIENTATION**

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Wetaskiwin Composite High School. A new school, new friends and a world of exciting opportunities. We are pleased to offer our Grade 9 students a top tier educational program. Students are provided a structured Grade 9 curriculum, focused on preparing our students for High School, as well as, providing them with the option courses of a Composite High School. The experience we offer our grade 9's is both unique and exciting.

As you begin your new school learning experience, we encourage you to explore the many opportunities that are offered both in and outside of class. From archery, golf, cross-country, volleyball, basketball, curling, badminton, track and field, wrestling, drama, choir, jazz band, student council, and more, there are so many ways to become involved in your school. These experiences allow you to meet new people, make new friends, and enjoy your time at school.

You will want to start your new school experience in a positive way. Be prepared to know and understand the expectations that the school places on its students. Come prepared to learn each and every day. We encourage you to be open to working with staff so they can support you on your academic journey for optimum student success. Be respectful of yourself and your fellow students. Having these guiding principles in place will make your High School years very successful. The staff at WCHS are open, supportive and passionate. We believe that each student that enters our school can and will be successful. We are all here to guide and support you on your journey to graduation. For you, the journey begins this fall. Best of luck and we look forward to meeting all of you!

Karen Elgert
Principal

Wetaskiwin Composite High School



Home of the Sabres

Website: www.wetskiwincomp.ca

Facebook: WCsabres

Twitter: @wchscool

THE REGISTRATION PROCESS



1. All grade 8's within WRPS will meet our Grade 9 School Support Team this spring several times through our Orientation process.
2. The Grade 9 School Support Team will visit your Grade 8 classrooms to provide students an opportunity to select option courses.
3. A timetable will be created in PowerSchool. Students will be able to access this through their PowerSchool account. Your locker number and lock combination will also be found here.
4. Please check our school website (www.wetaskiwincomp.ca) for information regarding grade 9 orientation closer to the start of the school year.

School F E E S

School Fees

Textbook rental and associated fees are due at the start of September. Depending on the courses taken, the fees are approximately \$50.00. Fees are somewhat higher in option subjects. Yearbook costs (approx. \$40) are not included in the above mentioned prices.

The fees will be calculated at the time of registration in August and parents will receive an email when their fees are ready to be paid. Online payment information is found on our website (www.wetaskiwincomp.ca).



ATTENDANCE

Attendance is **so** important to be successful at school.

Regular Daily Attendance = Achievement

Grade 9 skills, work ethic, and achievement will ensure that all doors are open for High School and Post-Secondary School.

WCHS runs on the semester system. In grade 9, some courses may be quartered while others will be offered over the entire year.

- ◆ Semester One: September to January (Quarter 1 & 2)
Final grades in January
- ◆ Semester Two: January to June (Quarter 3 & 4)
Final grades in June

All year courses such as Math, English, Science and Social will have Final Grades issued in June

- ◆ Students who struggle with attendance create a situation that frequently leads to students not being successful in a course which means that they would not be able to take certain courses in Grade 10. For example, if students do not pass Science 9, they are not eligible to take Science 10. They must enroll in Science 14.

Note: Attendance is the number one factor in students not completing High School.

What is the Attendance Policy in WCHS?

Details of the Attendance Policy will be explained to students during the first week in September. If students or parents have questions regarding their attendance they should speak to the Office. If parents have questions about the Attendance Policy, they should speak to the Administration.

- ◆ If you are absent your parents/guardians must contact the office or enter into Safe Arrival through your Powerschool or email wc@wrps1.ca. Please indicate students' full name and date of absence (Full day/AM or PM).
- ◆ Student Attendance can be viewed in PowerSchool
- ◆ Unexplained absences result in a phone call by the *School Messenger*.

STUDENT SERVICES

The WCHS Student Service Department is set up to support our students along their path towards graduation. Our Student Services Department consists of:

- Counsellors - Help you with social and emotional matters
- Success Coaches- Helps with academic and vocational matters
- Indigenous Support Workers- Support our indigenous students on their road to graduation
- Inclusion Coach - Works closely with teachers in supporting student needs.

PowerSchool



WCHS has fully integrated PowerSchool into our school. PowerSchool is used to view marks, attendance, report cards and receive final grades. All new students receive login information in the fall. Students and Parents will need to be able to access and log into PowerSchool on a regular basis.

WCHS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

WCHS offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities for students to choose. If you want to get the most out of your years in high school – in terms of fun and success – then jump right in and get involved with something that interests you! The sooner you get to know people and feel a part of something, the sooner you will feel ‘at home’ in high school. To learn about the various clubs and activities listen to the announcements.

Here are some of the activities that are offered:

ATHLETICS - COMPETITIVE TEAMS

Fall: Cross-Country Running
Football
Golf
Volleyball



Winter: Basketball
Curling
Wrestling
Archery

Spring: Badminton
Track & Field



All students are encouraged to participate in various activities throughout the year.

Possible Student Council Activities

Executive Meetings

Committees on Jackets/Rings

Dress-up Days

Possible Special Events – Ice Cream Eating, Rodeo Days, Assemblies, Prep Rallies

Creative Spirit Celebration

Awards Night

Possible Clubs

Choir
Drama
Drumming



Art Club
GSA
Archery Club

NOTE: If you would like to organize a specific club (listed or not) discuss your idea with a staff member, who may agree to supervise.

Possible Special Events



Career Days

Field Trips

Music Trips

Student Council

The WCHS Student Council supervises the extracurricular activities of approximately 850 students.

The Council of Wetaskiwin Composite High School Students' Association consists of:

- ◆ President
- ◆ Vice President
- ◆ Secretary
- ◆ Treasurer



School Colors: Burgundy, Gold and White
School Logo: WCHS Sabre
School Motto: Veritas Vincit (Truth Conquers)
School Mascot: Sabre

To get involved -

Listen for Announcements and check Social Media

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

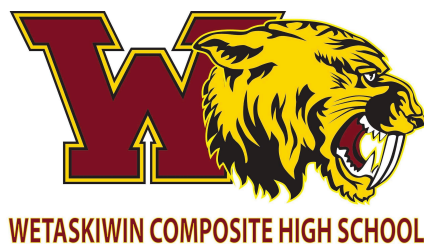
In order to maintain a positive and safe learning environment a number of general expectations have been established that all students are required to follow.

1. Regular attendance is required. Notification from parents is expected if students will not be in school. Expectation of being in class on time.
2. Students can eat lunch and snacks in the school cafeteria, atrium, and certain designated classrooms. Students are reminded that all garbage must be cleaned up and disposed of.
3. Cell phones are not allowed to be used in class unless permitted by the teacher. They are permitted to be used in other areas of the school.
4. Hoodies, hats and bandanas are to be removed upon entering the school building.
5. Backpacks are to be placed in lockers upon entering the school.
6. Food or drinks will not be allowed in the computer labs, or gymnasiums. Teachers will make individual decisions about allowing food or drinks in their classroom.
7. WCHS has a “Zero Tolerance” policy on violence and vandalism. Fighting, uttering threats, intimidation, or initiating vandalism at a school will not be tolerated. Suspensions/expulsions may result from such actions.
8. Students found with, or under the influence of, alcohol or drugs will be suspended immediately and a hearing will be arranged for the students, parents, and school administration to determine the academic future of the student.
9. Smoking / Vaping and smokeless tobacco are **NOT** allowed to be used on school property and their use at any time is also discouraged.

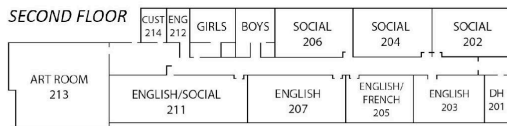
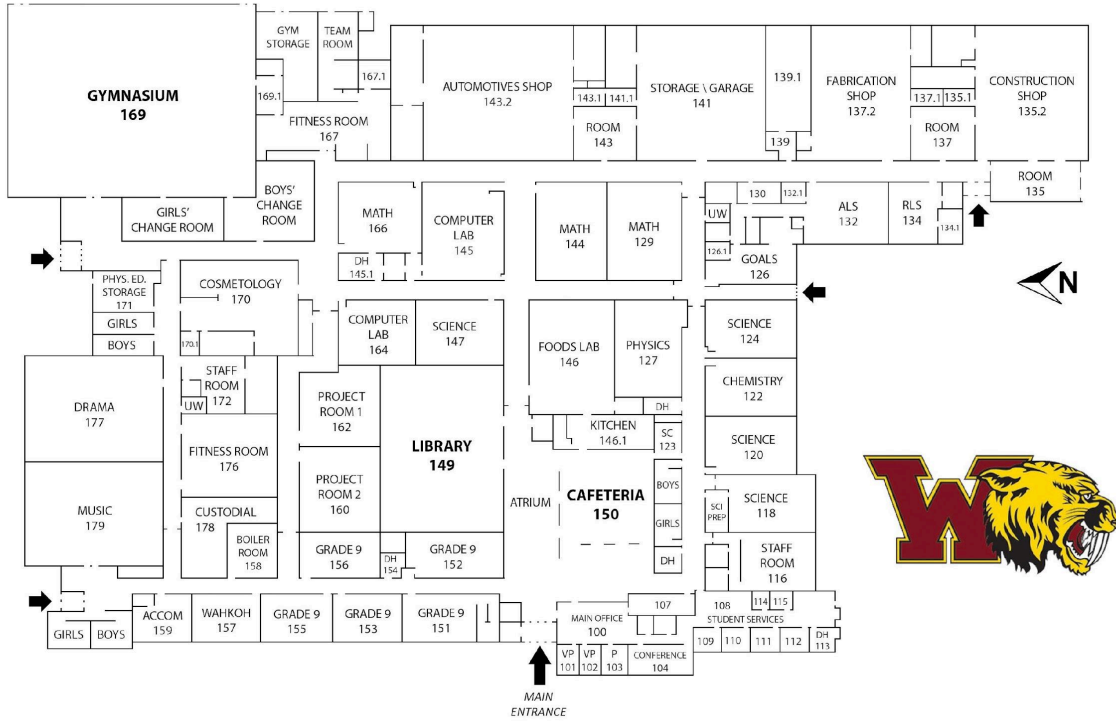


GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

1. If the student registering has a medical condition of which the teachers should be aware, please ensure that their teachers and Inclusive Coach are notified. If the condition is ongoing each teacher needs to be informed at the beginning of each semester.
2. Please notify student services of conditions or circumstances that will have a significant impact on the attendance and achievement of the student registering. If students are experiencing difficulties, they are encouraged to seek assistance as early as possible so steps can be taken to resolve any problems before it is too late.
3. If the registering student requires bussing to school from out of town, contact the Director of Transportation at 352-6018. You will be required to give your land location.
4. If a student is away from a class, the parents or guardians are asked to contact the school to explain the absence. If a student is excused from class, it is assumed that they are not in the building.
5. At the end of the day *School Messenger* will phone home for any unexplained absences during the day.
6. Students have the privilege of enjoying WCHS as an open campus meaning students may leave at noon. If a student is chronically late this privilege may be revoked.



WCHS School Map



WETASKIWIN COMPOSITE HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Sabres!