



Back to School Edition 2018

The BLUE JAY CHATTER



REGISTRATION 4

WELCOME BACK 6

INFORMATION 8

QUICK INFO



Elementary School
8:10 am to 3:10 pm

High School
8:10 am to 3:05 pm

contact us

District Office: 816-640-2236
Elementary Office: 816-640-2811
High School Office: 816-640-2292
Transportation: 816-678-4540



AUGUST 17

HS Football Jamboree @ Mid-Buchanan 6:00 pm

AUGUST 18

VB Jamboree at St. Joe Christian 10:00 am

AUGUST 20

ES Open House 5:30 pm

AUGUST 21

7th Grade/New Student Orientation Performing Arts Center 5:30 pm

AUGUST 22

First Day of School - Full Day

AUGUST 24

HS Football vs Lone Jack 7:00 pm

AUGUST 25

HS Softball @ North Platte Inv.

WEST



Dr. John Rinehart, Superintendent

Dear West Platte Patrons,

I hope this finds you and your families well, and looking forward to the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Our school seal lists 1869 as the date the school district was originally formed. That means we are set to enter the 150th year of West Platte.

Certainly the District has been witness to innumerable changes over that time. One wonders what the original staff and students from 1869 would think if they could see the District as it is in 2018. What would they like or dislike? What would they simply not comprehend?

That span of time has surely seen decisions made somewhere in the past that still affect us today. Those thoughts serve as a reminder that decisions we make in the present are likely to shape considerations well into the future. That realization should give us pause--we are responsible not just for here and now, but to those who will follow.

The rate of change seems to be quicker. Things most assuredly evolve at a faster clip than in 1869. How those ongoing changes

will manifest in the education industry is anyone's guess.

Education, like the rest of the world, becomes more technology-driven with each passing year. Technology can make it possible for education to be tailored more to the individual--yet technology simultaneously can make education more impersonal. To ignore the possibilities technology presents to our students is folly, and in the extreme, counter-productive.

However, schools are tremendous agents for socialization. Many still argue, correctly, that no form of known technology can spark learning to the extent of a talented teacher. The human interaction present in a public school is a quality that will be difficult to replicate artificially. My guess is we will hang onto brick and mortar schools long past their practicality as a delivery method--simply because face-to-face interaction may never be adequately substituted for, nor realistically recreated by, technological means. Until then, we have a lot of work to do in education.

Here at West Platte we are lucky to have a highly rated, nationally recognized system of technology in place. We also have a good many teachers who incorporate innovative practices into their classes. We are, in many respects, as modern as is reasonable.

Assuming West Platte R-II is still here, physically, in another 150 years, surely whatever educational tools they use, what we have now will have to seem as antiquated to them as wagon wheels and hay hooks seem to us. Our responsibility in the here-and-now is to make sure the long tradition of educational excellence is indeed passed to the next generation, and built upon.

We enter the 150th school year in West Platte history. How we add to the story will be an interesting journey.

PLATTE

New Projects at the District

Greenhouse

The greenhouse is a 30' x 60' structure that will allow plants to be grown year around. The greenhouse will be used by the agriculture department and FFA chapter for a variety of purposes. These include: plant based scientific studies, plant sales, plant production for the school grounds, adult education courses, and many other activities.



Softball Field

The girls softball field is getting a new look! The softball improvements will include field turf on the infield, new bleachers, and improved dugouts. Construction has started, and will be completed sometime in September 2018.



Baseball Field

Our baseball field is also undergoing improvements. The baseball field will include field turf on the infield, new field lights, a new scoreboard as well as a new bullpen, and improved dugouts. Construction will be completed sometime this year.





Back-to-School

WEST PLATTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ENROLLMENT

The elementary office will be open beginning Friday, August 10 from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm for enrollment of new students to the district.

OPEN HOUSE

Elementary Open House will be held on Monday, August 20 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. You may stop in your child's classroom to meet your child's teacher and drop off school supplies. You will also be able to pay for school lunches, talk to our bus transportation director, and visit with PTO about what they do at West Platte. If you have any questions, please contact Dana Buttz in the Elementary Office at 816-640-2811.

WEST PLATTE HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR HIGH/HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

All registration will be done online this year. You will have access to PowerSchool August 1-16 to complete/update your students' information. You should have received a mailing over the summer with instructions. Please feel free to call the High School Office at (816) 640-2292 after August 8, if you have any questions.

NEW HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS & 7TH GRADE ORIENTATION

Orientation for all 7th grade and new students in grades 8-12 will be held on Tuesday, August 21 at 5:30 pm, in the Performing Arts Center. New students will need to set up an appointment with the high school counselor, Corrine Allee, and submit a record of all courses completed (an unofficial transcript is acceptable for scheduling purposes). Immunization records are also required upon enrollment. If you have any questions or concerns, or to set up an appointment, you may contact Mrs. Allee at 816-640-2292, ext. 2054, or by email at alleec@wpsd.net. Records may be faxed to the high school at 816-386-2293.

Here's what to expect:

- Pick up schedules and receive locker assignments in the High School Office. The school nurse will be available to collect updated immunization records. Unfortunately, if immunizations are not current, your child cannot come to school on August 22, 2018.
- Attend a program in the Performing Arts Center where you will be introduced to your teachers and hear lots of information about being a 7th grader/new West Platte student!
- Tour the school and find your classes. Students will be available to show you around. You may bring your locker organizers, classroom supplies, etc. Teachers will be in their rooms to answer questions.



Students getting a school tour from one of our National Honor Society members.



High school students during registration last year.



Website:
WPSD.net



Facebook:
WestPlatteSchoolDistrict



Twitter:
@WestplatteSD



YouTube:
West Platte School District

GET OUR NEW APP!

We share all of our good stuff on our website, Facebook, Twitter, & Youtube, but even better is our West Platte app. The app brings all of the news and events to you in one place! You can find it on your mobile app store or by scanning one of the QR codes below!



FOR
APPLE
USERS



FOR
ANDROID
USERS



First Day of School

Elementary Principal, Ms. Henshaw, welcomes students back to school.

West Platte Elementary School can be a lively place in the mornings. As elementary students are dropped off in the morning for school, Ms. Henshaw and other teachers greet students as they start their day!

Feathers

Before and After School Care

Feathers provides a safe place for West Platte preschool through 6th grade students before and after school hours. Our program offers a quiet place for students to work on homework and receive any help they may need. We have a variety of indoor and outdoor activities that students may choose from. A snack is provided each day.

We are currently registering students for the 2018-2019 school year. There is a registration fee of \$25 per student. The Feathers program follows the school calendar and is open any day school is scheduled, from 6:30 am to 7:30 am, and 3:05 pm to 6:00 pm. We have extended hours on early release days for an additional fee of \$5.

Several scheduling options are available to fit your needs. You can enroll in full time before and after school care, full time after school, part time after school, full time before school, or part time before school. Students who attend 3 days or less are considered part time. We have a limited amount of drop in spaces available for families who are enrolled. The full time before and after school care rate is \$240 per month and the part time before and after school care rate is \$160 per month.

We are excited to introduce our new online registration. Families that want to register for the program can find the link on the West Platte website. Please visit wpsd.net and click on Feathers under the programs tab at the top of the page. You will be directed to specific registration information. There will also be a new electronic system for signing your child in and out of our program each day.

If you would like more information, please contact Tanya Lock at (816) 640-2811, or email lockt@wpsd.net.

Special Services

Paula Chambers

We are all eager to see our Blue Jays back in the buildings after a wonderful summer break. As the special education director for the West Platte School District, I will be ensuring that the special education department is providing a safe, structured and positive learning environment for all of our students. It is our duty to provide accurate and timely feedback of your child's progress towards individualized goals. I strongly believe that parents and teachers should work as a team in the best interest of our students. As teachers and administrators, we are asked many times how parents can help at home. Here are a few suggestions to make this year the best for your child:

- Create a special time in which you read to your child or your child reads aloud to you for 15-20 minutes daily.
- Involve your child in math calculations relating to everyday life. For example, while you are at the grocery store, have them figure out how much it would be if you bought 3 cans of green beans at 88 cents a piece.
- Encourage writing often. It doesn't have to be a chore. Ask your child to help you make a list or to write thank you notes.
- Allow for social time with friends. Kids learn so much from appropriate peer interactions.
- Set a consistent schedule for your child before and after school. This can be hard to do with activities, but strive to keep consistency in routines.

Working together, we can make this year the best for your child. As always, contact your child's teacher if you have concerns.

Elementary

We are excited to begin another school year at West Platte Elementary! We embark on this journey with a pledge to you, our students, parents, and community that this will be a year of engaging, meaningful and rigorous work in our classrooms, combined with special events and a plethora of extracurricular clubs and activities.

Some of the school sponsored extracurricular activities that our students have the opportunity to participate in include:

Bluebotics Club-The STEM enthusiasts build, program, problem solve, and collaborate using Lego Mindstorm EV3 robotic kits. For more information contact Mrs. Davenport at davenportc@wpsd.net.

Book Club-This is a wonderful way to improve reading comprehension skills; however, it is really about having fun and enjoying reading. Contact Ms. Rodell at rodellj@wpsd.net for more information.

Character Council-Students have the opportunity to provide leadership, promote school spirit, and encourage community service. Mrs. Kelley is the sponsor and can be reached at kelleyd@wpsd.net.

Choral-Choral is made up of 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students who perform during the year in the Weston area and Kansas City. Mrs. DeLoux is the sponsor and can be contacted at delouxb@wpsd.net.

Destination Imagination-This opportunity is open to students in pre-school through sixth grade in the elementary but does extend up to the high school level as well. Please contact the school office for more information.

Girls on the Run-This program uses the power of running to help prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. Participants train for the end of the season 5K. For more information, contact Mrs. Grier at griers@wpsd.net.

Let Me Run-For boys in grades four through six that inspires boys through the power of running. This running program is also set up as a training tool for the completion of a 5K. Contact Mrs. Lawson at lawsonj@wpsd.net for more information.

If you have any questions about these opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact the sponsor. There is something for everyone at West Platte Elementary!



**Rebecca Henshaw,
Principal**

See Yourself Here...

High School



**Vince Matlick,
Principal**

Welcome to West Platte Junior/Senior High School! The beginning of a new school year is a time for great excitement and enthusiasm. It's an opportunity to renew friendships and strive for even higher goals. The staff and administration of West Platte are here to help you attain these goals and hope you will find the school year enjoyable and rewarding along the way.

West Platte has an exceptional tradition of excellence. This is made possible by a dedicated board of education, knowledgeable and committed teachers, involved and supportive parents, and disciplined, motivated students. Together, we have an obligation to sustain and advance our already outstanding reputation.

All students are encouraged to participate in some of the many clubs, organizations, activities, and athletic teams offered at West Platte. Involved students enjoy school more, achieve loftier goals, and are more successful. So get involved! Above all, we expect everyone at West Platte Junior/Senior High School to uphold the core values of integrity, honesty, responsibility, and respect.

The goal of West Platte is to work together and build upon our excellent tradition of ensuring success for every student. From the entire staff, faculty, and administration, welcome to West Platte Junior/Senior High School. Let's have a terrific year!

Parents As Teachers

West Platte Parents as Teachers welcomes you back to a new school year! We have an exciting year ahead, and we can't wait to see everyone. Mrs. Ashley and Ms. Jerrica, our parent educators, are both looking forward to seeing you at the elementary open house on Monday, August 20 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, as well as all of our fall family events.

If Parents as Teachers is new to your family, allow us to share a bit of what our program has to offer. Parents as Teachers (P.A.T.) offers education and support to families with children prenatally through kindergarten age in our district. Parents as Teachers offers families:

- Personal Visits—Receive personal visits from a certified educator to help you understand each stage of your child's development and offer practical tips on ways to encourage learning.
- Family Activities—These programs join families together to participate in child development presentations and family building activities.
- Referral Network—P.A.T. helps families link with extra services, if needed.
- Screenings—Children receive screenings to check overall development, language, hearing, and vision.

P.A.T. is offered at no cost to all families in the West Platte School District. For more information, contact Parents as Teachers at pat@wpsd.net or 816-640-2811.



P.A.T. partnered with the Mid-Continent Public Library to host a Parking Lot Party!



Family music night for students!



Developmental screenings took place for 3 and 4 year old kids at West Platte.

WEST PLATTE Little Jays

The new school year is upon us! Families with students enrolled in preschool for 2018-2019 will be receiving a letter at the beginning of August with specific details for the beginning of the year. We have classes for 3, 4, and 5 year old children. The cost is \$12/day for part time and \$25/day for full time.

Your preschoolers can expect to participate in engaging activities and hands on experiences. Our first unit will focus on what makes each of us special, parts of the body, and the five senses.

We have three options for preschool enrollment. The Tuesday, Thursday class meets from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. This class is reserved for students who have turned 3 years old by August 1st. The Monday, Wednesday, Friday class also meets from 8:00 am. to 11:00 am. Students in this class must be 4 years old by August 1st. There are two

full day classes. These classes are reserved for 4 and 5 year old students who will move on to kindergarten the following year. The full day class meets from 8:00 am. to 3:05 pm.

There are openings in the Monday-Friday full day classes. The other classes are full. You may request to have your child's name added to the waiting list. We often have last minute changes as the school year begins.

We are excited to introduce our new online registration. Families that want to register for preschool can find the link on the West Platte website. Please visit wpsd.revtrak.net/rw-little-jays/ to find the information you need.

If you have additional questions, contact Tanya Lock at lockt@wpsd.net.

We look forward to seeing all of our Little Jays in August!



In March, preschool students worked on catching Leprechauns by making traps.



Mrs. Fletcher's students are learning about virtual reality using goggles.



Little Jays graduate from preschool!

Back-to-School TIPS

To help kids get ready for back to school, try to transition kids into a regular school night routine two to three weeks before school starts.

Get A Good Night's Rest

One of the best ways to help kids get ready for back to school success is to start going to bed 10 minutes early now, so you will be adjusted before the first day of school.

Eat a Healthy Breakfast

By eating a healthy breakfast, kids are more alert and do much better in school.

Write it Down

Write down the information kids will need to know to help them remember details such as their locker combination, what time each of their classes starts, when lunch starts and ends, their homeroom and classroom numbers, the teachers and/or bus driver's names, etc.

Use a Calendar

Use a wall calendar or a personal planner to record when assignments are due, upcoming tests, when extracurricular practices and rehearsals will be held, etc. Write down the coach or sponsor's contact information to make it easy if schedules change.

Get Organized

Have kids organize and set out what they need the night before (homework and books should be put in their backpacks by the door and clothes should be laid out in their bedrooms). Getting this routine in place will make for a successful morning heading out to school.

Plan Before & After School

Having your transportation worked out before school starts should help alleviate any anxiety for both the child and parents, especially if your child is going to ride the school bus, ride his or her bike, or walk to school. Safety is the most important thing for our kids!

Food Services

Money for meals can be paid during time of registration or online. If a family is unable to pay regular price, they may qualify for free and reduced meals. Applications for free or reduced price breakfast/lunch are available in the main office of each building or online. The list of students who participate in the free and reduced program will remain confidential. All ID cards, regular price or free/reduced, will be identical. For a list of our school lunch prices for the 2018-19 school year, free and reduced forms, and menus, please visit our website at wpsd.net/departments/food-services.

Health Services

West Platte provides a program of health services to all students (Pre-K thru 12th Grade) providing first aid; offering health, sensory and developmental screening on a continuous basis; and supporting the district's comprehensive health curriculum. The health services program shall not include diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury beyond the administration of first aid.

All medicine brought to school must be in the original container and securely stored in the health room where it will be taken under the supervision of the school nurse acting with the specific written request of the parent or guardian and with the written instructions of the student's physician (the container with pharmacist's label will suffice).

Only individual students with certain chronic diseases whose physician has recommended that the student assume responsibility for his own medicine as part of accepting self-care (e.g., bronchodilator for asthma) may keep medicine with them.

At no time is any medicine to be stored in a student's locker unless parents send a written request to the school nurse for this arrangement.

Certain non-prescription medications will be kept in the health room and may be administered by the school nurse as directed by the protocols stated in the consulting physician's Standing Orders. Permission from a parent or guardian will be sought to administer these medicines.

No student shall enroll or attend school if his/her immunizations are not in accordance with Missouri State laws. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to furnish a record of immunizations received. The school nurse will be available at the Elementary Open House as well as the 7th Grade and New Student Orientation to collect any updated immunization records, health forms, and to answer questions. To view the current list of required immunizations, visit wpsd.net/departments/health-services.

Bus Services

At West Platte, we are committed to providing safe, efficient, and reliable transportation service to our students that contributes to their overall academic success. Student transportation is a privilege to be enjoyed by eligible students only as long as they act responsibly, follow all rules and regulations, and respond positively to the directions and requests of bus drivers.

West Platte contracts our transportation services through Apple Bus Company. Linda McDowell is the Transportation Director and can be reached at (816) 678-4540 or (816) 646-2267.

All drivers are CDL certified and attend safety training once a month. The drivers are randomly drug tested and the buses have an annual inspection by the highway patrol. Safety is the District's number one priority.

Technology Services

West Platte School District provides a device (free of charge) to all of our students. In grades 1-12, students receive a Chromebook, and students in pre-k and kindergarten receive an iPad (as a classroom set). Fees may be assessed in the event of damage or loss.

Elementary students will receive their Chromebooks during the first week of school. Teachers will discuss the proper use of the devices in the classroom and how to care for them. Students in grades four through twelve are allowed to take their devices home each evening, and devices will be filtered as if they were still at school. High school students will receive their Chromebooks when they register for the school year. All new Chromebooks this year are a touch-flip model to immerse students in new ways of digital learning!

New this year to the high school classrooms are interactive monitors. These replaced the aging SMART Boards and projectors and have an expected lifespan of at least 50,000 hours. These monitors allow for more collaboration by allowing more than one student to write at the same time on the board, digital collaboration spaces, and feedback response tools.



Mr. Fletcher handing out Chromebooks to students during the registration process.



More Items Have Been Added to the WPSD Store!

West Platte School District offers a secure and convenient way for parents to pay for their student's lunch balances, class dues, yearbooks, activity, and technology fees online. Payments can be made by accessing RevTrak, at pay.wpsd.net. Payments can be made using Visa, Mastercard, or Discover credit or debit cards, as well as eChecks.

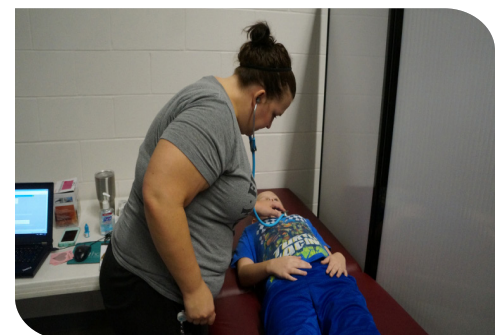
The Web Store offers parents a convenient payment option from the comfort of their home or office, saving time and eliminating the need to send cash or checks with your student.



Elementary kids enjoy lunch time together!



Students ride the bus after school.



First Hand Foundation's Health Kids screened our elementary students.

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Paula Chambers, Director of Student Services
Rebecca Henshaw, Elementary Principal
Vince Matlick, High School Principal
Ryan Ramey, Assistant High School Principal

BE A VOLUNTEER!

To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world. Volunteers are vital to the success of our wide range of programs. Volunteers help foster stronger school/community relationships by creating a common ownership in the success of our schools, as well as, demonstrating the importance of community service to our students. There are so many ways to get involved! Please visit our website to see the many opportunities! Below are a few suggestions!



WATCH D.O.G.S. spend time with elementary kids.



Volunteers present to high school students during Career Fair.

- Assist with Field Trips
- Become a Guest Speaker
- Help with Book Fairs
- Join Booster or Quarterback Club
- Listen to Students Read
- Join Parents As Teachers Organization
- Become a Room Parent
- Get Involved in Community In Action
- Partner with the Character Program
- Support Coaches and Sponsors
- WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)