

# The WHS Times

WEBUTUCK HIGH SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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## The Importance of Good Attendance

*Over the past three years, consistent public school student attendance has been a challenge for both schools and parents, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and changes associated with online learning.*

*Webutuck High School experienced the same negative impact on attendance, and we continue to see some students struggling with attendance. During November, WHS had 496 absences. That equates to approximately 2.5 days off per student, per month. 20-25 potential absences is a significant amount of instructional time for any student to miss during a school year.*

*The following is an excerpt from an article from the National Center for Education Statistics, which highlights the need for our students to attend school consistently.*

### Knuschke's "Korner"

Students are more likely to stay involved in school and engage in positive behaviors outside of school if they participate in extracurricular activities. In addition to our varsity sports, we have a number of extracurricular clubs for students to participate in. Several clubs are new as of this school year. Encourage your children to participate in the programs we offer. Check our website to see the clubs and activities we offer.

“High school dropouts have been found to exhibit a history of negative behaviors, including high levels of absenteeism during their childhood, at higher rates than high school graduates. These differences in absenteeism rates were seen as early as kindergarten, with students who ultimately dropped out of high school missing significantly more days of school in first grade than their peers who graduated from high school. In eighth grade, this pattern was even more apparent, and by ninth grade, attendance was shown to be a key indicator significantly related to high school graduation.

The effects of missed school days accumulate one absence at a time on individual students. Penalties for students who miss school can inadvertently make the situation worse. The disciplinary response to truancy all too often includes loss of course credit, detention, and suspension. Any absence, whether excused or unexcused, denies students the opportunity to learn in accordance with the school's instructional program, but students who miss school are sometimes further excluded from learning opportunities as a result of the absence. chronic absenteeism.

## Anti-Tobacco and Vaping

The Dutchess County Council on Addiction Prevention and Education (CAPE) will be presenting at WHS and EBIS on Friday, December 9. Students in grades 7-12 will learn about the dangers of vaping and tobacco use and how to avoid becoming involved in the use and abuse of vaping and tobacco products. Later this school year, our district will host a series of parent education sessions that will include the dangers of vaping and tobacco products for school-age children. We will send that information as it becomes available.

## Important dates

**Voting on the Capitol Project:** Tuesday, December 6, from 12:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Test:** Wednesday, December 7

**CAPE Anti-Tobacco and Vaping:** Friday, December 9 during the school day for students

**Masquerade Ball:** Friday, December 16, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

**Holiday Breakfast for Students:** Thursday, December 22



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