To parents, guardians, and students of Washburn High School,

Welcome back to school! We're excited to kick off a new school year and welcome our students and staff in just a few days. Below are some key reminders and helpful information for parents and students in grades 7–12 as we get ready for the first day of school on Wednesday, August 19.

Open House & Orientation for Junior High Students and New Students

Students and parents are welcome to attend open house Monday, August 17. Teachers for grades 5-12 will be available in their classrooms from 4:00 - 6:00. There will also be orientation for junior high (grades 5-7) and new students in the Old Gym beginning at 5:15. Attendance is optional, but we highly encourage you to attend.

Grade Level Restructuring

Beginning in the upcoming school year, Washburn Public School will implement a new grade-level structure:

Elementary School: PreK–4
Junior High School: Grades 5–7
High School: Grades 8–12

This restructuring is a result of multiple factors. First, our growing student population has required us to reevaluate how we utilize staff and structure learning environments. Additionally, the ongoing school building renovation project has provided an opportunity to better align our grade levels in a way that makes sense both educationally and logistically.

Bell Schedule

Here is the regular bell schedule for 2026-2027.

Period One:	(8:10 AM) 8:25 AM – 9:13 AM
Period Two:	9:16 AM – 10:04 AM
Period Three:	10:07 AM – 10:55 AM
Period Four:	10:58 AM – 11:46 AM
7th & 8th Lunch	11:43 - 12:10
5th Grade Recess	11:43 - 12:10
6th Grade WIN	11:43 - 12:05
6th Grade Lunch	12:10 - 12:35
5th Grade Lunch	12:15 - 12:35
HS Lunch	11:49 - 12:19
7th & 8th Period Five:	12:13 PM – 1:10 PM
High School Period Five:	12:22 PM – 1:10 PM
5th & 6th Period 5	12:40 - 1:10
Period Six:	1:13 PM – 2:01 PM
Period Seven:	2:04 PM – 2:52 PM
Cardinal Time:	2 :55 PM – 3:25 PM

Cardinal Time

This class is intended to offer school wide support for students by having all teachers available to assist during a common period. This class period will now be a 30 minute class period. Our goal is to help monitor grades, provide help for students with questions, build positive relationships with students, and implement school wide

activities that will benefit students' experiences at school and beyond the classroom. Students in Grades 10-12 that are in good standing will be able to leave the school building after the first grade check.

ITV and Online Classes Prior to the First Day of School

Students that are enrolled in ITV classes and online courses are expected to meet the expectations and procedures outlined by the teacher while completing the assigned schoolwork. Students do not need to be present in the school building prior to the first day of school if their courses begin before August 19.

Add/Drop Course Form

Students in grades 9-12 looking to make a schedule change need to complete a drop/add form prior to changes being made in PowerSchool. All course changes must be made by August 21.

Grading Scale and Academic Eligibility

In an effort to better align our academic expectations with post-secondary institutions while continuing to support student success, Washburn Public School will be implementing updates to both our grading scale and eligibility requirements.

Updated Grading Scale:
A: 94–100 (no change)
B: 86–93 (previously 87–93)
C: 78–85 (previously 80–86)
D: 70–77 (previously 75–79)
F: 0–69.4 (previously 0–74.5)

These adjustments are designed to maintain high standards while providing clearer alignment with grading practices students will encounter in post secondary education opportunities.

Updated Eligibility for Students involved in Co-Curricular Activities:

Our academic eligibility policy will now state:

In addition to meeting all academic rules and regulations set forth by the North Dakota High School Activities Association, students must also comply with local requirements. Any student in grades 5-12 who receives one or more failing grades in any courses receives two or more failing grades in any courses will be academically ineligible for interscholastic competition for a period of one week, beginning on Wednesday.

In summary, students in grades 5–12 must be passing all classes in order to participate in extracurricular and interscholastic activities.This means students will no longer be allowed to participate with even one failing grade. This also means students will be allowed to participate with two or more classes with a D, which was previously used in the elementary level.

The purpose of this change is to reinforce academic accountability and ensure that participation in activities remains tied to student success in the classroom.

Lockers and Locker Rooms

Lockers for backpacks and supplies will be available the first day of school. Locker numbers will be provided to students during open house and the first day of school. Students are also able to find their locker number in Infinite Campus. Students are encouraged to lock their assigned lockers with self provided locks.Students must notify the office with the combination or a key when choosing to use a lock. Lockers in the locker rooms will be assigned throughout the first couple weeks of school through Mr. Jacobson.

Meal Cards and IDs

Students will be issued meal cards on the first day of school. Each student's ID number will be located on the card along with last year's school photo. Students are expected to be responsible by bringing the card daily for meals and accountable for possession at all times. There is a $5 fee for a replacement card.

Attendance

Washburn Public School requires a student to be in attendance 160 days of the school year. If a student misses more than ten days of school or class periods in a semester, that student will be required to make the time up after school with the classroom teacher or office. Please communicate all absences with the school office and provide medical documentation for the absence to be excused.

Planbook

Teacher's lesson plans for the upcoming week can be found on our school website. To find lesson plans of teachers on the school website, navigate to the staff directory page and click the Planbook link under each teacher's name. This tool serves as an efficient organization tool for students and allows parents to be involved in their child's education.

Open Campus for Lunch Change

Open campus during the lunch break will be for grades 10-12. All 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students will remain in the building during lunch time, with the exception of the first Wednesday of each month. Students need to keep in mind that having an open campus is a privilege and can be revoked if abused. All 5th & 6th grades students will remain in the building during lunch time with no exceptions.

Personal Device Use

Washburn Public School strictly prohibits the use and possession of personal communication devices during the school day. This includes, but is not limited to, cellular phones, smartwatches, bluetooth earbuds, electronic games, and tablets. Yondr pouches will be assigned to students to secure all devices by locking the pouch prior to their first class beginning.

Students violating the device-free policy will receive the following for each infraction:

- The first infraction: The device and pouch stays in the office for the remainder of the day. A parent or guardian must pick up at the office.

- The second infraction: The device and pouch stays in the office for the remainder of the day. A parent or guardian must pick up at the office. The student will serve detention and be required to check their device and pouch into the office for three school days. The device and pouch will be returned at the end of each day.

- The third infraction: The device and pouch stays in the office for the remainder of the day. A parent or guardian must pick up at the office. The student will serve inschool suspension for the remainder of the school day. Arrangements will have to be made to leave the device and pouch at home or stored daily in the office for the remainder of the semester.

**As a reminder, students who have been assigned in or out-of-school suspension have lost the opportunity to be exempt from semester tests, as well as loss of participation in any extra-curricular activities for the day.*

Please take a moment to read the full policy and the Questions and Answers document available at the provided link for more details. https://5il.co/3mtur

We would greatly appreciate the support and assistance of parents and students in helping to create a more conducive learning environment for all students.

Tips for Students entering the New School Year

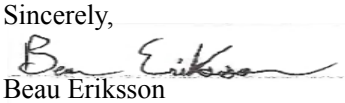
1. Stay Organized
2. Manage Time Wisely
3. Ask Questions and Be Curious
4. Stay Positive and Consistent
5. Balance is Key
6. Celebrate Achievements

Tips for Parents/Guardians supporting their Child's Education

1. Encourage Independence
2. Monitor Progress & Celebrate Achievements
3. Encourage Healthy Habits
4. Stay Informed About School Events
5. Collaborate with Teachers and Your Child
6. Model Lifelong Learning

As the new school year begins, we're looking forward to working together to provide a quality education that includes a consistent and supportive environment for all students. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to the school office. We're excited to get the year started and see everyone back in the building!

Sincerely,



Beau Eriksson
Washburn High School Principal