



Autumn 2012

**Inside this issue:**

WEB WEDNESDAYS 2

NEWS FROM OUR NURSE 2

2012 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY 3

CLASSES AND CLUBS 4

INFORMATION POTPOURRI 6

MARCHING BAND 7

NEW STAFF 8

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 11

**WHS 883-5541  
Extension Numbers**

- Main Office - 4005
- Attendance - 4000
- Student Services :  
Mrs. Yazel - 4043  
Mrs. Cantlon - 4042 Secretary - 4040
- Bookstore - 4036
- School Nurse - 4010
- Athletic Office:  
Director - 4051  
Secretary - 4050
- Media Center  
Director - 4025  
Corporation Media  
Processor - 4026  
HS Media Aide - 4027
- District Office - 5000

News from Western High School

## PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING . . . WORDS FROM MR. DAVIS

I hope the 2012-2013 school year has been treating everyone well. It has been a whirlwind of a start to a school year as we welcome in the Class of 2016, bring into the fold several new faculty and staff members, adjust to the various components of the new teacher evaluation system, and just try to keep up with the day-to-day activities and opportunities.

Although it has been more hectic than ever, I continue to witness wonderful teaching and learning at Western High School. I have also been so pleased with the efforts and success of our athletic and fine arts programs which have not only presented themselves with class and dedication but have also been able to bring home exciting victories sectional championships, and yet another State Championship for the Western Marching Band!

As you may have noticed, Western High School received a grade of a "B" from the Indiana Department of Education. So, what exactly does a grade of a "B" mean? At the high

school level, schools are "graded" on four metrics:

Student Performance: The percentage of students passing Algebra I and English 10 ECA by the end of their sophomore year.

Student Improvement: A measure of the number of students who improve from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade (based on ISTEP+ and ECA comparisons) and the number who improve from 10<sup>th</sup> grade to graduation.

Graduation Rate: The percentage of students who graduate in four years.

College and Career Readiness: A measure of the percent of students who demonstrate success in Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, or Industry Certification programs.

It is important to note that the "B" rating Western earned was given with a graduation rate of 90.7%, a College and Career Readiness success rating of close to 58% (State goal is 25%), an Algebra I ECA passing percentage of 83.4%, and an English 10

Volume 19, Issue 1



ECA passing percentage of 78.4%. We showed slight negative improvement from 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 10<sup>th</sup> grade but marked improvement (22 out of 25) by the time the student graduated. While WHS is generally pleased with our results, we are in no way content. We are working diligently to continue to improve all of the measures of student success.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to all of the students, parents, teachers, and staff that make Western such a wonderful place. I enjoy coming to work each day and feel so blessed to be a part of this terrific school and the Western family. I am so proud of our students, teachers, and coaches, not just for the public successes, but for the day in and day out efforts and positive attitudes. We still have a ways to go, and our goals are high, but together we can reach them. Thank you and go Panthers!

*Richard E. Davis*



**"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who cannot read them."  
- Mark Twain**

## WHAT IS "WEB" WEDNESDAY?

During the 2009-2010 school year each of the School Improvement Goal Action Teams developed an action plan focused on improving a specific school improvement goal.

The Reading Performance Goal Action Team formulated an aggressive but doable plan that involved modifying the Wednesday schedule to allow for a block of time for reading strategy instruction alternating with other enrichment lessons. This idea coupled with the action plans from the Graduation Rate and Attendance Rate Goal Action Teams resulted in what will be referred to as Western Enrichment Block or WEB.

The title of WEB was chosen for reasons much deeper

than the obvious acronym of Wednesday Enrichment Block. Western's WEB is our effort to catch our students and help them find success.

One strand of the WEB is the effort to improve reading with research-based best practice strategies. Another strand focuses on the aspect of attendance, and another strand focuses on the closely related graduation rate. The final strand of this WEB is the intentional effort for teachers to "get to know" a specific group of students on a much deeper level than can usually be attained in normal teacher-student interactions.

The focus during the 2012 – 2013 school year continues to be primarily upon reading comprehension utilizing "Texts and Les-

sons for Content-Area Reading" by Harvey Daniels and Nancy Steineke. The "reading" weeks will be followed by a re-teaching of the lesson through "life application" lessons focusing on life skill topics such as choosing insurance, changing a tire, eating properly, and other practical skills.. The goal is to have the topics re-enforce the same reading comprehension strategy introduced in an earlier week. Additional WEB sessions will include independent reading and other enrichment activities planned by the various departments.

Through our school improvement plan, Western is working to catch all of our students in our WEB and help them find success in both school and life.

## NEWS FROM OUR NURSE - Brenda Strunk

A Medication Authorization Form must be completed by a parent and/or guardian prior to administering any medication during school hours. This form can be obtained from the high school office, the school nurse, or the school website. To obtain it via the web, go to the Western School Corporation site (<http://corp.western.k12.in.us/>) click on "Info", then "Document Library". In the top left box under "Health/ Medical Forms is the "Request for Administration of Medicine" form.

All medications must be kept in the nurse's office. The

only exception to this is if a student has physician ordered Emergency Medication that needs to be carried at all times and has provided the school with the proper documentation for the student to carry the medicine(s).

Both prescription and over the counter medications must be kept in the original container when at school and must be age appropriate. Medication sent to school in a ziploc bag or aluminum foil will not be accepted. Medication sent to school in this manner will be kept in the nurse's office until a parent and/or guardian can

pick it up.

If a student is bringing the medication to school, it must be taken to the nurse immediately upon arriving to school.

Also, in order for a high school student to take medication home, a parent must send a written note indicating the need to send the medication home with the student at the end of the school day. Please sign and date the note before sending it with your child.

Please contact Brenda Strunk if you have any questions. She can be reached at 765-883-1469 or [bstrunk@western.k12.in.us](mailto:bstrunk@western.k12.in.us).

## 2012 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

Western High School's Jeff Rayl Chapter of the National Honor Society has inducted the following students for the 2012-2013 school year. These students were chosen based upon their academic scholarship, leadership, service to their school and community, and moral character.

The ceremony was conducted by the following: President; Katie Brown Vice President; Victoria White Secretary; Olivia Nixon Treasurer; Gina Lemcke Service Coordinators; Lauren Price and Stephanie Atallah Historian; Kathryn Hampshire Web Master; Andrew Denta Sponsors; Dawn Pemberton and Jamie Chapin.

The 2012 inductees included the following students:

Ross Alan Beatty, Drew Daniel Bellus  
Mark Nicholas  
Edward Bewley  
Macey Elizabeth Bickford  
Raven S. Black  
Sara Katherine Blume  
Madison Taylor Boldry  
Megan Elizabeth Boruff  
Mark David Boss

Brett Taylor Boswell  
Jacob Bradshaw  
Summer Kimberly Brown  
Christopher Dee Carter  
Haleigh Jane Conaway  
MacKenzie Rachelle Coon  
Allison Kenzie Crowell  
Quinten Scott Dahlhauser  
Cody DeHaven  
Taylor Lynn Dittfield  
Nicholas Frederick Downing  
Kiersten Nicole Durbin  
Austin Michael Elliott  
Mary Elmasry  
Karsen Ann Ennis  
Alyssa Lynn Fearnow  
Riley James Girton  
Evie Grace Nicole Glover  
Tyler Michael Goudy  
Matthew James Grider  
J. Grant Harbaugh  
Nathan Horner  
Julie Scarlett Huntzinger  
Ashlyn Marie Jones  
Cailyn V.R. Kessler  
Joowon Lee  
Adam Michael Lyons  
Russell McDorman

Matthew Wallace McKinney  
Kaysie Erin Mulkey  
Caitlyn Shirley O'Neal  
Carley Marie O'Neal  
Olivia Rebecca Peterson  
Elizabeth S. Phillips  
Judson Quinn  
Kelsey Nicole Quinn  
Hannah Elizabeth Randall  
Faith Nicole Renken  
Carly Seitz  
Nitasha Sharma  
Asa McDonald Sheffer  
Molly Elise Shoffner  
Zachary Simpson  
Nathaniel Singer  
Austin Michael Smith  
Samantha Mae Soutar  
Cesar Jaime Terrón  
Joel Spencer Van Auken  
Jayden Andrew Wallsmith  
Madison R. Winger  
Jacob Robert Zentz

**"Academic competitions encourage academic achievement by offering the participants recognition and reward." (Objective statement from IASP website.)**



Character  
Scholarship  
Leadership  
Service

## CLASS AND CLUB UPDATES

### NEED HELP WITH MATH?

The Western High School mathematics department has established times for all students to get help with their math. Each high school math teacher has posted the times they will be availa-

ble in their classrooms outside of the school day to assist students.

The math department recommends that a student first try to get help from their classroom teacher; however, if their teacher

is unavailable, any of the other teachers will be glad to help. Parents should encourage their child to take advantage of this opportunity.

#### Math Teacher Availability

Mrs. Austin:	Room 217	M, T, TH	2:30 – 3:15 pm
Mrs. Blaisdell	Room 133	T, TH, F	2:30 – 3:00 pm
Mr. Boswell	Room 136	M, T, F	6:50 – 7:20 am
Miss Chapin	Room 139	M, T	7:00 – 7:20 am
Mrs. Blaisdell	Room 133	T, TH, F	2:30 – 3:00 pm
Mr. Boswell	Room 136	M, T, F	6:50 – 7:20 am
Miss Chapin	Room 139	M, T	7:00 – 7:20 am

### HONORS BIOLOGY CLASSES EXPERIENCE THE WILDCAT

Mrs. Pemberton and Mr. Morelock’s honors biology students went on a field trip to explore Wildcat Creek and learned about soil and water conservation. Students were shown a video called the *Wildcat Creek, Community Treasure* during class time. The video was created in the spring of 2010 by the Wildcat Guardian, a volunteer group dedicated to help preserving and protecting the “health and beauty” of Wildcat Creek.

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, the classes traveled to Camp Tycony where soil and water experts from the community taught them using hands on

activities during the Wildcat Experience. The focus was on water quality, local wildlife, our local watershed, and the wildcat creek. The experts provided a lunch and then students went back out for afternoon activities. Everyone learned how important taking care of our local environment was and had a great day outdoors.



Students listen to a volunteer from Wildcat Guardian organization.

**REMEMBER:**  
National Honor Society tutoring is available after school on Tuesdays in Miss Chapin’s room and Thursday’s in Mrs. Pemberton’s room. Tutoring last until 3:30 pm both days. Students need to have their own ride since there is no room on the late buses.



Students discover that different animals can be found along Wildcat Creek.



Students learn about erosion.



Students collect macro-invertebrates from the stream.



## BIOLOGY STUDENTS COMPLETE RESEARCH

Mrs. Pemberton's microbiology students have been researching careers associated with the field of microbiology. They are exploring training, life style, salary, and job satisfaction for the career that they choose.

The focus of study these nine weeks has been on learning basic

lab skills like gram stains and creating cultures of bacteria. Students have been learning the causes of diseases in specific body areas such as the integumentary system, nervous system, and cardiac system. They are studying past and present diseases of Indiana. This includes the

current outbreak of aspergillus meningitis, as well as serious infections of the past such as histoplasmosis outbreak which started in Indianapolis.

## WORLD LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT HOLDS OLYMPICS

The sixth period World Language classes participated in the first ever WILD Olympics at Western High School on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Forty students from the supper level French, Japanese, and Spanish classes were divided into ten teams.

Each team was responsible for researching a country other than the country studied in class. Students utilized Western High School's subscription databases such as *World Book Online* and its newest addition, *A to Z World Culture*. They then created flags for an opening parade and wrote short articles highlighting important infor-

mation about each country. The Olympics were the culmination of the research project. Students competed for gold, silver, and bronze "medals" in such events as a tortilla toss and a soccer dribble. The day ended with the announcement of team winners and

group picture of all the teams.

Overall, students were successful in completing World Language State Standard 8 for their individual language classes by using knowledge of languages and cultures for personal enrichment.



Students from the sixth period Japanese, French, and Spanish classes that participated in the World Language Olympics on October 8, 2012.



WILD classes participate in the tortilla toss during World Language Olympics

**"An education system isn't worth a great deal if it teaches young people how to make a living and doesn't teach them how to live."  
- (Author unknown)**



World language students wait for the start of the soccer relay during WILD Olympics

## INFORMATION POTPOURRI

### Students participate in canned food drive and "We Care"

National Honor Society students will be collecting canned foods from October 29th until November 19th. Students will be bringing their canned food items to their second period classes. The class with the highest per capita collection will be treated to Dan's donuts by Mrs. Pemberton.

Members of the Grey T-shirt club will also be involved in helping to feed local members of our community. In December, NHS members will be helping to set up for the *We Care Auction* at the Civic Center.



### Spell Bowl Team receives a first

The Spell Bowl team received a first place in the Area competition held on October 15, 2012. Sophomore Carolyn Kelley received a near perfect score at the competition.

The team includes Stephanie Atallah, Megan Deck, Kirsten DeHaven, Destiny Frye, Kathryn Hampshire, Cora Johnson, Carolyn Kelley, Joo-won Lee, Gina Lemcke, Amanda Luginbuhl, Lauren Price, Daphne Scott, Kennedy Taylor, Cesar Terron, Ellie Walters, Victoria White, and Trixia Yuzon. The team is coached by Mrs. Carla Smith while Mrs. Marietta Harrold is the coordinator of the Academic Teams.

### Junior Class hosts haunted house

The class of 2014 hosted a "Haunted School House" on October 26 and 27 at the high school. Some members of the junior class volunteered their time to "scare" those who were brave enough to go through the "school at the end of the street."

Attendees were escorted through the locker rooms, the gym balcony, and the study hall room.

Admission was \$5.00 per person. The money that was raised will help offset costs for prom and graduation. The class raised over \$600. The junior class will continue to raise money by working the concession stand at the boy's JV/ Varsity basketball games.



Howard County Read winners include Western students Megan Boruff and Samantha West. (Photo provide by KHCPL)

### WHS TEENS HOWARD COUNTY READ WINNERS - Melissa Wheelock, Teen and Reference Librarian at the Kokomo- Howard County Public Library

The Kokomo-Howard County Public Library would like to offer its congratulations to Western High School Students Megan Boruff and Samantha West who were the 1st and 2nd place winners respectively in this year's Howard County Reads Letter Writing Contest.

This year's contest asked winners to think about a quote from the

book *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt* and write a letter to themselves or another teen who is facing a difficult situation. In the novel, CeeCee's mother tells her daughter, "It's how we survive the hurts in life that brings us strength and gives us beauty."

Both winners received copies of the book *Saving CeeCee Honeycutt* signed by the author Beth Hoff-

man. Megan also won a brand new Kindle Fire HD, and Samantha received gift certificates to local businesses. Congratulations to both the winners.

Howard County Reads is an annual program that is put together with cooperation from both the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library and the Greentown Public Library.

## INFORMATION POTPOURRI *continued from page 6*

### **Wit and Whims seeks submissions.**

*Wit and Whims* is seeking short stories, poetry, and artwork for the 2013 publication. *Wit and Whims* is a literary publication which offers students an opportunity to showcase their literary and artistic accomplishments.

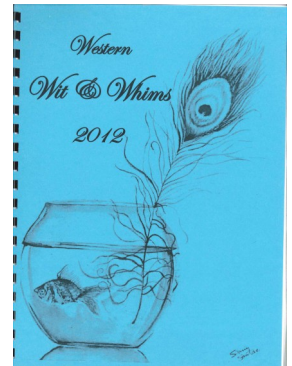
Students can submit their work to sponsors Mrs. Jill Newby and Mrs. Jill LaCille by emailing their submissions to

[jnewby@western.k12.in.us](mailto:jnewby@western.k12.in.us) or [jlacaille@western.k12.in.us](mailto:jlacaille@western.k12.in.us). Students should write *Wit and Whims* in the subject line along with their name and grade. If a student wishes to have his or her work submitted anonymously, he or she may sign the work as anonymous. *Wit and Whims* will be published in May of 2013.

### **Comcast Offering Internet Access to Qualifying Families.**

Comcast offers a program called Internet Essentials that will help students and their families who are on the free/reduced school lunch program to obtain Internet access for \$9.95 plus tax per month.

Please be aware certain restrictions and qualifications do apply. Find out more by going to <http://www.internetessentials.com>.



2012 *Wit and Whims* cover.

## **WESTERN HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND WINS AGAIN**

This year, the Marching Panthers marched their way to their fifth consecutive State Championship. Since 1982 the band has accumulated a grand total of 13 State titles. In addition, Western's band earned the 2012 Band of America Class A Grand National Championship. It is the fifth national title for the school which they also won in 1984, 1985, 1988 and 1990. Band director Brian Caldwell, who is in his eighth season, believes that "winning competitions is not the primary goal of the band but considered a result of the process of preparation and of mental attitude."

The theme for Western's 2012 Competition Show was titled ... *On the Water's Edge*. The music

describes the role that sea has taken in the culture of mankind. The sea can be violent, calm, soothing, or threatening, or it can nurture life and take life. "...*On the Water's Edge*" personifies the sea giving it the ability to express compassion, melancholy, rage, and passion interpreted through musical styles and physical movement.

Much of the band's success can be attributed to student leadership. At the end of July, thirty of the band's student leaders attended a 3-day retreat where they formulated goals and expectations for the season. Their 2012 goals focused on self-motivation, elevating standards, facilitating individual growth and fostering mutual respect.

In many ways this year has been extremely successful in terms of growth in individual members and maturity of the group as a whole. As a staff we will not truly know what we have accomplished for at least ten years. It is what the members take with them into adulthood that matters most in this endeavor.

Some adults remember only bits and pieces of their high school years. Hopefully, the students will be able to use a great deal of their experience as they live their adult lives.



Band members accepting State Marching Band trophy.



State Marching Band winning drum majors and guard captains accepting



## WHS NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT

### **Nate Andrews** **Advanced Physical Education**



**Nate Andrews**  
**Advanced Physical Education**

Mr. Andrews attended NorthWood High School and Ball State University. After graduation he received his first teaching job at Zionsville Community High School. He was at Zionsville for 6 years teaching Health, Physical Education, and Advanced Physical Conditioning. During his years at Zionsville, Mr. Andrews enjoyed his time as an assistant football coach, assistant wrestling coach, and head track coach.

Mr. Andrews then received a position at Lapel as the Head Football and Wrestling Coach. During the 5 years there he taught Middle School Health, and Advanced Physical Education.

Mr. Andrews comes from a family of educators. All four grandparents, mom, dad, brother, sister, and wife are teachers, administrators, and/or coaches.

His family includes the following: His wife Kati, a first grade teacher in the Primary building; three year old daughter, Viviana who loves coloring, playing dress-up, and swimming; seven month old son, Cooper who likes to eat and always has a smile on his face; Jaxon, a black lab that has been with Mr. Andrews since his college days.

### **Jessica Cantlon** **Guidance Counselor**



**Jessica Cantlon**  
**Guidance Counselor**

This is Mrs. Cantlon's eighth year as a school counselor. She spent five years at Western Boone Jr. Sr. High School as a 9-12 counselor as well as the Department Chairperson. She left Western Boone for a position at Tipton Middle School in order to be closer to her home. However, Mrs. Cantlon says her passion is at the high school level. When informed of the WHS

opening, Mrs. Cantlon jumped at the chance to get back into the high school.

Mrs. Cantlon's husband Kurt has been the middle school counselor at Western for the last few years. They have two boys. Jackson who is almost five and Kaden who just turned two.

How does she feel about her new position at Western? "I feel very blessed to have found this position when I did, and I look forward to getting involved and being a part of the school and community."

### **John Davis** **ISS (In School Suspension) Supervisor**

John Davis joins the Western High School as our ISS (In School Suspension) supervisor. Mr. Davis attended El Paso Community College in Texas after high school. He received an associate's degree in fire science/administration and emergency management. Davis served in the Marines for four years after receiving his associate degree. After completing his tour of duty, Mr. Davis later found employment with the Texas fire department. He was in this position for over 25 years.

While working with the fire department, Davis acquired a Fire Instructor II certification. This allowed him to deliver courses at the local college as well as the fire training academy. He also served as the professional standards officer and the departmental safety officer towards the end of this fire department career.

Mr. Davis and his wife moved to Kokomo after his retirement from the fire department. He had several job opportunities but decid-

ed to substitute teach for the Kokomo-Center Schools. When the ISS position at Western was posted, he saw it as an opportunity for a more stable work schedule.

Mr. Davis is grateful for the opportunity to serve Western and has been impressed with the "friendly and considerate attitude" of both students and staff. He draws upon his past experiences, including his ability to "react correctly and make decisions under extremely difficult circumstances" to provide him with the needed skills to fulfill his duty as ISS supervisor.

When asked about his goals as ISS supervisor, Davis stated that it's important for him to be a positive role model and committed to serving others, but that his hope "lies in helping to make a difference which leads a struggling young person to be the next generation's positive role model."

### **Jamie Hardie** **English**

Mrs. Hardie's first teaching experience was in Phoenix, Arizona. She taught ninth grade English for one year. However, she missed her family and friends, so moved back to Indiana. Mrs. Hardie's move back to Indiana brought her to Carmel Middle School where she taught sixth grade humanities. She then taught ninth grade and tenth grade English and speech at Carmel High School for one year.

Her engagement and upcoming marriage found her relocating to Kokomo and getting a position at Western Middle School where she taught sixth grade language arts for one



**John Davis**  
**In School Suspension Supervisor**



**Jamie Hardie**  
**English Teacher**



**WHS NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT** *continued from page 8*

year. When the high school opening became available for the start of this year, she applied and now teaches 9th, 10th, and 12th grade English.

Mrs. Hardie says she decided to go into teaching after watching the movie *Dangerous Minds* during her last year of high school. She realized this was what she wanted to do. In college, oddly enough, she was assigned the book *Dangerous Minds*. She knew that English was what she wanted to teach because of her love of books.

Mrs. Hardie has been married a little over one year. When asked about Western, she responded: "I like the close-knit community here at Western. Everyone is so welcoming and supportive!"

**Kassandra Hughes  
Mathematics**

Kassandra Hughes comes to us from Monroe, Michigan. She is the oldest of three children. Hughes has two brothers who are still in high school. The youngest is a freshman while the other is a junior. Although she does not get to see here family very often, she tries to visit whenever she can. Miss Hughes' immediate family consist of an eight-month old Yorkie puppy named Marla.

Miss Hughes is a recent graduate of Ball State University. She started her educational endeavors as an actuarial science major. Hughes soon realized her need for people interaction was not compatible with the possibility of working behind a desk and knew she needed to switch majors.

It was during this time that Miss Hughes had an opportunity to assist in a high school algebra class. She loved the educational atmosphere. It also satisfied her need for human contact. She describes herself as a "nerd" and finds that math comes naturally. Miss Hughes likes to think of math as a constant brainteaser.

Hughes says she "loves everything" about Western. She appreciates the friendships she is forging with students and staff. Miss Hughes is appreciative of the opportunity to start her teaching career at Western High School and is glad to be a part of the Western community.

**Steve Kline  
Liaison Officer**

Steve Kline is one of two new liaison officers at WHS. Mr. Kline has lived in the Kokomo/Howard County area since he was three. He is no stranger to WSC having taught DARE in the intermediate school for five years.

Mr. Cline is currently a corporal with the Howard County Sheriff's Department in the Patrol Division and has been with the sheriff's department for almost 14 years. Mr. Cline has worked in various departments including corrections, 911 dispatch, and patrol.

He is a 1993 graduate of Kokomo High School and attended Indiana State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree, specializing in Criminology.

Mr. Cline is married and has two children, a son and daughter. He is an avid and passionate sports fan and loves anything to do with

sports. He and his wife are Colts fans, being season ticket holders since 2004.

When not attending Colts games, he likes to fish, hunt, travel, and spend time at home with his family. When asked about the position here, Mr. Cline replied, "I always felt welcome by the staff and students whenever I came, therefore; when the opportunity came to be a liaison officer, it did not take much thought."

**Amy Messer  
World Language - Spanish**

Amy Messer is the newest member of the World Language Department, teaching first and second year Spanish. Along with her classroom duties, Miss Messer is the JV cheer coach and high school varsity girl's tennis coach.

Miss Messer is a December 2011 graduate of Grace College. Her desire to teach was implanted while in third grade after watching her student teacher. The love of Spanish was birthed by her Spanish teacher and continued to study the language while in college. She also had an opportunity to study abroad for six months in Madrid Spain.

Miss Messer original hails from Madison, Indiana. Her parents moved to Wadsworth, Ohio, before she started high school. She has a brother, who teaches in New Jersey, a sister-in-law, and a niece, Carly, who just turned one.

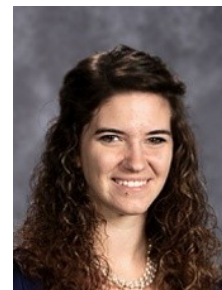
When asked about her thoughts on Western, she replied, "I love the community Western brings. The foreign language department has welcomed me with open arms, and I am so excited to be apart of this community. I love my job and I feel honored to work here. We have such a



**Kassandra Hughes**  
Mathematics



**Steve Kline**  
Liaison Officer



**Amy Messer**  
Spanish

**WHS NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT** *continued from page 9*

**Adam Morelock**  
Science

great school and faculty and a community that supports what we do.”

**Adam Morelock**  
Science

This is Adam Morelock’s seventh year teaching. He completed his student teaching at Greefield-Central. He started his teaching career at Shelbyville High School in Shelby County and later moved to Rushville. He has taught “almost every life science classes during the past six years including his favorite advanced environmental science.”

Mr. Morelock is currently teaching honors and regular biology. He is also part of the Western High School coaching staff for both football and basketball.

Mr. Morelock’s decision to pursue a career in education was influenced by several teachers, especially former coaches. His love of athletics, both coaching and playing, along with his interest in science provided the ground work for becoming a science teacher. He said that “teaching was the perfect opportunity to help out young people in numerous different ways.”

Mr. Morelock and his wife Delaney are parents to a lively three year old named Lacy. The family is currently renovating a home in the Kokomo area. Until the house is completed, his family lives in their Greenfield home. Mr. Morelock hopes the renovations will be completed before the holidays in order to be together under one roof.

The move to Howard County and Western High School has been positive

and challenging at the same time for the Morelock family. He noted that challenges and changes keep life from becoming mundane and dull. He is grateful for the opportunity to become a part of the Western community and looks forward to many year of teaching and coaching at Western High School.

**Dawn Reel**  
Counselor Secretary

Dawn Reel is the newest Western High School staff member. She is the Student Services secretary. She comes to us from the Intermediate building where she was a Special Education aide for ten years. She and her husband Mark have been married for 23 years and have two sons, both of whom are Western graduates. Mark is a senior at Indiana University while Damon is a sophomore at Anderson University.

**Michelle Schneider**  
Assistant Choir Director

Although a native Hoosier, Michelle Schneider comes to us from Carbondale, IL. She taught K-12 choir and sixth grade history, English Literature, Bible, and spelling at Trinity Christian School in Carbondale. She also conducted a high school honors ensemble that sang in the community and went on tour each year and taught voice and piano lessons.

Mrs. Schneider graduated from Rossville Consolidated School District where she was a choir student under Mrs. Janel Baker, our current choir director. It was under Mrs. Baker’s tutelage that fostered the desire to

teach music and Mrs. Schneider has never looked back. She feels blessed to be able to work alongside the teacher who inspired her so many years ago.

Mrs. Schneider’s pride and joy is her 23 month old son Jacob. She says he is “the light of my life” and definitely the cutest kid in the world.” Along with taking care of her family, Mrs. Schneider voluntarily leads a ladies ensemble and directs the choir rehearsals at Faith Church in Lafayette. She has various hobbies of interest including acting, singing, composing, reading, and cheering on the Chicago Cubs.

When asked about her experience so far at Western, Mrs. Schneider replied that her experience so far has been very positive. She commented on the friendliness of students and staff and she has enjoyed the opportunity to get to know the students.

**Tina Smith**  
Special Education Aide

Mrs. Tina Smith has joined the Western staff as an instructional aide to help with special needs children. She is no stranger to the Western community having graduated from Western High School. Her mother and children were also former students at Western.

Mrs. Smith worked at Delphi for 25 years after attending Ivy Tech Community College and receiving a certification in secretarial science as a medical secretary. She later earned a bachelor’s degree in business from Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion.

Mrs. Smith seized the opportunity to seek a career



**Dawn Reel**  
Counselor Secretary



**Michelle Schneider**  
Assistant Choir Director

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November

- 20 School Board Meeting - 6:00 pm
- 21 No School
- 22 Thanksgiving
- 23 No School
- 26 Blood Drive HS Commons - 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

### December

- 6 Buddy Bag Packing @ Russiaville United Methodist Church Hall 4:30 pm  
Panther Pride meet in Commons 7 pm
- 7 WHS Drama Club Play: "Just another High School Play" 7:00 pm
- 8 ACT test 7:00 am - 1:00 pm
- 8 WHS Drama Club Play: "Just another High School Play" 2:00 pm matinee & 7:00 pm

- 12 HS/MS Choir Concert 7:00 pm
- 18 HS/MS Band Concert 7:00 pm
- 19 Semester Finals
- 20 Semester Finals
- 21 Christmas Break Begins

### January

- 3 Panther Pride 7:00 pm in Commons
- 4 Teacher Record Day - No Students
- 7 First Day of Second Semester: Students Return
- 8 School Board Meeting - 7:00 pm
- 21 Martin Luther King Day - No School
- 26 Winter Formal 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm
- 28 Blood Drive 6:00 am - 3:00 pm

### February

- 7 Panther Pride 7:00 pm in Commons
- 12 Girls Swim Banquet 5:00 - 8:00 pm
- 18 No School - Presidents Day
- 25 Academic Bowl Invitational
- 26 Boys Swim Team Banquet 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

## WHS NEW STAFF SPOTLIGHT *continued from page 10*

change when the economy took a down turn and Delphi had a reduction in work force. As she investigated several employment opportunities, she noted that special needs' teaching was a viable option. Smith decided to pursue this path since she enjoyed learning and teaching. She returned to IWU where she obtained her license as a K-12 mild-moderate special education teacher.

Mrs. Smith is excited about getting to know all of her students, their parents, other teachers, and faculty members here at Western. She also wants to help her students grow both academically and personally. Smith expressed, "I want to help them feel comfortable with

who they are and teach them to think for themselves, become partially or completely independent and be prepared for life after high school."

### Staci Wines Liaison Officer

Stacy Wines is the second of two new Liaison Officers at Western High School. She has been employed with Howard County Sheriff Department for a total of 18 years. Ms. Wines worked at Kinsey Youth Center as a child care worker for more than a year and a half before being employed at the Howard County Jail as a Correctional Officer. After five and a half years in this position, she was hired as a Howard County Sheriff Dep-

uty where she has been for the past 11 years. She has earned the rank of Sergeant and works the midnight shift.

Ms Wines has a daughter and son-in-law who are expecting their first child in December. She is excited at the prospect of becoming a grandparent and is looking forward to the birth of her first grandchild Jaxson.

Ms. Wines expressed her pleasure with joining the WHS staff. She is proud of her position as a liaison officer at Western and wants people to know "if there is anything I could ever do for any of you, please don't hesitate to approach me."



Tina Ortman-Smith -  
Special Education Aide



Staci Wines- Liaison Officer