



AUGUST 2026

WOOD RIVER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Welcome

Before we talk about schedules, events, expectations, and everything happening at our high school this year, I want to start with something simple: Your student belongs here.

Whether they are walking through our doors for the first time, returning for another year, or beginning their final year of high school, they are an important part of this community. High school is about much more than grades and credits. It is where students discover what they care about, make mistakes, discover strengths they didn't know they had, and begin to imagine who they might become.

This year, I hope our school is a place where students feel known, challenged, supported, and valued. I hope we laugh often, try things that feel uncomfortable, celebrate progress, and remember that some of the most important moments of high school aren't found on a calendar.

So, welcome back. Let's make this a year worth remembering. Here's to a great year ahead!

REMINDER

WRHS Optional In-Person Registration:

August 13th from 11am-8pm!

WRHS Open House: August 24th from
6-8pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 10, Monday: Fall Sports Practice Begins
- August 13, Thursday: IN-PERSON REGISTRATION @ 11am-8pm
- August 24, Monday: WRHS Open House @ 6-8pm
- August 25, Tuesday: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- September 7, Monday: *Labor Day* - NO SCHOOL
- September 9, Wednesday: First Early Release @ 1:30pm
- September 25, Friday: NO STUDENTS - Fall Data Day



wrhs.blaineschools.org



1250 Fox Acres Road, Hailey, ID 83333



+208-578-5020



REGISTRATION & OPEN HOUSE

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION DATE: 11am-8pm on Thursday, August 13

While all registration can be completed online, families are welcome to attend our in-person registration at their convenience if they would like support or have questions.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR REGISTRATION:

- Proof of residency documents (New to BCSD)
- Immunization Records or Exemption form
- Birth Certificate
- Insurance Card
- Sports Physical (If involved in athletics – currents 9th/11th and all new students)
- Power of Attorney if student doesn't reside with parent/legal guardian



Join us for the WRHS Open House!

Students and families are invited to meet teachers, tour the school with our NHS students, explore club/activity booths, and enjoy a hot dog dinner.

All are welcome!

Registration support in B105 from 6:30–7:30pm.



FALL SPORTS

PRACTICES BEGIN AUGUST 10

Times and locations vary by sport - please get in touch with your coach for details



CROSS COUNTRY

Coach: Keith Wilson
woodriverwilson@gmail.com
coach-kwilson@blaineschools.org

FOOTBALL

Coach: Shane Carden
scarden5@icloud.com
coach-scarden@blaineschools.org



BOYS GOLF

Coach: Kaly Gillette Shippen
kgillette-shippen@blaineschools.org



GIRLS GOLF

Coach: Tim Richards
richtim58@gmail.com



BOYS SOCCER

Coach: Greg Gvozdas
ggvozdas@blaineschools.org

GIRLS SOCCER

Coach: Hollie Smart
email address
coach-hsmart@blaineschools.org



SWIMMING

Coach: Nathan DeFord
email address
ndeford60@gmail.com



VOLLEYBALL

Coach: Kristyn Rutland
krutland12@gmail.com
coach-krutland@blaineschools.org

Athletes who will NOT be here for the 1st day(s) of practice MUST communicate with their head coach in advance. Wood River HS will not hold roster spots for individuals who do not communicate with their head coach.

WOOD RIVER HIGH SCHOOL
WOLVERINES

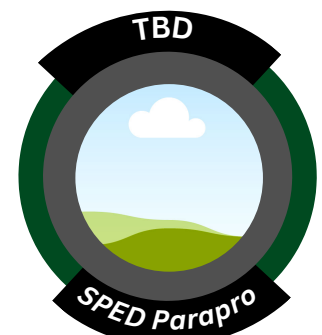


WRHS STAFF UPDATES

NEW POSITION WITHIN WRHS



NEW TO WRHS





WHAT TO EXPECT THE FIRST DAY

The students' first day at Wood River High School will not follow the regular schedule. Instead students can expect the following:

All School Welcome Assembly in the Gymnasium

All students will report to the WRHS Gym at the initial bell at 8:20 am.

At the end of the assembly,

- **9th graders** will stay in the gym for a brief meeting and class picture before being connected with their Advisory teacher for a school tour, pictures, and Chromebook check out.
- **10th - 12th graders** will be excused to their Advisory to follow their allotted schedule for pictures, Chromebook check out, Advisory, and grade level meeting.

Students will then attend classes and lunch. Classes will be approximately 35 minutes long and the day will end at the regular time of 3:40pm.

The first day will include PICTURE DAY!

See order details

Students will also be given the opportunity to sign up for their digital school ID card.



**¡PREPÁRATE...
EL DÍA DE LAS FOTOS
ESCOLARES SE ACERCA!**

SIMPLIFICA EL DÍA DE LA FOTO Y
PAGA POR ADELANTADO EN LÍNEA EN
BELLPHOTO.COM

¡Gasta \$30 o más en línea y llévate un
retrato especial de 8x10 por 99¢!

Picture Day is Coming Soon!
Wood River High School
Tuesday, August 25, 2026
Prepay Code: WoodRiverHS61Fall26

To preview package options and prepay online, [CLICK HERE](#)

Entra en nuestra página web para
ver nuestros estilos de otoño, artículos
especiales y opciones de paquetes...

¡ACTÚA YA. ANTES DE QUE CADUQUE TU CÓDIGO DE
PREPAGO PARA ASEGURAR ESTOS PRECIOS ESPECIALES
Y DISFRUTAR DE LA ENTREGA GRATUITA EN LA ESCUELA!

FÁCIL PEDIDO EN LÍNEA
EN **BELLPHOTO.COM**

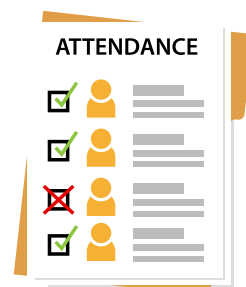
Bell
PHOTOGRAPHERS, INC.



ALL STUDENTS: GENERAL INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is one of the strongest predictors of student success. Our goal is for every student to attend school consistently and be engaged in learning each day. Research shows that attendance is often a better indicator of future graduation than test scores, making family support essential. Parents and guardians play a critical role in helping students develop strong attendance habits and understand the importance of being at school. Please take a moment to review BCSD's attendance policy:



Under Blaine County School District Policy 522 and Idaho state law, students must attend at least 90% of their scheduled classes to earn credit. This allows for up to six absences, verified or unexcused, per class each trimester. Students who do not meet the 90% attendance requirement may lose credit for a course, even if they are earning a passing grade. Please note that attendance is calculated separately for each class in which a student is enrolled.

Absence Types

Verified Absences: To help reduce confusion, BCSD has updated the attendance codes Parent Excused (E-P) and Unexcused (U) to Parent Verified (V-P) and Unverified (U). Verified absences will still count toward the six allowed absences. The term "excused" created the impression that these absences would not count toward the attendance limit.

Exempt Verified Absences: Students may receive an exempt verified absence when they miss school to attend a professional appointment and provide documentation verifying the visit. Qualifying appointments include those with medical providers, dentists, counselors, or courts. **To qualify for an exemption, documentation must be submitted within five school days of the appointment.** Exempt verified absences do not count toward the six absence limit per class per trimester when determining eligibility for course credit.

Unexcused Absences: Unexcused absences occur when a student is absent without parent/guardian approval or leaves class or campus without permission. These absences count toward the six-absence limit per class per trimester. Unresolved unexcused absences are considered truantcies and may result in disciplinary action and/or after-school detention.

School-Sponsored Absences: Absences for school-sponsored activities, such as field trips, athletics, music, theater, or meetings with counselors and social workers, are not counted toward the six-absence limit per class per trimester.

Extraordinary Absences: Extraordinary absences are those absences for unique or unusual circumstances. Extraordinary absences may include, but are not limited to: death of a family member or close friend, or club sports. Extraordinary absences may be counted towards the six absences per class per trimester when determining loss of credit.

Tardies: Students are considered tardy if they are not in class when the bell rings. Every six tardies equal one unexcused absence. Students arriving more than 10 minutes late to class will be marked absent and the absence will be considered unexcused.

DID YOU KNOW?

When you compare the total minutes in our 172 school days to the total minutes in a year, your student is with us for only about 14% of their year. And that's before factoring in passing periods, lunch, or any absences—whether school-related or not. Time is limited, and every minute matters. Attendance is critical!



ALL STUDENTS: GENERAL INFORMATION

M/T/Th/Fr		
1	8:25	9:33
Advisory /WIN	9:37	10:17
2	10:21	11:29
Lunch	11:29	12:04
3	12:08	1:16
4	1:20	2:28
5	2:32	3:40
W		
1	8:25	9:16
2	9:20	10:11
3	10:15	11:06
Lunch	11:06	11:40
4	11:44	12:35
5	12:39	1:30

BELL SCHEDULE

Advisory: Students are assigned to an Advisory, ideally with the same teacher all four years, which typically meets every Monday and Thursday. Advisory serves as an opportunity for all students and staff to build healthy relationships and success in high school and beyond. It provides for a more formal structure to monitor student progress, helps promote soft skills, and a more positive school culture. Students, guided by their Advisory teachers, monitor their academic progress, sign up for WIN sessions, engage in lessons/activities related to school spirit, college/career, registration, test prep, etc. Due to the participatory nature of the activities, student engagement is critical. Participation will be measured by attendance and grades will be recorded as a PASS or FAIL (an F will impact GPAs).

WIN Periods: WIN (What I Need) periods are opportunities for students to sign up for or be assigned to academic sessions that offer extra support or enrichment, with at least one Fun Friday a month offering sessions geared to more play. Students struggling to understand a concept, those who may have missed a day and need the instruction or need to make up a test, or students wanting to go more in-depth with a topic can sign up for the offered WIN sessions, typically held on Tuesdays and Fridays.



Early Release: Starting **September 8**, students will be released each Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. During that time, a staff-supported study hall will be available in Room B106 for any students who would like additional academic support, a quiet place to work, or extra help with coursework.



DRUG DOGS

Throughout the school year, WRHS will periodically invite trained drug-detection dogs to campus to check parking lots, lockers, and randomly selected spaces. These visits are one of the steps we take to help maintain a safe, drug-free learning environment for all students.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES



To help maintain a focused learning environment, WRHS follows BCSD Policy 518, which prohibits student use of personal electronic devices, including cell phones, smart watches, headphones, and personal laptops, during the school day. Students may use personal devices during lunch. As a 1:1 school, all students are issued a Chromebook for academic use. We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations.



ALL STUDENTS: GENERAL INFORMATION

MINUTE OF SILENCE

Under recent Idaho legislation, public schools are required to observe a 60-second moment of silence. During this time, students may quietly reflect, meditate, pray, or simply sit in silence. No other classroom activities may take place during the 60 seconds. Parents are encouraged to talk with their children about how they would like to use this time. School staff will ensure the moment remains silent but will not direct or encourage students to use the time in any particular way. At WRHS, the 60-second moment of silence will take place along with morning announcements and the Pledge of Allegiance.



OPEN CAMPUS

As outlined in Policy 529, all students are permitted to leave campus during lunch. Parents and guardians assume responsibility for students while they are off campus. We ask families to encourage safe driving habits and respectful behavior in our community, as we occasionally receive concerns regarding student conduct on the road and in local businesses.

PARKING

Due to limited parking at WRHS, permits are issued first to seniors, then juniors, with any remaining spaces available to sophomores. Freshmen are not eligible to purchase a parking permit. Students without a permit may park in the dirt lot across Fox Acres Road from WRHS and the BCRD Aquatic Center. **To purchase a permit, students must provide a valid driver's license, proof of insurance, and vehicle registration (Policy 524.10).**



REPORTING



Student safety and well-being are our top priorities. We encourage students and families to report concerns such as bullying, threats, planned fights, weapons, students in crisis, or other urgent safety issues. Reports can be made through BCSD's SpeakUp system by emailing speakup@bcسد61.org (not anonymous) or by calling or texting 208-725-3211 (anonymous).

SCHOOL PLATFORMS



BCSD uses PowerSchool as its student information system, where student records are maintained and managed. Through PowerSchool, families can access grades, transcripts, attendance information, and fee balances. Families can also customize notifications for attendance and academic progress, and we strongly encourage both students and parents/guardians to take advantage of these tools to stay informed throughout the school year.

Schoology serves as our online learning platform, where students can access daily lesson plans, assignments, and course materials. While grades sync nightly to PowerSchool, Schoology provides the most detailed and up-to-date classroom info.

If you have not created a PowerSchool parent password, the generic parent password is **Blainecountysd61**. You will be able to change this password in your settings. If you need assistance accessing Schoology, please visit the Parent Access page on the WRHS website:

<https://sites.google.com/blaineschools.org/schoologyaccessforparents/home?scrlybrkr=6fa24aed>





ALL STUDENTS: GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Students need to bring pens, pencils, paper, and their preferred way to organize their school materials. BCSD is a one-to-one district, and students are assigned a Chromebook in the first week of school.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Class schedules for the 2026-2027 school year will be released in August. Counselors worked very hard to ensure students' course requests and classes needed for graduation were fulfilled. This meant countless hours of hand scheduling to ensure students had the best chance to get their core classes and electives they selected during course registration in the Spring. Counselors also strived to balance student course loads over the three trimesters. Please review schedules carefully for all three trimesters to make sure all the core courses needed for the students' specific grade level are present. Schedule changes **will only be made** if the student is or has:

- improperly placed.
- failed a class.
- earned credit online over summer.
- not met the prerequisite.
- an incomplete schedule.
- credit deficit or missing a graduation requirement.
- requesting an IDLA or online class.
- extenuating circumstances at the discretion of Administration.

If a student has an IEP (individualized educational plan) or an ELP (English Language Plan), their schedule may not be finalized yet. Each schedule must be reviewed by the students' case managers when they return on August 18. If there are any questions, please contact the student's counselor.

- Christi Gilmore (A-Gi): cgilmore@blaineschools.org
- Amanda LaChance (Gh-Pa): amandalachance@blaineschools.org
- Andrea Gallegos (Pe-Z): agallegos@blaineschools.org

SCHOOL NURSE UPDATES

Please observe the following guidelines:

Students who have been ill may return to school when they are feeling well enough to participate in class. Please remember:

- Students must be fever, vomiting, and diarrhea-free for 24 hours prior to returning to school, without the use of medication to control symptoms. If your child has a fever of 100.4 degrees or above, please keep them home from school.

The BCSD nurses stock each school with a number of over-the-counter medications that may be given once daily at school as needed to students with parent permission (acetaminophen, ibuprofen, antihistamine, antacids, hydrocortisone, burn cream).

Idaho law requires that all students have required vaccinations OR file an exemption (available at each school) (Idaho Statue 39-4802), in order to attend school in the fall: ([English](#)) ([Español](#)) - **Immunization Exemption Form: ([English](#)) ([Español](#))**

WRHS School Nurse: Kali Jolley - kjolley@blaineschools.org



FRESHMEN

WELCOME 9TH GRADERS

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES:

WRHS offers a wide variety of clubs and activities to match students' interests and passions. Research consistently shows that students who are involved in school tend to be more successful both academically and socially. We encourage students to explore opportunities at the Open House Club Fair and visit our website to find ways to get connected and involved.



DRIVERS EDUCATION:

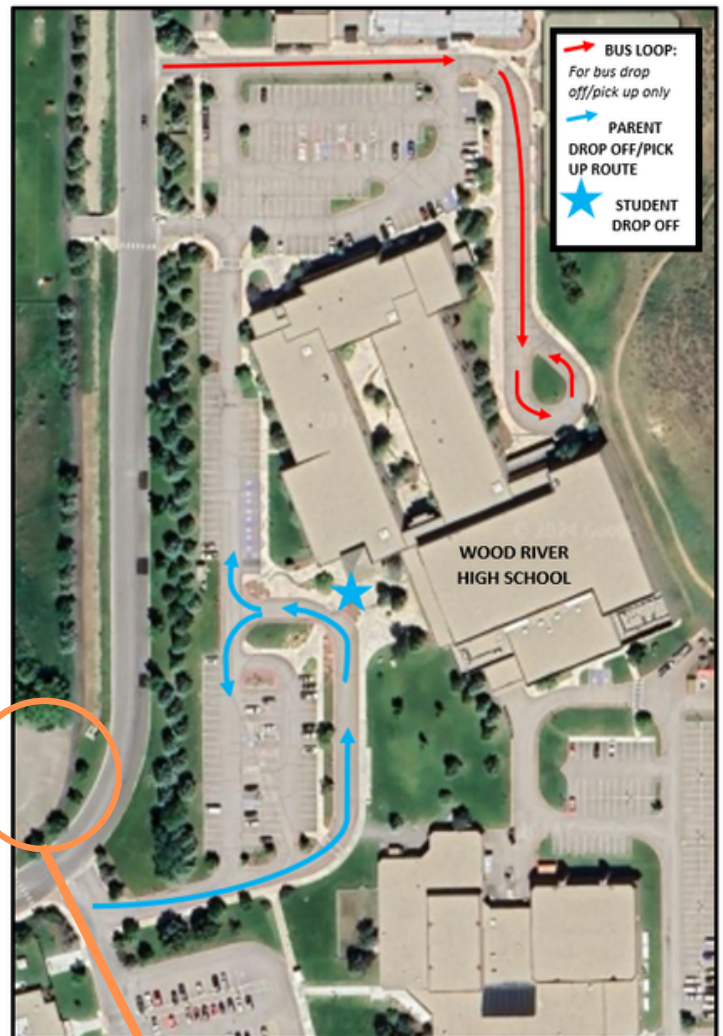
BCSD does not offer Driver Education courses. However, Idaho law allows parents or guardians to serve as their child's driver education instructor. For more information, please refer to Idaho Code 49-307 or contact a local Driver Education provider listed on the Idaho DMV website.

TESTING:

At Wood River High School, all freshmen will take the STAR Reading Assessment and the PSAT in the fall. These tests provide valuable insights into students' academic abilities and help tailor instruction to individual needs. If ninth graders do not meet benchmarks, they may need to retake the STAR Reading Assessment for accurate data on their progress.

Freshman year is an exciting and important transition as students adjust to the expectations of high school, build new relationships, and take on greater responsibility. It is also the foundation for earning the 54 credits required for graduation and preparing for future opportunities.

Along the way, students have countless chances to discover new interests, get involved in activities, and make meaningful connections. At WRHS, we are committed to supporting students throughout this journey. Please reach out to our administrators or counselors if you have any questions or concerns.



Due to limited parking, Freshmen are ineligible to purchase a parking pass. However, parking along Fox Acres or in dirt lot across from the campus is available for student parking with no pass required.



SOPHOMORES

Building on the transition to high school, sophomore year is a time for students to strengthen their academic skills, take on greater challenges, and explore opportunities that align with their interests and goals. Students continue to discover new passions through WRHS's diverse course offerings while gaining a clearer sense of their future plans. A key part of the sophomore experience is Personal Project, a course taken by all 10th graders that encourages students to pursue meaningful interests, set ambitious goals, and develop the skills needed for success in high school and beyond.

WRHS

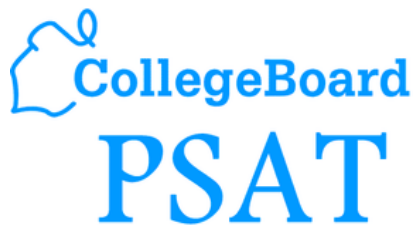
PERSONAL PROJECT

At WRHS, all sophomores complete the Personal Project, which fulfills Idaho's Future Readiness Project graduation requirement. The project is designed to help students develop college and career readiness skills, explore postsecondary pathways, and engage in a meaningful real-world experience. Experiences may include job shadowing, internships, community service, research, or portfolio-based work. Students showcase their learning through presentations at the end of the first and second trimesters. We are always looking for community volunteers to serve as panelists and provide valuable feedback to students.



TESTING:

Sophomores will take the PSAT in October. The assessment provides students with valuable feedback on their academic progress while helping the district evaluate how well curriculum and instruction are meeting student needs. The PSAT also serves as a practice version of the SAT and helps students become familiar with the format and expectations of college entrance exams. Students who take the PSAT/NMSQT in 11th grade may qualify for National Merit recognition.



DRIVERS EDUCATION:

BCSD does not offer Driver Education courses. However, Idaho law allows parents or guardians to serve as their child's driver education instructor. For more information, please refer to Idaho Code 49-307 or contact a local Driver Education provider listed on the Idaho DMV website.





JUNIORS

Junior year is often considered the most academically demanding year of high school.

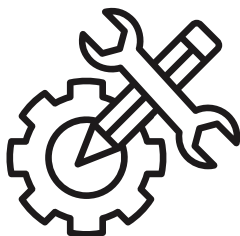
Students are challenged to build on the skills and knowledge developed during their first two years while taking advantage of increased opportunities for Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Credit, and other rigorous coursework. This is also a time when students begin to focus more intentionally on their interests, strengths, and future goals through elective choices, extracurricular involvement, and career exploration. As college, career, and postsecondary plans become more tangible, juniors work closely with our College and Career Counselors to explore options and prepare for the important decisions that lie ahead.

FREE PERIODS :

Students on track to graduate are eligible for one free period - 1st or 5th - per trimester (exception for SVSEF Team students in T2 due to MOU with School Board) . This is in addition to a possible work release period (see Work Based Learning below).

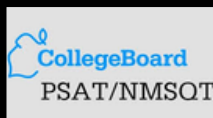
WORK-BASED LEARNING:

Upperclassmen have the opportunity to sign up for Work Based Learning, a one-credit class, provided the student works at least 60 hours over the course of the trimester. Though it will show up on their schedule in 4th or 5th period, students in WBL are not scheduled to a classroom and are allowed to leave to go to work. They turn in work pay stubs to show hours. Students interested need to see their counselor!



TESTING :

Junior year is a heavy year of testing, and WRHS works hard to minimize the stress on students and still meet the state and district requirements.



In the fall, Juniors will take the PSAT that could qualify top performers for National Merit recognition and scholarship.

The data from the test not only informs students of how they are currently performing and how to prepare for the SAT, but provides the district and staff key insight into how our curriculum is meeting the standards and needs of students and what adjustments need to be made.



In the spring, all juniors participate in Idaho's required ISAT assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. These assessments provide valuable information about student learning and help the district evaluate how effectively curriculum and instruction are meeting state standards.



Juniors will also take the SAT, which serves as the district's required college entrance exam for graduation. The SAT provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate college readiness, qualify for college admissions and scholarships, and gain experience with a nationally recognized assessment.

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses will also have the opportunity to take AP exams in May



SENIORS

Senior year at Wood River High School is both an exciting and significant milestone as students prepare to transition to the next chapter of their lives. It is a year filled with important decisions, lasting memories, and opportunities to celebrate the accomplishments that have been built through years of hard work and perseverance. Seniors are encouraged to stay focused on meeting graduation requirements while exploring college, career, military, and workforce opportunities that align with their goals.

Throughout the year, students have numerous opportunities to demonstrate leadership, engage in activities that enrich their high school experience, and leave a positive legacy within the school community. As graduation approaches, seniors are challenged to reflect on their growth, embrace new opportunities, and confidently prepare for the future that awaits them.

FREE PERIODS & WORK-BASED LEARNING:

Students who are on track for graduation may qualify for one free period per trimester (1st or 5th period), in addition to a potential work release period. Upperclassmen may also enroll in Work Based Learning (WBL), a one-credit course that allows students to earn credit while working. To receive credit, students must work at least 60 hours during the trimester and submit pay stubs to verify their hours. Although WBL appears on a student's schedule, participants are not assigned to a classroom during that period and may leave campus to go to work. (SVSEF Team students have an exception during Trimester 2 due to the School Board MOU.) Students interested in a free period or Work Based Learning should contact their counselor.

SENIOR EVENTS

Senior year, especially the spring semester, is filled with traditions and celebrations that honor students as they prepare for graduation and the transition to life after high school. Families will receive detailed information throughout the year regarding these special events and important deadlines.

A few key dates to keep in mind:

- Seniors complete their instructional requirements and finish school one week before the rest of the student body. This year, the last instructional day for seniors is Thursday, May 27.
- Graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 3, at 4:00 p.m. If weather permits, the ceremony will be held outdoors with unlimited attendance. If moved indoors, each graduate will receive a limited number of tickets.
- The week between the last instructional day and graduation includes several senior traditions and celebrations, such as the Senior Field Trip, Elementary School Graduation Walkthrough, Senior Celebration, and other activities recognizing the Class of 2027.



Class of
2027



SENIORS

SENIOR PARKING:

Seniors, who have purchased a parking pass, are eligible to apply for one of the limited "Senior Parking" spots they can paint. The money raised for these reserved spots helps fund the year's Senior Events. Watch for details from Leadership for how Seniors can apply.



TESTING:

The only assessment required for seniors is the Idaho Civics Test, which is completed in Government class. Seniors who have not yet met the district's college entrance exam requirement by providing SAT, ACT, or other qualifying scores will take the SAT in April.



WALKING AT GRADUATION:

To remain eligible for graduation, seniors must complete all credit recovery by May 14 and meet attendance requirements during the third trimester. Attendance will be closely monitored, and students at risk of losing graduation eligibility will be notified.



Class of 2027

on their first day at WRHS - August 30, 2023