

9th Grade Newsletter

Western School of Technology and Environmental Science

SUCCESS TIPS

- Create a workspace that is quiet and well-lit with limited distractions.
- Have school supplies readily available.
- Attend class daily and attend coach class if needed.
- Use your calendar/planner to keep track of assignments
- Develop and maintain time management: sleep routine, a time to shut down all electronics, complete schoolwork, extra-curricular activities, eat, exercise, time with family and friends, etc.
- Get involved! Check the students tab at <https://westernhs.bcps.org/> to view club offerings.

ADVICE FOR FAMILIES

- Be Informed and Involved
- Be a good listener. Discuss what is being learned, any challenges being faced, clear expectations for completing responsibilities (school and home) and how you can support them
- Encourage your child to self-advocate and keep open lines of communication with teachers, counselor, and administrator.
- Assist in creating appropriate and professional emails to send to Western Tech staff.
- Review Schoology with your child on a regular basis for school information and to your child's academic progress.
- Go over teacher feedback on assignments with your child. Emphasize mastery of skill rather than earning a good grade. Once a skill is improved/mastered the grades will improve.

9th Grade Team Contacts:

Ms. Bickerstaff, 9th grade team leader
kbickerstaff@bcps.org

Ms. Harris, 9th grade administrator
tharris4@bcps.org

Ms. Osborne, library media specialist
tosborne@bcps.org

TUTORING AND ACADEMIC SUPPORTS

In addition to [coach classes](#) held by individual teachers, Western also offers the following supports:

NHS Virtual Tutoring

Use the request link: rb.gy/brpxr

or go to Remind.com/join and enter code @349F64

- All subjects
- Study skills/organization
- Digital literacy

Lunchtime Math Tutoring

A-days in room 114 with Mr. Miller

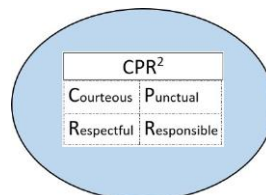
COUNSELORS' CORNER

We are here to support you! Meet with your counselor to discuss:

- Study strategies
- Decision making
- Friendship/ Peer issues
- Choosing classes
- Plans for after high school
- Hobbies/Interests
- Stress
- Time management
- Setting goals and steps to achieve them
- Get to know your counselor

School Counselors:

A-G Ms. Brumfield (dbrumfield@bcps.org) and Mr. Moody (dmoody2@bcps.org)
H-O Ms. Gould (rjuanteguy@bcps.org)
P-Z Ms. Tavernia (atavernia@bcps.org)
Department Chair
College Counselor Ms. Monahan (jmonahan@bcps.org)



Upcoming Units/Projects: October/November 2023

Social Studies:

Mr. Sleplesky's, Mrs. Streets' and Ms.

Jackson: American Government students will study the United States Constitution, Executive and Legislative Branches.

Mr. Pagliarini's AP Gov will be working on Unit 2: Federalism, Civil Liberties + Rights

Math:

Ms. Saulsbury, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Kassner & Mr. Saulsbury's Algebra II students are working with polynomial and rational functions and preparing for the Unit 2 Mid Unit Assessment.

Ms. Kassner & Mr. Stigliano's Geometry students are working on transformations and congruence.

Ms. Wilson's students will work on statistics and then will move to multi-step equations.

English:

Mr. Conner's English 9 will write original episodes of the Odyssey

Mr. Daudelin's English 9 classes will be analyzing elements of narrative and composing a literary analysis.

Science:

Mrs. Bickerstaff's, Ms. Achar's and Ms. Lee's Biology/Living Systems classes will study body systems, homeostasis, and biological feedback mechanisms.

Mrs. Bickerstaff's Ecology class continues to explore ecological concepts including relationships and populations

Mr. Payne's Anatomy class will study the skeletal system and begin the muscular system.

Mr. Payne's Paramedical Biology class will study the musculoskeletal system.

Spanish and French:

Profesora Alfonso's Spanish I and Monsieur Olive's French I classes will exchange greetings, personal descriptions and introductions, and M. Olive's students will begin a geography study of France.

Profesoras Casas', Owens' Spanish II and Monsieur Olive's French II classes are discussing their course work and comparing it to that of students on the island of Réunion.

Profesoras Owens', Confair's Spanish III and Monsieur Olive's French III are exploring the concept of friendship and M. Olive's classes will explore Senegalese culture

Profesor Ruth's Spanish IV classes will be learning about components of pop culture: music, fashion, TV, movies, sports, social media. They will also be studying the present tense, agreement, comparatives, verbs like "gustar," differentiating "ser" & "estar," the present progressive tense, and the present perfect tense. Students need to study 35+ min. per night.

SKILLS OF SUCCESS



Each month 9th graders attend skill-focused workshops in their magnet classes.

September- Organization

October- Professional Communication

November- Note-taking

Automotive:

Mr. Cunningham's class will learn about safety in the shop, CCAR Online Training, Lift safety and tools.

Intro. to Graphic/Print Communications:

Mr. Adelung's students will learn the basics of Adobe Photoshop. Students will create or edit images using layers, transparencies, layer modes, masks, and selections. Students will repair a damaged photograph. Students will create notepads. Students will be taking their safety test to begin using equipment in the production area of the classroom.

Culinary:

Ms. Tomecek's culinary classes will be learning about food and workplace safety.

Physical Education:

Mrs. Swiecicki's, Mr. Wagner's, Mr. Junker's, Ms. Rowe's and Mr. McEvoy's Fitness Foundations and Mastery classes will work on health and skill-related fitness components.

Engineering:

Mr. Renaud's and Dr. Mercer's Engineering classes will be completing the introduction unit and will be beginning the safety and materials unit.

Cosmetology:

Students will explore their creativity by displaying their talents during the Halloween competition. Classes will complete resume writing and will learn about the history of cosmetology.

Environmental Technology:

Students will examine the forested area on campus to assess its health and plant native trees in locations as necessary.

School Counseling:

Counselors will be visiting 9th grade English classes in October to talk about academic support, social/emotional skills, and transitioning from middle to high school.