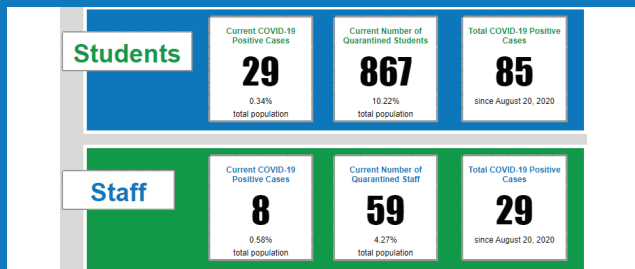


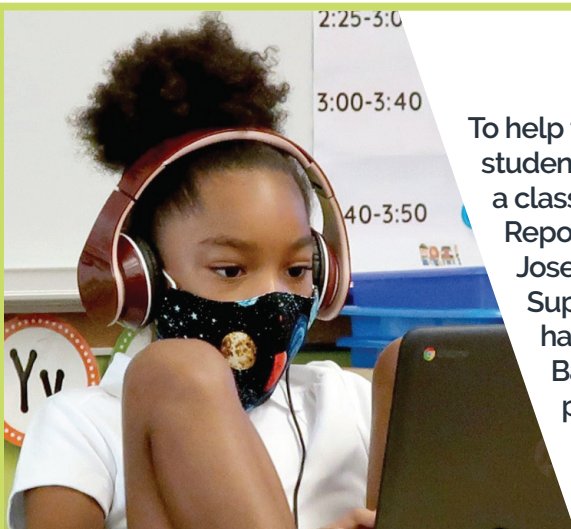
KEEPING OUR FAMILIES SAFE AND INFORMED

WPS is fully committed to providing high-quality, competency based education in safe, flexible environments. Extensive planning and safety measures have enabled us to offer the choice of in-person or online learning for the majority of this school year. Although we've aggressively followed our plan with success, the overall levels of COVID-19 in Adams County reached such high levels in November that it was deemed necessary for WPS to move to system-wide remote learning through the winter break. This development is frustrating and far from ideal for most of us, but we made the transition fully prepared and equipped. In-person learning will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

To keep you informed, we have launched a live COVID-19 dashboard on the WPS webpage. The dashboard provides at-a-glance real-time information about students and staff members, communications to families and school principals, and other important COVID-19 information. Go to mywps.org/covid.



"Please know I have and will continue to advocate that in-person schools are essential for the well-being of our community. You can help us bend the curve in a favorable direction by taking COVID-19 seriously and complying with safety recommendations."
-Dr. Pamela Swanson, Superintendent



COLORADO PUBLIC RADIO GOES INSIDE A WPS CLASSROOM

To help the public understand why WPS pushed forward with the return of students to the classroom, the district gave Colorado Public Radio access to a classroom for a series of reports on educating students during a pandemic. Reporter Jenny Brundin became a regular fixture in Renae Sutton's classroom at Josephine Hodgkins Leadership Academy for her series *Inside Classroom 132*. Superintendent Dr. Pamela Swanson wrote about the series: "The students have been tremendous, and in listening you get a feel for our Competency Based System and our belief that every moment (even in a pandemic) presents a learning opportunity." The series examines the creative ways Classroom 132 adapted to create safe indoor and outdoor environments, facilitate collaboration during social distancing, help children cope with anxiety, etc. Learn more: mywps.org/cpr

GIVING THANKS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Generous donations put smiles on the faces of students while better equipping them to learn. WPS students are great at sharing supplies and workplaces, but because of COVID-19, that is no longer possible. This comes at a time when many families are already facing hardships. Our community stepped up to help.



Walmart Pitches in to Help WPS Students



National Council of Jewish Women Supports Sunset Ridge Elementary

Westminster High School Graduate Nicholas Theye (2013) organized a generous donation from Walmart at 72nd and Sheridan of back-to-school supplies for WPS students. The Colorado Chapter National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) donated 100 backpacks filled with the entire school supply list to Sunset Ridge. We are truly grateful!

"When the donations started coming in, I literally shed happy tears. I was in awe with the outpouring of love and care our members showed in a time that, frankly, is not easy for them either."
- Jacqui Beckett, President of the Colorado section of the NCJW

DID YOU KNOW? Study after study shows that early reading with children helps them learn to speak, interact, and bond with parents and to read early themselves. Research also tells us that reading with kids who already know how to read helps them feel close to caretakers, understand the world around them, and be empathetic to others.

See Colorado Department of Education's new ReadWithMe.today website for reading tips and parent resources in English and Spanish
<https://readwithme.today>



WESTY ATHLETES LEARN TO ADAPT

Living through a period of extraordinary change has taught students the importance of adaptability. Laura Graves Bonilla and Marina Boltz's flexibility and "can do" attitudes enabled them to learn skills and meet new friends. Both planned on playing basketball for Westminster High School this fall, but when the schedule changed, they decided to try softball instead. And there's a silver lining — now that basketball is rescheduled to January 2021 the girls have the chance to participate in both sports.



HIDDEN LAKE
HIGH SCHOOL

Hidden Lake High School has a new mascot that fully captures what it means to be a part of the school community. As an alternative high school, Hidden Lake guides students to chart their own educational journey and earn that all-important high school diploma. The superhero in the logo, who can be either a male or female, captures the spirit of resilience that defines Hidden Lake students.

WPS CAREER TECH PROGRAM IS MODEL FOR NATION

The Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education (CTE) at the U.S. Department of Education spoke with teachers and students to learn about Westy's 15 career pathways and liked what he saw. "I was impressed with students, specifically their resilience during COVID-19," Scott Stump said after the virtual visit. "I appreciated learning about their career aspirations and how WPS has equipped them to pursue their next steps." Westminster High School was recommended to Stump by Colorado CTE leaders who are impressed by the school's program and the steps it takes to prepare students for career and college opportunities after high school graduation.

DID YOU KNOW? The Career Technical Education program in WPS prepares students to walk off of the graduation stage and into a well-paid job or to enter further education with relevant skills, experience, and, in certain cases, college credits.



CONGRATULATIONS TO WHS SOFTBALL COACH ALEX TOWERS ON RECEIVING THE EMAC COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD!!



As the saying goes, "Real heroes don't wear capes, they teach." That adage rings true for Renae Sutton, a teacher at Hodgkins Leadership Academy. In September, Sutton was nominated for the "Classroom Hero" award presented by a local radio station, Jammin' 101.5.

We are proud of you, Renae, and we thank all of our classroom heroes in Westminster Public Schools!

NATIONAL 'DIGNITY AT WORK' PROGRAM PROFILES WHS PRINCIPAL

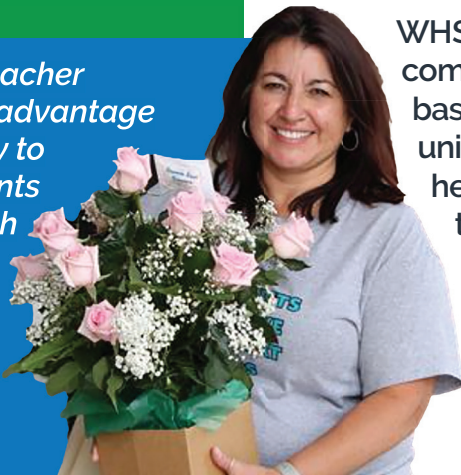
Westminster High School Principal Kiffany Kiewiet received a much-deserved shout out from the "Dignity at Work" project operated by the Washington, D.C.-based International Labour Organization (ILO).

In the profile, Kiewiet details her journey becoming a school principal and the pride she takes in helping students reach their full potential. She also reflects on the challenges of teaching students during the COVID-19 pandemic. "My job feels more important than ever. I've never been more confident about how important education is and how important the school community is," she said. "We change the perception of what kids think they can do. A lot of our kids come here saying 'I can't.' They leave saying 'I can' and asking, 'What can I do next?'" -Kiffany Kiewiet, Principal, WHS. See more: mywps.org/dignity

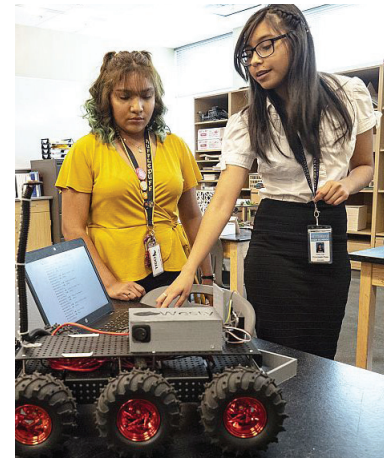


"Renea is a great teacher because she takes advantage of every opportunity to empower her students to persevere through any situation."

-Amber Swieckowski, Principal, Hodgkins Leadership Academy



WHS is America's largest comprehensive, competency based high school. Their unique approach to learning helps students understand the application of their efforts. The students pictured have designed and built a model of an autonomous rover that could be deployed for planetary exploration.



MARKET NIGHT FEEDS 600 WESTMINSTER FAMILIES A WEEK



DRIVE-THRU MARKET NIGHT

Every Wednesday from 4-6 p.m.*
October-December

(*while supplies last)

City Park Recreation Center
10455 Sheridan Blvd., Westminster

- ✓ Fresh fruits and veggies
- ✓ Dairy products
- ✓ Gift cards to local restaurants



For more information, call
303-706-FOOD (3663)



We are deeply thankful for our supportive and caring community. As the holidays arrive, we wish you safety, serenity, and cheer. Please continue to look after yourselves and each other by social distancing. We will get through this together.
Kindest Regards,
Superintendent Pam Swanson, Your Board of Education, & the WPS Team

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