



# THE WALTON-VERONA MIRROR

Walton, KY 41094

## Superintendent's Note



**By Matt Baker**

*Walton-Verona Schools Superintendent*

### 2018-2019 WV School Calendar Semester One

October 14-18

October 21

November 27-29

December 23-January 3

No School-Fall Break

Return from Fall Break

No School-Thanksgiving Break

No School-Winter Breaks

#### Early Release Days

Thursday, September 26

Friday, December 20

I would like to welcome everyone back for what I am sure will be a great school year. Summer affords us all the opportunity to spend time with family, rest, and recharge. But as July winds down and we reach early August, the excitement of a new school year is always welcome.

One event long in the making, and the source of much excitement is the opening of our new Early Childhood Center. We are very proud to offer this service to our youngest children and our community. A good educational foundation is critical for long-term success and we are thrilled to offer parents/guardians access to our highly rated preschool.

Another major event occurring during our first semester of school is the debut of Kentucky's new school accountability system. This new system is scheduled to go live at the end of September, and it will offer parents a new way to understand how their children's schools are performing. Commissioner Wayne Lewis described the new accountability system as, "Using school and student data from the 2018-2019 school year, the new system will provide an overall rating for each Kentucky public school ranging from 1 (the lowest) to 5 (the highest) stars. Schools' new star ratings, along with other important education data, will be available online.

As called for by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Senate Bill 1 of 2017, schools are held accountable for student assessment results in all core subjects (reading, mathematics, science, social studies and writing), improving the English language proficiency of English learners, student growth in reading and mathematics at elementary and middle school, and graduation and transition readiness at high school.

There are a few things in the 5-star accountability system all education stakeholders – from parents, to community members, to school administrators – need to understand.

First, the system is designed to focus attention on the need to close achievement gaps. The term "achievement gap" mean the difference in academic achievement between specific groups of students, such as economically disadvantaged students as compared to their wealthier peers and special education students as compared to students who do not use special education services. Closing such gaps is absolutely essential to Kentucky being able to better prepare each and every one of our students for success in postsecondary education and the workforce. A school or district that would have been a 5- or 4-star will be reduced by 1 star if it has significant achievement gaps. A school simply cannot be recognized as being one of the state's best if significant disparities between the performance of student groups remain.

Second, it is important everyone knows the hard work of districts and schools continues after they are notified of their ratings and performance in the accountability system. Accountability system results can be the beginning of meaningful conversations between schools and the families they serve. Once families can see where their school's strengths are and where there are opportunities for improvement, conversations can focus on how families can work together with their schools to improve opportunities for their children.

KDE has confidence that Kentucky's new 5-star rating and accountability system will help get more parents involved in their children's schools, help create a healthy dialogue about how to overcome challenges and gaps, and ultimately will help us ensure each and every child is equipped for a successful future."

I am confident our schools will receive ratings that are quite good and are indicative of the hard work of our students, parents, and staff. That being said, once we receive our results we will closely examine the available data and plan to make improvements in each school and in every subject area. Continuing the 'Tradition of Excellence' at Walton-Verona is our top priority and we are dedicated to meeting the needs of our students, parents, and community!

# Principal's Pause

## *Walton-Verona Elementary School*

By: Luke Patterson, Principal

### *A Change at the Helm*

In case you were unaware, there has been a change in leadership at Walton-Verona Elementary School. My name is Luke Patterson, and I'm your new principal. Rob Hartman, who was the longtime principal, has moved into the role of Director of Pupil Personnel at our central office. I would like to take the opportunity of my first Mirror article to introduce myself and to briefly describe my philosophy as I approach this new venture.

I would be remiss to not mention right off the bat that I've been set up for success. Mr. Hartman left WVES as an ideal situation to step into. We have a tremendous positive culture with our faculty and staff. When one walks through the hallway, the students are clearly excited to be here, and our parents are supportive of the school. All of these pieces come together to make this a fantastic school, and these are all things Mr. Hartman left in place for me. I am incredibly appreciative and blessed for this opportunity.

I first came to WVES as an Assistant Principal for the 2018-2019 school year. Before that, I worked in Boone County Schools for about a decade as a math and English teacher before becoming an Instructional Coach – all based at Camp Ernst Middle School. When I decided I wanted to move into administration, I figured in a district as large as Boone County, I would wait until the right position came along, and hopefully, it would work out. I did not really pay attention to positions in other districts other than one other – Walton-Verona. I had a few former colleagues who had moved over to Walton-Verona, and they all had nothing but great things to say. I have a few close friends who are alumni that speak highly of their experiences in WV schools. And then there is the reputation, which I've witnessed firsthand – every time I mention to someone where I work, their response is always the same, "That's such a great school district!" I agree wholeheartedly, which is why I kept an eye on Walton-Verona. Thankfully things have worked out where I now get to be a part of this special team. My plan as principal is to continue building upon the great things already put in place before me, which leads me to our Big 3.

If you have a current elementary student or had one in recent years, you've certainly heard mention of our Big 3 – Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Ready to Learn. It's easy for me to speak of the importance of these three things to our students because they are the same three standards I measure myself against... in that order. My number one priority as a principal is do everything I can to make sure students, faculty, and staff are safe, and I have a great team around me including, but not limited to, our guidance counselor, Jessica Iles, our assistant principal, Colin Peterson, and our school resource officer, Amy Schworer. We are constantly looking for ways to get better.

Our next element is Be Respectful, and this is priority number 2 for me. I deeply believe every human walking this planet deserves respect solely because they are a human. It's easy to show respect to someone who is respecting you, but the challenge is to be respectful to someone even when they're disrespectful toward you. In other words, I try to work with our students to always take the high road – when someone is disrespectful; it doesn't mean you have to be disrespectful back. It all comes down to the simple golden rule-treat others the way you want to be treated (if not better).

Our third element, Be Ready to Learn, cannot happen if the other 2 are not in place. A student will not learn if they do not feel safe and respected (loved). That's why the first 2 elements are listed in that order of priority. Being ready to learn is why students come to school, and as a principal, I want to make sure we deliver the great education our students deserve through great instruction that is standards-based, appropriately rigorous, research-based, engaging, and constantly assessed to help make well-informed instructional decisions. Our kids deserve nothing less. Our teachers are dedicated to these things, and I'm dedicated to providing them the support they need to accomplish it.

As stated earlier, I am so blessed and excited to be a part of this wonderful school. I have inherited a situation in which you can look back on the past fondly and with pride, appreciate and enjoy the present, and look forward to the future with eager anticipation – not all schools can boast of such things. I have the privilege of getting to work with awesome students every day who come from all sorts of backgrounds, and to the all the adults at home, I want to thank you for your support of our school, and for letting us hang out with your awesome kids.

Go Bearcats!

# Principal's Pause

## Walton-Verona Middle School

By: Eric Morwessel, Principal - *Matters from the Middle*

### New Staff Members at WVMS for 2019-20

Amber Amstutz  
PE/Health Teacher



Nick Ayers  
Special Education



Christina Negrete  
7th Grade Science



Halee Turner  
8th Grade Reading



Aaron Linville  
Gifted & Talented



Jennifer Duncan  
Main Office



Tiffany Pettit  
Registrar/Guidance



Natasha Reeves  
Bookkeeper



George Patti  
Custodian



Bryan Stalnaker  
Custodian



### Contact Information:

Eric Morwessel - Principal  
eric.morwessel@wv.kyschools.us

Troy Ridener, Asst. Principal  
troy.ridener@wv.kyschools.us

Kristen Gerrein, School Counselor  
kristen.gerrein@wv.kyschools.us

Follow us on Twitter @WVMSPrincipal

### WVMS Noteworthy Dates:

September 26 – Early Release (Middle School dismissed at 1:00 pm)

October 3 – Middle School Picture Day

October 11 – Bearcat Pride Day 2019

October 14-18 – Fall Break (School Closed)

November 1 – Halloween Dance

November 11 – Veterans Day Program 1:00 pm

### Parent/Guardian Information

These are important reminders for parents/guardians:

- Student drop off before school and pick up after school are NOT permitted in the middle school lot. All morning drop offs and afternoon pick-ups must occur in the back lot behind the high school. Once your vehicle is between the two crosswalks then have your child exit your vehicle; please don't wait until you are at the 2nd crosswalk to unload as this slows down the traffic flow. Also, please do not drop off in the actual parking lot as it is unsafe.
- Please keep information we have on file in Infinite Campus up-to-date. If you have a change of phone number, email address, or any other demographic information please contact Tina Wagner in our main office to make us aware of the change.
- Please be aware of the new crosswalk installed on Alumni Dr. by the playground of the Early Learning Center. Students are to push the button on either side for the sign lights to start flashing before they attempt to cross.

### School-wide PBIS

This school year we have implemented a Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Program school-wide as a common language for our expectations of student behavior. This is a 2-3 year process and will be developed through the PBIS School Committee overseen by Mr. Morwessel. We have started by implementing our "Big 3" expectations which are "Be Respectful", "Be Responsible", and "Be Safe". All of our school rules, expectations, and procedures will tie back to one or more of the "Big 3." We have also already identified our attention signal which is the "Give Me 5" signal and our Voice Levels for all areas inside and outside of the building. We are excited to formalize this process in the middle school and will be working to teach the students through the PBIS Process.

### Social-Emotional Learning Program

Another new program we are excited about in the middle school this year is our Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) program being implemented school-wide. Mrs. Gerrein is the lead on this program and has done a great deal of research on various research-based programs out there. After her research we have chosen the Second Step Program to implement the SEL for our students. The program occurs every Friday school-wide – for grades 5-7 it is completed during Bearcat Special time and for the 8th grade it is being completed in Mrs. Clancy's Communications Class. Feedback early on has been very positive and Mrs. Gerrein is to be commended for her work in organizing and preparing staff for this program. Please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Gerrein if you have any questions regarding our SEL Program.

# Principal's Pause

## Walton-Verona High School

By: Joanne Nesmith - *Highlights from the High School*

Welcome to the start of the 2019-20 School Year! As we begin our new year, we would like to welcome the following staff members who have joined our Bearcat Team!

Mackenzie Culbertson: English Teacher

Mike Hester: BRIDGE Teacher (MS/HS Position)

Aaron Linville: Gifted & Talented Teacher (District Position)

Carrie Mayer: Social Studies Teacher

Mallory Seidel: English Teacher

With the start of the school year, our school enrollment continues to grow. Our freshman class has 115 students; the sophomore class has 156 students; the junior class has 133 students and the senior class has 134 students. The sophomore class is the largest class our high school has ever seen, and I understand the eighth grade class has similar numbers. I guess more and more people are becoming aware of the excellent education our school system provides and continue to move in to our district!

In an effort to keep parents informed, information will be emailed to the email account we have on file in Infinite Campus. Parents will receive information via email that is relevant for the grade level of their child. If your email address changes during the school year, please notify the school office at 859-485-4181, Option 3. If parents do not have an email account, we encourage them to check the announcements sent to their child's school email account. If any parent needs assistance in setting up an email account one of our staff members would be happy to assist with that task. Emails to families were sent beginning in July 2019 and have covered a variety of topics including school supply lists, information for new student and family orientation, procedures for purchasing parking permits, information about the upcoming Football Homecoming Game and Homecoming Dance, and other information that helps keeps parents connected to what is happening in school. If you have not received these email messages, please let me know. You can reach me by calling 859-485-4181, Option 3 or via email at [joanne.nesmith@wv.kyschools.us](mailto:joanne.nesmith@wv.kyschools.us). Please know that I try to keep the emails "short and sweet" with the intention of keeping our parents and guardians informed of events, class meetings, "things to look for" when students come home, as well as notifications of report cards being delivered to the post office so you can keep an eye out for those in the mailbox!

Our High School Guidance Counselor also keeps families and students updated on a variety of topics through her Twitter account. I have received many positive comments from parents about her communication and the information she is providing. I encourage you to follow her on Twitter at [@wvhscounselor](https://twitter.com/wvhscounselor). We also have a district Facebook page that you could also follow. In the "Friend" search bar just type "Walton-Verona Independent School District" and then select "Follow" to learn of all the great things happening in the Walton-Verona Independent Schools.

As a high school staff, we are committed to giving the best education to all students who walk through our doors. We are committed to making our students transition ready by helping them with a smooth transition to college and career. Our students have multiple opportunities to reach the benchmarks on the ACT in order to avoid remedial classes at the college level, and also have many opportunities to earn career certification through the programs at our partnering technical schools or by successfully completing career pathways on our own campus. Career pathways offered at WVHS include Administrative Support, Agribusiness, Animal Science, Business Management, Culinary and Horticulture.

In addition to the multiple career pathways we offer at WVHS and with partnering technical schools, we also participate in dual credit course offerings with local universities. At the close of the 2018-19 school year, we had one-hundred and sixteen students enrolled in two-hundred and fifty-five dual credit course offerings. For the current school year we have one-hundred and twenty-nine students enrolled in three-hundred and sixty-two dual credit offerings. Our partnering dual credit institutions included Northern Kentucky University, Kentucky State University and Gateway Community and Technical College.

Working together with the students, the families, and the staff of Walton-Verona High School, we are looking forward to the 2019-20 school year! If you ever have any questions or concerns, please call me at 859-485-4181, Option 3 or email me at [joanne.nesmith@wv.kyschools.us](mailto:joanne.nesmith@wv.kyschools.us).



## WVHS Microsoft Office Specialists

The following students earned *Microsoft Office National Certification in Microsoft PowerPoint 2016 test of 2019*:

Barry A.	Alex B.
Madison B.	Kevin F.
Madison F.	Spencer L.
Reagan L.	Caileigh W.
Riley W.	

## Important Websites

### Kentucky Virtual Library

www.kyvl.org

ID: wv#k12

Password: uglykick#18

### Kentucky state police

sex/criminal offender

registry kspso.state.ky.us

### Kentucky Department of Education

www.education.ky.gov

### Walton-Verona Independent Schools

wv.kyschools.us

### The City of Walton

www.cityofwalton.org

Online verions of The Walton-Verona Mirror can be found online at <http://wv.kyschools.us/aboutus/themirror>.

## The Walton-Verona Mirror

Walton-Verona Elementary & Pre-School  
15066 Porter Road  
Verona, KY 41092  
(859) 485-4432  
Fax: (859) 485-1977  
<http://wv.kyschools.us/elementary/>

Walton-Verona High School  
30 School Road  
Walton, KY 41094  
(859) 485-7721  
Fax: (859) 485-7739  
<http://wv.kyschools.us/highschool/>

Walton-Verona Middle School  
32 School Road  
Walton, KY 41094  
(859) 485-7721  
Fax: (859) 485-7739  
<http://wv.kyschools.us/middleschool/>

Walton-Verona Board of Education  
16 School Road  
Walton, KY 41094  
(859) 485-4181  
WVDist@wv.kyschools.us  
<http://wv.kyschools.us>

*The Walton-Verona Mirror is a reflection of the Walton-Verona School District and is intended to provide information to its students, parents, and employees. Any comments or suggestions can be submitted to Ms. Sampson's Journalism class at Walton-Verona High School.*

~Adviser~

Jamie Sampson

~Staff~

Philip B

**Walton-Verona Provides Equal Educational and Employment Opportunities**

*Walton-Verona High School has declared its campus to be tobacco-free. No smoking or other use of tobacco/nicotine products is permitted on our school grounds at anytime. In the interest of the health and safety of our students, we ask you to serve as a role-model and help us maintain a tobacco-free environment. Thank you for your assistance.*

## Public Notice

### Asbestos Management Plan for Walton-Verona Schools

This notice is being issued to insure that you know that the Walton-Verona Board of Education is in compliance with both national and state regulations and laws that relate to building materials which contain asbestos that have been used in building construction in past years.

An inspection for building materials which contain asbestos has been completed for all buildings owned by Walton-Verona Board of Education. This inspection has been conducted by a certified inspector and the material samples were evaluated by an accredited laboratory. Building materials with as little asbestos as one percent (1%) have been identified and made part of a management plan for the school system.

A complete asbestos management plan for the school system is on file at the Walton-Verona Board of Education office. Also, a copy of the asbestos management plan for each individual school is on file in each building principal's office.

We will continue to notify you at least once each year on the status of the management plan. Should it be necessary, more frequent updates will be issued as a result of an additional inspection, normal surveillance practices, response actions, or remodel work which might disturb building material which contain asbestos. Every precaution will continue to be used to protect the well-being of students and employees of the Walton-Verona Schools.

## Directory Information

From time-to-time school-related groups and organizations ask for the addresses of students or graduates. Examples of these groups include the PTSA, Music Parents Association (WVMPA), WAVE Foundation, Alumni Association, class reunion groups, Military recruiters, and so on. If you object to having this information released, please contact the appropriate school or district office.

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE REQUEST

**Attention Parents:** Should your child need to be *absent for 5 days or more* due to illness, surgery, hospital stay, or certain extenuating circumstances, please contact the school where he/she attends. HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION is available for students that have a qualifying ailment verified in advance by a doctor. Homebound Instruction allows your child to keep up with his/her school work and he/she is not counted absent while in this program.