

2004-2005 WLCSC School Year Calendars

2004

FEBRUARY

W 11 Professional Day
Staff all day, no school for students.
Th 26 Professional half-day*

MARCH

Th 4 Kindergarten Roundup, Cumberland
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:30 to 7 p.m.
M 15 Spring Break begins
M 22 School resumes
W 24 Professional half-day*
F 26 Third nine-week grading period ends
M 29 Fourth nine-week grading
period begins

APRIL

Th 8 Professional Day
Staff only; no school for students
W 14 Elementary parent conferences -
p.m. only
No school for elementary students -
p.m. only
Th 15 Elementary parent conferences -
p.m. only
No school for elementary students -
p.m. only
F 16 Snow make-up day #1
Th 29 Professional half-day*

MAY

T 25 H.S. Final Exams
W 26 H.S. Final Exams
Th 27 H.S. Final Exams
F 28 H.S. Final Exams
F 28 School year concludes
Staff all day -- students a.m. only
M 31 Memorial Day, no school

JUNE

T 1 Snow make-up day #2
Staff all day - Students a.m. only

Nine-week grading periods, Semester II

January 13 - March 26: 47 days
March 28 - May 28: 42 days
Total: 89 days

*On professional half-days, dismissal times are 11:05 a.m. for Happy Hollow; 11:45 a.m., Cumberland; and 12:05 p.m., Junior/senior high school.

If one snow make-up day is required, April 16 will be the day and the last day of school will be May 28. If two make-up days are required, they will be April 16 and June 1, with June 1 being the last day of school.

2004-2005

AUGUST 2004

M 16 School year begins
Staff all day; students p.m. only

SEPTEMBER 2004

M 6 Labor Day, no school

OCTOBER 2004

Th 7 Elementary parent conferences -
p.m. only
No school for elementary students -
p.m. only
F 8 Elementary parent conferences -
p.m. only
No school for elementary students -
p.m. only
F 15 First Nine-Week Grading Period Ends
M 18 Second Nine-Week Grading
Period Begins
F 22 Fall Break

NOVEMBER 2004

Th 25 Thanksgiving Holiday, no school
F 26 Thanksgiving Holiday, no school

DECEMBER 2004

M 20 Winter Break begins

JANUARY 2005

M 3 School resumes
F 7 First semester ends
M 10 Records Day
Staff all day; no school for students
T 11 Second semester begins
M 17 Martin Luther King Day
No school for students or staff.

FEBRUARY 2005

W 9 Professional Day
Staff all day; no school for students

MARCH 2005

M 14 Spring break begins
M 21 School resumes
F 25 Third nine-week grading period ends
M 28 Fourth nine-week grading period begins

APRIL 2005

Th 7 Professional Day
Staff only; no school for students.
W 13 Elementary Parent Conferences -
p.m. only
No school for elementary students -
p.m. only
Th 14 Elementary Parent Conferences -
p.m. only
No school for elementary students -
p.m. only
F 15 Snow make-up Day #2
M 18 Snow make-up Day #1

MAY 2005

M 30 Memorial Day, no school

JUNE 2005

W 1 School year concludes
Staff all day; students a.m. only

Nine-week grading periods

August 16 - October 15: 42 days
October 18 - January 7: 47 days

First semester: 89 days
January 11 - March 25: 47 days
March 28 - June 1: 43 days
Second semester: 90 days

School Offices: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Administrative Center: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Superintendent's Office 746-1641
Cumberland Elementary 464-3212
Happy Hollow Elementary 746-0500
West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School 746-0400

THE WEST LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED FOR
COMMUNITY RESIDENTS BY THE WEST LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION.

From the Board

Happy 2004! The Board of School Trustees would like to take this opportunity to look back at the last half of 2003 and mention some changes that have occurred in the West Lafayette Community School Corporation:

- In August, our "new and improved" website debuted (<http://www.wl.k12.in.us>). It is easier to use and has more information available to patrons, including board meeting agendas, minutes and reports and easy access to each school's website.

- The Board has established two new subcommittees: Finance and Communication/Community Outreach. The Finance subcommittee has been exploring ways to improve the corporation's financial situation and has met with many members of the community for information and guidance. The Communication/Community Outreach subcommittee has researched various ways to improve communication with our community.

This subcommittee organized a series of meetings with the staff of each of our buildings to update them on issues important to the corporation. Each subcommittee meets regularly, and we invite patrons to send suggestions via the Administrative Center.

- The Board also updated the information sheet, "Welcome to the West Lafayette Community School Corporation Board Meeting," and president Karen Springer now prepares board notes after every meeting, giving a brief synopsis of the meeting. The notes are sent to staff members and are available on the corporation website.

The Board would also like to congratulate West Lafayette Jr./Sr. High School on its designation as a *No Child Left Behind* Blue Ribbon School. This award was a result of the hard work and dedication of our teachers, students, staff and parents.

The Board looks forward to a report from the Happy Hollow Task Force in early 2004. Fifty-five community members have taken on the challenge of developing a Learning Plan for 4th through 6th grade students and then recommending facility needs to drive that plan. We thank this "force of fifty-five" for its enthusiasm and commitment.

2004 will bring fresh faces and new ideas to many areas of our corporation. The Board looks forward to the challenges and rewards this new year brings.

happy new year

WEST LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORP.
1130 North Salisbury Street
West Lafayette, Indiana 47906-2497
765/746/1602
www.wl.k12.in.us

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winter 2004



Happy Hollow Elementary students spelled their way to success, earning the State Championship in November. Spell Bowl team members were: (front from left) Sameer Mishra, Apsara Iyer, Mihika Prabhu, Wanyoung Kim and Lisa Catlin; (middle row from left) Henry Zhao, George Zhang, Daniel Milner and Andrea Garofalo; and (standing from left) Vishal Arul, Grace Lazarz, Lauren Connell, Nitesh Bajaj, Roberta Weiner and Anirudh Prabhu, pictured with 4th grade teacher Paul McKowen.

state
champs

Happy Hollow Spellers Earn State Championship

If you can spell "acetaminophen," "nyctalopia" and "andouillette," you're on par with members of the Happy Hollow Spell Bowl team. In November, the team earned the Class I State Championship, for schools with classes through sixth grade.

To win, team members correctly spelled those three words and 52 others, scoring 55 out of a possible 56, at the 11th annual

Purdue University Indiana Academic Spell Bowl regional competition, held at Dayton Elementary School. When their score was compared with other regionals around the state, Happy Hollow took tops in the state.

With guidance from 4th grade teacher Paul McKowen and retired 4th grade teacher Diane Binnie, Happy Hollow's 15-person team studied together three days a week

after school, learning some 750 words. Mini-tests determined the eight who would spell on the big day.

The competition spellers were Vishal Arul, Lisa Catlin, Lauren Connell, Wanyoung Kim, Sameer Mishra, Anirudh Prabhu, Mihika Prabhu and George Zhang.

Tune-in When the Weather's Bad

To school or not to school? That is the question when inclement weather strikes. The WLCSC superintendent decides on any delay, cancellation or early dismissal after checking with the West Lafayette Police Department and monitoring the National Weather Bureau.

For delays or cancellations, the superintendent tries to make an early decision so it can be broadcast on WLF1 TV's 6 a.m. news report. Local radio stations are also advised, and a notice is posted on our website, www.wl.k12.in.us.

Kindergarten News

Cumberland Elementary School will host Kindergarten Round-up on Thursday, March 4, 2004, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Kindergarten is open to children who are five years old by July 1.

Cumberland will offer two sessions of full-day kindergarten, filled on a first-come, first-served basis. "We did have a waiting list this school year," advises principal Melanie Swift. All other kindergarten sessions will be half-day.

Cumberland Nature Center an Outdoor Classroom



The new Cumberland Nature Center gives students an outdoor learning environment. Here, students (from left) Lauren Johnson, Alex Craig, Devin Hainje and Brianna Sullivan observe and record changes in pond life. Sharon Smith releases fish into the pond.

One of the first lessons was in planting, with children planting some 500 bulbs last fall, says principal Melanie Swift. "Our goal was for every child to plant a bulb."

They'll soon see the fruits of their labor, first with green shoots and then full blooms. To celebrate, the school will host an open house this spring.

For an inside, live peek at the Nature Center, visit the WLCSC website, www.wl.k12.in.us. From the Cumberland School site, click on "Nature Center" to see a current photo of the outdoor space, updated every few minutes.

Cumberland Elementary's newest classroom is outdoors, recently created to place students right in the middle of nature. Dubbed the Cumberland Nature Center, it's situated between three wings of the school, with the fourth side fenced.

Art classes use the space for drawing inspiration. Third graders head there to develop their map-making skills. And countless more classes use the area for hands-on nature lessons.

WL Junior/Senior High a 'Blue Ribbon' School

Superior attendance rates, top performance on standardized testing and a broad-based curriculum landed the West Lafayette Junior/Senior High School a blue ribbon last fall. One of only nine awarded in all of Indiana, it was the only public high school to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon School.

"These schools are national models of excellence that others can learn from," Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education, said of the nation's 214 schools recognized in October under the *No Child Left Behind* Blue Ribbon School program. Revising an earlier federal program focusing on process, this award honors results and achievement, explains principal Anne Koivo.

After being nominated for the award in 2002, the school completed an in-depth report, supplying these and other impressive statistics for the 2001/2002 school year: a 96.95 percent daily attendance rate, 92 percent of graduates headed to a four-year college, and test scores in the top 10 percent in the state.



Pictured at a local celebration in December are (front from left) Parent Council president Lyn Melloch, Board of Trustees president Karen Springer, Junior High Student Council president Joe Drummond and principal Anne Koivo; and (back from left) math department head Dave Aulderheide, High School Student Council president Steven Lee, acting superintendent Iran Floyd and West Lafayette Education Association co-president Rick Reeves.

The school also reported a decade-long record of Four-Star ratings from the State of Indiana, a diverse student body with 27 different primary languages spoken in students' homes, and a varied curriculum. Courses include subjects such as film literature, physics for engineers and scientists, advanced chorus, human development, business and personal law, ceramics and more.

Your WLCSC Board of Trustees

Karen Springer, president
743-3905; k.springer5@verizon.net

Gale Kvam, vice-president
743-6756; gkvam@worldnet.att.net

Dottie Rausch, secretary
497-2152; dotr1968@yahoo.com

Nancy Offutt
463-6090; trpeck@earthlink.net

Elizabeth Mattingly
463-5365; mattinglye@yahoo.com

Stephen Shook
463-6433; sshook@cbcrs.com

Cindy Sigurdson
497-2433; cindysigurdson@msn.com

Happy Hollow School Project a Community Effort

The Happy Hollow School Project, a grass roots effort now nearing completion, will play a key role in determining the future of WLCSC's 4th through 6th grade education.

A careful study

Launched last fall and involving dozens of parents and community members as well as the public, the project includes a board-appointed educational steering committee and a task force of 55 named by the steering committee. The work of both is being facilitated by the Indianapolis architectural firm, Veazy, Parrott, Durkin and Shoulders.

"All of the parents, teachers and citizens I have met have a deep respect for public education," says Mike Shoulders, principal in the firm.

That's what drew parent Dennis Carson, who has a child at each of the three WLCSC schools. "Education is important to me and my family," he says. "The only way to ensure that my children and others are receiving a good education and that the school system is meeting my expectations is to be involved."

Parent participation is exceptional. Shoulders has found. "The parents in West Lafayette want to be involved in their children's lives and educations more than parents in most communities in which I've worked. There are strong feelings and emotions here. But there is also a deep sense of fairness, I think."

Parent and task force member Linda Eales agrees. "Everyone understands the investment we are all making in this important process and appreciates that we are all equally invested and valued. It's as if everyone wants to ensure the best possible use of everyone's time."

A look at all options

The Board charged Shoulders with creating a process that would "genuinely involve the community in seeking the facts about the education needs of this age group in West Lafayette," Shoulders says. "The Board also made it clear that we should look at all potential optional courses of action."

Those include the possibility of a new facility at the Burtfield Elementary School site, a new facility at the Happy Hollow Elementary School site, or renovation/expansions of the existing Happy Hollow building.

To make informed choices on facility need, the task force is reviewing data on current facilities, the role of 4th, 5th and 6th grades in the WLCSC education plan, needs of the students, and the corporation's financial capability.

While the number involved makes for large meetings, that can be a positive, Carson says. "With so much to consider, a broad diversity of participants is important, but also with more people that have a chance to be involved, a greater buy-in is achieved, which leads to better results."

Eales admits she first thought a committee of 55 would be unwieldy. "But it has turned out to be a wonderful process," she says. "It is very positive and empowering. Everyone gets an opportunity to express their desires and concerns. This is a vehicle that allows many diverse opinions and ideas to be heard and acknowledged."

A recommendation

After meeting six times, the task force will present its Learning Plan, recommending a facility option.

The process could have far-reaching effects, Carson suggests. "This process can serve as a foundation for planning beyond just Happy Hollow School, for the school corporation as a whole."

"The task force has done a remarkable job so far," Shoulders says. "I believe the people in the West Lafayette community are going to be very proud of what is ultimately accomplished."

Task Force

The 55-member Happy Hollow School Project Community Task Force, appointed by the Educational Steering Committee, is identifying these and other items:

- Crucial education issues
- Current unique and effective programs, curricular and extra-curricular activities
- New opportunities for programs, curricular and extra-curricular activities
- Needed technology and space
- Options for improving current facilities.

Asbestos Notification

This statement is an official notification that the West Lafayette Community School Corp. has developed and has been complying with an approved Asbestos Management Plan.

Surveillance inspections continue to be conducted at least once every six months, with appropriate responses to problems identified in the inspections. A detailed list of all known asbestos-containing building materials located in the buildings is available on request from the school corporation business office.

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires each of the WLCSC buildings to be re-inspected every three years. The most recent re-inspection report for each building is on file with the respective building principal for your review. A complete set of the re-inspection reports is also on file at the WLCSC Maintenance Office, 580 Meridian St., West Lafayette, IN.

Please direct all questions to Larry Reed, director of facilities, at 464-3307.

The Next Steps

Public input is an important part of the Happy Hollow School Project. Besides opening task force meetings to the public, special information sessions were held in January. Still ahead are the following task force meetings:

- Feb. 12th, 5-7:30 p.m. (Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria)
- Feb. 26th, 5-7:30 p.m. (Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria)

Board Meetings

The WLCSC Board of School Trustees meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Meetings are held once a semester at each of the schools; the remaining meetings are at the Administrative Center, 1130 N. Salisbury.

Dates for this semester's meetings at Cumberland and Happy Hollow will be posted on the WLCSC website, www.wl.k12.in.us.

Upcoming meetings:
February 4 • February 18 • March 3
March 24 (date moved because of spring break)
April 7 • April 21 • May 5 • May 19
June 2 • June 16

27 Seniors Achieve National Merit Distinction

An impressive number of West Lafayette seniors—27 in all—have earned top distinctions in the National Merit competition.

National Merit semifinalists totaled 11; another 16 were named National Merit Commended Scholars. The awards are based on scores the students earned on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, taken in their junior year. The test measures writing, verbal reasoning, critical reading and math problem-solving skills.

The semifinalists are among 15,000 in the United States who will now compete for merit scholarship awards. Commended Scholars are those who place in the top 5 percent of all students taking the exam. They are recognized with a letter of commendation citing their exceptional academic promise.

This year's semifinalists are:

Nikhil Bajaj • Daniel Barron • Sahil Bhatia
Joseph Biberstine • Lunia Dadarlat • Joanna Farris • Athurva Gore • Megan Kelly • Chiew-Jen Ong • Jeffrey Peck • Aaron Robinson

This year's commended scholars are:

Lisa Buller • Molly Bunder • Jason Catlin
Christina Maria Dadarlat • Jan Eigenmann
Douglas Fricker • Brandon Gelvin • Kathleen Jones • William Kim • Erika Kvam • Mehran Latif • Vivek Narsimhan • Alison Rane
Eric Shin • Daniel Tang • Cara Wood

"This is a great accomplishment," says principal Anne Koivo. "Being named a National Merit semifinalist or Commended Scholar is the beginning of many wonderful opportunities for the students. The semifinalists completed a comprehensive application and will continue in the competition for scholarships, and many colleges offer incentives for these students to enroll."

More national awards

Besides being named a National Merit Commended Scholar, senior Cara Wood was also named a National Merit Achievement Scholar.

Senior Alexander W. Hertel-Fernandez was selected as a scholar in the National Hispanic Recognition Program.



National Merit semifinalists. Back row: (from left) Daniel Barron, Jeffrey Peck, Nikhil Bajaj, Athurva Gore, Joanna Farris, Chiew-Jen Ong. Front row: Joseph Biberstine, Megan Kelly, Lunia Dadarlat, Sahil Bhatia. (Not pictured- Aaron Robinson)

congratulations

WLCSC students brought in top scores on the Fall 2003 Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+). At every grade level, in both language arts and math, WLCSC students far surpassed the state percentage of those exceeding the minimum standards.

Nearly 90 percent of our students exceeded minimum standards in both the language arts and math portions of the exams. The top WLCSC score was in 3rd grade language arts, with 96 percent scoring higher than the minimum standards. The group with the widest percentage point spread over statewide totals was 10th grade math, with 92% topping the standards, a full 25 percentage points over the state totals.

2003 Language Arts

Grade	Number tested WLCSC	Number exceeding standards WLCSC	Percent exceeding standards WLCSC	Percent exceeding standards Indiana schools
3	137	132	96%	75%
6	149	138	92%	69%
8	140	119	85%	65%
10	182	162	89%	69%

2003 Math

Grade	Number tested WLCSC	Number exceeding standards WLCSC	Percent exceeding standards WLCSC	Percent exceeding standards Indiana schools
3	137	127	93%	72%
6	149	138	92%	73%
8	140	128	92%	71%
10	182	167	92%	67%

2003 Combined Language Arts and Math

Grade	Number tested WLCSC	Number exceeding standards WLCSC	Percent exceeding standards WLCSC
3	137	126	92%
6	149	135	91%
8	140	117	85%
10	182	160	88%
all	608	538	88%

WLCSC
Students Excel

get involved