

Wahoo Middle School

Click for: [School Webpage for Information](#)

NEWSLETTER

2021-2022 School Year



Welcome back... let's be HEROES!!



We're excited to have students back at Wahoo Middle School!!

All signs point to another incredible and productive school year. Our skilled and devoted staff is ready and prepared for our students and families. With the number of challenges facing our students not only in school, but in our community, we are prepared to develop HEROES this school year. I'm going to challenge our students and staff to strive to be a HERO at Wahoo Middle School. We are going to Help Everyone Respect Others! By helping students understand and respect differences, our school environment will be both positive and caring to all. With this common goal of nurturing responsible, respectful and caring students, we hope to promote high-level learning and growth.

Thank you to all who helped prepare for the new school year. I eagerly look forward to greeting students and families as it remains an honor and a privilege to serve as your principal. Together, as we develop HEROES, I know we will make this school year one of growth and achievement for all students.

Sincerely,

Marc Kaminski, Wahoo Middle School Principal

Upcoming Schedule & Activities at Wahoo Middle School

Click for: [SCHOOL ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS CALENDAR](#)

→ MIDDLE SCHOOL PTO

- ◆ October 11th - 7:00 PM (Middle School Commons)

→ MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

- ◆ September 16th @ Columbus Scotus - 5:45 PM
- ◆ September 30th @ Lincoln Lutheran - 4:00 PM

→ MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

- ◆ September 14th vs. Nebraska City - 4:30 PM
- ◆ September 21st @ Plattsmouth - 4:15 PM
- ◆ September 28th vs. Beatrice - 4:30 PM

→ MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

- ◆ September 13th vs. Ralston - 4:00 PM
- ◆ September 20th @ Platteview - 4:00 PM
- ◆ September 25th / Wahoo Tournament - 9:00 AM
- ◆ September 27th vs. Beatrice - 4:00 PM

→ HELPFUL INFORMATION & LINKS

◆ [Daily Bulletin](#)

◆ [Lunch Calendar](#)

◆ [PowerSchool \(Student Grades & Info.\)](#)



“AWESOME BOARD” winners.

What's Happening at Wahoo Middle School

Poor sportsmanship, pandemic contributing to shortage of officials

Column penned by executive director of the National Federation of State High School Associations

September 01, 2021 by [Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff, NFHS Executive Director](#)

As high schools begin a third school year of sports and other activities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, a familiar issue continues to challenge administrators nationwide: finding enough individuals to officiate all scheduled contests.

In some states, Friday Night Lights have become Thursday or Saturday Night Lights as teams consider playing on alternate dates to accommodate the lack of individuals to officiate games.

The shortage of officials in high school – and middle school – sports has been a growing concern for several years – in large part due to unsportsmanlike behavior by parents and other adult fans. Now, additional sports officials are electing to stay on the sidelines because of health concerns related to COVID-19, or they are uncomfortable wearing a mask during games.

The challenge for schools and state associations remains two-fold: how to recruit more individuals to become officials and how to retain those people currently serving as officials. Short of unexpected events like the coronavirus, if a new official remains active after the first three to five years, the outlook for a long-term career is pretty good.

Hoping to make an impact nationally on the officiating shortage and the sportsmanship issues at hand is Dana Pappas, who joined the NFHS staff last month as the new Director of Officiating Services. Pappas joins the NFHS staff after 24 years with the New Mexico Activities Association, including the past 17 years as commissioner of officials.

Although there was a hope that the post-pandemic behavior of parents and other fans would be improved, Pappas said the jury is definitely still out as sportsmanship issues have continued to exist.

“From some of the early reports, there are still acts of bad sportsmanship occurring,” Pappas said. “There are still people who are going after sports officials after games, during games, and it continues to be an adult problem. I don’t think too many of the issues we see are really the kids. It’s generally the spectators, although it can be coaches at times when their behavior incites the crowd.

“I think the sportsmanship issue is something that continues to keep individuals from officiating, or we lose them because of poor sportsmanship.”

Pappas noted that in addition to losing officials due to the COVID-19 concerns and poor sportsmanship, others may have changed jobs during the pandemic, and with some games being moved earlier in the day, they are unable to get free from their jobs to handle officiating assignments.

While the loss of officials because of the pandemic is understandable and uncontrollable, losing individuals from the officiating ranks due to the boorish behavior of parents and other adults is unacceptable.

The Kansas State High School Activities Association has implemented a new ejection policy. Any participant (player, coach, spectator) who is ejected for making contact with an official or who is ejected for unsporting behavior directed

toward an official shall be subject to a non-appealable suspension from the next contest at that level and for all contests at any level until the suspension has been served.

Pappas said there are states, like Kansas, that have made this statement: “If you act in an inappropriate manner, you will have to pay.” While these programs are necessary, she also believes proactive plans should be in place as well.

“Doing preseason meetings with coaches and parents is important, but I think having officials go and address parents and talk to them about rules changes is important. It would be great for officials to go and talk to parents and kids so that they understand that they are not just the bad guys in the striped shirts, that they are someone who wants to be a part of the educational process, who’s giving back and there really to help and educate.

“There needs to be shift in those expectations and remind parents of what it was like when their kids didn’t have an opportunity to play. Everyone agrees that was not good for anyone last year. And if you continue to abuse officials, we are going to be exactly where we were because there won’t be any way to adjudicate these games.”

The NFHS has been actively recruiting officials for four years through its #BecomeAnOfficial campaign. More than 50,000 individuals have expressed an interest in officiating through this national effort at www.highschoolofficials.com.

Most recently, the NFHS has been targeting high school coaches to consider officiating another sport in their off-season after previous campaigns directed to other groups. Assisting state associations and schools in recruiting more officials is also on Pappas’ To-Do list.

“Kids coming out of high school think they have two options – to play sports or to coach sports. They forget about the people who are officiating their games! So, how do we make officiating something that is at the forefront of their minds? When they are leaving high school or leaving college, they need to understand that there is an entire career path they could follow in the world of high school officiating.”

As fall high school sports swing into full action this month, let’s respect the men and women who are giving of their free time so that once-in-a-lifetime opportunities of high school activities can continue for our nation’s youth.

Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff is beginning her fourth year as executive director of the [National Federation of State High School Associations \(NFHS\)](http://www.nfhs.org) in Indianapolis, Indiana. She is the first female to head the national leadership organization for high school athletics and performing arts activities and the sixth full-time executive director of the [NFHS](http://www.nfhs.org). She previously was executive director of the Connecticut Association of Schools-Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference for seven years.



Letters from WPS Superintendent provide regular COVID updates in District

August 26 letter highlights isolation, exposure, and quarantine policies in place for 2021-2022

August 26, 2021

Dear Wahoo Public Families,

We are excited to have students and staff back in our buildings and ready for the 2021-22 school year. Through the first few days of school, it appears everyone has settled into routines and the days go as well as could be expected. Unfortunately, the continued presence of COVID-19 will impact our school year, though it is impossible to predict to what degree. Below are some of the steps that are currently in place for the school year:

- Isolate - Any individual testing positive for COVID-19 must stay home for 10 days from symptom onset or the positive test, whichever occurs first.
- School Exposure - The school will send a letter to families of those potentially exposed to a positive case so families can monitor individuals for symptoms. Exposed individuals will still be able to attend school and it is **recommended** a face covering is utilized, unless symptoms develop. Upon symptom development, the ill student should remain at home. For a classroom with more than one positive case, face coverings **may be required**.
- Quarantine - When there is documented transmission of multiple cases in a classroom or core group within a short period of time, the district may send a letter to close contacts to highly recommend they stay home or close a classroom completely for a period of time.

Our goal, much as it was last year, is to keep as many people in our buildings for education as long as possible. This only happens if we are able to work together to mitigate risks and transmissions. If your child is ill, please keep them home.

While these plans are in place today, there is always a chance they alter during the school year based on conditions. While we continue to keep a watchful eye on the safety of our students and staff, we appreciate your patience and understanding and hope your families have a great school year.

Sincerely,



Brandon Lavaley, Superintendent

Wahoo Public Schools

2021-2022 Robotics Club now accepting registrations

STEAM club open to all 6th-12th grade students; Registration forms now being accepted!

July 14, 2021

The Robotics Club starts in June 2021 for students in 6th-12th grades.

The club will meet once a week and as needed, with the schedule being set by the coaches/sponsors. We will be following all Three Rivers Health Department and the State of Nebraska mandated health directives. Teams will practice in Wahoo at the SMC garage located behind Dairy Queen. The cost is \$300 per student for the year, which includes the cost of the parts, technology and VEX team registration. We anticipate additional tournament fees. This will vary for each team depending upon how many tournaments they participate in. Please click the below link to access the registration form:

[STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM](#)

Registration forms are now being accepted! You can drop the form and fees at one of the schools in an envelope marked "Robotics." To mail your registration form, please send to:

Wahoo High School

ATTN: Robotics

2201 North Locust Street

Wahoo, NE 68066

Spots are limited this first year, so please sign up ASAP (First come, first serve).

Robotics Club Information

The Robotics Club competes in VEX EDR, which is focused just on Robotics (not other types of environmental programs) and is a program for students in middle school through college. For more information, go to <http://www.vexrobotics.com/vex>.

STUDENTS: Teams will consist of 2-4 students and 1-2 team facilitators/leaders (usually a parent volunteer). The teams will meet one time per week for 2 hours from June 2020 to February 2021 with competitions being held on weekends from October to April. If families have more than one child in the Robotics Club, the parents have the option to have them on the same team if the team members are in the same age group.

TEAM FACILITATOR/SPECIALTY ADVISORS: Individuals who are interested in serving as a Robotics facilitator or advisor do not need special robotics training - any type of computer, electronics or technical background is helpful, but not required. There will be training on the facilitation and advising process for interested adults prior to the season. The team facilitator and advisors help to facilitate the students through the process of building robots; they should not be building robots. We need 1-2 facilitators for each team. Tentative training date and time will be determined later.

COST: The fee for each student is \$300 per year to help offset the costs of robots, technology, and team registration with VEXRobotics. Fees may vary depending on the club needs.

Questions: Contact Theresa Dumont at theresabarger@hotmail.com or Marc Kaminski at mkaminski@wahoowarriors.org

MISSION STATEMENT: To provide a positive learning environment for our youth to learn and become excited about science, technology, engineering and math utilizing the (STEM) approach.

CLUB GOALS:

1. Have fun and learn about science
2. Build a working robot that meets competition specs and game rules
3. Compete in tournaments

COMMUNICATION: Communication is a key component to a successful club. We will utilize email and text messages as our main method of communicating information to all or our parents. Please make sure we have the correct emails and phone numbers for everyone who needs our information. If you are unable to access email or receive text messages, please let us know so we can get you the information another way. Please let us know if you have any questions/concerns/ideas.

WEBSITES: Here are some of the websites we will use as reference for this year. We will be participating in VEX EDR, so when you go to these websites, click on the links with "EDR."

www.vexrobotics.com

www.robotevents.com

www.roboticseducation.org

<http://bishopneumann.com/activities/youth-robotics/>

<http://bishopneumann.com/athletics/catholic-youth-activities-organization/>

PRACTICES: Individual teams will often set their own practice schedule as needed. We need one adult team facilitator from each team present at all practices.

EQUIPMENT: There will be no equipment that students need to bring to each practice. All safety goggles and ear protection will be provided. Please wear old clothes. Closed toe shoes are also recommended. We have a chop saw, grinder, and some hand held power tools. Our first practice will include a mandatory safety session. If your student chooses to bring their own tools, please make sure they are marked with your name. We cannot be responsible for lost or stolen tools.

UNIFORMS: There are no uniform requirements. Many teams get matching t-shirts, often times with their sponsor logos on the back. Some teams will also come up with costume like attire that matches their name. Example: Mad scientist wearing white lab coats. We have a team T-shirt and each registered student will receive one free.

VOLUNTEERS: We have a great group of parents and kids with lots of support shown in many ways. Practices for now are open to parents and anyone who wants to learn along with us about the robotics process. Anyone interested in being on the Board or helping with practices please let us know. We need at least one team facilitator from each team present during every practice.

TOURNAMENTS: At www.robotevents.com you can find a list of local tournaments and we encourage you to attend as a spectator if your schedule allows. Team participation in competitions will be at the team facilitator's discretion.

FUNDRAISING: We are always open to ideas and suggestions on funding for our club. For more complete details please ask a current board member. Start-up cost for one team is generally in the \$3,000-\$5,000 range. If you have an employer or are willing to make a donation to our club, please see a board member.

FEE SUMMARY: \$300 will help cover supplies, T-shirts, and tournament registrations.

AWESOME BOARD WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS FOR BEING NOMINATED FOR "AWESOME AWARDS"!! THESE STUDENTS WENT ABOVE AND BEYOND AND WERE NOMINATED BY STAFF AND STUDENTS FOR HELPING MAKING WAHOO MIDDLE SCHOOL A AWESOME SCHOOL.

6TH GRADE

Tiger Bartek

Jaden Berggren

Addy Bright

Braelyn Anderson

7TH GRADE

Luis Orrantia

Tatum Nelson

Chloe Strait

Emma Otte

Olivia Wesley

Eva Bordovsky

Hugo Portugal

Jayce Axtell

8TH GRADE

Cameryn Sather

Azaria Saunders

Noah Rodgers

Dominic Kruse

Sammy Nelson

Navaeh Maldaner

Tailan Roberts

IMPORTANT OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminders from the office:

- If your child is leaving early or coming in late please remind them to sign in or out in the office.
- If after school plans change, please call before 3 p.m. to let us know.
- Any questions? Never hesitate to call, if I don't know the answer, I will find someone who does! (402)443-3101

Reminders from the Nurse Trutna:

- If your child is feeling ill we request that they come to the Nurse's office before contacting a parent. We ask for your help by encouraging them to go to the Nurse's office before you come to pick them up.
- If your child has a medical condition we need new Dr.'s orders every year.
- If at any time during the year your child is diagnosed with a communicable disease, please let Nurse Trutna know.

Please try and read email messages sent home from the school.... always important to keep updated.