



Wapsie Valley Community School District



2535 Viking Avenue
Fairbank, Iowa 50629
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www.wapsievalleyschools.com

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Wapsie Valley Schools, January-February 2011 District Newsletter

Google sites provide 24/7 information about classrooms...

As I write this edition of the Wapsie Valley Schools newsletter, it's about 1:30 a.m. Our house is quiet except for the sound of clicking keys on my computer keyboard and an episode of *Cheers* on the television. Some people question why anyone would be up working at such an hour. I, on the other hand, can't imagine rising for the day long before the sun comes up, looking forward to the early morning hours as the most productive part of the day. Some of us are night owls; the rest of you are early risers.

At Wapsie Valley Schools, teachers are taking steps to encourage communication no matter your preferred time of day: morning, noon, or night. On January 4th, staff members took part in a professional development training experience that centered on creation of classroom websites through an application called Google Sites. Each teacher is in the process of establishing a website, to be available to the public that talks about their classroom. Teachers are listing learning standards, biographical information, classroom calendars, and educational websites that apply to their classroom. With the addition of teacher websites, information about Wapsie Valley students' classrooms will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Wapsie Valley teachers know that good communication with students and families is important in fostering a good learning environment and positive relationships. Our hope is that the teacher websites will provide one more link between student, parent, and teacher. For those stakeholders without a student in school, don't hesitate to visit our staff websites to learn more about what's happening in all of our classrooms.

In order to access the websites, go to the District's home page, www.wapsievalleyschools.com. In the upper right-hand corner of the screen, select the elementary or high school tab, and choose the "staff" link. At the elementary level, you'll choose between three schools—Fairbank, Readlyn, and Rural—to access a list of the staff members in each of those buildings. (The high school "staff" link goes directly to the list of staff members.) Next, simply select the teacher whose website you'd like to go to, and follow the directions to access their classroom website. Again, whether you have kids in our school buildings or not, please take time to "check out" our staff members' web pages. No matter whether you're up early, preparing for your day, or surfing the web in the middle of the night, enjoy access to what's happening at Wapsie Valley in all of our classrooms.

Wapsie Valley Schools Finance Dictionary

January, February, and March are months that you'll hear many school districts talking about their budgets. School districts must certify budgets by April 15, and, especially this year, the legislature is talking about allowable growth and cuts to budgets funded by the State's general fund. This month, I'll share a few quick definitions of terms that you may hear from our school or from other Iowa schools and the Legislature in the next few months.

Fiscal Year: The school's fiscal year runs July 1st to June 30. Currently, we're operating in fiscal year (FY) 2011, and we're planning and budgeting for FY2012.

Budget Enrollment: In Iowa, school budgets are driven by student enrollment. We certify our enrollment for a fiscal year budget in October of the year prior to the coming fiscal year. For example, the enrollment that we

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certified with the state of Iowa on October 15, 2010 sets the stage for the fiscal year budget FY2012 (which starts July 1, 2011). Fortunately, Wapsie Valley Schools saw a significant increase in students (19) from FY11 to FY12. Each resident student brings about \$6,000 to the district.

Allowable Growth: This is a term that we hear countless times in conversations about school finance. The state legislature sets allowable growth for schools, typically a year in advance. However, based on the economic conditions of the state in the past 12-18 months, last year's legislature decided to wait until this year to set allowable growth for FY12. With that said, this legislative session may set allowable growth for FY2012 (that starts on July 1st of 2011) and FY2013. Allowable growth is the percentage of budget authority that a district's budget will increase from one year to the next. You may hear us talk about 2% allowable growth, or 4% allowable growth. If schools receive 2% allowable growth, that means they essentially add 2% to the dollars they receive for each pupil. A common misconception with allowable growth is that schools automatically receive 4% more funding if allowable growth is 4%. That's really not the case. If our enrollment stays exactly the same, we'd receive a 4% increase in funding authority with 4% allowable growth. As I mentioned earlier, our enrollment has increased for the budget or fiscal year 2012 (starting July 1, 2011).

Spending authority: Spending authority is one of the most important concepts in Iowa school finance. Iowa law puts a cap on the amount a school can spend from its general fund. In other words, schools are given the *authority* or permission to spend a certain amount. If a school doesn't utilize all of its spending authority in one year, that authority, often called unspent balance, carries over to the next year. **Spending authority is not cash.** Districts must work to ensure that the two concepts, cash and spending authority, work in conjunction with one another. Some school districts have a lot of "cash", but not the authority to spend it. Others have less cash, but are building authority. Dwindling spending authority is a difficult situation for school districts. At the conclusion of FY2009, Wapsie Valley Schools maintained \$815,613 in unspent balance or spending authority. We expect an increase to that amount when the final information for FY2010 is released by the Department of Management.

General Fund: Most district expenses are general fund expenses. Salaries and benefits (like health insurance), class materials (like textbooks and paper), services that the district pays for (like our technology support from ACES), and the like are all general fund expenses. Property, vehicle, and liability insurance and early retirement benefits are paid from the management fund, a separate fund altogether. Construction costs are paid from a debt service fund, again separate from the general fund. Entry fees for extracurricular contests, athletic equipment, and materials associated with the many activities that are a part of the extracurricular experience are paid from an Activity Fund, again, completely separate from the general fund. Bonds (for the jr. high addition and new elementary schools) are paid for from the PPEL (Physical Plant and Equipment Levy), statewide sales tax revenue, and a debt service levy. Finally, the Nutrition Fund handles revenue and expenditures for the school's lunch and breakfast program. Once again, these expenditures and revenue are not a part of the general fund.

Iowa school finance can be a complicated matter, and with changing requirements and expectations that are placed on schools across the state, it's important that we monitor our budgets on a monthly, yearly, and multi-year basis. We're working hard to that. When schools face difficult budgeting times, it impacts the services that we provide to our students and families; it's important that we manage our available resources, in changing times, to ensure that we can allocate adequate funds to our most critical responsibility, instruction. Each year I learn more and more about Iowa school finance, and I always appreciate the opportunity to visit with stakeholders about district finance. If you ever have questions or would like to visit more about Iowa school finance, or Wapsie Valley finance more specifically, don't hesitate to call me at school (319-638-6711), at home (319-635-2091), or on my cell phone (563-880-3920). Take care, and as always, Go Warriors!

Wapsie Valley Jr./Sr. High School
Wapsie Valley Happenings
Gregg Eschweiler, Principal

SNOW MAKEUP DAY

The Wapsie Valley Community School District will be having school on February 21, 2011. This is a snow makeup day.

Guidance News

Wednesday, February 9. @ 1:00pm. Compass Testing for qualified Wapsie Valley 10th Grade students. Members of the Class of 2013 will be eligible for post-secondary courses in the 2011-12 school year. Students are qualified, by state requirement, if they have scores at or above the 41% in Reading, Math, and Science on the ITED. The next step is to take and pass the Compass Test at Hawkeye Community College. Wapsie Valley will provide transportation on this day (2/9) only. Mr. Wharram has also blocked out time on Wednesday, February 23 for Compass retakes. Please take advantage of these two testing times before the testing lab at HCC becomes overbooked during the spring months.

Thursday, February 10 @ 7:30pm High School Orientation for 8th Grade Students/Parents. At this meeting Mr. Wharram will address the registration process, the state computerized four-year plan, and other information in the course description handbook. This meeting is the same evening as Parent-Teacher Conferences. The 45 minutes meeting will take place in the auditorium.

FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 8: Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- February 10: Parent-Teacher Conferences 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- February 11: No School
- February 21: Classes will be held – snow makeup day

REMINDER

Please check your student's grades and lunch account balance on Infinite Campus. If you need help setting up an account – feel free to call your students building.

Wapsie Valley Community Schools
2010-11 Honor Roll

7th Grade

** Courtney Dinsdale
** Madeline Garber
** Tyler Haberman
** Jacob Harks
* Brandon Hyde
Parker Kerns
* Baylee Kleitsch
* Emily Martins
* McKenna Meineke
* Austin Mitchell
** Gabrielle Power
** Peyton Schares
** Austin Shepherd
** Ben Sorenson
** Collin Woods

8th Grade

** Tanner Brunscheon
Blake Buhr
** Marina Hilbert
* Kaitlyn Kaufman
** Allyson Klein
** Brianne Miller
* Jenni Peterson
** Alana Platte
** Sydney Shook
** Riley Woods

9th Grade

** Brandon Ackerman
** Corbin Barnes
** Jamie Burke
** Sydney Cindrich
** Bailey Close
** Brianna Cook
* Kayla Even
Charity Gipper
Alex Henry
* Stone Kane
* Cody Kleitsch
** Crystal Kleitsch
* Ethan Kleitsch
** McKenna Kuhlmann
** Brianna Larson
** Madison Matthias
* Alexis McCann
** Ryan Miller
Amy Ott
** Alex Schmitz
Megan Stanley
** Tessa Tibbott

10th Grade

** Kyle DeVoe

** Kaycie Edler
** Nicole Fink
** Mitchell Boevers
** Danielle Gordon
Mackenzie Kleitsch
** Vincent LaRue
Tricia Luick
** Abrah Meyer
Tyler Odneal
** Kylee Price
** Haley Risse
** Stetson Shook
** Gabriel Wittenburg
** Daniel Youngblut

11th Grade

** Nicole Bass
** Autum Brocka
** Dera Burreson
* Phillip Cherry
** Sierra Cook
* Zach Edwards
** Jessica Erhardt
** Jake Galleger
** Leah Galleger
Brian Gaul
** Mara Huebner
** Macakela Kane
** Mackenzie Kane
** Tyler Knipp
** Justin Kuethe
** Joseph Kuhlmann
** Trevor Kuhrt
** Elizabeth Lockard
** Tiffany Miller
** Christy Neil
** Amanda Niebuhr
** Gina Owens
Taylor Rathbone
** Taylor Scharnhorst
** Kylee Schiefelbein
** Jacee Schneider
** Shelby Schnor
** Christian Schwenzer
** Ashley Snyder
** Jacob Sorenson
** Sean Steil
** Steven Stoner
Quinton Wehling
* Jordan Wheeler
** Hallee Wiersma
Aarika Wittenburg

12th Grade

** Kristie Boies
** Tessa Burkhardt
** Jacob Curley
Kelsey Dennler
** Sarah Doese
Koby Edler
Tiffany Engler
** Christina Galleger
** Tarissa Hagenow
** Isaac Happel
* Jared Joerger
Crystal Kelley
** Emily Kleitsch
** Rachel Kleitsch
** Lexis Kuhlmann
Abi Larson
Alli Larson
** Alli Matthias
Autum McCann
Connor O'Brien
** Collin Ritzman
** Morgan Scharnhorst
Kelsey Watts
Ashley Wedemeier
** Josh Weepie
** Alissa Wittenburg
* Elliot Wittenburg
** Amy Woods

No Mark 1st Qtr. Honor Roll

* 2nd Qtr Honor Roll

** 1st Qtr./2nd Qtr./1st Semester

Wapsie Valley CSD
January 2011 Board Approved Bills

BOARD BILLS

1st Class	\$35.70	Supplies
ACES	\$7,225.00	Purch Serv
Aable	\$71.50	Purch Serv
Adv. Sys	\$4,067.13	Purch Serv
Adv. Sys	\$273.21	Purch Serv
Agvantage	\$3,250.81	Gas
Ahlers&Cooney	\$1,580.50	Purch Serv
Alliant	\$78.03	Electricity
AEA 267	\$556.85	Supplies
B&K	\$24.61	Repairs
B Brennan	\$150.00	Purch Serv
Black Hills	\$1,036.67	Gas
Butler REC	\$3,422.86	Electricity
Camp Ewalu	\$1,815.00	Purch Serv
Casey's	\$824.17	Gas
Cent IA Water	\$85.32	Purch Serv
C Garber	\$250.00	Travel
City Readlyn	\$2,648.42	Electricity
Del's	\$778.72	Repairs
Demco	\$171.34	Supplies
Denver CSD	\$7,210.00	OE
Don's	\$773.01	Repairs
Dunkerton CSD	\$7,210.00	OE
EC REC	\$274.61	Electricity
Edgeton	\$171.16	Supplies
Farm Plan	\$697.70	Supplies
Fauser	\$12,071.51	Gas
Hawkeye CC	\$5,845.00	Supplies
Hillyard	\$2,641.69	Supplies
Houghton	\$1,018.00	Supplies
Hygenic Lab	\$451.00	Purch Serv
IKON	\$203.00	Purch Serv
IKON	\$116.93	Purch Serv
ICN	\$132.58	Purch Serv
IA Reap	\$740.00	Purch Serv
IA Testing	\$1,831.20	Testing
Millers	\$516.95	Purch Serv
J Mast	\$145.38	Supplies
Kwik Trip	\$189.97	Gas
Larry's	\$1,563.67	Vehicle
Larson Const.	\$377,255.06	Const.
Laydon's	\$560.00	Purch Serv
ME & V	\$480.00	Purch Serv
Matt Parrott	\$184.00	Supplies
Medco	\$186.40	Supplies
MW Systems	\$70.00	Supplies
MBP	\$304.04	Supplies
NetINS	\$14.99	Purch Serv
NF CSD	\$917.75	Purch Serv
Oelwein CSD	\$8,808.00	PSEO
Oran Tele	\$665.01	Telephone
Pronto	\$420.10	Gas
Quality Truck	\$4,214.71	Repairs
Rapids	\$111.00	Supplies
Readlyn Tele	\$147.89	Telephone

Rite Price	\$3,388.78	Supplies
R Wenner	\$24.00	Supplies
Scheels Lawn	\$630.00	Purch Serv
Scholastic, Inc	\$70.29	Supplies
Shiffler	\$45.53	Supplies
Spahn & Rose	\$9.58	Supplies
Struxture	\$4,685.35	Fees
Team	\$2,226.50	Supplies
Tiger Direct	\$118.52	Supplies
Tripoll CSD	\$2,884.00	OE
US Cellular	\$141.58	Telephone
UNI	\$1,025.00	Supplies
VISA	\$86.90	Purch Serv
VIPS	\$170.95	Purch Serv
Waste Manage	\$720.02	Purch Serv
W'loo Courier	\$55.99	Purch Serv
W-SR CSD	\$1,442.00	OE
Webco	\$4,747.50	Equipment
West Music	\$53.50	Supplies
TOTAL	\$489,014.14	

ACTIVITY BILLS

All American Graph	\$1,267.50	Resale
Athletica	\$545.12	Resale
Brad Mackey	\$50.00	Music Fees
B. Gordon	\$21.32	Supplies
E. Doese	\$579.30	Supplies
Eble Music	\$63.70	Supplies
E. Bickers	\$28.50	Fees
Fbk Food	\$1,886.64	Supplies
Fbk Custom	\$128.00	Resale
Fbk Sign	\$75.00	Yearbook
GTM Sports	\$37.00	Resale
Grizzly	\$63.50	Supplies
Hal Leonard	\$25.00	Music
IHSAA	\$245.00	Tickets
IA Sports	\$1,502.15	Supplies
ISU Band	\$36.00	Entry
J. Bjorklund	\$36.00	Supplies
Kepharts	\$75.75	Supplies
K. Niebuhr	\$189.46	Supplies
Luther College	\$101.00	Fees
Lids	\$200.33	Resale
Meistersinger	\$241.00	Fees
Myers Cox	\$1,001.86	Supplies
M. Kleitsch	\$28.50	Fees
N. IA Band Fest	\$25.00	Fees
Pepsi	\$5,662.07	Supplies
Pronto	\$784.20	Supplies
Paril Procedure	\$165.00	Supplies
Reiman Publ.	\$398.20	Supplies
Sam's	\$500.06	Supplies
Taste of Home	\$398.20	Supplies
Tripoll CSD	\$60.00	Fees
U of I Choir	\$160.00	Fees
VIPS	\$170.95	Supplies
Visa	\$135.03	Supplies

WV Hot Lunch	\$81.29	Supplies
Weber Paper	\$25.80	Supplies
TOTAL	\$16,993.43	
HOT LUNCH		
A-E	\$2,281.39	Supplies
Wonder	\$411.63	Supplies
Martin Bros	\$3,628.99	Supplies
WV Gen Fund	\$10,759.83	Salaries
Keck, Inc.	\$1,161.85	Supplies
TOTAL	\$18,243.69	

All meals include a carton of milk.

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> Hot dog/bun, corn, fruit, bar	<i>2</i> Chili, carrot sticks, applesauce, sweet roll	<i>3</i> Hot ham & cheese sandwich, vegeta- ble, pineapple, no-bake-cookie	<i>4</i> Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, pears, tea rolls	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> Rib pattie/ bun, hot vegetable, apple crisp	<i>8</i> Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, p-nut butter sand- wich, fruit, cookie Parent-Teacher conferences 4-8pm	<i>9</i> Pizza, corn, sandwich, ice cream 1:30 Dismissal	<i>10</i> Beefburger/ bun, hot vegetable, mixed fruit Parent-Teacher conferences 4-8pm	<i>11</i> No School	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> Weiner winks, green beans, pineapple, pudding	<i>15</i> Sub sandwich, oven potatoes, fruit	<i>16</i> Goulash, carrot sticks, pears, school made rolls	<i>17</i> Cook's Choice	<i>18</i> Hamburger/ bun, vegetable, chilled fruit, bar	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> Shrimp poppers, mashed potatoes, p-nut butter sand- wich, fruit	<i>22</i> Pizza boat, corn, sandwich, jello w/fruit	<i>23</i> Chicken & noo- dles, cheese slice, peas, peaches, school made rolls 1:30 Dismissal	<i>24</i> Cold meat sand- wich, oven pota- toes, fruit, cookie	<i>25</i> Taco, lettuce, cheese, salsa, sandwich, mixed fruit	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> Chicken pattie/ bun, vegetable, chilled fruit					

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