

The Washington Informer

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Important Dates:

January 1 st	Begin free online application for Federal Student Aid. Go to FAFSA.gov. Seniors! Fill it out for college financial aid.
January 3 rd	School Resumes
January 16 th	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (no school attendance)
January 17 th , 18 th , & 19 th	High School Exams
January 19 th	Governance Council Meeting
January 20 th	Record Day (no student attendance)
January 23 rd	Banking Day (no student attendance)

Honor Roll Students, 2nd Marking Period

THURMAL HADLEY	TONY HARRIS	BROOKLYN CARSON
WEND MY NIDA CARENE MOYENGA	LARSHARAE HOOKER	JAQWAYTA CARTER
SHAKURRA JONES	DIONNE JAMISON	STACY COOPER
LAMARIS MARRERO	WENDY HANG	SHANELL DEDRICK
KASANDRA PENA	ANTHONY HANRAHAN	ZALISHA FOSTER
YI YI THAN	ASHLEY HERD	MALIK GRISSETT
NAW PAW SAY WAH	DASHANIQUE JOHNSON	TIANNIA HOPKINS
CAEDRA YOUNG	DENISHA PETERSON	MONTRELL JONES
TREQUAN MARTIN	QUIANA SCOTT	RUBY RISER
DAC LINH PHAN	ZEBIB YOSIEF	DEVONTE WILLIAMS
CRAIG BOOKER	KYHAM DAVIS	OSMAN ADEN
MEGAN MCCLELLAN	JEWEL MORRIS	ARIANE SIMBI
DELORION MCKINNIE	MARQUINN ALLEN	TDONIS WILLIAMS
MAASIO MOHAMED	TYANGELA BARKSDALE	
JASMINE TURNER	TRACY COOPER	
TALAYAH WATSON	DJENE FOFANA	
KENITH WRIGHT	OCTAVIUS HENDERSON	
IDEY ABDI	JUSTICE HUDNALL	
DINASIA DOUGLAS	DESMON LISINSKI	
LAQUITA EDWARDS	ISMAEL SOUMAHORO	
ROMA GARED	ROSHUNDA HEWINGS	
AUDRIANNA JONES	CHIKELU OFOJEBE	
KEITH JONES	RUM ZAN BE	
MAI NHIA LOR	LYNETRIA BROWN	
SHEILA MENDY	MI CHAW	
JHAIDY PHAKOUSONH	STARTAVIA DAVIS	
KA SAISAI POE	CHRISTKELA DÓH	
DAVELL WASHINGTON	AHTYANNA LYONS	
KEANA BERKHALTER	QUIERRA ROBERTSON	
DARYL BOHANNON	AVRIANNE SEALS	
	JERRY TRUSS	

WHS of IT Monthly News Update: Punctual Purgolders

AHTYANNA LYONS	TACHINA HUDSON	KANELODIE JOHNSON
TIANNIA HOPKINS	SHANETHIA JONES	BRYON DANIELS
LAQUITA EDWARDS	QUINNIS JONES	CHIKELU OFOJEBE

A Message from the Principal

Happy New Year to all of our Purgolder Families! I want to take this opportunity to thank you for helping us get off to a great start at Washington High School of Information Technology. This school year has brought about many new changes, awesome experiences and new opportunities.

MPS School Supt., Dr. Thornton visited several times this year already. After his visit in September he stated, "I was encouraged on my visit to your school. Your enthusiasm, and love for your job, is certainly making an impact on your staff and I know it will also make a positive difference in the school climate and student achievement." I didn't realize how well it showed, but I truly love my job and I love having the opportunity to work with such an outstanding staff and an awesome body of students and families! You all have made me feel so welcomed. And Dr. Thornton spoke it first, but I want you to know that our climate has changed tremendously for the enhancement of our students! We are headed in an awesome direction of creating a true culture of learning that will catapult our students to higher levels of achievement. I look forward to the remainder of this school year!

Some of the awesome experiences that we are having include the following:

The 100th Anniversary Celebration was held in October. This awesome event included more than 900 guests who were WHS Alumni Members. This was a wonderful event hosted by our Alumni Board! Great Job!!! For more information and to see photos of this event, visit the alumni web page <http://www.milwaukee washington100.com>

Robotics Club Members have teamed up with Rufus King and Bradley Tech Students to form an awesome team that is preparing for National Competition. The Purgolder Robotics Team will attend the international rollout of the 2012 US FIRST Robotics Competition in Pewaukee this month.

Welcome Officer Mark - School Resource Officer. (More info in this issue.)

The Football team made it to playoffs for the 1st time in several years!!!

Our boys Wrestling Team is receiving RAVE reviews for their awesome skills and performance as well as the sportsmanship that is being displayed at their meets. They are truly on a winning streak so let's support them.

MATC has opened its doors to provide dual credit courses for 32 of our students (gaining high school and college credits simultaneously)! Wow!!!

(Continued on page 3)

A Message from the Principal (continued)

The Credit Recovery Program is moving in a wonderful direction. Students, who are behind in credits from their peers, are now catching up through our credit recovery program. We are looking to expand this opportunity to assist students in reaching their goal of Project Graduation!!! Watch your mail for 2nd Semester Opportunities to help students gain the credits that they have failed in previous years.

UWM's Dean of Education, Dean Carol Colbeck visited our school with Associate Professor Latish Reed and we are talking about the idea of collaborating to provide more opportunities for our students to excel.

Partnership with *'Friends of Washington'* for the opening of an in-house College & Career Center (Coming in late January).

Gospel Choir Auditions have started. We look forward to a concert soon!
We are now an Official Project Lead the Way School with a PLW focus in Engineering.

So much is happening and we are advancing in so many areas! Please get on board and volunteer to be a part of this awesome experience!

In the coming months, watch for more information on how you can be more involved with your child's educational experiences and how you too can capitalize on the opportunities that are being provided for our students and families at Washington High School of Information Technology!

Here to Serve our Children!

Ms. T. Adair, Principal / Transformational Leader
Washington High School of Information Technology
414-875-5905 (office)
414-875-6115 (FAX)

It's a new day at Washington. We are transforming minds for Global Success!!!

-T. Adair

MPS Portal

<http://mpsportal.milwaukee.k12.wi.us>

What parents need to know about Response to Intervention, also known as Rtl:

*This school year MPS adopted an Rtl framework to provide high quality instruction to **ALL** students.*

*Rtl uses a tiered approach to meet the needs of **ALL** students. Tier 1 represents supports available to **ALL** students. Tier 2 represents supports available to students who are still not making progress, or students who need additional acceleration.*

*The term "**ALL** students" includes students who are struggling, have special education needs, are English language learners, and gifted/talented students.*

Tier 3 represents intensive supports for students who need a high level of resources or services.

All MPS schools will soon begin to conduct informational sessions to help parents better understand Rtl and their children's test results from the new district assessment, the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP).

Rtl and Parent Involvement *Parent Involvement plays an important role in student achievement. Parents can be involved in the following ways:*

Ways to help with Your child's progress!

You can check your child's progress on the MPS portal. You'll need to fill out an application form, available at your child's school. Along with that form, you'll be asked to show identification, possibly your child's birth certificate, or any other documentation your school requires when it changes or updates your child's records. The school will then provide to you a logon and password for you to use. You will be able to change your password any time you go into Parent Assistant, by going to the bottom of the Demographic screen and clicking Change Password.

Help your child be prepared for testing.

Take time to check or have the student show you their work.

Ask how student is doing in classes.

Constantly reinforce reading! Make sure your child has a public Library card.

Talk to your student about school rules and consequences.

Help your student with organization.

Make sure your student has their needed school supplies.

Talk to students about respect and taking responsibility.

Upcoming Parent Events

Parent Meeting and Governance Council Meeting

The upcoming Parent Meeting and Governance Council Meeting will be January 19th, 4:30–6pm.

Robotics Team 1675

Team 1675's Mission Statement

"As Ultimate Protectors of the Robot Nation, Team 1675 continues to do everything in our power to spread the message of FIRST and create new heroes through science and technology." *-team1675.com*

TEAM 1675 and Midwest Regional Success

"FIRST Robotics FRC Team 1675, the Ultimate Protection Squad from MPS Bradley Tech and Rufus King High School won FIRST's highest regional award, the Chairman's Award at the 2011 Midwest Regional in Chicago and are now on to St. Louis in April to compete with the other 48 regional winners for the Championship title." *-team1675.com*

Famous Washington Graduates

Here are January's Awesome Alumni!

Chris Gardner, class of 1972
The Pursuit of Happiness (2006) is based on his life.

Gene Wilder, class of 1951, played Willy Wonka in *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (1971)*.

Stay tuned for more Past Purgolders who turned their passion for high school academics into future achievements!

Parent Volunteers Needed!!!

Please call 414-875-5900

Officer Mark Lelinski, School Resource Officer

Hello parents and students. I just want to take a little space in this article to tell you about myself. I'm Officer Mark Lelinski. I've have been an officer for 24 years. I was assigned to work inside Washington High School since the end of October. Prior to working at Washington High School, I've worked street patrol all over the City. During that time, I worked on a special assignment for 10 years working for 65 schools on the South Side of Milwaukee. In those 65 schools, I've dealt with kindergarten thru high school students. Those students consisted of broken home, single family homes, troubled youth, alternative, and special needs. I'm special trained to work with people who are in mental health crisis.

You may be wondering what I'm doing at Washington High School. About six years ago the Milwaukee Police Department went along with a national program called the School Resource Officer program. These officers were called SRO's, which I'm also a part of. These officers are in schools to assist safety and build a bond between students and police. In Milwaukee we have six schools involved in that program, with plans to expand to more. These six schools have two officers working at each school. Washington High School was going to be part of that plan that was to start in January of 2012. As I stated earlier, I've been at Washington High School since October. I've been a sort of guinea pig for the SRO program. I've been working without a partner. I'm trying to show that this program can survive with only one officer, so resources can be spread to more schools.

I'm lucky to have a great safety staff, youth advisors personal, and administrators helping me achieve this goal. What does all this have to do with your child and me in your child's school? I'm here for a number of reasons; first and foremost, safety is the number one reason. I want you to be sure that as long as I'm in the school, I, along with administration and staff, will keep your child as safe as we possibly can. I'm also here to work with your child. He or she may have had a bad experience with the police. Even though I have a job as a law enforcement officer, I'm also here to be a sounding board for your child. Your child may have concerns; I will always be available for them to talk to. I will give them the best possible advice I can from the prospective of an officer, man, husband, and father. I may at times need to be on your child to get them to class. They may come home and tell you that I followed them, but I do that because that is why you send your child to school to make sure they are in class.

I may need to give your child a citation, or have to take them into custody. That is something that I don't like to do, but sometimes that is what is necessary. I try and do this only as a last resort. I'm also here for you. If you as a parent or caregiver need me I'm always available to help answer your questions. You can reach me at Washington High School, phone #875-5900, or at the Milwaukee Police Department phone# 935-7235. If there is anything I can do for you or your child, please feel free to contact me. I'll be waiting to hear from you.

-P.O. Mark Lelinski aka Officer Mark

A Message from the School Social Worker

Families: As we complete the first semester of the school year and begin the second semester it is important to keep focused on our students' school performance. First and foremost, in order for a student to be successful in school they must be present, on time and ready to learn.

Getting to school is the first step. As always in this area at this time of year, the weather can present some obstacles to success. Dressing for the conditions and planning for increased travel times are two keys to success. It will snow from time to time and it will be cold on occasion. That is part of life for everyone in Wisconsin. Those who are properly prepared for this reality tend to be more successful. Those who use the weather as an excuse to not go to school or work tend to struggle. What choice will you make?

While getting to school is primary, getting to school on time is a skill that needs to be acknowledged for success in the employment world. Just as it is important for an employee to be on time for work, a student must be on time to class in order to get the most out of their educational opportunities. Getting to school on time is only the first step in this area. Getting to each class on time is the behavior that actually allows the student to access their education. It is often the first 10-15 minutes of class time that the daily lessons are introduced and discussed. Remember: As long as students are putting forth all the effort to get to school on time, take the next step and get to class on time.

If a student does what it takes to get to school and class on time but is not ready to learn, they will only access a fraction of their education. High School students need more sleep than ever in order to be properly rested. For many, that means 8-9 hours of uninterrupted sleep each night. Cell phones and other electronic devices can interrupt sleep many times each night so they should be off to prevent these interruptions. Being well rested is vital but so is being well nourished. Students need a well-balanced breakfast every day in order to be able to focus while at school and in class. An empty stomach or one that is not properly nourished can be very distracting all day long. Sleep and nutrition provide a vital link to attendance and success at school.

In spite of our best efforts however, students will miss school due to illness. When this happens, please call school to report the absence. The Washington High School of Information Technology attendance line is (414) 875-5900. Follow the prompts to leave a message.

If families have any questions about this or any other matters, please contact the School Social Worker at (414) 875-5930.

"...getting to school on time is a skill that needs to be acknowledged for success in the employment world."

Forensics, 2011–2012 Parent and Team Information

"Forensics in high school is competitive public speaking. Students compete as individuals in their category, And also as a team against others schools. It's sort of like a track meet. You might win your event, but the team might not win against the other team. Or perhaps you don't win in your event, but the points you earned helped your team beat another school."

Requirements:

Team members must attend a minimum of six tournaments. Please study the schedule and inform the coach of conflicts a minimum of two weeks ahead of time.

Practice! No one will compete in a tournament without first having performed their piece in its entirety for the coach and teammates. The signup sheet is on the door of 348. You pick the day! Sign up for 30 to 60 minute intervals Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday (except those Fridays we have team meetings). Like any sport, team members must maintain a 2.0 GPA.

Per MPS policy: *Students are prohibited from driving themselves to meets. Friends and parents may not ride the bus for liability reasons.* We will always travel as a team on the bus. Parents who wish to pick up their child from a meet must submit their wish in writing prior to the date of the meet.

Fees-There are none, if you come to every tournament you say that you're going to. Milwaukee Public Schools has funds set aside for Forensics because the myriad benefits of this activity are well known. The district pays for tournament entry fees and judge's fees up to \$125.00. However, tournament hosts do not reimburse schools for entries that no show. For this reason, I will require students who back out of a tournament commitment with less than two weeks notice to pay \$20.00, which would cover an entry fee and a cut of the judge's fee.

Dress code for tournaments is business casual. It's not evening attire, nor weekend wear. If you can't dress like a lawyer, that's okay, but don't dress like a diva.

Show good sportsmanship at meets. Congratulate others for their successes. Accept compliments and praise, as well as constructive criticism from judges, graciously. Be a friendly face in the audience for the competitors in your round.

Practice, practice, practice!

Questions? Please contact Dawn Drake @ (414) 875-6065 or drakedc@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

Kids Court and Citizenship Field Trip by Kay Kay Carter

"...I knew that this trip was going to be different from any field trip I'd ever taken."

On Thursday, December 2, a group of 20 students from Ms. Michael's class attended a field trip to the Wisconsin Eastern District Federal Court House. Before we even entered the building, located on Jackson and Wisconsin Avenue, I knew that this trip was going to be different from any field trip I'd ever taken. The exterior of the Federal Court House looked just like a medieval castle! It's five stories high, made of granite, and features a soaring bell tower. And believe it or not, the interior of the building was even more beautiful! After walking through a huge atrium, past decorated Christmas trees and gold laden fencing, I had to remind myself that this was actually a courthouse!

Our tour was organized and led by Magistrate Nancy Joseph and boy did she keep us busy! Our first stop was to see a sentencing case in which a lady was sentenced to 2 yrs probation and \$1,000 fine for failing to report the fact that her brother was trafficking drugs and concealing weapons in her storage locker.

Our second stop was to another large courtroom where we observed 42 individuals being sworn in as Naturalized U.S. citizens. I'd never seen anything like it and I LOVED it! These people left their families and homelands (26 countries, to be exact) to start a new life in the Home of the Free! After the ceremony we were able to meet with the judge who conducted the ceremony and learned that she's not only a Bankruptcy Judge, but that her two sons graduated from Washington 10 years ago!

My favorite part of the field trip came next. One of the students from my class, Thomas Lee, played a defendant in a mock trial case, while the rest of us played the jurors. We watched as an actual U.S. Attorney and Public Defender tried the case and then were asked to deliberate and render a verdict. We the jury found the defendant, Thomas Lee, "Not Guilty" of possession of a firearm by a felon.

After a Q and A session with the two attorneys, a court reporter demonstrated how she keeps up with typing everything that's said during a trial. I'd love to have her job--it's like texting all day but getting paid for it!

Our trip ended with eating Cousins Subs and being awarded certificates of participation. But leave it to Magistrate Joseph and Ms. Michael who wanted to make sure that we were learning even through lunch—we each had to answer a law question correctly before we could receive our certificate!

Thanks for such a great learning experience, Judge Joseph!



About the Newsletter

The Washington Informer is a monthly publication designed by Washington High School of Information Technology students enrolled in Image Technology. Submissions are provided by parents, students, administration, and staff. Students learn design concepts and computer skills through Microsoft Office Publisher and Microsoft Windows Movie Maker. The Washington Informer may also be viewed as a television broadcast in the school cafeteria. Thank You for reading our publication!

**Image Technology Instructor
Editor-In-Chief**

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Our Vision

At Washington IT, it our vision to provide a rigorous academic and career defining curriculum that will empower our students to graduate proficient and prepared to compete and succeed globally!

Our Mission

At Washington High School of Information Technology we are passionate about student success. WHSoIT will create an atmosphere that demands excellence. We will build relationships with all stakeholders to assure that we are providing World Class educational experiences that will catapult our students to the highest levels of academic achievement. Though the use of technology and enhancement of partnerships with business and higher education institutions, we will create opportunities for student s to graduate proficient and prepared to compete and succeed in an ever changing global society.

Washington High School of Information Technology

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February Sneak Preview

-Upcoming Event-
Senior Parent Night
Look for more information soon!!!



Nondiscrimination Statement: It is the policy of the Milwaukee Public Schools that, as required by section 118.13, Wisconsin Statutes, no person will be denied admission to any public school or be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or disability. This policy also prohibits discrimination under related federal statutes, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, and national origin), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (disability), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (disability). All Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and activities are open to all students without discrimination under both state and federal law.