



WEST HIGH PTSO

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016

WESTHS.KNOXSCHOOLS.ORG



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we are...

#OneWest



Welcome to our New and Returning Administration and Staff!

August 4, just before school began, our PTSO hosted a meet and greet for the WHS administration. There was a great turn out and it was a wonderful opportunity to meet Ms. Michelle Clayton, Assistant Principal; Mr. Rocky Riley, Assistant Principal; Ms. Melissa Walsh, Assistant Principal; Ms. Ashley Jessie, Principal; Mr. Jonathan East, Assistant Principal; , Mr. Paul Romero, Assistant Principal, and Mr. Steve Killian, Assistant Principal.





WEST PTSO NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE BI-ANNUALLY ON THE WEST WEBSITE:

wesths.knoxschools.org

A MESSAGE FROM PTSO PRESIDENT JENNIFER YATES

Dear West Families,

It has been a great year so far for West and the PTSO! Our goal is to support our students, teachers and staff, and our volunteers have spent countless hours doing just that. Our volunteers are active in the front office, the library and the Rebel Corner Bookstore, as well as helping with WestFest, Freshman Orientation, Open House, Senior events and sprucing up our grounds. Our Hospitality committee has done a fantastic job providing breakfast and lunches for our teachers, especially during Thank-A-Teacher Week on November 14-18.

One of the most significant contributions we have made this year is a total of \$20,000 that was given to the One to One campaign to help provide Chromebooks to West students. The PTSO has also purchased pub tables, power "W" mats, indoor and outdoor signage, and a new vacuum cleaner for the Library. We gave Kleenex and hand sanitizer in September to all of the teachers and had much concrete pressure washed and the OneWest Lounge painted.

We also hosted a welcome reception in August for our new principals and contributed \$500 to the Fashion Design class for their fashionable hospital gowns project for East Tennessee Children's Hospital (see page 6 for more information). And that is in addition to providing our regular Teacher Enrichment Fund grants of \$3,000 this semester. **All of this and more has been accomplished, thanks to your generosity!**

If you have not yet joined the PTSO, please do so, and join us for our monthly meetings, which are the **first Thursday of every month.** And come volunteer with us! There's a spot for *everyone* to be involved!

Thank you for all of your volunteer hours and your generosity, time and involvement. West is so fortunate to have such a terrific, dedicated group of volunteers!

Jennifer Yates



At the December 1 PTSO meeting, Studio West members did a fabulous performance of holiday songs.

Support PTSO

West High's PTSO exists solely to make West an ever better school for your child. The PTSO operates on money from only three sources: membership dues and donations, bookstore proceeds, and the Spring Soiree. PLEASE JOIN, BUY, ATTEND—AND VOLUNTEER! Your children will (should) thank you!

Attending PTSO Meetings is a wonderful way to learn about what is going on at WEST!

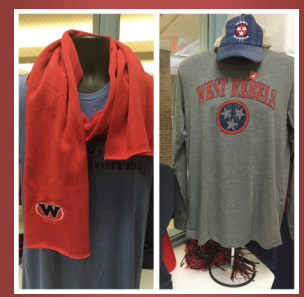


West Fest & Open House

West Gets Back in the Swing of Things Early in August



Check out the PTSO Rebel Corner Bookstore



Great news!
Credit and Debit Cards
can now be used in the
Rebel Corner Bookstore.

Merchandise has been
restocked so there are
great West t-shirts,
sweatshirts, hats,
scarves and more.

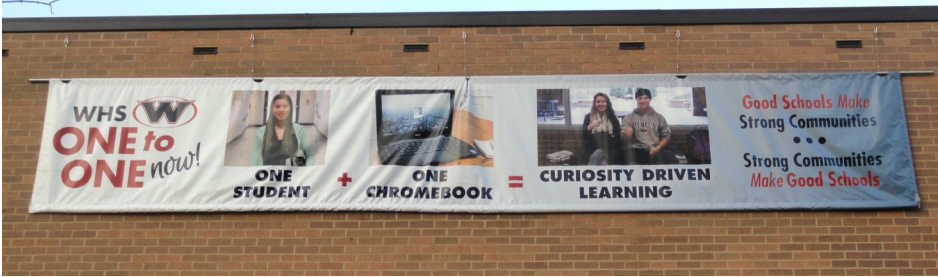
Thank you to our PTSO
Treasurer Beth Dible
for coordinating the
card reader and Daisy
Hamm for donating an
iPad for the
bookstore's use.

West Students Helping West

Thank you to the PTSO for funding the pressure washing of some of our outdoor spaces. The concrete outside of the West office was cleaned along with the areas at the Sutherland entrance and the vocational building. Many thanks to these and other **students** and the **janitorial staff** who helped with the project. And finally, a big thank you to our PTSO Grounds Chair, **Bonnie Marrett**, who spearheaded this cleanup effort!



ONE TO ONE



Seeking to Provide Chromebooks for All

West High School, Knoxville and East Tennessee's only International Baccalaureate (IB) high school, is working to become a "one to one" school by placing a Chromebook computer in the hands of every student and. **All seniors in the school received their Chromebooks in early October; juniors received theirs December 15.** The remaining classes will get theirs when the final funds needed for the project are raised.



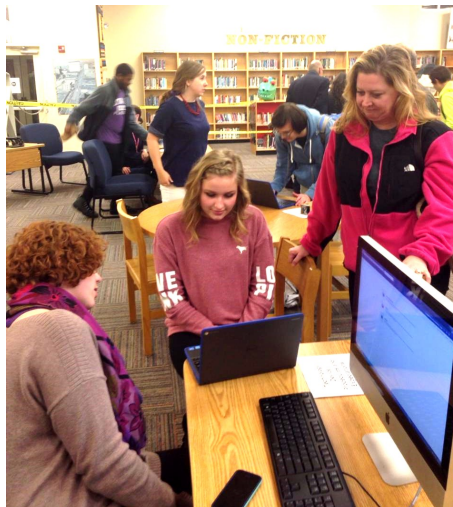
One to One is an international movement in K12 education, and research has shown that, when implemented properly, it can significantly enhance teaching and expand learning. Several other schools in the district are already one to one, including: Bearden High, Fulton High, South Doyle High, and L&N STEM Academy, as well as Bearden and West Valley Middle Schools, the two primary feeders to West.

Deployment!

Above: Seniors began using their Chromebooks for classwork in early October. **Right:** Juniors received their Chromebooks at a Deployment Night December 15.

West's new principal **Ashley Jessie**, who previously worked at Holston Middle, said, "I saw firsthand the impact one to one has on instruction and academic success. With regard to the state score that measures student growth, students at Holston went from a 1 (the lowest score) to a 5 (the highest score) and remained there for the next three years after instituting one to one at the school."

One to One campaign donations, which are tax deductible, can be made to the West High Foundation online at westhighfoundation.org or by mailing a check to P. O. Box 10321, Knoxville, TN 37939. Donors will be recognized in special ways at West, including a new *West Walk of Pride* that will feature engraved bricks of various sizes.



Candy Cane Wishes

In December students sold Candy Cane Wishes to support West's One to One Initiative to provide every WHS student and teacher a Chromebook computer.

Save the Date!

The Spring Soiree is the major fundraiser for the West High School Foundation and the West PTSO. It is a fun parent-only evening, that includes dinner and a live & silent auction. Invitations will go out in February and tickets will be \$50 a person. We hope all West Parents will attend, but there are many ways to be involved:

- Buy a ticket!
- Help the committee
- Donate silent or live auction items -- coveted items are gift cards (restaurants, services); jewelry; clothing; tickets to sporting events; tickets to theater, concerts or tours; professional services -- medical, beauty, landscaping, architectural; and vacation homes -- mountain, lakes, beach, cities. If you have an idea, we would love to hear about it!
- Be a Soiree Sponsor by donating to the West Foundation -- see below.

To donate items for the auction or find out more about how you can help, please contact chairs **Ellen Sullivan** or **Toria Boyd**.



SENIOR ACHIEVEMENTS

National Merit Recognition

West had four seniors recognized in September for their scores on the PSAT they took as juniors.

West High School Senior **Puxin Xuanyuan** has been named a **National Merit Semifinalist**. A Semifinalist is among the highest scorers on the PSAT exam in the state and has the opportunity to advance to National Merit Finalist in February. Puxin is an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma candidate and Student Government Vice President. She is the daughter of Ling Davis.

Seniors **Mary Margaret Banick** and **Jake Green** have each been named a **National Merit Commended Student**. Banick is an IB Diploma candidate and captain of the swim team. Her parents are Beth and Paul Banick. Green is an IB Diploma candidate and the son of Jill and Craig Green.



In addition, senior **Noah Mesa** was named a **National Hispanic Scholar**. He is an IB Diploma candidate and president of Mu Alpha Theta and the Psychologists of West club. His parents are Shuli and Gabriel Mesa.



Pictured above from left are students recognized as National Merit Commended Students **Jake Green** and **Mary Margaret Banick** and National Merit Semifinalist **Puxin Xuanyuan**. Pictured at right: **Noah Mesa**, National Hispanic Scholar.

Senior Superlatives, presented during Annual Skits

- Best Dressed:** Lindsey Pearson & Devonis Clark
- Most School Spirit:** Doshenique Stewart & Graham Sullivan
- Best Smile:** Grace Hooper & Ben Kredich
- Most Likely to Succeed:** Annie Dong & Noah Mesa
- Most Involved:** Olivia Brown & Jimmy McNair
- Best to Bring Home to Mom & Dad:** Marguerite Troutman & Leonard Humphrey
- Most Likely to Brighten Your Day:** Carson Carver & Tim Miedl
- Most Talented:** Rochelle Mondoza & Miles Kredich

- Most Likely to Survive Zombie Apocalypse:** Amber Norid & Kimon Swanson
- Most Likely to Make A Difference:** La-la Hilizah & Jonah Zahn
- Best Couple That Never Was:** Carolyn Cantrell & John McClamroch
- Most Athletic:** Jonasia Tyler & Hayden Shymlock
- Funniest:** Madeline Cain & Isaac New
- Mr. & Mrs. West:** Robert Smith & Angelica McGill

Congratulations!

**West's
Class Officers
for 2016-2017**

SENIOR OFFICERS

President: Jake Green
Vice-President: Annie Rockwell
Secretary: Katie Wade
Treasurer: Isaac New

JUNIOR OFFICERS

President: Kinley Koontz
Vice-President: Anna Katherine Vance
Secretary: Jordan Stevens
Treasurer: Callie Wershing

SOPHOMORE OFFICERS

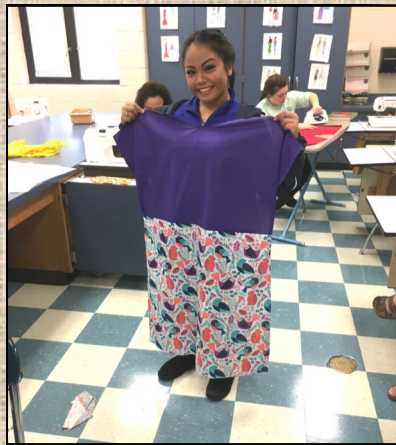
President: Helen Babb
Vice-President: Jessie Loewen
Secretary: Caroline Pryor
Treasurer: Elizabeth Babb

**Student Council
Officers**

President: Olivia Browning
Vice-President: Puxin Xuanyuan
Secretary: Emma Gilbert
Treasurer: Mary Simpson Stone

Model United Nations

Students from West High School traveled to Murfreesboro November 11-13 to take part in the Model UN competition. Congratulations to **Clare Carter, Caitlin Patterson, Ruthann Carter and Reed Cooper**, *pictured at right*, for being awarded World Class Finalist Team. Congratulations, also, to **Clare Carter and Elizabeth Babb**, *below right*, for being awarded Outstanding Delegates. Mr. Gallo, Mr. Clark and Ms. Franklin accompanied the group.



Sophomore Kimmie Wise shows the gown she is making for Children's Hospital.

**Fashion Design Class
Creates Gowns for East
Tennessee Children's Hospital**

The Fashion Design class at West High School has teamed up with East Tennessee Children's Hospital to create hospital gowns for teenagers who are long-term patients. The project received a \$500 grant from the WHS Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO), and raised an additional \$800 through a Go Fund Me page to reach its goal of buying material to make 80-100 gowns. ETCH has expressed the desire for these gowns because the patients that reside in the hospital

longer than a two-week stay would like to have a more personalized and meaningful option for attire. West students are hard at work creating these gowns for such a worthy cause.



Members of the **Student Council** caroled at the Manor House Assisted Living in December.

AIM Academy at UT

West Juniors **Kristin Blevins & DeEric King** were among the twenty rising high school juniors from across Tennessee who participated in the Accounting and Information Management (AIM) Academy at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Haslam College of Business July 16-20.

The students, who have an average GPA of 3.6, were selected through a competitive process requiring essays, transcripts and letters of recommendation. The mission of the academy is to expose under-represented students to the dynamics of the accounting world.

During the program the students learn about college admissions and financial aid, the foundations of accounting, business etiquette, professionalism, team building and financial literacy, as taught by Haslam faculty and Dixon Hughes Goodman staff members.



Youth Leadership Knoxville

Six juniors from West are participating In Youth Leadership Knoxville this year: **Cabot Boyd, Jack Dance, Emy Deeter, Ben Gibbons, Anna Keim, and Bethany Moon.** THE YLK Members participated in the annual Shoes for School program and some were featured in a WVLT story.

Youth Leadership Knoxville was launched in the summer of 2014 with the intent of giving high school students the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of Knoxville and develop leadership skills that will encourage and inspire them to become involved and committed to their community. The program is offered to rising juniors in Knox County schools. A one week summer camp opens the program with monthly sessions held from September through March, with a graduation celebration in April.

SENIORS



Fall Senior Supper

Through PTSO, the Senior Parents hosted a Senior Class Supper on Sunday, October 30. The dinner included a taco bar, scavenger hunt, music and ice cream sundaes.



Homecoming!

Homecoming at West was Friday, September 30, and our football team played South Doyle.

Congratulations to the members of the Homecoming Court, and thanks for all the food raised for worthy organizations around Knoxville, including the Love Kitchen, FISH Pantries and Thanksgiving baskets for West families. Senior **Tionna Thompson** was crowned Homecoming Queen, while **Cristell Foote** was Junior Princess, **Maggie Sparks** was Sophomore Princess, and **Taylor Phillips** was Freshman Princess.

Congratulations to the Senior Class on their Powder Puff victory! The final game pitted the Senior Class against the Junior Class.



Homecoming Queen Tionna Thompson with Senior Escort Luke Eggleston

Homecoming Court

SENIORS

Doshenique Stewart
Tionna Thompson
Jonasia Tyler

JUNIORS

Christell Foote
Jada Mason
Hadley OHara

SOPHOMORES

Alexis Mize
Sydney Redd
Maggie Sparks

FRESHMEN

Tess DeBord
Jaeda Jones
Taylor Phillips



Senior Powder Puff Team with coaches Grey DeBord & Luke Eggleston

THE ARTS

Congratulations to the WHS Band!

In its last competition of the season, the West Band performed at Appalachian State in Boone, NC, October 29. This was a regional competition with bands from Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee, and North and South Carolina. In the 2A Category, West received 2nd Place in Visual Effects and 3rd Place in Overall for AA Bands, Visual Ensemble and General Effect.

After performing at the West vs. Powell football game September 16, the WHS Band was highlighted as the WBIR "Band of the Week" during the 11 o'clock news. September 17, the band participated in the MMI 2016 Band Competition in Maryville. West was awarded a Superior rating during the Maryville Marching Invitational and First Place in Percussion. September 24, the band performed in a competition at Karns High School.



WHS Band at WBIR



West Has Talent!

If you were unable to make the West High School Talent Show November 3, you missed a wonderful display of talent. It is really amazing to see so many students who can sing, play instruments, dance and display other amazing talents.

Congratulations to this year's winners:

First Place: Mia Whitmore - also last year's Knox County CTE Idol winner!
Second Place: Roxie & Lucy Abernathy
Third Place: Luke Hussong
West CTE Idol Representative: Kolby Atkins

The following students also contributed fabulous performances to the night's show: **Ben Kredich, Miles Kredich, and Coleman Kredich, Luke Eggleston, Annie Rockwell, Rochelle Mendoza, Andy Howard, Megan Newport, Brooklyn Johnson, Abby Hamilton, Presley Keith, Clare Carter, Evelyn Spencer, Matt Stanley, Graham Sullivan, Marcy Sullivan, Virginia Holladay, Noah Beaver, Isaiah O'Neal, Roma Hoffman, Torie Allfred, Emma Adamcik and Gabe Laurito.** The audience was also treated to the terrific singing talents of assistant principal **Michelle Clayton!**



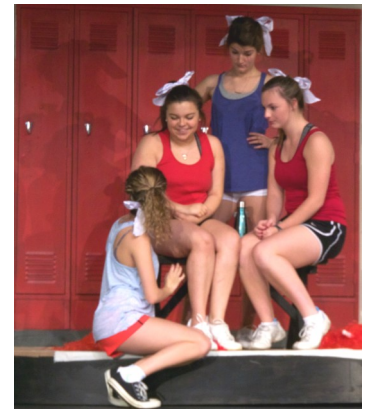
Coleman and Miles Kredich perform during West's Talent Show November 3.

WEST HIGH PRESENTS
A CHRISTMAS CAROL
HIGH SCHOOL



Fall Production

The West High Theatre Department presented the comical play “A Christmas Carol High School” in early December. “A Christmas Carol High School” was written in 2010 by Mark Landon Smith, a comedy writer, playwright, and actor. The play follows the story of West End High School’s “Scrooge,” Meredith Priestly, a popular cheerleader who cares about nothing except herself. While preparing for her lead role in the school play, “Romeo and Juliet,” Meredith is reminded of the true meaning of friendship by being visited by five ghosts. These encounters cause Meredith to reflect on her past, present, and future, and help her learn that there is more to life than money and boys.



Empty Bowls Fundraiser

On the evening of November 17, the WHS Visual Arts Department sponsored the Empty Bowls fundraiser for FISH Hospitality Pantries. Each ticket holder enjoyed soup and/or chili and were entertained by the WHS Jazz Band. Each ticket holder also got to choose a unique bowl to take home, hand made by WHS art students.





Noah Mezzacappa pictured at right

West Students Featured in Knoxville Film Festival

Congratulations to West Junior **Noah Mezzacappa** and his co-creator **Lucas Baudry** of Bearden High, on winning first place for his film in the high school division of the Knoxville Film Festival August 27 at Regal Cinema Downtown West. Noah directed and co-wrote the film. He and Baudry split a \$250 prize; he was also awarded scholarships to two Tennessee art schools.

Senior **Miles Kredich** also had his documentary "Binny Road" featured in this year's Knoxville Film Festival at Regal Cinemas at Downtown West. His 25 minute documentary is a fast-paced documentary showcasing how Indo Jax Surf Charities impacts orphaned girls in southwestern India by taking them surfing on the Indian coast and giving them the best two weeks of their lives.



Nine West Students Named to All East Tennessee Honor Choir

JUNIOR IS HIGHEST SCORING TENOR

Nine West High students were named to the All East Tennessee Honor Choir last Saturday after a rigorous audition process.

Roxie Abernathy, Emma Adamcik, Kolby Atkins, Mary Margaret Banick, Autumn Brockelman, Reilly Chisholm, Carolyn Gahan, Perian Reese, and Puxin Xuanyuan

were selected through a rigorous audition process to the All East Tennessee Honor Choir. Additionally, 5 freshmen from West were selected to participate in the All East Freshmen choir. Those were: **Alexa Isaac, Lily Maryville, Ben Gouffon, Evelyn Spencer, & Trevor Tirro**. Junior **Kolby Atkins** received a scholarship from the East Tennessee Vocal Association for having the highest audition score for any Tenor 1 in East Tennessee. He and **Mary Margaret Banick** also earned solos in the All East TN SATB choir. These students came together with the best choristers in East Tennessee and spent two days rehearsing with distinguished choral clinicians from around the country. On Saturday, they performed a concert in the Clayton Center on the campus of Maryville College with their respective honor choirs. West's Choral Director is **Drew Carpenter**.



Pictured at top and below: West Choir students performed a beautiful holiday concert at Church of the Ascension December 13.



Top: Carolyn Gahan, Perian Reese, Kolby Atkins, Autumn Brockelman, Reilly Chisholm, Mary Margaret Banick; middle: Puxin Xuanyuan, Emma Adamcik, and Roxie Abernathy; bottom: new West members of the All East Freshmen Choir.

National Spanish Honor Society

FALL 2016 UPDATES

The Sociedad Honoraria

Hispánica has been very productive this fall semester! We kicked the semester off by attending the HoLa Festival and finishing 3rd place at the Casa de Sara Llama Race. Thanks to the efforts by West alumni Rome Wells, our llama, and the support of our fans, we won \$1600 for our club. We used part of the proceeds to fund a t-shirt for our Day of the Dead Festival and plan to use more of the proceeds next semester for salsa classes and other funtivities!

The first week of November was a very busy week for our members. We kicked the week off with a great turnout at Pond Gap Elementary School where we helped with the Student Council's Trunk or Treat. Then our 3rd Annual Day of the Dead Festival at West was a huge hit! Thanks for all the hard work of our students!

Staying in touch with SHH:

- **Twitter & Instagram** - @WestNSHS
- **Canvas** - members have access to the NSHS page
- **Remind101** - Text @WestNSHS to 81010 for member updates

We are very much looking forward to another successful semester in the Spring and welcoming all the new members to the SHH as invitations are extended in the middle of February and inductions are in March.



Cross Country

GIRLS WINS REGION, FINISH FIFTH IN STATE!

The Girls and Boys Cross Country Teams competed in the Regional Championship. The Girls Team came away placing First Place and Senior **Lindsey Stallworth** was the 1st place finisher with a time of 19:01 for the 5k Race. She and **Maddie Shook**, who placed 2nd with a time of 19:29, made the All Region First Team. **Elisabeth Bernard** who placed 11th and **Elizabeth Babb** who placed 13th made the All Region Second Team.

Then the West Girls Cross Country Team competed in the State AAA Meet for the first time as a team since 2004. Overall the team finished fifth in the state. **Maddie Grace Shook** finished 9th and **Lindsey Stallworth** finished 12th, allowing them to be named to the All-State Team.



Pictured above: Elisabeth Bernard, Lindsey Stallworth, Maddie Grace Shook, Macy Kraslawsky, Cassandra Robbins, Maddie Tisdale, Anna Scott and Elizabeth Babb



Pictured at right, back row: Macy Kraslawsky, Maddie Shook, Elisabeth Bernard & Maddie Tisdale. *Front row:* Elizabeth Babb, Lindsey Stallworth, Anna Scott. *Not Pictured:* Cassandra Robbin



Baseball

Congratulations to the 2015-2016 West Baseball Team for their recognition for academic excellence!

West Football



Congratulations to **Zach Stokes** named Defensive Lineman of the Year, **Leonard Humphreys** named Defensive Player of the Year and **Juan Davis** named Defensive Back of the Year by coaches at the year end region meetings.

Also, congratulations to **Boom Buchannon & KJ Jefferson**, pictured at right, nominated for Knox News Sentinel Prep Extra Players of the Week.



Action photos by Tony Pettis

Basketball



West fans, along with Principal Jessie, enthusiastically celebrate after the Boys' Basketball Team defeats Farragut Dec. 16.

Swim Team

Congratulations to Senior **Mary Margaret Banick** for signing with the University of Tennessee Swim Team. Mary Margaret swims competitively for Tennessee Aquatics and is also a member of the West Swim & Dive Team.



TEACHER LUNCHES



October Chili Lunch

Thanks to all who helped with the Teacher/Staff Lunches in October!



November Potluck Lunch

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the teacher lunch in November. A reliable source reported that this was one of the teachers' favorite lunches because they got to eat such a variety of items. Thank you to Patti Blevins, the PTSO Hospitality Chair, on organizing such a successful lunch. We love our teachers!





It is so EASY to give money to West High School through your regular shopping. Just take a few minutes to link your loyalty cards at Kroger and Food City. Do you shop on Amazon? Go to the Amazon Smiles site instead. Shopping for school supplies? Mention our school ID at Office Depot and you are helping the school!

Just follow these simple instructions below!

FOOD CITY

Food City’s School Bucks Program supports our school every time you swipe your loyalty card that is linked to West High School. When you purchase your groceries at Food City, tell them you are a West High School student, parent or staff member. They will enter the school code 40820, then a percentage of your purchase will go to West! You must re-register every August.

KROGER

Every August, you must re-register your Kroger loyalty card in order to get a percentage of purchases given back to the school. Go to krogercommunityrewards.com to register for the West High School program. You then “Create an Account” or “Sign In” if you already have an account. Our school ID #17214. Even if you have registered your loyalty card before, between August 1-31 new and returning customers must re-register their card.

PUBLIX

Pick up your key tag for Publix in the West High School office. Your purchases will benefit the school.

OFFICE DEPOT

Any time you buy school supplies at Office Depot, mention West High School or our school ID #70093016. West will receive 5% back in credits for free supplies for the school. Use it for “Back-to-School” supplies and all year long!

AMAZON SMILE

Are you an Amazon shopper? You can help raise money for West every time you shop through their Amazon Smile program. All you have to do is go directly to this link (you can even make it one of your “favorites”) and do all of your shopping here: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-2554344>

DEAD END BBQ

Located nearby on Sutherland Avenue, Dead End BBQ supports West High School by donating \$1.00 to West High School every time a “Rebel Yell” Burger is ordered. Stop by often to eat a “Rebel Yell” Burger!

CROWN CLEANERS

Are you a Crown Cleaners customer or in need of a dry cleaner? Crown Cleaners has 2 locations and also has free pickup and delivery. Just let them know you are a West High School supporter and a portion of your sales will benefit West High School PTSO.

#OneWest

