

West40 Weekly

OCTOBER 24, 2025



SPIRIT WEEK IS NEXT WEEK!

Join the fun & show your Phoenix pride. Here's what each day looks like:



A vibrant poster for Spirit Week at West40 Phoenixes. The background is dark blue with colorful confetti. At the top, it says "WEST40 PHEONIXES" in white, followed by "SPIRIT WEEK" in large, stylized letters (blue for "SPIRIT", yellow for "WEEK"). Below that, "OCTOBER 27-31" is written in white. A red speech bubble contains the text "Unleash Your School Spirit!". The poster lists daily themes: Monday: Sports Team Day (-wear your favorite team colors or jersey); Tuesday: Color Day (-dress in our school colors - navy, teal, magenta, yellow, orange); Wednesday: Pajamas All Day (-this one should be easy for us!); Thursday: Decades Day (-dress up like the 90s, the 50s, the 20s, or any other!); Friday: Halloween (-show off your costume or wear Halloween colors). At the bottom, it promotes a "Spirit Week Contest" where students can win a gift card by showing their spirit every day. Illustrations include a boy in a red shirt and green pants on the left, and a girl in a green shirt and blue plaid skirt on the right. A "Gift Card" is shown at the bottom right.

WEST40 PHEONIXES

SPIRIT WEEK

OCTOBER 27-31

"Unleash Your School Spirit!"

Monday:
Sports Team Day
-wear your favorite team colors or jersey

Tuesday:
Color Day
-dress in our school colors - navy, teal, magenta, yellow, orange

Wednesday:
Pajamas All Day
-this one should be easy for us!

Thursday:
Decades Day
-dress up like the 90s, the 50s, the 20s, or any other!

Friday:
Halloween
-show off your costume or wear Halloween colors

Spirit Week Contest
Turn on your camera and show your spirit! You get an entry for every class, each day you do! We will do a drawing and the winner earns a gift card!

Enter to Win

GIFT CARD

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BUILDING BRAVE VOICES CHALLENGE

This month, we are encouraging all students to join the conversation during mini-lessons. Classes feel more connected when students respond out loud instead of only using the chat. When students unmute and share their voices, it brings energy, confidence, and a true sense of community to our online classrooms.

That is why we are launching Building Brave Voices! We are inviting students to:

- Unmute in at least one class per day
- Share an answer out loud, even if it is short
- Celebrate and encourage classmates when they unmute too



We know that everyone can feel shy at times, and that is completely normal. The good news is that students have a full team of staff and a classroom community here to support them. It is also okay if a pet barks or if there is a little background noise. What matters most is that we get to hear your voices. Together, let us be present, be brave, and be heard.

INCLUSION

ADVOCATE'S CORNER - 10/23/25

DIVERSITY

BELONGING

EQUITY

TOLERANCE

LGBTQ+ CRISIS SUPPORT LINE
THE TREVOR PROJECT : 1-866-488-7386

ADVOCATES:
ANDREW HARTNETT
JACK LEE
KASIA MAZUR
NATHALIE ALVAREZ

INCLUSION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT FOSTERS A SENSE OF BELONGING, ENHANCES INNOVATION AND PRODUCTIVITY, AND STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS. BY ENSURING EVERYONE FEELS VALUED AND RESPECTED, INCLUSION ALLOWS INDIVIDUALS TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR UNIQUE PERSPECTIVES AND TALENTS, LEADING TO BETTER PROBLEM-SOLVING, INCREASED CREATIVITY, AND STRONGER SOCIAL COHESION.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- 1. SPEAK UP WHEN YOU SEE DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR**
- 2. CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES**
- 3. LISTEN AND EDUCATE YOURSELF**
- 4. PROMOTE ACCESSIBILITY**
- 5. FOSTER INCLUSIVE ACTIVITIES**
- 6. ADVOCATE FOR MARGINALIZED GROUPS**

THE IMPORTANT THING TO REMEMBER IS THAT WE ARE ALL PEOPLE JUST TRYING TO LIVE OUT OUR LIVES. EVERYONE DESERVES TO LIVE WITH COMFORT, RESPECT, AND SECURITY!



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IMPORTANT DATES

10/27/25-10/31/25- School Spirit Week

10/31/25- Early Dismissal: 1/2 Day for Students (Staff In-Service)

11/6/25- Semester 1 Evening Parent Connection Meetings

11/7/25- No School For Students- Daytime Parent Connection Meetings

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Click here view the calendar:

https://www.west40remoteschool.com/_files/ugd/f770c8_b6c957a207d4469295135d50a995305f.pdf

BELL SCHEDULE

Click here to view bell schedules:

https://www.west40remoteschool.com/_files/ugd/f770c8_52c764af630e405fbfec580cf4140229.pdf





CLASSROOM CHRONICLES

It's been an exciting and productive week across all our classes! Students have been exploring creativity, problem-solving, and real-world connections in every subject. Here's a look at what we've been working on:

This week, we focused on Science and Engineering Practices 4–6: Analyzing and Interpreting Data, Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking, and Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions. These practices are used by scientists in every field, so it's a great opportunity for students to apply them and see how science connects to real life!



In Business Communications, students are learning how clear and respectful communication leads to success in school, work, and everyday life. Through interactive lessons and self-reflection, they are practicing verbal, nonverbal, and written communication while exploring how listening, tone, and body language shape understanding. These lessons help students build teamwork, professionalism, and confidence in expressing their ideas.





CLASSROOM CHRONICLES

In Digital Literacy, students are exploring the concept of the Digital Divide—the gap between those who have reliable access to technology and those who do not. Through real-world examples, group discussions, and hands-on activities, they are learning how factors like cost, geography, and digital literacy affect education, work, and civic life. The goal is to build empathy and awareness of the importance of equal access to technology.

Our middle school mathematicians explored the concept of functions using “Guess My Rule” activities and number machines! Students learned that a function gives one output for each input—just like a vending machine. This fun and interactive lesson helped them strengthen their foundational algebra skills. Meanwhile, our high school classes continued their Desmos Art Project, using equations to create designs over images. Students practiced adjusting equations to control shapes and lines, discovering how algebra can be both creative and powerful!

For Social Studies classes, we kicked off the week with a spooky lesson on the history of ghost stories, exploring what these tales can teach us about cultures from the past and present. Then, we shifted to current events, learning about government shutdowns—their causes, effects, and impact on daily life. Students made great connections between history, culture, and current issues!

In English, students tapped into their creativity by adding spooky and suspenseful elements to their writing. They experimented with tone, setting, and descriptive language to bring their stories to life!





CLASSROOM CHRONICLES

Students are learning how to ask and answer questions at a higher language level, building on grammar and vocabulary rules from earlier in the year. They're becoming more confident in holding short conversations and expressing themselves in Spanish.

In Art, students revisited the foundational principles of design—line, shape, color, balance, and texture—to strengthen their artistic technique. These skills serve as the building blocks for more complex projects to come!

This week in PE, students examined the military-style workouts trending in fitness today. They analyzed which exercises build cardio, strength, and flexibility, and reflected on how these workouts compare to their own fitness goals.

Last but certainly not least in Senior Skills, students continued their discussions about balancing and managing high-pressure situations. Through real-world scenarios and reflection, they are learning strategies to stay calm, focused, and effective in challenging environments.

Be sure to check in with your students about their lessons and Pearson work, and always reach out to us if you ever have any questions or concerns.



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STAFF CONTACTS

Please don't hesitate to reach out—we're here to support you!

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HALLOWEEN & FALL EVENTS

1) Forest Preserves – Trunk or Treat (Eggers Grove, Chicago)

Walk through decorated cars, handing out treats in a forest preserve setting. Free; registration required.

2) Forest Preserves – Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt (Crabtree Nature Center)

Search for hidden pumpkins in the forest and enjoy fall scenery. Free.

3) Itasca Trick-or-Treat Trail (Itasca, IL)

Walk a trail in Springbrook Nature Center for treats, crafts, and seasonal fun. Featured in Chicago's free Halloween events list.

4) Lemonster Days / Trick-or-Treating Downtown Lemont

Costume contest, parade, and downtown trick-or-treating in Lemont. Free or low cost.

5) Downtown Wheaton Trick-or-Treating

Local businesses hand out candy, including I-Spy scavenger hunts and seasonal fun. Free.

6) Chicago – Spooky Zoo (Lincoln Park Zoo)

Trick-or-treating, learning activities, and seasonal rides at the zoo. Often free or included with zoo admission.

7) “Night of 1,000 Jack-o’Lanterns” at Chicago Botanic Garden

Thousands of carved pumpkins light up the gardens on select nights. Not free, but a beautiful fall event in the area.

8) Illinois Haunted House & Halloween Attraction Calendar

An ongoing list of haunted houses, hay rides, and seasonal events across Illinois. Use it to find low-cost options near you.



Boo! at the Zoo – October 4–31 🎃

Brookfield Zoo’s family-friendly Halloween celebration is back! Enjoy festive decorations, trick-or-treating, and not-so-scary fun all month long. Weekends feature extra treats like inflatables, magicians, and the brand-new **BOO! Art Fair** on Sundays.

Hours: 10 a.m.–5 p.m. weekdays | 10 a.m.–6 p.m. weekends

Free with Zoo membership



<i>Giant Inflatables</i>	<i>Photo Frames</i>	<i>Peek Boards</i>	<i>And Much More!</i>
1 Frankenstein's Monster	6 Stack o' Pumpkins	2 Monster Hug	4 Zombies
5 Pumpkin Magician	8 Bat Wings	3 Day of the Dead	11 Boo! Glam Wall
7 Great Green Witch	15 Brookfield Zoo Chicago	10 Ghost House	14 Tombstone Graveyard
9 Scarecrow Pumpkin	20 Snake Coil	16 Halloween Train	22 Boo!
12 Giant Jack-O-Lantern	21 Spooky Cat	17 Monster Mash	23 Bumble Bee Bear
13 Creepy Spider	25 Monster Wreath	18 Scarecrow	24 Giant Skeletons
Zoo Chats	Candy Station	19 Hocus Pocus	Weekend Candy Station

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Get Involved In The 2026 Election

BE A STUDENT ELECTION JUDGE!

Even if you can't vote yet, you can help run the election if you:

- ✓ Are a U.S. citizen
- ✓ Are a junior or senior in good standing (or in college/community college)
- ✓ Have at least a 3.0 GPA
- ✓ Get written approval from a parent/guardian & your principal
- ✓ Complete election judge training
- ✓ Meet standard election judge qualifications

* Only one student per political party per precinct allowed.



PRE-REGISTER TO VOTE AT 16!

Get your driver's license at the DMV?

You can pre-register to vote!

Your application will be saved and activated when you're eligible.

TURN 18 BY NOV 3, 2026?

You can register & vote in the primary election!

Get Help Reducing Your Heating and Electric Bills!



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

LIHEAP programs offer heating and electricity assistance to income eligible households.

Apply for LIHEAP during your household's eligibility period.



Priority Period 1 October 1, 2025

- ✓ Older adults (60 years +).
- ✓ Person(s) with a disability.
- ✓ Families with children 5 & under.
- ✓ Disconnected and imminent disconnection households.

Priority Period 2 November 1, 2025 - August 15, 2026, or until funds are exhausted.

- ✓ All income eligible Cook County residents.
- ✓ Including all groups from Priority Period 1.

Eligibility Requirements

- ✓ Social Security Number or ITIN for all household members. Individuals without an SSN/ITIN can still apply.
- ✓ Current utility bills or lease if heat is included in the rent.
- ✓ Proof of 30-day income for all household members 18 and older.



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Zipcode 60402-60534



TO LEARN MORE:

(800) 571 - 2332

CEDAorg.net/Bills 13

¡Obtenga ayuda para reducir sus facturas de calefacción y electricidad!



Programa de Asistencia de Energía para Hogares de Bajos Ingresos (LIHEAP)



Los programas de LIHEAP ofrecen asistencia para calefacción y electricidad a los hogares que cumplen con los requisitos de ingresos.

Solicite LIHEAP durante el período de elegibilidad de su hogar.

Período de Prioridad 1

1 de octubre de 2025

- ✓ Adultos mayores (60 años o más).
- ✓ Personas con discapacidad.
- ✓ Familias con niños de 5 años o menores.
- ✓ Hogares desconectados o con desconexión inminente.

Período de Prioridad 2

1 de noviembre de 2025 – 15 de agosto de 2026, o hasta que se agoten los fondos.

- ✓ Todos los residentes del Condado de Cook que cumplan con los requisitos de ingresos.
- ✓ Incluye a todos los grupos del Período de Prioridad 1.

Requisitos de elegibilidad

- ✓ Número de Seguro Social (SSN) o ITIN para todos los miembros del hogar. Las personas sin SSN/ITIN aún pueden solicitar.
- ✓ Facturas actuales de servicios públicos o contrato de arrendamiento si la calefacción está incluida en la renta.
- ✓ Comprobante de ingresos de los últimos 30 días para todos los miembros del hogar de 18 años o más.



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PARA APRENDER MÁS:

 (800) 571 - 2332



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WEST40'S OCTOBER SMORE

 [List of Community & Immigration Resources](#)



NAVU

FOOD PANTRY

EVERY MONDAY 5-7PM
CADA LUNES 5-7PM

2238 S. ST LOUIS AVE CHICAGO IL 60623

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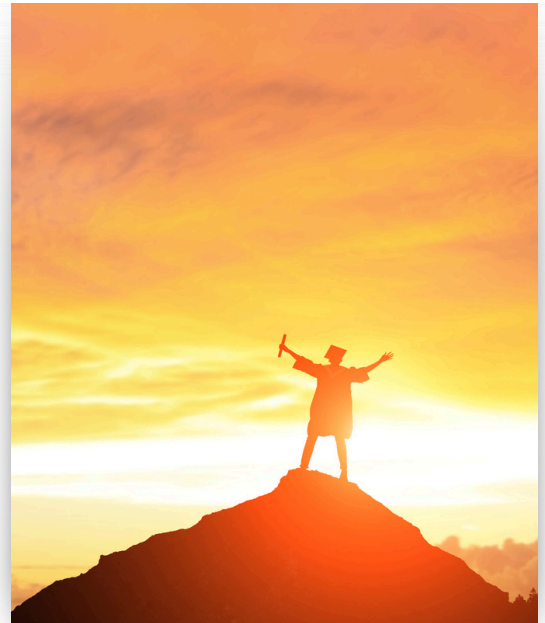
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VISION

The vision of West40 Remote School is to create a safe and diverse learning environment where students feel loved, accepted, and encouraged to reach their full potential by attaining the skills to be emotionally and academically successful individuals.



MISSION

We will meet you where you are.
We will be what you need.
We will walk further with you.
We will stand strong with you.

