

# LETTER FROM ASW PRESIDENT: DEREK WILHELM

BLEED AREA: MOST OR ALL OF THIS AREA WILL NOT APPEAR ON THE FINISHED PAGE

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STUDENT  
GOVERNMENT



Dear West,

I can't believe it is already the 2024 school year. Since my beginnings here as an ELPer, I have been lucky to enjoy six awesome years at West High. Between exciting teachers, dull assignments, sleepy mornings, energetic dances, and chaotic spirit bowls, the one thing that made everything about these past six years worth it, was all of you. My fellow panthers are the lifeblood of this school and between friendships, crushes, heartbreak, fun, smiles, hardships, wins, losses, and memories, the ever-changing liveliness of the students was the constant that I could always look forward to. You are the reason I smile in the halls, the reason school can be so interesting, the reason I try to lead a little stronger, and the reason I have a little bit more will to wake up early and come to school.

In these past six years I have become grateful to meet so many of you and be a witness to the beauty and diversity of such wonderful people. Over this time of course I have changed greatly and through each struggle and hardship, I am glad to know you were all there going through the same things and that I was not alone. Thank you for all the jokes, all the help, all the fun, and of course all the banana photos. While appreciation cannot truly be expressed nor thanks truly be repaid, since this school has helped me become better over the years in many significant ways, I wanted to offer some advice that hopefully returns some of that improvement.

Go to class and get your work done so you don't have homework. Spend your excess time doing what you think is fun. Do not be afraid to put yourself out there and meet others, I personally have seen boring classes at the beginning of the year turn into a group of exciting people who felt like family. Always try to dream bigger but also be ok if reality does not always reach there, as it always gets higher than if you did not dream. Smile more in public. And finally, if you ever feel dissatisfied or that life is dull, I recommend three steps. Always look out for every small and large thing you can be grateful for. Then find the things you want to see change. Finally create a plan for how you are going to attempt to change those things so you can be grateful for more. Gratitude, Awareness, and Planning are the easiest ways to find more joy and fulfillment in your life.

West High, this may be goodbye from me, but I know that as we all begin to enter the world on our own, we will rise up and be our best. Continue getting out there and showing the world what you can become, but don't forget to look back on the memories. And as always... Stay Classy Panthers!

*Derek Wilhelm*, The Banana Man

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In Preflight



# WHAT DOES STUDENT GOVERNMENT DO?

Senator Kenzie Espinoza (12) passionately pounds the Spirit Stick during a football game.

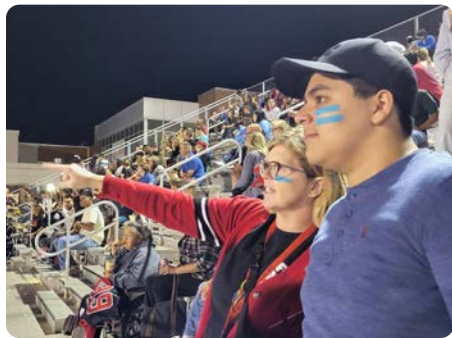


The West High Student Government has multiple parts: ASW (Associated Students of West), class officers, and Senate officers. They organized school activities like school assemblies, Spirit Bowl, Spirit Week, dress-ups, morning announcements, and food drives for the student body. Administration worked with anti-harassment and anti-bullying programs that Student Government helped put into place. Going forward, Student Government hopes to get more feedback from the student body for years to come. Through testing new security protocol, social media campaigns, and brainstorming proposals, Student Government worked hard this year to unite the student body.

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Senate (black sweaters), ASW (red sweaters), and advisors pose together on the steps of the Utah Capitol.



"My favorite thing is the family portion of it all. I've grown really close with a lot of people in Student Government."

Tru Bassett (12)



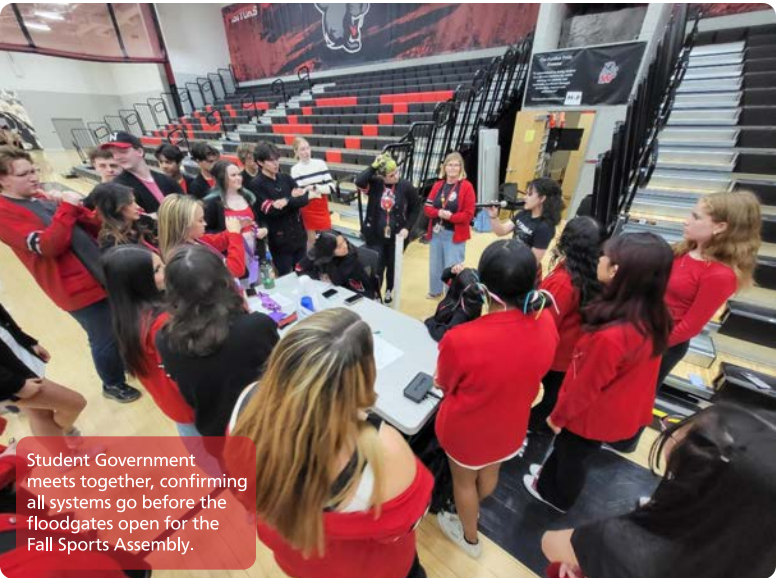
"I joined Senate, because I'm third generation here at West, and all of my cousins were on Senate."

Izabelle Atwood (12)



"I try my best in supporting the student body by giving everyone a voice and opinion."

Nicole Abarca (12)



Student Government meets together, confirming all systems go before the floodgates open for the Fall Sports Assembly.

ASW and Senate collaborated across various committees, which were established to target specific projects. At monthly executive board meetings, ASW met with Dr. Wright to discuss school policy and approve events, while Maggie Fowler (12) and the Senate PAC committee leveraged the Plan Advocate Community (PAC) classes to encourage seniors to apply to college. Student Government was always open to feedback, active on social media channels, morning announcements, and TV West. They also lent a hand with larger projects such as the new student health clinic. Not to mention Spirit Bowl on top of all that! Student Gov was never short of things to work on, and everyone contributed tirelessly to make this year one to remember.