

WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

450 North Mark St.
West Salem, WI 54669
Phone - (608) 786-2090
Fax - (608) 786-1081

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

**School Starts at
7:50!!**

* Early Release Dec. 13

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Volume 56 - Issue

2017

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Families,

The holiday season is upon us, and our students are continuing to learn and grow as we make our way towards winter break. The monthly newsletter is one of the ways in which we communicate the efforts in developing WSMS students both academically and emotionally through our instructional and advisory programming.

As such, I would like to draw your attention to a yearly tradition that highlights a part of our district mission statement: *To Serve With Passion.*

In December, we focus on the spirit of giving and service with an annual Christmas Baskets food drive. We hold this drive in conjunction with the West Salem Lions Club. Last year we provided over 40 holiday food baskets to families and senior citizens in the West Salem area. We are hopeful that with the generosity of our students and families, we can equal or even surpass that mark this year to help local families in need.

Our Middle School addition and remodeling project continues to move forward. The staff and students have been doing an outstanding job focusing on the important work of student learning while we live through this unique experience. If you have a chance to talk to a staff member, please thank them for their continued focus on what is best for students regardless of what temporary inconveniences arise during the construction process.

In closing, we will have no school on December 22 - January 1. School resumes on January 2. Our 1st trimester ended on November 21, and we will be mailing home your child's report card shortly. If you do not receive your child's report card by December 11, please contact our office.

On behalf of our staff, we hope you have a great winter break with your children, family and friends. We look forward to continuing to work together as a team with you to provide your child with the best educational experience here at West Salem Middle School. There is no greater gift than to have a positive impact on a child's life. This holiday season, I'm reminded how fortunate we all are with the opportunity to share in this gift.

At WSMS, It's a Wonderful Life!

Ben Wopat

WSMS Principal



"Meet Us in the Middle"



Calendar of Events



1 - Trimester I Grades due to office

5 - Boys BB at Aquinas 4:00

Wrestling Home 4:00

7 - Boys BB vs Sparta 4:00

9 - Wrestling at Marshfield 9am

11 - Boys b-ball at Tomah 4:15

Wrestling at Sparta 4:30

12 - 7th/8th Band/Choir Concert

13 - EARLY RELEASE - 12:20

14 - Boys BB vs Onalaska 4:00

18 - Boys 7 BB B-team Black vs Holmen 3:45 and

B-Team Orange vs Onalaska 5:35

19 - Boys BB vs Holmen 4:00

21 - Wrestling Conf Dual at Sparta 4:30

Boys b-ball vs Logan 4:00

22-Jan 2 - NO SCHOOL

Counselor Comments

December's A/A asset is Support. This is not only the support that we receive **from** others in our lives, but also the support we can provide **to** others. Once again, in conjunction with the Lions Club, we will collect non-perishable items in order to put together holiday baskets for local families. We will help to assemble 40 of these baskets this year and all of them will remain in the West Salem area! What may seem to be a small, trivial gesture of kindness certainly goes a long way to the people on the receiving end!

We will collect items December 4 - 19. Members of the local Lions Club will pick up the baskets on Thursday, December 21 and they will add additional items such as fruit, ham, potatoes, and cereal. They will then deliver the baskets to families. Please see the "Christmas Basket" below for a list of suggested items. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.



Christmas Baskets...

Helping others during the holiday season can bring cheer and warm feelings to those involved. For this reason, the West Salem Middle School students, in conjunction with the West Salem Lions Club, have decided once again to sponsor a project that will provide holiday food baskets to families and senior citizens in the West Salem area. Last year, we put together over 40 boxes. It is our hope that this year will be even more successful. We are asking each A/A to fill a box (or two!) with non-perishable items including the following:

cans of fruit
cans of vegetables
cans of soup
meat/tuna helpers
kleenex/facial tissue
paper towels

cans of juices
peanut butter & jellies
macaroni & cheese
box potatoes
plastic silverware
napkins

brownie/cake mixes
spaghetti sauce and noodles
oatmeal/cereal
cans of tuna or chicken
dish Soap
toilet paper

flour
sugar
stuffing
crackers
baby food
other ?

We will collect items in A/A from December 4-19. We hope that all WSMS students will be able to experience the joy of giving at this time of year! ~Thank you



"Meet Us in the Middle"



WSMS Students of the Month



Grade 8



Nik H.



Alye D.

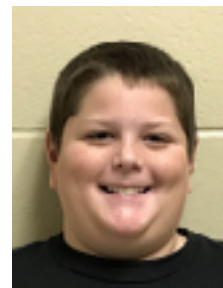


Tristan M.

Grade 7



Kate H.

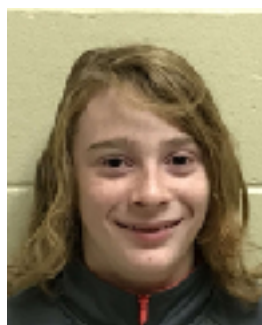


Kyle L.

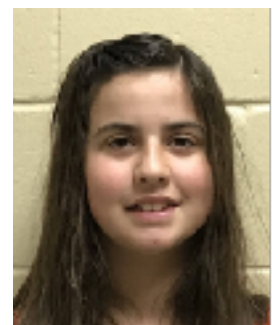
Grade 6



L- Angelina L.



R - Connor K.



K. Littlejohn



Early Release Dates

Wednesdays - Release at 12:20
Buses leave at 12:30

December 13

February 14

March 7

May 9

Absences, appointments and messages

If your child will be absent from school, please call the office by 7:50 a.m. In the event you receive the voice mail, leave a message that includes your child's name, grade and reason for the absence. If your child is ill, please be specific with his/her symptoms. We are required by state law to report numbers of students with strep throat, stomach flu, colds, chicken pox etc., so it is important that we have an accurate count. We do not report student names, just numbers. If your child's absence is not called in to school in a timely manner, it is considered an unexcused absence and consequences may be assigned to the student.

You may also call ahead with any pre-planned absences, and we will document it so you will not have to call again the day of the absence.

If your child needs to be picked up for an appointment, please send a note or call the office so that your child can be given and out pass in advance. We appreciate advance notification as it eliminates the need for us to find your child at the last minute when he/she is being picked up. If your child brings a note from the medical or dental appointment as verification, it is not counted toward the 10 days allowed for your child to be absent from school. Thank you for your cooperation keeping your child's attendance up to date and informing the school absences in a timely manner.

We receive many calls daily from parents asking us to relay messages to their children. Please make every attempt to relay these messages to your child before he or she leaves for school. Messages called into the office after 1:30pm may not get to your child before dismissal.



The West Salem School District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the Pupil Services Director at (608) 786-0700. To file a complaint of discrimination write to: Pupil Services Director at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669 or call (608)786-0700. The West Salem School District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Nursing notes.....

In the upcoming months, we will start seeing more illnesses as children spend more time indoors. Please review the following rules about children who may become ill.

1. If your child is ill with a fever over 100 degrees, please do not send your child to school until they have been without a fever for about 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen. (Many times a child will wake up without a fever, but will have one by noon.)
2. If your child has been vomiting or has diarrhea, please do not send your child to school until he/she is able to tolerate solid foods without vomiting or having loose stools.
3. If your child has been diagnosed with strep throat or conjunctivitis (pink eye), he/she must have been on medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
4. If your child needs to take medication during the day (either prescribed or over the counter), a parent or guardian need to fill out a "pink medication sheet". (Prescription medication requires a doctor's signature.) Medication also needs to be sent in its properly labeled original container.



Looking ahead..... Winter Wellness will be on Thursday, February 8

Information was handed out Nov. 30/Dec. 1. Those forms are due back by December 12. Please do not send any money at this time.



"Meet Us in the Middle"





Accelerated Math

November was spent in Chapter 4 learning formulas to find the area of parallelograms, triangles, trapezoids, and composite figures. Students also learned to work with these polygons in the coordinate plane. They did an excellent job on these and quickly picked up how to use the area of a parallelogram to find the area of multiple other shapes.

In December students will work in Chapter 5 which includes ratios, ratio tables, rates, unit rates, comparing ratio and rates, percents, and converting measures. This is one of my favorite chapters because it is so applicable to their lives now and forever. Who doesn't want to find the best deal to save the most money? Ask them to help you shop. They will learn to find unit price and compare unit prices. Maybe they will be able to help you save money as you shop for Christmas! This unit will take us up to the Christmas break. Happy shopping and saving!

Science - Mrs. Jarosh

Happy Holiday Season! Students have been working hard to learn the basics of chemistry and the periodic table. The element atom projects were outstanding! Thank you for your support from home with this project. We will finish this unit by exploring chemical and physical changes as well as mixtures and solutions. Students will be taking their matter/chemistry test on Friday, December 15 (A day) or Monday, December 18 (B Day).



English - Mrs. Buisman

Sixth grade English students will begin focusing on argument writing. We will practice looking at both sides of an argument or claim as well as provide reasons and evidence to support the claim. Students will

also participate in small debates in class to practice these skills.

Reading - Mrs. Schultz

OMG-N-G! Oh My Gods and Goddess, we are studying Greek Mythology! Gods, Goddesses- the immortals; men, women, and heroes- the mortals; these beings will be the focus of our next unit of study on myths. Myths are stories which teach morals or lessons and proper human behavior. In some instances, myths give explanations of nature and why things are as they are. This month we will be exploring the Ancient Greek myths and Greek Drama. Students will investigate fractured fairy tales to see how authors have given those traditional stories a modern twist with added humor. Then, in groups, the sixth graders will create and perform a skit involving one of the myths studied, giving it their special twist to "fracture" it. Before the Winter break, the Greek Drama Festival will feature the best group from each class and their mythological creation! Parents are invited to view this performance which is held during the school day, right before our winter break. Be sure to find out your student's favorite Greek myth, god/goddess, or hero!

Spanish - Mrs. Tofstad

¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español! Welcome to the 6th grade class to Spanish! We are starting our first unit which will include learning to introduce ourselves as well as basic vocabulary. We will learn our alphabet, numbers, days of the week and weather vocabulary. We will also study different songs and cultural practices of Mexico and Central America, including Posadas. Feliz Navidad, prospero año y felicidad!
Profe Tofstad



Social Studies - Mrs. Jeranek

Throughout December we will explore the Ancient Greece Civilization. Our focus will center around geographical regions (map exploration), economy, social status, governments, religious beliefs, and achievements. Students will compare Athenian and Spartan life, understand the importance of the Trojan War, and study the Greek Olympics. Before winter break, all 6th grade students will participate in the 6th Grade Greek Olympics put on by our middle school Healthy Living Department. It's a fun, active time for ALL!



Math - Mrs. Jehn

In November we began Chapter 3 which includes algebraic expressions and properties. Students really had to work hard to wrap their minds around using letters in math rather than numbers. They are learning a numerical expression has numbers and operations, but an algebraic expression has numbers, operations, and symbols. Terms, variables, coefficients, and constants are just a few of the new vocabulary words they have worked with to write and solve problems. This unit is a building block to future work in pre-algebra and algebra.

We will spend December in Chapter 4 learning to use the area of a parallelogram to find the areas of triangles, trapezoids, and composite figures as well as how to graph them in the coordinate plane.





Reading - Mrs. Rochester

The 7th graders will be getting into their dystopian books. A dystopia is a undesirable society that usually has a group of people making negative decisions for the rest of the society. The conditions of the society are usually grim due to overcrowding, sickness, lack of food, and misery. *The Hunger Games* is a perfect example of this type of book. During this unit, the students were given a choice of eight books to read. Each student picked one book to start with and will participate in meaningful book discussions with other students who are reading the same book. Some of the topics the students will discuss will be characterization, setting, conflict, rebellion, and theme. As a whole group, the students will be discussing characteristics of dystopias, finding examples in the book they are reading as well as looking at real life examples. Students will be expected to complete the assigned reading in 15 class days. The students will have more reading with this unit so they should be bringing their dystopian books home to finish reading that was not done in class. There will not be quizzes during this unit. Instead, the students will be keeping a journal. The topics the students will write about will also be the topics they discuss in their book groups. 7th grade students will continue to study Greek and Latin roots.

Regular Math - Mr. Jones

We will be working through Chapter 4: Inequalities.

Common Core standards for chapter 4:

*Solve one-step inequalities involving integers and rational numbers

*Solve two-step inequalities

At the very end of December, we will begin Chapter 5 Ratios and Proportions.

Common Core standards for Chapter 5:

*Find unit associated with ratios of fractions, areas, and other quantities in like or different units

*Decide whether two quantities are proportional using ratio tables and graphs

*Identify the constant of proportionality in table, graphs, equations, diagrams, and verbal descriptions

*Explain what a point (x,y) means on a proportional graph in context, particularly $(0,0)$ and $(1,r)$, where r is the unit rate.

*Use proportionality to solve ratio problems

Pre-Algebra

We will be covering Chapter 3: Angles and Triangles.

Common Core standards for Chapter 3:

*Classify and determine the measures of angles created when parallel lines are cut by a

transversal

*Demonstrate that the sum of the interior angle measures of a triangle in 180 degrees and apply this fact to the unknown measures of angles and the sum of the angles of polygons

*Use similar triangles to solve problems that include height and distance

English - Mrs. Martinson

Congratulations to the 7th grade spelling bee finalists:

Ian M., Eli Z., Connor B., Kirah G., Macy H., Nathaniel O., Ben H., Morgan Q., Jacob H., Abby K., Anna M., Presley D., Jackson F., Madison Od., Austin S., Brody L., Matthew S. and Shiwa X.

In December the 7th graders will be reading *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. Students will look for allusions (ask your son/daughter) to this novel and discuss why this novel is still relevant after 176 years. They will be creating a scrapbook for Scrooge as the assessment for this unit. Finally, they will be watching the movie and comparing it to the book.



Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum

For 7th grade Social Studies, we will be focusing on the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution. We will take a closer look at many of the rights we as citizens have because of the Bill of Rights. On the day before break we will have our 7th grade Geography Bee finals. Eighteen students will compete to see who will be the three representatives for the 7th grade. Those three will compete in the school finals against the top three from 6th grade and 8th grade. This will take place the week after break.

Project & Inquiry - Mrs. Ebert

Project and Inquiry is intended to provide students the opportunity to "think outside the box" as they explore the world of STEAM. The acronym stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics; and the experiences of P&I blend those fields. As they participate in various curricular challenges or projects, students will hone skills in communication,

collaboration, critical thinking, and creative thinking. Throughout the trimester, activities will focus on mechanisms, measurement, 2D modeling, and 3D modeling. The skills developed in seventh grade P&I will be applied and extended during their 8th grade P&I experiences.

The first month of class will focus on mechanisms. Students will gain knowledge about types of movements, the purposes of mechanisms, and simple gear ratios. Students then will learn to construct several different mechanisms and they'll document their experiences on their iPad. Be sure to ask your seventh grader to show you the document as it develops! After mastering the mechanisms, things will get fun as they will begin to notice mechanisms at work in the world around them and apply their knowledge of mechanisms to meet open-ended engineering challenges in the classroom.

Science - Mr. Baker

Throughout November, we were learning all about how cells get their energy. This involved counting oxygen bubbles created by photosynthesis in elodea plants, blowing up gloves with yeast to show fermentation, and getting some exercise to demonstrate respiration. In the pictures, you can see students blowing bubbles in a solution to measure the amount of carbon dioxide their bodies produce after doing an 80's work out video or playing a round of "Just Dance!" With cells out of the way, we will be starting basic genetics. This is a great time to talk to your kids about your family tree and traits that are common within your family.





Math - Mrs. Bentzen Regular Math (Chapter 4)

We will begin Chapter 4 called "Graphing and Writing Linear Equations" on December 7. We will continue in this chapter into January, finishing on the 19th.

The beginning objectives for Chapter 4:

- *Understand that lines represent solutions of linear equations
- *Graph linear equations
- *Find slopes of lines by using two points on the line and by using tables
- *Identify parallel and perpendicular lines using slopes

Algebra (Chapter 5)

We started Chapter 5 on November 27. Chapter 5 is called "Writing Linear Equations." We will continue with our weekly Mathcounts sheets. Our first in-school Mathcounts competition was November 20. Our next two competitions will be December 7 and 15. The regional team will be determined by these three competitions. The top ten students in grades 7 and 8 then continue on to compete at Regionals in La Crosse the first Friday in February. Good luck to all competitors!!!

The objectives for Chapter 5 are as follows:

- *Write equations of lines in slope-intercept form given three situations: the slope and y-intercept; the slope and a point; or two points
- *Write and graph equations using slope and a point, using a graph of a line or using real world data
- *Write equations of lines in standard form and use those equations to solve real-world problems
- *Write and find equations of lines parallel or perpendicular to a given line
- *Make scatterplots of data and use a line of fit to model and interpret data
- *Perform linear regression to find the best-fitting line for data
- *Make predictions using the graph and the equation

English - Mrs. Sackett

In 8th grade English, we are just beginning our next big writing piece, a research paper. We will spend most of December generating topic ideas, selecting a topic, and researching these topics to prepare for writing these papers. In addition to beginning the research paper, we are continuing to practice writing compound and complex sentences. Now that we've reviewed and learned more about nouns, verbs, adjectives and pronouns, we will continue with adverbs. Right before Thanksgiving we held the class level spelling bee and found the top three spellers in each class.

The 18 spellers that are moving on to the grade-level spelling bee are Helen B., Sophia B., Adam C., Isaac C., Tessa D., Destiny H., Allie H., Nolan H., Maggie M., Arin M. Elsa M., Dylan M., Garrett M., Calista R. Adriel R., Emma S., Marina T., and Lily W.

In December, we will hold the grade level spelling bee to advance 5 spellers to the all-school spelling bee that will be held when we return from winter break

Happy
Holidays!

Social Studies - Ms. Morgan

This month we will spend time looking at how the 13 colonies evolved into the United States following the American Revolution. By the holiday break, we will have selected the three students who will represent the 8th grade in the Geography Bee which will be held immediately after we return from break. Please watch next month's newsletter for these representatives.

At the end of this month, students should be able to do the following:

- discuss some of the challenges the new country faced as it established its government and repaid debts from the Revolution
- explain the roles of different branches of the government
- describe the rights and freedoms provided by the Bill of Rights

Science - Ms. Smith-Waller

It is hard to believe we are already coming into the holiday season. It feels like school just started! As we ended the first trimester, students have completed their Project Maps and we shared those with each other by completing a "gallery walk". We will continue looking at Earth's Changing Surface by studying Geologic Time. We will take a look at fossils, how we determine the ages of rocks and fossils, how Earth formed, and the geologic timescale. To end our look at Earth's surface, we will create a timeline of Earth's geologic history. In the new year we will study weathering and erosion and begin looking at what is inside Earth. Happy Holidays!

Unit Objectives:

1. Describe the events in Earth's history and identify the geological time periods in Earth's history.

Future Objectives:

1. Understand how wind, water, and erosion can change the surface of the Earth.
2. Identify sources of mechanical and chemical weathering.
3. Describe the unique geological features in Wisconsin (moraines, drumlins, driftless area, etc).

Art - Ms. Lotspaih

I am thrilled to meet all the 8th grade students and witness their talents. Students have started creating their portfolios, which they will use to store all of their future artwork. The portfolios will display students' names in an original font designed by the individual. I am extremely impressed with what the students have created so far and am excited to see what they create next!



Reading - Ms. Friell

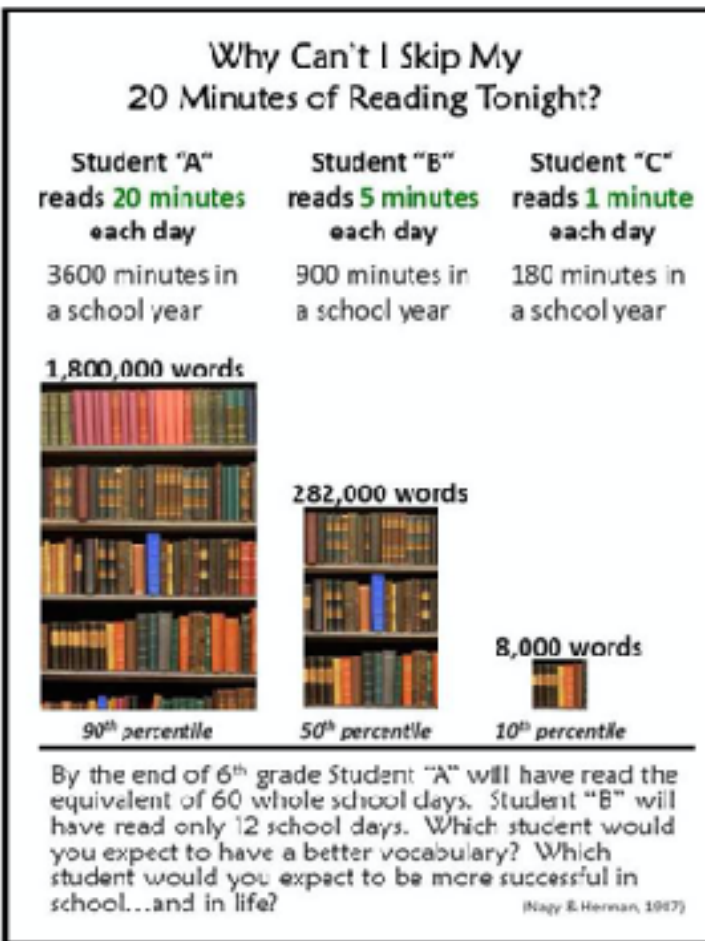
Independent Reading: Students should be reading independently at home on a daily basis (a minimum of 20 minutes). They are also given 20 minutes to read their choice books during every Reading class. Students learned how to use a variety of websites to find titles that interest them and titles within their lexile range. Please ask your son/daughter to tell you about what he/she is reading!

Journal Entries: Students are required to complete journal entries (in class). These journal entries are saved in google docs and turned in via google classroom. That way they are never lost and can be used as a reference throughout the year. They will write about their own books and the class read-aloud. Journal entries ask them to address specific aspects of the books (story elements, literary devices, mood, tone, style, etc.).

Vocabulary: In addition to "A Word A Day" (from the book *100 Words Every Middle Schooler Should Know, 100 Words To Make You Sound Smart*, and www.englishcompanion.com), students continue their study of Greek and Latin roots. We also work with new words in the fiction and non-fiction we read as a class.

During December all 8th graders will read the novel *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick. This memorable novel addresses judging people for who they are and not what they look like, the meanings of family and friends, acceptance, and dealing with loss. Students are able to listen to this novel (follow along) on their iPad. They will be expected to answer guiding questions while reading the book.

We just finished our read aloud, *We Are All Made of Molecules* by Susan Nielsen. We focused on character development over the course of the book and evidence of themes. As students are reading *Freak the Mighty* in December, the next read aloud will begin in the new year.



WSMS Choir and Band Holiday Concerts

When: Tuesday, December 12

Where: Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts

7th grade - Choir & Concert Band at 6:00 pm (5:30pm report time)

8th grade - Choir & Wind Ensemble Concert at 7:30 pm (7:00 pm report time)

All Band & Choir students will wear the following:

1. their orange WSMS music polos
2. black pants
3. black socks
4. black shoes



General Music 6 “Keyboards and More” - Mrs. Glasel

The students have been working on learning how to read music on both the treble and bass clefs and then putting them together to form the grand staff. They are still not playing two hands together at the same time yet but will tackle that challenge in this trimester. They have come a long way since the beginning of the year. We are continually doing worksheets and playing music games to learn pitch and rhythm reading.

We are working on our favorite musician project. Students have been researching information about a musician, their influences and accomplishments, analyze lyrics and meaning of songs, and then students will express their opinions on the music. After presenting these projects, they will learn more about the GarageBand app and begin a composition project using

loops (pre-recorded short musical segments).

Our Music Alive magazine article this month will be on noise cancelling headphones.

General Music 7 “Guitars and Musicals” - Mrs. Glasel

The students will be adding the third string pitches G and A to their songs. The next several new songs will be reinforcement of the previously learned concepts. Since the guitar is such a portable instrument, ask your child to bring it home to play for you, especially during the holiday season when family may be visiting.

The students just finished up watching the musical *Hello, Dolly*, in which they were learning about the complexity of storylines and character development. The next musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, is a more serious musical with a look at the Jewish

culture, their traditions, and how those traditions change throughout the musical.

General Music 8 “Keyboards and Guitars” - Mrs. Glasel

At the end of the first trimester, the students had a written test and a mini recital in which they prepared a song that they played for the rest of the class. Then they had a choice of switching to the other instrument or continuing on their original instrument for Trimester 2.

The students are playing at different levels depending if they were new to my class and learning guitar or keyboard for the first time or have taken my general music classes before and are at a more advanced level. I encourage you to ask your child what they are learning specifically on his or her instrument.



Forensics

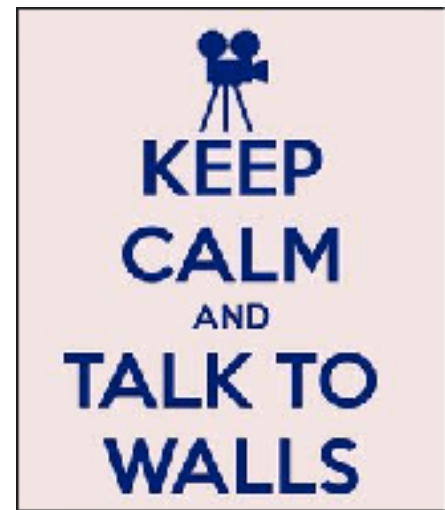
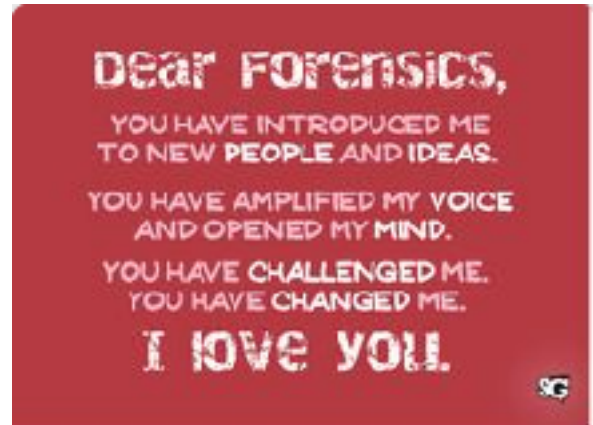
There was an informational meeting about Forensics during A/A in November. Students in grades 7 and 8 have the opportunity to join Forensics, a group that offers students the opportunity to speak/perform in front of other students in neighboring school districts. This co-curricular activity runs from December until the middle of February.

Students are able to participate individually or as a group. They are able to select from the following categories: acting, readers' theatre, speech giving (demonstration, persuasive, informative, extemporaneous, historical, special occasion), prose reading, poetry reading, or news reporting.

This great co-curricular activity continues in grades 9-12 and helps students develop speaking skills they will use throughout life. Students practice during their lunch/recess. They are also able to practice before and after school, so involvement doesn't conflict with their other activities. Contact Ms. Friell at friell.nicole@wsalem.k12.wi.us for more information.

Level 1 meet is Monday, February 5 in Holmen

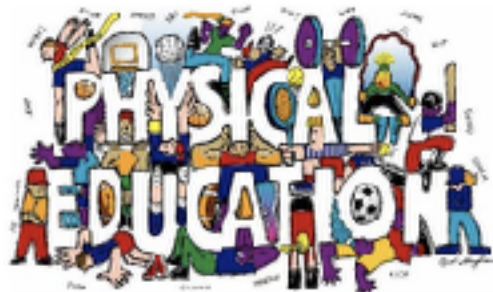
Level II meet is Tuesday, February 19 in Whitehall



Healthy Living...

We have transitioned into the second trimester with the students switching teachers for PE/Health. Students that were with Mr. Brewer will go to Mrs. Olson. Students that were with Mrs. Olson will go to Mr. Running. Students that were with Mr. Running will go to Mr. Brewer. Make sure your children are bringing home their PE clothes and getting them washed weekly! Happy Winter!

Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Olson & Mr. Running



"Meet Us in the Middle"



Candids for the Yearbook....

If you have taken pictures at WSMS co-curricular events and think students would enjoy having them in the yearbook, please e-mail them to friell.nicole@wsalem.k12.wi.us. I'll try to work in as many as possible. Thanks! Ms. Friell



Wisconsin Forward Exam dates....

6th grade - April 3-6

7th grade - March 26-29

8th grade - March 19-23

*Please avoid any appointments for your child during this time if at all possible.

Success Center

The Success Center is a resource room for students before and after school, students receive help from staff who attend classes and are equipped to guide students through information they may have missed or do not understand. It is also the place where students make up tests and quizzes. It is open from 7:00-7:45 am and from 3:10-4:00 pm. If students attend the Success Center, parents are responsible for transportation to and from school.

Homework

Students should expect to have homework in math and reading on a regular basis. Math homework will be an extension of what is learned during class. Students will be given class time to work, but most will have to take the homework home to complete it. In reading, students are expected to read and independent reading book nightly for a minimum of 20 minutes. Most other classes will have homework on an intermittent basis. You should not expect more than an hour of homework nightly. When absent, students should be getting the information missed using Edmodo.

Substitutes Needed

for the 2017-2018 School Year
In the following areas:

secretarial
food service
bus drivers

paraprofessionals
custodians
teachers

If interested, please stop at the District Office at
405 East Hamlin St, West Salem OR call
608-786-0700 OR go to www.wsalem.k12.wi.us
for a substitute application.



December 2017

West Salem Middle School Lunch

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBQ Teriyaki Chicken • Seasoned Brown Rice • Mini Corn Dogs • Roasted Garlic Cauliflower • Orange Slices
4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bakalar's Hot Dog on WG Bun • Chef Salad w/Chicken & Cheese • Oven Baked French Fries • Raisins 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beef Stroganoff over Noodles • Turkey BLT on White Wheat Sandwich Bread • Wisconsin Winter - Vegetable Blend • Strawberries 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild Mike's Cheese Pizza • Breaded Chicken Patty on WG Kaiser Bun • Honey-Glazed Carrots • Grapes 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking Taco on Frito Corn Chips • Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla • Refried Beans • Bananas • Taco Topping Bar 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popcorn Chicken • Saucy Orange Popcorn Chicken • Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice • Country - Vegetable Blend • Fresh Sliced Apples
11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cinnamon French Toast • Sausage Links • Turkey Sub • Hashbrown Patty • Warm Cinnamon Apples 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diced Chicken & Gravy • Chicken Nuggets • Corn Bread Muffin • Mashed Potatoes • Strawberries 	13 <p>EARLY RELEASE DAY!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Nuggets with Cheez-It Crackers • Mozzarella Stuffed Breadstick with Marinara Dipping Cup • Roasted Brussel Sprouts • Fresh Sliced Apples 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pasta with Marinara Sauce • Pasta with Meatballs in Marinara • Garlic Toast • Asparagus • Bananas • Fruit Smoothie Pops 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Corn Dogs • Alaskan Pollock Fish Sandwich on WG Bun • Baked Sweet Potato Crinkle Fries • Watermelon Chunks
18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meatball Marinara Sub on Hoagie Roll • BBQ Pork Rib Sandwich • Peas & Carrots • Craisin 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turkey Pot Roast in Gravy with WG Dinner Roll • Ham, Salami & Provolone Cheese Sub • Mashed Potatoes • Strawberries 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheesy Garlic French Bread Pizza • Marinara Dipping Cup • Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap • Island Blend Vegetables • Red Grapefruit Sections 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classic Lasagna • Creamy Mac N' Cheese • Garlic Breadstick • Green Beans • Orange Slices 	22 <p>Holiday Break - No School</p>
25 <p>Holiday Break - No School</p>	26 <p>Holiday Break - No School</p>	27 <p>Holiday Break - No School</p>	28 <p>Holiday Break - No School</p>	29 <p>Holiday Break - No School</p>

More Details: <http://wsalem.nutrislice.com/menu/west-salem-middle-school/lunch/>
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Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Appreciate art

Visit an art museum or gallery over winter break for educational family fun. Encourage your tween to read descriptions of the exhibits. He'll learn about artists and their techniques. He may even want to try his hand at some artwork when you get home! *Note:* Check for free-admission days or holiday coupons.

On top of grades

If your child's school offers an online grade book, check it every week or so. That way, you will stay in the loop and can spot problems early. Try not to overreact to one low score—it could be one small blip or just a tiny fraction of your tween's grade. Instead, look for patterns, and contact the teacher if you have concerns.

Excited about tweens

It's normal to feel a bit sad as your middle grader grows up. But it helps to remember that you have a lot to look forward to. You may discover mutual interests and enjoy discussing various topics as her opinions develop. Plus, you get to witness the excitement of her first school dance, volleyball game, or other milestone events.

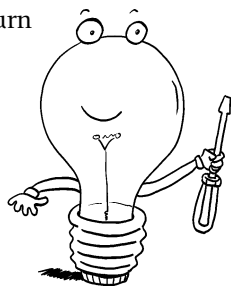
Worth quoting

"A hunch is creativity trying to tell you something." *Frank Capra*

Just for fun

Q: How do you turn on the light in a room with a broken light switch?

A: By fixing it!



Be productive!

Homework? Check. Take pictures for photography class? Check. Do the dishes? Check.

Knowing what to do and getting it done will make your tween's life run more smoothly and help her be more successful. Share these four strategies.



1. Pick what's important

Suggest that your child make a daily to-do list—with priorities. She might divide her list into what must be done today and what can wait until the next day. *A good tip:* Encourage her to keep her list manageable. Writing down everything she needs to do all month may just lead to frustration.

2. Use "prime time"

Maybe your tween is a morning person and concentrates better then. If so, she could review for tests on the bus or do projects on weekend mornings. If she's more alert after school or at night, however, she can focus her energies then.

3. Snap into a positive mood

If your middle schooler isn't feeling motivated, encourage her to do something that puts her in a good mood. She might watch birds at the bird feeder, take a walk around the block, or play with slime. Changing her frame of mind can help her get started.

4. Put away distractions

While technology is supposed to help us be productive, it often gets in the way. Have your child place any devices she's not using for homework across the room and shut off. (After all, it's easier to procrastinate with a video if her tablet is powered on and within reach!) 👍

Operation "reset"

Winter break gives your child the gift of extra time. Encourage him to use it wisely with a mix of relaxation and preparation for the new year.

Refresh. Suggest he do enjoyable activities he hasn't had time for. Perhaps he'll read a graphic novel that's been sitting on a shelf or create a workout routine to do with a friend.

Catch up. Ask your tween to think about how he can hit the ground running next semester. If he has assignments due when school begins, he could work on them a little each day. Or he might empty his subject folders by filing returned papers at home and start with a fresh slate in January. 👍



Writing for the real world

As your tween grows up, he'll need to write for all kinds of reasons, whether he's drafting papers for school, writing college essays, or preparing a resume. He can practice by writing for real purposes at home.

Summarize the facts. Writers need to get to the point quickly, because there's so much information competing for people's attention. For practice, your child could write a newscast recapping 2017 family highlights and



send it to relatives. To sum up each event, he should focus on key facts like who, what, when, where, and why. ("Maggie, age 10, joined the Safety Patrol in September at Beacon Elementary School.")

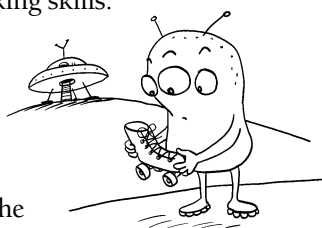
Target your audience. Focusing on who will read his writing helps him make sure it is understandable and includes relevant details. For instance, a student's version of a textbook contains different information than a teacher's. To understand the

difference, your middle grader might create a "how-to" guide for different groups. For example, he could write step-by-step directions for using a remote control, but make one for tech-savvy family members and one for those who aren't. 👍

Nice thinking!

Becoming a good thinker will help your middle grader solve problems and make daily decisions. Use these fun family activities to grow her creative and critical thinking skills:

■ If an alien came to Earth and found a roller skate, what might he think it could be used for? Take turns calling out answers. For example, your child may say the wheels would make a good back massager. Continue until no one can think of a new answer.



■ Secretly think of an object, and imagine you are holding it. "Pass" it to another person, who tries to guess your item based on how you handle it. For example, how would you hold and pass an ice cube, a bowling ball, a hot potato, or a Frisbee? After guessing, the catcher pretends it's something different and passes it to the next family member. 👍

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Q & A Handling friendship changes

Q My son no longer wants to hang out with one of his new friends, but he doesn't want to hurt the boy's feelings. What advice can I give him?

A It's common for middle graders to try out new friendships—and just as common for one or both to decide it doesn't work. Let your son know it's okay as long as he's kind about it.

If the other boy invites him to do something, he should respond rather than ignore him and politely decline without a long explanation ("Sorry, I can't").

Also, suggest that he avoid committing to hang out later, so the boy doesn't get the wrong impression that your son wants to get together in the future.

When they see each other at school or events, he should say hello. That can prevent hard feelings and leave the door open for being better friends again later. 👍



Parent to Parent No price tag on giving

My 12-year-old daughter, Katie, always wants to give presents at the holidays, but she doesn't have much money. This year, I suggested she think about what could she *do* for people rather than what she could wrap in a box or bag.

We brainstormed, and I was surprised by where our ideas led. Since Katie likes to sing, she thought of serenading her grandmother with

her favorite song from the 1950s. I suggested she offer her younger brother a "chore-free day," letting him pick a day for her to take over his chores.

Then, she decided to give her favorite teacher a handmade card with an offer to help around the classroom.

It's good for Katie to see that she can be generous without spending money. And I'm hoping that focusing on giving will keep her less focused on getting. 👍

