

WEST SALEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

475 North Mark Street, West Salem, WI 54669

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Ryan Rieber- Principal

Lisa Gerke- Associate Principal

Wow, it is hard to believe, but we are through the first semester and thus halfway done with our school year. The passing of the semester means that we are headed toward spring. We just completed our mid-year assessment period so we can see the growth of our students and use this data to make the adjustments needed to ensure our students are getting the best education possible. Our parent/teacher conferences are coming on February 12th and 21st, which will give everyone an excellent opportunity to connect with your child's teachers. However, please do not think that you need to wait until parent/teacher conferences to contact your child's teacher. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us! We will be happy to help answer your questions.

The PTO family movie night was a hit! It was so good to get our families to come together outside of the school day, and especially for a relaxing night with popcorn and a movie. I would also like to thank those of you who brought food donations for our local food bank. Our community has a growing range of needs, and this is a great way to help out our fellow community members. It is always great to give back, and I appreciate your generosity, especially right after the holidays! There are a number of PTO events coming up in the next month, please check out our calendar to see when and where we can gather as a school community again to enjoy an evening with our families and support our kids!

We will soon be putting up signs in the North and South parking lots for drop off and pick up. We are putting these up to help direct traffic and keep our students safe. As a reminder, we are asking that we use extra caution when dropping off and picking up your child. With the snowy and icy conditions, the sidewalk and parking lots will be slippery. Please make sure to slow down, look, and take a few extra minutes for the safety of all. If you drop your child off in the morning on either the North or South lot, please make sure to pull up to the sidewalk and let your child off on the sidewalk side. Don't stop along the fence to let your child off as this backs up traffic and is unsafe for our kids. Out of courtesy for others, please do not park or get out of your vehicle. Thank you for your cooperation!

Winter weather is tricky, and when there are school cancellations/delays it is always stressful for not only school officials, but for you at home as well. We will do our best to make sure to get any information out to you in a timely manner. We utilize the local news stations and will make sure to send out Skyward messages when decisions are made. I would also like to encourage you to sign up for text alerts from either WXOW or WKBT. Many times I will be alerted through these resources prior to getting a call myself. It is a great tool that will help keep you informed.

Next month, I will be sharing with everyone information on our referendum in April. The District's upcoming board meetings will also help everyone to be more well informed. We will be holding listening sessions where everyone can gain a deeper understanding of the referendum and an opportunity to ask questions. Stay tuned for more information!

Ryan Rieber- Principal

Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Registration Screening

Mark your calendars now...

If you have a child who will be four years old by September 1, 2019, please call the Elementary Office to register your child. You will receive a packet in the mail prior to the event.

Then plan on attending either Tuesday, February 26th (for last names that start with A-L) or Thursday, February 28th (for names that start with M-Z) with your child.

Please come by 6:00pm to sign in and transition your child to a classroom for a variety of activities led by one of our 4K teachers. Social, communication, motor and early learning skills will be observed. An audiologist will be on hand for free hearing screenings by parent request. Handouts regarding various aspects of child development will be available to families. The parent registration meeting will be held in the assembly room at 6:30pm. The total time needed for the various activities will be approximately one hour 15 minutes. Please allow extra time if a hearing screening is requested.

Please note that registration cannot be completed without residency and birth certificate verification.

Kindergarten Registration 2019-2020

Now that West Salem has a 4-Year-Old Kindergarten program in place, we no longer have a kindergarten registration. If you have a student who will be five years old by September 1, 2019 and your child does not attend our 4K program, please contact the elementary office at 786-1662 to pre-register. All 4K students currently attending West Salem's program will automatically receive kindergarten enrollment information.

2019 Summer School Program

It's that time of the year again to start thinking about Summer School!

Be sure to mark your calendars!

This year Summer School for K-8 students will be held:

**July 22nd through August 9th
from 8:30am - 11:35am
(buses depart at 11:45am)**

The school district will again be offering swimming lessons. Please note that swimming lessons are not held during the July-August Summer School session. Dates and times will be announced soon.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

**Tuesday, February 12
&
Thursday, February 21**



**West Salem School District 3 yr. old
Child Development Days**
Thursday, March 7 from
3:30-5:30PM

OR

Friday, March 8 from 9-11AM

If you have a child who will be three by September 1, 2019 (Or if your child missed our 4 year old screening in January) please plan on bringing your child to one of the free developmental screening clinics at the West Salem elementary school. Early childhood staff and a speech therapist will be available to interact with your child while looking for specific developmental milestones. They will have you fill out a questionnaire regarding your child's development and take the time to discuss all of this with you. Please plan on the whole process taking approximately 45 minutes. Please call Amber Clark at 786-1662 ext 3117 to let us know which date works for

**Elementary Morning
Procedures
before 8:00 am bell**

When the temperature before school "feels like" +10 degrees or higher students are allowed to be outside.

When the welcome flags are out, it means that students are inside.

- * Kindergarten goes to the Assembly Room
- * Grade 1 goes to the front gym
- * Grade 2 goes to the back gym
- * Grade 3 & 4 go to their respective hallways

(K-2 may take backpacks/coats to lockers first)



Absences Parents are requested to call the school between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. whenever a child will be absent from school. You may also leave a voice mail message before 7:30 a.m. If we do not receive a call, the school secretary will contact you. This is done for the safety of your child, as we, along with you, need to be assured that your child is either at home or at school. If the school has been contacted, a written note is not needed when the child returns. Parents are encouraged to contact the teacher if the child has missed two or more consecutive days of school for purpose of make-up work.

EXCUSABLE absences are: 1) Illness on the part of the student. An excuse from a physician may be requested as necessary. 2) Serious illness or death in the immediate family. 3) Special circumstances provided written parental permission for the absence is given in advance to administration. 4) Emergency situations within the family.

UNEXCUSABLE absences and tardiness: Students who are absent from school with the consent of their parent or guardian, but whose absence does not fall under excusable absences shall be considered unexcused, tardy, or truant. Students who develop a record of unexcused absences will be subject to the State and County Truancy Law that ultimately results in truancy proceedings.

**News from the WSES PE
Department**

1st Grade PE Night is Thursday, February 7th
from 6:30-7:30.

Once a year, per grade-level, PE (Physical Education) Nights are held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the elementary school gym. Students must be accompanied by a parent. This is a night for the grade-level students and their parent(s) ONLY. Please do not bring younger or older siblings along. Various stations will be set up for students and their parents to participate in different activities. Tennis shoes need to be worn by all students and adults.

**The spring music concerts are
approaching quickly!**

Kindergarten: Tuesday, March 5th at 6:15pm

First Grade: Monday, March 4th at 6:15pm

Second Grade: Tuesday, March 5th at 7:15pm

Third Grade: Monday, March 4th at 7:15pm

All concerts are at the Heider Center. Please watch for important information to come home prior to the shows regarding arrival, dress, and seating.

Ten students from West Salem Elementary will have their artwork displayed at the Annual West Central Youth Art Month Exhibit, sponsored by the Wisconsin Art Education Association.

The West Central Regional show will take place throughout the month of February at the Black River Falls Public Library, 222 Fillmore Street, Black River Falls WI 54615

The reception will be held on Saturday, February 23rd from 10am-noon.

Congratulations to Ms. Lotspaih's students: Ava Jambois, Henry Bott, Emerick Weeks, Harley Wight and Anna Witte

Congratulations to Mrs. Finch's students: Annika Rude, Addison Wuensch, Ryker Athnos, Piper Jambois, and Amy Stefferud



WSES Physical Education JUMP FOR A CAUSE event

Our PE staff is switching gears this year and is replacing Jump Rope for Heart with an event that will impact our local community through donations. This year we have chosen the West Salem Area Community Care and Share Pantry to benefit from our event. There will be a school-wide competition to see which grade level can bring in the most items. Items have been given a point value based on the need at the pantry. The grade level with the most points at the end of the week will earn an extra PE class. Food items will be collected **February 11th-15th**.

We still will focus on the benefits of exercise and heart health. This year's JUMP FOR A CAUSE event will take place during your child's physical education class on **Friday, February 15th**.

2 point items	1 point items
-peanut butter -canned tuna -canned chicken -canned fruit -pasta/spaghetti sauce -toilet paper -Kleenex -cleaning products -paper towels -toothpaste and toothbrushes -shampoo -bath soap -dish soap	-cereal -jelly -bagged plain rice -boxed or canned dinners -apple juice -pancake syrup -canned vegetables -cans of soup & beans -stuffing -crackers -macaroni & cheese -pasta -oatmeal

All donations are encouraged and appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact us!

Thank you for helping those in our community!

Jake Merrill, Lindy Meyers & Amy Tischler
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Everyday Preventive Actions Can Help Fight Germs, Like Flu

FIGHT FLU



CDC recommends three actions to fight flu.

1. The first and most important step is to get a flu vaccination each year.
2. If you get sick with flu, take prescription antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them. Early treatment is especially important for the elderly, the very young, people with certain chronic health conditions, and pregnant women.
3. Take everyday preventive actions that may slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like flu. This flyer contains information about everyday preventive actions.

How does flu spread?

Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Less often, a person might get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching his or her own mouth, nose, or possibly eyes. Many other viruses spread these ways too. People infected with flu may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days after becoming sick. That means you may be able to spread flu to someone else before you know you are sick as well as while you are sick. Young children, those who are severely ill, and those who have severely weakened immune systems may be able to infect others for longer than 5-7 days.

What are everyday preventive actions?

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you or your child gets sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you (or your child) stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. After using a tissue, throw it in the trash and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs that can cause respiratory illnesses like flu.
- If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice. This may include information about how to increase distance between people and other measures.
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For more information, visit:
www.cdc.gov/flu
or call **1-800-CDC-INFO**



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

What additional steps can I take at work to help stop the spread of germs that can cause respiratory illness, like flu?

- Find out about your employer's plans if an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs and whether flu vaccinations are offered on-site.
- Routinely clean frequently touched objects and surfaces like doorknobs, keyboards, and phones, to help remove germs.
- Make sure your workplace has an adequate supply of tissues, soap, paper towels, alcohol-based hand rubs, and disposable wipes.
- Train others on how to do your job so they can cover for you in case you or a family member gets sick and you have to stay home.
- If you begin to feel sick while at work, go home as soon as possible.



What additional preventive actions can I take to protect my child from germs that can cause respiratory illness, like flu?

- Find out about plans your child's school, child care program, or college has if an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs and whether flu vaccinations are offered on-site.
- Make sure your child's school, child care program, or college routinely cleans frequently touched objects and surfaces, and that they have a good supply of tissues, soap, paper towels, alcohol-based hand rubs, and disposable wipes on-site.
- Ask how sick students and staff are separated from others and who will care for them until they can go home.

Everyday preventive actions can help slow the spread of germs that can cause many different illnesses and may offer some protection against flu.

