

WEST SALEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

475 North Mark Street, West Salem, WI 54669

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Ryan Rieber- Principal

Lisa Gerke- Associate Principal

It is difficult to believe, but our school year is half over! The semester point is past, and we are on our way to spring. We are just completing our mid-year assessment period so we can see the growth of our students and use this data to make any adjustments needed to ensure our students are getting the best education possible. Our parent/teacher conferences are coming on March 6th and 15th, which will give everyone an excellent opportunity to connect with your child's teacher. 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! The next PTO event will be our science night on the evening of Monday, February 5th. This has always been a favorite, and this year there will be a Winter Olympic theme to it. We hope to see many of you there!

I want to thank everyone for your cooperation in the morning when you drop off your child. Things have improved on both the North and South drop off areas. There is still room for improvement, but it is getting better! Thank you for your efforts. I would like to share a friendly reminder that our front loop is closed to parents dropping off students until after 8:00 in the morning and then closes again at 2:45 in the afternoon. It is important that we leave this front bus area free of traffic so our buses can access the building and get all students safely into the building. I would also like to remind everyone that our back gates do not open for parking until 2:55. Traffic is backing up on Mark Street, so if you could please wait until 2:55 to arrive to pick up your child, this would be greatly appreciated to alleviate the traffic on Mark Street.

If your child is missing any articles of clothing, please check our lost and found area. We will clean this area once per month and make a donation to a local clothes closet. There are a number of hooded sweatshirts, hats, gloves, and mittens. This is also a good opportunity to remind you to write your child's initials on their coats, hats, mittens, boots, and snow pants.

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. - Ryan Rieber, Principal

No School

Friday, February 9th

Early Release

Wednesday, February 14th

**Students will dismiss at 12:20pm
Buses will leave at 12:30pm
Lunch will be served**

The Valentine

Holiday... is a crazy busy time here at the Elementary School. Please, for the safety of all our students, do not send flowers or balloons to the office. We have students who have allergies to latex. Also, it is not safe taking flowers in glass vases on the bus or to daycare. Dismissal is crazy enough without adding all the deliveries to the mix.



Thanks for your help with this!!

After school all students must be picked up by 3:20pm. There is no supervision at school after that time. The Boys and Girls Club offer after school care.

Running Late???

If your student is tardy for school, please either accompany them into the building or send them with a note explaining the absence. School starts at 8:00am and students are considered tardy after 8:00am.

Parent/Teacher Conference

**Tuesday, March 6
&
Thursday, March 15**

**Kindergarten Registration
2018-2019**

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, 2018 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.

2018 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 23rd through August 10th
from 8:30am - 11:40am
(buses depart at 11:50am)**

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.



**West Salem School District 3 yr. old
Child Development Days**

**Thursday, Feb. 22 from 3:30-5:30PM
OR**

Friday, Feb. 23 from 9-11AM

If you have a child who will be three by September 1, 2018 (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 you.

**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 & 5 go to their respective hallways

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



**West Salem
Elementary
9th Annual
Jump Rope for Heart**



Date & Times: Thursday, February 8th

5th Grade: 8:15 - 9:15
4th Grade: 9:15 - 10:15
3rd Grade: 10:15 - 11:15
2nd Grade: 12:00 - 1:00
1st Grade: 1:00 - 2:00
Kindergarten: 2:00 - 3:00

Place: Elementary School Gym

Activity: Various jump rope stations

Bring: Pledge form & donations (if you are done collecting), a smile and a positive attitude!

Fundraising: It is not necessary to obtain pledges to participate in this event. All of the money raised will go to the American Heart Association. Pledge forms are due Friday, February 16th.

Prizes: Awarded to individuals collecting donations as stated on the flyer. Students can also earn Lifesaver Pups. Our school will also earn money for more PE equipment!

Register online and join our school's team at www.heart.org/jump

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help with the event, please contact **Mrs Meyers**
(meyers.lindy@wsalem.k12.wi.us)

The spring music concerts are approaching quickly!

Kindergarten: Amazing Animals: Tuesday, March 13th at 6:15pm

First Grade: The Mice From Outer Space: Monday, March 12th at 6:15pm

Second Grade: The Principal and the Pea: Tuesday, March 13th at 7:15pm

Third Grade: Bebop with Aesop: Monday, March 12th 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.

News from the WSES PE Department

1st Grade PE Night is Thursday, February 15th 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.

2018 Referendum Overview

The school board has decided to return to the ballot box on February 20, 2018 to request permission to borrow \$1.5 million to complete renovations to the high school automotive lab and to complete the construction of the proposed athletic facilities, including the multi-purpose events center. We understand you may have questions, so we have created the following guide to hopefully answer some of them.

How did we get here?

At the time the prior referendum was passed in November 2016, there was no formal bid presented to the school board for the construction of the multi-purpose events facility. The \$5 million amount listed on the referendum for the updates and construction of campus facilities was an estimate made by the school board. The estimated cost of the facilities improvements to the track, stadium, football, softball and baseball fields came in at around \$2.3 million, leaving approximately \$2.7 million left in the facilities portion of the budget for the multi-purpose events center. However, this \$2.7 million was not estimated upon a final design, and once the board reviewed various different designs and decided upon one that would best fit the district's needs, the estimate increased to \$3.7 million. With the cost of the middle school projects coming in \$1.5 million under budget, reallocating this money could allow the district to finish the facilities improvements, as well as and update and expand the high school automotive lab. The school board believes this is the best solution for completing both projects without borrowing additional money.

What are we proposing?

The school board is proposing that the \$1.5 million dollars not borrowed for the middle school addition and renovation projects, be reallocated to the multi-purpose events facility, and the expansion of the high school automotive lab. The \$1.5 million would be allocated as follows: \$1 million for the remaining construction of the multi-purpose events facility, and \$500,000 for the expansion of the high school auto lab. The referendum question is not asking for any additional money that was not already approved in a previous referendum.

What about my taxes?

The district planned to borrow the total \$25 million required to complete all projects as allowed by the 2016 referendum. The financing schedule currently in place is designed for this amount. Approval or rejection of this referendum question will have little, if any, impact on property taxes other than lowering the final payment in 2037.

Why renovate the auto lab?

The board included budget dollars in our regular maintenance budget for minor upgrades to our high school auto lab. While developing a plan for gradual improvement, the board came to the conclusion that it would be preferable to make more substantial improvements to this facility all at once. As you may or may not know, the automotive lab was once the district bus garage, and then maintenance facility. The high school auto program moved into this facility 15 years ago when the maintenance crew moved to their new facility near the stadium. The automotive program has grown and is now running year around serving kids from West Salem and surrounding school districts.

What happens if we vote yes?

If this referendum passes, the \$1.5 million that has not been borrowed for the middle school project will be borrowed and used for the remaining construction of the multi-purpose events facility and expansion of the auto lab. The amount to be borrowed will remain at \$25 million, which was approved in 2016. The school board will not borrow any additional funds.

What happens if we vote no?

If this referendum fails to pass, the multi-purpose events center will still be constructed, but not in its entirety. Portions of the building would be unfinished, leaving these areas unusable until additional funds could be raised for their completion.





