

WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

*End of Trimester - March 8
NO SCHOOL - March 10
*Early Release - March 15
NO SCHOOL - March 24

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MARCH

Volume 5 - Issue 8

2017

Dear Families,

Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow on Groundhog's Day this year, so I guess we should have known that winter wasn't quite ready to sit back and let us enjoy an early spring quite yet. Even so, winter sports have ended, the temperature is gradually increasing, and spring is on its way as our students continue learning and growing at WSMS.

We held our annual Winter Wellness day on Thursday, February 16. It was great to witness the impact this day had for both our students and staff. This experience provides an opportunity for them to interact in a different setting than the day-to-day school experience. I was also very proud to hear the positive feedback from each location our students visited. Panther Pride was on display in the community as our students were respectful, responsible, and safe in the settings we visited.

In March we continue to provide engaging and enriching activities for our students: State Math Counts, Tri-State Band Festival, Grade 6-8 Band Extravaganza, and the Trimester 2 Awards Assembly. Our Trimester ends on March 8th. We have an early release on March 15 and no school on March 10th or 24th. See the calendar inside this issue for more details.

On behalf of our staff, I want to thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working together as a team to provide your child with the an educational experience that strives to meet the district's mission - Serve with Passion to Ignite Creativity, Innovation, and Excellence.

Ben Wopat
Principal
www.twitter.com/coachwopat



"Meet Us in the Middle"





February

Grade 8



Skyler W.



Brynn H.



Josie L.

Grade 7



Chase J.



Calista R.



Michela A.

Grade 6



Lft - Connor L.



Rt - Payton D.



Rt - Cole T.



STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

For the safety of our staff and students, please DO NOT pull into the staff parking lots between 6:30-8:30 a.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m. The parking lot is for staff parking ONLY. The student drop off and pick up area is all along the curb on East Avenue.

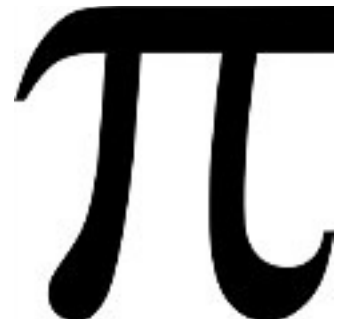
When you ignore this rule and drive into the staff parking lot, you put staff and students in danger of being injured or worse. Please, for the safety of our staff and students, drop off and pick up your child before and after school along the curb on East Avenue only. Thank you for your compliance with this safety rule.



March 14 is Pi Day

Pi Day is celebrated on March 14th around the world. Pi (a Greek letter) is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant — the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter — which is approximately 3.14159.

Pi has been calculated to over one trillion digits passed its decimal. As an irrational and transcendental number, it will continue infinitely without repetition or pattern. While only a handful of digits are needed for typical calculations, Pi's infinite nature makes it a fun challenge to memorize, and to computationally calculate more and more digits.



Calendar of Events...

- 4 - State Mathcounts
- 4 - Tri-State Honors Band
- 7 - NAEP testing for 8th graders
- 8 - Trimester 2 ENDS
- 10 - NO SCHOOL
- 15 - Early Release - 12:20
- 20 - Band Extravaganza
- 24 - NO SCHOOL
- 28 - NHD Regional @ UWL

MARCH



Counselor Comments...

Winter Wellness 2017 is officially in the books. We were a bit worried if we were going to be able to participate in the outdoor activities. Nevertheless, the day went off without a hitch, and a good time was had by all. This day of wellness helps to break that cabin fever and rejuvenates our mental and physical health that is so needed this time of year. It is always fascinating to see the positive student and staff interactions that take place. It is so valuable that we see each other as real people again...which is crucial for both students and staff to (re)experience! **Extra kudos** to our students this year as each venue had nothing but positive things to say about their experience and interactions with us! Not only did our students meet the expectations we set for them, they surpassed those expectations! One of the most sincere compliments we can get is when it is stated (several times over), "We can always tell when West Salem is here. We look forward to working with West Salem." Our students were polite, respectful, and energetic with all of our interactions. This is also a reflection of the expectations you have for your children at home, too. So a "thank you" to you as parents, as well. February A/A lessons covered Positive Values. The values that Winter Wellness encompasses are far reaching and tend to stay within us for a long time.

The asset for March is Boundaries and Expectations. Areas of focus include: family, school, and neighborhood/community boundaries, adult role models, positive peer influences, and high expectations. Often times we are quick to point out mistakes. Even though it is "expected" for our kids to be kind and helpful, we must be sure to acknowledge and commend them for the good that they have done. A little praise does go a long way. Having clear and consistent rules and high expectations as well as modeling positive behavior is imperative in helping raise healthy, caring, and responsible young adults.

Healthy Living...

The Healthy Living Team is excited to start Trimester 3! We will be teaching our kids how to reduce open space while playing defense during invasion games. The students really responded to this type of instruction in the fall when we taught them how to create open space while on offense, and we are hoping to see some amazing gameplay this spring because of it!

We want to remind all students to take their PE clothes home and wash them weekly. We would like to wish Ms. Becker and Mr. Vis luck as they move on to their next placements! They have done an amazing job, and we will miss them!



"Meet Us in the Middle"





Reading - Mrs. Schultz

In the beginning of March we will be wrapping up our Social Issues unit surrounding the Civil Rights Era. Students will have finished their novels

and are creating projects to show their understanding of this era, including the struggles and triumphs of the people who lived through it. Many students had the opportunity to read all 9 of the Civil Rights novel options and some even choose to continue reading the novels during free read time!

Our next area of study will take on similar social issues, looking at them with a global perspective. Students will choose a Human Rights topic and conduct some intense research on this, which will be used for their final product, and information book, for English class. While researching, students will use a variety of non-fiction reading strategies when delving into their different resources. They will begin in hardcopy sources, which will be the

basis of their information, so they can decipher what information on the internet is valid and what isn't. Mr. Tashner and I will be "breaking down" the wall again between our two rooms to ensure that students receive the support and time to research their topics fully.

Students will also have FREE READ time. This is independent reading where students can choose any book they want to read for enjoyment. We will also be working with words again towards the end of the month, exploring different roots and suffixes.

Happy Reading!



Social Studies - Mrs. Jeranek

During the month of March, we will finish our study of the Roman Empire. We've found out already that many things we use and follow today began with the Romans. We will then move into a lengthy religion unit. We'll focus on Religious Beliefs and Ways of Life that began in the Eastern Hemisphere!

We will study the following religions:

- Christianity
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Islam



English - Mr. Tashner

We just finished up our argument pieces and students did a GREAT job! A lot of them were pretty convincing and made a good argument on their issue! We are going to be joining up with Reading later in the month! We are going to start our planning on our Civil Rights book. This will be our informational piece of writing. Students are also going to finish up verbs and then start pronouns! They are working very diligently on their parts of speech.

Spanish - Mrs. Tofstad

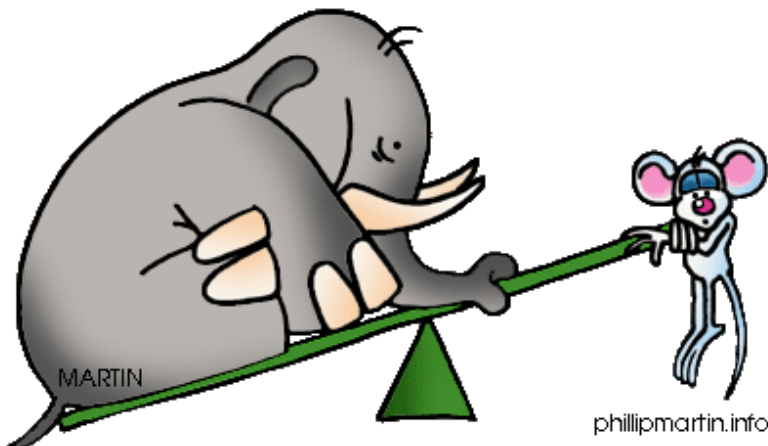
6th graders will be ending Spanish on March 9 and starting Project and Inquiry with Mrs. Ebert on the 10th for the 3rd Trimester.



Science - Mrs. Jarosh

As March quickly approaches students in 6th grade science will be learning about the speed, velocity, and acceleration of objects. In this unit, students will be able to describe an object's motion and will relate force to motion. I anticipate this will be a fun and yet challenging unit for students since we will be calculating speed, acceleration, and forces. Here are the learning targets for the month of March!

1. Learning Targets for Force and Motion:
2. Calculate an object's speed, velocity, and acceleration.
3. Demonstrate how unbalanced and balanced forces relate to an object's motion.
4. Understand how the factors such as gravity, friction, weight and mass affect motion.
5. Apply Isaac Newton's three laws of motion to everyday life.



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"Meet Us in the Middle"



Math - Mrs. Jehn

Regular Math

We finished Chapter 6 in February and will use those integer skills in Chapter 7 throughout the month of March. Chapter 7 is Equations and Inequalities and focuses on writing, solving, and graphing equations and inequalities. Students will learn to work with one and two variables. These skills are the building blocks for algebra in the future. Understanding a letter can represent any number will be tough. If your child struggles with this, ask them to sing the song I Think I'm Alone Now. No, it's not the version of your youth, but the tune is the same and will give them a reminder of what to do.

Also, keep taking your kids shopping, having them figure out your bill after a discount, asking them to tell you the percentage you will save, making them figure out the tip, etc. Because these are lifelong skills we use almost daily, it's great for them to continue honing these skills from Chapter 5 to become better and better for saving money in the future.

Accelerated Math

We are in the homestretch of finishing the 6th grade textbook! Your children have been troopers handling the quick pace of accelerated math very well. Students have completed Chapter 8 and are well into Chapter 9. In this chapter the concepts of measures of variation and mean absolute deviation will be new to students and may bring back fond memories of a statistics course you might have taken years ago.

Of course, these skills were necessary for us to be able to start Chapter 10 which is the last chapter of the book and how we will end the month of March. This chapter is all about data displays including stem-and-leaf plots, histograms, box-and-whisker plots. They will need to use what they learned about measures of center, measures of variation, and statistical questions in the previous chapter to describe the center, spread, and shape of the displays.

Success Center

The Success Center is a resource room for students before and after school to receive help from staff who attend various classes in the building and are equipped to walk students through information they may have missed or just do not understand. It is also the place students make up tests and quizzes. It is open from 7am until 7:45am and again from 3:10pm until 4pm. 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 an 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 off of [Edmodo](#).





Reading - Mrs. Rochester

During the month of March, seventh grade students will be continuing with an environmental unit study. During this unit, the students are reading fiction books related to an environmental issue. Similar to the previous unit, students will be given a choice to read one of six books. Upon completion of the novel this month, the students will conduct research about a specific environmental issue and use the

research to create a documentary in a small group. They will also be reading non fiction articles to enhance their understanding of environmental issues, watching environmental commercials, viewing environmental propaganda, and analyzing the commercials and propaganda. During this unit, students will be studying the following literary elements: tone/mood, foreshadowing, point of view, and the importance of setting. In addition, the students will be continuing to write in their

journal everyday in response to what they are reading. The students should also be reading at least 25 pages of their choice book at home.



Science - Mr. Baker

February had some great times and sad times. The winter school forest trip had to be cancelled due to the muddy conditions and the forest, but we did have some fun finishing up genetics and writing secret messages using DNA!

We ended genetics with two of my favorite labs, Reebops and "Supertasters!" Reebops are mythical creatures that help us to study how traits are passed through each generation. For the Supertaster Lab we dyed tongues to count tastebuds and decide who in the class was a supertaster! March will now be a month for evolution and classification. We will start taking a look at all the different types of animals and what adaptations they need to survive.



Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum

We will continue to look at the three branches of our national government. In the beginning of March we will examine the legislative branch and learn what they do and who they are. Towards the middle of the month we will turn our attention to the judicial branch.

At the end of the month, the students will research a Supreme Court case. Students will have a list to choose from and have an opportunity to understand the impact of that case on our society.



Math - Mr. Jones

Regular Math

In 7th grade math we will begin Chapter 7: Constructions and Scale Drawings. The common core standards for Chapter 7 are the following:

- *Use supplementary, complementary, vertical, and adjacent angles.
- *Draw geometric shapes with given conditions, focusing on triangles and quadrilaterals.
- *Reproduce a scale drawing at a different scale.

English - Mrs. Martinson

The 7th grade ELA classes will be working on their Gathering Fireflies Vietnam War presentations. During the research process, students were assigned different topics from Gathering Fireflies. The goal is for students to teach their peers about the topic they researched. Students will be using the Mac Book laptop computers for this presentation to learn how to use presentation apps other than Keynote. After the presentations, we will be reading arguments and discussing the opposing sides and the counter argument. We will continue with our compound sentence work and finish up our verb practice. The verb assessment will be some time later in March.

P & I - Mrs. Ebert

In P&I, seventh graders are completing their CAD (computer aided design) experiences. They've been using a program, AutoDesk

- *Represent proportional relationships with equations.
- *Use proportionality to solve ratio problems.
- *Use scale drawings to compute actual lengths and areas.

Advanced Math

In Advanced Math we will be covering Chapter 5 Systems of Linear Equations. The common core standards for Chapter 5 are the following:

- * Show that a linear equation in one variable has one solution, infinitely many solutions, or no

Inventor, which is used in "the real world" to design parts for projects such as cars, yachts, bicycles, playground equipment, the list is endless! Our seventh graders are manipulating it to complete two of four project options. Many students are designing a unique and personalized initial and/or following specific directions for the "sketch cube." Others are choosing to design a mallet according to complex instructions. Additionally, many students are creating authentic designs for storing their earbuds. Completing these projects can be cumbersome and frustrating as multiple attempts are often needed to solve encountered problems. It's exciting to witness students coaching peers through difficulties or to catch a relieving smile of victory as a project is completed. To make this hard work more tangibly rewarding, as students complete their projects they have the option to 3D print one

- solution by transforming the equation into simpler forms.
- *Solve multi-step equations.
- *Understand that the solution of a system of two linear equations in two variables corresponds to the point of intersection of their graphs.
- *Solve systems of two linear equations in two variables graphically and algebraically.
- *Solve real-world mathematical problems leading to systems of two linear equations in two variables.



creation. Each print job takes 1-4 hours to complete, so students' patience will be tested as I work through the hearty list of projects to be printed.

We will conclude the seventh grade P&I experience with a design challenge, the details of which can not be revealed in this newsletter! Suffice it to say, students will work in small engineering teams, fusing creativity, experience, and skill to produce a construction that will outperform their classmates' designs! Rest assured, the competition element is light-hearted as we focus on participation, collaboration, and processing. It should be "loads" of fun!





Math - Mrs. Bentzen Regular Math (Chapter 6) - We will learn about Functions in Chapter 6.

The objectives for Chapter 6:

- *understand the definition of a function
- *compare and write functions represented in different ways (words, tables, graphs)
- *understand that $y = mx + b$ is a linear function and recognize nonlinear functions
- *interpret the rate of change and initial value of a function

Algebra (Chapter 7 and Chapter 8)

We will complete Chapter 6 (Linear Inequalities) on March 4. Then we will quickly review Systems in Chapter 7 before moving on to Exponents in Chapter 8.

The objectives for Chapter 7:

- *write and solve systems of linear equations by graphing
- *write and solve systems of linear equations by substitution
- *write and solve systems of linear equations by elimination (add or subtract)
- *write and solve systems of linear equations by elimination (multiply first)
- *write and solve special systems of linear equations (no solution or infinitely many solutions)
- *write and solve systems of linear inequalities

The objectives of Chapter 8:

- *use properties of exponents involving products and quotients
- *apply the product of powers property, the power of a power property, the quotient of powers property, and the power of

a quotient property
*use zero and negative exponents

English - Mrs. Sackett

In 8th grade ELA, we are moving on to the last big writing assignment: the argument. Students will spend some time reading several articles, looking at both sides of the argument, and then formulating their own opinion. Eventually the students will be choosing a topic, researching, and writing a paper. The paper will include parenthetical citations and a works cited page. We continue to work on complex sentences and verbs. The students have been preparing and presenting their own analysis of a poem. Ask your son/daughter about his/her poem.



Social Studies - Ms. Morgan

Eighth grade students have completed their National History Day projects and their presentations. Watch in next month's newsletter to see who was selected to present their projects at the regional competition at UW-La Crosse the end of March.

Our exploration of U.S. history continues with a focus on the westward growth and movement of our country. We will investigate the Lewis & Clark expedition and trails west. At the completion of this, students should be able to:

1. explain how Jefferson put his Republican ideas to work as President
2. describe how transportation linked the nation together
3. describe the Indian Removal Act and its effects nationally as well as here in Wisconsin.

Congratulations to Adam Rogge who won the school level National Geographic Geography Bee for West Salem Middle School. Adam completed the state qualifying test, and we anxiously await word on his results.

Art - Ms. Engen

8th graders have been learning how to neatly transfer an image or quote onto a painted canvas. They are turning out really well. Look for some in the Heider Center this March as select students' work will be displayed all month with an Artist reception held on March 16th from 6:00-7:30.

8th graders have also been finishing up designing their class school t-shirt nomination. After the class votes, the winning t-shirt design will become the shirt that 8th grade wears on the D.C. trip as well as at 8th grade promotion.

I look forward to meeting the 7th graders at the beginning of next trimester!

Reading - Ms. Friell

Independent Reading: Every student is reading a book of his/her choice. This is required daily reading. They should be reading these books 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. 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) in a notebook that is kept in their binders. 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.). Journal entries are checked/graded every few weeks.

Vocabulary: In addition to "A Word A Day" (from the book *100 Words Every Middle Schooler Should Know* and www.englishcompanion.com), we have started studying Greek and Latin roots (we practice a different root every week). We also work with new words in the fiction and non-fiction we read as a class.

During February 8th graders read *The Diary of Anne Frank* (the play version) in class. They also read supplemental non-fiction material about WWII and the Holocaust. In March they will read entries from Anne Frank's diary and compare them to what they learned about the characters in the play. As a transition to our study of media literacy, they will learn and interpret WWII era propaganda and then current propaganda (persuasive techniques). In our media literacy unit they will read, interpret, and create printed text (newspapers, editorials, advertisements, editorials).

Science - Ms. Smith-Waller

We will finish up our study of Earth's Changing Surface by looking at geologic time. During the last chapter in this book, we will finish up with a project where the students will create a timeline of Earth's history to scale. *Inside Earth!!* This is the name of the new textbook we will be moving into and also summarizes our focus for the next couple of months. We will continue to learn and understand about the inside of the Earth and the forces within that shape the land and create events such as earthquakes, volcanoes, mountains, and sea-floor spreading. As we move into spring, we will try to get outside when possible and get our hands dirty!

Here are the Essential Learning Outcomes for the month of March:

1. Describe the process of plate tectonics, the types of plate boundaries, sea-floor spreading, and subduction, and explain the evidence of why each of these processes happen.
2. Understand how plate tectonics can cause Earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain ranges, and use data to predict these events.



"Meet Us in the Middle"





The 8th grade was visited by Jenny Parker of Remembering Jesse Parker and Sr. Salome Nnambi from Bethany, Uganda,. We raised money to build a well last year through Remembering Jesse Parker and Sr. Salome helped connect us to the community of Bbira, Uganda where our well is currently being built. Below are photos from her visit from the school and community of Bbira, including one of the source of water right now (before the well).



2017 Regional Mathcounts News!

The regional Mathcounts competition was held on Friday, February 3rd in La Crosse. There were 38 competitors representing six different schools.

The team results were as follows: 6th place - Wauzeka-Steuben, 5th place - Holmen, 4th place - GET, 3rd place - Prairie du Chien, 2nd place - Viroqua, and 1st place - West Salem. West Salem's team consisted of Elsa Mitchell, Ava Huth, Brennan Holst, and Wolf Weiss.

The individual results were as follows: 10th place - Ava Huth (West Salem), 9th place - Colton Hoskins (Holmen), 8th place - Brennan Holst (West Salem), 7th place - Lincoln Devine (Viroqua), 6th place - Evan Domnie (West Salem), 5th place - Cale Anderson (Viroqua), 4th place - Caleb Lightfoot (GET), 3rd place - Ethan Heger (West Salem), 2nd place - Ethan Tubbin (Viroqua), and 1st place - Elsa Mitchell (West Salem). Wolf Weiss finished in 19th place. Also competing for West Salem was Calista Robaczewski in 11th place, Adam Chandler in 15th place, Adam Rogge in 20th place, and Max Goetz in 23rd place.

Mathcounts is a national program designed to promote excellence in math and science in grades 6-8. Mathcounts allows students to improve their problem solving skills as individuals, as well as, in teams of four. West Salem's team of four plus Heger now advance to the State Competition on March 4 in Sheboygan. West Salem's coaches are Tammy Bentzen and Jon Jones.



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

The students are continuing to work on their keyboard skills as they are now learning how to figure out what hand position they should use for each song, as well as adding sharps (black keys) to their songs.

They are working on the unit of the Science of Sound. This unit works on the importance of music especially on memory, learning, and mood. Then they learned about the elements of music (beat, rhythm, meter, tempo, timbre, melody, harmony, phrase, form, and dynamics). Now they are learning about sound production, Hertz and Decibels, how we hear, and how to prevent hearing loss. As hearing loss is occurring in much younger ages than the past, it is an important subject to understand why it is happening and how to prevent it.

Our Music Alive magazine articles this month focus on Disco music, Olympic music, and Motown music.

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

These students are continuing to advance on the guitar. They have been getting proficient using 4 strings to play melodies and chords. Now they will learn to play variations on the three simple chords that they know. They will also learn that when we play the G and G7 chord, we can make it sound fuller by also adding the 4th string.

They will also continue to watch and respond to musicals. We just completed Fiddler on the Roof, which the students absolutely LOVED and wanted more. It says a lot that they grasped the historical content of the music, as well as the humor. Even though it had a sad ending, it made us think what would come next if the musical were to continue. Next, we will watch Bye, Bye Birdie, a musical set in the 50s that has a story that resembles the story of Elvis.

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

Students are able to switch instruments again at the end of the trimester or continue on with their original choice. So now we have a wide variety of skills happening at once - from beginners to students who are getting into more difficult music. It is great to see students helping each other out when they are learning a new instrument or concept.

Students who are on their 3rd trimester of their instrument are learning:

Guitar - learning a high A which uses 4th finger; Pick up notes/incomplete measures

Keyboard - songs with eighth notes

Students who are on their 2nd trimester of their instrument are learning:

Guitar - pitches on the 4th string

Keyboard - songs in G position

Students who are on their 1st trimester of their instrument are learning:

Guitar - pitches on the first string

Keyboard - beginning songs - one hand/finger at a time





6th Grade Choir - 6th grade students are back to “normal” choir rehearsals for the month of March. They have a variety of new music to work on for their spring program, and they are continuing to work on their sight-singing abilities using solfege syllables (do, re, mi, etc.). Students in every day choir wrote short compositions to help the whole group practice sight-singing.

7th Grade Choir - Each week in March, 7th grade students will have the opportunity to reflect upon their own rehearsing techniques and abilities through a weekly checklist system. The checklist was created by the class and serves as a reminder of how the class should be using rehearsal time. It is also a way for students to hold themselves accountable for their behavior and participation in class.

8th Grade Choir - 8th grade students have begun rehearsing the music for their spring concert. The program will feature songs from the 1980’s including the classics Don’t Stop Believin’, and Living On a Prayer. The class is continuing to practice their sight-singing abilities using solfege syllables (do, re, mi, etc.) and will be working with a new key signature as well.

Soundscapes - 7th grade soundscapes students have been working on playing their first drumming ensemble. They are also watching a video produced by the drumming group STOMP, called, “Pulse: A Stomp Odyssey.” While watching, they will be completing activities to help them better understand music and cultures from around the world.

African Drumming - 8th grade students in African Drumming are finishing their “How-To” videos, and are starting Ensemble 6. Once they complete Ensemble 6, they will be creating their own ensembles to teach to the class. This is a big project for the class and will take much of the spring to complete.



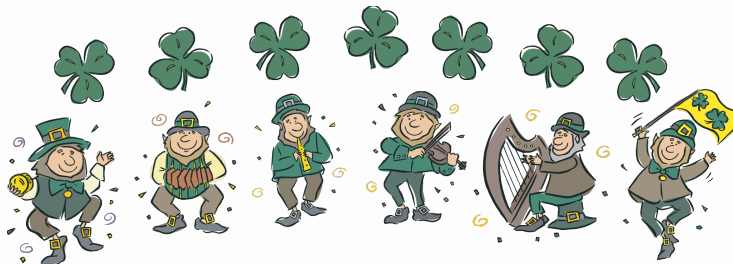


March 20 - WSMS BAND EXTRAVAGANZA

WSMS 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Bands

Heider Center, 7pm

Students report in uniform at 6:30pm. Performances begin at 7pm and all students are required to stay for the entire concert. This concert is NOT open to the public. Parents must submit the ticket request form that was sent via email. There is no charge for tickets, but immediate family need tickets to have a seat for viewing.



Forensics

Congratulations to the 7th and 8th grade students who participated in Forensics this year! This year's participants did an exceptional job. All of them earned the highest ranking (A = blue ribbon) at their final competition in Bangor on February 21st.

Anabel Cruz-Cruz, Ellie Groth, and Maddy Noelke - Readers Theatre (comedy)

Maria Horman, Erin Paddy, Autumn Pfaff, and Angela Vick - Readers Theatre (comedy)

Shelby Burch - Eight Minute Persuasive Speaking (The Importance of Arts in Schools)

Grace Brigson - Extemporaneous Speaking (Cyberbullying)

Brynn Hofmeister - Non-original Oratory (Christopher Reeve's 1996 Democratic National Convention Address)

Samantha McConaghy - Prose Reading (Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children)

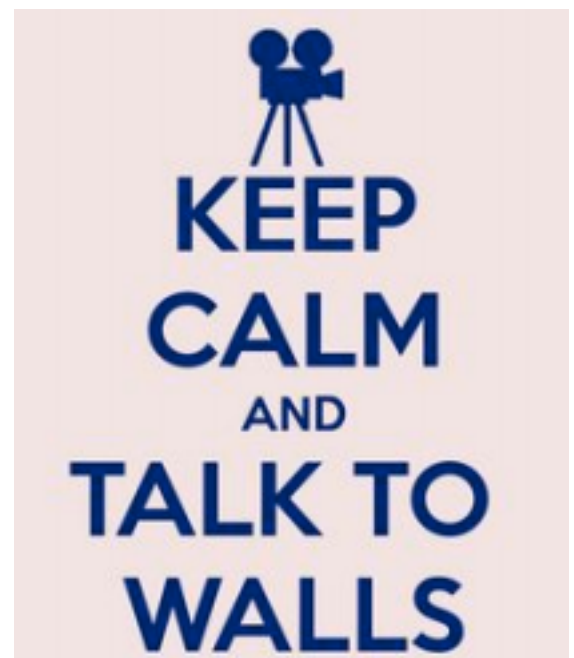
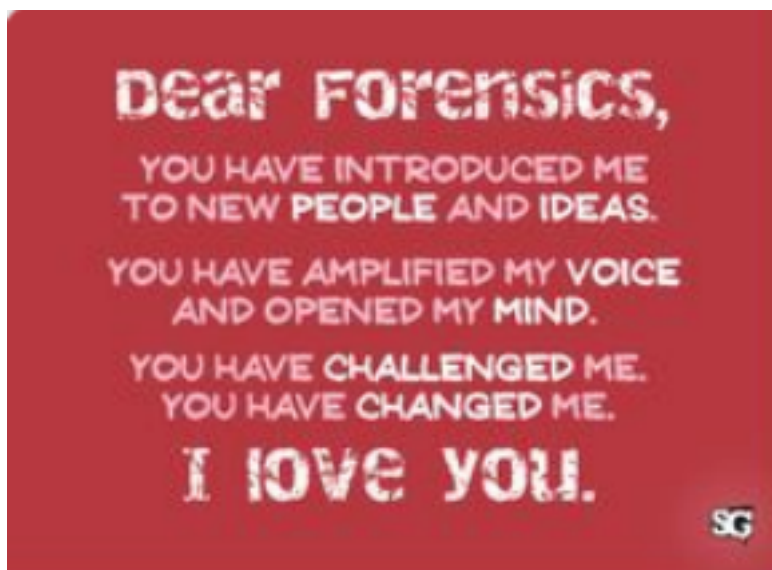
Sophia Block, Emma Brigson, and Alye Dorhorst - Readers Theatre (comedy)

Arin Miller - Prose Reading (Freak the Mighty)

Molly Roberts - Prose Reading (The Lions of Little Rock)

Forensics is a great opportunity for students to practice their speaking and performance skills while having fun with peers and students from neighboring school districts.

Students practiced during their recess time and before or after school.



Important Dates for 8th graders...



Puffin Pastry...8th graders sold Pastry Puffins February 13 - February 27. Pastries come in apple, blueberry-cream, caramel, cream cheese, and strawberry-cream. A box costs \$12.00. **The student will receive \$5.00 for every box sold.**

This is an individual fundraiser - each student will have his/her profit deducted from his/her class trip payment.

This is an excellent fundraiser for the students. In the past, many students have been able to put over \$100 toward their trip from this fundraiser alone. **The pastries will be delivered on March 17.**

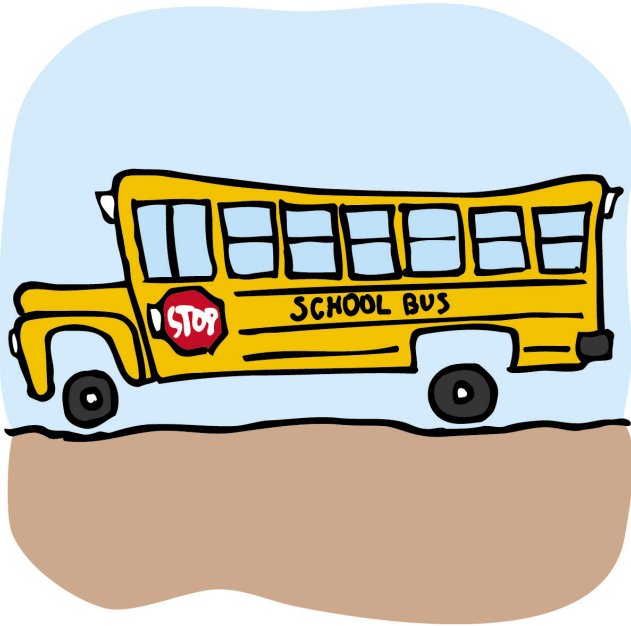
Friday, May 19 will be the Civil War Reenactment



8th grade Promotion is on June 1st at 7pm in the Heider Center. Students need to be in the high school commons at 6:30. The ceremony will last about one hour.

The attire for all 8th graders will be the 8th grade Class Shirt which was designed by an 8th grade classmate.

8th grade class trip.....June 4 - June 9



Early Release Dates

Wednesdays - Release at 12:20

Buses leave at 12:30

March 15

May 10

2016 Summer School Program

It's that time of year again to start thinking about Summer School! Be sure to mark your calendars! This year Summer School will be held July 17th through August 4th 8:30 - 12:00 for K - 8 students.

Summer Swimming Lessons ~

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



March 2017**West Salem Middle School
Breakfast**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1	2	3
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain Bagel • Cinnamon Raisin Bagels • Cream Cheese Cup • Applesauce Cup • Fruit Infused Craisin - Cherry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Waffles - Maple Madness • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Bananas • Raisins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit and Yogurt Parfait • Granola - Nut Free • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Assorted Fruit Juice
6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colby Cheese Omelet • Whole Wheat Toast • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Mandarin Oranges • Whole Fruit Selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG Cinnamon Roll • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Assorted Fruit Juice • Whole Fruit Selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banana Bread • Cheese Stick - Colby Jack • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Applesauce Cup • Fruit Infused Craisin - Blueberry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frudel Pastry - Apple • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Bananas • Raisins 	No School!
13	14	15	16	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Pancake Maple Burst'n • Mini Pancake Strawberry Splash • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Mandarin Oranges • Whole Fruit Selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrambled Eggs • Whole Wheat Toast • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Assorted Fruit Juice • Whole Fruit Selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pancake on a Stick • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Applesauce Cup • Fruit Infused Craisin - Orange 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colby Cheese Omelet • Whole Wheat Toast • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Bananas • Raisins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast Sandwich - Sausage, Egg & Cheese • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Grapes • Assorted Fruit Juice
20	21	22	23	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egg, Cheese & Sausage Breakfast Pocket • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Mandarin Oranges • Whole Fruit Selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sausage Breakfast Bagel • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Assorted Fruit Juice • Whole Fruit Selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain Bagel • Cinnamon Raisin Bagels • Cream Cheese Cup • Applesauce Cup • Fruit Infused Craisin - Cherry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Waffles - Maple Madness • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Bananas • Raisins 	No School!
27	28	29	30	31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colby Cheese Omelet • Whole Wheat Toast • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Mandarin Oranges • Whole Fruit Selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG Cinnamon Roll • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Assorted Fruit Juice • Whole Fruit Selection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banana Bread • Cheese Stick - Colby Jack • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Applesauce Cup • Fruit Infused Craisin - Blueberry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frudel Pastry - Apple • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Bananas • Raisins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pillsbury Bagelfuls • Reduced Sugar WG Cereal Variety • Grapes • Assorted Fruit Juice

More Details: <http://wsalem.nutrislice.com/menu/west-salem-middle-school/breakfast/>
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March 2017

West Salem Middle School Lunch

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1	2	3
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homestyle Meatloaf • Corn Dog • Mashed Potatoes • Pears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cinnamon French Toast • Sausage Links • Turkey Sub • Warm Cinnamon Apples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheeseburger • Hamburger • Chicken Breast Sandwich • Oven Baked French Fries • Applesauce
6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saucy Orange Popcorn Chicken • Popcorn Chicken • Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice • Garlic Roasted Green Beans • Mandarin Oranges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classic Lasagna • Chicken Tenders • Garlic Toast • Asparagus • Strawberry Cups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheese Pizza - Personal Pan • Cheeseburger • Hamburger • Capri Vegetable Blend • Pears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pasta with Marinara Sauce • Pasta with Italian Meat Sauce • Parmesan Cheese • Garlic Breadstick • Honey-Glazed Carrots • Tropical Fruit Salad 	No School!
13	14	15	16	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Klement's Hot Dog • Meatball Sub • Roasted Potato Fusion • Peaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheesy Garlic French Bread Pizza • Marinara Dipping Cup • Buffalo Chicken Pizza • Green Beans • Applesauce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homemade Sloppy Joe • Chicken Patty - Hot and Spicy • California Blend Vegetables • Pears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuban Flatbread Sandwich • Creamy Mac N' Cheese • Baked Sweet Potato Crinkle Fries • Mixed Berry Blend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking Tacos • Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla • Refried Beans • Orange Halves • Taco Topping Bar
20	21	22	23	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Nuggets • Pepperoni Pizza - Slice • Animal Crackers • Corn • Mandarin Oranges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tater Tot Hot Dish • Chicken Tortilla Soup • Corn Bread Muffin • Honey-Glazed Carrots • Strawberry Cups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bratwurst • Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap • HomeStyle Baked Beans • Pears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Corn Dogs • Meatballs & Gravy • Mashed Potatoes • Craisin • Whole Grain Dinner Roll 	No School!
27	28	29	30	31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oven Roasted Chicken • Turkey BLT on White Wheat Sandwich Bread • Roasted Brussel Sprouts • Peaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Fajitas • Pork Taco Meat • Soft Shell Tortilla • Tortila Chips, round • Black Bean Corn Salsa • Strawberry Cups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBQ Teriyaki Chicken • Popcorn Chicken • Brown Rice • Stir Fry Vegetable Blend • Pears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pasta with Alfredo Sauce • Pasta with Chicken Cajun Alfredo • Garlic Breadstick • Corn • Mixed Berry Blend 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Cheese Calzone • Mozzarella Stuffed Breadstick • Marinara Dipping Cup • Potato Smiles • Applesauce

More Details: <http://wsalem.nutrislice.com/menu/west-salem-middle-school/lunch/>
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WEST SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT 2017-2018 CALENDAR



AUGUST 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29*	30*	31	

SEPTEMBER 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
				NS
NS	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	ER	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

OCTOBER 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	NS
23	24	25	NS*	NS
30	31			

NOVEMBER 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	ER	16	17
20	21	NS	NS	NS
27	28	29	30	

DECEMBER 2017				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	ER	14	15
18	19	20	21	NS
NS	NS	NS	NS	NS

JANUARY 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
NS	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
NS*	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

FEBRUARY 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	NS
12	13	ER	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28		

MARCH 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	ER	8	9
12	13	14	15	NS
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	NS

APRIL 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
NS	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	NS*
30				

MAY 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	ER	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
NS	29	30	31	

JUNE 2018				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	SD
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

First Day of School: September 5, 2017
Last Day of School: June 7, 2018
Graduation Day: May 27, 2018
Early Release Days:
 September 20, November 15,
 December 13, February 14,
 March 7, May 9
October 16: Annual Meeting

SERVE WITH PASSION TO IGNITE CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND EXCELLENCE

NS = No School for students

ER = Early Release (Students dismissed at 12:20, Buses leave at 12:30)

SD = Snow Day or Make-up date (June 8)

*** = Teacher Inservice (August 29 & 30, October 26, January 22, April 27 + 2 Floating)**

11/14/16



Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Now hear this

Active listening skills will make your middle grader an effective communicator throughout life. Model these skills by looking at him when he talks to you and repeating what he says to show that you understood him. And have conversations about topics he's interested in so he practices speaking and listening.

Who I want to be

Encourage your child to think about the kind of person she wants to be by creating a poster to remind herself of those goals. Maybe she hopes to be helpful or to see things through. She could write her ideas using colored pencils or markers and decorate the poster. Then, suggest that she hang it where she can see it every day.

Paper chase

Do papers in your home quickly turn into piles? Make clearing the clutter into a family project. Sort papers together, deciding what to save and what to recycle, shred, or throw away. You'll teach your tween how to stay organized—and feel a sense of accomplishment together.

Worth quoting

"The beginning is always today."
Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

Just for fun

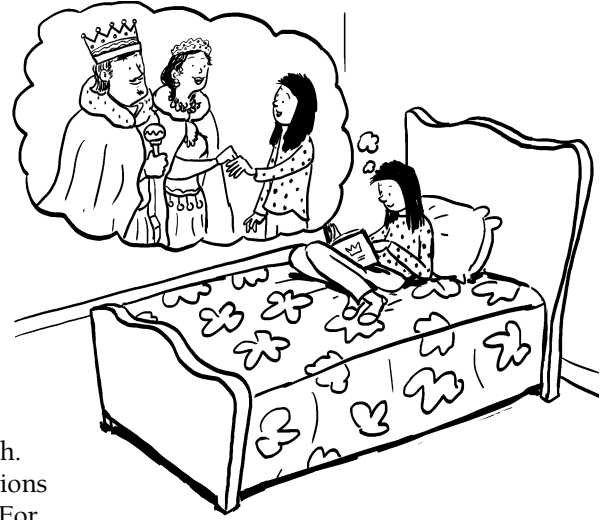
Q: What do pandas have that no other animal has?

A: Baby pandas!



Reading: Dig deeper

Tweens are at a perfect age to connect in a deeper way with what they read. They're looking for situations and characters they can identify with, and they're able to understand more complicated ideas. Here are ways your middle grader can boost her reading comprehension skills.



Connect with characters

As your child reads, suggest that she imagine which characters she'd want to be friends with. Encourage her to think of questions she would ask if she met them. For example, she may wonder about their favorite movies or books. Or she could ask, "What is your favorite room in the castle?"

Play with point of view

Just as your youngster and a friend might see the same situation differently, so might the people in a book. She should consider who is telling the story. Say the daughter is the narrator of the story. How might the plot change if told through the eyes of the mother? How would the story

change if it was told in third person rather than first person?

Go beyond the book

Have your tween use what she has read to come up with "before and after" stories that help her explore the book even more. Based on details in the text, she could write a prequel about what might have taken place in a character's life before the book started. Or she could write a sequel about what happens after the book ends. 👍

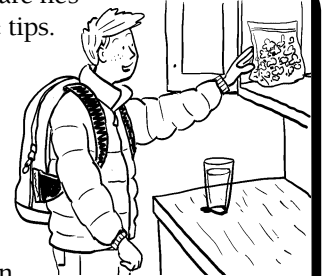
Smart snacking strategies

When your child comes home from school, chances are he's hungry for a snack. Help him choose wisely using these tips.

Fill the gap. Suggest that your tween opt for proteins and high-fiber foods to give him energy until dinner. He could eat a turkey slice rolled into a slice of Swiss cheese and an orange, for example.

Size it right. Encourage your middle grader to read nutrition labels so he understands portion sizes (say, 10 pita chips or $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of cottage cheese). He might even pre-measure snacks and put individual servings in containers or baggies.

Mix it up. Eating a variety of healthy foods will end snack boredom. Perhaps he'll try hard-boiled eggs and guacamole, plain Greek yogurt with cut-up fruit and a drizzle of honey, or popcorn combined with almonds and raisins. 👍



Learn to bounce back

Resilient youngsters deal well with problems and stressful situations by having the ability to overcome setbacks. Consider these ideas for developing resilience in your middle schooler.

Be consistent

A safe, loving home with regular routines goes a long way toward building resilience. Try to stick to rituals like talking to your tween about his school day and eating dinner together. Being able to



count on these everyday events will make it easier for him to deal with bumps in the road, such as not getting invited to a party or chosen for the school play.

Keep going

Thinking about next steps will help your middle grader move forward—and feel more in control of his destiny. If your family is coping with a divorce, for exam-

ple, suggest that he create a color-coded calendar showing which parent he is with each day. Also, share ways that you cope with challenges. You might tell him about a problem at work that you were able to turn around. Learning from your experiences shows him how people he respects overcome setbacks and succeed. 👍

Location, location

How can your middle grader explore geography without ever leaving home? Suggest these activities.

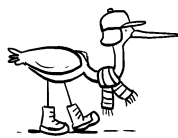
■ **Build.** Your tween could use Legos to build the Eiffel Tower or mold clay into the ancient pyramids. Or she might create the Grand Canyon out of paper mache.

■ **Draw.** Have your youngster draw a picture of a place she would like to visit. She might sketch boot-shaped Italy and add the canals of Venice, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and the Coliseum in Rome.



■ **Celebrate.** Encourage your middle schooler to spearhead a family celebration of a holiday that's celebrated in a faraway land, such as China's Lantern Festival or Youth Day in Zambia.

■ **Play.** Over dinner, play "Geography." Your child begins by naming any city, state, or country. The next person has to say one starting with the last letter (Morocco, Oregon, New York City). Keep going until someone is stumped, and then start again. 👍



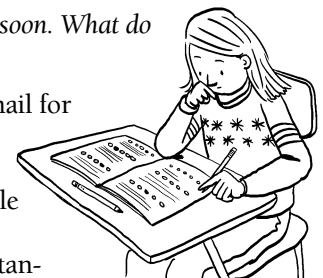
Q & A

The lowdown on standardized tests

Q My daughter will be taking standardized tests soon. What do I need to know?

A Watch your daughter's backpack or your email for information on when the tests will be given and what types she will take. Also look for notices about practice tests—these will make your youngster more comfortable with the real tests.

In middle school, your child may take one or more standardized tests each year. Her teacher will devote class time to test prep, so try to be sure your daughter doesn't miss any school days. To do well, students need to be in class and pay attention during reviews. Your child should also listen for any changes. For instance, the types of questions may be different from those in the past, and tests may no longer be timed. 👍



Parent to Parent

Run phone interference

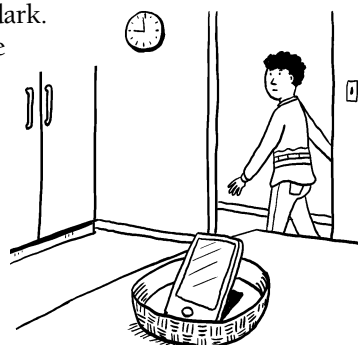
There were many nights when I passed my son Nathan's bedroom and saw his cell phone glowing in the dark. When I insisted that he shut off his phone, he would complain, "What if I miss something important?"

I realized that his phone was disrupting his sleep. We had a talk, and I set a couple of boundaries: no

phone after 9 p.m., and he had to leave it in the kitchen overnight. I suggested that he tell his friends he won't be using

his phone during these times so they'll know he isn't ignoring them.

Nathan wasn't thrilled with the changes, but I tried to help him see that any texts or updates would still be there later. And while he hasn't admitted it, I can see he's waking up more refreshed. 👍



OUR PURPOSE

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

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