

# WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

\*End of Trimester - March 5  
\*Early Release - March 7  
NO SCHOOL - March 31

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# MARCH

Volume 5 - Issue 9

2018

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 8. 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, Middle School Musical, Grade 6-8 Band Extravaganza, and the Trimester 2 Awards Assembly. Our Trimester ends on March 5<sup>th</sup>. We have an early release on March 7<sup>th</sup> and no school on March 31<sup>st</sup>. See the calendar inside this issue for more details.

Please watch for updates through email in the coming weeks regarding construction here at WSMS. Classrooms will be moving into the new areas at the end of the month, and the office will also be moving to a temporary location. This means the current entrance will no longer be used to enter the building. We will be providing updates on the new entrance and office location. Stay tuned!

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.

Go Panthers!

Ben Wopat  
Principal  
[www.twitter.com/coachwopat](http://www.twitter.com/coachwopat)



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*



# WSMS Students of the Month



## Grade 8



Elaina R.



Tegan H.



Mandi S.-K.

## Grade 7



Rebekah K.



Alex K.



Aspen S.

## Grade 6



Lft - Dominic D.



Rt - Maddie D..

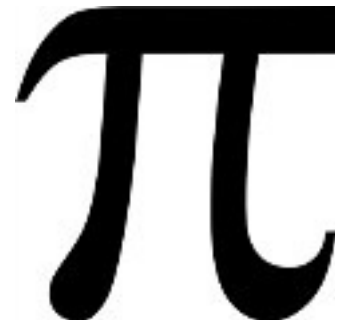


Rt - Carson H.

## 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...

- 2 - State Mathcounts
- 2 - Trimester 2 ENDS
- 7 - Early Release - 12:20
- 11-DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
- 14 - Piano Solo & Ensemble
- 15 - Wrinkle in Time movie gr. 6 am, gr. 7pm
- 16- Wrinkle in Time movie gr. 8 am
- 16- School IS in session
- 31- NO SCHOOL



Students will be going to  
A Wrinkle in Time at the  
 Sparta Theater on  
 March 15 and 16



**PLEASE** watch your e-mails in the coming weeks regarding the construction update. Once classrooms move into the new areas toward the end of the month; the office will also be moving to a temporary location, which means the current entrance will no longer be used to enter the building. We will be keeping you informed of what entrance you will be using and where the temporary office will be located.

Thank you

## Counselor Comments...

February A/A lessons mainly covered Career Awareness. Students were able to explore Career Matchmaker within Career Cruising. Students answered questions about their likes and dislikes to help identify careers that start to match up with their interests. Of course, this is a start to their exploration and is not intended for them to "choose now what they 'should' be doing the rest of their lives!" We will continue to use Career Cruising throughout the year, but students will be able to login at any time to explore on their own and share with you.

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.

The Wisconsin Forward Exam window is quickly approaching. 8th graders will test the week of April 16 while the 6th and 7th graders will test the week of April 23. More information will be coming regarding these tests.

## Healthy Living... Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Olson, Mr. Running

We are excited to welcome our 6 future educators from UW-LaCrosse. They will be working with our 7th graders twice a week. All of our students will be spending a few days in the classroom with Mrs. V from Coulee Council continuing their Too Good For Drugs curriculum.

Each day we get closer and more excited about our new gym space! It looks amazing, and we cannot wait for all of our students to get the opportunity to learn in the new space!



*Meet Us in the Middle*



# Winter Wellness Recap....

Winter Wellness 2018 is officially in the books! The threat of "cooler" weather that morning had us wondering if we would have to depart later than anticipated for our outdoor venues...and also what to do with 250 students "all bundled up" inside the building? Nevertheless, temperatures cooperated, 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 gratifying to see the positive student-staff interactions that take place. It is so important that we see each other as "real people," which is essential 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 WSMS! Not only did our students meet the expectations we set for them, they surpassed those expectations! One of the most encouraging 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 their 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.



Bowling at Features and activities at the La Crosse Wellness Center



Skiing at Mt. LaCrosse, Tubing at Ft. McCoy and the water park at Chula Vista in the Dells





## 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 to be completed in

English class with Mrs. Buisman. 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.

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!

The following are religions we'll study:

- Christianity
- Judaism
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Islam



**English - Mrs. Buisman**

In 6th grade English students will be focusing on text features in the month of March. We will practice creating and manipulating these features in Google Slides and Google Docs to prepare us for our next big writing project. We will also continue to journal and practice our daily grammar skills each class.

**Spanish - Mrs. Tofstad**

¡Hasta Luego to the sixth grade class!

6th graders will be ending Spanish on March 5 and starting Project and Inquiry with Mrs. Ebert on the 6th for the 3rd Trimester.

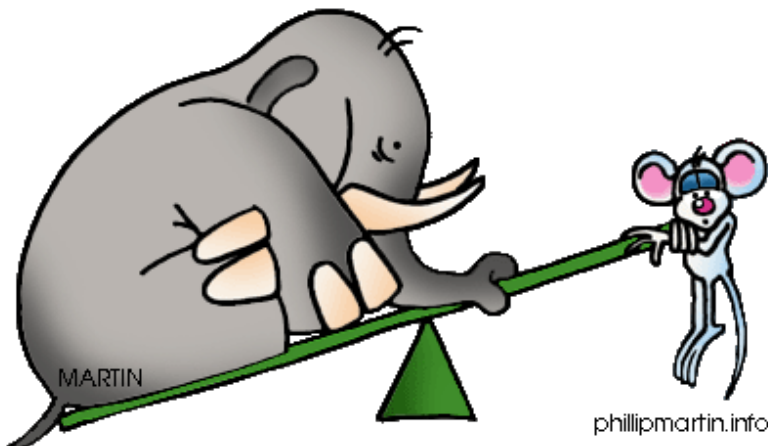
**Project & Inquiry - Mrs. Ebert**

In the middle school we believe it's important to challenge students' thinking and to provide our students opportunities to develop collaboration and communication skills. Those are the overarching goals of the Project and Inquiry class sixth graders will experience during the third trimester. Focusing on STEAM - the integration of science, technology, engineering, art, and math -- students will experience many hands-on activities. Some will be very short engineering challenges while others will be more complex projects. Teamwork, effective communication, effort, and involvement become the focal points rather than tests, worksheets, etc. Therefore, most work needs to be completed in class. You expect very few "assignments" which need to be completed outside of class. As we get rolling, I hope you'll enjoy conversing with your child about their daily P&I activities. Please know you are always welcome to email/call me with questions or concerns.

**Science - Mrs. Jarosh/ Mr. Schmidt (long-term sub)**

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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## Math - Mrs. Jehn

### Regular Math

We finished Chapter 6 in at the end of trimester 2 and will use those integer skills in Chapter 7 throughout the month of March. This chapter 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, asking them to tell you the percentage you will save, making them figure out the tip, etc. The stories your children are sharing about it are excellent! Since these are lifelong skills we all use daily, it's great for them to continue honing these skills from Chapter 5 to become better and better at saving money in the future.

### Accelerated Math

We are finishing the 6th grade textbook! Your children have been troopers handling the quick pace of accelerated math very well. Students have completed Chapters 8 and 9 covering surface area, volume, measures of center (mean, median, mode), and measures of variation (range, interquartile range, mean absolute deviation). Interquartile range and mean absolute deviation are new to students and may bring back fond memories of a statistics course you might have taken years ago.

Chapter 10, which is the last chapter of the 6th grade book 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, 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](#).







### 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 seven 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

We were finally able to squeeze our winter school forest trip in during a time when we had just enough snow to get things done! Students tried cross country skiing, learned about wolf ecology in Wisconsin, did some hands on science, and hiked to West Sandy Lake to try ice fishing! Though the lake is void of fish and the snow was disappearing fast, we still had a great time! In the classroom, we have been talking about natural selection and classification of living things. Before we make a move to the new part of the building, we are hoping to dissect a worm, crayfish, and frog as we learn about body systems of different types of organisms.



### Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum

In 7th grade Social Studies the students will continue to focus on the three branches of government. We will use the month of March to examine the Legislative Branch and the Judicial Branch. Students will get a better understanding of the jobs and the responsibilities of our lawmakers. Towards the end of the month the students will examine a Supreme Court case and research the impact it had on our country.



## 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

Now that the 7th graders have finished their big writing piece for second trimester, we are getting caught up on some much needed compound sentence practice and parts of speech work. Currently, the 7th graders are working through some verb stations. These stations include work on action and linking verbs as well as verb phrases. They are conjugating both regular and irregular verbs, too. We will be starting the argument in the coming weeks. We will read several articles that have two different sides. We will discuss both sides, make a claim, discuss the counter argument and write a paragraph. We will do this process together as a large group, small group, with a partner, and finally individually. The individual process will culminate in a summative assessment paragraph. Students will get back to our regular routine of reading and discussing a poem most days, too.

- \*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 cover Chapter 7: Real Numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem. The common core standards for Chapter 7 are the following:

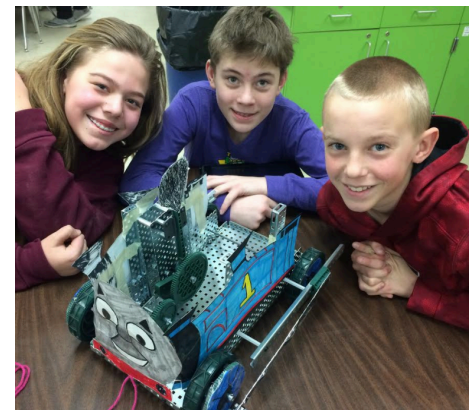
### P & I - Mrs. Ebert

Students are concluding their seventh grade P&I experiences with a variety of activities. Completing their Pull Toy Challenge concludes their experiences with VEX kits until next year when they get to add robotic elements to their mechanical constructions. Using two different programs, SketchUp and Tinkercad, students have explored some 3-dimensional modeling on computers. Those who are interested are welcome to 3D print one of their designs! Students continue to have access to the 3D printers to enhance school work/projects even when they aren't involved with P&I activities which is quite exciting. While some others were at the OEC, we had a little fun of our own by challenging pairs of students to construct a small bridge using only popsicle stick without glue or fasteners of any kind. (google DaVinci Bridges) During the final few classes, students will construct an air skimmer. Accurate measurement

- \*Understand that every rational number has a decimal expansion that terminates or repeats
- \*Understand that numbers that are not rational are irrational.
- \*Compare irrational numbers using rational approximations
- \*Evaluate square roots and cube roots
- \*Use the Pythagorean Theorem to find missing measures of right triangles and distances between points in the coordinate plane.



and neat construction will allow their aircraft to skim across the floor surprisingly fast and far.





**Math - Mrs. Bentzen  
Regular Math  
(Chapter 6 and**

**Chapter 7)**

We will learn about functions in Chapter 6. We will learn about real numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem in Chapter 7.

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
- \*analyze and sketch graphs of linear and nonlinear functions

The objectives of Chapter 7:

- \*find square roots of perfect squares and cube roots of perfect cubes
- \*evaluate expressions involving square roots and cube roots
- \*use square roots and cube roots to solve equations
- \*use the Pythagorean Theorem to find missing lengths of right triangles
- \*use the converse of the Pythagorean Theorem to identify right triangles
- \*use the Pythagorean Theorem to find distances in a coordinate plane
- \*solve real-life problems
- \*define irrational numbers and approximate square roots and values of expressions involving irrational numbers

**Algebra (Chapter 7, Chapter 8 and Chapter 9)**

Students will complete a Chapter 7 packet to review systems from last year. Then we will learn about exponents in Chapter 8. We will learn about polynomials in Chapter 9.

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 for 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
- \*read, write, and compute with numbers in scientific notation
- \*graph and write rules for exponential growth and exponential decay functions

The objectives for Chapter 9:

- \*identify and classify polynomials
- \*add and subtract polynomials
- \*multiply polynomials and find special products of polynomials
- \*solve polynomial equations in factored form
- \*factor polynomials and factor special products
- \*factor polynomials completely

**English - Mrs. Sackett**

In 8th grade English, 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 an argument, choosing a position, and writing a paragraph. Eventually the students will be choosing a topic, researching, writing, and presenting an argument presentation. In addition to the argument writing, we are still reviewing parts of speech with the next being interjections. Compound and complex sentences continue to be something that we practice on a regular basis.



### **Social Studies - Ms. Morgan**

Eighth Grade Social Studies students are busy putting the finishing touches on their primary and secondary source research for their iBook project that they will complete in March. During the first trimester, students learned about the Medal of Honor, its criteria, and many of its recipients. As a change of pace, we are moving away from NHD this year and creating a research project which revolves around this criteria: citizenship, patriotism, integrity, sacrifice, courage, and commitment. Students need to show a connection to 4 of these qualities in the historical subject matter they've chosen. We have a great variety of topics for which students will create an iBook. Upon completion of their short iBook, students will be able to share this book with anyone with access to the iTunes store for locating electronic books.

We are also looking at the westward growth of our country. By the end of March, students should be able to:

- compare and contrast the election of 1800 with modern elections
- explain how the Supreme Court gained the power of judicial review
- discuss the importance of the Louisiana Purchase
- analyze primary sources from the Lewis & Clark expedition
- explain the challenges and successes of Jefferson's presidency

### **Art - Ms. Lotspaih**

In art, the 8th grade class has learned how to draw in two point perspective. They then used this skill to draw a West Salem building where a positive memory took place. Students are currently painting their buildings with watercolors. I have enjoyed seeing each students' memory come to life through their artwork. Some of these paintings will be displayed during Celebrate West Salem.

Celebrate West Salem is a community wide event planned for Sunday, March 18, 2018, from 11:00am to 2:00pm at West Salem High School. This event will bring together local businesses, educational institutions, and civic organizations of all sizes to showcase their products and services, as well as to celebrate the community we live in.

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

### **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*, *100 Words Every Freshman Should Know*, and [www.englishcompanion.com](http://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 February 8th graders shared independently read novels with classmates and wrote an essay about the novel. Please encourage your child to discuss his/her selection with you! We also began learning about media literacy. They read editorials and wrote an editorial on a topic of their choice. Some decided to turn them in to TeenInk.com.

As our current read aloud is *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, we've also been reading a variety of non-fiction about American Indians. In March we will continue reading non-fiction and studying media literacy. They will learn about persuasive techniques and read, interpret, and analyze different types of media (print and digital).

### Spanish - Mrs. Tofstad

¡Bienvenidos to the eighth grade class! Welcome to all the upperclassmen of West Salem Middle School. This will be our first trimester together, and I am very excited to meet each and every student. We are going to get started right away with our first unit where we will learn to describe our classrooms as well as how we are feeling. We will also tackle the hard work of the verb ESTAR in reference to how we feel or where we are. ¡Hasta pronto! Profesora Tofstad

### Science - Ms. Smith-Waller

Inside Earth!! This is the name of the new textbook we are moving into and also summarizes our focus for the next couple of months. We will begin this study by reviewing with a “mini” chemistry unit. During this unit, we will review the structure of an atom and the periodic table of elements. We will use this knowledge to begin learning about the various types and characteristics of minerals and rocks. Students will learn to identify more than 30 types of minerals and rocks. Students are welcome to share any rock or mineral collections that they may have at home. 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. Understand the structure of an atom and be able to draw a simple model of an atom, along with memorize at least 30 elements and their symbol from the periodic table of elements.
2. Identify the elements that make up certain rocks and minerals and identify 50+ rocks and minerals found in nature.
3. Understand what causes the rock cycle and describe how the rock cycle works.
4. 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.
5. Understand how plate tectonics can cause Earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain ranges, and use data to predict these events.



## 2017 Regional Mathcounts News!

The regional Mathcounts competition was held on Friday, February 2nd in La Crosse. There were 37 competitors representing five different schools.

The team results were as follows: 3rd place - Praire du Chien BluffView, 2nd place - Holmen, and 1st place - West Salem. Other schools participating were Viroqua, G-E-T, Prairie du Chien Catholic and Wauzeka-Steuben. West Salem's team consisted of Elsa Mitchell, Brenan Holst, Calista Robaczewski and Chase Jones.

The individual results were as follows: 10<sup>th</sup> place – Michael Heabers (Holmen), 9<sup>th</sup> place – Emily Wright (GET), 8<sup>th</sup> place – Adam Chandler (West Salem), 7<sup>th</sup> place – Max Wolf (West Salem), 6<sup>th</sup> place – Blaine Wheeler (West Salem), 5<sup>th</sup> place – Colton Thompson (Praire du Chien), 4<sup>th</sup> place – Gavin Whalen (Praire du Chien), 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Colton Hoskins (Holmen), 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Elsa Mitchell (West Salem), and 1<sup>st</sup> place – Brennan Holst (West Salem). Calista Robaczewski finished in 15<sup>th</sup> place, and Chase Jones finished in 25<sup>th</sup> place. Also competing for West Salem was Magei Farley in 11<sup>th</sup> place, Jackson Fry in 13<sup>th</sup> place, and Celia Mitchell in 21<sup>st</sup> 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 advances to the State Competition on March 3 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. They will be focusing on a new hand position called Middle C position and playing a lot of familiar songs in that position.

They are working on the unit of the Science of Sound. They learned about the importance of music in their lives especially on memory, learning, and mood. Now they are learning about sound production - Hertz and Decibels, how we hear, and how to prevent hearing loss.

Our Music Alive magazine articles this month will focus on the pitched percussion instruments and the bass.

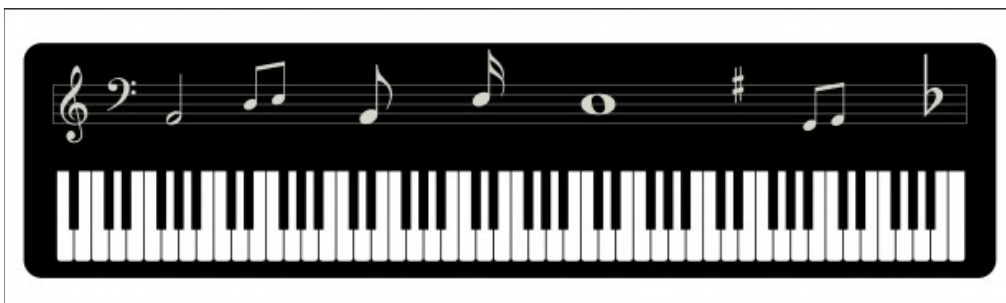
### General Music 7 “Guitars and Musicals” - Mrs. Glasel

These students are continuing to advance on the guitar. They have learned to play simple one-finger chords (C and G7), which they are using in many songs. Later, they will learn the one-finger G chord.

They will also continue to watch and respond to musicals. We have begun watching the musical Oliver. It is based on the story Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens. They studied A Christmas Carol in English earlier this year, so they are able to see some similarities.

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

We ended the semester with a mini-recital for each other and a trimester test. A couple more students switched to the other instrument, 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. Since there are so many different levels, I encourage you to ask your child what they are learning specifically on their instrument.





**Tuesday, March 20**  
**WSMS BAND EXTRAVAGANZA**

Location: The NEW WSMS GYM!

Time: Concert Starts at 7pm, with students reporting to the Middle School band room at 6:30pm

Who: All 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Band Students

Attire: Panther Music Polos, Black Pants, Black Socks, Black Shoes

Each band will perform three selections and then combine forces for a finalé performance.





# Forensics

**Congratulations** to the 7th and 8th grade students who participated in Forensics this year! This year's participants did an exceptional job at their two competitions in February.

Morgan Sevier, Sophia Block, Reanna Mullenberg, Andon Storey (Readers Theatre)

Emma Brigson, Destiny Hanson (Readers Theatre)

Grace Waldhart, Macy Hage, Rebecca Knudson (Readers Theatre)

Annika Perry, Maddy Parr, Maddy Giblin (Readers Theatre)

Kiely Clauson, Caitlin Robaczewski, Madison MacRogers (Readers Theatre)

Allie Cruz-Lambert, Brady Dunnum, Nik Hanson, Kaylee Blatz (Play Acting)

Maggie Marshall (Moments In History)

Danielle Stratton (Solo Acting)

Arin Miller (Prose)

Magei Farley (Prose)

Alyssa Byrnes (Prose)

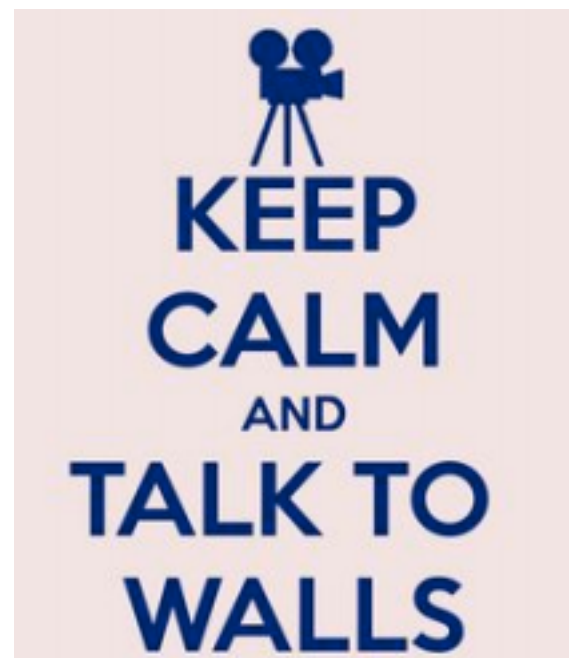
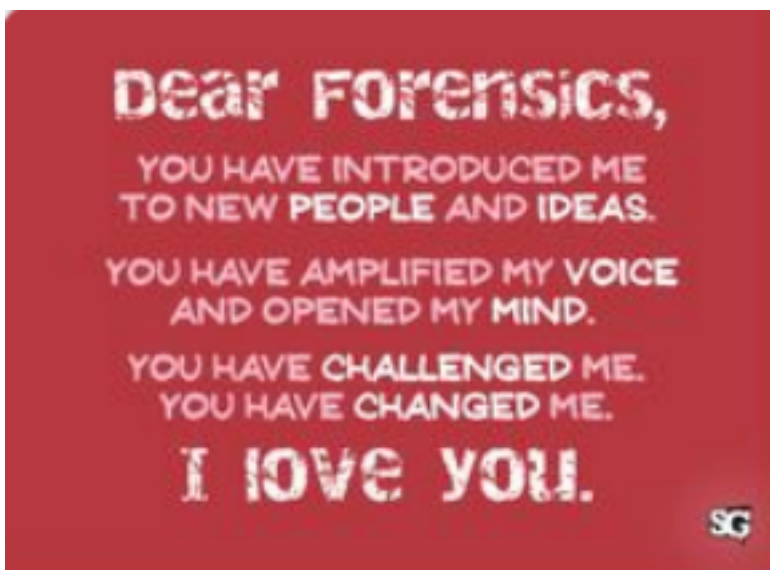
Molly Roberts (Prose)

Reagan Roesler (Prose)

Morgan Quackenbush (Prose)

Noelle Zarecki (Prose)

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 26 - March 12.** 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 28 at 2pm.**



**8th grade Promotion is on May 31 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 3 - June 8**

## 8th gr. Tentative D. C. Itinerary

### Sunday, June 3, 2018

6:30 a.m. Depart West Salem  
 11:00 a.m. Lunch stop at IL Toll Plaza  
 11:30 a.m. Travel to Skokie, IL  
 1:00 p.m. Arrive at Illinois Holocaust Museum  
 in Skokie  
 3:00 p.m. Depart Museum  
 7:30 p.m. Dinner on Toll Road  
 9:30 p.m. Arrival at hotel-- Independence, OH

### Monday, June 4, 2018

5:30 a.m. Breakfast at Hotel  
 6:00 a.m. Depart for Shanksville Flight 93  
 (9/11) Memorial  
 11:00 a.m. Arrive at Shanksville Flight 93  
 Memorial  
 1:00 p.m. Lunch on toll road  
 4:00 p.m. Arrival at Gettysburg  
 4:30 p.m. Battlefield Tour  
 6:30 p.m. Supper at Outlet Mall  
 9:00 p.m. Arrive at hotel--DC area

### Tuesday, June 5, 2018

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at hotel  
 8:30 a.m. Depart for US Capitol  
 10:40/10:40 US Capitol Tour  
 12:30 p.m. Reagan Building  
 2:00 p.m. Pick up guides in Washington DC--  
 tour monuments & Arlington National  
 Cemetery  
 6:00 p.m. Magills' Pizza Buffet  
 7:30 p.m. Evening Tour of DC  
 10:30 p.m. Arrive at hotel

### Wednesday, June 6, 2018 (STUDENTS MUST WEAR THEIR CLASS T-SHIRTS TODAY)

6:00 a.m. Breakfast at hotel  
 8:30 a.m. Visit sites in DC  
 12:00 p.m. Lunch at Reagan Building  
 1:30 p.m. National Zoo & Other DC sites  
 5:30 p.m. Twilight Tatum Concert and Boxed  
 Supper  
 9:00 p.m. Evening Tour of DC-- Last minute  
 sites  
 11:00 p.m. Arrive at hotel

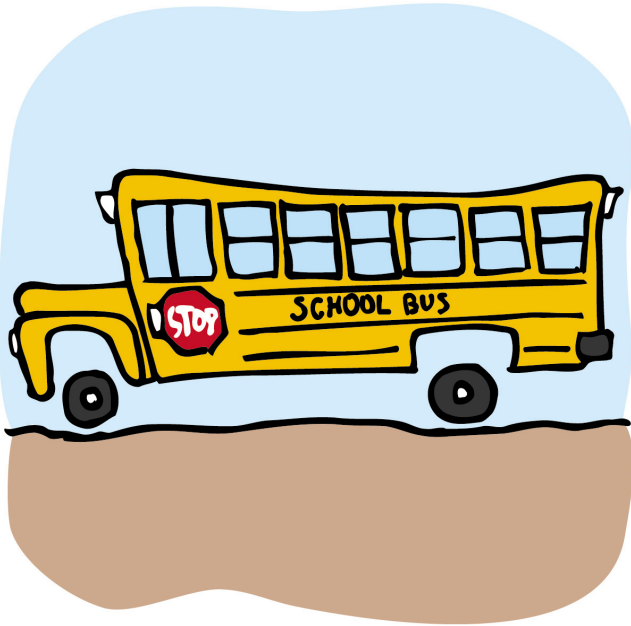
### Thursday, June 7, 2018

7:00 a.m. Breakfast and check out of hotel  
 10:00 a.m. Museum of American History  
 1:00 p.m. Lunch & Supper at Six Flags  
 1:30 p.m. Visit Six Flags  
 5:00 p.m. Supper at Six Flags  
 5:30 p.m. Depart for Home

### Friday, June 8, 2018

7:00 a.m. Breakfast in Rockford, IL  
 11:00 a.m.- 1 p.m. Arrive at WSMS





**Early Release Dates**  
Wednesdays - Release at 12:20  
Buses leave at 12:30

March 7

May 9

### **2017 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 23rd through August 10th 8:30 - 11:40 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. The lessons will be June 11-22, June 25-July 6, or July 9-20



# March 2018

## West Salem Middle School Lunch

### MONDAY

### TUESDAY

### WEDNESDAY

### THURSDAY

### FRIDAY

**5**

- Meatball Marinara Sub on Hoagie Roll
- BBQ Pork Rib Sandwich
- Peas & Carrots
- Craisin

**6**

- Turkey Pot Roast in Gravy with WG Dinner Roll
- Ham, Salami & Provolone Cheese Sub
- Mashed Potatoes
- Strawberries

**7**

- EARLY RELEASE DAY!**
- Cheesy Garlic French Bread Pizza
  - Marinara Dipping Cup
  - Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap
  - Island Blend Vegetables
  - Red Grapefruit Sections

**8**

- Pork Taco on Soft Shell Tortilla
- Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla
- Green Beans
- Orange Slices
- Taco Topping Bar

**9**

- Classic Lasagna
- Creamy Mac N' Cheese (Meatless option)
- Garlic Breadstick
- Whole Kernel Sweet Corn
- Grapes

**12**

- Tater Tot Hot Dish
- WG Dinner Roll
- Grilled Chicken Breast Filet Sandwich on WG Bun
- Garlic Roasted Green Beans
- Fresh Pineapple Chunks

**13**

- Meatballs & Gravy with Buttermilk Biscuit
- Chicken Tenders
- Mashed Potatoes
- Strawberries

**14**

- Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza
- Cheesy Mac Bake
- Harvest Moon Blend Vegetables
- Fresh Sliced Apples

**15**

- Mini Cheese Ravioli Marinara Sauce
- Buffalo Chicken Pizza
- Honey-Glazed Carrots
- Bananas
- MixMi Frozen Yogurt Cup

**16**

- Hamburger on WG Bun
- Cheeseburger on WG Bun
- Mozzarella Stuffed Breadstick with Marinara Dipping Cup (Meatless option)
- Grapes
- Waffle Fries

**19**

- BBQ Teriyaki Chicken
- Seasoned Brown Rice
- Mini Corn Dogs
- Peas
- Cantaloupe Chunks

**20**

- Homemade Sloppy Joe on WG Bun
- Cuban Flatbread Sandwich
- Corn on the Cob
- Blueberries

**21**

- Three Cheese Calzone
- Bratwurst on a Bun
- Roasted Broccoli
- Watermelon Chunks
- 100% Fruit Juice Slushy

**22**

- Pasta with Chicken Cajun Alfredo
- Pasta with Chicken Alfredo
- Italian Breadsticks
- California Blend Vegetables
- Bananas

**23**

- Chicken Patty - Hot and Spicy
- Golden Crunchy Fish Sticks and Goldfish Crackers
- Roasted Garlic Cauliflower
- Orange Slices

**26**

- Popcorn Chicken
- Saucy Orange Popcorn Chicken
- Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice
- Country - Vegetable Blend
- Fresh Sliced Apples

**27**

- Walking Taco on Frito Corn Chips
- Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla
- Refried Beans
- Bananas
- Taco Topping Bar

**28**

- Buffalo Chicken Pizza
- Breaded Chicken Patty on WG Kaiser Bun
- Honey-Glazed Carrots
- Grapes

**29**



- Choice of:**
- Bakalar's Hot Dog on WG Bun
  - Uncrustable PB & Grape Jelly Sandwich and Cheese Stick
- served with:**
- Baked Chips - Original
  - Fresh Baby Carrots
  - Applesauce Cup
  - Raisins

**30**

Spring Break - No School



# Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



## Short Stops

### Savvy shopper

Show your tween that she can use math to be a smart consumer and save money. In a store, have her compare sale items. Say two brands of shirts cost the same, but one brand is “buy one, get one half off,” and another is 40 percent off. Which is the better deal if she buys two shirts?

### How-to for parents

If you have parenting questions, you may get answers at free workshops in your community. Speakers might focus on topics like how to ease your child’s transition to high school or help him cope with anxiety. To find out about upcoming events, read emails from the school and look for flyers at the library or recreation center.

### Lights, camera, action

Many tweens love to make videos—and that can be a great study method. Encourage your middle grader and her friends to record each other reading class notes, demonstrating science experiments, or acting out historical events. They could use props, add music, or think of other creative ways to review the material.

### Worth quoting

“If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders.” *Abigail Van Buren*

### Just for fun

**Q:** How do you talk to a giant?

**A:** Use big words!



## Planning for standardized tests

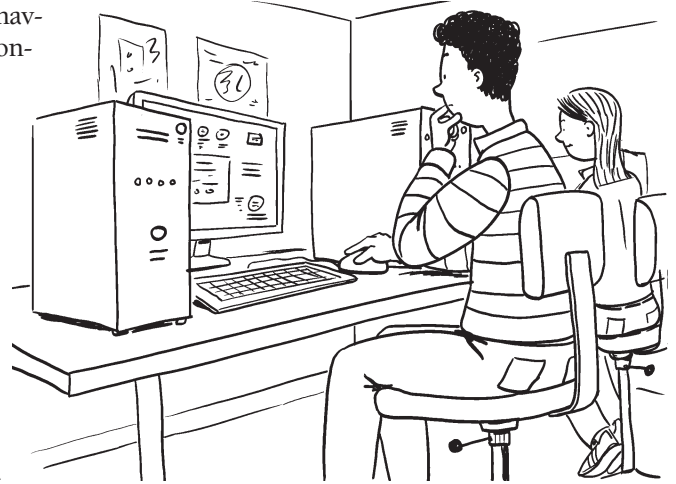
When your middle grader takes a standardized test, having a plan will boost his confidence and help him do his best. Here are strategies to use every step of the way.

### The week before...

Encourage your child to try his hardest on practice tests. Even if they’re not graded, the results can reveal what he needs to brush up on. Suggest that he try to figure out where he went wrong on incorrect answers and ask his teacher if he’s not sure. This may prevent him from making similar mistakes on the actual test.

### The day before...

Being well rested and well fed can keep your tween focused and alert. Before bedtime, help him plan a breakfast with protein and whole grains. You might hard-boil eggs while he sets out a cereal box, bowl, and spoon. Then, he’ll need a good night’s sleep (at least 9–11 hours). *Tip:* Have him pack a healthy



snack like an apple, whole-grain crackers, and water, if allowed.

### The day of...

Your middle grader should think carefully about how to approach different types of questions. If he’s given a passage to read, he might skim the questions first so he knows what information to focus on. For multiple-choice math problems, he could solve first, then look to see if his solution is among the choices—if so, it’s likely correct. 👍

## Bonding with your tween

Spending time with your child opens the door to conversation and keeps you involved in her life. Plus, it can be fun! Consider these ideas:

■ Create a family photo album. While you work, talk about memories the pictures bring to mind. *Tip:* When your middle grader has a rough day, flipping through the album together may encourage her to smile and perhaps talk.

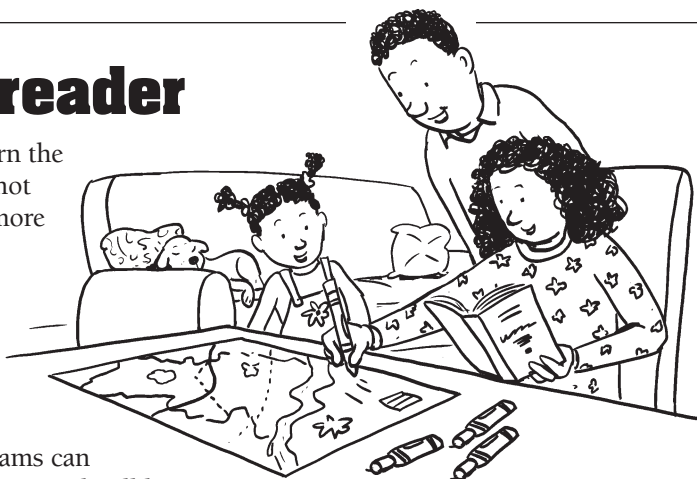
■ Have monthly living room campouts. Put out sleeping bags and popcorn. Then, take turns reading aloud or telling stories by flashlight. *Tip:* Your tween may be more likely to chat in the dark. When you turn out the lights, share something about your day, and she might follow suit. 👍



# Be an active reader

Does your middle grader ever turn the page of a book only to realize she's not sure what she's just read? Reading more mindfully can help her understand and remember important information. Try these tips.

**Preview.** Suggest that your tween scan for “coming attractions” before she reads. Skimming subheads, captions, charts, or diagrams can tell her what to expect. That way, her mind will be better prepared to take in the material.



**Apply.** Doing something with the information as she reads can keep your middle grader engaged. She might draw a map showing locations of the scenes in a novel, for instance. Or she could make an outline of a textbook chapter. That will help her remember key details and see how facts are related.

**Tip:** When your child reads online, suggest that she turn off any notifications and close all windows except for the one she's reading so she won't get distracted. 👍

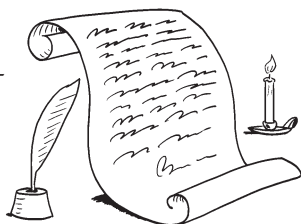


## This day in history

Your tween can learn about the past—and discover that history is being made every day—with these activities.

### Research the past

Encourage him to find out what happened on today's date in previous years. He could check the library or search “on this day in history” online. Then, ask him to share the “old news” with your family at dinner-time. For example, on March 1, he might report that the Peace Corps was established on this day in 1961.



## Parent to Parent

### Learning to lead

I had always believed the saying “Leaders are born, not made.” So at a recent work seminar, I was surprised to discover that leadership can be learned.

My son Jack had been wanting to start a neighborhood baseball team, and I realized it would be a good way for him to practice leadership skills. I suggested he call the local league and ask what to do first. They told him that he needed to find players and a coach and then get a local business to pay the league fees (in exchange for putting the company logo on the players' jerseys).

When I explained that a good leader delegates tasks, he asked three neighborhood kids to help him hang flyers and recruit players. Jack has been working hard on this project, and he has enough kids for a team now. Next, he will call a players' meeting to work on finding a coach and a sponsor. 👍



### Capture the present

Suggest that your middle grader make a record of the immediate past by starting his own “Today in History” calendar. When he learns about an event (say, a record-breaking blizzard or the release of a new cell phone model), have him jot it down on the correct day. Then, he might add a brief explanation or draw a symbol to represent it. 👍

## The dangers of internet challenges

**Q** I've been hearing about “internet challenges” where kids dare each other to do dangerous things.

*How can I keep my daughter from getting involved in these kinds of risky games?*

**A** In today's online world, dares can spread like wildfire. Children may be encouraged to post videos of themselves eating hot peppers or being duct-taped to a pole, for example. Other kids see the videos and might be tempted to copy them.

Keep an eye on your daughter's online activities, and make sure to stick to websites' age limits. For instance, you must be 13 to post on YouTube and most other social media sites.

Also, ask your daughter to tell you when she hears about a challenge. Explain that some can cause serious injury or even death, such as the “choking game” or “blackout game,” where participants cut off their own air supply. Be sure she knows she can come to you if she ever feels pressured to do something that makes her uncomfortable. 👍



### OUR PURPOSE

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

Resources for Educators,  
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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 |    |    |    |    | 19 |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |     |    | 19 |
|--------------|----|----|-----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |    |    | 19 |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |    |    | 15 |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |    |    | 21 |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |    |    | 19 |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |    |     | 20 |
|------------|----|----|----|-----|----|
| M          | T  | W  | T  | F   |    |
|            |    |    | 1  | 2   |    |
| 5          | 6  | ER | 8  | 9   |    |
| 12         | 13 | 14 | 15 | *16 |    |
| 19         | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23  |    |
| 26         | 27 | 28 | 29 | NS  |    |

| APRIL 2018 |    |    |    |     | 19 |
|------------|----|----|----|-----|----|
| 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         |    |    |    |     |    |

School 2/21/18 - ICE

\*3/16/18 School In Session - Make-Up Date

| MAY 2018 |    |    |    |    | 22 |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|
| 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 |    |    |    |    | 5 |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|---|
| 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**

11/14/16

**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)**







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| AUGUST 2018 |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|
| M           | T  | W  | T  | F  |
|             |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 6           | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 13          | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20          | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 27          | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| SEPTEMBER 2018 |    |    |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|
| M              | T  | W  | T  | F  |
| NS             | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 10             | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 17             | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 24             | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

| OCTOBER 2018 |    |    |    |     |
|--------------|----|----|----|-----|
| M            | T  | W  | T  | F   |
| 1            | 2  | ER | 4  | 5   |
| 8            | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12  |
| 15           | 16 | 17 | 18 | NS  |
| 22           | 23 | 24 | 25 | NS* |
| 29           | 30 | 31 |    |     |

| NOVEMBER 2018 |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|
| M             | T  | W  | T  | F  |
|               |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 5             | 6  | ER | 8  | 9  |
| 12            | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 19            | 20 | NS | NS | NS |
| 26            | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

| DECEMBER 2018 |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|
| M             | T  | W  | T  | F  |
| 3             | 4  | ER | 6  | 7  |
| 10            | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 17            | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| NS            | NS | NS | NS | NS |
| NS            |    |    |    |    |

| JANUARY 2019 |    |    |    |    |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|
| M            | T  | W  | T  | F  |
|              | NS | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 7            | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 14           | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| NS*          | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 28           | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

| FEBRUARY 2019 |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|
| M             | T  | W  | T  | F  |
|               |    |    |    | 1  |
| 4             | 5  | 6  | 7  | NS |
| 11            | 12 | ER | 14 | 15 |
| 18            | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 25            | 26 | 27 | 28 |    |

| MARCH 2019 |    |    |    |     |
|------------|----|----|----|-----|
| M          | T  | W  | T  | F   |
|            |    |    |    | 1   |
| 4          | 5  | ER | 7  | 8   |
| 11         | 12 | 13 | 14 | SD  |
| 18         | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22  |
| 25         | 26 | 27 | 28 | NS* |

| APRIL 2019 |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|
| M          | T  | W  | T  | F  |
| 1          | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 8          | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 15         | 16 | 17 | 18 | NS |
| NS         | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 29         | 30 |    |    |    |

| MAY 2019 |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|
| M        | T  | W  | T  | F  |
|          |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 6        | 7  | ER | 9  | 10 |
| 13       | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20       | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| NS       | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| JUNE 2019 |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|
| M         | T  | W  | T  | F  |
| 3         | 4  | 5  | SD | SD |
| 10        | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 17        | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 24        | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

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11/27/17

