

BLACK CAT NEWS

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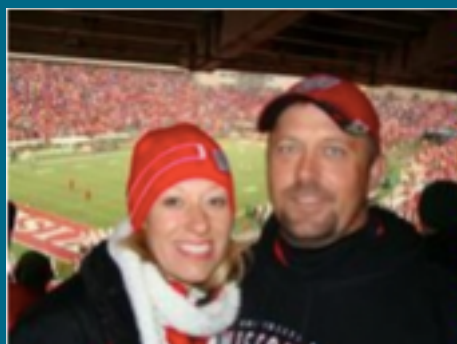
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March was Moving Month!



Teacher feature: Mrs. Jeranek by Allie H.

1. **Birthday** : May 17
2. **Favorite season** : fall
3. **Favorite Sport** : volleyball
4. **Favorite color** : green
5. **Heritage** : German, Norwegian
6. **Pets** : 1 cat & 1 fish
7. **Kids** : Alex & Natalie
8. **Dream Vacation** : New Zealand or Rome
9. **Home town** : (currently) West Salem
10. **Favorite food**: chicken & rice
11. **Favorite book** : The Giver (childhood) / My Sister's Keeper (adulthood)
12. **How many years of teaching** : 11 yrs at west Salem / 2 yrs in Melrose, WI
13. **Home town (childhood)** : La Crosse
14. **Sunrise or sunset** : both - they both have wonderful meanings (sunrise=start anew and put the past behind / sunset= reflect on the accomplishments of the day)
15. **Where did you go to school** : Roosevelt ES, Logan MS & HS (La Crosse)
16. **Did you always have an interest in teaching** : no...wanted to be an athletic trainer
17. **What is your favorite part about your job** : making a difference in the lives of our youth!
18. **When did you know you wanted to be a teacher** : freshman yr in college; I realized how much I admired my 5th grade teacher and the impact he had made on my childhood. School was a fun and safe place to learn new thing every day!
19. **Is west Salem the only school you have taught at** : no, I long-term substituted in West Salem, Melrose-Mindoro and La Crosse; Taught 1st grade for 2 yrs in Melrose.
20. **Do you like teaching 5th grade or 6th grade better** : I loved the 5th grade staff and curriculum, but there was a lot to teach every day!
6th grade allows me the flexibility to teach a subject I've grown to enjoy with the ability to incorporate language arts curriculum that I learned as an elementary teacher. 6th grade is the best of both worlds!



Meet One of Your 7th Grade Teachers: Mr. Baker



By: McKenna S & Maddie W

Why did you decide to be a teacher? I love teaching people and being social!

What is your favorite color? My Favorite color is green

What's your favorite food? Ice cream

Why did you decide to teach at West Salem?

I love the positive environment and being close to home.

Where did you graduate high school? West Salem High School

Where did you graduate college? UW-Eau Claire

What is your favorite unit to teach? Trees for Tomorrow at the school forest

What's your favorite part of your job?

Getting to know my students and teaching them what I love

How long have you been teaching at West Salem? Since 2014

When did you start teaching at the Middle School? Two years ago

What type of hobbies do you have? Fishing, tennis, and just being outdoors

What is the main reason why you specialize in science? I love going outdoors

What is the hardest class that you've taught? AP Biology

Are you excited about the new middle school? I can't wait for the new science labs!

What do you do after school? I get ready for the next day and plan activities. Depending on the season I will go outside and coach tennis.



2018 Winter Olympics by Elaina R.

This year the Winter Olympics were held in PyeongChang in South Korea. The Olympics were held from February 9 to February 25 and featured 102 events in 15 different sports. People called this year's Olympics the peaceful Olympics because North and South Korea worked together and unified into one team.

Overall, 92 different nations that competed in this year's Olympics.

Sports

- Alpine Skiing (11 events): Sliding down snow covered hills on skis with fixed heel bindings. Also known as downhill skiing.
- Biathlon (11 events): Combines cross country skiing and rifle shooting.
- Bobsleigh (3 events): Teams of either 2 or 4 people make timed runs down narrow, twisting, banked, iced tracks in gravity powered sled.
- Cross Country Skiing (12 events): Form of skiing that relies on your own motion to get through the snow covered terrain on skis.
- Curling (3 events): Players slide stones on sheets of ice towards a target.
- Figure Skating (5 events): Individuals, duos and groups perform on figure skates.
- Freestyle Skiing (10 events): Skiing where the contestant makes up their own routine on skis though different obstacles.
- Ice Hockey (2 events): Two teams of skaters use their sticks to shoot a rubber puck into the opponents net.
- Luge (4 events): An individual or team of two slide down a curvy slope face up.
- Nordic Combined (3 events): Athletes compete in cross country skiing and ski jumping.
- Ski Jumping (4 events): A competitor goes off a large ski jump and aims to get the longest distance.
- Snowboarding (10 events): A competitor descending down a snow covered slope while standing on a snowboard that is attached to their feet.
- Speed Skating (14 events): A competitive form of ice skating where competitors race each other in traveling a certain distance.

Water Skiing by Ella J.

There are many different forms of waterskiing. Some of these variations include trick skiing, wakeboarding, barefooting, swiveling, and slaloming.

Trick skiing is when you use two wide skis without fins so you can turn on the water. You can spin in circles since the skis don't have fins. Swiveling is similar, except you only have one ski, but it's much larger and has a boot that rotates on the ski. You can ski on two skis or slalom which is when you are just on one regular ski.

Wakeboarding and barefooting are my favorite forms of waterskiing. Wakeboarding is when you are strapped into a board. There are two boots on top of the board for your feet, and two fins on the bottom of the board so it stays in place. Some people jump on their wakeboards, which is when you hit the wake with intense speed and pop the board in the air. Lastly, there is barefooting. People tend to get the most injuries from barefooting because you are going very fast, and if you fall there are many consequences. A family friend of mine has experienced these consequences. He fell when barefooting behind a boat and was in a coma for several days. You can get very severe concussions as well.

If you ski on a team then you can do more things. Some teams like to form pyramids, where the guys are typically on the bottom skiing and the girls form a pyramid by standing on their shoulders. Pyramids can reach up to five high, but no higher. Only one team that I know of has reached five high, most do three or four. If you exceed a five high pyramid, then people can start to get put in a lot of danger. Other things teams can do is tandem barefooting. One person would be barefooting longline and another would be strapped to his waist with another rope, barefooting behind him. Like all other ski stunts, this is dangerous as well.

Fun Facts about our Solar System by Nathan H.

The Sun makes up 99.86% of our Solar System's mass

The Sun's mass is 1,989,100,000,000,000,000 kg

Mercury's orbit is an ellipse orbit rather than a circular orbit

Mercury's iron core makes up around 40% of its volume

Venus is the hottest planet in our Solar System at a temperature of 462 Celsius or 863.6 Fahrenheit

Unlike most of the planets in our Solar System, Venus turns clockwise

The Earth is the only planet not named after a mythological god or goddess

Earth is the most dense planet in our Solar System

Pieces of Mars have been found on Earth

Mars doesn't have a magnetic field

Jupiter's Great Red Spot is an enormous storm that's been raging for over 300 years

If Jupiter becomes 80 times larger, nuclear fusion would occur in its core and it'd turn into a star instead of a gas giant

Saturn gives off more energy than it gets from the Sun

Saturn has the fastest winds of any other planet in the Solar System at winds of about 1,100 mph

Uranus has 13 presently known rings

Uranus is the coldest planet in our Solar System with the surface temperature of -224 Celsius or -371.2 Fahrenheit

Source: theplanet.org

Hitman

by Ed S.

This game review is on Hitman 2016, an action paced stealth game for ps4, xbox, and computer.

The basic gist of Hitman is you play as an ICA operative know as agent 47, a man who has forgotten all about his past in Romania. He only remembers his name. He works alongside Diana Burnwood, a handler. Her job is to help you know who and where your target is.

The game is full of many secrets and ways to eliminate your target or targets, but be warned, going full rambo and killing others is not a good idea. It even deducts your score at the end.

The first mission is the first part of the tutorial. It teaches you about where you can and can't go with some disguises, how to get a disguise, people who can see through that said disguise, and many other things. The final exam part teaches you about "opportunities" you can take to eliminate your target. Opportunities give you a chance to be creative and sneaky about taking care of the target. It could mean poisoning them with rat poison, or getting some alone time with them so you can kill them without anyone knowing.

Before you start a mission in one of the campaigns, there is a briefing on the target or targets with the reason and possibly the contractor. After this happens you are given into a plan phase. Here you can choose your sidearm, an agency pickup for another concealment, two concealment items (ie. explosives, distraction, melee, lockpick, and poisons), your starting location, and what suit you could wear. Some starting locations already pick your outfit.

The agency pickups can be large or small. Large ones can have what small ones have and bigger melees and guns, but they can be harder to access without some disguise or threat to be seen. Small pickups can take your load out and are easier to access.

From that point on there are multiple campaigns, including Main Story Season 1, and two bonus campaigns. One is exclusive for console and the other paid DLC. Saverio Six has the same main mission locations but different targets. Patient Zero follows a new style of stopping a doomsday cult with the maps being Bangkok, Sapienza, Colorado, and Hokkaido in that order.

Back to season 1. Your first mission is to eliminate two targets of a leading brand in Paris, Sanguine, who are in fact the leaders of IAGO, a company who specializes in hacking into secure systems and selling the data to the public. The money man is Viktor Novikov. He will be mobile on the first floor near his bodyguard. They can both see through any level of security outfits. The true target is Dalia Margolis. She will be watched on the heavily guarded IAGO auction on the third floor.

Once you complete a mission you will level up on the map which will reward you with agency pickups, new items, and starting locations. Once you reach level 8 on a mission, you unlock professional mode. It changes up the map so something that was there before probably is somewhere else. You are also not able to track opportunities. You'll have to remember those. Combat becomes more dangerous; more cameras have been added; any bloody kills on a takeable disguise make the disguise unusable; and more items are considered suspicious.

Plan accordingly and success will be available. If the same old targets get boring every so often elusive targets appear which gives you one chance to eliminate them or they are gone for a long while. There are also escalations that increase the difficulty the more you go and community made contracts. If you want to continue the story line you should buy hitman GOTY (game of the year). It includes all the other episodes and three bonus targets. Two in Sapienza, Italy for different missions, and two in Marrakech, Morocco same mission.

Hitman 2016 has a lot to offer for game play and mechanics and for its price I highly recommend this game

Superhero Comparison by Maxwell W.

Today, we'll be comparing the CW Atom and the MCU Ant-Man. They are very similar superheroes and they're also very different. Before we start comparing, we're going to do the origins of them.

Scott Lang was a criminal in San Francisco. After he lost his job at Baskin Robbins, he decided to follow his friend Luis's plan to steal from a vault in someone's house. When Scott broke into the vault, all he found was a 'motorcycle' suit, which was actually the Ant-Man suit. He tried it on in the bathroom of his apartment and accidentally shrunk himself. He decided he wanted to return the suit but got caught during it. Hank Pym confronted him in jail and asked him if he wanted to leave. Scott obviously said yes and Hank told him to wait. When Scott was sitting in his cell, ants brought in the Ant-Man suit. He had 10 seconds to put on the suit and shrink before the cops come. He escaped but almost died after riding a carpenter ant. He then woke up in a bedroom in Hank Pym's house. Pym's daughter, Hope Van Dyne, was waiting for Scott to wake up from his coma to greet him. But, she isn't really nice to him and told him to meet Hank in the dining room. As Scott was about to leave the bed, he noticed that there were bullet ants surrounding the bed. When he stepped towards the ground, the ants moved away from his foot. He then got into the dining room and saw Hank sitting at one of the chairs. He asked if Scott wanted sugar with his tea. When he said yes, two ants appeared and started putting sugar into the tea cup. Scott asked how they're doing that and Hank replied with his EMP communicator that he has. He then brought Scott into the basement to show him his secret room. He asked that he needed Scott's help with something big happening back at Pym Tech. Scott's first plan was to call the Avengers. But, he agreed to stop the problem at Pym Tech. After some couple of days of training in Hank Pym's backyard, he finally becomes the Ant-Man.

When scientist Ray Palmer found a fragment of a white dwarf star, he started construction on his A.T.O.M. suit. He started fighting crime and once fought the Green Arrow but got shot down. He then became allies with Green Arrow. He then decided that he wanted to make his suit shrink to a small size. When testing the suit, it accidentally exploded and supposedly 'killed' Ray. But, the Green Arrow and his computer specialist Felicity finds a video showing that Ray is actually alive, and he has been kidnapped by a guy that I don't know. They freed Ray, gave him the A.T.O.M. suit, and it made him big again. He eventually teamed up with the Legends Of Tomorrow with other heroes such as Vixen, Hawkgirl, Citizen Steel, and more.

The heroes are almost exactly similar. They both accidentally shrunk themselves, they both have or had love interests (something I didn't mention — Scott Lang is with Hope Van Dyne, and Ray Palmer was with Felicity Smoak until they broke up), and they both have suits that can regulate their sizes. But, they're also different in many ways. Ant-Man has growth discs so they can shrink/grow other people/objects. The A.T.O.M. doesn't have growth discs, but he can fly, his suit is bullet proof, and can shoot powerful blasts. We don't know if Ray can go subatomic and back since he can do it in the comics and not the TV show, but they could both go subatomic possibly (Scott needs a growth disc to go back to his normal size, Ray doesn't since he's more scientifically advanced in his research). Otherwise, they're both pretty cool superheroes.

Upcoming Movies by Anna B. and Alyssa B.



Midnight Sun Release Date: March 23, 2018 Rating: PG-13 Genre: Romance, drama Director: Scott Speer

This movie is about a girl named Katie Price (Bella Thorne) who has a rare genetic condition that makes her sensitive to sunlight and any exposure could be life threatening. She sleeps during the day and goes out at night and plays music. One night she meets a boy named Charlie (Patrick Schwarzenegger) whom she had watched out her window her whole life.

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom Release Date: June 22, 2018 Rating: PG-13 Genre: Action Director: J. A. Bayona

After the Jurassic World theme park was destroyed in the previous movie, Owen Grady (Chris Pratt) and Claire Dearing (Bryce Dallas Howard) return to the island just in time to save the dinosaurs from a volcano eruption. While on the island they find out about a conspiracy that could threaten the entire planet.



Rampage Release Date: April 13, 2018 Rating: PG-13 Genre: Action, Science Fiction Director: Brad Peyton

A rare silverback gorilla named George has been in the care of a primatologist named Davis Okoye (Dwayne Johnson). When a experiment goes wrong, George, a wolf and a reptile, grow to an enormous size and start attacking everything. Okoye works with the military to stop the huge beasts.

The Incredibles 2 Release Date: June 15, 2018 Rating: PG Genre: Comedy, animation Director: Brad Bird

The Incredibles return in a second movie after the first one came out in 2004. But this time Elastigirl takes action to save the day while

Mr. Incredible struggles to take care of their 3 children.



Blumhouse's Truth or Dare Release Date: April 13, 2018 Rating: PG-13 Genre: horror, thriller Director: Jeff Wadlow

A group of friends play what we know as a regular game of "Truth or Dare." One of the friends, Penelope (Lucy Hale), starts seeing things after the game. Things suddenly start happening around her. People refuse the dare and then they suddenly die. The game goes after the group of friends.

United States' Funniest Laws by Nolan H.

1. In Joliet, Illinois, it is against the law to put cake in a cookie jar.
2. In Arkansas, it is against the law to mispronounce the name of Arkansas in the state.
3. In Alabama it is illegal to sit on a garbage can.
4. In Atlanta it is against the law to tie a giraffe to a telephone pole or street lamp.
5. In Statesville, North Carolina, a law forbids conducting rabbit races in the streets.
6. Toledo has an ordinance that prohibits throwing reptiles at one another.
7. The law says that you can't drive more than two thousand sheep down Hollywood Boulevard at one time.
8. It is illegal to put a skunk in your boss's desk in Michigan.
9. You can't sell snakes on the streets in California.
10. Mississippi state law prohibits soaping railroad tracks.
11. In Lawrence, Kansas, you can't carry bees in your hat on the city streets.
12. In Paulding, Ohio, a policeman can bite a dog if he/she thinks it will calm them down.
13. It is against the law of Hawaii to insert pennies into your or someone else's ear.
14. Frogs are prohibited from croaking after 11 P.M. in Memphis.

Source:

Riddles by Andon S.

1. What goes up but never goes down?
2. What has a head, tail, is brown, and has no legs?
3. Tom and his younger sister were fighting. Their mother was tired of the fighting and decided to punish them by making them stand on the same piece of newspaper in such a way that they couldn't touch each other. How did she accomplish this?
4. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday?
5. What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?
6. David's father has three sons : Snap, Crackle and _____ ?
7. You live in a one story house made "entirely of redwood". What color would the stairs be?
8. Two fathers and two sons went fishing one day. They were there the whole day and only caught 3 fish. One father said, "That is enough for all of us. We will have one each." How can this be possible?
9. Before Mount Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain on Earth?
10. This is as light as a feather, yet no man can hold it for long. What am I?

Jazz Band

by Abi K. and Elsa M.

Jazz band is an optional activity for any seventh and eighth graders in band. We practice every Wednesday morning before school. We are also doing sectionals this year, which means once a month a particular section, such as the trumpets, will practice their parts in the music without the rest of the band. Mr. Waldhart is our conductor for jazz band.

The main sections in jazz band are saxophones, trombones, trumpets, and the rhythm section, which includes percussion and guitars. In our jazz band, we also have instruments other than traditional jazz instruments, like flutes and clarinets. We are playing three songs right now in jazz band. These songs are called "Back and Forth," "Front and Center," and "Emily." "Back and Forth" and "Front and Center" are both fairly fast songs, but "Emily" is a slower song called a ballad.

Jazz Band Participants

	Seventh Graders	Eighth Graders
Rhythm Section	5	5
Trombones (including French horns)	8	2
Saxophones	8	4
Trumpets (including flutes and clarinets)	9	5

Riddle Answers

1. Your age!
2. A penny
3. The newspaper was put under the door so that half was on one side and the other on the other side, and then she put one child on one side of the door and one on the other
4. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow
5. The letter "M"
6. David
7. There are none, it's a one story house
8. There was the father, his son, and his son's son. This equals 2 fathers and 2 sons for a total of 3!
9. Mount Everest
10. Your breath!

Meet the WSMS Band Teachers

MR. WALDHART Interviewed by Anja C.

How long have you been teaching: 19 years

What is your favorite ice cream flavor: Moose tracks!

What was one favorite memory from middle school: Playing basketball with friends.

What is the best mistake you've ever made: The best mistake I ever made was quitting piano lessons to take band, thinking I could quit both.

How many pets have you had: 6 pets.

You've been given an elephant. You can't give it away or sell it. What would you do with the elephant: I would set up carnival rides for people to ride it.

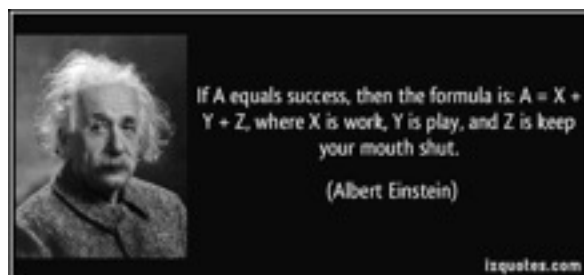
Estimate how many windows there are in New York City: 27.6 million (Actual number: Over 42.6million windows)

What's your favorite '90s jam: Nirvana- "Smells Like Teen Spirit."

You're a new addition to the crayon box. What color would you be: Periwinkle.

What would you do if you found a living penguin in the freezer: I'd call Mr. Popper and have a party.

Nathan H.



Nels L.

Mrs. Glasel Interview by Magei F.

What do you do in your free time? Read, garden, travel, watch movies and TV shows, attend concerts and plays, hike, bike, take in nature, relax

If you could have any superpower, which would you choose? To mute people who say mean things

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Australia

What is your favorite thing about being a teacher? Seeing students trying to better/extend themselves on their own

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would you change? The fact that I can't eat all of the chocolate in the world without gaining weight.

What three words would you use to describe yourself? Dedicated, organized, passionate

How long have you been teaching? 28 years - all in West Salem. Taught anything from 4th - 8th grade: general music, 7th grade band, high school band, and instrumental lessons

How long have you been involved in music? Since 1st grade. Played the accordion from 1st - 6th grade. Started saxophone in 5th grade. Taught myself piano in high school.

What is your biggest pet peeve? People who don't even consider listening to another opinion/idea because they are always right

If you could have any job outside of teaching, what job would you have? Librarian, accountant, behind the scenes weatherperson

Favorites

Book? *Gone with the Wind* or any book by Liane Moriarty **Subject?** Math

Food? Shrimp or pizza **Movie?** Not sure

Musical? *Les Miserables* or *Jesus Christ Superstar*