

WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

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West Salem, WI 54669
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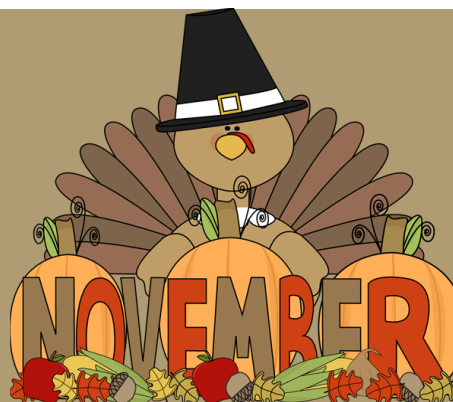
SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

School Starts at 7:50!!

- *Early Release 11/16
- * Trimester Ends 11/22
- * No School 11/23- 11/25

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Volume 5 - Issue 4

2016

From the Principal's Desk...



It's November already? It must be, because the leaves are turning, the chill of fall is in the air, and hopefully the school year has settled into a productive and positive routine for your family. Recently, we completed our First Trimester Mid-Term at WSMS. We also completed our student/parent/teacher conferences on October 20 & 24. Thank you to all the students and parents who attended. It's important that students see your support and communication regarding their academic progress. It shows students that you understand how important their education is, and helps them view learning as a priority as they become increasingly more responsible for their education as they grow older.

The month of November is full of opportunities and important dates for our students. Our fall sports seasons come to an end and our winter sports seasons begin. Our annual Veterans Day Program will be held on Friday, November 11, at 7:50 am in our gym, and you are invited to attend. You can find more information about our program on page 5. We have an Early Release Day for staff development on Wednesday, November 16. Students are dismissed at 12:20. Buses leave at 12:30. Our first trimester ends on November 22, and we will not have school on November 23 - 27 for Thanksgiving break.

Enclosed you will find a great deal of information on the upcoming referendum taking place on November 8th. Regardless of your position on that issue, I hope you take the time to vote on November 8th. Let's be honest, polling data around the country seems to indicate that during this election cycle, not everyone is exactly thrilled about all the options they have in the voting booth this year! But in the West Salem School District, your vote will have a major impact on the local community one way or another. I hope you take advantage of that opportunity.

We look forward to continuing to work together to provide your child with the best educational experience here at West Salem Middle School. On behalf of our staff, we hope you have a great Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends. This year, I am once again very thankful for the opportunity to lead a student-centered staff, work with supportive parents, and with your incredibly talented children within a strong community.

Thankful to be a Panther,

Benjamin J. Wopat

<https://twitter.com/CoachWopat>

<https://twitter.com/WestSalemMS>



"Meet Us in the Middle"



Calendar of Events

- 10 - BBB vs. Logan 3:45
- 11 - Veterans Day Program 7:50
- 12 - Wrestling @ Tomah (Individual Tournament)
- 15 - BBB at Longfellow 4:00
- 16 - Early Release - 12:20 release
- 17 - BBB vs Lincoln 3:45
- 21 - BBB vs G-E-T 4:15
Wrestling at Westby 4:15
- 22 - End of Trimester

NOVEMBER



23-25 NO SCHOOL

29 - Wrestling HOME 4:15
BBB at Winona 4:15

Counselor Comments

It is hard to believe that we have passed the mid-term point of first trimester. Not quite sure where this time goes?! While it's important to hang on and enjoy the ride, it is necessary to take time for those "things" that really do matter in our lives! It was nice to meet with parents at conferences. Just because parent-teacher conferences, too, have come and gone, do not hesitate to contact us any time you have a question or concern regarding your child and school. Our goal is the same as your goal: not only to provide the best educational opportunities we can for

your child, but also have them develop into productive, positive citizens of society.

In A/A, we will be focusing on the external asset of Empowerment. This is influence that comes from those around us and includes topics such as community values youth (the perception that the community/adults value our young people), youth as resources (young people are given useful roles in the community), service to others (young people serve their community on a consistent basis), and safety (young people feel safe at home, school, neighborhood, and larger community). By working together and being a "team", we will be able to help

our young people (our future) to grow up healthy, compassionate, and responsible. Of course, November is also a month we reflect on for which we are thankful. If we truly stop to think about all the good in our lives, that list would be endless! Thank you for entrusting us (WSMS) with your child(ren)!



From the Office

If your child will be absent from school, PLEASE call the office at 786-2090 before **7:50** in the morning. In the event you receive the voice mail, leave a message that includes your child's name, grade, and the reason for the absence. If your child is ill, **please be specific with his/her symptoms.** We are required by state law to report numbers of students ill with strep throat, stomach flu, colds, and chicken pox, so it is important that we have accurate count. We do not report student names, just numbers. If your child's

absence is not called in to the school in a timely manner, it is considered an unexcused absence and consequences may be assigned to the student.

You may also call ahead with any pre-planned absences. We will document it, so you will not have to call again the day of the absence.

If your child needs to be picked up for an appointment, please send a note or call the office as far in advance as possible so that your child can be given an out pass in advance. We appreciate advance notification as it eliminates the need for us to try and find your student at the last minute

when he/she is being picked up. If your child returns with a medical or dental appointment verification form, it is not counted toward the 10 days allowed for your child to be absent from school. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping your child's attendance up to date and informing the school of absences in a timely manner.

Thank you!



"Meet Us in the Middle"



What Issues Are We Trying to Solve?

1. Crowding in our elementary school; too many students.
2. Aging and inadequate middle school
3. Campus traffic congestion and safety
4. Aging and inadequate outdoor facilities
5. A desire to accommodate the Boys' and Girls' Club

Proposed Solutions for Each Issue

1. Move 5th grade from elementary school to middle school and renovate ES serving area
2. Renovate, expand, and update the middle school to include 5th grade creating a modern, efficient facility
3. Create new bus loop, additional parking and relocate the front of the middle school from Mark St. to East Ave.
4. Reconstruct running track, construct additional seating at football stadium, new tennis courts, softball complex, new JV baseball field, new multi-purpose events facility; and provide road, parking, and utilities
5. Accept a \$2.5 million donation from Boys' and Girls' Club to renovate the current middle school basement, locker rooms, and gymnasium into shared-space to be used by the club and the school district

If Referendum Passes

District Debt Summary

The district assumes \$25 million in additional debt. Annual payments for both current and new debt combined are set at \$2.1 million per year for 20 years.



Property Tax Impact

The taxes on \$100,000 worth of property will **DECREASE** by \$75 in 2017 and will gradually decrease moving forward.

Looking Ahead

District facility issues will be addressed for the foreseeable future.

If Referendum Fails

District Debt Summary

The district assumes no additional debt. Annual payments on current debt will end in 4 years.



Property Tax Impact

The taxes on \$100,000 worth of property will **DECREASE** by approximately \$75 in 2017 and will eventually decrease by more than \$250 by 2021.

Looking Ahead

A number of district facilities will remain in need of expansion, repair, or replacement. The district cannot finance this work without voter approval.

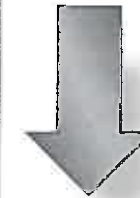


School District of West Salem

November 8th Referendum

Question #1: \$20,000,000 for renovations and additions to our middle school along with updates to our elementary school including parking, a bus loading area, and cafeteria serving area

Question #2: \$5,000,000 for renovating the running track, provide additional seating at the football stadium, construct three new softball diamonds, construct one new baseball diamond, construct 8 new tennis courts, construct a multi-purpose events facility along with an access road, parking, and utilities.



Tax Impact

The overall school mil rate will decrease regardless of the referendum outcome because of

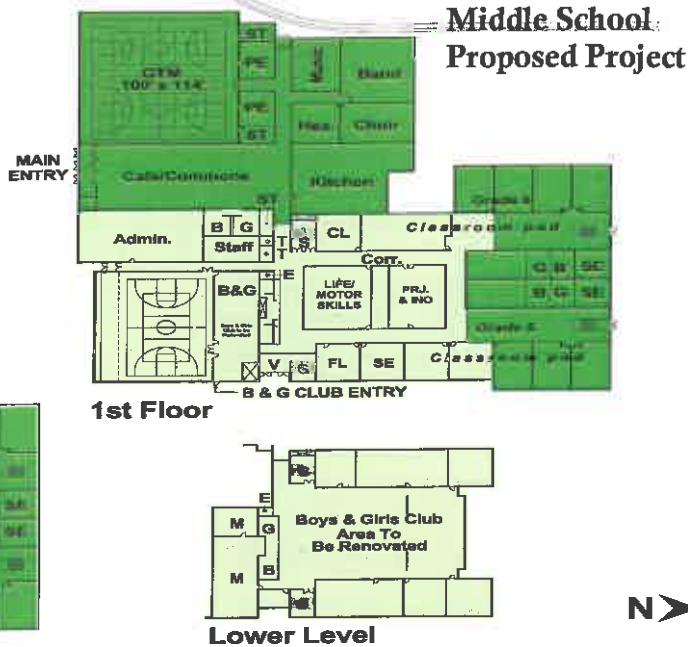
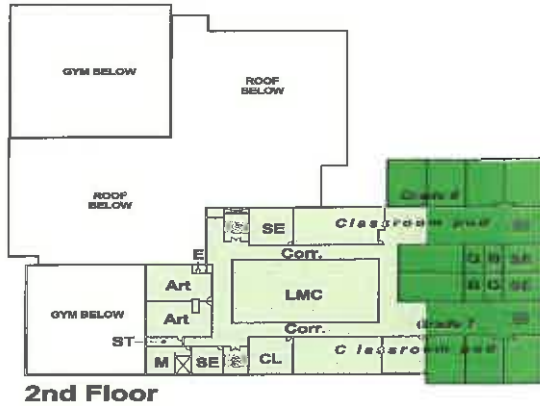
revenue limits and increased property values. The estimated tax mil rate reduction for 2017 will be \$.75 or \$75 on a \$100,000 regardless of referendum outcome.

OVERALL SQ. FT. TOTALS

	EXISTING	NEW	TOTAL
BASEMENT	22,411 SQ. FT.	0 SQ. FT.	22,411 SQ. FT.
1st FLOOR	36,263 SQ. FT.	51,435 SQ. FT.	87,698 SQ. FT.
2nd FLOOR	22,894 SQ. FT.	17,310 SQ. FT.	39,894 SQ. FT.
TOTAL	81,568 SQ. FT.	68,745 SQ. FT.	150,393 SQ. FT.

COLOR LEGEND

- EXISTING / RENOVATED
- NEW ADDITION



Elementary School & Middle School

Elementary School

- A dedicated bus transfer area
- Additional parking
- Improved cafeteria serving area
- An events entrance
- Building infrastructure

Middle School

- Two-story addition, including four individual grade level pods; one for each grade, 5-8. Each pod would contain classrooms and a center gathering space for lockers.

- Single-story space containing a cafeteria/commons area, kitchen, music/choir area, secure entry, and a two-station gymnasium
- The funds provided by the Boys' and Girls' Club will be used to create a "new" club within the building by renovating the current middle school basement, locker rooms, gymnasium, and east entry.
- Renovations would include: heating, air conditioning, ventilation, fire alarm, electrical service, ADA compliance, roofing, doors and windows.

Campus Facilities

- Renovation of the running track
- Construction of additional seating in the football/track stadium, and new eight-court tennis facility
- Construction of three-diamond softball complex and renovation of the current varsity softball diamond into a JV baseball diamond
- Completion of the related site improvements to include a parking lot and access road
- Construction of a multi-purpose events facility that will serve as the center of a sports complex located near the current soccer fields. This facility will contain a large open space for activities such as ice hockey and indoor practice for athletic teams, as well as restroom, concession, and changing areas designed to service the surrounding outdoor events. It is also expected to function as a community events center with the ability to host a wide range of activities and events.

WSMS Students of the Month

October



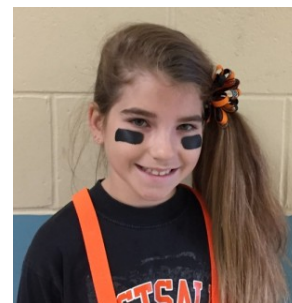
Grade 6



Samuel O.



Mason R.



Keanna B.

Grade 7



Arin M.



Orin S.

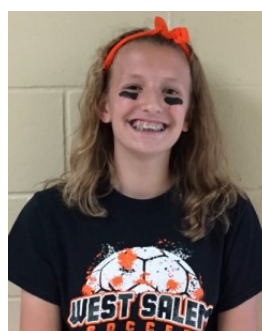


Kamry H.

Grade 8



Left: Kendall G.



Right: Madisyn H.



Right: Max G.

Veterans Day

This year's topic will be the Pledge of Allegiance based on the explanation by Red Skelton, a veteran comic. On January 14, 1969, he reminisced with his television audience about his school days as a young boy in Indiana. One of Skelton's teachers felt his students had lost any sense of the meaning of the words they were speaking. As Skelton related the story, Mr. Lasswell (his teacher) told the class: "I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it's becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word?"

Skelton then delivered to his audience a stirring version of the explanation provided to his school class by their teacher many years earlier. Skelton's explanation proved to be quite popular and widely acclaimed, and in response to public demand, it was issued in print and pressed into records.

To hear this explanation you can attend the middle school Veterans Day program on



Parent Reminders...

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please remember to keep the office informed of any changes in your contact information as soon as possible. It is important for us to be able to contact you in the event of an emergency.

If you have caller ID and you have missed a phone call from the middle school, please understand that we are unable to identify the person, extension number, or department that was trying to reach you. Rest assured that if your child is sick or injured, the school nurse will leave a message for you.

*If your child sends you a text or e-mail that they do not feel well, please have them go to the nurse or office and then we can contact you. If kids are sick they must go through the nurse or office so we know what is wrong.

Please remind your child to leave a message if they call you.

VISITORS: Don't forget to sign in at the office and pick up a visitor badge.



The Middle School Newsletters can be found on the district website - www.salem.k12.wi.us.

An e-mail reminder will be sent each month to let you know when it is available along with a link to the actual newsletter. If you would like a hard copy of the newsletter, please let the Middle School office know.



Student Cell Phone Use

Students at our middle school are **NOT allowed to carry cell phones** with them throughout the school day. If a student brings a cell phone to school it:

- * **Must be turned off**
- * **Must be kept in the student's locker**

Cell phones are absolutely **NOT allowed on the playground or in the bathroom/locker room.**

Students are NOT allowed to use cell phones to take video recordings of other students at school. Students not following the guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. Please call if you have any questions.



Early Release Dates

Wednesdays - Release at 12:20
Buses leave at 12:30

November 16

December 14

February 8

March 15

May 10





Social Studies - Mrs. Jeranek

During the month of November, we will continue to work on note-taking and reading strategies through Channel One as well as

various reading sources during class. Also, we will study the ancient civilization of Egypt. At the end of the unit, students will be able to:

1. Explain the importance of the Nile River.
2. Describe the resources Ancient Egyptians used to survive.
3. Analyze their achievements which have changed our world today.
4. Identify evidence that remains of the civilization.
5. Explain how and why this civilization came to an end.

With the Presidential Election in early November, we will look at all candidates and take part in a mock election with a ballot similar to the one you may use at your local voting site. Before voting we will analyze important platforms the candidates stand for, along with the two West Salem School District Referendum questions. Student already have strong opinions on many topics, and they will work on ways to positively express opinions and the acceptance of other opinions.



Math - Mrs. Jehn

October in 6th grade math was all about fractions and decimals. Students spent the month multiplying, dividing, adding, and subtracting them. We will continue this work into November finishing Chapter 2 by the middle of the month.

The rest of November will consist of moving into Chapter 3 - Algebraic Expressions and Properties. They will learn to write and evaluate algebraic expressions using coefficients, variables, and constants. Students will also learn about various properties of addition and multiplication including the commutative, associative, and distributive properties. This will be very new and very abstract for many students.

Accelerated Math

Students almost completed Chapter 3 in the month of October focusing on algebraic expressions and properties. By early November they will have learned to write and evaluate algebraic expressions using the commutative, associative, and distributive properties.

The rest of the month of November will bring Chapter 4 - Areas of Polygons. Students will learn the areas of parallelograms, triangles, trapezoids, and composite figures. Students will also work with polygons in the coordinate plane.



Science - Mrs. Jarosh

In 6th grade science students have continued to use the scientific method to solve problems pertaining to the metric system. At the Outdoor Education Center we put our metric skills to the test with outdoor measurement! We are so fortunate to have such a great place to learn. Our next unit will be an introduction to chemistry concepts. I look forward to another great month working with this great group of students!! Bring on the cold, dry weather, and static electricity!

English - Mr. Tashner

The writers in 6th grade English have been feverishly working on their narratives. We will continue to dive into our flash drafts to hone in on a quality personal narrative. Writers are spending lots of time looking at their story and finding a small moment that they can "explode!" They are enjoying learning from their peers and continuing to study the mentor texts. I am looking forward to reading all their wonderful stories. We will master nouns by the end of the month!



Reading - Mrs. Schultz

SURVIVAL and CHANGES!! Those are some of the themes of the unit we have started mid-October. As students are reading and discussing the class novel, *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson, they will be identifying and explaining the themes of the novel as well as the types of conflict found within. We will be focusing on analyzing characters, how to use discussion etiquette and have meaningful discussions in which all students can participate. At the end of the unit, students will complete an end of the book checkpoint demonstrating their knowledge of theme, conflict and the changes the characters made throughout the novel. The essential question for this novel has the students explain the novel and how it helps them better understand the human experience. The question is: How does reading this novel help you to understand yourself and others. Talk with your student about the novel and how the characters have been changing throughout!

Art - Miss Engen

The 6th graders have been learning about the elements of art as well as drawing still life objects. Soon, they will be doing a still life drawing of a pumpkin and showing value by shading.

In the month of November, students will explore the element of form by creating a clay piece, and later work in pairs to create a mask using paper gauze.



Candid photos for the Yearbook....

If you have taken pictures at WSMS co-curricular events and think students would enjoy having them in the yearbook, please e-mail them to friell.nicole@wsalem.k12.wi.us. I'll try to work in as many as possible. Thanks! Ms. Friell





Reading - Mrs. Rochester

The students have just finished up The Outsiders. Many of the students thoroughly enjoyed the book! It was great to hear the students tell me their parents read this book when they were the same age and enjoyed it! We will also be watching the movie upon completion of the book. Your son/daughter should have brought home a permission slip to sign since the movie is rated PG-13. The students will continue to work on close reading this month. In addition, we will starting our Dystopian unit in the middle of November. A dystopia is a society that usually has a group of people making negative decisions for the rest of the society. The conditions of the society are usually grim due to overcrowding, sickness, lack of food, and misery. The Hunger Games is a perfect example of a dystopia. During this unit, the students will be given a choice of seven novels to read. They will choose one book and participate in meaningful book discussion with other students who are reading the same book. They will be discussing characteristics of dystopias and looking at real life examples. These books will not be going home with the students, so it is important for students to be in class during this time. Finally, seventh grade students are continuing to study Greek and Latin root words.

Science - Mr. Baker

November will be devoted almost entirely to genetics and heredity. Starting with the basic rules of how traits are passed from parents to offspring and moving into the complexities of why you are who you are. This is a great time to share any family history with your kids because we will be creating family trees and tracing several traits to see how they have moved through the generations. As long as the weather holds, we will continue to find days that we can get outside to take advantage of the nature all around us as well.

Regular Math - Mr. Jones

In 7th grade math we will be working through chapter 3: Expressions and Equations. Common Core Standards for chapter 3:

*Add, subtract, factor, and expand linear expressions with rational coefficients.

*Understand that rewriting expressions in different forms can show how the quantities are related.

*Write, graph, and solve one-step equations (includes negative numbers).

*Solve two-step equations.

*Compare algebraic solutions to arithmetic solutions.

At the very end of November, we will begin Chapter 4: Inequalities. Common Core Standards for chapter 4:

*Solve one-step inequalities involving integers and rational numbers.

*Solve two-step inequalities

Pre-Algebra

In advanced math we will be covering Chapter 13: Circles and Area, and will cover Chapter 2: Transformations. Common Core Standards for chapter 13:

*Understand pi and its estimates

*Use values of pi to estimate and calculate the circumference and area of circles

*Find perimeters and areas of composite two dimensional figures, including semi-circles

Common Core Standards for chapter 2:

*Verify the properties of translations, reflections, and rotations

*Describe translations, reflections, rotations, and dilations using coordinates

*Understand that figures are congruent or similar when they can be related by a sequence of translations, reflections and rotations

*Describe a sequence that exhibits congruence or similarity between two figures

English - Mrs. Martinson

Now that the 7th graders have finished reading Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children, we will be writing a compare/contrast essay comparing the book to the movie. It was so nice being able to see the movie. The students really enjoyed it!

The students will be working hard on revising their fictional narratives. We will focus the revising on the lead, adding the senses and similes, as well as direct and indirect characterization. The narratives will be due before Thanksgiving. This piece is 60% of the first trimester grade. We will also continue working on our compound sentences and verbs.

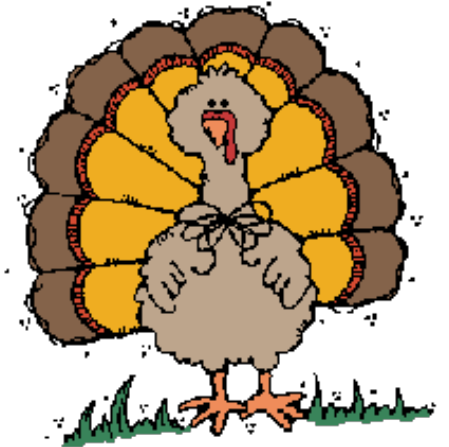
Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum

In social studies the students will be finishing up their unit on the Constitution. We will look at the structure of the constitution as well as why it was written. Then, we will look at all the amendments to this very important document. At this time we will examine many of the rights and responsibilities we have as citizens here in the United States.

Spanish - Mrs. Lassig

I'm happy to be back to school and helping the seventh graders gain Spanish skills! We wrapped up our review and started talking about school supplies, school activities, and telling time. We will wrap up with a test over what we've learned all year, so remind your students to keep practicing the old topics. Spanish (and all languages) builds from topic to topic, so we can't just learn and forget it later. Our last day will be November 21 or 22.

Please feel free to contact me with questions. I will do my best to get back to you by email within 24 hours on weekdays, 48 hours on weekends.





Math - Mrs. Bentzen Regular Math (Chapter 2 & 3)

We started Chapter 2 (a geometry unit on

transformations) on October 17. We will take our test on that unit on November 16 (Day A) and 17 (Day B). Then we will begin Chapter 3 called "Angles and Triangles on November 18.

The objectives for Chapter 2:

- *identify congruent figures and name corresponding parts (angles and sides) of congruent figures
- *identify translations and translate figures in the coordinate plane
- *identify reflections and reflect figures in the x-axis and y-axis of the coordinate plane
- *identify rotations and rotate figures in the coordinate plane
- *identify similar figures and name corresponding angles & sides
- *find unknown measures of similar figures
- *understand the relationship between perimeters and areas of similar figures, and find the ratios of those perimeters and areas
- *identify dilations and dilate figures in the coordinate plane
- *use more than one transformations to find images of figures

The objectives for Chapter 3:

- *identify the angles formed when parallel lines are cut by a transversal
- *find the measures of the angles formed when parallel lines are cut by transversals
- *understand that the sum of the interior angles of a triangle is 180 degrees, of a quadrilateral is 360 degrees
- *find the measures of interior and exterior angles of triangles
- *find the sum of the interior and exterior angle measures of polygons
- *find the measures of interior and exterior angles of polygons
- *understand the concept of similar triangles
- *identify similar triangles
- *use indirect measurement to find missing measures

Algebra (Chapter 4 & 5)

We started Chapter 4 (graphing linear equations and functions) on October 21. We will take our test on that unit on November 16. Then we will begin Chapter 5 called "Writing Linear Equations" after

Thanksgiving Break. We will continue with our weekly Mathcounts sheets. Our first in-school Mathcounts competition will be November 18.

The objectives of Chapter 4:

- *identify and plot points in a coordinate plane
- *graph linear equations in a coordinate plane
- *graph linear equations using intercepts
- *find the slope of a line and interpret slope as a rate of change
- *graph linear equations using slope-intercept form
- *write and graph direct variation equations
- *use function notation

The beginning objectives of Chapter 5:

- *write equations of lines in slope-intercept form
- *write equations of lines using two points on the line
- *write equations of lines in point-slope form
- *write equations of lines in standard form

English - Mrs. Sackett

The 8th grade ELA classes are finishing narratives. This year we wrote Choose-Your-Own-Adventure-style narratives. We will go through the entire writing process with these pieces. Revising is hard work; however, this is the step in the writing process where writers truly grow as writers. The final draft will be due early November. At that time, we will be publishing the narrative using Google Slides presentations.

The ELA classes will be working together with Ms. Morgan on the National History Day project. The theme this year is Taking a Stand in History. Ms. Morgan will be helping students select a topic. Then in English class, each student will be writing his/her five paragraph essay. We will be spending time researching, citing sources, writing an outline, rough draft, revising, editing, and writing a final draft.

This process will take us up to the winter break.

The 8th graders will also continue reviewing parts of speech as well as continue working on compound and complex sentences.

Social Studies - Ms. Morgan

The month of November marks the beginnings of the National History Day project. Students will need to find a topic of interest to them that relates to this year's theme "Taking a Stand in History." Students may choose from national or world history. They can focus on an individual of significance in history or an important event. Once students have chosen their topics, research begins both in English and Social Studies classes. We will begin with secondary sources and eventually move on to primary or first-hand accounts of an event.

Once students have completed their research, they will choose how they will present their findings. Students may choose to create a website, perform a play, develop an exhibit, write a historical paper, or make a documentary. The choice is entirely up to them. Final products will be due shortly after returning from winter break. The best in each category will receive an invitation to participate in the regional competition at UW-La Crosse in late March.

Project & Inquiry - Mrs. Ebert

Students have learned to build at least nine mechanisms using their VEX kits. While doing so, they generated a summary document on their iPads using Pages which featured photos and answers to questions of each mechanism. Following a written test about mechanisms, students are working with new teammates to create a "pull toy" which utilizes mechanisms and creative, thematic art. Ask your son/daughter to explain the team's theme/artistic element and what mechanisms are being used to change movement from the forward rotation of the wheels to the movement being designed into the toy. Students will build and share these devices during two class periods before the end of the trimester. Meanwhile, while not building, students will be learning to use ROBOT-C programming language which will be used as we add robotic commands to the mechanisms.



Reading - Ms. Friell

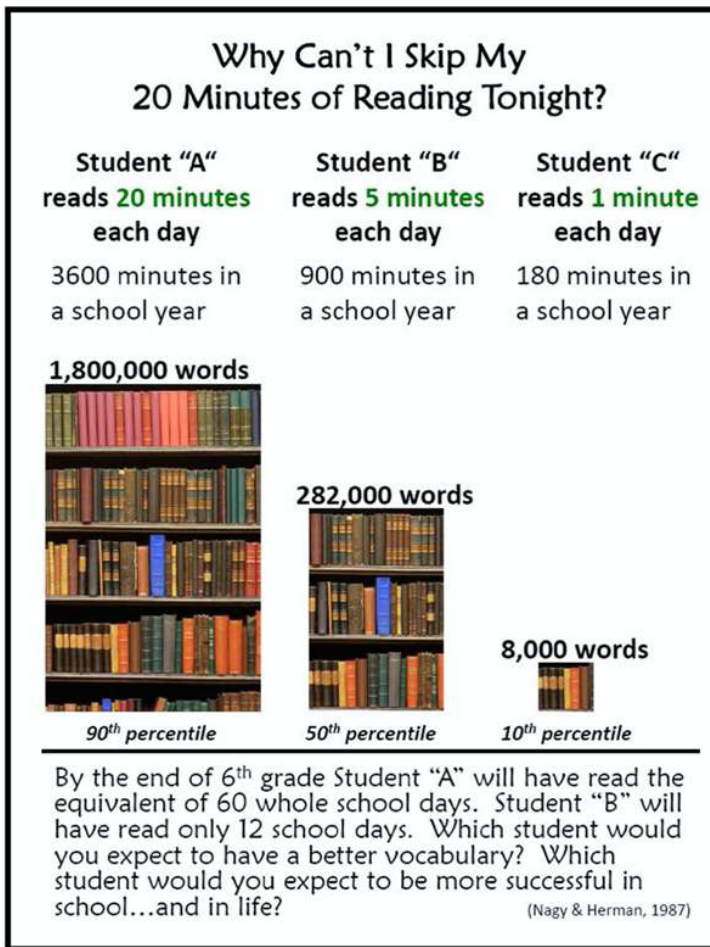
Independent Reading: Students have been to the library and have selected books of their choice. They should be reading these books at home on a daily basis (a minimum of 20 minutes). They are also given 20 minutes to read their choice books during every Reading class. Please ask your son/daughter to 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.

As students prepare for high school more non-fiction is incorporated into the 8th grade curriculum. In October we started reading short stories to continue work on literary elements in fiction. This will continue into November. At the same time, we will start working with more non-fiction and informational texts. For example, we will read encyclopedia entries, newspaper articles, and advertisements, to name a few. We will also work with textbook features, like an index and a table of contents.

All texts are posted on edmodo if you would like to see what we are reading in class.



Science - Ms. Smith-Waller

In my first year here at WSMS, I am **thankful** for a great group of students and staff to work with. As we near the end of first trimester, the 8th graders will continue learning about our fascinating Earth. We will be finishing up our study of topographical maps, weathering, erosion, and landforms. Looking forward to December we will learn about what is inside the Earth as we study plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, and mineral and rock classifications.

Unit Objectives for November:

1. Understand how wind, water, and erosion can change the surface of the Earth, and the economical impact of weathering.
2. Identify the major landform regions of the United States.
3. Identify sources of mechanical and chemical weathering.
4. Understand the profile of soil and ways to practice soil conservation.
5. Describe the unique geological features in Wisconsin (moraines, drumlins, drift-less area, etc.)
6. Describe the events in Earth's history and identify the geological time periods in Earth's history.
- 6) Describe the events in Earth's history and identify the geological time periods in Earth's history.



Choral - Miss Nimm

Choirs - All three choirs continue to work on sight-singing and preparing our 2 and 3-part harmony concert music. Concert music for the 6th and 7th grade choirs is primarily spirituals and folk songs, with a few holiday selections mixed in. Concert music for the 8th graders is primarily challenging arrangements of popular music, including several holiday selections. All three grades will have a sight-singing video assignment sometime this month.

Soundscapes - Students in Soundscapes will be concluding a study of the voice by researching and presenting information on a famous singer. The famous singer will be someone that is greatly disliked by the student. Along with sharing their opinion, students will also have to describe the artist's singing voice using the vocal vocabulary learned in class.

African Drumming - Students in African Drumming will work on a new ensemble called High-Life. This ensemble features seven different instruments being played at the same time. Students will be creating videos to show they know all of the different patterns before performing them for the class in small groups.

Crescendo - A reminder that all Show Choir rehearsals will be held at the high school from now on. Students can be dropped off outside the choir room door, which will be unlocked. Our next choreography session will be held on November 12, from 8am-2pm. We will once again have pizza from The Pizza Oven for lunch!



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

The students are continuing to play the keyboards twice a week. The first songs focused on playing by reading finger numbers and then letter names. Now they will begin to read music on the staff in bass clef and treble clef. They have been doing a lot of rhythm reading games/activities (Bingo, Count to 100, Connect 4, and dictation) and using the pitch reading app called Flashnote derby.

The students just completed their introduction rap project and will begin writing a Halloween/Fall parody to the tune of “Jingle Bells.” They will have to learn to write lyrics that fit the words to their song to the rhythm of the music.

Our [Music Alive](#) magazine articles this month focus on the different types of music that originated from Texas, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and a music controller that works with an iPad app.

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

The students are continuing to play songs on the guitar. They moved to the second string and added the pitches of B, C, and D to the first string's E, F, and G. They are now adding the rhythms of half notes, whole notes, and dotted half notes to their songs. The students are finding it challenging to now play songs going back and forth between the two strings.

The students are learning the vocabulary that goes with musicals. The first musical that they will watch will be “You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.” Discussions will be on how the characters relate and treat each other.

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

The students are continuing to play on the instrument of their choice. Some are moving very quickly through the required 20 songs for the first trimester. Guitarists have learned to play three more pitches using the second string, and are now able to play many more familiar songs such as “Jingle Bells” and “Guitar Rock.” Keyboardists are now playing on the grand staff, still only one hand at a time, and learning to skip keys (intervals).

They are also working on writing a paper based on information they gained from watching a video about their instrument.



Forensics

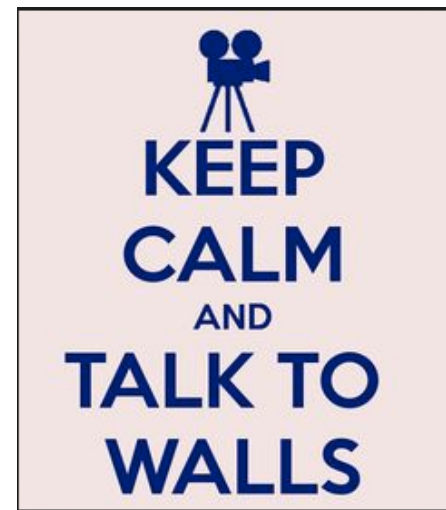
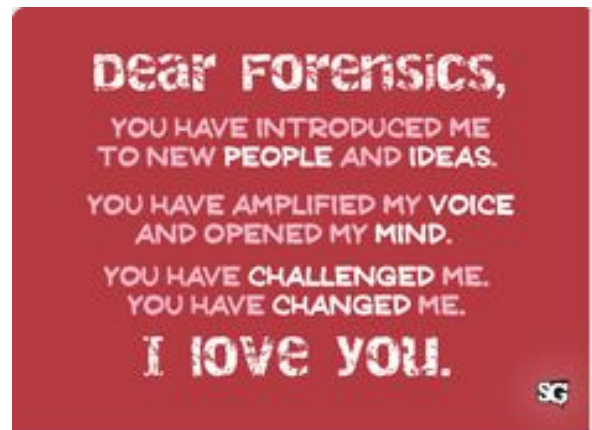
There will be an informational meeting about Forensics during A/A in November. Students in grades 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to join Forensics, a group that offers students the opportunity to speak/perform in front of other students in neighboring school districts. This co-curricular activity runs from December until the middle of February.

Students are able to participate individually or as a group. They are able to select from the following categories: acting, readers' theatre, speech giving (demonstration, persuasive, informative, extemporaneous, historical, special occasion), prose reading, poetry reading, or news reporting.

Students are able to practice before school, during lunch, and after school. This great co-curricular activity continues in grades 9-12 and helps students develop speaking skills they will use throughout life. Students practice during their lunch/recess. They are also able to practice before and after school, so involvement doesn't conflict with their other activities. Contact Ms. Friell at friell.nicole@wsalem.k12.wi.us for more information.

Level 1 meet is Monday, February 6 in Whitehall

Level II meet is Tuesday, February 21 in Bangor



Healthy Living...

The Healthy Living Team wants to remind all students that even with the weather getting colder, we still plan on going outside as much as possible or until it snows so please bring warm clothes. We are going to be starting our Health units this month which include: Nutrition and Alcohol & Other Drugs. The physical education units that we will be ending Trimester 1 with are Fishing and Wrestling. We would like to remind all students to take their PE clothes home weekly. Happy Fall!!!!

Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Olson & Mr. Running



"Meet Us in the Middle"



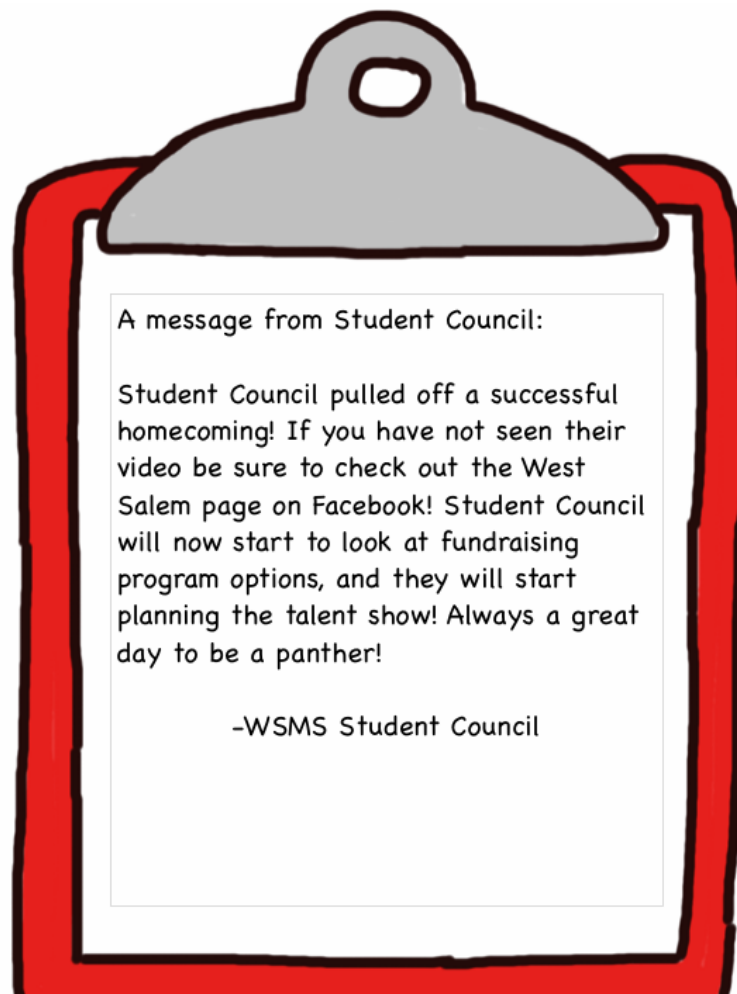
Winter Sports.....

Boys basketball and Wrestling practice will start on Tuesday, November 1 after school until 5pm.

Normal practices will be Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday after school until 5pm and Wednesdays after school until 4:30.

Early Release days there is NO practice.

See page 16 for a Winter Sports schedule.



8TH GRADE WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP

Information for the D.C. trip was sent home with students. The trip will be June 4 - June 9. They will see the following historical sites: Gettysburg, the Air and Space Museum, the Smithsonian, The White House, Ford's Theater and the U.S. Capitol. They will also see the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean Memorial and FDR's Memorial. In addition to these stops, we will visit Arlington Cemetery and see the changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Along the way they will visit the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, IL and the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, PA. Before returning they will spend a half-day at Six Flags Amusement Park in Maryland.

The cost of this year's trip is \$700. This includes meals, accommodations, tickets to stops that aren't free, travel insurance for participants while in D.C., and the bus ride to and from D.C.

Parent chaperones are welcome, although we may not be able to take all who are interested. The parent chaperone cost is \$800. Those parents interested in chaperoning should complete the chaperone portion of the permission slip that was sent home. You will be notified in November if you will be a chaperone for the trip.

To help defray some of the cost of the trip, there will be a candle fundraiser in the fall and a Puffins Pastry fundraiser in February. These are individual fundraisers. Whatever a student earns will reduce the cost of his/her trip. If a student does not end up going on the trip all money raised will be put back into the 8th grade account and/or put towards the cost of activities we will be doing with students not going to Washington D.C.

Students must have committed to the trip by Wednesday, October 5. Please return the permission slip that was sent home.

- * You will be able to make payments through Fee Management in Skyward via Revtrak.
- * If your child sold candles last spring as a 7th grader the amount earned will be credited to their account.

Washington D.C. payment dates:

November 11 - \$240

February 1 - \$240

April 13 - balance

***Please be sure to pay ON TIME or ahead of schedule as we need to pay Ready Bus Line just after the due dates.*



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.

Substitutes Needed

For the 2016-2017 School Year
In the following areas:

Secretarial Paraprofessionals
Food Service Custodians
Bus Drivers Teachers

If interested, please stop at the District Office at
405 East Hamlin St, West Salem OR call
608-786-0700 OR go to www.wsalem.k12.wi.us
for a substitute application



2016 -17 West Salem Middle School Panthers Winter Athletics Schedule



BOLD FACE EVENTS ARE AT HOME

WRESTLING (West Salem/Bangor)

Tuesday	11/1		First Day of Practice	
Saturday	11/12	10:00am	Conf. Individual Tourney	Tomah High School (leave at 8:30am)
Monday	11/21	4:15pm	@ Westby	Westby High School
Tuesday	11/29	4:15pm	Home	West Salem Middle School
Friday	12/9	4:30pm	@ Tomah	Tomah High School
Saturday	12/10	10:00am	@ Marshfield	Marshfield High School (leave at 7:30am)
Tuesday	12/13	4:30pm	@ Sparta	Meadowview Middle School
Tuesday	12/20	4:30pm	Conf Dual @ Sparta	Meadowview Middle School



BOYS BASKETBALL

Tuesday	11/1		First Day of Practice	
Thursday	11/10	3:45pm	Logan	7 - WS Middle School 8 - WS Elementary School
Tuesday	11/15	4:00pm	@ Longfellow	7/8 - LaX Longfellow Middle School
Thursday	11/17	3:45pm	Lincoln	7 - WS Middle School 8 - WS Elementary School
Monday	11/21	4:15pm	G-E-T	7 - WS Middle School 8 - WS Elementary School
Tuesday	11/29	4:15pm	@ Winona	7/8 - Winona Middle School
Thursday	12/1	4:15pm	Westby	7 - WS Middle School 8 - WS Elementary School
Monday	12/5	4:15pm	Aquinas	7 - WS Middle School 8 - WS Elementary School
Thursday	12/8	4:00pm	@ Sparta	7/8 - Meadowview Middle School
Monday	12/12	4:15pm	Tomah	7 - WS Middle School 8 - WS Elementary School
Thursday	12/15	4:00pm	@ Onalaska	7 - Onalaska Middle School 8 - Eagle Bluff Elementary School
Tuesday	12/20	4:00pm	@ Holmen	7/8 - Holmen Middle School
Thursday	12/22	4:00pm	@ Logan	7/8 - Logan Middle School



GIRLS BASKETBALL



Tuesday 1/3 First Day of Practice

Tuesday 1/17 4:00pm @ Logan 7/8 - LaX Logan Middle School

Thursday 1/19 4:00pm Longfellow 7 - WS Middle School
8 - WS Elementary School

Tuesday 1/24 4:00pm @ Lincoln 7/8 - LaX Lincoln Middle School

Thursday 1/26 4:15pm @G-E-T 7 - Ettrick Elementary School
8 - G-E-T Middle School

Tuesday 1/31 4:00pm Winona 7 - WS Middle School
8 - WS Elementary School

Thursday 2/2 4:15pm @ Westby 7 - Westby Elementary School
8 - Westby High School

Tuesday 2/7 4:00pm @ Aquinas 7/8 - Aquinas Middle/Mathy Center

Thursday 2/9 4:00pm Sparta 7 - WS Middle School
8 - WS Elementary School

Monday 2/13 4:15pm @ Tomah 7 - LaGrange Elementary School
8 - Tomah Middle School

Thursday 2/16 4:00pm Onalaska 7 - WS Middle School
8 - WS Elementary School

Tuesday 2/21 3:45pm Holmen 7 - WS Middle School
8 - WS Elementary School

Thursday 2/23 3:45pm Logan 7 - WS Middle School
8 - WS Elementary School

GO PANTHERS!



Parents/Guardians:

Please make sure that your child is picked up from practices on time. Coaches will work to be consistent in ending practice at the announced time.

For all road contests, only the student's parent or legal guardian may take a student home. The parent/guardian must be there to sign the child out. Students may not leave with another relative, family friend, or another child's parent.

November 2016

West Salem Middle School Lunch

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	1	2	3	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Fajitas • Pork Taco Meat • Soft Shell Tortilla • Tortilla 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
7	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheesy Mac Bake • BBQ Pork Rib Sandwich • Steamed Broccoli • Pineapple Tidbits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Nuggets • Chef Salad w/ham & cheese • Cheez-It Crackers • Harvest Moon Blend • Vegetables • Orange Halves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diced Chicken & Gravy • 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
14	15	16	17	18
<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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini Corn Dogs • Fish Sticks • Goldfish Crackers • Sweet Potato Tater Tots • Fresh Sliced Apples
21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot Dog • Meatball Sub • Roasted Potato Fusion • Peaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking Tacos • Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla • Refried Beans • Orange Halves 	No School - Thanksgiving Break!	No School - Thanksgiving Break!	No School - Thanksgiving Break!
28	29	30		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicken Nuggets • Pepperoni Pizza - Slice • Animal Crackers • Redstone Potato Wedge • 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 		

More Details: <http://wsalem.nutrislice.com/menu/west-salem-middle-school/lunch/>
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Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

A+ feedback

When your middle grader gives a classmate feedback (say, on a presentation or a rough draft of a report), encourage him to be positive *and* honest. First, he could tell what he liked (“Your opening really grabbed my attention”). Then, he should offer suggestions for improvement (“Try adding transition words”). Giving constructive criticism may help your child accept feedback on his work, too.

Just you and me

Carve out one-on-one time with your tween while you tackle your to-do list this holiday season. Write down everything that needs to be done, and let her choose some tasks to work on with you. You might, for example, make table centerpieces and napkin rings or address greeting cards together.

Spatial reasoning

The ability to visualize shapes, sizes, and positions of objects is an important thinking skill. Give your middle schooler practice by having him load the dishwasher, bag groceries at the self-checkout, or pack items in boxes. He'll have to picture what could go where and how everything will fit.

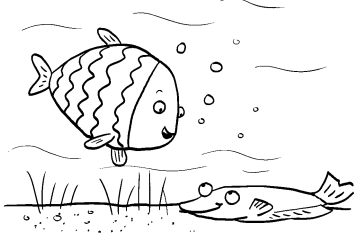
Worth quoting

“Don't count the days, make the days count.” *Muhammad Ali*

Just for fun

Q: Where is the ocean the deepest?

A: On the bottom!



Study smart

Good study skills let your tween accomplish more each time she studies—and they prepare her for high school and college. Suggest that she try these different ways to study and stick with the ones that work best.

Rewrite material

After your child reviews notes or completes assigned reading, writing the information in a different format will help her learn and remember it. She might be creative and make up a song about the parts of the nervous system or write a poem using vocabulary terms. Or she could teach the information to a peer by writing key information on a small whiteboard or chalkboard.

Picture it

Suggest that your middle grader think of a way to turn information into something visual. That can help her make sense of it. She may draw a picture with arrows to show steps in the water cycle, a bar graph to display income statistics



for an economics project, or a chart to compare two novels by the same author.

Make your own tests

Testing herself on what she learns will show your student what she knows and what she needs to review. Encourage her to create a test using old worksheets or quizzes and her textbook. She can check her answers and grade herself. Or she could think of and answer essay questions. *Idea:* Suggest that she team up with a friend and make up tests for each other to do. 👍

Conferences are worth attending

Now that your child is in middle school, parent-teacher conferences may be different from what you're used to. Here's what to expect:

- You'll get an overview of how your tween is doing in each subject. If you meet with one teacher who shares notes from a team, ask about scheduling a follow-up conference with a particular teacher if you'd like more information or have concerns.

- You may discover interests or talents you didn't know your youngster has, and the teacher might recommend electives for next year that let him use and develop these strengths.

- Find out how your child interacts with teachers and peers. For example, you could ask about how he works with classmates. 👍



How math adds up

Math isn't just for math class. Knowing how to use numbers will benefit your middle grader in his other courses, too. Share these ideas.

Social studies

When your child makes a time line of historical events or uses coordinates to locate a city on a map, he's doing math. Here's a fun way to combine math and social studies at home: Encourage him to watch this month's election-night coverage and figure out which combinations of states would lead to the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency. Or have him hold a mock election among friends



and family members, and calculate the percentage of votes each state or local candidate receives.

Science

In science class, your middle grader will measure liquids for experiments, figure out speed and velocity, and graph results.

In fact, most science experiments involve math in some way. Remind him to double-check formulas and calculations on lab reports—just as he would check his work in math class. He will see the connection between what he's learning in algebra, geometry, or regular math class and what he's doing in science. 👍

Parent to Parent A jarful of gratitude

Sometimes I feel like my 12-year-old son, Brock, takes things for granted, like the rides I give him or the Internet I pay for. For example, he won't be ready when it's time to leave or he'll complain that a friend has faster Internet. A neighbor shared an idea her family uses to remember what they're thankful for, and I decided to try it.

I had Brock cut colored construction paper into squares and stack them near an empty glass jar. In the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, I asked everyone to pay attention to small things they appreciated. Each time they noticed something, they could write it on a square and drop it into the jar.

Before our holiday meal, we are going to pass the jar around and have everyone read a square. Then, we're going to start a new jar for each month so Brock learns that being thankful isn't just for Thanksgiving. 👍

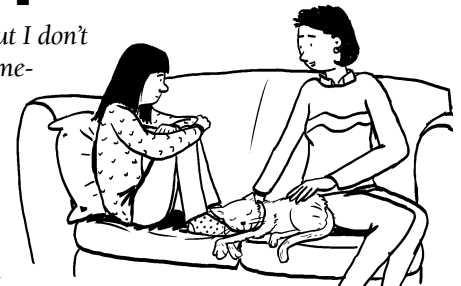


Q & A Tween blues—or depression?

Q My daughter seems down lately, but I don't know if it's normal mood swings or something more serious. How can I tell?

A Mood swings are a normal part of adolescence. But if your child is sad or irritable for more than a couple of weeks—and if it interferes with her regular activities—she may be depressed. Other clues include withdrawing from friends and family, frequent headaches or stomachaches, or sleeping too much or not enough.

Point out what you've noticed by saying something like, "You seem kind of quiet lately." If she says she feels "angry at the world" or "hopeless," don't try to downplay her feelings by saying "You shouldn't feel that way" or "That's no big deal." Instead, listen and tell her you want to help. Then, contact her pediatrician or the school counselor for guidance. *Note:* If she insists nothing is wrong but symptoms continue, seek help anyway. 👍



Talking without screens

Face-to-face communication can fall by the wayside if your tween sticks to texting or chatting on screens. By actually talking to people, she will build interpersonal skills and pay attention to the world around her. Consider this advice:

■ Make screens off-limits for everyone—parents included—during meals or while riding in the car. This will get your child talking to the people she's with, rather than those "inside her phone."

■ If your middle grader participates in activities after school, she'll naturally spend more time talking to friends than in texting them. For instance, if she

works for the school newspaper, she will interview classmates or toss around article ideas with fellow staff members. 👍



OUR PURPOSE

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

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