

# WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

450 North Mark St.  
West Salem, WI 54669  
Phone - (608) 786-2090  
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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

**School Starts at  
7:50!!**

### Inside this Issue:

Morning Procedures	2
Calendar of Events Notes from Office	3
Nurse Info Drop off/Pickup	4
Cell Phone Usage Early Release Dates	5
Counselor Comments	6
Edmodo Info	7
Grade 6 Band/Gen. Music	8
Grade 7	10
Grade 8 Gr. 8 DC Info	11 13
Success Center	14
Gr. 8 Important Dates Student Council Info	15
Middle Years	16



2016

Volume 5 - Issue 2

Dear WSMS Families,

The 2016-2017 school year is off to a great start at West Salem Middle School. Staff members have been hard at work preparing and planning for the start of school and the arrival of our students. We are looking forward to working together as a team to provide your child the very best educational experience. Our newsletter is one way in which we maintain communication between school and home. It contains a variety of academic updates, important dates, and items of interest. Thank you for taking the time to read it.

It is the political season, and as such I'm sure you will be receiving plenty of information regarding local, state, and national elections in the coming weeks. One issue of major importance locally that I would like to draw your attention to will be the referendum questions. The West Salem School District School Board has approved a referendum on the ballot that will consist of two questions. The first will include renovations and additions to the middle school and updates to the elementary school. The second will address improvements to several campus facilities. Please look for upcoming informational meetings on the referendum or contact the district if you would like more information before you exercise your right to vote on November 8th.

WSMS is committed to ensuring a positive learning environment for all. This commitment comes with a focus on learning, consistent attendance, and adherence to the school rules. Consistency in these three areas will allow our students the opportunity to develop the positive habits that will make them successful young adults. While we recognize that students in middle school should be able to be in charge of their own success, parents/guardians can have a great impact in setting the stage. How? Here are a few ideas:

#### Learning

- Let your child know you think school is important. Talk to him/her about what they're learning.
- Encourage persistence: Children learn persistence when they are successful at a challenging task. Let them know that not everything comes easy. This will help them gain confidence and successfully negotiate difficult situations when they are older.
- Talk to them about their future: School success is one of the keys to a successful future. Talk with them about their dreams/goals and make the connection to how school fits within this vision.

#### Attendance

- Encourage your child to get enough sleep to ensure that he/she is able to get up in the morning.
- Leave home with plenty of time to get to school.
- Try to schedule appointments before or after school hours.

#### School Rules

- Familiarize yourself with the school rules, guidelines, and expectations in our handbook.
- Reinforce that school is currently their "job" and just like your job, there are expectations. This will help them prepare for high school and beyond.
- Talk to your kids about the rules at your job. Compare them. For example, what is the dress code at your job? This helps students understand the purpose of school rules.

Finally, encourage your child to develop a great work ethic. Vince Lombardi was quoted as saying, "The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary." A good work ethic will help develop personal pride and ensure that your student feels in control. Hard work pays off!

I feel blessed to be a part of such a strong learning community here in West Salem. We look forward to partnering with you to continue Serving With Passion to Ignite Creativity, Innovation, and Excellence in all of our students. Let's have a great year!

Proud to be a Panther!

Ben Wopat  
Principal  
Twitter.com/coachwopat



# Morning Procedures

Students who report to school prior to 7:43 may report to our playground areas. Supervisors arrive at 7:30 a.m.

Students may report to the Success Center at 7:00 a.m. Students should buzz in and report directly to the Success Center classroom. Doors open for students to have breakfast or report to cafeteria at 7:15.

On mornings with inclement weather, students will be permitted to wait in the cafeteria beginning at 7:15 a.m.

Students with band instruments may report directly to the band area from outside and then go either back outside or report to the cafeteria.

Students are not to be in the halls at any other time before 7:43 unless they have a pass from a teacher. **First period starts at 7:50 a.m.** and all students will be expected to be in their appropriate classrooms.



# Calendar of Events



2 - WSMS Band Night @ WSHS Football Game

5 - NO SCHOOL (Labor Day)

15 - VB vs. Lincoln 3:45

17 - CC @ Brookwood 10:30

19 - VB @ Holmen 4:00

20 - CC @ Westby 4:30

21 - EARLY RELEASE

22 - 8FB vs Holmen I 3:45  
VB vs G-E-T 4:15

26 - VB @ Aquinas High 4:00

27 - 8FB vs Logan 3:45  
7FB @ Logan High 4:00  
CC @ HOME 4:15

29 - VB vs Longfellow 4:00

29 - Torch Light Parade  
CC @ Ashton 4:30

## Middle School Security...

The middle school doors will be locked during school hours of 8:00am - 3:10pm. When coming to the middle school, you will need to be buzzed into the building by using the button located on the south wall of the main entrance. Once you enter the building, please report to the office to sign in.

## From the Office

### Absences, appointments, and messages

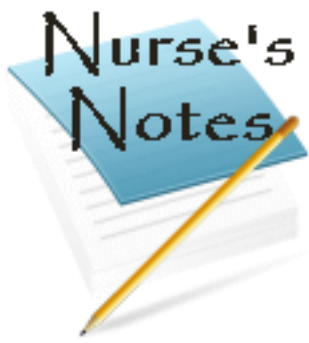
If your child will be absent from school, please call the office by **7:50** in the morning. In the event you receive the voice mail, leave a message that includes your child's name, grade, and the reason for the absence. If your child is ill, **please be specific with his/her symptoms**. We are required 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, and we will document it. Therefore 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 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 child at the last minute when he/she is being picked up. If your child brings a note from the medical or dental appointment as verification, 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.

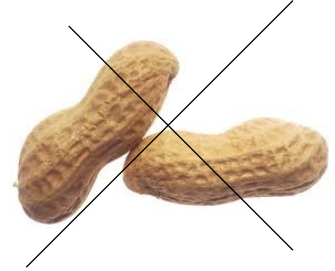
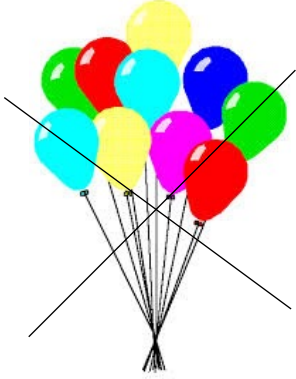
We receive many calls daily from parents asking us to relay messages to their children. Please make every attempt to relay these messages to your child before he or she leaves for school. Messages called into the office after 1:30 may not get to your child before dismissal.





We have several students in the district who have severe allergies to peanuts, tree-nuts and latex. For this reason we are asking that you follow the district policy below:

Our schools are designated as latex-controlled schools. Materials that contain high concentrations of latex, such as most balloons, are prohibited. Our schools are also designated peanut/tree-nut aware. We ask that you do not send any foods that contain peanuts or tree-nuts (cashews, almonds, pecans, etc.). If you have questions regarding any product or material you may wish to bring to the school, please contact the office or the school nurse before bringing the item into the school.



## Student Drop Off and Pick Up

In the interest of your child's safety, between 7:30-8:00 a.m. and 2:45-3:30 p.m. All students need to be dropped off and/or picked up on East Avenue (south of the middle school building), not in the front or side parking lots. Please remind your child to exit your vehicle on the sidewalk side and use the crosswalk to cross the street. Make sure that your child does NOT walk in the parking lot between the cars! Do not pull into the front or side lots from 7:30-8:00 a.m. and 2:45-3:0 p.m. daily. **DRIVING INTO THE PARKING LOTS PRESENTS A SAFETY HAZARD.**

“FIRE LANE - NO PARKING” - The fire lanes in front of the middle school are identified by yellow paint on the sidewalks. Students may be dropped off/picked up in the fire lane, except during the following times: 7:30 -8:00 a.m. and 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. Parking is defined as the driver leaving his/her vehicle.

Additionally, please do not drive and/or park on the middle school play ground blacktop (just past the dumpsters) to watch sporting events. The playground blacktop is not a parking lot. We ask that you do not drive or park on the playground as it is not built to support vehicle traffic and driving or parking on it creates a safety hazard. The playground blacktop is meant only as a recreational surface for our students.



**The Middle School Newsletters** can be found on the district website - [www.salem.k12.wi.us](http://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

September 21

November 16

December 14

February 8

March 15

May 10



The West Salem School District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the Pupil Services Director at (608) 786-0700. To file a complaint of discrimination write to: Pupil Services Director at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669 or call (608)786-0700. The West Salem School District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Counselor Comments from Mr. Lang...

**WELCOME** to all students new to the middle school and  
**WELCOME BACK** to all of our returning students!!!  
Looking forward to a great year!

For our Advisor/Advisee Program, we use the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets as our foundation for the program. As we kick off the new school year, our initial focus will be Caring/Community Involvement as we get involved with the Tunnel to Towers event that will be happening in West Salem on September 11. Students will be reading and sharing biographies of the 343 emergency responders who lost their lives that tragic day back in 2001. These biographies will be displayed at the T2T event. Along the lines of "we shall never forget," WSMS will be holding a coin collection as well. We will collect coins from September 1 - 9. Please see the enclosed flyer regarding the T2T event.

We will quickly turn our focus to the asset of Commitment to Learning: achievement, motivation, school engagement, homework, bonding to school, and reading for pleasure. Students who are focused and ready to learn right away will have a solid foundation to continue to be motivated and connected to school/learning for the whole year...and beyond!

Our advisors have "assigned" parents the first homework of the year. You received your In a Million Words or Less assignment at registration. Please take some time to tell us (more) about your child...even if we have known him/her the past couple of years. So much can happen over the course of the summer. We appreciate you taking the time to help us make connections with your child and your family.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled educational year. There will be so much going on that it may feel overwhelming at times for students and parents. Please be patient as the year unfolds and new endeavors occur. Certainly, reach out and ask questions if you are not certain about something your child is involved with at the middle school. We want this to be the most positive experience for your child.

## Substitutes Needed

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

Secretarial  
Food Service  
Bus Drivers

Paraprofessionals  
Custodians  
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](http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us)  
for a substitute application



Parents,

Again this year, we are using **Edmodo** in our classrooms. **Edmodo** is a free and secure social learning network for teachers, students and schools. It provides a safe and easy way for us to connect, share content and access homework and classroom updates, topics and discussion.



**Edmodo** also offers parent accounts. You will be able to view your child's homework assignments and due dates as well as receive updates on class events.

**Edmodo** is accessible online and on any mobile device with internet capabilities. They also offer a free iPhone and Android app. You can access your account on the go, and adjust your notification settings within **Edmodo** to receive alerts via text or email.

To join our classrooms on **Edmodo**, follow these steps:

- \* Go to [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com)
- \* Have your child login
- \* On the "Home Page" you will see a Parent Code, then below that the code is in **BLUE** - write down this code, then log out of your child's account.
- \* Go back to the main login screen
- \* Select "Parent Signup" (the link is located below the student and teacher sign up buttons)
- \* Key in your **parent code** then create your unique username and password (that you will remember)
- \* Select Sign Up

If you have more than one student you can "add a student". You will, however, need to have your other child's login, follow the steps above to get the parent code. Then log back in as a parent and at the top of the screen, you will see "Add a Student" click on this button - it will then ask you for your child's parent code.

After you sign up for the first time, you will no longer need the parent code - you'll login using your unique username and password.

That's all there is to it!



## Welcome to middle school!

Thank you for the great turnout to WEB orientation and open house. For those of you who couldn't make it or those of you who were overwhelmed with the amount of information, we wanted to remind you of a few things.

Personal responsibility is very important in middle school. Included in that is attendance, which is critical with block scheduling since we only see students every other day. However, please have your child stay home if he/she are truly sick. If your child is absent, there are several ways to get caught up. Students should go speak with their teachers about what they missed, but they should also check Edmodo, call or e-mail friends, and utilize the Success Center to receive support in homework completion and understanding.

Edmodo is an educational app we use to inform students of homework, assessments, classroom activities, etc. Students are also able to view information from classes they may have missed and will need to make up.

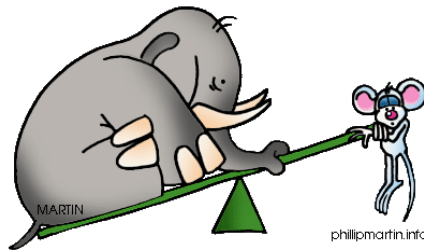
The Success Center is a resource room for students before and after school to receive help from staff who attend various classes in the building and are equipped to walk students through information they may have missed or just do not understand. It is also the place students make up tests and quizzes. It is open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:45 a.m., at lunch, and again from 3:10 until 4:00 p.m. If students attend the Success Center, parents are responsible for transportation to and from school.

Speaking of 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.

We are looking forward to a great year! The 6th Grade Team



Go  
Wild...  
Read!



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*





Students will work in a new textbook series called Big Ideas Math. This series uses a balanced approach to instruction helping students to think abstractly, reason, and inquire about highly motivating and relevant math problems. The authors built the series on the Common Core Standards for Mathematical Content and the Standards for Mathematical Practice which will prepare students for the challenges of future assessments.

Students will spend September working in chapter one focusing on numerical expressions and factors. During the course of the chapter students learned to do the following:

- fluently divide
- write and evaluate with whole number exponents
- find the prime factorization of a number
- find the GCF of two whole numbers
- find the LCM of two whole numbers



**Science - Mrs. Jarosh**

In 6th grade science, students will practice using the scientific method to solve problems and freshen up measurement skills by investigating the metric system. I look forward to working with your child!

**Art - Ms. Beron**

Hello! My name is Ms. Cassidy Engen and I will be long-term subbing while Ms. Beron is out on medical leave.



**General Music ~ Mrs. Glasel**

**General Music 6 “Keyboards and More”**

This month will focus on getting to know the 6th grade students and making them feel comfortable with middle school. They will learn some basic music skills to get started on learning the piano keyboard and music reading while also doing activities on who they are and their musical tastes and interests.

We also read articles every Friday from a music magazine called Music Alive. Articles this month will focus on marching bands, billboard charts, and music from the 80’s.

**General Music 7 “Guitars and Musicals”**

The students will begin to learn basic skills on the guitar this month, along with basic music reading, and will begin to learn some simple songs on the first string. Also, they will learn about what is a musical and some terminology related to musicals.

**General Music 8 “Keyboards and Guitars”**

The students will be choosing which instrument they will learn this trimester. They have the choice of learning one instrument all year or splitting up learning one instrument for a trimester and one instrument for two trimesters. This month will start with the basic knowledge of the instrument they have chosen and starting to learn some songs on that instrument.

**The WSMS Marching Band will be performing twice in the month of September...**

"TORCH LIGHT PARADE"  
Thursday, Sept. 29  
Northside of LaCrosse  
Report Time TBD - Full Uniform



# Welcome Back to School 7th Graders!

**We are happy you are here!**

Mr. Mahlum - social studies  
Mrs. Rochester- reading  
Mr. Jones - math  
Mrs. Martinson -ELA  
Mr. Baker - science  
Ms. Aspenson (subbing for  
Mrs. Lassig) - Spanish



Download from  
Dreamstime.com

1982091  
10447-Terence Castaldi | Dreamstime.com



**Attendance.** With our block schedule, attendance is critical. It is very difficult to make up everything we do in class when gone. Please make every effort to be in school.

**Edmodo.** This website is the students' lifeline! Teachers post to Edmodo **daily**. The posts include the daily plan and handouts students need. When you are absent, it is **your** responsibility to check it and talk with the teacher about make up work.



**Skyward.** Advisors check grades on Skyward weekly. Students and parents can check Skyward, too. Teachers usually enter grades weekly. Please be patient with teachers to get grades entered after a test or project.

We use iPads in class daily. **Please, please, please** keep your iPad charged! Plug it in **every** night.



**Snacks.** The 7th graders eat lunch at 12:31; therefore, we encourage students to bring a healthy individual snack to eat during 2A/2B. The kitchen also offers healthy snacks for students to purchase. Students can charge it to their lunch account.



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
KEEP YOUR  
GRADES UP!**



## Spanish~

Welcome back, 7th graders! This year you will start out with Ms. Aspenson while Mrs. Lassig is out on medical leave. 7th graders will start out reviewing skills from 6th grade, then moving on to new work around October. More details will come then! Be sure to check out Edmodo to keep informed!

See you in October!

Mrs. Lassig

## Math - Mrs. Bentzen

### Regular Math (Chapter 1)

This will be our third year in a new textbook series called “Big Ideas Math.” This series exposes students to highly motivating and relevant problems. Woven throughout the series are the depth and rigor students need to prepare for career-readiness and other college-level courses. In addition, the “Big Ideas Math” series prepares students to meet the challenge of Smarter Balanced testing.

The objectives for Chapter 1:

- \*solve simple equations using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division
- \*use inverse operations to solve multi-step equations
- \*use Distributive Property to solve multi-step equations
- \*solve equations with variables on both sides
- \*determine whether equations have no solution or infinitely many

solutions  
\*rewrite equations to solve for one variable in terms of the other variable(s)

### Algebra (Chapters 1 and 2, Chapter 3)

We will be practicing some basic skills of algebra while learning about the real number system. We will start Mathcounts early in the month. Students will be required to complete a problem solving worksheet every week.

The objectives for Chapter 1:

- \*write and evaluate expressions, equations and inequalities
- \*apply the order of operations to solve real world problems
- \*represent functions as rules and as tables
- \*graph functions given a rule or table of values

The objectives of Chapter 2:

- \*classify real numbers/compare and order integers and rational numbers

- \*perform basic operations and find square roots
- \*apply properties to evaluate and simplify expressions
- \*use the Distributive Property to write equivalent expressions
- \*use conditional statements and logical reasoning to reason with real numbers

The objectives of Chapter 3:

- \*use properties of equality to solve one-step, two-step and multi-step equations in one variable
- \*use properties of equality and the distributive property to solve equations with variables on both sides
- \*write ratios and proportions, solve proportions using cross products
- \*solve percent problems, such as finding the percent of a number, a base, and part of a base
- \*rewrite equations in function form
- \*solve formulas and literal equations for one variable

## English - Mrs. Sackett

In 8th grade English, we are beginning the year by getting to know each other and establishing our classroom routine. We begin each class with a journal write and then move on to lessons developing writing skills. The first writing piece of the year will be the narrative. We will also start the year reviewing some of the grammatical principles learned in 7th grade; for example, we will review parts of speech and compound sentences. I am excited

to work with this group of 8th graders and look forward to a great year!

### Project & Inquiry ~ Mrs. Ebert

A student’s trimester of Project and Inquiry is perhaps best described with a phrase from a British comedy series popular many years ago: “And now for something completely different!” In eighth grade P&I, Students will experience hands-on activities utilizing VEX kits to build a variety

of mechanisms. Later, they’ll employ their construction and mechanism knowledge in some fun engineering design challenges. Finally, students will experience ROBOT-C programming to bring mechanisms to life through robotics. Along the way we’ll explore STEM topics as well. During the trimester, ask your child to show you photos and videos of his/her team’s work. And remember you’re always welcome to stop in Room 3 to see what we’re doing.



**Reading - Ms. Friell**

**Supplies:** To be prepared for class, students must bring the following to class every day: pen/pencil, iPad, book of choice (fiction or non-fiction), and a Reading binder. The students' Reading binders will stay in the classroom, so they only have to get it off the shelf at the beginning of class!

**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.). Along with the journal, students are required to keep many worksheets in the binder. We refer to the worksheets throughout the year for reference. Students have been told that if the paper is three-hole-punched it stays in the binder the entire school year.

**Vocabulary:** In addition to "A Word A Day" (from the book 100 Words Every Middle Schooler Should Know), we continue to work on vocabulary in the following ways: studying Greek and Latin roots (we practice a different root every week), working with new words in the fiction and non-fiction works we read as a class (often coordinating with other 8th grade curricular areas), and by keeping an independent vocabulary list in our journals.

Students will begin the year by completing an independent project about an abstract word. The project will demonstrate their understanding of denotation and connotation, literary devices, and how to use reference materials.

**Science - Ms. Smith-Waller**

Welcome back everyone! I am very excited to be joining the 8th grade team at West Salem Middle School this year. I hope you have enjoyed your summer break and are eager for a fun-filled year in 8th grade science. I am excited to get to teach you all about the Earth! Before we dig into learning about many aspects of our amazing planet Earth, we will be learning how to become better scientists. We will be using the scientific method to solve problems and will introduce the scientific way of measuring by using the metric system. These first few units are full of hands-on activities and experiments that will keep you engaged and will re-ignite your passion for learning about science! Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns, and once again, welcome!

Specific Learning Targets for Unit One:

- 1) Solve a problem using the PHEOC Method (Problem, Hypothesis, Experiment, Observation, and Conclusion)
- 2) Create and conduct a scientific experiment including posing a question, creating and testing a hypothesis, collecting and analyzing data, making observations, and drawing conclusions.

**Social Studies ~ Ms. Morgan**

This year in 8th grade Social Studies we explore the history of our nation from the events that led to the American Revolution through the Civil War which nearly tore the country apart.

Once again, all students will complete a National History Day Project which will revolve around the theme of "Taking a Stand in History." Students will select a historical topic of interest to them and complete one of five project times to show their research.

During September, students will be able to:

- \*Explain pop culture and historical events that occurred within their lifetimes
- \*Describe important facts (who, what, when, where, why) of current events
- \*Develop an argument about why the American Revolution was justified



# 8th Grade DC Trip 2017

## Everything (or almost) You Need to Know

**When is the trip?** June 4-9, 2017

**Who can participate?** Any 8th grader enrolled at WSMS prior to mid-November. Students coming after that point, may be added if room permits.

Students can be removed from the trip, if they:

- receive a 4th F on either 1st or 2nd trimester grade
- receive 2 In-School Suspension or 1 Out-of-School Suspension
- receive a 3rd unexcused absence
- Mr. Wopat or a parent decides against the trip for the student

\* Note that if a student should be removed from the trip by either their parents or the school, refunds will be based on what is returned by the bus company.

**What is the cost?** The cost of the 2016 trip was \$690 for students and \$800 for chaperones. Exact amounts are not established until negotiations with the bus company are completed in August.

**What is included in the cost?** Meals, transportation (via charter bus), hotel accommodations, and admission to places with admission charges are covered. There may be locations that offer additional activities that students must cover cost of if they wish to participate (notably Six Flags and the Air and Space Museum).

**How can we help pay for the trip?** During their 7th grade year, students had the opportunity to sell candles toward the cost of their trip. This will again be offered in the fall for students. Additionally, students may take part in a puffin pastry fundraiser before Easter.

**When are payments due?**

- PAYMENT #1 (1/3 of total cost): November 10
- PAYMENT #2 (1/3 of cost minus funds raised by 7th & 8th grade Candle Sales): Feb. 1
- PAYMENT #3 (BALANCE-Puffin Pastry Sales): April 12

**What do you do on the trip?** Trips vary from year to year. Among the places visited may include (but are not limited to): Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, IL; Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, PA; Gettysburg National Battlefield; Stephen Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum; Arlington National Cemetery; Washington Monument; World War II Memorial; Lincoln Memorial; Jefferson Memorial; Vietnam Wall; Korean War Memorial; the National Zoo; Kennedy Center; the White House; the Capital; Museum of Natural History; Museum of American History; the Museum of the African American (opening fall of 2016); Six Flags America.

**What if I want to chaperone?** We will be seeking parent chaperones to assist with supervision on the trip. The exact number will not be known until we have a grasp on available seats for the trip. Parents will be selected on the following basis: return of slip expressing interest by due date; passing the mandated background check; parents of students with exceptional medical needs; parents whose student is either their youngest or only child; all others. Chaperones are responsible for paying the \$800 cost of the trip.

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

We are excited to be back to school!! We are hoping the weather is amazing this fall to get outside as much as possible. 7th and 8th grades are required to change for class. Please remember the grass is wet in the morning when 7th graders have PE, so you may want to bring an extra pair of socks and athletic shoes to have in your locker. We are super pumped to get back at it and look forward to seeing everyone!! As always, if you ever have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to contact one of us.

If you are interested in ordering PE clothes here is the link:  
<http://gamespeopleplay.tuosystems.com/stores/ws-middle-pe-2016>

Orders are due September 8th!

## Looking ahead to TESTING dates!!!

**PLEASE** put these dates on your calendar so you can avoid appointments.....

WI Forward for 6th grade - April 3-7  
WI Forward for 7th grade - March 20-23  
WI Forward for 8th grade - March 27-31

### 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](#).

## **Important 8th grade dates:**

Candle Fundraiser (for end of year trips) - Mid October

Puffin Pastry Fundraiser (for end of year trips) - February

Career Day in La Crosse - January

Civil Way Day - May 19

Promotion - June 1 (Tentatively)

Washington DC trip - June 4 - 9

## **Student Council -**

Want to be a positive role model for West Salem Middle School? Want to make fun videos and plan team building activities for the whole school? Then you should sign up for student council!

Student council will be starting up right away this school year. We have many activities to plan in the community and throughout the school year to make it an exciting year. We will plan activities for homecoming, fundraisers to raise money for the school, and many more activities.

This year, student council meetings will be on Friday mornings from 7:00-7:30am.

Applications will be in the office and in Mr. Tashner's room. They are due by September 11th at 3:30pm in the main office.

If you have any questions feel free to email me, [tashner.benjamin@wsalem.k12.wi.us](mailto:tashner.benjamin@wsalem.k12.wi.us) or call the school.

