

September 2018



Newsletter

School District of West Salem

Contents

- Letter from Superintendent Troy Gunderson 1
- Referendum Information.....2-3
- Calendar of Events.....4-6
- A Note from the Nurse.....7-8
- Community Events9
- District Announcements.....10-11
- School Board Minutes & Annual Notices 12-14
- District News.....15



Letter from Superintendent Troy Gunderson

Ready or Not, Here We Go...

The 2018 – 2019 school year will officially begin on Tuesday September 4th. It is an exciting time for students, parents, and staff. It is also an exciting time for our community as we transition into our newly renovated middle school.

The beginning of September also marks the unofficial start of the fall election season. The School District of West Salem will appear on the November ballot as the school board will host a referendum seeking permission to exceed the revenue limit for purposes of maintaining current programs and facilities. The referendum will seek permission to exceed the revenue limit by a total of \$7.635 million over a four year period for the purpose of maintaining current programming and facilities. Specific details regarding the November referendum can be found on the next two pages.

District construction projects continue to progress. Renovation of the middle school is nearly finished with final touches to be completed in time for a community

open house and dedication at 12:30pm on Saturday, September 22nd. Please plan to join us for a dedication and tour. Work at our track and football stadium is complete. The first home football game is set for Friday, August 31st. Construction at the new tennis center, softball complex, and multi-purpose events center is also progressing along. The new tennis center is ready for action, the softball diamonds have taken shape, and the events center will soon be closed in. We anticipate hosting tennis matches this fall, ice hockey games this winter, and softball games next spring.

On behalf of our students, families, school board, and district employees, I offer our appreciation for your generous support of your public schools. Ready or not, here we go...

Troy M. Gunderson, Superintendent

School District of West Salem

November 6, 2018 Referendum

The school board has decided to return to the ballot box on November 6, 2018 to request permission to exceed the state-imposed revenue limit formula by a total of \$7.635 million over a four year period beginning in 2020 and concluding in 2023. The district is requesting permission to exceed the limit by \$1.6 million in 2020, \$1.9 million in 2021, \$2.115 million in 2022 and \$2.02 million in 2023.

How did we get here?

The school district budget is divided into two distinct main sections. The first section is the bond payment or “mortgage” section of the budget used to pay off debt for voter approved construction projects. The School District of West Salem recently approved of 5 different borrowing resolutions at three different elections. From a budget standpoint, the newly approved debt secured at a lower interest rate combined with the paying off of old debt resulted in a new annual “mortgage” payment of approximately \$1.9 million, or just less than the approximate \$2.0 million per year paid over the past decade.

The second section of the budget is the general fund for operations which is controlled by the state-imposed revenue limit formula. The formula, which has been in place for nearly 25 years, was altered in the last decade by a large decrease in 2011 and has remained frozen at this new lower level for the past 7 years. During these years, the School District of West Salem experienced a period of enrollment stagnation followed by a recent return to enrollment growth. The combination of fairly consistent enrollment totals and a frozen state revenue limit resulted in a flat revenue stream. Meanwhile, the cost of operation continues to increase.

During the past seven years, the School District of West Salem avoided a referendum seeking permission to exceed the revenue limit by focusing on expenses. During this period, the district reduced employee benefits, shifted a larger portion of the remaining benefit costs to the employees, restricted wage increases to a minimum, and cut budget dollars for utilities, maintenance and equipment. One key result is an employment situation whereby the district ranks last, or near the bottom, with respect to wages for nearly every category of school district employee when compared to our regional cohort which includes the school districts of Black River Falls, G-E-T, Holmen, Onalaska, Sparta, and Tomah. Another result, as noted in data from the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance, indicates the School District of West Salem to be the lowest spending district in not only the regional cohort, but in comparison to all of the other 25 public school districts in the Coulee Region. The recently completed 2018 – 2019 school district budget reflects the impact of growth and an increasingly competitive job market. The expanding facilities and increasing enrollments resulted in the need for additional staffing, increased wages for 2018 – 2019, and increased maintenance costs. It is estimated that district expenses for 2018 – 2019 will outpace district revenues by nearly \$1,000,000. When the 2018 – 2019 budget concludes in June of 2019, it is estimated that district cash reserves, or fund balance, will be reduced from \$3.2 million down to \$2.2 million or at about 10% of the operational budget. For reference, the average fund balance for school districts in Wisconsin is 23% of their operational budget.

What about my taxes?

The 2018 mil rate for the School District of West Salem is \$8.93. Current estimates project an identical mil rate of \$8.93 for 2019. As a point of reference, the average mil rate for School District of West Salem over the past 20 years is \$9.74 and the average 2018 mil rate for school districts in Wisconsin is \$9.77. The graph on the back side of this document illustrates the School District of West Salem mil rate for the past 5 years and the 2018 mil rates of neighboring school districts.

What happens if we vote yes?

If voters approve of this referendum, the school board will use the additional funding to continue providing current levels of educational programming for our students, to complete various district maintenance projects, and to hire and retain the best possible employees to serve our students. The school board will maintain a consistent mil rate at or near \$9.74 per thousand dollars of property and maintain an appropriate fund balance. Taxes on a \$100,000 home will increase by approximately \$80 per year, or \$7 per month, beginning in 2020.

What happens if we vote no?

If voters reject the request for permission to exceed the revenue limit, the school board will begin working in January of 2019 on the development of a balanced budget for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Current estimates predict a balanced budget for the 2019 – 2020 school year will require an estimated \$1,000,000 in budget cuts. It is projected the mil rate will be reduced from the current \$8.93 per thousand down to approximately \$8.20 per thousand in the 2020 tax year, saving the owner of a \$100,000 home \$73 per year or \$6 per month. Looking forward, district revenues will remain frozen until such time as district voters approve of an increase. The mil rates in 2021 and beyond will steadily increase upward from \$8.20 per thousand as the reduction in spending will reduce state aid.

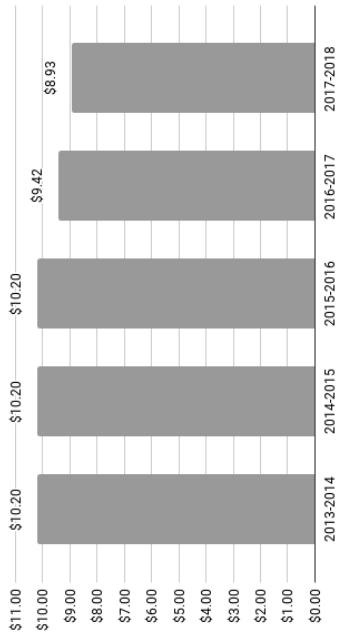
Additional Questions?

Please contact Superintendent Troy Gunderson at gunderson.troy@wsalem.k12.wi.us or (608)-786-0700 or contact a school board member.

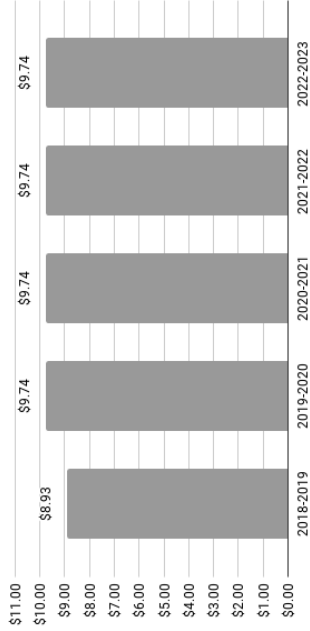
This document is not intended to advocate that you vote for or against the referendum, but instead is intended to inform you about the facts about the referendum.

Accompanying Data

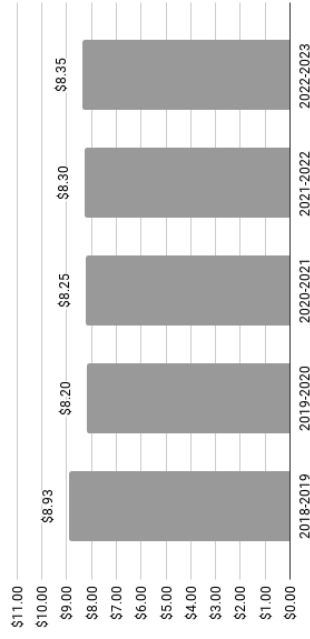
West Salem Mil Rates 2013-2018



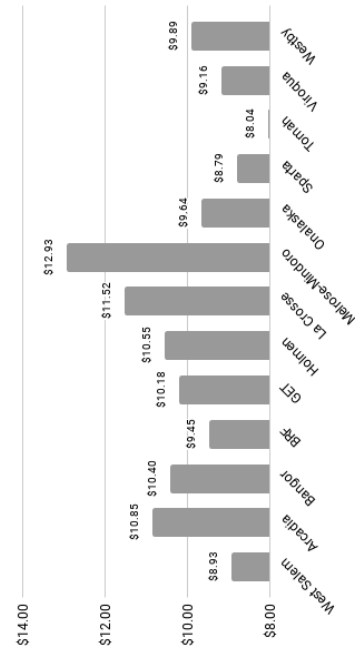
Projected West Salem Mil Rates 2018-2023-If Referendum Passes



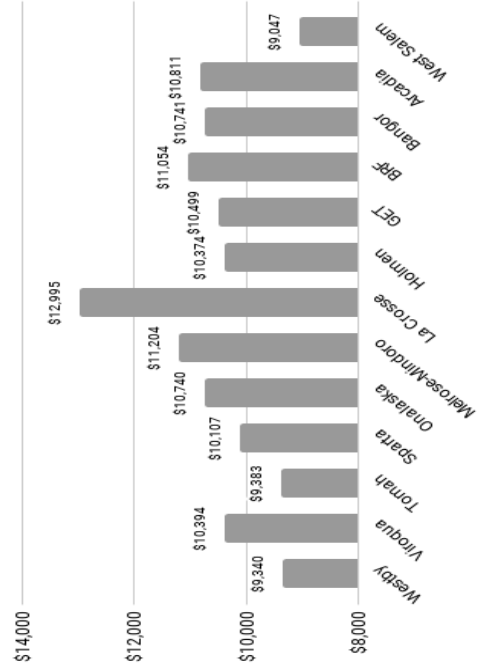
Projected West Salem Mil Rates 2018-2023-If Referendum Fails



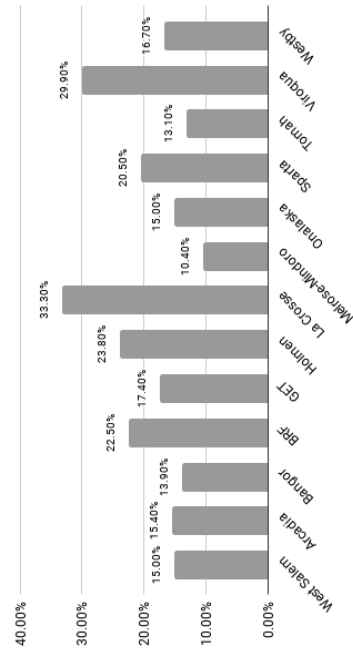
2018 Mil Rates of Area Districts



Comparative Expenditures per Student of Area Districts



Fund Balance as % of Annual Expenses of Area Districts



Calendar of Events September

Athletic Events

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

- 4:00pm Tennis: Girls Varsity Match vs. Mauston @ West Salem High School
- 5:00pm Soccer: Boys JV Match vs. Logan @ Logan High School
- 6:00pm Swimming: Girls Varsity Triangular vs. Black River Falls & Sparta @ UW-La Crosse
- 7:00pm Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. Logan @ Logan High School

Thursday, September 6, 2018

- 4:00pm Tennis: Girls Varsity Match vs. Black River Falls @ West Salem High School
- 4:45pm Cross Country: JV/Varsity Invite vs. Alma/Pepin, Arcadia, Bangor, Blair-Taylor, Chippewa Valley - Lightning Bolts, Cochrane Fountain City, Eleva-Strum, G-E-T, Independence, Lincoln High School, Luther, Mauston, West Central & Whitehall @ Ettrick Golf Course
- 5:00pm Soccer: Boys JV Match vs. Sparta @ West Salem Elementary School
- 5:30pm Football: C-Team Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School
- 5:30pm Volleyball: JV/ C-Team Match vs. Arcadia @ West Salem High School
- 7:00pm Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. Sparta @ West Salem Elementary School
- 7:00pm Volleyball: Varsity Match vs. Arcadia @ West Salem High School

Friday, September 7, 2018

- 7:00pm Football: Varsity Game vs. Holmen @ Holmen High School

Saturday, September 8, 2018

- 9:00am Tennis: Girls Varsity Quad vs. Logan, Madison La Follette & Sparta @ West Salem High School
- 9:00am Volleyball: Varsity Invitational vs. Catholic Central, De Forest, La Crosse Central, McFarland, Monona Grove, River Valley & Watertown Luther Prep @ DeForest High School

Monday, September 10, 2018

- 6:00pm Swimming: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Menomonie @ UW-La Crosse

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

- 5:00pm Soccer: Boys JV Match vs. Onalaska @ Onalaska High School
- 5:30pm Volleyball: C-Team/JV Match vs. Westby High School @ West Salem High School
- 6:00pm Swimming: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Holmen @ UW-La Crosse
- 7:00pm Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. Onalaska @ Onalaska High School
- 7:00pm Volleyball: Varsity Match vs. Westby Area High School @ West Salem High School

Thursday, September 13, 2018

- 5:00pm Soccer: Boys JV Match vs. Central @ Fields For Kids
- 5:30pm Football: C-Team Game vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls High School
- 5:30pm Volleyball: C-Team/JV Match vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School
- 7:00pm Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. Central @ Fields For Kids
- 7:00pm Volleyball: Varsity Match vs. G-E-T @ Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School

Friday, September 14, 2018

- 7:00pm Football: Varsity Game vs. Aquinas @ West Salem High School

Saturday, September 15, 2018

- TBD Cross Country: JV/VARSITY Meet @ Tribute Golf Course, Wausau
- 9:00am Soccer: Boys JV Invitational vs. Clintonville, Eau Claire Memorial, Freedom, Mosinee, Nekoosa, Waupaca, Wausau East @ Edgewood Park Complex -Mosinee
- 9:00am Volleyball: C-Team Invitational vs. Bangor, Black River Falls, Cochrane Fountain City, Holmen & Luther @ West Salem High School
- 10:00am Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. Edgewood @ West Salem High School
- 12:30pm Swimming: Girls Varsity Meet @ Chippewa Falls High School

Calendar of events continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

Monday, September 17, 2018

4:00pm Tennis: Girls JV Match vs. Luther
@ West Salem High School
High School

5:30pm Volleyball: C-Team/JV Match
vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School

7:00pm Volleyball: Varsity Match
vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

4:00pm Tennis: Girls Varsity Match vs. Viroqua
@ Viroqua High School

5:00pm Soccer: Boys JV Match vs. Tomah
@ Tomah Schools Soccer Complex

5:00pm Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. Tomah
@ Veterans Park Field

5:30pm Swimming: Girls Varsity Meet vs.
Marshfield @ Marshfield High School

5:30pm Volleyball: C-Team/JV Match vs. Black
River Falls @ Black River Falls
High School

7:00pm Volleyball: Varsity Match vs. Black River
Falls @ Black River Falls High School

Thursday, September 20, 2018

5:00pm Soccer: Boys JV Match vs. Holmen
@ West Salem Elementary School

5:30pm Football: C-Team Game vs. Logan
@ West Salem High School

5:30pm Volleyball: C-Team/JV Match vs.
Viroqua @ West Salem High School

7:00pm Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. Holmen
@ West Salem Elementary School

7:00pm Volleyball: Varsity Match vs. Viroqua
@ West Salem High School

Friday, September 21, 2018

7:00pm Football: Varsity Game vs. Logan
@ La Crosse Logan High School

Saturday, September 22, 2018

8:15am Cross Country: JV/Varsity Invitational
vs. Fennimore @ Fennimore
High School

9:00am Tennis: Girls Varsity Conference
Tournament vs. Black River Falls,
Luther, Mauston & Viroqua
@ West Salem High School

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

5:00pm Soccer: Boys JV Match vs. Aquinas
@ Fields For Kids

5:00pm Swimming: Girls Varsity Meet vs. Black
River Falls @ Black River Falls
High School

5:30pm Volleyball: C-Team/JV Match vs. Luther
@ Luther High School

7:00pm Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. Aquinas

@ Fields For Kids

7:00pm Volleyball: Varsity Match vs. Luther
@ Luther High School

Thursday, September 27, 2018

3:45pm Cross Country: JV/Varsity Invitational
vs. Aquinas, Central, Eastview, Holmen,
Logan, Sparta, & Wisconsin Rapids
Lincoln @ Forest Hills Golf Course

4:30pm Tennis: Girls Varsity Match vs.
Reedsburg @ Reedsburg Area
High School

5:30pm Football: C-Team Game vs. Sparta
@ Sparta High School

Friday, September 28, 2018

7:00pm Football: Varsity Game vs. Sparta
@ West Salem High School

Band Events

Thursday, September 6, 2018

7:00pm Volleyball Game vs. Arcadia
Black Pep Band

Sunday, September 9, 2018

TBA Kellogg Watermelon Days Parade
Marching Band Uniform Required

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

7:00pm Volleyball Game vs. Westby
Orange Pep Band

Friday, September 14, 2018

7:00pm Football Game vs. Aquinas @ Home
Band Night with Middle School

Sunday, September 16, 2018

TBA La Crescent Applefest Parade
Marching Band Uniform Required

Thursday, September 20, 2018

7:00pm Volleyball Game vs. Viroqua
Black Pep Band

Friday, September 28, 2018

2:00pm Homecoming Parade
Orange and Black Attire

6:30pm Homecoming Football Game vs. Sparta
Arrive at 5:15pm
Marching Band Uniform Required

Saturday, September 29, 2018

TBA La Crosse Oktoberfest Parade
Marching Band Uniform Required

Elementary School Events

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

8:00 a.m. First Day of School for All Students

Friday, September 14, 2018

7:25 a.m. Walking School Bus
Meet at the corner of N. Tilson &
W. Hamlin Streets

Friday, September 21, 2018

7:25 a.m. Walking School Bus
Meet at the corner of N. Tilson &
W. Hamlin Streets

Friday, September 28, 2018

7:25 a.m. Walking School Bus
Meet at the corner of N. Tilson &
W. Hamlin Streets
2:00pm Homecoming Parade with Classes

Middle School Events

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

7:50am First Day of School for All Students
3:30pm First Day of Fall Sports Practice

Friday, September 14, 2018

7:00pm Band Night with HS Band @ Home
Arrive at 5:30pm
Marching Uniform Required

Saturday, September 22, 2018

12:30pm Middle School Dedication
Ceremony begins @ 12:30pm
Tours until 3:00pm

Thursday, September 27, 2018

TBA Oktoberfest Torchlight Parade
Marching Uniform Required

Friday, September 28, 2018

2:00pm Homecoming Parade
"School Spirit" Attire

High School Events

Tuesday, September 4, 2018

7:50am First Day of School for All Students

Monday, September 24, 2018

7:50am Start of Homecoming Week

Friday, September 29, 2018

2:00pm Homecoming Parade with Classes
7:00pm Homecoming Football Game vs. Sparta
@ West Salem High School

Saturday, September 20, 2018

7:00pm Homecoming Dance

A Note from the Nurse

Important Information Parents Should Know About E-cigarettes & Vaping

High schools and middle schools throughout the country have recently seen a considerable increase in the student use of electronic cigarettes or “vapes.” Common additives used in electronic cigarettes include nicotine and caffeine, both substances found in high doses to have negative effects on adolescent brain development. E-cigarettes have become so popular, they are now the most commonly used form of tobacco among teens in the U.S., with more than two million middle and high-schoolers using devices. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 out of every 4 high school students use electronic vaping products.

An electronic cigarette or e-cigarette is a handheld electronic device that tries to create the feeling of tobacco smoking. It works by heating a liquid to generate an aerosol, called a vapor, that the user inhales, which is commonly called “vaping.”

These e-cigs are not a safe alternative to smoking Marlboros. There is a reason these cigarettes are called “electronic delivery nicotine systems.” The liquid ingredient sold with these e-cigs contains nicotine. Eventually, users become addicted to nicotine, and studies show that users of e-cigs are three times more likely to smoke (old-style) cigarettes.

Additionally, included in this newsletter is a link to provide further information:
<https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/about.html>

Also, please see the attached image on the next page that presents information regarding e-cigarettes. By alerting you to this new and dangerous trend among teenagers, I hope that parents can assist us in preventing a potentially dangerous habit of “vaping.” The prospect of addiction to nicotine is real, as is poisoning and increased drug use. The Student Code of Conduct continues to include that no student shall use or possess tobacco or synthetic tobacco products. E-cigarettes are included as a synthetic tobacco product.

Thank you for your partnership,
Beth Clements RN-BSN
District Nurse

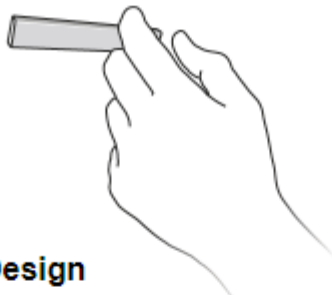
A Note from the Nurse

JUUL e-cigarettes

Some e-cigarette critics are calling the JUUL e-cigarette the “Apple of vaping” or the “iPhone of vaping.” With its relatively low entry price, sleek portable design, ease of use, and nicotine head rush it generates for users, JUULS are catching on with younger people.

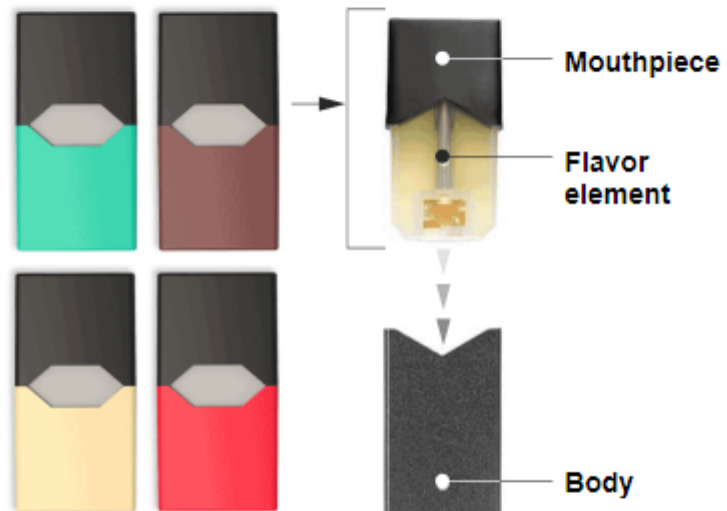
JUUL flavor pods

The juice-flavored pods contain 50 milligrams of nicotine, roughly equivalent to a pack of cigarettes.



Design

The design of the e-cigarette is about the same size as a cigarette and weighs a couple of grams.



Mouthpiece

Flavor element

Charging dock

It looks like a USB thumb drive

Body



Body

Most of the e-cigarette's body is designed to contain a built-in battery.

USB charging dock

The battery is charged by dropping the body on a magnetic USB adapter. It takes an hour to fully charge and will last up to 200 puffs, a full day of regular use.

SOURCE: juulvapor.com

JAMES ABUNDIS / GLOBE STAFF

Community Events



125th
WSFD
 Anniversary Celebration

**Come Celebrate with the
 West Salem Volunteer
 Fire Department!**
 Fire Station 100 S. Mill St.

Sept. 8th, 2018

Breakfast 7am to 11am
 Chicken Q 3pm to 7pm or gone
 Gary's Ridgeland Dutchmen 4:30 to 7:30pm
 Ontourage Band 8pm to Midnight
 Raffle Drawing 10pm

Sept. 9th, 2018

Tunnel to Towers 5k run
 Honoring the WSFD
 T2TRun.org

1893  **2017** 



**HONOR
 OUR BRAVEST**

Stephen Siller
 Tunnel to Towers
 5K RUN & WALK
 WEST SALEM

FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF 9/11 HERO, FIREFIGHTER STEPHEN SILLER TO
 ENSURE THAT WE NEVER FORGET AND HONOR THE SACRIFICES OF OUR
 FIRST RESPONDERS AND MILITARY HEROES.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9, 2018, 8:46 AM

VILLAGE PARK
 WEST SALEM, WI 54669

T2TRUN.ORG

All proceeds will benefit the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, including our Smart Home Program, which builds specially adapted, custom designed homes for our nation's most catastrophically injured service members.

#T2TRUN

WSHS Drama Club
 presents
 a Community Theatre Production

hairspray

Thursday, September 6 @ 7:00 pm
 Friday, September 7 @ 7:00 pm
 Saturday, September 8 @ 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts
Tickets \$8.00

Reserved seating tickets available on-line at www.showtix4u.com
 or at the Heider Center Box Office beginning August 25.
 *includes mature content and language.

HAIRSPRAY is produced with permission from Music Theatre International (MTI)
 423 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019
www.mtishows.com



**WSHS
 Homecoming**

SEPTEMBER 28TH
 7 P.M.

WEST SALEM VS. SPARTA

Kohl Teacher Fellowship

Every year, the Kohl Teacher Fellowship Program seeks to recognize and reward 100 of Wisconsin's best teachers. Each teacher receiving a Kohl Teacher Fellowship, as well as their school, will be given a \$6,000 grant to help realize goals for their classroom or participate in professional development opportunities. We have had a teacher within our district receive a Kohl Teacher Fellowship each of the past six years. Let's continue the tradition!

The only way a teacher can receive the award is to be nominated by a member of the public, including students, parents, community members and administrators. All of the nominees will also automatically be considered for Wisconsin Teacher of the Year. Please take a moment to nominate a teacher that you believe is deserving of this award! You can do so using the link below.
http://www.kohleducation.org/teacherfellowship/public/nominate_a_teacher.php



District Announcements



Middle School Dedication Ceremony

After a year of construction, including additions and renovations, a few setbacks, and lots of moving around and cooperation from our staff, our middle school is complete! We will be holding a dedication ceremony and open house for the community on Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will have students available as tour guides to show you around the school. We hope you'll join us to celebrate our first year in our brand new building! Our new building features individual pods for grades 5-8, a wonderful new commons and office space, cafeteria, gym, music rooms, art rooms and LMC, as well as the addition of the Boys & Girls Club in the basement area. It truly is a beautiful facility, and we are so appreciative of the community support that has allowed us to create this space for our students and staff.

Transcript Information

Are you transferring to a different college or do you need a copy of your high school transcript?

WSHS graduates that need a transcript can request one online, or print out an official transcript request form by going to the Student Services page on the district website at www.wsalem.k12.wi.us

The West Salem School District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, creed, 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 a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. 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: Eric Jensen, 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.

2018-2019 New Student Enrollment

Enrollment for new students can be completed at the District Office, 405 E. Hamlin St., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit our website at www.wsalem.k12.wi.us or call the District Office at (608)-786-0700.

School Board Members

- Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield ~~~~~799-5313
- Syl Clements ~~~~~ 786-1491
- Jane Halverson ~~~~~ 786-1067
- Ken Schlimgen ~~~~~ 786-4382
- Catherine Griffin ~~~~~ 769-1714
- Tom Grosskopf ~~~~~ 386-0168
- Robin Fitzgerald ~~~~~792-4130

Board meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of every month

District Announcements

Heider Center



Individual Show Tickets

Tickets for all Heider Center shows for the 2018-2019 season will go on sale Monday, August 27th at noon. Also, new this year, you will be able to purchase show tickets online 24/7 at our website, www.heidercenter.org

Art Gallery

Narrative of My Life in Art by Margaret Ewert
Runs September 4-30, 2018

Display Cases

Woodcrafts by Les
Display runs September 4-30, 2018

Art Reception

Thursday, September 20, 2018
6:00-7:30 p.m.



Box Office (608) 786-2550
Monday: Noon to 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Friday: Noon to 4:00 p.m.
www.heidercenter.org

Attention Students!

Don't miss this opportunity to remember the friends, fun, and activities from the 2018-2019 school year by ordering a 2019 Neshonoc Yearbook. If you order by September 28, you pay only \$52. After this date the price will be \$62 until November 16. If you wait until the books arrive in May, there is no guarantee of getting a book and the cost will be \$65. There are two ways to order - pick up an order form from Miss Armstrong's room and return to her with payment. Or, go to Jostensyearbooks.com to place your order with a credit card. Thank you and we look forward to your order by September 28.

Parents, see below for information on purchasing a yearbook recognition ad for your student!

CALLING ALL PROUD PARENTS

Lauren Harris

West Salem High School

RECOGNITION ADS ARE ON SALE!
LAST DAY TO ORDER: 02/08/2019

RECOGNITION AD PRICING

Available layouts depend on school ad sizes offered. Refer to the pricing below for more details. Ad layouts are available on www.jostensadservice.com.

ORDER BY 02/08/2019	
COLOR AD	
Full Page	\$185.00
1/2 Page	\$100.00
1/4 Page	\$65.00
1/8 Page	\$40.00

Where Everyone Belongs (WEB)

Two weeks before classes started, our WEB group, comprised of eighth graders, met to begin training for welcoming our new fifth and sixth graders to West Salem Middle.

Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) is a transition program created for middle school students. The program focuses on building a positive school climate while getting to know new students and their peers. Our eighth grade students applied at the end of last school year, and spent four days of their summer preparing for orientation. The following week, they welcomed our new students with lots of fun activities!

Big thanks to our WEB Advisors Mrs. Jehn, Mr. Tashner and Mrs. Jarosh for all of their hard work in training our team and welcoming our students!



School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes July 30, 2018 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President Syl Clements. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on July 26, 2018.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Patrick Bahr led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Tom Grosskopf recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Syl Clements, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Ben Wopat, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Rachel Newton and Dagan Hemker. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Jane Halverson, Michael Johnson, Eric Jensen, Mike Malott, Justin Jehn, Ryan Rieber, Rachel Newton, and Lisa Gerke.

Approval of Agenda

Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Dagan Hemker Representative reported on:

1. The summer SEP Jump Start Class has started. This allows students to get an early start on whatever they want to work on relating to their SEP.
2. The Legion baseball team competed at state.
3. The National Honor Society will be distributing posters to local businesses around West Salem tomorrow in preparation for the blood drive they're hosting on Tuesday, August 14th from 10:30 am - 3:30 pm in the high school library.

Correspondence – None.

Public comments

Bob Minard and Israel McKinney expressed their concerns with the double rout busing. Lori Szymanski expressed her concerns regarding charging families for sports.

Written and Oral Reports

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Mr. Clements reported on the events of the committee's last meeting.

TIF District Meeting – Mr. Schlimgen reported on the TIF District and how it is affecting the district.

District performance reports by David McPheeters, Shawn Handland, Rick Kline and Troy Gunderson were reviewed. Kerri Feyen presented her report on the Nutrition Services program for the 17-18 school year and a preview of the 18-19 school year.

Mr. Gunderson announced: the hire of Morgan Hyatt as a Speech and Language Paraprofessional, and there were no support staff resignations to report.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Griffin seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2018; the invoices to be paid; the

resignation of Special Education Teacher Jenna Umberger; to hire Craig Halvorson as the Director of Technology and Geoffrey Baumann as the Director of Athletics; high school co-curricular: Justin Jehn-head football, Bob Gorniak, Dieter Antoni, Jamie Olson, Mark Byom, Scott Johnson, and Tyler Shrake (volunteer)-assistant football, Brett Thompson-head volleyball, Ida Steingas, Adam Baltz and MacKenzie Rechner assistant volleyball, LeRoy Krall-head cross country, Laura Deal-assistant cross country, Julie Kamla-head tennis, Brian Baker and Danielle Schultz-assistant tennis, Quintin Brown-assistant soccer; middle school co-curricular: Justin Running-7th grade head football, Josh Brewer-8th grade head football, Matt Duster-8th grade assistant football, Julie Arentz and Sam Schmitz-(co) 7th grade head volleyball, Sara Jeranek and Kayla Wegner-(co) 8th grade head volleyball, Jeremy Hoff-head cross country, Ben Tashner-assistant cross country; and Open Enrollment requests for the 18-19 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield seconded to approve the Nutrition Services Agreement with the Bangor School District as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to accept the Buildings and Grounds Committee's recommendation to approve the request for an additional full-time custodian at the middle school. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to approve the staffing request for special education paraprofessionals as presented for the middle school. Motion carried unanimously.

Referendum/financial planning: The Board and Mr. Gunderson reviewed referendum and financial planning information. No action was taken.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to approve the elementary student and parent handbook as amended, the middle school student and parent handbook and co-curricular handbook, the high school student handbook and the technology use handbook. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield seconded to accept the donation from Forage Genetics for the art and science departments. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mrs. Kopnisky-Bloomfield seconded to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Annual Notices

Melinda Kopnisky-Bloomfield, Clerk

At the beginning of each school year, school districts are required to provide certain annual notices. These are as follows:

Student Records

Copies of the Board's student records policy may be obtained from the district administrator's office; parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review student's records, request the amendment of the student's records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy, consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's records except to the extent that federal and state law authorize disclosure without consent; and complaints regarding confidentiality may be filed at the district administrator's office.

School District of West Salem

Annual Notices continued...

Directory information maintained by the district includes student's name, address, date of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities in sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous school attended. This information may be made public unless the student's parent or guardian denies release of the information. Parent or guardian has 14 days after receipt of this newsletter to inform the school that all or any part of the directory data may not be released without the prior consent of the parent/guardian, and allow 14 days for the parent, guardian or guardian ad litem of that student to inform the school that all or any part of the directory data may not be released without the prior consent of the parent, legal guardian or guardian ad litem. (FERPA)

Student Attendance

All students enrolled in the district are provided a copy of the district attendance policy (#430) in the student handbook. This policy may also be obtained at the district office or on the district website.

Section 118.5(1) (d) of the Wisconsin Compulsory School Attendance Statute permits a child's parent or guardian to request the school board to provide the child with program or curriculum modification. This may be requested in the case of repetitive attendance problems.

Student Religious Accommodations

School districts are required to annually provide written notification to all students, the parent or guardian of minor students and instructors of the district's policies providing for the reasonable accommodation of a student's sincerely held religious beliefs with regard to examinations and other academic requirements. Details regarding our accommodation process can be found in student/parent handbooks for each building. If you wish to file a complaint, please contact Eric Jensen, Pupil Services Director at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669 or call 608-786-0700.

Two-Way Communication Devices

See Board Policy #443.3 Use of Two-Way Communication Devices, which is available on the district's website.

Public Notice-IDEA

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the West Salem School District will screen any child ages 3 to 21 suspected of having a handicapping condition. This will be done upon request. Specific groups of students to be screened include:

1. Children entering the public school for the first time.
2. Transfer students new to the school district.
3. Students currently enrolled in public or private schools within the district.
4. Children below school age (birth-5 population).
5. Children 16 through 21 who are potential dropouts.
6. School age children eligible to attend school but who are not.

To refer a child for screening, please write to the Pupil Services Office, 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669, or call (608)-786-1064.

Student Harassment

The District has in effect a Harassment and Bullying policy (#111), which can be found on the district website. The School Board will not tolerate any conduct that fails to comply with the letter and spirit of those guidelines. Disciplinary measures up to and including suspension or expulsion of students from school or up to and including discharge of employees or volunteers may be imposed for a violation of this policy.

Public Notice of Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of the School District of West Salem that no person be denied admission to any public school in this district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil service, recreational

or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap as required by section 118.13, Wis. Stats. is policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, national origin), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (handicap), and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (disability) and PI 9.05 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

The District shall provide appropriate educational services or programs for students who have been identified as having a handicap or disability, regardless of the nature or severity of the handicap or disability. The District shall also provide for the reasonable accommodation of a student's sincerely held religious beliefs with regard to examinations and other academic requirements. Requests for religious accommodations shall be made in writing and approved by the building principal.

The School District encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. A formal complaint resolution procedure is available, however, to address allegations of violations of the student nondiscrimination policy in the School District. Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to: Eric Jensen, Director of Pupil Services, 405 East Hamlin St., West Salem, WI 54669. All career and technical education (CTE) courses and programs are offered without discrimination. For a summary of courses, please contact your school counselor.

Asbestos Management Plan

In compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), this is notice that the West Salem School District has an Asbestos Management Plan at the school district office. The plan is available for inspection by the public, parents, and district employees. The district performs six month periodic surveillance of asbestos in December and June and full re-inspections every three years. For more information please contact the district office at 608-786-0700.

The building inspection, findings and management plan are available to review during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) at the location listed above by appointment only. Appointments must be made with the Asbestos Program Manager at least one working day in advance. Any request to view the plan will be honored within five (5) working days after such a request.

Human Growth and Development Instruction

The Board believes that health education, consistent with state law, should include, but not necessarily be limited to instruction about controlled substances, tobacco, alcohol, mental health, sexually transmitted diseases, human growth and development and related health and safety topics. The Board believes that health education increases student knowledge, improves judgments, develops constructive attitudes, and increases the capacity to make wise decisions.

The health education program shall begin during the elementary grades and continue with a planned sequence of instruction throughout the school experience of the student. The program shall be focused on findings of medical and psychiatric research and clinical experiences as well as legal implications. Without basic facts from these professions, no health education program can be effective.

Consistent with state law, health information concerning drug abuse and sexually transmitted diseases shall be a required part of the total health program. These areas of concern shall not represent the total program nor detract from it, but shall be recognized in the broader context of health education.

School District of West Salem

Annual Notices continued...

The health education program shall give particular emphasis to any health problem that is prevalent in the state, community or in a particular school. The Board shall provide up-to-date materials and resources for effective instructional programming in this important area.

No student may be required to take instruction in these subjects if his/her parent/guardian files a written objection.

Meningococcal Disease

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness caused by a bacteria. It is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years of age in the United States. Meningitis is an infection of fluid surrounding the brain and the spinal cord. Meningococcal disease also causes blood infections.

Meningococcal disease is often misdiagnosed as something less serious because early symptoms are similar to common viral illnesses. Symptoms of meningococcal disease may include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light, confusion, exhaustion, and/or a rash. Meningococcal disease is spread through direct contact with respiratory and/or oral secretions from infected persons (for example, kissing or sharing drinking containers.) It can develop and spread quickly throughout the body, so early diagnosis and treatment are very important. Even with immediate treatment, the disease can kill an otherwise healthy young person within hours of first symptoms. Of those who survive, up to 20 percent may endure permanent disabilities, including brain damage, deafness, and limb amputations.

Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but it is most common in infants less than one year of age and people with certain medical conditions, such as lack of a spleen. College freshmen who live in dormitories have an increased risk of getting meningococcal disease.

A meningococcal vaccine is available for use among persons ages 11 to 55 years, which provides protection against four of the five types of bacteria that cause Meningococcal disease. Many parents are unaware of the dangers the disease poses to their children and that a vaccine is available that may help to prevent up to 83 percent of cases among teens and college students. Immunization is the most effective way to prevent this very serious disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other leading medical organizations recommend routine Meningococcal immunization for adolescents during the preadolescent doctor's visit (11- to 12-year-olds), adolescents at high school entry (15-year-olds), if they have not previously been immunized, and for college freshmen living in dormitories. It is suggested that you contact your child's health care provider to help you decide if your child should receive this vaccination.

For more information regarding this disease and the availability, effectiveness, and risks of vaccinations against the disease, please contact the school nurse at 608-786-1662, Ext. 3103, or visit the following websites: www.cdc.gov, www.musa.org, or www.nmaus.org.

Bilingual-Bicultural Education Program

The School District of West Salem has established a Bilingual/English as a second language (ELL) program to assist children who are English language learners, with learning English and succeeding academically within the school district. Children who are eligible typically come from families where a language other than English is spoken at home or from other countries via adoption or immigration. The Bilingual/ELL program provides:

1. Instruction in reading, writing, and speaking the English language, and
2. Through the use of the native language of the limited-English proficient pupil, instruction in the subjects necessary to permit the pupil to progress effectively through the educational system.

Students are identified for participation in the ELL program through the student's registration card, a Home Language Survey that indicates a language other than English is spoken at home, or a referral to ELL by school staff, parent, or guardian. Students referred for ELL are assessed by ELL certified teachers to determine if the student meets entrance criteria for the program. Written parent permission is required for admission into the ELL program.

Immunizations

The importance of continued immunizations between ages 11 and about 21 years (adolescence) is not always recognized. Adolescents need to continue their immunization series and receive booster shots for continued protection against diseases. These vaccines are commonly recommended for adolescents between 11 and 13 years of age.

Vaccinations given during adolescence usually include:

Meningococcal vaccine. The meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)-also called Menactra-is recommended for all adolescents who are between ages 11 and 12. Teens who have not yet received this vaccine should get it before entering high school or by age 15, whichever comes first. The vaccine is also recommended for all college freshmen living in dormitories, although the other form of the vaccine (meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine) can be given at this time instead of Menactra if it is not available. The older vaccine version, licensed as Menomune, is made for children who are between ages 2 and 10.

Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis booster. A booster immunization known as Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) is usually given between 11 to 12 years of age. It is only given if it has been at least 5 years since the last DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine) dose was received. Two new combination booster vaccines that include pertussis are now available. Until now, combination booster immunizations given after age 6 did not include pertussis-only tetanus and diphtheria. Children entering grades 6 and above will be required to have a current Tdap booster unless they have had a tetanus booster within the last 5 years.

Chickenpox (varicella). Chickenpox immunization is recommended for teens and adults who are not already immune to the virus (if no history of chickenpox disease). Chickenpox infection can be very serious when it develops after childhood. ACIP now recommends that everyone get two shots at least 4 weeks apart. Children entering Kindergarten and grade 6 and above will be required to have 2 varicella shots unless they have had the chickenpox illness. All other students will need one shot unless they have had the chicken pox illness.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine In June 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer and other diseases in females caused by certain types of human papillomavirus (HPV). The vaccine protects against four HPV types, which together cause 70% of cervical cancers and 90% of genital warts. The HPV vaccine is recommended for 11-12 year-old girls, and can be given to girls as young as 9 and women up to age 26.

Welcome New Staff!

On Wednesday, August 22nd, we welcomed approximately 50 new Panthers to our team at our annual New Staff Orientation. This orientation gave them an opportunity to meet their mentors, administration, and district office staff and learn about our mission and vision and what makes working here so great! We also had a chance to welcome back some West Salem alumni that decided to join us again. Welcome back! On top of lots of learning and introductions, they got to tour our brand new middle school and

were treated to lunch from the Pizza Oven. They even discovered that some of them share a common love of crazy socks! We are so happy to have all of them as a part of our team and we hope you'll join us in welcoming them as Panthers. Here's to a great school year of serving with passion to ignite creativity, innovation and excellence! We'd like to give a huge thank you to our Director of Human Resources, Barb Buswell for all of her hard work in getting these new employees ready for the year.



Harvest of the Month
September  **Bell Peppers**

Did You Know?

All colored peppers begin as green peppers and get sweeter as they ripen!

Check out videos and photos of the innovative things happening in your student's classroom at our district Facebook page and Twitter page. Our social media features videos of student activities, teacher features, classroom selfie photos, etc...

Check out our Facebook page
@SchoolDistrictofWestSalem
and

Follow us on Twitter

@WestSalemSD



For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:

*click Calendars and then

*click Coulee Conference

You can also set yourself up to receive automatic text or e-mail notifications for any of the activities listed OR subscribe to RSS.



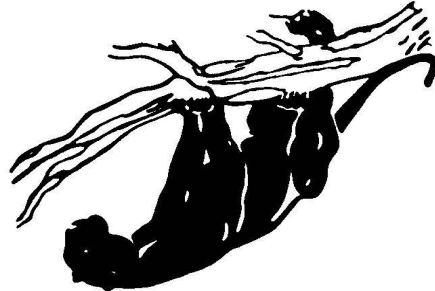
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Serve With Passion To
Ignite Creativity,
Innovation, and
Excellence



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