

WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Principal - Ben Wopat
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

*NO School - April 19 & 22

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Volume 7 - Issue 9

2019

Dear Families,

Spring seems to be here. Let's hope the warmer weather isn't Mother Nature playing an April Fools' joke on us! At WSMS, we see this time of year as opportunity to re-commit to making our third trimester just as engaging, productive, and inspiring as the first two. We believe in sprinting through the finish line of the school year. There is some very important information related to upcoming spring events and activities within this edition of our school newsletter. These include students of the month, curriculum updates by teachers, student artwork, 2018 State Mathcounts News, National History Day News, & Summer School information.

Your child has either recently finished or will soon be taking the Wisconsin Forward Exam. The Wisconsin Forward Exam is a computer based, state mandated test that replaces the WKCE and the Badger Exam your child may have taken a few years ago. The Wisconsin Forward Exam asks students questions that are aligned with the State of Wisconsin standards. Our students in grade 5, 6 and 7 have taken tests in English/ Language Arts and Math. Students in grade 8 are currently testing in English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. As with any assessment, this is only one measure of your student's academic performance. We believe that through multiple assessments (teacher developed assessments, state and district assessments) we are able to develop a clearer picture of your student's current level of performance as well as their growth over time. At WSMS, we believe in educating the WHOLE child. We want our students to learn and grow into educated, good, and happy adults.

Please remember to exercise your right to vote on April 2. The result of the referendum question on the ballot will have a significant impact on programming in the district. On behalf of our staff, I want to thank you for your continued support. I feel very blessed to work with such wonderful students and committed adults each and every day. We look forward to working together as a team to provide your child with an educational experience that strives to meet the district's mission – "Serve with Passion to Ignite Creativity, Innovation, and Excellence."

Ben Wopat
Principal
Twitter.com/coachwopat



"Meet Us in the Middle"



Calendar of Events...

2-5 Gr. 8 WI Forward testing
8 - Track @ Tomah High 4:30
15 - Parent/Teacher Conferences - drop in
16 - Softball @ Onalaska 4:00
16-18 Gr. 5 WI Forward testing
18 - Mid Term
19 - NO SCHOOL
22 - NO SCHOOL
23 - Track HOME 4:15
25 - Softball @ Tomah 4:15
26 - Softball vs Aquinas 4:30



29 - Softball vs Holmen 4:00
29 - Track @ Holmen 4:15

Upcoming Events - May/June

2 - Softball @ Westby 4:15
6 - Track @ Logan High 4:15
Softball @ Winona 4:00
7 - Track @ Viroqua 4:15
8 - EARLY RELEASE - 12:20
9 - Softball @ Sparta 4:00
13 - Track HOME 4:15
14 - 6th/7th Band/Choir Concerts
Softball @ Viroqua 4:00
16 - Softball @ Holmen 3:45

17 - Softball vs Tomah 4:15
18 - Track Conference @ Logan 10:00
20-24 - Gr 7 Campout at OEC
20 - Gr. 8 Band/Choir Concert
21 - Softball vs Westby 4:15
23 - Softball vs Winona 4:15
27 - NO SCHOOL
30 - Gr. 8 Promotion
June 1 - June Dairy Days Parade
June 4 - Gr. 5 half class LaCrosse Queen
June 5 - Gr. 5 half class La Crosse Queen
Gr. 6 OEC
June 6 - Gr. 6 Jellystone
June 7 - LAST DAY - 12:20 release

Counselor Comments...

Happy New Year...I mean Happy Spring! Not sure where it goes, but time certainly does fly! (Of course, the kids may have a different opinion on that!)

Environment/Community Service will be the focus for the month of April. This asset may provide us with a sense of delayed gratification as we think of and feel for something "bigger than ourselves." Steve Jobs stated, "Things don't have to change the world to be important." So true! The smallest gesture or act of kindness can go a long way for the person(s) on the receiving end. What can you do to make a difference for others and your community? State testing has already started with 7th and 8th graders and will continue in April for our 5th and 6th graders. Please stress the importance of doing well on these tests to your children. Results will be available by the end of the school year. Spring just might be with us for awhile! As the weather will inevitably become nicer, it is important that we help the students remain focused on finishing the year on a positive note. Our final parent-teacher-student conference night will be on Monday, April 15, from 3:30-7:00 pm. This, again, will be a "drop-in" style format. Of course, do not hesitate to contact teachers before or after this date with any questions or concerns.



"Meet Us in the Middle"





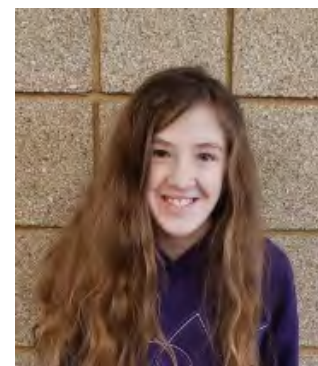
5th Grade



Addie J.



Nathan D.



Caralyn P.

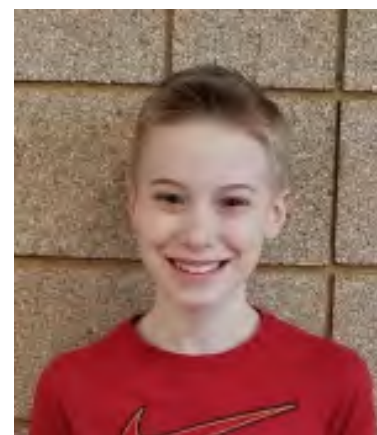
6th Grade



Tom S.



Lauren Z.



Carson V.

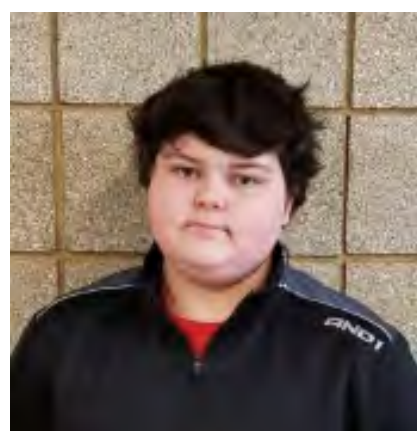
7th Grade



Locus H.



Lizzy S.



Dominic B.

8th Grade



Elijah S.-D.



Ella G.



Brett M.

Healthy Living Team

We would like to welcome our two student teachers, Mr. Sandleback and Mr. Dregney. They will be joining Mrs. Olson and Mr. Running for the rest of the school year. As the weather warms up we will be starting to get outside for class. We encourage students to always have a sweatshirt handy in case it is a little chilly or windy early this spring. 7th and 8th grade will be getting some cycling opportunities in the upcoming weeks, while 5th and 6th grade will be working on some different cooperative games.



SUMMER SCHOOL INFO

*See page 19 for registration information and dates

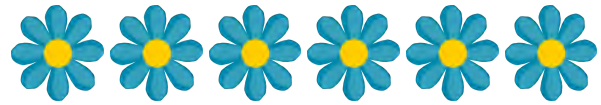


April 22 is Earth Day

Each year, Earth Day - April 22 - marks the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. At the time, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. "Environment" was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news. Although mainstream America remained oblivious to environmental concerns, the stage had been set for change by the publication of Rachel Carson's New York Times bestseller Silent Spring in 1962. The book represented a watershed moment for the modern environmental movement, selling more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries and, up until that moment, more than any other person, Ms. Carson raised public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment and public health.

Reading: We are continuing to work on comparing and contrasting characters using text evidence from the book The Sign of the Beaver. Teachers are also reevaluating reading goals for each student as we start to switch our overall focus back to fiction. Our next big focus will be reading historical fiction books that take place during the American Revolution. This will tie in with our social studies unit.

Writing: We will continue to work on different writing skills. We will eventually be working on Opinion and Persuasive writing towards the end of the month.



Math: We are working on dividing whole and decimal numbers. Students are applying their knowledge of long division and base ten to divide by decimal numbers. Our next unit will focus on algebraic patterns and graphing on a coordinate plane. This unit included order of operations, creating ordered pairs, and evaluating expressions.

Social Studies: We will be learning about the pre-revolutionary events that eventually lead to the The Revolutionary War. By the end of Social Studies, they will cover taxes, important battles, and how our government formed. Students are also studying the states, capitals, and geographic features that make up the United States of America.

5th Grade



Art - Mrs. Hemker

Students in 5th grade will continue to work on sculpture in April. They will first be completing their clay unit, creating at least 2 finished pieces. When clay is complete we will move on to cardboard construction and various ways to join cardboard to create a finished 3-D sculpture.

Spanish - Mrs. Phillips

Fifth graders have been working hard learning how to say different animals and habitats in Spanish. They made some really awesome maps of zoos!

In April, we will work on learning about Spanish speaking countries, capitals and traditions. Students will also continue practicing conversations, talking about the weather and the date.



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Reading - Mrs. Schultz

During the month of April students will be diving into research on a Human Rights topic. This research will be used in their final product, an information book or presentation, for English class. The informational book/ presentation will have 4 chapters. The first is focused on an explanation of their topic. The second chapter is about Human Rights that are violated as a result of their topic. Chapter 3 contains interesting facts, and the final chapter will hone in on a specific person, place, group or event that connect to their topic.

Students will continue building their vocabulary by exploring roots, prefixes, and suffixes. They will be learning and practicing their words through games, hands-on sorting, and other activities that access the information in several different avenues.

We just completed a study of phobia and ology words, which the students had a lot of interest in!

Poetry and figurative language will be our focus during the latter part of the month, and carry us through May. April is Poetry Month! Students will be exploring figurative language- especially metaphors, similes, symbolism, imagery and personification. Word choice will also be a focus since the descriptive words an author uses in poetry assists in comprehension. Each class will discuss how this type of language enhances their reading and creates images to deepen comprehension.

Happy Reading! - Mrs. Schultz and Ms. Dillon

English - Mrs. Buisman

In 6th grade English, our grammar focus will be comma usage. We will review and learn the rules for commas and put them into our writing. Students will review figurative language with our writing.

Social Studies - Mrs. Jeranek

After studying Ancient Roman Civilization throughout the month of March, 6th grade students will choose a topic to research. Students will use various graphic organizers to inquisitively gather information through multiple sources and explore their topic. Also, students will create a project (poster, 3-D model, Minecraft, or other) to display their findings. We have many talented students that will show off their creative side! It is also a wonderful way to take a break from the normal Social Studies textbook learning.

Mid-April, we move forward with World Religions. Our focus will be Acceptance and Respect of religious beliefs throughout the world so we better understand historical conflicts and values of

others. We will begin the unit by reading, *Whoever You Are* by Mem Fox and will continue to learn through various literature and informational texts. By the end of the unit, students will have a World Religions booklet with loads of information.



Math - Mrs. Jehn and Mrs. Adams

* Note on the Wisconsin Forward Exam*

We will spend several days in April reviewing 6th grade concepts for the Wisconsin Forward Exam as well as taking the exam.

Regular Math

We will spend April on Chapters 8 and 9. Chapter 8 covers surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures including prisms and pyramids. Chapter 9 will quickly follow teaching students about statistical measures. More familiar vocabulary for you would be finding the mean, median, and mode as well as quartiles, interquartiles, and range. Students will finish by learning about the mean absolute deviation. Chapters 8 and 9 are both short. They will take us to the end of April and into May before we finish the book and year with Chapter 10.

Accelerated Math

In April we will be working in Chapters 13 and 14. Chapter 13 is titled Expressions and Equations. Students will reacquire themselves with concepts from Chapter 3 of the 6th grade book such as like terms and simplifying expressions. They will also learn to add, subtract, and factor linear expressions as well as solve one and two-step equations using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Chapter 14 is titled Ratios and Proportions and builds on their prior knowledge from Chapter 5 of the 6th grade book. Students will use their understanding of solving and graphing ratios, rates, and proportions to work with slope and direct variation. We will finish Chapter 14 and Chapter 15 in May which means students will have completed the first half of the 7th grade book by the end of the school year.



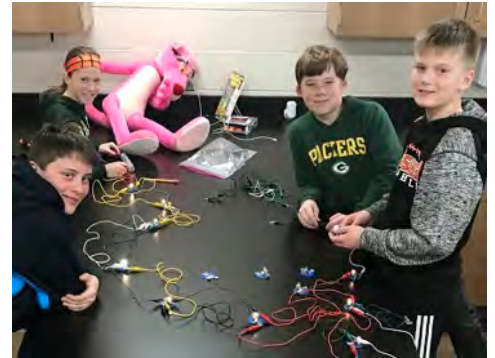
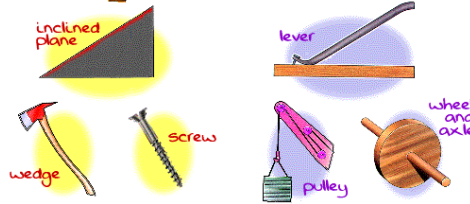
Meet Us in the Middle



Science - Mrs. Jarosh

For the month of April in sixth grade science, we will continue our unit on Motion. We will review basic concepts related to motion and begin to learn about how things work as we study Newton's Laws of Motion and explore the power and efficiency of simple machines. We plan to construct various simple machines, discover how machines make work easier, and will be learning how to find the mechanical advantage of simple machines. I look forward to another exciting month in science. Happy Spring!

Simple Machines



Students having fun exploring circuits!



Last month we wrapped up our electricity unit and unfortunately these awesome photos were inadvertently left out of the newsletter. The students loved it when Mr. Wopat (see above picture) came into the classroom to test out the electricity ball.

Spanish - Mrs. Phillips

Hola, ¿Cómo estás? Sixth grade is working on basic conversations and pronunciation. During the month of April we will continue to practice conversations and add in vocabulary including numbers, weather expressions, days of the week and months. The cultural focus is music and we will hear a different song every week!

Art - Mrs. Hemker

In April, we will begin our clay unit. Students will create at least two finished pieces of clay, one will be sculptural and the other functional. Students will review clay joining techniques during this unit and will have some time to practice prior to their final pieces are created.



Meet Us in the Middle





Reading - Mrs. Rochester

During the month of April, 7th grade students will be continuing with an environmental unit study. Similar to the dystopian unit, students were given a choice to read one of eight books related to an environmental issue. They will also be reading non fiction articles to enhance their understanding of environmental issues. During this unit, students will be studying the following literary elements: tone/mood, point of view, importance of setting and using different reading strategies to enhance their understanding of the book. In addition, the students will be continuing to write in in their journal in response to what they are reading. As a culminating project for this unit, students will be put into groups and create their own documentaries based on an environmental issue of interest. The students should also be reading a book (at least 25 pages per night) of their choice at home.

Science - Mr. Baker

We are entering the final stretch! We have been using chair races and minute to win it competitions to help us learn about natural selection and will be getting into classification of living things very soon. This will involve smelling up the science room while dissecting worms, crayfish, deer hearts, and frogs! Though not everyone's favorite, this is a great opportunity for students to see external and internal structures up close.

The 7th grade campout is on the horizon as well! The dates are May 20-24.

The 7th grade campout is on the horizon as well! Students camp out at the school forest either the first half or second half of this week, so please try to avoid scheduling any appointments, trips, etc. during this week. Watch for details about this trip to be coming home soon.



Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum

We will conclude our unit on the three branches of government. We will research a Supreme Court case and present the info to each other. Students will then turn their attention to looking at the different types of laws we have in our country. We will look at why we have laws and the difference between civil, criminal, public, and international laws.

English - Mrs. Martinson

We will be working on their Vietnam War/ Gathering Fireflies research paper. Each student will be assigned a topic, research and take notes from a variety of sources, organize notes, write an outline, and then write a four paragraph rough draft. A thesis statement will be part of the introduction. Students will also be using in-text citations for the first time. The final draft will be typed on Google Drive for assessment. This is a big writing project that will give students a strong foundation for many future writing assignments.



Math - Mrs. Weber

Regular Math

We finished our state testing! The kids did a great job of working hard on each test. Way to go!! We will begin the month of April with Unit 4, which is the study of inequalities. We will be using what we learned about solving equations to simplify and solve inequalities.

Advanced Math

We will start off April with Unit 5, which is linear systems. We will work quickly and hopefully finish this unit in the first 2-3 weeks. After that, we will move on to Unit 6 which is functions. This can be a little more difficult so we may work a little slower on completing this unit.



Mrs. Coe

Regular half math

Students in seventh grade half math will continue to work on skills they are learning with Mrs. Weber. We will review the four inequalities and how to graph them from their sixth grade standards. We will be reviewing solving equations from chapter three to begin solving inequalities for chapter four. We will practice solving and graphing multiple step inequalities to help prepare them for their chapter four test.

Accelerated half

The accelerated half math students will finish finding area and perimeter of their castles and will create a realistic scale factor and decide if their rooms have a realistic size. They are also going to start working on solving systems of equations with Mrs. Weber. In half math, we will be exploring some of the new concepts before they learn them in full math. We will also be mastering previously learned skills including solving multiple step equations involving fractions, integers rules and graphing linear equations.

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Art - Mrs. Hemker

We will continue to work on improving their drawing skills using different techniques, styles and approaches. The main projects are a planned composition collage, a masterpiece reproduction and varying views of shoes.

S.T.E.M - Mr. Jones

During the month of March the 7th grade students put their engineering skills to the test by building bridges out of toothpicks. They had to research various bridge designs and what makes bridges strong. They were then given toothpicks and glue to get to work on their designs. This led to some great conversations about what shapes make things stronger and how to add supports. After the bridges were complete we broke them by hanging a bucket across the deck of the bridge and filling it with water. Many of the bridges held over 50 lbs! A great time was had by all.

During the month of April the 7th grade will be testing their measurement skills by creating an Air Skimmer out of paper that glides across the ground. We will also be designing our own paper rollercoasters. Stay tuned.

Spanish - Mrs. Phillips

¿Qué tiempo hace? In seventh grade Spanish we will be talking about the weather and create our own weather video or skit! We will also begin to use the verb SER to describe ourselves and our friends. The cultural focus will include videos with native speakers so we can hear the different Spanish accents!



“Meet Us in the Middle”





Math - Mrs. Bentzen **Regular Math (Chapter 8,** **Inequalities)**

We finished Chapter 7 on March 25.

Students will work on writing and reading scientific notation through Half Math/STEM class. We will start learning about volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres on March 26 and into April. We will also learn the basics of solving and graphing inequalities.

The objectives for Chapter 8:

- *know and apply the formulas for volume of cylinders, cones and spheres
- *find the heights of cylinders and cones given the volumes
- *find the radii of spheres given the volumes
- *identify similar solids and use properties of similar solids to find missing measures
- *understand the relationship between surface areas and volumes of similar solids
- *solve real-life problems involving cylinders, cones, and spheres

The objectives for Inequalities:

- *write inequalities from descriptions
- *solve, check, and graph one-step and two-step inequalities

Algebra (Chapter 10)

We will explore quadratic equations and functions.

The objectives of Chapter 10:

- *graph quadratic functions and compare them to the parent graph
- *find the axis of symmetry, the vertex, and minimum or maximum values
- *solve quadratic equations by factoring, graphing, using square roots, completing the square, and using the quadratic formula
- *use the discriminant to determine the number and type of solutions of a quadratic equation
- *determine whether a linear, exponential, or quadratic function best models a set of data

Mrs. Coe

Half Math

8th grade math students are still working on their statistics and probability unit. We will wrap up our

experimental and theoretical probability section relating stats to the popular March Madness basketball tournament. You should ask your student how they did in their bracket and if they beat the odds. We will also begin to look at compound, independent and dependent probability throughout April. We will also be working on volume of cylinders, cones, spheres and surface area of each to help them prepare for their chapter eight test with Mrs. Bentzen.

Half Algebra

We will be practicing skills Mrs. Bentzen is teaching in Algebra over the month of April. We will be working on graphing and solving quadratic equations and functions. We will use the quadratic equations to solve application problems to show the relevance of algebra to the real world.

Science - Ms. Smith-Waller

After a crazy end to the winter, it is so nice to finally see the spring! Here in science class, we just finished up learning about Plate tectonics and the events that occur along boundaries between the plates. After testing, we will shift over to take a look at weather and climate. The spring is certainly an appropriate time to watch the weather since we have a lot of variety in weather conditions in the spring. We will spend some time collecting data on the weather as well as looking at climates both locally and globally. Hard to believe we are nearing the end of the school year, keep up the hard work!

We will be following these essential learning outcomes...

1. Collect data to provide evidence for how the motions and complex interactions of air masses results in changes in weather conditions.
2. Develop and use a model to describe how unequal heating and rotation of the Earth cause patterns of atmospheric and oceanic circulation that determine regional climates.
3. Ask questions to clarify evidence of the factors that have caused the rise in global temperatures over the past century.

English - Mrs. Sackett

April in 8th grade English means the year is quickly coming to an end, and we have a lot of work left to do. We will be finishing our final big piece as we wrap up our argument presentations. In addition to the argument presentations, we are spending considerable time practicing compound and complex sentences; soon we will be progressing to compound-complex sentences. Throughout the year, we have been reviewing and learning parts of speech. In April, we will review all eight parts of speech. Eventually, we will bring all of this knowledge together into a final parts of speech project.



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 stay in the classroom, so they only have to get it off the shelf at the beginning of class!

Independent Reading: Students have been reading books of their choice since the second week of school. 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 Reading class. Please ask your son/daughter to tell you about what he/ she is reading.

Vocabulary: In addition to "A Word A Day" (from the book 100 Words Every Middle Schooler Should Know) and studying Greek and Latin roots, students should be using context clues strategies while working with new words in the fiction and non-fiction works we read as a class.

In April we will read *The Giver*, an award winning, thought-provoking novel by Lois Lowry. If they choose, students will be able to listen to the book as they read. The audio is posted in Google Classroom.



Art - Mrs. Hemker

During the month of April, this last group of 8th graders will finally have a chance to create their wall block. The West Salem tradition continues! Designs must represent the student artist, be copyright image free, and include multiple elements and principles of art and design before going on the wall. The other main project will be a Pop Art piece that will represent the individual artist in some way.

Spanish - Mrs. Phillips

In eighth grade Spanish we have already mastered all of the classroom phrases and learned about many Spanish speaking countries through student led presentations. We are working on developing conversational skills. We will continue to add vocabulary so that we can talk about our likes, dislikes and food! ¿Qué te gusta comer?

S.T.E.M. - Mr. Jones

Our 8th graders continued their work on programming the VEX kits into fun robots. There were some great solutions to the spinning signs, rotating bridges, and robot drag racers. The students are starting to get real comfortable with their programming skills. We also took a short break from programming and built Air Skimmers. The Air Skimmers tested their measurement skills along with following a set of directions. If the student did a good job the skimmer glided across the ground for 50 feet on average. One made it 108 feet!



Social Studies - Ms. Morgan

March brought our history day projects to an end for most students. Participating in the regional competition at UW-La Crosse on March 27th were: Kate Holm (website on Irena Sendler), Kate Skaar (website on the polio vaccine), Presley Davis & Addison Wright (exhibit on Dr. Mary Edwards Walker), Madison Odenbach (documentary on the history of the grey wolf in the US), Kaitlyn Knutson (exhibit on the Great Chicago Fire), Kendra Hillyer (exhibit on Agent Orange), Rebekah Knudson & Eva Clements (Exhibit on the Lindbergh baby kidnapping), Madison MacRogers (documentary on the Berlin Wall), Grace Hansen & Lily Berg (exhibit on Harriet Tubman), Brennan Holst (historical paper on Genghis Khan), Ava Lee MacPhetridge (documentary on the influence "The Yellow Wallpaper" had on the women's rights movement), Morgan Quackenbush (exhibit on Apollo 1), Cole Trochinski (exhibit on the Whitman Mission), Alena Donahue (website on the Challenger Disaster), and Priya Oshan (historical paper on Olympic Swimmer Shirley Babashoff). A record number of WSMS students were advanced to the state meet including: Priya Oshan, Madison MacRogers, Madison Odenbach, Kendra Hillyer, and Morgan Quackenbush.

This month we will look at American Indian removal both at the national and local levels. We will explore removal, assimilation, and survival of area tribes. We'll take a look at the dark chapter in Wisconsin history as we look at the violence on the boat landings over Ojibwe treaty rights.

In the end, students will be able to:

- explain what the Indian Removal Act allowed the President to do
- compare and contrast national removal (Trail of Tears) to local removals (the Black Hawk War and Sandy Lake Tragedy)
- discuss why we need to understand treaty rights in Wisconsin nearly 200 years after many of the treaties were signed.



Advancing to the state meet.



From the Music Dept.

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

The students are continuing to work on their keyboard skills. They are playing songs in G position and will be learning Middle C position and playing a lot of familiar songs. We are also going to get back into composing on the iPad with GarageBand by using the smart instruments and also learning how to sample sounds and voices to include in the piece. Our Music Alive magazine articles will be about big band music and disco music.

General Music 5 - Mrs. Glasel

The students continue to learn about the 4 families of instruments and each individual instrument. They are learning about them through the composition “Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra” through an interactive website called Carnegie Hall Safari. Then to dig deeper, we watched videos on each of the families and tried a few instruments ourselves.

Success Center

The Success Center is a resource room for students before and after school. Here, students can receive help from staff who attend WSMS classes and are equipped to walk students through information they may have missed or just do not understand. It is also the place where students can 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. 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 Google Classroom.

Early Release Date

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

May 8



Meet Us in the Middle



2019 STATE Mathcounts News!

The State Mathcounts Competition was held in Sheboygan on Saturday, March 2, 2019. There were 140 total students competing, representing 47 different schools from across the state of Wisconsin. There were 24 official teams competing.

West Salem's team competitors were Brennan Holst, Jackson Fry, Celia Mitchell, and Alyssa Kruse. They placed 15th as a team. Holst placed 17th, Fry placed 68th, Mitchell placed 100th, and Kruse placed 107th.

Mathcounts is a national program designed to promote excellence in math and science in grades 6 through 8. West Salem's Mathcounts program is coached by Tammy Bentzen and Sarah Weber. The National Competition will be held May 12-13 in Orlando, Florida. The top four individuals from the State competition will represent Wisconsin at the National Competition.



L-R - Brennan H., Jackson F., Celia M. And Alyssa K.



Important Dates for 8th graders...

8th grade Promotion is on May 30 at 7pm in the Heider Center. Students need to be in the high school commons at 6:30. The ceremony will last about one hour. **The attire for all 8th graders will be the 8th grade Class Shirt which was designed by an 8th grade classmate.**



8th grade class trip.....June 2 - 7

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.



“Meet Us in the Middle”





Middle School Registration for the 2019 - 20 School Year

The 2019-2020 school year will again have online registration through Skyward Family Access. Online registration will open up August 1. If you are unable to register online, an in-house registration will be held on Monday, August 12, and Tuesday, August 13 in the middle school commons. Computers will be available to complete your online registration. Students will get their class schedule, locker information and also Lifetouch will be here to take student pictures.

Please mark your calendars now and plan on attending.

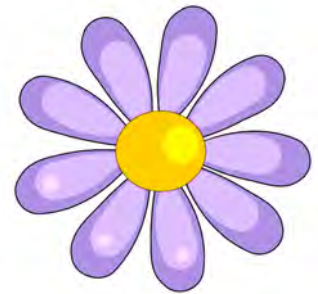
WI Forward Exam testing

8th grade - April 2 - 5

5th grade - April 16 - 18

*please avoid appointments for your child during these dates if at all possible.

Thank you



Parent -Teacher Conferences

Monday, April 15 - 3:30-7pm

~ drop-in style



Welcome to Summer School 2019

Summer School at the middle school will be held
July 22 - August 9, 2019
for incoming fifth graders through eighth graders
from 8:30 am to 11:40 am.

The daily schedule is as follows:

8:00-8:25 Student Drop off

8:25 Bell

8:30-9:20 Class 1

9:20-9:50 Student Break/Snack

9:55-10:45 Class 2

10:50-11:40 Class 3

11:50 Buses Dismissed

****Online registration will be taking place April 23rd.**

Watch for more information on how to sign up your child(ren) via Skyward**

Buses for summer school will run on main roads only

Summer school handbooks and registration information will be coming home mid April.

Swimming lessons will be offered for all levels during the summer months. Swimming lessons will be separate from the three-week summer school session but will continue to be free of charge for district residents (\$40 for non-district residents).

****NEW** this year will be a separate online scheduling for swimming lessons!

Watch for more information to come.

Busing will NOT be provided for **swimming lessons**.

The sessions for swimming lessons are

June 10-21,

June 24-July 5

or July 8-19

*Due to the large number of students that take lessons, students may only take one session.

If you have any questions regarding summer school, please contact Mike Johnson, Summer School Administrator at 786-1220 or johnson.michael@wsalem.k12.wi.us

Washington DC Trip for 8th graders

Tentative Itinerary

Sunday, June 2, 2019

6:30 a.m. Depart West Salem

Lunch stop at IL Toll Plaza

Travel to Skokie, IL

Arrive at Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie

Arrival at hotel-- Independence, OH

Monday, June 3, 2019

5:30 a.m. Breakfast at Hotel

Depart for Shanksville Flight 93 (9/11) Memorial

1:00 p.m. Lunch on toll road

Travel to Gettysburg & Battlefield Tour

Arrive at hotel--DC area

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

7:00 a.m. Breakfast at hotel

Depart for US Capitol

Arlington National Cemetery

Guided Tour of Memorials and other sites

Evening Tour of DC

Arrive at hotel

Wednesday, June 5, 2019 (STUDENTS MUST WEAR THEIR CLASS T-SHIRTS TODAY)

6:00 a.m. Breakfast at hotel

Smithsonian Museums and other downtown DC sites

Museum of African American History and Culture

Twilight Tatum Concert and Boxed Supper

Evening Tour of DC-- Last minute sites

Arrive at hotel

Thursday, June 6, 2019

7:00 a.m. Breakfast and check out of hotel

Zoo and last chance DC sites

Visit Six Flags

Depart for Home - overnight on bus

Friday, June 7, 2019

7:00 a.m. Breakfast in Rockford, IL

11:00 a.m.- 1 p.m. Arrive at WSM



WEST SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT 2018-2019 CALENDAR

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

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

OCTOBER 2018					21
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	ER	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	NS	
22	23	24	25	NS*	
29	30	31			

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

DECEMBER 2018					15
M	T	W	T	F	
3	4	ER	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	
NS					

1/15 Late Start

JANUARY 2019					21
M	T	W	T	F	
	NS	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
NS*	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31		

2/7 & 2/12 Closed

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

MARCH 2019					19
M	T	W	T	F	
				1	
4	5	ER	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

3/15 & 3/29 School In Session

1/22, 1/28, 1/29, 1/30, 1/31 Closed

APRIL 2019					20
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	NS	
NS	23	24	25	26	
29	30				

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

May 8-ER
*ER K-8 Only
*9-11 No School
*12-SEP presentation day

JUNE 2019					3
M	T	W	T	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	

June 6-7: School In Session

First Day of School: September 4, 2018
Last Day of School: June 7, 2019
Graduation Day: May 26, 2019
Early Release Days:
October 3, November 7,
December 5, February 13,
March 6, May 8
October 15: Annual Meeting

SERVE WITH PASSION TO IGNITE CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND EXCELLENCE

NS = No School for students

ER = Early Release (Students dismissed at 12:20, Buses leave at 12:30)

SD = Snow Day or Make-up dates (March 15 June 6, June 7)

*** = Teacher Inservice (August 28 & 29, October 26, January 21, + 2 Floating)**

2/15/19





WEST SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT 2019-2020 CALENDAR

AUGUST 2019				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

SEPTEMBER 2019					20
M	T	W	T	F	
NS	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30					

OCTOBER 2019					21
M	T	W	T	F	
	1	ER	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	NS	
21	22	23	24	NS*	
28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2019					18
M	T	W	T	F	
				1	
4	5	ER	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	NS	NS	NS	

DECEMBER 2019					15
M	T	W	T	F	
2	3	ER	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	
NS	NS				

JANUARY 2020					21
M	T	W	T	F	
		NS	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
NS*	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2020					19
M	T	W	T	F	
3	4	ER	6	7	
10	11	12	13	NS	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	

MARCH 2020					20
M	T	W	T	F	
2	3	ER	5	6	
9	10	11	12	SD	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	NS*	
30	31				

APRIL 2020					20
M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	NS	
NS	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30		

MAY 2020					20
M	T	W	T	F	
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	ER	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
NS	26	27	28	29	

JUNE 2020					4
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	SD	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30				

First Day of School: September 3, 2019
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Graduation Day: May 24, 2020
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 March 4, May 13
October 21: Annual Meeting (tentative)

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*** = Teacher Inservice (August 27 & 28, October 25, January 20, March 27 + 2 Floating)**

11/27/17

MONDAY

- 1**
- From the Grill**
- Bakalar's Hot Dog on WG Bun
 - Side of Mac n' Cheese
 - Green Peas
- Home Style**
- Creamy Mac N' Cheese or Bacon Mac! (new)
 - Italian Breadsticks
 - Green Peas
- Deli**
- Ham & Swiss on WG Croissant
 - Chicken Noodle Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

TUESDAY

- 2**
- Breakfast for Lunch!**
- From the Grill**
- French Toast Sticks
 - Jones Dairy Sausage Links
 - Warm Cinnamon Apples
- Home Style**
- Colby Cheese Omelet
 - Jones Dairy Sausage Links
 - Warm Cinnamon Apples
 - Honey Bun Goldfish
- Deli**
- Turkey BLT on WG Sub Roll
 - Broccoli Cheese Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

WEDNESDAY

- 3**
- From the Grill**
- Texas Style BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich
 - Carolina Style Pulled Pork Sandwich
 - Mashed Potatoes
- Home Style**
- Meatballs & Gravy with Buttermilk Biscuit
 - Mashed Potatoes
- Deli**
- Chef Salad w/Chicken & Cheese
 - Creamy Chicken Pot Pie Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack
 - Panther YOGURT Pack

THURSDAY

- 4**
- From the Grill**
- Popcorn Chicken
 - Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice
- Home Style**
- Saucy Orange Popcorn Chicken
 - Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice
- Deli**
- Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap
 - Chicken Dumpling Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

FRIDAY

- 5**
- From the Grill**
- Cheese Pizza - Personal Pan (Vegetarian Option)
 - Hawaiian Pizza - Personal Pan
 - Honey-Glazed Carrots
- Home Style**
- Pepperoni Pizza - Personal Pan
 - Honey-Glazed Carrots
- Deli**
- Alaskan Pollock Fish Sandwich on WG Bun
 - Vegetarian Minestrone
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

8

- From the Grill**
- Mozzarella Stuffed Breadstick with Marinara Dipping Cup
 - Mixed Vegetables
- Home Style**
- Tater Tot Hot Dish
 - Buttermilk Biscuit
 - Mixed Vegetables
- Deli**
- Ham, Turkey and Cheddar Sub
 - Beef and Vegetable soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

9

- Taco Tuesday!**
- From the Grill**
- Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla
 - Refried Beans
- Home Style**
- Walking Taco Nacho Chips
 - Refried Beans
- Deli**
- Homemade Grilled Cheese
 - Creamy Tomato Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

10

- From the Grill**
- "Chicken and Waffles!"
 - Natural Chicken Tenders WG Waffle
 - Waffle Fries
- Home Style**
- "Chicken and Waffles!"
 - Natural Chicken Tenders WG Waffle
 - Waffle Fries
- Deli**
- Southwest Chicken Salad
 - Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack
 - Panther YOGURT Pack

11

- Sweet Treat Thursday!**
- 100% Fruit Juice Slushy
 - Offered with meals in all lines
- From the Grill**
- Meatball Marinara Sub on Hoagie Roll
 - Garlic Roasted Green Beans
- Home Style**
- Pasta with Italian Meat Sauce
 - Pasta with Marinara Sauce
 - Italian Breadsticks
 - Garlic Roasted Green Beans
- Deli**
- Chicken Caesar Wrap
 - Potato, Cheese & Ham Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

12

- From the Grill**
- Cheesy Garlic French Bread Pizza (Vegetarian Option) or Pepperoni Pizza Dippers
 - Marinara Dipping Cup
 - Whole Kernel Sweet Corn
- Home Style**
- Alaskan Pollock Fish Sandwich on WG Bun
 - Whole Kernel Sweet Corn
- Deli**
- Garden Salad with Cottage Cheese
 - Chicken Tortilla Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack
 - Panther YOGURT Pack

15

- From the Grill**
- Homemade Sloppy Joe on WG Bun
 - Crispy Coleslaw
- Home Style**
- Chicken Cordon Blue Sandwich
 - Roasted Vegetable Medley
- Deli**
- Ham and Swiss on Croissant
 - Chicken Noodle Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

16

- Taco Tuesday!**
- From the Grill**
- Taco Truck Burritos (New!) in TWO VARIETIES! with Cilantro Lime Rice
- Home Style**
- (Low-Fat) Loaded Beef Nachos with Cilantro Lime Rice
 - Taco Topping Bar
- Deli**
- Turkey BLT on Sub Roll
 - Broccoli Cheese Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

17

- From the Grill**
- Chicken Nuggets with WG Dinner Roll
 - Mashed Potatoes
- Home Style**
- Turkey Pot Roast in Gravy with WG Dinner Roll
 - Mashed Potatoes
- Deli**
- Chef Salad w/Chicken & Cheese
 - Creamy Chicken Pot Pie Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack
 - Panther YOGURT Pack

18

- From the Grill**
- (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun
 - Potato Stars
- Home Style**
- (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun
 - Potato Stars
- Deli**
- Cuban Flatbread Sandwich
 - Chicken Dumpling Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

19

Spring Break

22

Spring Break

23**Taco Tuesday!****From the Grill**

- Pork Taco on Soft Shell Tortilla
- Refried Beans

Home Style

- Chicken Fajitas Soft Shell Tortilla
- Fajita Blend Vegetables

Deli

- Homemade Grilled Cheese
- Creamy Tomato Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack

24**From the Grill**

- Kick'n Chicken-Crispy Patty with Pepper Jack Cheese Whole Grain Bun
- Oven Baked French Fries

Home Style

- BBQ Teriyaki Chicken Seasoned Brown Rice
- Mixed Vegetables

Deli

- Southwest Chicken Salad
- Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

25**Sweet Treat Thursday!**

- Rice Krispie Treat Offered with meals in all lines

From the Grill

- Mini Corn Dogs
- Chex Mix - Cheddar
- Honey-Glazed Carrots

Home Style

- Pasta with Chicken Alfredo or Pasta with Chicken Cajun Alfredo
- Garlic Breadstick
- Honey-Glazed Carrots

Deli

- Chicken Caesar Wrap
- Potato, Cheese & Ham Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack

26**From the Grill**

- Pepperoni Pizza - Slice
- Whole Kernel Sweet Corn

Home Style

- Cheese Pizza or
- Homemade Taco Pizza
- Whole Kernel Sweet Corn

Deli

- Garden Salad with Diced Chicken
- White Chicken Chili

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack

29**From the Grill**

- Bakalar's Hot Dog on WG Bun
- Side of Mac n' Cheese
- Green Peas

Home Style

- Creamy Mac N' Cheese or Bacon Mac! (new)
- Italian Breadsticks
- Green Peas

Deli

- Ham & Swiss on WG Croissant
- Chicken Noodle Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack

30**Breakfast for Lunch!****From the Grill**

- French Toast Sticks Jones
- Dairy Sausage Links Warm
- Cinnamon Apples

Home Style

- Colby Cheese Omelet Jones
- Dairy Sausage Links Warm
- Cinnamon Apples Honey Bun
- Goldfish

Deli

- Turkey BLT on WG Sub Roll
- Broccoli Cheese Soup

Grab and Go

- Panther PBJ Pack

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

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Year-end planning

As the school year winds down, your child's schedule will fill up with exams, projects, and events. To stay on top of everything, she might write obligations on a wall calendar. Or she could use an electronic calendar and share it with you so you're in the loop.

Acne advice

A good skin-care routine helps prevent or reduce acne. Encourage your middle grader to wash his face with a cleanser twice a day. Tell him not to pop pimples, since that could cause scarring. If the problem persists, consider taking him to a dermatologist.

Sixty-second challenges

For a quick, fun way to connect with your tween, have family members create challenges you can do in a minute or less! For example, set a timer and race to see who can stack the most plastic cups one-handed. Or compete to be the first to wriggle a cookie from your forehead to your mouth.

Worth quoting

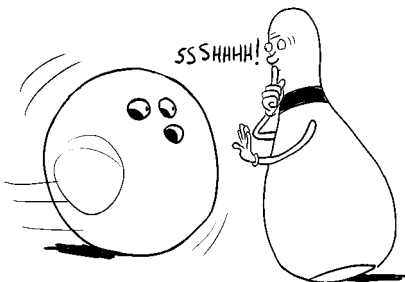
"It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart."

Rainer Maria Rilke

Just for fun

Q: Why should you be quiet at a bowling alley?

A: So you can hear a pin drop.



On a roll with reading

Reading for pleasure on a regular basis will boost your tween's vocabulary and general knowledge, and it may improve his test scores, too. Get him on board with these strategies.

Find a good fit

Falling in love with reading may simply be a matter of finding the right books. Suggest that your middle grader try the first book in a popular series—if he enjoys it, he may be eager to read the next one. Also, he can get lists of books similar to those he likes by googling the title plus the term "read-alikes."

Read with friends

Offer to drive your child to meet friends at the library. They might browse the shelves for fiction or nonfiction based on their own interests, then find a spot to settle in and read side by side. Or perhaps they'll all get copies of the same book to



read at home. When they finish, they could meet up to discuss their thoughts about the book.

Family story hour

If you think your tween has outgrown listening to you read to him, think again! In fact, children of all ages benefit from being read to. Offer to read the first chapter or two of a book out loud. Then, leave the book where he'll find it. He just may get hooked and read the rest on his own. 👍

Raise an appreciative child

Tweens don't always realize how much their parents and others do for them. Help your child feel and express appreciation, and ward off a sense of entitlement, with these ideas:

- Teach your tween to be grateful for things she might consider no big deal. Maybe you wait in the car every week during her music lesson, or a friend's mom drives her to a birthday party. Encourage her to think about the effort involved ("It was nice of Mrs. Lake to go out of her way to pick you up") and to say thank you.
- Explain that you provide for your middle grader's *needs*, but set an expectation that she'll save or work for *wants*, like a skateboard or video game. Suggest that she do odd jobs, such as babysitting or washing cars, to earn money. 👍



Conflict resolution: Find your path

When your child has a disagreement with a friend or sibling, she can actually use the experience to improve her relationship. How? By handling the situation the right way. Suggest these steps.

1. Ask your tween to think about how she normally reacts to a conflict. Is she a “hippo” who charges into an argument, a “turtle” who withdraws from clashes, or a “deer” who freezes when a squabble puts her in the spotlight?

2. Once your middle grader knows her usual response, she can adjust as needed. A hippo may need to walk away to



calm down or to remind herself to listen quietly. A turtle might think about how good it feels when problems are solved, then make an effort to discuss the situation. A deer could admit, “I don’t know what to say,” and agree to talk after she thinks things over.

3. Encourage your child to practice new responses until they feel natural. Discuss how conflicts work out when she responds one way vs. another—what seems to get the best results? 🍊

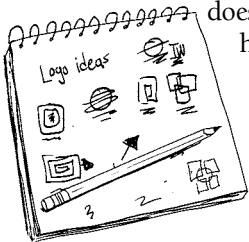
Design a logo

Ask your child to imagine he’s starting his own company. What logo would send the right message to his audience? By designing one, he’ll practice creative thinking and build communication skills. Here’s how.

First, encourage him to think critically about logos on websites, food packaging, and clothing. For instance, why does the Amazon logo have an arrow that goes from A to Z?

Then, have your middle grader research what people associate with certain colors, shapes, and fonts. For example, yellow is often considered cheerful, and squares are thought to hint at trust and stability. Different fonts can convey everything from fun to elegance.

Now your tween could use what he learned to design his logo. For a tech support company, he might choose yellow, a square, and a futuristic-looking font to suggest that he’s cheerful and that customers can trust him to solve their technology problems. 🍊



Q&A

Mental health ed

Q My son’s school started putting mental health lessons into health class. Why is this necessary?

A The school wants to keep students safe and healthy—physically and mentally. That’s why they’re trying to help children recognize and deal with mental health problems like depression and suicidal thoughts.

Ask your son what he’s studying in health class, just as you would with any subject. For example, he may be learning about symptoms of depression or how to ask for help if he has suicidal thoughts. Let him know he can come to you if he feels down or thinks about harming himself.

If you’d like to find out more, talk to your son’s health teacher, school counselor, or administrator about the curriculum they use and how you can support him at home. 🍊



Parent to Parent

Learning about heritage

I recently started researching my family’s genealogy. When I mentioned this to my daughter, Evelyn, she wanted to help out. It turned out to be an interesting history and geography lesson for her—and for me.

I knew about our Spanish heritage, but after talking to my parents and digging a little deeper online, Evelyn and I discovered that we also had ancestors from England and

France. On one genealogy site, she searched for old census records that traced some relatives all the way back to the mid-1700s. Then we looked at maps to see where they lived.

Evelyn has decided to make a family tree for an upcoming social studies project. She needs to know where the other half of her family came from, so she’s going to do genealogy research on her mom’s side of the family next. 🍊



OUR PURPOSE

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

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