



**WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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

Dear Families,

Spring seems to be here. Let's hope the lack of snowfall lately isn't Mother Nature playing an April Fools' joke on us! On March 25<sup>th</sup> we held our Trimester 2 awards ceremony. There's nothing quite like the opportunity to honor the talents, hard work, and achievements of our students. Panther Pride is certainly on display at WSMS when we celebrate our student accomplishments. At WSMS, we are focused on working together to "sprint through the finish line" of our school year. There is some very important information related to upcoming spring events and activities within this edition of our school newsletter.

In April your child will be taking the Wisconsin Forward Exam. The Wisconsin Forward Exam is a computer based, state mandated test. The Wisconsin Forward Exam asks students questions that are aligned with the State of Wisconsin standards. Our students in grades 5, 6 and 7 have taken tests in English/ Language Arts and Math. Students in grade 8 will test 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.

At the link [HERE](#), you will find information on the upcoming referendum taking place on April 5th. I hope you take the time to vote, as it will have a major impact on our community one way or another. 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

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**Important Dates**  
**No School** April 15, 18, or 19  
 April 21 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

## **MORNING PROCEDURES**

Doors open at 7:30. At this time, students will be allowed into the building, or they may stay outside on the playground until 7:43, when the bell rings.

Students are expected to be in their classrooms and ready for instruction at 7:50.

## **Absences, appointments, and messages**

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

You may also call ahead or send a note to the office with any pre-planned absences. We will document it, and you will not have to call again on the day of the absence.

***If you notify your student's teachers, PLEASE notify us as well, as sometimes the information doesn't make it to the office.***

If your child needs to be picked up for an appointment, please send a note or call the office ahead of time so that your child can be given an out-pass in advance. We appreciate advance notification as it eliminates the need for us to find your child at the last minute when they are being picked up. If your child brings a note from the medical or dental appointment as verification, it is not counted toward the 10 days allowed for your child to be absent from school. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping your child's attendance up to date and informing the school of absences in a timely manner.

We receive many calls daily from parents asking us to relay messages to their children. Please make every attempt to relay these messages to your child before they leave for school.

**Messages called into the office after 1:30 may not get to your child before dismissal.**

## **Middle School Security...**

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

## **From the Nurse**

***All student medication*** must be picked up by 4pm on the last day of school, or it will be thrown away. This includes all over the counter, prescription, epi-pens and inhalers.

Student artwork that's on display at the Heider Center



## Student Drop Off and Pick Up

Buses will drop off students at the high school sidewalk, then they will use the new sidewalk by the track/football field to walk to the middle school.

In the interest of your child's safety, all students dropped off or picked up by parents needs to take place on East Avenue. **Temporarily stopping your vehicle on Mark St. to have students get out is NOT safe**, as Mark St. is very busy during peak morning and afternoon hours.

Please pull forward all the way to the end of the sidewalk to drop off your child so that more cars can get out of the street and into the lot.

## Early Release Date

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

**May 11**

## Substitutes Needed

For the 2021-2022 School Year in the following areas:

Secretarial, Paraprofessionals, Food Service Custodians, Bus Drivers, & Teachers

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

## Middle School Newsletters

can be found on the district website - [www.wsalem.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us).

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

## Gone Phishing

With cybersecurity crimes on the rise, everyone needs to be aware of tactics used by cybercriminals to gather information and gain access. Phishing, which is sending emails designed to look like reputable businesses to entice recipients to reveal personal information, is one of those tactics.

At WSMS, students and staff have been part of a phishing campaign designed to see how closely users are reading emails and thinking before clicking on suspicious links. Over the course of a week, students were sent two fake emails similar to what would be used by cybercriminals. If students clicked on the link within the email, they were considered "phished". We had a student phish rate of 33%. Thankfully, this was a simulation, so students had an opportunity to learn from their mistakes.



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

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



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"**



Student artwork that's on display at the Heider Center



## Student Cell Phone Use

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

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



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

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



**Summer School Course Handbooks** will come out the week of April 4, and Registration begins April 26 at 6pm. Parents will be notified through Skyward, and everything will be posted on the [district's summer school website](#).

## MRS. JAROSH'S 6TH GRADE SCIENCE CLASS HAVING FUN WITH THE VAN DE GRAAFF GENERATOR!



## Counselor Comments...

In homeroom, we will be talking about stress and discussing ways to cope with the daily (and major) stressors in our life. Stress in and of itself is not necessarily a bad thing. In fact, it is our natural "flight or fight" response that has kept us humans alive for thousands of years! The key to stress management is for us to control our stress and not let our stress control us. Creating a toolbox of techniques will provide us with a variety of strategies and skills we can use when we get "worked up." It is important to "practice" these techniques when things are going okay so we know "what to do/how to do it" when needed. At the end of the month, we will be prepping for the fifth graders to visit their future homerooms! State testing is underway. Sixth and seventh graders will be testing the first week of April while fifth and eighth graders will test the second week of April. If your student misses any of the sessions, they will need to be made up. We will do what we can to catch them up during the day, but if they don't want to miss classes we can make arrangements to test before or after school.

~Ms. Becker & Mr. Lang



# MATHCOUNTS®



## 2022 STATE MATHCOUNTS NEWS!!!!

The State Mathcounts Competition was held in Sheboygan on Saturday, March 12, 2022. There were 102 total students competing, representing 38 different schools from across the state of Wisconsin. There were 16 official teams competing.

West Salem's team competitors were Sammy Adams, Izzy Krueger, Lydia Jochen, and Elliot Wolf. They placed 12th as a team. Krueger placed 40th, Adams placed 48th, Jochen placed 69th, and Wolf placed 76th. West Salem also had one individual, Breanna Smith, competing. She placed 80th overall. (All pictured above)

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 in early May in Orlando, Florida. The top four individuals from the State competition will represent Wisconsin at the National Competition.

# 5th Grade



**Reading:** We will 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 and will review the fiction reading skills we have learned.

**Writing:** Students just finished a letter writing unit and sent a letter, or email, to a favorite author. We are hoping to hear back from some of them! We have been working a lot on introductory commas. We will move into opinion/persuasive writing next.



**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 Revolutionary War. By the end of April, 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. Please continue to study these at home.

**Science:** The students have been introduced to the four complex, closed Earth systems: Biosphere, Hydrosphere, Atmosphere, Geosphere. We will run various science experiments involving plants in order to look at how other systems can affect the plant's growth. Later in the month we will concentrate on the hydrosphere and create a media project about the water cycle.

**Forward Testing:** Forward Testing will take place April 11-14 for 5th grade. Students will need to bring headphones. Please try to avoid these days when scheduling future appointments.



**“Meet Us in the Middle”**



## Math Forward Exam Note:

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

## Math - Ms. McKinney and Mrs. Jehn

We will spend the end of March in Chapter 8 which covered surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures including prisms and pyramids. Chapter 9 will quickly follow and students will learn 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. This will take us to the end of April and into May before we finish the book and year with Chapter 10.

## Accelerated Math - Mrs. Jehn

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.

## Science: Mrs. Jarosh

6th graders worked together to magnify iron nails by connecting it to a battery, this is an example of electromagnetism. We are learning all about the transfer of electrons and the buildup of charges. There were lots of smiles and shocks and students experienced the Van de Graaff generator! (See pics on p.4) The electricity unit will wrap up with students building series and parallel circuits and even making a battery from pennies and vinegar!

## English & Reading - Mrs. Buisman & Mrs. Schultz

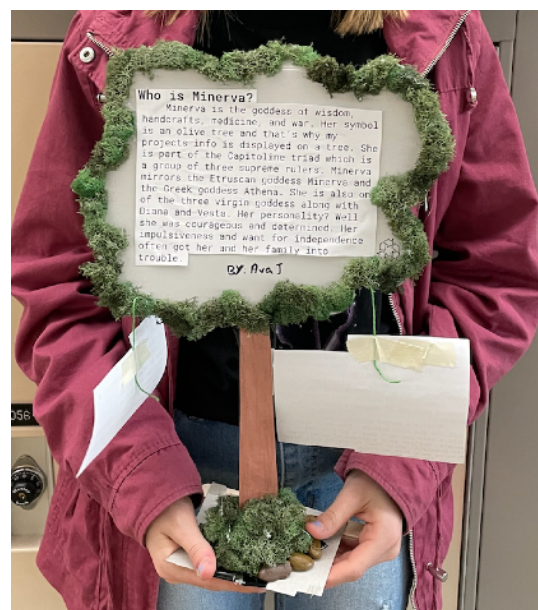
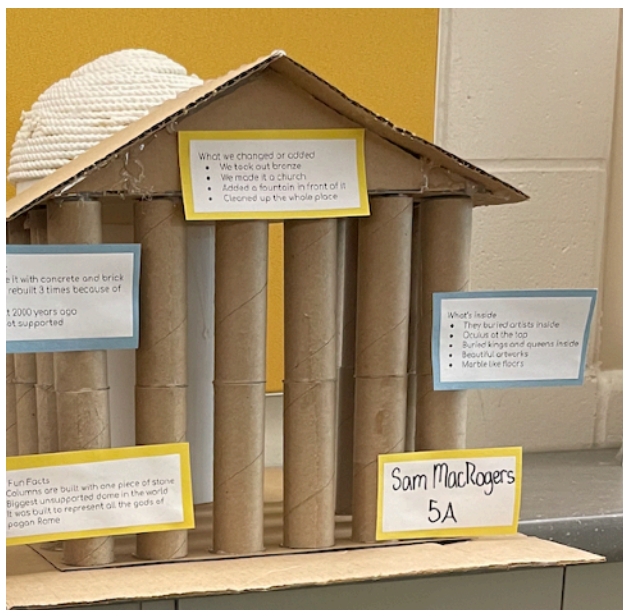
During the month of April students will be diving into research on a Human Rights topic. This research will be used in their final product, an informational book/presentation. The informational book/presentation will have 4 chapters. The first is focused on an explanation of their topic. The second chapter 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 connects to their topic.

In Reading, students will be working on independent reading of a narrative novel for a Digital Project, and in English continued work will be done with grammar.

Happy Research! - Mrs. Schultz and Mrs. Buisman

## Social Studies: Mrs. Jeranek

In the month of April we will continue to learn about Ancient Rome. The Romans created a Republic form of government, but it soon was overrun by a rebellion. As the Republic changed to an Empire, we focus on differences in governmental processes and citizen rights and responsibilities. Students will also learn about various Roman Emperors throughout our Roman study. Eventually the Roman Empire will be split in two, and our learning will turn to exploration. After Rome's decline, we will move into a Roman Research Project. Students will choose a topic to research, gather information through multiple sources and use creativity to display their facts. Projects will be displayed in the 6th grade pod upon completion. This project is a great way for 6th Graders to share their creativity!



## Language Arts - Ms. Friell

*Classroom Supplies:* All students are required to have a binder and two composition notebooks (one for grammar and one for writing). The binder and notebooks are left in the classroom so they are never lost and remain easily accessible.

*Agendas/Lessons:* A general plan is posted on the Homework Hotline. The specific plan (along with any materials) is posted in Google Classroom. If a student needs to miss school, please check GC for required work.

Seventh graders just finished writing a standard five paragraph argument essay about social media use. During the next two months we will continue our work on the parts of speech and writing sentences and paragraphs. In addition, students will be reading articles about environmental topics. They will use their notes from these articles to write an expository essay.

## Math 7- Mrs. Weber and Mrs. Piersma

March was a quick month! We actually got through 2 units this month and started preparing for the state test in early April. We will be testing Wednesday April 6th and Thursday, April 7th in math. Please put those dates on your calendar and try to avoid absences as much as possible. There will be make up times available if needed.

## Pre-Algebra- Mrs. Weber

March was a busy month for all of us. We started our last trimester early in the month. We had state mathcounts competition, trips to Florida, and many teams competing at state. We started to prepare for the state test in early April. We will be testing in Match on Wed., April 6th and Thursday, April 7th. Please put these dates on your calendar and try to avoid absences if at all possible. There will be make up times if needed.

## Reading - Mrs. Rochester

During the month of April, 7th grade students will be continuing with an environmental unit study. We will finish the book Fuzzy Mud as a read aloud. 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 in their own choice books and our read aloud: 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 their journal in response to what they are reading. As a culminating project for this unit, students will be creating a website 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. Students are also still studying greek and latin root vocabulary words.

## Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum

In April the students in 7th Grade Social Studies will turn their attention to laws. We will start by looking at why we have laws in our society and then start to examine the different types of laws. Finally, students will get an idea of how a courtroom is set up and the importance of having a fair system to resolve disputes.

## Science - Mr. Baker

We are entering the final stretch! We just finished classifying aliens and practicing with dichotomous keys. Moving forward, we will be comparing and contrasting all the different groups of animals from sponges to insects to mammals and everything in between. This will also include smelling up the science room when dissecting worms, frogs, and deer hearts! Though not everyone's favorite, this is a great opportunity for students to see external and internal structures up close.

The 7th grade forest experience is on the horizon as well! This is a great opportunity for our students to share an experience that some never get. Watch for details about this trip to be coming home soon.

# 8th Grade

## Social Studies - Ms. Morgan

April will find students exploring the growth of our nation prior to wrapping up our year digging into the Civil War. During this time, we will look at the removal of the Native American tribes to make way for settlement on their land. This will include information on tribal sovereignty in Wisconsin which is taught to meet the Act 31 Mandate. Don't know what this mandate is? Wonder why it exists? Check out the following website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/amind/fact-sheet>.

By the end of the month, students will be able to:

1. Explain what led to the event known as the Trail of Tears
2. Describe how the Treaty of Prairie du Chien 1825 set up our territory/state's ability to remove tribes from their lands in Wisconsin
3. Compare tribal removal in Wisconsin to other areas of the state
4. Explain why Act 31 exists
5. Provide details on the push and pull factors for emigration within the U.S.
6. Explain how the growth of our country created challenges that caused the Civil War.

## English/Language Arts - Ms. Meyer and Ms. Sackett

Our next unit in ELA is historical fiction based on the 20th century- 1900s-1970s. Students will be in literature circles reading and discussing the same text from one of the decades. Students will first browse through the twelve options for texts for this unit and will have the opportunity to select books they would be most interested in reading. Two of the choices contain a few inappropriate words. If this is something you would prefer your child avoid, please communicate that with him/her; there are ten other fantastic options. At the end of the month, students will start working on argument research and writing with the purpose of creating a presentation. Students will present their findings to a small group of peers.



## Math - Mrs. Coe & Mrs. Bentzen

### Regular Math (Chapter 10) Mrs. Bentzen and Mrs. Coe

We will start chapter 10 on exponents and scientific notation before the Wisconsin Forward Test the week of April 11 - 14th.

The objectives for Chapter 10:

- \*write expressions using integer exponents
- \*evaluate expressions involving integer exponents
- \*use exponent properties involving products and quotients
- \*use zero and negative exponent properties
- \*identify numbers written in scientific notation
- \*write numbers in both standard form and scientific notation
- \*compare numbers in scientific notation
- \*perform operations with numbers written in scientific notation

### Algebra (Chapter 12) - Mrs. Bentzen

In April, we will complete Chapter 12 which is a unit on rational equations and functions. The Wisconsin Forward Test will be the week of April 11 - 14th.

The objectives for Chapter 12:

- \*write and graph inverse variation equations
- \*graph rational functions
- \*simplify rational expressions
- \*multiply and divide rational expressions
- \*simplify complex fractions
- \*add and subtract rational expressions
- \*solve rational equations
- \*apply rational function skills to solve real-world problems
- \*divide polynomials

## Science - Ms. Smith-Waller

We learned all about how the Earth, moon and sun interact to see phases of the moon as well as solar and lunar eclipses. The last part of the standard we have been working on was about seasons. To better understand how the Earth moves through space to get the different seasons, we completed our kinesthetic astronomy activities. Ask your 8th grader how it felt to be the Earth, we had a lot of fun with this. After finishing up the reasons for seasons, we will take a look at some other topics related to Astronomy including gravity and how it holds our universe together. We will finish up the year going through the other objects we find in our solar system and their scale proportions. Enjoy some photos of your students creating the phases of the moon using oreo cookies!

Essential Learning Outcomes:

- Develop and use a model to predict and/or describe phenomena.
  - MS-ESS1-1: Develop and use a model of the Earth-sun-moon system to describe the cyclic patterns of lunar phases, eclipses of the sun and moon, and seasons.
  - MS-ESS1-2: Develop and use a model to describe the role of gravity in the motions within galaxies and the solar system
- Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings
  - MS-ESS1-3: Analyze and interpret data to determine scale properties of objects in the solar system.



## Spanish - Mrs. Phillips

**6th Grade** ¡Hola! Sixth graders have accomplished a lot in their first month of Spanish class. They should be able to answer basic introductory questions and state their birthday in Spanish. In the month of April, students will expand their vocabulary to use and read descriptions. They will be able to describe themselves with frequently used adjectives. Students will present this skill with a presentation to the class!

**7th Grade** Seventh graders have been learning about cognates and how to use our previously learned vocabulary. Next, students will expand on basic conversations. In the month of April, students will also work on descriptions to describe themselves and others.

**8th Grade** In eighth grade Spanish we have been working on interpersonal speaking. Students are doing a great job on their speaking skills as they practice in small groups and as a class. In April we will build our vocabulary by learning about different foods in Spanish speaking countries, and discuss our likes and dislikes.

**Spanish I** Spanish elective students are continuing to build on speaking, reading and writing in Spanish. They are able to have short, spontaneous conversations with each other and retell short stories. This month we will continue question and answer activities and we will learn about the verbs that mean “to know,” saber and conocer.

## Healthy Living - Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Olson, Ms. Serres, Mr. Reader

The Healthy Living department will be welcoming two student teachers this month, Mr. Bohrer and Ms. Shoman. They will be with us through the end of the school year. We are extremely excited for the warmer weather. With spring arriving we will be trying to go outside as much as possible. Please remind your children to bring shoes to school that they don't mind getting dirty. We will be starting and completing our Human Growth and Development unit this month. We hope you are all enjoying the beginning of Spring!



This piece by Ava Jambois won The Blick Award for Youth Art Month 2022. Congratulations, Ava!

## **Music 5 - Mrs. Glasel (Ringlien) and Ms. Nimm (Fink)**

Only a few weeks into the trimester, and we have been busy. We work on beat and rhythm daily with body percussion, rhythm sticks, or rhythm cups. We sing and learn about folk music from our country like "This Land is Your Land" and American patriotic songs, and from other countries like the Irish folk songs to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We have learned about the folk instrument called the autoharp, and even played it a couple of times. We are also learning about the 4 families of instruments.

## **Keyboards and More 6 - Mrs. Glasel**

**Music Reading** - The students are advancing in their musical skills by playing the keyboards with both hands at the same time in the hand positions of C and G.

**Music Appreciation** - Students learned about a wide variety of topics in music this past month including how we hear and what are dangerous decibels, the Grammy awards, and the tuba. The styles learned included Pop and Classical music, and the students are now working on learning about different composers from a variety of time periods.

## **Guitars and Musicals 7- Mrs. Glasel**

**Guitars** - The students are adding 4th string D to their songs and reviewing the many concepts learned so far this year on the guitar. They also wrote another composition for the guitar which included the pitches, rhythms, and symbols that they know.

**Musicals** - The students are watching Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, which shows how songs move the story along and help to shape the characters.

## **A Note from Mrs. Glasel....**

I would like to thank all of the music parents and students who thought of me at the band concert on Tuesday, March 15th in honor of my upcoming retirement. The gifts and congratulations are special and very much appreciated. The students were great at keeping it a surprise! Also a big thank you to Mr. Waldhart, even though he knows that I don't like surprises! Throughout my 32 years here at West Salem, I have worked in all three buildings and have a lot of great memories. It is wonderful to see former students have their own children in school. The supportive community is a big reason why we have such longevity in the music department staff. Thank you for making my career something that I can be very proud of. ~Mardeana Glasel

## **Choir - Nimm**

**6th** - The focus for April is the new solfege note "La" and making sure we know all of the music for our concert in May. The 6th graders will perform on Tuesday, May 17 at the Heider Center.

**7th** - The focus for April is the new solfege note "Fa" and making sure we know all of the music for our concert in May. The 7th graders will perform on Tuesday, May 17 at the Heider Center.

**8th** - The focus for April is the new solfege note "Fa" and making sure we know all of the music for our concert in May. The 8th graders will perform on Tuesday, May 24 at the Heider Center.

## **Small Choir 6 - Nimm**

The focus for March was learning about different genres of music, from pop to country, to jazz and hip-hop. After finishing this unit we'll put that knowledge into how music is used in movies and television.

## **Soundscapes - Nimm**

Soundscapes is beginning an introduction to drumming unit. They will learn the instruments used, how to work together as an ensemble, and how to play layered rhythmic patterns.

## **African Drumming - Nimm**

The drummers are continuing to use their skills to learn advanced ensembles from around the world. They are also working on duple meter rhythms in the rhythm cups units.

## **STEM - Mr. Jones**

### **6th Grade STEM**

A new trimester means new students for STEM class. My new students will spend the month of December designing and creating a foot orthosis for a child in need. Throughout this process, the students will learn about the design process in engineering.

### **7th Grade STEM**

We will be learning about multiview sketches and technical drawings in 7th grade STEM. We will use what we've learned with those sketches to design and create a puzzle cube to bring home.

### **8th Grade STEM**

Students coming in will spend the month of March/April starting their paper roller coaster designs. Students are given a budget to create a roller coaster that will last the longest when sending a marble down the track.

### **Robotics**

My robotics students have been working hard building and programming an elevator. This has been challenging for the students and it's fun watching their eyes light up when they finally figure it out! Next, we will build and program robot dragsters to race down the hallway.

## Art - Mrs. Hemker

### Grade 5

We will begin April with students finishing up their portrait work with realistic self portraits. 5th graders will have an opportunity to experience clay this month. They will create a pinch pot animal and also create a cupcake container. Both projects will be a review of a variety of clay techniques that they have learned since they were in Kindergarten. Both of these projects will also be glazed before a second firing. We will then move on to a variety of drawing practice projects and the creation of a handmade book to store them all in.

### Grade 6

In April 6th grade will also be working in clay. They will be working on a new technique that involves carving a solid form to create a container. They will also be creating a clay animal rattle or whistle. We will also be working on a variety of drawing projects and if the weather cooperates, we will be going outside to draw.

### Grade 7

This month 7th graders will continue their one point perspective work. We will also be working on a drawing that includes three different styles in one piece. If there is time we will be working collage painting using magazine pages to add the color to the drawings that we create.

### Grade 8

Students in 8th grade will soon begin their wall block designs. They are working on a variety of assignments in preparation for that including copyright and fair use as well as censorship concerns. They will also be starting to use Google Draw to create a mosaic piece of digital art. Hopefully these classes will also be able to spend a few days drawing in the open air as well as a bit of clay time.

### 8th Grade Elective

Elective students will be working on a Printmaking Unit to begin the month of April. They will create two linoleum cuts as well as a monoprint experience. We will then move on to a multi-media collage drawing. As always, we continue ongoing work that includes small samples of the materials, and examples of work we have been completing.



### After School Art Was a Hit!

This was the first official year of ASA at the MS. 40 students signed up and we had an average of 23 students attend each week. We had 18 meetings from October - March and created a large variety of artwork and craft projects.

## Looking for Summer Opportunities?

\*Recycled Art, Artist Trading Cards, Jewelry, Exploration of Clay and Plein Air Painting will be happening here during Summer School!

\*Check out UWL's offering <https://www.uwlax.edu/ex/youth-programs/art-adventures-camp/welcome/>

Thank you for the donations from the last call! If you are spring cleaning, we could still use (partially used is perfect):

Nail Polish

Stickers, tape or scrap booking papers

Beads or buttons

Partial skeins of yarn

Hair dryer

Toaster oven



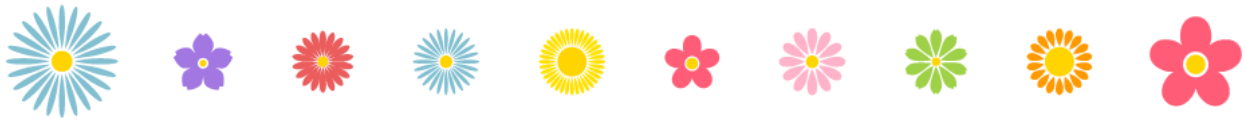
ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK!  
➔

**DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE!!**

Cost: \$11.00

ORDERS CAN BE PLACED THROUGH APRIL 15TH. VERY LIMITED NUMBERS WILL BE FOR SALE AT THE END OF THE YEAR!

ORDER YOUR BOOK AT:  
<https://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF-A09445630>

Click **HERE** to see the student-created March Edition of "Black Cat News" (this is page 1)

# Black Cat News

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**April Fools' Day Prank Ideas**  
By Henri S.

April Fools' Day occurs on April 1 every year. People in different cultures have been playing tricks and pranks on each other for decades although no one knows exactly why or when it started. Some think it started in the 1500s when France switched to the Gregorian calendar (history.com).

Whenever it started, it's known as a day to play hoaxes or practical jokes on others, often yelling "April Fools!" at the end to clue in the subject of the April Fools' Day prank. Here are some pranks I found. Maybe give one a try this year.



- \*Clear nail polish on bar of soap
- \*Saran wrap a toilet
- \*Sauce packets under a toilet seat
- \*Fake bugs in a lamp shade
- \*Toothpaste in Oreos
- \*Air horn on a chair
- \*Onions dipped in caramel
- \*April Fools' Ice (Mentos ice cubes)
- \*Baking soda in ketchup



## Middle School April Sports

April 12 - Track Meet, Home, 4pm

April 21 - Track, @Central High, 4:15pm

April 22 - Softball, Home vs Onalaska Middle, 4pm

April 26 - Track, @Logan High, 4pm

April 26 - Softball, @Lax Weigent Park, 4:30pm

April 29 - Softball, Home vs Tomah, 4:15

## 2022 ASL BASEBALL

**4/7 vs Onalaska**

4:15 @ West Salem Middle

**4/12 at Logan**

4:00 @ Logan High

**4/21 vs Central**

4:15 @ West Salem Middle

**4/28 at Onalaska**

4:15 @ Onalaska High

**5/3 vs Logan**

4:15 @ West Salem Middle

**5/5 vs Holmen**

4:15 @ West Salem Middle

**5/10 at Central**

4:15 @ Central High

**5/12 at Holmen**

4:15 @ Holmen High



Click HERE  
for a cooking demo!



**DID YOU KNOW?**

You can set limits on your child's food service account through [Skyward Family Access](#).

- Select the "Food Service" tab.
- Click on "Set Ala Carte Limit."
- Enter the dollar amount you would like to limit under "Daily Ala Carte Limit" or you can stop all ala carte purchases by selecting "Do Not Allow Purchase."
  - Please note that second entrees do count as an ala carte purchase, and limiting ala carte purchases will prevent your child from purchasing a second entree.
    - An extra breakfast entree costs \$1.55 and an extra lunch entree costs \$2.55.
  - Ala Carte prices can be found on the [School Nutrition Services webpage](#) by clicking on "2021-2022 Ala Carte Prices."
    - This is an all inclusive list, and all items aren't available at the middle school.

COULEE REGION  
**FARM TO SCHOOL**  
LOCAL FOODS, HEALTHY KIDS

HARVEST OF THE MONTH  
NEWSLETTER 04/2022



APRIL



edamame

**PICK**

Edamame is rarely sold fresh so check your farmer's market! It is available both shelled and unshelled all year. Snopac brand sells a local, frozen option.

**STORE**

Keep fresh edamame dry in a perforated plastic bag in the refrigerator, in the freezer for 6-12 months or until the use by date on the package.

**PREPARE**

Shelled and unshelled edamame can be boiled, steamed, or microwaved. The pod is inedible and should be discarded after cooking.

**USE**

Blanch the pods in salted water, drain and serve sprinkled with salt for a snack. Cooked, shelled edamame is a great addition to stir-fries, salads, and can be added to hummus or guacamole!

**FUN FACTS**

- Some call edamame the super vegetable because it is the only vegetable that contains all nine essential amino acids.
- Edamame is considered both a protein food and vegetable by the USDA.
- Edamame are immature soybeans in their pods.

**NUTRITION INFO**

One half cup of shelled edamame has 90 calories and provides iron, fiber and protein.

**Edamame Succotash**

Serves 10

**Ingredients:**

- 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 medium red pepper, diced
- 2 ½ cups edamame, frozen, shelled
- 2 ½ cups corn, frozen
- ½ tsp. garlic
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. black pepper
- ½ tsp. dried oregano
- 6 Tbsp. water

**Directions:**

In a medium sauce pan, heat olive oil on medium-high heat. Add onions and cook while stirring until translucent. Add red peppers and cook for 5 minutes. Add edamame, corn, garlic, salt, pepper and oregano; cook for 6 minutes. Add water, cover and steam for 3-4 minutes or until all vegetables are tender.

Per Serving (1/4 cup): 95 calories, 5g fat, .3g saturated fat, 3g protein, 10g carbohydrate, 2g fiber, 121mg sodium

for more information visit [www.laxf2s.org](http://www.laxf2s.org)

Coulee Region Farm to School is a partnership between La Crosse County Health Department, Mayo Clinic Health System – Franciscan Healthcare, Gundersen Health System, and the School Districts of Bangor, Holmen, La Crescent-Hokah, La Crosse, Onalaska, and West Salem.



MAYO CLINIC  
HEALTH SYSTEM

**GUNDERSEN**  
HEALTH SYSTEM®



## WEST SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-2022 CALENDAR



AUGUST 2021				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

SEPTEMBER 2021					21
M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3	
NS	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER 2021					19
M	T	W	T	F	
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	ER	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22#	
25	26	27	28	NS*	

#No School for Elementary & Middle students only. High in school.

NOVEMBER 2021					19
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17§	18	19	
22	23	NS	NS	NS	
29	30				

DECEMBER 2021					17
M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3	
6	7	8§	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	NS	
NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	

JANUARY 2022					20
M	T	W	T	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
NS*	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	
31					

FEBRUARY 2022					19
M	T	W	T	F	
	1	2	3	4	
7	8	ER	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18#	
21	22	23	24	25	
28					

MARCH 2022					21
M	T	W	T	F	
	1	2§	3	4	
7	8	9	10	SD	
14	15	16	17	NS*	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31		

APRIL 2022					18
M	T	W	T	F	
				1	
4	5	6§	7	8	
11	12	13	14	NS	
NS	SD	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

#No school for Elementary & Middle students only. High in school.

MAY 2022					21
M	T	W	T	F	
2	3	4	5	6	
9	10	ER	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
NS	31				

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

JUNE 2022					3
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		

**First Day of School: September 1, 2021**  
**Last Day of School: June 3, 2022**  
**Graduation Day: May 29, 2022**

SERVE WITH PASSION TO IGNITE  
CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND  
EXCELLENCE

**NS = No School for All students**  
**# = No School for Elementary & Middle School students**  
**ER = Early Release (K-12 Students dismissed at 12:20, Buses leave at 12:30 on October 13, February 9, May 11)**  
**§ = High School students (dismissed at 12:00 on November 17, December 8, March 2, April 6)**  
**SD = Snow Day or Make-up date (March 11 & April 19)**  
**\* = Teacher Inservice (August 24 & 25, October 29, January 17, March 18 + 2 Floating)**