PANTHER POST



WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL BEN WOPAT, PRINCIPAL AMANDA BELD, ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL



440 EAST AVE, WEST SALEM, WI 54669 OFFICE: 608-786-2090 FAX: 608-786-1081

Welcome Back!

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find very important information related to the start of the school year this fall. This includes Jostens school picture information, W.E.B., registration, and open house information.

Registration will take place on August 12 from 10:30am-6:30pm. Student pictures can be taken during this time. We will host **Open House** for our students and families on Tuesday, August 19 from 5pm-6:30pm. This is an opportunity for students to drop off supplies, practice locker combinations, walk through schedules, and meet staff.

When you complete the online registration verification steps in Skyward you will then be able to see your child's schedule. See page 5 for more information on completing those steps. Please be prepared for a Skyward message to be sent out closer to these dates.

Enjoy the rest of summer with friends and family!

Ben Wopat Principal Twitter.com/coachwopat

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 11 & 12

AUGUST 12

PICTURE DAY & REGISTRATION

CLASS OF 2033 5TH GRADE ORIENTATION

WSMS OPEN HOUSE

AUGUST 19

AUGUST 19

AUGUST 20-22

AUGUST 20-22

STH GRADE WEB LEADER TRAINING

PICTURE DAY & REGISTRATION

WSMS OF 2033 5TH GRADE ORIENTATION

WSMS OPEN HOUSE

AUGUST 20-22

TH & 8TH GRADE BAND AND COLOR GUARD CAMP

AUGUST 26 1ST DAY OF 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

ATTENDANCE REPORTING

Each day we are in school, it is very important for us to have the most up-to-date attendance for our students. There are several ways to report absences for illness, appointments, vacations, etc:

We highly encourage you to <u>report any absences</u>, <u>appointments</u>, <u>or vacations by</u>
8:00 a.m. each day. Even if your child was sick the day before and will be out again, we still need to hear from you. If you are not in contact us, we then have to call each family that has not reported their child's absence, which can become very time-consuming.

You can call 608-786-2090, Option 2, and leave a message at any time of the day or night. You can leave all absence messages on this voicemail. You can even leave information that is scheduled weeks to months in advance. We keep a yearly spreadsheet with all absences that are reported to us.

You can email at msoffice@wsalem.k12.wi.us. The office will be able to update your child's attendance in Skyward and call you back if there are any questions.

While we understand that appointments are sometimes forgotten, advanced notification allows us to have your child ready for pickup in a timely manner.

Final reminder....if your child has an appointment with a medical professional, please try your best to get a doctor's note so that we can verify the time away from school. Students are allotted 10 absences per year, and these doctor's notes are used so that appointments are not counted in the 10-day total.

Our goal is to work side-by-side with families to ensure that all students are safe and accounted for each day!

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, martial 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.



8TH GRADE WEB LEADER TRAINING AUGUST 11 & 12 | 8AM-1PM WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

Meet in the gym at 8:00am each morning with your water bottle, a pen or pencil, and some light snacks (no nuts or peanut/peanut butter allowed).

Wear comfy, school appropriate clothes (no skirts) for the activities we will do and learn.

During your training you will receive information about expectations such as report time and attire for the 5th grade orientation day.

The WEB Coordinators,
Amber Coe, Nicole Shrake and Whitney Folkers

Questions? Call (608) 786-2090 ext. 4219



Picture Day a whole new way

- *No pre-ordering you will order after picture day.
- *Parents will get an email when pictures are ready to be viewed and purchased on Jostens website (usually a couple days after picture day).
- *Pictures are shipped directly to your home!!



Our "Green Screen" technology allows you to personalize backgrounds,

BUT it makes green clothing disappear into the background.

PLEASE DON'T WEAR
GREEN FOR PICTURE DAY!

REGISTRATION

MIDDLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORMS ARE COMPLETED ONLINE PLEASE SEE PAGE 5 FOR DETAILS ON THIS PROCESS

PAYMENT OF FEES:

Again this year the RevTrak service fees will be waived for the month of August.

Besides the fees, you are also able to pay on your lunch account.

Please see page 6 for instructions.

iPad Insurance (optional) - \$25.00

Gr. 8 - Class t-shirt - \$10.00

Gr. 7 - no fee at this time

Gr. 6 - no fee at this time

G.r 5 - Class fee \$10.00

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ONLINE ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION

This letter will outline the online verification process. Online verification can be completed starting 8/1/25. This can only be completed through the Parent login not Student login.

To begin go the West Salem School District webpage at http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us at the top of the screen click on SKYWARD (next to the school bus) then click on Student/Family. You will then get a login screen to enter your login/password. If you need your login and/or password please email lochen.janel@wsalem.k12.wi.us.

Be sure to select your middle school student (a top of page)! The top left of the screen under the word HOME - click on "Online Enrollment Verification", then click on your child's name. If you have more than one child you will need to complete each step for each child. This takes you step by step through registration.

- **Step 1 Verify Student Information:** Select the "Verify Student Information". Here you can request changes to your students information. Once all the information has been updated and saved, or if no changes need to be made, select the back button (upper right hand side of the screen). Check the box "I have competed this step". You are now done with this step. It is very important to verify this information and make any necessary changes. We need EVERYONE to complete this step for each student, whether or not you make any changes.
- **Step 2 Emergency to Treat/Parental Consent:** Please complete the required information. Save and check the box that you completed this step.
- **Step 3 Permission Form- Field Trip, Photo and Internet:** Select the button "Permission form". Check the box if you wish to give permission to have photos/videos taken of your child. Save and check the box that you completed this step.
- **Step 4 Student and Parent Handbook:** Select the button "Student and Parent Handbook". This will take you to the handbook. Please take a moment to read through the handbook. By checking the Step 4 box you are verifying that you have read this document.
- **Steps 5-6 Student Technology Handbook, iPad Agreement, Student Technology Use and Technology Use Agreement:** Please take a minute to read the handbook with your child. By checking the Steps 5-6 box you are verifying that you have read the handbook. By having your child type their name and parent typing their name as well as the date you are saying that you understand the Technology Use Agreement. Click save
- **Step 7 Athletic Sports Sign-Up (Gr.6-8 only):** Please complete if your child is interested in participating in any sports available during school year.
- Step 8 Co-Curricular Pledge (Gr. 6-8): Required to complete if you child will be participating in sports.
- **Step 9 Concussion Info:** Please read. By checking the box for step 10 you are verifying that you have read this information.
- **Step 10 Sudden Cardiac Arrest Info:** Please read. By checking the box for step 10 you are verifying that you have read this information.
- Step 11 Food Service Application: Optional
- Step 12 Pupil Service Communication: Optional
- **Step 13 Complete Online Verification:** Verify that you have completed ALL the steps. Then click on the button on the bottom right <u>"Submit Online Enrollment Verification."</u>
- *If you are unable to complete the Online Enrollment Verification and need a laptop to do so, please call the WS Middle School Office at (608) 786-2090 to set up a time to come in and complete.*

REVTRAK



ONLINE STUDENT FEES AND MEAL PLAN PAYMENTS

The West Salem School District provides parents an easy way to add money to your student's food service account and to pay for school related fees. Online payments can be made into food service accounts and for various school fees through Skyward Family access. We are contracted with RevTrak, a national credit card payment processor, to provide a secure site for making payments.

Parents can make payments online anytime of the day. If your student's food service balance is low, it only takes a few minutes to add money to it by using your VISA or MasterCard credit or debit card. Payments are made through the student's Skyward Family Access account. A link to Family Access can be found on the school district's website at:

http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us

To make online payments the parent will need:

- 1. MasterCard, Discover or VISA (Debit or Credit card) card number and expiration date
- 2. Skyward Family Access Login and Password

Payments made through Family Access will immediately be posted to the student's food service account. All credit card statements will show the payment has been made to the West Salem School District.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING A PAYMENT

Log in to Skyward Family Access

Select "Food Service" or "Fee Management" from the "General Information" menu found on the left

- For Food Service, view balance and select "Make Online Payment"
- For Fee Management, select "Make Online Payment" and select which fee(s) to apply
 the payment to by clicking on the corresponding "Pay Charge" box

Click on the Update Payment Amount button

Enter the amount you want to pay, Click on "Update Cart".

Enter payment amount and select "Pay with Vendor" and follow the steps to finish your transaction.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SKYWARD FAMILY ACCESS

Skyward Family Access provides a login/password for every user - be it parent or student. Every family member has his/her own Skyward account. It is important that parents use their own login/password and that students use their own login/password. As an example, students cannot add money to their lunch account using their student login/password nor can they see specific messages posted in the message center directly to parents only. At high school level students will be using their own login/password to enter course requests.



It is imperative that parents **DO NOT** share their access to Skyward with their student(s). At a minimum, parents will be asked to provide enrollment information online. Keeping your password private will prevent your student from having access to change that information during the course of the school year.

If you do not know your login/password please contact Janel Lochen in the office at 786-2090 or send an email to locked an email to

LOCKERS

Each student will receive a street locker and combination at registration. Just a reminder that lockers are only 12" wide so please keep that in mind when purchasing backpacks. All 7th & 8th graders will also receive a physical education locker and combination from their physical education teacher sometime within the first or second week of school and are expected to change clothes for class.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

We wish to emphasize that the School District of West Salem does not provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred by your child at school. Your personal health and/or dental insurance, homeowner's property insurance, or other insurance carried by you will be your primary safeguard for coverage of accidents.

ASSIGNMENT NOTEBOOKS

- All 5th and 6th graders will receive one assignment notebook at the beginning the school year.
- All 7th and 8th graders will be using an electronic form of an assignment notebook. Teachers will get them set up during the first week of school.

IPΔD

- iPads will be distributed within the first week of school. More info & specific dates coming soon.
- iPads may be taken home *Please note page 3 of the Technology Use Agreement regarding the iPad insurance.
- Homeroom teachers will review "Standards for Proper Device Care" found on pages 5-7 of the School District of West Salem Student Technology Use Agreement.

IMPORTANT ^ INFORMATION

PANTHER TIME

Our schedule includes a daily 30 minute class period called Panther Time. Panther Time was created from our staff's work with Response to Intervention (RTI). Panther Time has two components: an intervention block and and extension block. The intervention block is an opportunity for the reading and math instructors to re-instruct on a daily basis in the areas that the student needs further support to understand concepts already taught. It may be related to the current instruction or an area of remediation in order for the student to become more successful within the content area. Students are selected by the grade level teachers and stay in the intervention block until they have met the criteria to exit and then will be placed in the extension block. The extension block is an opportunity to expand upon concepts already within the curriculum.

HOMEWORK

Students should expect to have homework in math and reading on a regular basis. Math homework will be an extension of what is learned during class. Students will be given class time to work, but most will have to take the homework home to complete it. In reading, students are expected to read an independent reading book nightly for a minimum of 20 min. Most other classes will have homework on an intermittent basis. You should not expect more than an hour of homework nightly. When absent, students should be getting the information missed off of Edmodo.

NEWSLETTERS

Middle School newsletters can be found on the district website under the Families tab along the top. An e-mail reminder will be sent each month to let you know when it is available, along with a link to the actual newsletter. If you would like a hard copy of the newsletter, please let the Middle School office know.



PICTURE DAY & REGISTRATION:
AUGUST 12
10:30AM-6:30PM

WSMS
OPEN HOUSE:
AUGUST 19
5:00-6:30PM

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WSMS 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 Street to have students get out is NOT safe, as Mark Street 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.

ALLERGIES

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.

MORNING PROCEDURES

Doors open at 7:15am. At this time, students will be allowed into the building or they may stay outside on the playground until the 7:43am, when the bell rings.

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

SCHOOL SECURITY

The middle school doors will be locked during the 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 (door A). Once you enter the building, please sign in the office.

"GUIDE ALL STUDENTS TO BECOME INDEPENDENT, KIND AND CONFIDENT LIFELONG LEARNERS."

West Salem Middle School Mission Statement



FROM THE NURSE

Wisconsin State Law Requirement ~

Please be aware that the Wisconsin State law requirements are:

Grades 6, 7 & 8:

4 DTP/DTaP/DT/Td, 4 Polio, 2 MMR, 3 Hep B, 2 Varicella (Chicken Pox - dates of illness also acceptable) and I Tdap

Any student not up to date by the 30th day of school may be excluded from school by state statute.

What you need to do to avoid exclusion is:

- * Have your child immunized
- * Provide school with month, day and year of the required immunizations

OR

- * Sign a waiver
 - * Available from School Nurse office
 - * OR on the district website go to District, District Information and School Health Services than under Important forms on right side
 - * OR in section 4 of this form linked here.

Medication forms are required for the following:

- * All prescription medications that need to be given during school, including inhalers carried by students (must be signed by the parent and the physician).
- * Any over the counter medications not listed below will need a medication form signed by a parent/guardian.
 - * Acetaminophen
 - * Ibuprofen
 - * Antihistamine
 - * Mylanta/Tums/Rolaids

- * Pepto Bismol (Bismuth Subsalicylate)
 —Continued on next column.—
- * Cough drops
- * Anbesol/Orajel
- * Normal Saline
- * Over the counter topical preparations (anti-itch, anti-fungal, anti-bacterial, burn gel, barrier cream, vaseline)
- * Insect repellent
- * Hand/body cream/moisturizers/lotion
- * Sunscreen
- * Contact solution may be used as directed on the bottle
- * Accuchecks or blood sugars may be performed as deemed necessary for signs/symptoms of low/high blood sugar.

Medication forms are available **online** by going to the district website - go to District drop down, District Information and School Health Services than under Important forms on right side at all clinics. We will also have them available at registration.

Please bring any medications and completed medication forms to registration. Medication forms and medications can also be dropped off at open house in the nurse's office or main office.

At registration, the nurses will be available to verify and obtain health information that may be necessary for emergency purposes. Incoming 6th graders need to provide a copy of their updated immunization record if they have not already done so.

Reminder: ALL over the counter medications require an electronic signature. The school may have a stock supply, but that is not a guarantee. Please check with he school nurse for availability

ATHLETICS

2025-2026 Sports Information

Online Athletic Registration

Athletics registration is part of our school registration process!

Any student planning or even contemplating participating in a sport during the 2025-2026 school year <u>MUST</u> complete the athletics portion of our school registration process. Students may still sign up for fall sports at the co-curricular table at registration.

ALL athletes are required to have the following on file prior to practice:

- 1. WIAA physical card dated on or after April 1, 2024.
 - a. Students with physicals dated between 4/1/24 3/31/25 must also have an alternate year card on file.
 - Students with physicals dated on or after April 1, 2025 only need the physical.
- 2. Co-curricular Pledge completed as part of online athletic registration
- Middle School Athletics Sign Up Form completed as part of online athletic registration

Please bring your child's physical card or alternate year card to the co-curricular table at registration on August 12.

Students will not be allowed to practice until the WIAA physical card (and alternate year card, if required) is on file in the WSMS office and the Co-Curricular Pledge and Middle School Athletics Sign Up Form have been completed online.

If your child is in need of a sports physical PLEASE schedule it early as it is harder to get an appointment as the new school year approaches.

PDF copies of forms and links to schedules can be found here:

West Salem Middle School Athletics Page



FALL SPORTS PRACTICES & GAMES

The first day of practice is after the first day of school. Tuesday, August 26 from 3:30 - 5:00pm

Schedules will be posted on the Middle School Athletics page of the West Salem School District website.

Coaches will also hand out schedules & other information for individual sports.

EQUIPMENT:

Football: Athletes must have plastic molded cleats and a mouth guard. Equipment including a helmet and pads is provided.

Volleyball: Athletes must have athletic shoes, knee pads and all black bottoms.

Cross Country: Athletes must have athletic shoes.

ALL TEAMS will be provided a uniform. Parents are responsible for washing all team uniforms.

AWAY GAMES:

Athletes ride a school bus to and from the game. The athlete may ride home with a parent after the game, but a parent must sign their child out with their coach.

Prior approval by the Principal with an email or note from parent is required if athlete will be riding home with anyone other than parent.

ELIGIBILITY:

Mid-term, trimester grades and P.A.W.s scores can impact games. (See pg. 34 of Student/Parent Handbook.)

ATTENDANCE:

A student who has an unexcused absence for any part of the school day will be ineligible to practice and ineligible to compete or participate for that school day.

An unexcused absence on the last day of the school week will cause the student to be ineligible for the entire weekend.

Any participant that is absent from school more than one hour on the day of an activity will be ineligible to compete/participate unless:

- Absence was due to a school function or a medical appointment.
 Verification from the physician must be provided upon the student's return to school.
- 2. Permission for the absence has been granted by the administration.
- Extenuating circumstances were involved. The building principal or designee will determine the enforcement of the rule.

7th & 8th GRADE BAND & COLOR GUARD CAMP

This camp is for ALL 7th & 8th Grade students who are registered for band or color guard for this upcoming school year.

This does not include students signed up for 7th Grade Beginner Band.

We will be preparing for our two fall parades and our halftime performance on September 5th.

There is no special registration for this camp. Camp is held at the Middle School Band Room. Students are to dress comfortably, wearing socks with athletic shoes. **Absolutely no flip-flops, crocs, or sandals. Please also bring a water bottle.**

Camp Times

 Tuesday, August 19 	3:00-5:00pm	Drumline Practice
• Wednesday, August 20	4:00-7:00pm	Marching Band & Color Guard
 Thursday, August 21 	4:00-7:00pm	Marching Band & Color Guard
 Friday, August 22 	8:00am-Noon	Marching Band & Color Guard

UPCOMING DATES

"Band Night" with WSHS Marching Band at Football Game Friday, September 5 | 5:45pm report time

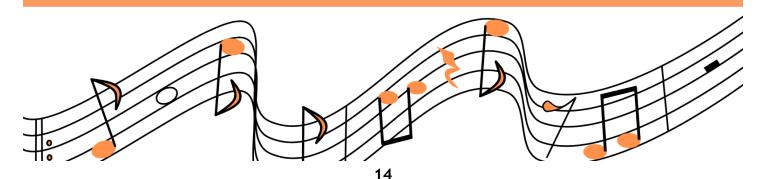
Band will perform at halftime of West Salem Varsity Football game. Students wear performance uniform. ALL band and color guard.

Torch Light Parade in La Crosse
Thursday, September 25 | 5:45pm report time
Band will march in the parade, starting at 7pm

Students wear performance uniform. ALL band and color guard.

WS Homecoming Parade Friday, October 3 | 1:30pm report time

Band will march in the parade starting at 2pm Students wear "School Spirit" Orange, Black & White (or uniform)







Did you know your school is a part of the Coulee Region Farm2School program? This program helps connect local farmers with area schools so that fresh, locally grown foods can be served at school meals. In addition, Farm2School encourages children to try new foods & provides opportunities for hands-on nutrition education both in the cafeteria, classrooms and in school gardens. Each month, one local food is selected as the Harvest of the Month. This food is then featured on promotional signage throughout the school, sampled in monthly taste tests featured at cooking classes with area chefs and farmers and of course, served at mealtime!

Check out laxf2s.org for family friendly recipes, newsletters and more information!





COULEE REGION



HARVEST OF THE MONTH CALENDAR 2025-2026







































LA CROSSE COUNTY Health Department

FoodWIse education is funded by the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education FoodWIse education is funded by the USDA Supplementar Nutrition Assistance - Regulation of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment Program - EFNEP. An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment laxf2s.org



WEST SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT 2025-2026 CALENDAR



AUGUST 2025					
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29	30					

	OCTOBER 2025						
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13	14	15	16	17			
20	21	22	23	<mark>NS</mark>			
27	28	29	30	NS*			

October 3, Homecoming

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21

N	NOVEMBER 2025					
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10	11	12	13	14		
17	18	19	20	21		
24	25	NS	NS	NS		

	DECEMBER 2025						
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	FEBRUARY 2026						
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20	JUNE 2026				
	М	Т	W	Т	F
May 6 - ER	1	2	3	4	5
*ER K-8 Only	8	9	10	11	12
*9-11 No School	15	16	17	18	19
*12-Panther	22	23	24	25	26
Portfolio presentation	29	30			
day					

First Day of School: August 26 First Day for High School: August 25 4K first Day: September 2 Last Day of School: May 29 12:20 dismissal **Graduation Day: May 22**

> SERVE WITH PASSION TO IGNITE CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND **EXCELLENCE**

NS = No School for All students

ER = Early Release (Students dismissed at 12:20, Buses leave at 12:30 on October 8, February 4,

SD = Snow Day or Make-up date (April 2)

= Teacher Inservice (August 18, 19, 20, & 21, October 31, January 19, February 20)



10-14-2024