

August 2026

WS Newsletter

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Letter from Superintendent Ryan

Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year!

As the summer sun begins to set on another wonderful break, the energy and excitement across our campus is rising! We are eagerly anticipating the return of our staff and students and cannot wait to fill our halls once again with their energy, curiosity, and smiles. The start of a new school year is always full of fresh beginnings, and this year brings some particularly milestone moments for our district. To help your family prepare for the first day of school, please keep

the following registration details in mind:

- High School: Online registration is currently open.
- Elementary & Middle School: Online registration opens right away in early August.
- In-Person Registration: For families needing to register in person at the Elementary or Middle School, mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 18th, from 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM.

We are thrilled to share that our referendum construction projects are reaching exciting milestones! The elementary addition is rapidly

Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

rapidly approaching completion, and it will be an outstanding asset not just for our young learners, but for our entire district and community. We invite everyone to celebrate with us during a special Ribbon-Cutting Event on Wednesday, August 26th at 4:15 PM, held in conjunction with the Elementary Back-to-School Bash. Please stop by, celebrate with us, and take a tour of this incredible new space!

Meanwhile, at the high school, the interior classroom renovations are moving smoothly, with incredible transformations happening daily. We are especially excited that our high school math classrooms have moved up from the basement to the main floor! These bright new spaces feature large windows and are now conveniently located adjacent to our science classrooms. All interior renovations are right on track to be fully completed before our students walk through the doors on Monday, August 31st. The new addition of the trades building, along with the additional business classrooms and the fitness center, is quickly taking shape as well. This is scheduled to be completed right around semester break.

There is a unique heartbeat to our

district, and it returns in full force when our halls are filled with the energy and curiosity of our students. Fresh off a fantastic summer school session that wrapped up on July 24th, our staff got a wonderful preview of the growth and passion our learners bring every day. Our entire leadership team and staff are excited to welcome our students back!

As we prepare to launch this new academic year, our team is reflecting on what it truly means to guide our community. Leadership isn't a title; it's a daily practice, an intentional mindset, and a shared responsibility.

True leadership isn't about perfection; it's about showing up with passion every day, guiding one another, and growing side by side with our students.

Thank you for your partnership and trust. Together, we are going to make this school year another one to remember!

Ryan Rieber
Superintendent

Calendar of Events August

Athletic Events

Friday, August 14, 2026

10:00am Football: Varsity
Scrimmage vs.
Ellsworth, Central &
Sauk Prairie @ West
Salem High School

Monday, August 17, 2026

10:00am Tennis: Girls Varsity
Match vs. Logan
@ Logan High School

12:00pm Tennis: Girls Varsity
Match vs. Sauk Prairie
@ Green Island Tennis
Courts

3:00pm Tennis: Girls Varsity
Match vs. Aquinas @
Green Island Tennis
Courts

4:00pm Tennis: Girls JV/Varsity
Match vs. Onalaska
@ Gullickson Tennis
Courts

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

9:00am Tennis: Girls Varsity
Quad vs. Grafton, Lodi
& Portage @ Lodi High
School

Thursday, August 20, 2026

6:00pm Swimming & Diving:
Girls Varsity Meet vs.
Holmen
@ UW-La Crosse

Friday, August 21, 2026

1:00pm Tennis: Girls Varsity
Invite vs. Aquinas,
DeForest, Eau Claire
North, Holmen,
Central, Logan, Luther,

7:00pm

Saturday, August 22, 2026

TBD

9:00am

9:00am

10:00am

10:00am

Menomonie, Onalaska,
River Falls, Viroqua &
Winona @ Central High
School

Football: Varsity Game
vs. Onalaska
@ Onalaska High
School

Volleyball: JV
Scrimmage vs.
Holmen @ Holmen
High School

Tennis: Girls Varsity
Invite vs. Aquinas,
DeForest, Eau Claire
North, Holmen,
Central, Logan, Luther,
Menomonie, Onalaska,
River Falls, Viroqua &
Winona @ Central
High School

Tennis: Girls JV Invite
vs. Luther, Reedsburg,
Sauk Prairie & Tomah
@ La Grange

Elementary
Swimming & Diving:
Girls Varsity Invite vs.
Eau Claire North,
Marshfield, Medford,
Menomonie, Rice Lake
& River Falls
@ Menomonie Field
House

Volleyball: Girls Varsity
Scrimmage vs. Altoona,
Central & Logan @ Eau
Claire North
High School

Calendar of events continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

4:00pm	Tennis: Girls Varsity Match vs. Tomah @ La Grange Elementary
5:00pm	Soccer: Boys JV Game vs. Mount Horeb @ Mount Horeb High School
5:15pm	Tennis: Girls JV Match vs. Tomah @ La Grange Elementary
5:15pm	Cross Country: Boys & Girls Varsity Invite vs. Aquinas, Arcadia, Black River Falls, Brookwood, Cashton, Cochrane-Fountain City, Hillsboro, Logan, Luther, Marshall, Viroqua, Westby & Weston @ Westby High School
5:30pm	Football: Boys JV Game vs. Tomah @ Tomah High School
6:00pm	Swimming & Diving: Girls Varsity vs. Platteville/Lancaster @ UW-La Crosse
7:00pm	Soccer: Boys Varsity Game vs. Mount Horeb @ Mount Horeb High School

Thursday, August 27, 2026

4:00pm	Tennis: Girls Varsity Match vs. Mauston @ Lions Park Mauston
5:00pm	Soccer: Boys JV/Varsity Game vs. Stoughton @ Stoughton High School
6:00pm	Swimming & Diving: Girls Varsity Invite vs. Eau Claire North @ UW-La Crosse

Friday, August 28, 2026

7:00pm	Football: Varsity Game vs. Tomah @ West Salem High School
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Saturday, August 29, 2026

10:00am	Cross Country: Boys & Girls JV/Varsity Invite vs. Aquinas, Boscobel, Fennimore, G-E-T, Luther, Onalaska, Prairie du Chien, River Valley, Sparta, Tomah & Wisconsin Dells @ Maple Grove Venues
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Monday, August 31, 2026

4:00pm	Volleyball: Girls C-Team Tournament vs. Black River Falls, Cochrane- Fountain City, G-E-T, Melrose-Mindoro & Whitehall @ Melrose-Mindoro High School
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Elementary School Events

Monday, August 31, 2026

8:00am	First Day of School for K-4
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Middle School Events

Monday, August 31, 2026

7:50am	First Day of School
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High School Events

Monday, August 31, 2026

7:45am	First Day of School Students Report @ Scheduled Times by Grade Level
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CLASS OF 2027: IT IS YOUR TIME

Senior year is finally here! We have an important yearbook deadline to keep in mind. Each senior needs to submit the following photos:

1. Yearbook Portrait

This photo is a traditional, formal head and shoulders pose. You may use this same portrait for everything if you would like.

***No full-length poses, hats, props, "misty" filters, or distracting backgrounds.**



2. Times of Our Lives

This may be less formal.



3. Baby Photo

This photo will be used to morph into the "big kid" photo for the Senior Slide Show. The best morphs are created using baby photos where the baby's face is the dominant part of the photo.



4. Senior Photo for Slide Show

This photo will be the photo that the baby photo morphs into for the slide show. It can be the same photo used for the Yearbook or Times of our Lives if you would like.



Photos due:

Friday, Nov. 13,
2026

Submit **300 dpi jpeg** photo(s) via email to armstrong.andrea@wsalem.k12.wi.us
Please label photos with the student name and publication - ex. JoeSmithYearbook.
Labeled hard copy photos can be dropped off to room 241 - silver box.



REFERENDUM PROJECT UPDATES

What is Happening with the Construction Projects?



As we prepare to welcome students and staff back for the new school year, we are excited to share continued progress on our referendum projects. Throughout the summer, crews have been hard at work completing improvements that will enhance learning spaces and better support the needs of students, staff, and the broader community.

Elementary School

We are excited to share that construction is almost complete! Referendum project work continues to make great progress. Recent updates include interior drywall installation and painting, suspended ceiling installation, wood gym flooring, and air handling unit (AHU) installation. Crews are coordinating these activities to prepare the building for final finishes, system commissioning, and occupancy ahead of the new school year.

High School

We are halfway through construction at the High School site. Current activities include fitness addition MEP rough-ins, wall framing, roofing at the Career and Technical Education (CTE) addition, interior renovation drywall installation, underground plumbing, and in-wall blocking. Installation of Family and Consumer Science (FACS) casework and countertops is also underway. Demolition and excavation in the courtyard where the new greenhouse will be located continues and is making good progress.

Work Upcoming

Construction activities at the Elementary site will continue with tile, gym door hardware, interior storefront installation, resilient flooring, removal of the temporary rock access road, concrete sidewalk placement, and exterior metal panel installation. These activities represent the next phase of both interior finishes and exterior site improvements as the project reaches substantial completion.

The next phase of construction for the High School will focus on interior finishes and continued building infrastructure. Planned activities include drywall installation in the fitness addition, MEP wall rough-ins in the CTE addition, interior remodel slab infills and painting, greenhouse footings and foundation work, and installation of chain link fencing near football field to prepare for fall sport activities to keep students, staff, and the community safe during construction.



Elementary School



Elementary School



High School



High School



Mark Your Calendars!

Elementary Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

August 26 | 4:15 P.M. at the Elementary School site.

Can't wait to see everyone there!

Time-lapse camera of the High School site can be found at bit.ly/wsconstruction. CHECK IT OUT!

2026-2027 Registration Information and Reminders

Elementary School

Online registration through Skyward Family Access for West Salem Elementary 4K through 4th grade students will start **August 4th**. If you are unable to register online, an in-house registration will be held on Tuesday, **August 18th** from 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Jostens will be here to take student pictures at this time. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending.

4K & Kindergarten

If you have a child who will be four or five years old by September 1, 2026, please call the Elementary Office (786-1662) ASAP to register your child for 4K or kindergarten, if you have not already done so.

New this year!

4K will run all day Monday-Thursday from 8:45 a.m.-3:10 p.m.

Middle School

Online registration through Skyward Family Access for West Salem Middle 5th-8th grade students will start August 1st. If you are unable to register online, in-house registration will be held on Tuesday, **August 18th** from 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Jostens will be here to take pictures at this time. Please plan on attending!

8th Grade W.E.B. Leader Training

August 17th & 18th, 2026

8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

MS Gym

Meet in the gym each morning with a water bottle, a pen/pencil, and some light snacks (no nuts or peanut/peanut butter allowed). Wear comfy clothes (no skirts) for the activities. During your training you will receive information about expectations such as report time and attire for the 5th grade orientation.

5th Grade W.E.B. Orientation

August 19, 2026

8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

MS Gym

Wear comfy clothes (no skirts) and leave your bags, backpacks, hats, and phones at home... travel light! The purpose of this orientation day is to make the transition from elementary school to middle school a positive one. Eighth graders will be serving as leaders and mentors to the fifth graders. Large and small group activities are designed to address students' needs and concerns in an enjoyable manner. Students will be eating a school-provided lunch with their leaders that day.

Please do not drop your child off early because there is no supervision available

2026-2027 Registration Information and Reminders

High School

Online registration will open on **July 15th**.

Buy a yearbook, update Skyward, pay fees, and receive schedules, all through the online registration process. Schedule Change requests will be minimal and considered using the Schedule Change Policy which is located in the Student Handbook. A Skymail will be sent in July with more detailed information.

Student pictures will be incorporated into the first day of school time slots.

Freshmen: 7:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Sophomores: 8:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Juniors: 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Seniors: 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Link Crew Freshman Orientation

August 31, 2026

7:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

WSHS Gymnasium

The purpose of this orientation is to make the transition from middle school to high school a positive one. Seniors and juniors will be serving as leaders and mentors to the freshmen. Large and small group activities are designed to address students' needs and concerns in an enjoyable manner. Students should wear comfortable shoes and clothing, as this will be an active day! Part of the day will be spent at the school forest, so please plan accordingly. Lunch will be served at this event. Students are expected to attend and stay for the duration of the event.

If you have any questions, please contact Link Crew Coordinator Jamie Olson (olson.jamie@wsalem.k12.wi.us).

Athletics

The WIAA Sports Meetings will once again be part of the online registration process. We will no longer host a large all sport meeting. However, each individual sport will still host a break out session prior to the first date of practice. Dates for individual break out sessions will be placed on the school district calendar once determined.

Students participating in athletics must have a current physical on file with the main office of the high school prior to the first day of practice. Physicals must be dated on or after April 1, 2025, to be valid. Any athletes with physicals dated between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026, must also have an alternate year card on file with the main office. All forms can be downloaded by going to the district website and clicking on "Schools >High School > Activities > Athletics." Please contact the high school office at (608)-786-1220 with any questions.

Bus Registration

4K-12 Students

Please check your email for registration information from our Transportation Department. If you need assistance or did not receive info, please call or email Michelle Lawrynck at 608-786-4356 or lawrynck.michelle@wsalem.k12.wi.us. Bus schedules will be mailed in mid-August.

2026-2027 School Nutrition Information

2026-2027 School Nutrition Prices

Breakfast	Full Pay	Free/Reduced
Elementary	\$2.00	FREE
Middle	\$2.20	FREE
High	\$2.35	FREE
Adult	\$3.00	N/A

Lunch	Full Pay	Free/Reduced
Elementary	\$3.50	\$0.40
Middle	\$3.70	\$0.40
High	\$3.85	\$0.40
Adult	\$5.00	N/A

Milk Break	Full Pay	Free/Reduced
ES (4K-4th)	\$0.45	FREE

Ala Carte	Full Pay	Free/Reduced
Milk/Juice	\$0.75/\$0.50*	\$0.75/\$0.50*
Extra Entree, Breakfast	\$2.00*	\$2.00*
Extra Entree, Lunch	\$3.00*	\$3.00*

* Ala carte items are not covered by the Free or Reduced Meal Plans and require funds in the family food service account in order to purchase. **If ala carte limits or stops are set in Skyward, please take the price of these items into consideration, as your child may not be able to make these purchases.**

2026-2027 Free & Reduced Application Information

Free and Reduced Meal Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are now being accepted and can be submitted online, downloaded from the website or obtained by contacting Emily Klunk, Director of School Nutrition at (608) 786-3078.

Letters for qualifying families are mailed to the Parent/Guardian(s) on file.

Even if your child will not be participating in school meals, completing the free/reduced application helps determine additional funding for enhanced educational opportunities for your child's school.

Student eligibility status from the previous school year is carried over into the current school year for up to 30 school days or until a new eligibility status is determined, whichever comes first.

Looking for School Menus?

Simply download the MySchoolMenus app from the App Store or the Google Play Store, enter West Salem School District, and select the school and menu you would like to view!

Menus can also be found by clicking on the knife and fork icon on the district website and then clicking "School Menus" on the right.

2026-2027 Health Information and Reminders

Medication at School

[Medication forms](#), which are available at most major clinics and will be available at registration and [online](#), 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).

State statute and school district policy do not permit any prescription medications to be given at school without a **written statement signed by the physician and the parent or guardian.** This includes the use of inhalers, as well as epi-pens; students may not use or carry any prescription medication without written permission from their physician. Medication needs to be in its original container and properly labeled. Please do not send medication in a baggie or an unlabeled bottle, as it cannot be given.

A new medication form is needed each time the medication is changed, and a new one is needed for each school year.

During online registration, you will be able to sign that certain over the counter medications may be given at school. For scheduled, daily medications, a signed medication form is needed for each medication and for each child. This form must be signed by a parent and the prescribing provider. A separate medication form is needed for each medication and for each child. If you feel your child may need any over the counter medication during the school year, please check with the school nurse for availability. *Availability is not guaranteed. Please send medications if needed. Over the counter medication may not be stored in backpacks. All over the counter medications that may need to be given during school that are **not** electronically signed off on at registration also require a signed medication form.

Substances that are not FDA approved (i.e. natural products, food supplements) will require the written instruction of a medical practitioner and written consent from the student's parent or guardian.

2026-2027 Health Information and Reminders

Student Immunization Law

Age & Grade Requirements to enter the 2026-2027 School Year

Ages Pre-K through 4 years:

4 DTP/DtaP/DT, 3 polio, 1MMR**(1st dose on or after first birthday, 3 Hep B**, 1 Varicella*

Grades K-6th

4 DTP/DtaP/DT/TD, 4 polio, 2MMR, 3 Hep B, 2 Varicella*

7th Grade

4 DTP/DtaP/DT/TD, 4 polio, 2MMR, 3 Hep B,
2 Varicella*, 1 Meningococcal ACWY-containing vaccine***

12th Grade

4 DTP/DtaP/DT/TD, 4 polio, 2MMR, 3 Hep B, 2 Varicella**, 2 Meningococcal ACWY-containing vaccine***, 1 Tdap

*Varicella is the chickenpox vaccine. Students with a reliable history of varicella disease are not required to receive the Varicella vaccine. A physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice nurse prescriber must document a reliable history of varicella disease by indicating that the student has had varicella and signing the Student Immunization Form (DHS Form 0402). Students (excluding new enterers and kindergarteners) with a parental report of disease prior to May 2024 are considered compliant.

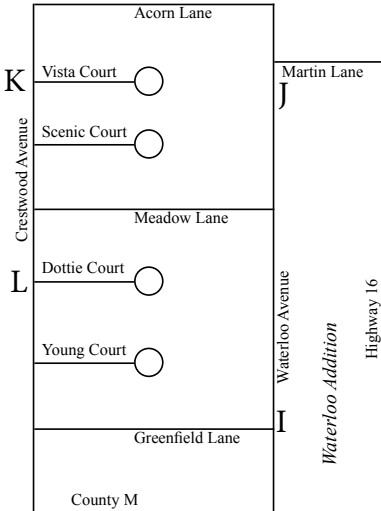
**MMR is measles, mumps, and rubella. The first dose of MMR vaccine must have been received on or after the 1st birthday. Lab evidence of immunity to all three diseases (measles and mumps and rubella) Note: A dose four days or less before the 1st birthday is also acceptable.

***One dose of Meningococcal vaccine (serogroup A, C, W, Y) is required for students entering 7th grade, and a booster dose is required for students entering 12th grade. Students are assessed for this requirement in 7th grade and 12th grade only. Current Wisconsin students in 8th-11th grade will not be assessed for this requirement until they enter 12th grade. A second dose is not required for students who received their first dose of MenACWY at age 16 years or older.

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:

- Provide school with month, day and year of the required immunizations
- Have your child immunized OR
- Sign a [waiver](#) (online & also available from School Nurse office)
- In the event of a communicable disease outbreak, such as measles, children who are not vaccinated are often required to stay home from school and school-related functions until the outbreak ends or they get vaccinated, for their safety.

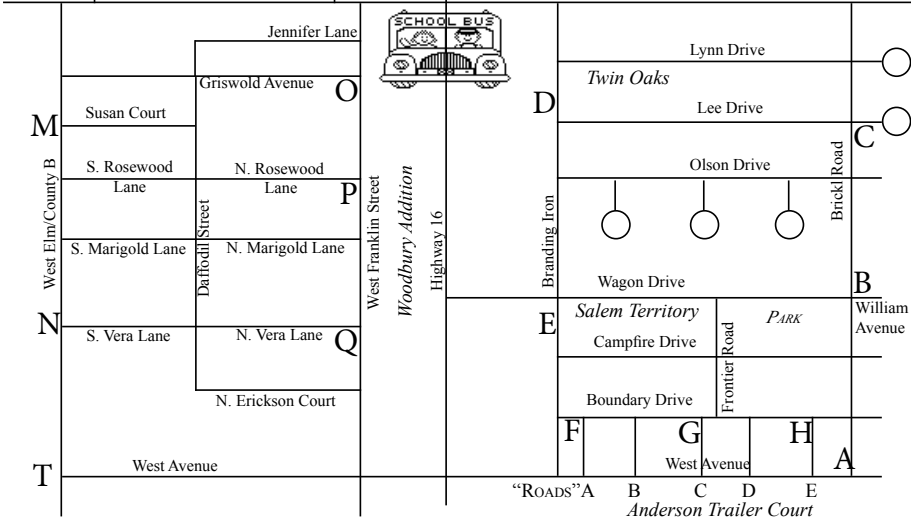
TRANSPORTATION



Village Bus Stops

The stops are as follows: (same stops, different letters)

Stop	Bus #	
A	9	Brick Road & West Avenue
B	15	Brick Road & William Avenue
C	9	Brick Road & Lee Drive
D	1	Branding Iron & Lee Drive
E	1	Branding Iron Rd & 1/2 way between Wagon & Campfire Drive
F	1	Boundary Drive & 1st Road (A) through A.M.H.P.
G	15	Boundary Drive & 3rd Road (C) through A.M.H.P.
H	15	Boundary Drive & 5th Road (E) through A.M.H.P.
I	2	Waterloo Avenue & Greenfield Lane
J	2	Waterloo Avenue & Martin Lane
K	2	Crestwood Avenue & Vista Court
L	2	Crestwood Avenue & Dottie Court
M	6	West Elm/CTH B & Susan Court
N	6	West Elm/CTH B & South Vera Lane
O	20	West Franklin & Griswold Avenue
P	20	West Franklin & North Rosewood Lane
Q	20	West Franklin & North Vera Lane
R	10	Rhyme Street & Mill Street South
S	10	Rhyme Street & O'Fallon Court
T	6	Elm Street & West Avenue



THIS PLAN WILL BE ON TRIAL FOR THE FIRST FEW WEEKS AND CHANGES MAY HAVE TO BE MADE.

School District of West Salem

Drivers & Assigned Vehicles

A. Tauscher	#1
D. Day	#27
K. Bina	#5
B. Gorniak	#6
S. Stach	#7
B. Gribble	#10
C. Friet	#28
G. Lafky	#4
J.Hendrickson.....	#15
B. Kortbein	#16
A. Bakke	#20
M. Johnson.....	#26
S. Tauscher.....	302
C. Bockenfeld.....	Para
S.Smith.....	Para

Emergency Radio Stations for school delay or closing information

WIZM - 1410 A.M.
Z-93 - 93.3 F.M.
WRQT - 95.7 F.M.
WKTY - 580 A.M.
KCLH - 94.7 F.M.
KQEG - 102.7 F.M.
WLXR - 104.9 F.M.
WQCC - 106.3 F.M.
WLFN - 1490 A.M.
WKBH - 100.1 F.M.
WFBZ - 105.5 F.M.
WCOW - 97.1 F.M.
WKLJ - 1290 A.M.
WXOW - TV-19
WKBT - TV-8

Evening Pick-up

Coulee Christian School	Bus #10	3:00
Christ-St. John's Lutheran School	Bus #15	3:00
Coulee Christian High School	Bus #20	

Morning Drop off

Coulee Christian School	Bus #7
Coulee Christian High School	Bus #15
Christ-St. John's Lutheran School	Bus#7

School Times

	Start	End
Elementary	8:00	3:08
		3:10
		3:12
Middle	7:50	3:10
High	7:50	3:10
Christ-St. John's Lutheran	8:00	2:55
Coulee Christian School	8:10	3:00

All students catching buses at stops listed should be at those stops by 7:20. Drop-off in the evening will be carried out by the same bus and will range from 3:20-3:40. For the first few weeks, many changes are possible due to child distribution and other factors. **Please be patient!**



village stops 7-2026.indd

2026-2027 ~Bus Loading at Elementary

Welcome to our new Athletic Director!

The School District of West Salem is excited to announce that Hilary Stanek has been appointed as our new Athletic Director.

Stanek comes to West Salem after serving as the Athletic Director in the Hillsboro School District for the past ten years. She has also served as a Physical Education Teacher and Strength & Conditioning Coordinator. She said, "After ten years serving the Hillsboro School District as Athletic Director, I am excited for the new opportunity to join the West Salem community and school district. I look forward to working with the students, families, and the community of West Salem in this new venture!" WSHS Principal Justin Jehn added, "We are excited to welcome Hilary and her 10 years of experience as athletic director to the West Salem School District. She has a reputation for positive relationships with students and the community of Hillsboro, and we can't wait to see her make that same impact in West Salem."



District Announcements



Exploring the Wonders of Peru

A small group of West Salem students recently travelled to Peru, where they experienced the country's rich history, vibrant culture, and breathtaking landscapes. They began in Lima, Peru's capital city, where students explored the historic downtown district, visited the Larco museum, and sampled traditional Peruvian cuisine in the Miraflores district. They also learned about the city's unique blend of indigenous, Spanish, and modern influences that have shaped Peru's culture over centuries. From Lima, they traveled to Cuzco and then on to Ollayantambo, a village and ancient Incan site. Next, they travelled to Machu Picchu, the legendary Incan city nestled high in the Andes Mountains, where they explored the remarkably preserved ruins. They had the opportunity to tour the beautiful Cuzco cathedral, the Incan ruins of Korikoncha and the ancient Incan citadel of Saqsaywaman before their final destination, Lake Titicaca, the world's highest navigable lake. They visited the floating islands of the Uro people and Taquile Island before heading home!



School Board Members

Catherine Griffin, President ~~~~~(608) 769-1714
Caitlin Wilson, Vice President ~~~~~ (608)780-3836
Trish Harman, Treasurer ~~~~~(608) 332-9222
Jennifer Hatz, Clerk~~~~~ (608) 317-3115
Bob Minard, Director~~~~~(608)786-9998
Ben Garbers, Director~~~~~(608) 498-9510
Nick Walters, Director~~~~~ (608) 769-0278

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

District Announcements

Heider Center



Heider Center Mainstage 2026-2027 Tickets

Individual show tickets will go on sale to the general public on Thursday, August 13th at 1:30 pm

Box Office Hours
(608) 786-2550
Monday & Thursday:
1:30 to 4:00 p.m.
www.heidercenter.org



Calling all Chili cooking experts! Join in the Chili competition at the **3rd Annual Heider Center Barn Bash and Chili Cook-Off**. All proceeds will go to supporting our Community Education, Children's Educational outreach programs, and our annual Heider Center Senior Scholarship program.

This event will take place on Sunday, September 20 from 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at the Horstmann Homestead Farm and Event Center in West Salem. Tickets are \$25/person or \$60/family (parents with children) and are available at heidercenter.org

We are now currently accepting COMPETITORS for the chili cook-off! Register on the Heider Center website by August 30. Prizes will be awarded for the Best Overall Chili as well as People's Choice.

Looking for Important Dates?



The district school year calendar, as well as individual building events and athletic events can all be found on our district website. Go to www.wsalem.k12.wi.us and navigate to the top right corner and click on the calendar icon. From here, you can view the school year calendar, Coulee Conference Athletic calendar, Mississippi Valley Athletic calendar, and individual building events.



Outdoor Fun at Summer School!

Although the heat and air quality put a few hiccups into their plans, our summer school students were still able to enjoy some time outdoors golfing at the driving range, riding bikes, and learning how to paddleboard on Lake Neshonoc.

They also improvised when the weather didn't cooperate by creating their own mini golf course!

Our students love the wide variety of enrichment classes offered during summer school and the opportunity to learn new skills both in and out of the classroom!



School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2026

Marie Heider Meeting Room

7:00 p.m

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Catherine Griffin. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district website, and district office on June 18, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Caitlin Wilson led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, and Trish Harman recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Nick Walters, Bob Minard, Trish Harman, Catherine Griffin, Caitlin Wilson, Jennifer Hatz and Ben Garbers. Also in attendance – Administration: Justin Jehn, Ben Wopat, Alex Hubing, Alyssa Harlan, and Shawn Handland; Recording secretary: Jennifer Larson. Student representatives: Tula Mitchell and Graham Sjoquist.
Absent: Heidi Horton.

Approval of Agenda

C. Wilson moved, B. Minard seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Written and Oral Reports

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Superintendent's Management team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Construction Project Update – Superintendent Rieber reported on the construction progress of the Elementary and High School projects.

Policy Committee – C. Wilson reported that the committee reviewed special updates to policies for Act 89, revisions to Policy 54603.3 Graduation Date/Ceremony, Policy 9150 School visitors, and moved forward with recommending them for a First Reading to the full Board.

Connection with the Community

Graham Sjoquist, Student Representative, reported on:

- Students have been keeping busy with many activities this summer. The summer CAT program is

an activity that many students participate in over the summer and has times from 6am to 11 am.

- Summer Running club started this past Monday. It is meant for runners who participate and who are interested in cross country to build a starting base for the season in the fall. They meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday every week.
- Track has also started summer speed days for those athletes interested in doing some speed work or field event work over the summer.
- Both girls' and boys' basketball have started their summer programs as well.

Tula Mitchell, Student Representative, reported on:

- Many boys from the baseball team have continued to play baseball over the summer with the Post 51 Legion. They have a few practices but play many games against other Legions in the area.
- The girls' tennis team has also started their captain's practices on select days during the week from 9:30 to 11 am. They also have an open court at the same time on Tuesdays with coaches present to help players if needed.
- Grease

The summer musical cast has finished off their performances this summer, with the last show being last Thursday. They had four shows over the course of two weeks, and Lydia Rislow and Aiden Brooks even got the opportunity to talk about the show on the local news channel, WXOW.

Correspondence

None.

Public Comments

None.

Consent Agenda

Prior to action on the Consent Agenda, the Board was informed that one co-curricular recommendation had been revised from Assistant 8th Grade Football Coach to Volunteer Football Coach.

B. Garbers moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 8, 2026;
- b. the invoices to be paid;
- c. co-curricular Recommendations: assistant volleyball coaches, head 8th grade volleyball coach, head MS cross country coach, assistant MS cross country coach, assistant football coaches, volunteer football coaches, assistant 7th grade football coach, head 7th grade football coach, head 8th grade football coach, HS assistant cross country coaches, assistant girls tennis coaches, volunteer girls tennis coach;

School District of West Salem

d. the resignation of Maria Holicky, 6th Grade Special Education Teacher;
e. to accept a donation from Orange Thumb of \$2000.00 to the Jane Doe Fund.
Motion carried, unanimously (7-0).

Discussion/Action Items:

Brian Kammers, Excel Leadership, LLC, presented information regarding strategic planning.
C. Wilson moved, B. Garbers seconded to proceed with the engagement contract with Excel Leadership, LLC. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

B. Minard moved, T. Harman seconded to proceed with a proposal letter for the County Farm land. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

J. Hatz moved, B. Minard seconded to change the August 10, 2026, Board meeting start time to 6:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

C. Griffin moved, N. Walters seconded to approve the final Budget transfers for 2025-2026.
Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

B. Garbers moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve to hire an additional 1.0 FTE 4K Teacher and .65 FTE 4K Paraprofessional for the 2026-2027. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

C. Wilson moved, J. Hatz seconded to approve the first reading of Policy Special Updates-Act 89 (see below). Motion carried unanimously (7-0).
Po01445.5 - Revised BOARD MEMBER BEHAVIOR, COMMUNICATIONS, AND CODE OF CONDUCT
Po1213 - Revised STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE
Po3213 - Revised STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE
Po4213 - Revised STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE
Po7530.02 - Revised STAFF AND SCHOOL OFFICIALS USE OF PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES
Po7540.03 - Revised STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY
Po7544 - Revised USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA
Po8120 - Revised VOLUNTEERS
Po8462 - Revised REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

J. Hatz moved, C. Wilson seconded to approve the revisions to Policy 5460.03 Graduation Date/Ceremony and approve the first reading. Motion carried

unanimously (7-0).

B. Garbers moved, B. Minard seconded to remove the words "on an unofficial basis" from the sentence in the 7th paragraph and approve the first reading. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

The list of to-do items/Board member information requests was reviewed.

Live Streaming of the Board Meeting ended at 8:45 p.m., as noted on the Public Meeting Notice.

Board Development

Roger Fruit began Collective Commitment work with the board members.

Adjournment

B. Garbers moved, B. Minard seconded to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Hatz, Clerk

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

KICKOFF THE SCHOOL YEAR
AND JOIN THE FUN!

Join us for the 3rd annual Back to School Bash to meet your teacher and enjoy some memorable family fun! Food from Coulee Lemon Co, Sparky's Spit, Patty Smashers & Shakes, and Suga Mama.



August 26th
4:15-7:15 PM
West Salem
Elementary

- Yard Games
- Bounce Houses
- Face Painting
- Free Craft with The Art Room-Banger

SPONSORED BY:



Welcome to Middle School!

Our newest 5th graders had the chance to take a "Welcome to the Middle School" class during summer school where they participated in a lot of different activities and games to help with their transition to middle school. They finished their time in class with "Potato Olympics" where the students

used creativity to practice estimation, word skills, and most importantly, teamwork! Check out some of the "top potatoes" on top of their podiums!



Farm to School is Getting an Update!

Our Farm to School Calendar is getting an update for the 2026-2027 school year! Stay tuned for more!

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

Check out our Facebook page
[@SchoolDistrictofWestSalem](#)
and

Follow us on X
[@WestSalemSD](#)
and Instagram
[@schooldistrictofwestsalem](#)



For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:

- *click the calendar icon and then
- *click Coulee Conference/
Mississippi Valley Conference
- For WSMS athletic events,
- *click the calendar icon and then
- *Three Rivers Conference

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