

# WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Principal - Ben Wopat

Associate Principal - Mike Johnson

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

### School Starts at 7:50!!

- \* Early Release Dec. 5
- \* No School 12/24- 1/1

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Volume 7 - Issue 5

2018

## From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Families,

The holiday season is upon us, and our students are continuing to learn and grow as we make our way towards winter break. The monthly newsletter is one of the ways in which we communicate the efforts in developing WSMS students both academically and emotionally through our instructional and advisory programming.

As such, I would like to draw your attention to a yearly tradition that highlights a part of our district mission statement: *To Serve With Passion.*

In December, we focus on spirit of giving and service with an annual Christmas Baskets food drive. We hold this drive in conjunction with the West Salem Lions Club. Last year we provided over 40 holiday food baskets to families and senior citizens in the West Salem area. We are hopeful that with the generosity of our students and families, we can surpass that mark this year to help local families in need. Our goal this year is to provide **50 Holiday Baskets!**

We will have no school on December 24 - January 1. School resumes on Wednesday, January 2. Our 1st trimester ended on November 20<sup>th</sup>, and we will be mailing home your child's report card shortly. If you do not receive your child's report card by December 10<sup>th</sup>, please contact our office.

On behalf of our staff, we hope you have a great winter break with your children, family and friends. We look forward to continuing to work together as a team with you to provide your child with the best educational experience here at West Salem Middle School. There is no greater gift than to have a positive impact on a child's life. This holiday season, I'm reminded how fortunate we all are with the opportunity to share in this gift.

At WSMS, It's a Wonderful Life!

Ben Wopat

WSMS Principal

[www.twitter.com/coachwopat](http://www.twitter.com/coachwopat)

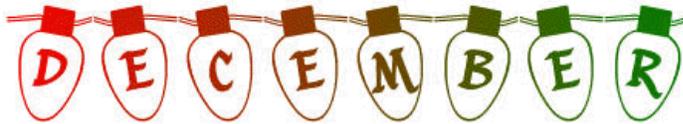


*"Meet Us in the Middle"*



# Calendar of Events

- 3 - Wrestling Quad @ Longfellow 4:30  
Boys BB vs G-E-T 4:15
- 5 - EARLY RELEASE - 12:20
- 7 - Boys BB vs Longfellow 4:00
- 8 - Wrestling at Marshfield 9am
- 10 - Boys BB @ Westby 4:15  
Wrestling Quad @ Sparta 4:30
- 11 - 7th/8th Band/Choir Concert
- 13 - Boys BB @ Tomah 4:15
- 17 - Boys BB vs Winona 4:00
- 20 - Boys BB vs Onalaska 4:00  
Wrestling Conference @ Holmes 4:30
- 24-Jan 1 - NO SCHOOL



## Counselor Comments

December's homeroom asset is support. This is not only the support that we receive from others in our lives, but also the support we can provide to others. The middle school joined forces this year with the high school Interact Club and their involvement in the iFeed program (part of Rotary International) which helps to alleviate hunger in local communities and around the world. We held a Penny War the week of October 22-25 which helped raise \$1,887.05 to go towards this program! What a tremendous display of support by our middle school students and families! Thank you!

Once again, in conjunction with the Lions Club, we will collect nonperishable items in order to

put together holiday baskets for local families. We are hoping to help assemble 50 of these baskets again this year with all of them going to families in the West Salem area. What may seem to be a small, trivial gesture of giving/kindness certainly goes a long way for the people on the receiving end! We will collect items December 3 - 19. Members of our local Lions Club will pick up the baskets on Friday, December 21, and they will add additional items such as fruit, potatoes, cereal, and paper products. They will then deliver the baskets to local families. Please see the "Christmas Basket" below for a list of suggested items. Thank you in advance for your generosity and Support.



## Christmas Baskets...

Helping others during the holiday season can bring cheer and warm feelings to those involved. For this reason, the West Salem Middle School students, in conjunction with the West Salem Lions Club, have decided once again to sponsor a project that will provide holiday food baskets to families and senior citizens in the West Salem area. Last year we put together over 40 boxes! It is our hope to be even more successful. We are asking each A/A to fill a box (or two!) with non-perishable items including the following:

- |                       |                         |                             |           |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| cans of fruit         | cans of juices          | brownie/cake mixes          | flour     |
| cans of vegetables    | peanut butter & jellies | spaghetti sauce and noodles | sugar     |
| cans of soup          | macaroni & cheese       | oatmeal/cereal              | stuffing  |
| meat/tuna helpers     | box potatoes            | cans of tuna or chicken     | crackers  |
| kleenex/facial tissue | plastic silverware      | dish soap                   | baby food |
| paper towels          | napkins                 | toilet paper                | other ?   |

We will collect items in A/A from December 3-19. We hope that all WSMS students will be able to experience the joy of giving at this time of year! ~Thank you



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*





## Early Release Dates

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

December 5

February 13

March 6

May 8

## Absences, appointments and messages

If your child will be absent from school, please call the office by 7:50 a.m. In the event you receive the voice mail, leave a message that includes your child's name, grade and 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 with strep throat, stomach flu, colds, chicken pox etc., so it is important that we have an accurate count. We do not report student names, just numbers. If your child's absence is not called in to school in a timely manner, it is considered an unexcused absence and consequences may be assigned to the student.

You may also call ahead with any pre-planned absences, and we will document it so you will not have to call again the day of the absence.

If your child needs to be picked up for an appointment, please send a note or call the office 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 he/she is 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 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 he or she leaves for school. Messages called into the office after 1:30pm may not get to your child before dismissal.



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.

## Nursing notes.....

In the upcoming months, we will start seeing more illnesses as children spend more time indoors. Please review the following rules about children who may become ill.

1. If your child is ill with a fever over 100 degrees, please do not send your child to school until they have been without a fever for about 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen. (Many times a child will wake up without a fever, but will have one by noon.)
2. If your child has been vomiting or has diarrhea, please do not send your child to school until he/she is able to tolerate solid foods without vomiting or having loose stools.
3. If your child has been diagnosed with strep throat or conjunctivitis (pink eye), he/she must have been on medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
4. If your child needs to take medication during the day (either prescribed or over the counter), a parent or guardian needs to fill out a "pink medication sheet". (Prescription medication requires a doctor's signature.) Medication also needs to be sent in its properly labeled original container.



**Looking ahead.....Winter Wellness** will be on Thursday, February 7.

Information was handed out Nov. 26. Those forms are due back by December 6. Please do not send any money at this time.



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*





# 5th Grade December Update

**Math:** We will be starting our third unit. This unit focuses on multiplying and dividing fractions. As always, knowing your multiplication and division facts is extremely important for this unit!



**Reading and Writing:** With the new trimester, we are shifting our focus to informational text and writing. We focus on finding the main ideas and details, recognizing text features, and looking at different text structures. Students will apply that knowledge to their writing.

**Social Studies:** Students will continue to study different explorers. They will focus more on the Western Hemisphere exploration. After they complete their explorer simulation, they will start to focus more on the first settlements in America.





## Social Studies - Mrs. Jeranek

Throughout December we will explore the Ancient Greece Civilization. Our focus will center around geographical regions (map exploration), economy, social status, governments, religious beliefs, and achievements. Students will compare Athenian and Spartan life, understand the importance of the Trojan War, and study the Greek Olympics. Before winter break, all 6th grade students will participate in the 6th Grade Greek Olympics put on by our middle school Healthy Living Department. It's a fun, active time for ALL!



## Math - Mrs. Jehn & Mrs. Adams

In November we completed Chapter 3 which includes algebraic expressions and properties. Students really had to work hard to wrap their minds around using letters in math rather than numbers. They are learning a numerical expression has numbers and operations but an algebraic expression has numbers, operations, and symbols. Terms, variables, coefficients, and constants are just a few of the new vocabulary words they have worked with to write and solve problems. This unit is a building block to future work in pre-algebra and algebra.

We will spend December in Chapter 4 learning to use the area of a parallelogram to find the areas of triangles, trapezoids, and composite figures as well as how to graph them in the coordinate plane.

## Accelerated Math - Mrs. Jehn

At the end of November students completed Chapter 5. Please continue to encourage your child to help you figure out how to tip someone, how to find the discounted price using coupons, or how to find the better buy using unit price when comparing similar products of different brands. These are great life skills to have!

In December students will also finish Chapter 6 - Integers and the Coordinate Plane. For most students in our state, understanding positive and negative integers comes easily because they have grown up in a place seeing positive and negative temperatures. Later this year, when students learn to use the basic math operations with positive and negative integers, this concept becomes a little more difficult and students really have to extend their understanding of integers.

We will continue into Chapter 7 in December which brings us to Equations and Inequalities including writing and solving one-variable equations with the four basic operations and writing equations with two variables. After the Christmas break, students will also learn to write, graph, and solve inequalities using the four basic math operations.

## Science - Mrs. Jarosh

As December approaches students will be working to learn the basics of how to use the Periodic Table. The fundamental building blocks of matter are the foundation to understanding chemical changes. Ask your child to share with you "The Periodic Table" song! Kids love this song and are so engaged in learning! Students will be working to draw/build a simple structured molecule!



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

OMG-N-G! Oh My Gods and Goddess, we are studying Greek Mythology! Gods, Goddesses- the immortals; men, women, and heroes- the mortals; these beings will be the focus of our next unit of study on myths. Myths are stories which teach morals or lessons and proper human behavior. In some instances, myths give explanations of nature and why things are as they are. This month we will be combining with English and exploring the Ancient Greek myths and Greek Drama. Students will investigate fractured fairy tales to see how authors have given those traditional stories a modern twist with added humor. Then, in groups, the sixth graders will create and perform a skit involving one of the myths studied, giving it their special twist to "fracture" it. Before the Winter break, the Greek Drama Festival will feature the best group from each class and their mythological creation! Parents are invited to view this performance which is held during the school day, right before our winter break. Be sure to find out your student's favorite Greek myth, god, goddess, or hero!

Spelling Bee finalists: Josie W., Sydney Q., Kyler B., Kyle H., Drew A., Eve T., Kennedy G., Makinlee M., Makena I., Luke B., Owen K., Katy N., Tom S., Allyssa L., Carter Q., Jovey M., Paige G., Layla F.





### Reading - Mrs. Rochester

The 7th graders will be getting into their dystopian books. A dystopia is an undesirable society that usually has a group of people making negative decisions for the rest of the society. The conditions of the society are usually grim due to overcrowding, sickness, lack of food, and misery. The Hunger Games is a perfect example of this type of book. During this unit, the students were given a choice of nine books to read. Each student picked one book to start with and will participate in meaningful book discussions with other students who are reading the same book, as well as other dystopian books. Some of the topics the students will discuss will be characterization, setting, conflict, rebellion, and theme. As a whole group, the students will be discussing characteristics of dystopias, finding examples in the book they are reading as well as looking at real life examples. Students will be expected to complete the assigned reading in 14 class days. The students will have more reading with this unit, therefore, they should be bringing their dystopian books home to finish reading that was not done in class. There will not be quizzes during this unit. Instead, the students will be keeping a journal. The topics the students will write about will also be the topics they discuss in their book group. 7th grade students will continue to study Greek and Latin roots.

### Regular Math - Mrs. Weber

This month we have worked very hard on adding/subtracting and multiplying/dividing rational numbers. There are many rules and steps to learn in solving some problems. We tested on Unit 2 the first week on November. This will be the last BIG score on the first trimester report card. We wrapped up our unit with a partner activity that focused on multiplying and adding decimals and fractions. Fun, and as the kids said, "That was a lot of math!!" Our next unit will be chapter 5 where we will focus on ratios and proportions.

### Pre-Algebra

We finished up Unit 12 which was the study of angles and triangles. There are a lot of different ways to name and identify each of these. Our Unit 12 test was November 15. This was our last big assessment for the first trimester. We headed to Thanksgiving break

with our first in school Math Counts competition. I think the kids did a great job showing what they have learned so far!!

### Half Math - Mrs. Coe

We will be finishing up our review unit and moving on to apply what we learned to real life situations. Students will be able to apply what they know about fractions and decimal operations, as well as writing and solving inequalities and equations to operating a cupcake shop. The students will get to figure out how many ingredient they will need to make 50 dozen cupcakes, how much it will cost and what they will need to charge in order to make a profit.

### Half Accelerated Math - Mrs. Coe

We finished up our review unit and are now going to apply what we have been learning to real life situations. At the beginning of the month, students will be analyzing a fundraiser to see what profit they made, what items gave them the best profits, and what they can do to better their profits in the future.

### English - Mrs. Martinson

Congratulations to the 7th grade spelling bee finalists: Hailey B, Ben B., Zoe C., Anya S., Lizzie H., Braeden D., Maria C., Jesse H., Jon G., Scarlett F., Sam S., Evan H., Julian G., Autumn B., Molly A., Taylor B., Ivy E., Gretchen L.

The 7th graders will be reading the classic Charles Dickens novel A Christmas Carol. We will be listening to it together and discussing it along the way. The unabridged work is very difficult to understand. The vocabulary is definitely 19th century! We are reading this 150+ year old novel because of all the allusions to it today. Students will be looking for allusions to the novel in their daily lives. As an ongoing project, the students will be creating a digital scrapbook to turn in to assess their understanding of the novel. We continue to work on nouns, verbs, pronouns, and adding adjectives as well as compound sentences.

### Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum

In 7th grade social studies the students will focus on the Bill of Rights. The first ten Amendments to the US Constitution will take us up to break. We will examine what they are, and what they mean to the citizens of the United States. Students will also take part in the National Geography Bee competition. We will do preliminary rounds in the classroom and then do the all-seventh grade finals on the day before break. The top three from the seventh grade will go on to compete against

the top three from the other grades during an all-school competition held in early January.

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

Our 7th graders are "wrapping up" their learning on multi view sketching and dimensioning. During this month, they will be learning how to create 3D models through a program called Sketch Up. After that, they will put all of their knowledge together to create 3D puzzle cubes to bring home. Good luck parents solving your child's puzzle cube!

### Science - Mr. Baker

Throughout November, we were learning all about how cells get their energy. This involved counting oxygen bubbles created by photosynthesis in elodea plants, blowing up gloves with yeast to show fermentation, and getting some exercise to demonstrate respiration. In the pictures, you can see students working out to an 80's video to get their heart rates up and blowing bubbles in a solution to measure the amount of carbon dioxide their bodies produce! The final part of this will involve students creating their own experiments based on photosynthesis, respiration, or fermentation. Make sure to ask your kids what they did or are planning to do for this! With cells out of the way, we will be starting basic genetics. This is also a great time to talk to your kids about your family tree and traits that are common within your family.





**Math - Mrs. Bentzen**  
**Regular Math (Chapter 4)**

We started Chapter 4 called "Graphing and Writing Linear Equations" on November 26. We will finish this chapter before the holiday break.

The objectives for Chapter 4:

- \*understand that lines represent solutions of linear equations
- \*graph linear equations
- \*find slopes of lines by using two points on the line and by using tables
- \*identify parallel and perpendicular lines using slopes
- \*write and graph proportional relationships
- \*find slopes and y-intercepts of graphs of linear equations
- \*graph linear equations written in slope-intercept form and in standard form
- \*write equations of lines in slope-intercept form
- \*write equations of lines using the slope and a point and by using two points

**Algebra (Chapter 5)**

We started Chapter 5 on November 1st. Chapter 5 is called "Writing Linear Equations." We will finish this chapter on December 10. We will then take our semester exam on Chapters 1-5 (good practice for high school) before the holiday break. We will continue with our weekly Mathcounts sheets. Our first in-school Mathcounts competition was November 15th. Our next two competitions will be November 30th and December 14th. The regional team will be determined by these three competitions. The top ten students in grades 7 and 8 then continue on to compete at Regionals in La Crosse the first Friday in February. Good luck to all competitors!!!

The objectives for Chapter 5:

- \*write equations of lines in slope-intercept form given three situations: the slope and y-intercept; the slope and a point; or two points
- \*write and graph equations using slope and a point, using a graph of a line or using real world data
- \*write equations of lines in standard form and use those equations to solve real-world problems
- \*write and find equations of lines parallel or perpendicular to a given line

\*make scatterplots of data and use a line of fit to model and interpret data

\*perform linear regression to find the best-fitting line for data

\*make predictions using the graph and the equation

**Half Math - Mrs. Coe**

We are working on reviewing multiplying and dividing fractions and divisibility rules to help prepare for writing and solving equations. After we are finished with our review unit we will apply what we have been learning to real life situations. Students will be analyzing a fundraiser to see what profit they made, what items gave them the best profits, and what they can do to better their profits in the future.

**Half Algebra - Mrs. Coe**

Students have been working number properties, equations, expressions and order of operations. In December, they will now put these skills to the test by creating a math calendar. The students have been challenged to create a month in which the dates on the calendar have been replaced with either an expression or an equation that simplify down to that specific date. The students must be able to manipulate the numbers backwards to equal the numbers they want them to be.

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

Now that the 8th graders have done the "leg work" of learning about mechanisms and how they function, we now get to do some more fun, challenging activities. Students will be building on their knowledge of mechanisms along with new knowledge of coding to program the vex kits to come to life! Some examples of the way students will use automation through programming include: spinning signs, robot dragsters, traffic signs, toll booths, elevators, and pick and place mechanisms. This will be a challenging but rewarding few months for our 8th graders. I will have them videotape their designs on the iPads to show you at home

**English - Mrs. Sackett**

In 8th grade English, we are just beginning our next writing piece, a research paper. For this paper, we will be working with Social Studies and the NHD topics. Students will select a topic and research. They will use that information to create a project in Social Studies and write a paper in English. We will spend most of December researching these topics to prepare for writing these papers. In addition to beginning the research paper, we are continuing to practice writing compound and complex sentences. Now that we've reviewed and learned more about nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs, we will continue with pronouns. Right before

Thanksgiving we held the class level spelling bee and found the top three spellers in each class. In December, we will hold the grade level spelling bee to advance 5 spellers to the all-school spelling bee that will be held when we return from winter break.

The spellers that are moving on to the grade-level spelling bee are: Keanna B., Ben F., Brennan H., Judah H., Keayrah K., Brody L., Peter L., Tyler M., Brett M., Ella M., Jeremiah M., Andy M., Colin N., Nathaniel O., Caitlin R., Reagan R., Drake T., Eli Z.

In December, we will hold the grade level spelling bee to advance 5 spellers to the all-school spelling bee that will be held when we return from winter break

**Social Studies - Ms. Morgan**

This month we will spend time looking at how the 13 colonies evolved into the United States following the American Revolution. Students have selected their topic ideas related to this year's National History Day theme "Triumph and Tragedy in History" for National History Day.

By the holiday break, we will have selected the three students who will represent the 8th grade in the Geography Bee which will be held immediately after we return from break. Please watch next month's newsletter for these representatives.

At the end of this month, students should be able to do the following:

- discuss some of the challenges the new country faced as it established its government and repaid debts from the Revolution
- explain the roles of different branches of the government
- describe the rights and freedoms provided by the Bill of Rights



**Science - Ms. Smith-Waller**

It is hard to believe we are already coming into the holiday season. It feels like school just started! As we ended the first trimester, we finished up our Astronomy unit by learning about the planets in our solar system and other objects in space. We will change directions looking inside Earth. We will start this by studying Geologic Time. We will take a look at fossils, how we determine the ages of rocks and fossils, how Earth formed, and the geologic timescale. We will be working on a project where we will create a timeline of Earth's geologic history. In the new year we will learn about rocks and minerals, plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanoes. Happy Holidays!

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Construct a scientific explanation of how the geologic time scale is used to organize Earth's history.
2. Analyze and interpret data of the distribution of fossils and rocks
3. Provide evidence of past plate motions.
4. Develop a model of the flow of energy that drives the cycling of Earth's materials.
5. Describe cycling of Earth's materials and the flow of energy.

**Reading - Ms. Friell**

**Supplies:** To be prepared for class, students must bring the following to class every day: pen/pencil, iPad, book of choice (fiction or non-fiction), and a Reading binder. The students' Reading binders stay in the classroom, so they only have to get it off the shelf at the beginning of class!

**Independent Reading:** Students have been reading books of their choice since the second week of school. They should be reading these books at home on a daily basis (a minimum of 20 minutes). They are also given 20 minutes to read their choice books during Reading class. Please ask your son/daughter to tell you about what he/ she is reading.

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

We finished our read aloud, *Refugee* by Alan Gratz, and using the book's content, students worked on the following story elements: plot, setting, characterization, conflict, and theme. In the month of Dec. students will apply their study of the story elements as they write a five paragraph essay about their choice books.

Also during December, they will apply these elements to short stories of different genres as they continue to learn or review elements such as mood, tone, foreshadowing, irony, and figurative language.

If you are interested in reading any of the texts, they will be posted in google classroom. Students are able to either read the selections silently or follow along with a provided audio of the text.

**Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?**

Student "A" reads 20 minutes each day	Student "B" reads 5 minutes each day	Student "C" reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year
1,800,000 words	282,000 words	8,000 words
		
90 <sup>th</sup> percentile	50 <sup>th</sup> percentile	10 <sup>th</sup> percentile

By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?  
(Nagy & Herman, 1987)



A few pictures from our Veteran's Day program that was held on Monday, November 12.



*"Meet Us In the Middle"*



## WSMS Choir and Band Holiday Concerts

When: Tuesday, December 11

Where: Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts

7th grade - Choir & Concert Band at 6:00 pm (5:30pm report time)

8th grade - Choir & Wind Ensemble Concert at 7:30 pm (7:00 pm report time)

All Band & Choir students will wear the following:

1. their orange WSMS music polos
2. black pants
3. black socks
4. black shoes



### 6th Grade Band

The 6th graders are making nice progress as they work on their first piece of sheet music, "Code of the Hammurabi." This piece ties into the sixth grade social studies unit from earlier this school year when they studied King Hammurabi. 6th Grade students should be continuing to work in their book, new scale sheet, and sheet music for a minimum of 60 minutes per week at home. They are also working on making a video of part of their sheet music.

### 7th Grade Band

The 7th graders are working on music for their next concert, which is on December 11th. They are doing a nice job with syncopated rhythms on a piece entitled, "Mystic Journey." They are making nice progress with our UW-L student teacher, Ms. Krueger. 7th Grade students should be continuing to work in their book, new scale sheet, and sheet music for a minimum of 60 minutes per week at home. The students have a video assignment for "Mystic Journey" that is due on November 30th.

### 8th Grade Band

The 8th graders did a great job performing at the Veterans Day Program. Currently they are working on their Holiday Concert, which is on December 11th. They have a challenging concert with a Beethoven transcription of "Adagio Pathétique," along with a great collection of Russian themes in "Winterwinds." 8th Grade students should be continuing to work in their book, new scale sheet, and sheet music for a minimum of 60 minutes per week at home. The students have a video assignment for "Winterwinds" that is due on November 30th.



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*



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

The students have been working on learning how to read music on both the treble and bass clefs and then will putting them together to form the grand staff. They are still not playing two hands together at the same time yet, but will tackle that challenge later in this trimester. They have come a long way since the beginning of the year. We are continually doing worksheets and playing music games to learn pitch and rhythm reading.

The students just finished up their Scary Sound Story, in which they explored how to create scary sounds in the GarageBand app. Then they wrote a short story which would fit those sounds. They recorded the story into GarageBand and added the sounds in the appropriate places. We will continue to learn more about this app through a composition project using loops (pre-recorded short musical segments).

Our Music Alive magazine articles this month will be on noise cancelling headphones and early forms of music storage (vinyl, CDs, cassettes, etc.).

### General Music 5 - Mrs. Glasel

The students are continuing to learn many songs with a focus on patriotic music including “America the Beautiful” “God Bless America” and “This is My Country”. They will also learn more about Veteran’s Day as well as listen to the Armed Forces Medley. We will continue to reinforce our rhythm reading, as well as continue to learn how to respond to our listening activities. Of course, this time of the year brings a lot of fun and various holiday songs for us to sing and enjoy.

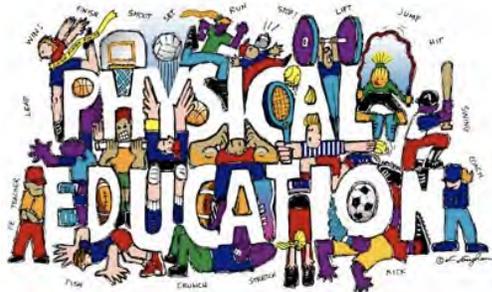
Happy  
Holidays!



## Healthy Living...

Happy December! Just a friendly reminder if your student needs to sit out for Healthy Living due to injury, we will need a Dr. note on file. Mr. Brewer updated our Healthy Living website to include all of the student outcomes for each grade level. <https://sites.google.com/wsalem.k12.wi.us/healthy-living> If you ever have any questions about our Standards Based Grading, don't hesitate to contact one of us.

Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Olson and Mr. Running



*“Meet Us in the Middle”*



## Spanish update - Ms. Rose

### 6th Grade:

¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español!  
Welcome to the 6th grade class to Spanish! We are starting our first unit which will include learning to introduce ourselves as well as basic vocabulary. We will learn our alphabet, numbers, days of the week and weather vocabulary. We will also study different songs and cultural practices of Mexico and Central America, including Posadas. ¡Feliz Navidad, prospero año y felicidad!

### 7th Grade:

¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español! The 7th grade Spanish class will be reviewing greetings, and we will begin our first unit which includes the verb ser which is used to describe ourselves. We will also talk about subject pronouns. Our culture focus includes New Year's celebrations in Central and South America.

### 8th Grade:

¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español! The 8th grade Spanish class will be reviewing classroom phrases and discussing likes and dislikes - particularly with foods. We will also be going over numbers 1-1000!

GRACIAS



## Art update - Mrs. Hemker

### Grade 5

In December, 5th graders will finish their pen and ink projects as well as start a new unit based on self portraits. Portraits will be created in several different ways, using various materials. We will alter portraits, draw realistically and even paint some. Portraits will probably carry us in to January as well. That update will be here before we know it.

### Grade 6

December will be spent on two main projects. The first is an autobiographical self portrait. These are large paintings, realistic in style and include backgrounds that describe the artist. The other painting will be abstract. For this work students will discuss the elements and principles of art for creating a quality piece.

### Grade 7

7th graders will spend the month of December experimenting with drawing from different points of view. One of the projects will require students to recreate and alter an already existing work of art. Another project will be the complete opposite, where students will create the entire drawing from scratch by observing an inanimate object.

### Grade 8

Students in 8th grade will be working on projects that represent themselves in December. The first project will be a Poster featuring a quote that describes them. The poster will include a hand written font. The second main project will be to recreate a dream they have had in the past in visual form. The dream work will be completed in the students choice of media.



*"Meet Us In the Middle"*



# Forensics

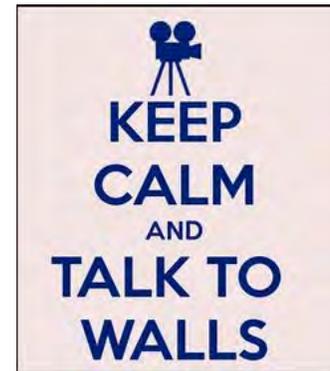
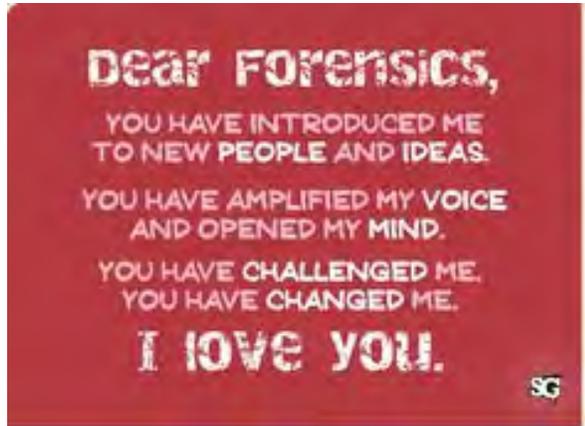
There was an informational meeting about Forensics during the last week of November. Students in grades 7 and 8 have the opportunity to join Forensics, a group that offers students the opportunity to speak/ perform in front of other students in neighboring school districts. This co-curricular activity runs from December until the middle of February.

Students are able to participate individually or as a group. They are able to select from the following categories: acting, readers' theatre, speech giving (demonstration, persuasive, informative, extemporaneous, historical, special occasion), prose reading, poetry reading, or news reporting.

This great co-curricular activity continues in grades 9-12 and helps students develop speaking skills they will use throughout life. Students practice during their lunch/recess. They are also able to practice before and after school, so involvement doesn't conflict with their other activities. Contact Ms. Friell at [friell.nicole@wsalem.k12.wi.us](mailto:friell.nicole@wsalem.k12.wi.us) for more information.

Level I meet is Monday, February 4 in Holmen

Level II meet is Tuesday, February 19 in Bangor.



## Candids for the Yearbook....

If you have taken pictures at WSMS co-curricular events and think students would enjoy having them in the yearbook, please e-mail them to [friell.nicole@wsalem.k12.wi.us](mailto:friell.nicole@wsalem.k12.wi.us). I'll try to work in as many as possible. Thanks! Ms. Friell



### Success Center

The Success Center is a resource room for students before and after school. Here, students can receive help from staff who attend WSMS classes and are equipped to walk students through information they may have missed or just do not understand. It is also the place where students can make up tests and quizzes. It is open from 7am until 7:45am and again from 3:10pm until 4pm. If students attend the Success Center, parents are responsible for transportation to and from school.

### Homework

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

## Substitutes Needed

for the 2018-2019 School Year  
In the following areas:

secretarial  
food service  
bus drivers

paraprofessionals  
custodians  
teachers

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



# December 2018

## West Salem Middle School Lunch

### MONDAY

### TUESDAY

### WEDNESDAY

### THURSDAY

### FRIDAY

**3**

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

**4**

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

**5**

- Early Release!**
- From the Grill**
- Popcorn Chicken
  - Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice
- Home Style**
- Saucy Orange Popcorn Chicken
  - Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice
- Deli**
- Turkey Sub
  - Vegetarian Minestrone
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

**6**

- From the Grill**
- Texas Style BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich
  - Carolina Style Pulled Pork Sandwich
  - Mashed Potatoes
- Home Style**
- Meatballs & Gravy with Buttermilk Biscuit
  - Mashed Potatoes
- Deli**
- Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap
  - Chicken Dumpling Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack
  - Panther YOGURT Pack

**7**

- From the Grill**
- Cheese Pizza - Personal Pan
  - Hawaiian Pizza - Person Pan
  - Honey-Glazed Carrots
- Home Style**
- Pepperoni Pizza - Personal Pan
  - Honey-Glazed Carrots
- Deli**
- Chef Salad w/Chicken & Cheese
  - Creamy Chicken Pot Pie Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

**10**

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

**11**

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

**12**

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

**13**

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

**14**

- From the Grill**
- Cheesy Garlic French Bread Pizza
  - Whole Kernel Sweet Corn
- Home Style**
- Pepperoni Pizza Dippers
  - Marinara Dipping Cup
  - Whole Kernel Sweet Corn
- Deli**
- Garden Salad with Cottage Cheese
  - Chicken Tortilla Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

**17**

- From the Grill**
- Homemade Sloppy Joe on WG Bun
  - Crispy Coleslaw
- Home Style**
- Oven Roasted Chicken Basket
  - Crispy Coleslaw Sun Chip
  - Snack Mix
- Deli**
- Ham and Swiss on Croissant
  - Chicken Noodle Soup
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

**18**

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

**19**

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

**20**

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

**21**

- From the Grill**
- Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza
  - Peas & Carrots
- Home Style**
- Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza
  - Chicken Pesto Flatbread Pizza
  - Peas & Carrots
- Deli**
- Turkey Sub
  - Vegetarian Minestrone
- Grab and Go**
- Panther PBJ Pack

**24**

Holiday Break - No School

**25**

Holiday Break - No School

**26**

Holiday Break - No School

**27**

Holiday Break - No School

**28**

Holiday Break - No School

**31**

New Years Eve - No School

# Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



## Short Stops

### Getting the message

Let your tween know you're counting on her to keep you in the loop about school news. During morning announcements, she might jot down reminders ("Ask for a ride to basketball tryouts, Saturday 9 a.m."). Or have her post flyers on the refrigerator where you'll see them.

### Mealtime manners

Encourage your child to be polite when he's offered food. If he doesn't like something, he could take a small portion to try—maybe he'll enjoy it after all! If he has a food allergy or eats a vegetarian diet, he can mention it and say, "Thank you anyway."

### Turning in assignments

Your middle grader's homework isn't finished until she hands it in. Suggest that she take it out of her backpack as soon as she sits down in each class so it's ready to be collected. Or perhaps she'll keep homework in one folder to carry to every class so she doesn't leave any assignments in her locker.

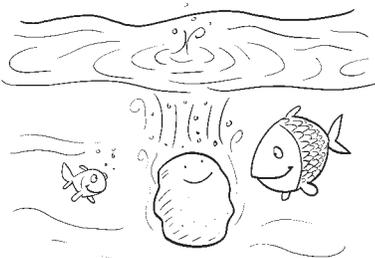
### Worth quoting

"Happiness often sneaks in through a door you didn't know you left open."  
*John Barrymore*

### Just for fun

**Q:** If you throw a blue rock into the Red Sea, what will it become?

**A:** Wet!



## Growing responsibility

Picture your middle grader as a responsible young adult. How do you help him get there? Consider these ideas for planting the seeds of responsibility now so he'll grow into the dependable person you're trying to raise.

### Promote consistency

Sticking to routines makes handling responsibilities a natural part of your tween's day. For instance, if he needs a tablet for school, he might charge it on the kitchen counter every night. Or suggest that he bring his PE uniform home on Fridays so he can wash it.

### Pass the "baton"

Imagine you're in a relay race and you're passing the "responsibility baton" to your child. Make the handoff by switching from giving instructions to asking questions. Say he's getting ready for a chorus concert. Instead of telling



him to put on his dress shoes and find his sheet music, try saying, "What do you need to do to get ready?"

### Discuss accountability

Experience is an excellent teacher—and it can make your middle grader more responsible. Share an example from your own life ("I forgot about my doctor's appointment, so now I have to pay a no-show fee"). Then, explain what you learned ("I need to put appointments on my calendar right away").

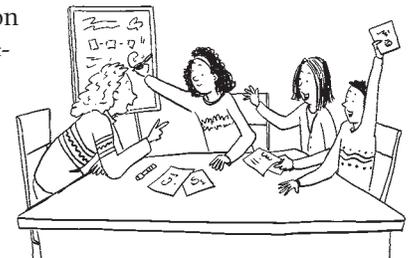
## Brainstorm for project success

Your tween may have heard the expression "Two heads are better than one." That's especially true when it comes to brainstorming! Share these tips she can use the next time she works on a group project.

■ **Get organized.** Decide what the group will accomplish (say, picking a topic for a class presentation). Review the assignment guidelines, and appoint one person to record ideas.

■ **Consider all possibilities.** Encourage your middle grader to call out any idea that comes to mind, even if she's not sure it'll work. An off-topic or half-formed suggestion may lead others to think of ideas that *will* work.

■ **Read and evaluate.** At the end of the brainstorming session, look over all the contributions. Think of ways to combine or tweak everyone's favorites.



# Writing is fun!

Motivate your tween to write more often with these activities. She'll practice using parts of speech and descriptive language.

**Make up Mad Libs.** Your middle grader could create a silly story by leaving blanks for you to fill in. Encourage her to think carefully about where to put blanks and label each with the part of speech needed (noun, verb, adjective). For example, will



she leave out a noun so you can choose the character? ("I looked up to see a giant \_\_\_\_\_ walking down the street.") Or will she pick the character and let you supply an adjective to describe it? ("There was a \_\_\_\_\_ wildebeest on the loose.")

**Write shape poetry.** Can your child write a poem in the shape of her topic? With *concrete poetry*, she'll do just that. First, have her select an object to write about, such as an apple, and think about what it brings

to mind (baking apple pies with Grandma, visiting an apple orchard). She should draw an outline of an apple in pencil, write lines of poetry in pen to fit the shape, and erase the outline. 👍

## Parent to Parent

### Peaceful co-parenting

After our divorce, my ex-wife and I used a co-parenting app to communicate because talking in person was awkward.



When I mentioned the app to my counselor, he suggested that it would be good for our son, Aiden, to see his parents getting along—in person.

I realized he was right, so lately I've started going to my ex-wife's door to pick up Aiden rather than waiting in the car. I caught my son smiling when he saw me talking to his mother about how he's doing in school and about our plans for the weekend.

We still use the app, but it's getting easier to set aside our emotions for Aiden's sake. He's realizing that we can work together even though we have our differences. 👍



## Q&A

### Avoid the gossip scene

**Q** I recently heard my daughter talking with her friends about a rumor that's going around at school. How can I encourage her not to gossip?

**A** First, talk to your daughter when her friends aren't around. You could suggest that she always assume rumors are false. Point out that people who start or share them often don't even know if they're true. They may gossip because they want attention or to get revenge, for example.

Then, have your tween think about how the person being talked about would feel if he overheard the gossip. Instead of staying silent, your middle grader might speak up and say, "That sounds like a rumor." She should also avoid spreading the rumor.

Finally, explain that sharing rumors can cause friends not to trust her. After all, if they know she's willing to gossip, they may wonder if she'll gossip about them one day, too. 👍



## Creative tweens

Ever wonder what happened to your singing, doodling, spontaneous child? He's still there! Since middle graders are usually more self-conscious, they might need a little coaxing to express their creativity. Try these strategies.

**1.** Put an inexpensive art easel and supplies (drawing paper, paints, brushes, markers, colored pencils) in a corner of your home. When you're not looking, your tween may



decide to sketch a pet, paint a sunset, or try his hand at abstract art.

**2.** Put your middle grader in charge of making signs on the computer or on poster board for family members' birthdays. He can download pictures specific to the person (favorite food or movie star) and write a clever greeting. *Example:* "Happy birthday from the whole bunch" with a picture of bananas. 👍

### OUR PURPOSE

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

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