



WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

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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 the 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!**

Recently, School Report Cards were released throughout the state. We are proud to report that for the 2nd consecutive year WSMS ranked #1 within our local cohort with a distinction of "Exceeds Expectations." Congratulations to our students, staff and community for this great accomplishment. You will find a screen cap of the front page on the report card within our newsletter this month.

We will have no school on December 23 - January 1. School resumes on January 2. Our 1st trimester ended on November 26th and we will be mailing home your child's report card shortly. If you do not receive your child's report card by December 10th, 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

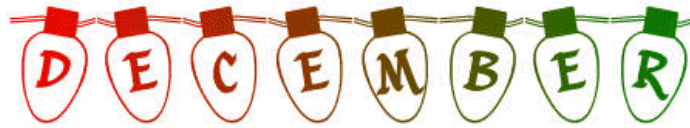


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Calendar of Events

- 2 - 7th BB BTeam Triangler home 4:45 & 5:45
- 3 - Boys BB at G-E-T 4:15
- 4 - EARLY RELEASE - 12:20
- 5 - Boys BB vs Longfellow 4:00
Wrestling at Sparta Meadowview 4:30
- 9 - Boys BB vs Westby 4:15
- 10 - 7th/8th Band/Choir Concert
Wrestling at Onalaska Middle 4:30
- 12 - Boys BB vs Tomah 4:15
- 14 - Wrestling at Marshfield 9:30
- 16 - Wrestling at Tomah High 4:30
- 17 - Boys BB vs Winona 4:00



- 19 - Wrestling Conference at Logan Middle 4:30
7th Boys BB BTeam Triangler at Onalaska Middle 3:45 & 4:45
- 23-Jan 1 - NO SCHOOL

Counselor Comments

December will be a month of giving and spreading kindness to our community. In homerooms, we will be making Christmas/Holiday cards as well as snowflakes that we will give to Mulder's and Lakeview to help brighten their holiday season. The middle school is once again joining forces with the West Salem Lions Club to put together food baskets for local families. We will collect nonperishable items here at school and the Lions members will deliver them to area families. 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 kick off this event on December 2 and it will run through December 18.

Members of our local Lions Club will pick up the baskets on Friday, December 20 and they will add additional items such as fruit, potatoes, cereal, and paper products.

Please see the "Christmas Basket" below for a list of suggested items. Thank you in advance for your generosity, kindness, 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. We are asking each Homeroom to fill a box (or two!) with non-perishable items including the following:

cans of fruit
cans of vegetables
cans of soup
meat/tuna helpers
kleenex/facial tissue
paper towels

cans of juices
peanut butter & jellies
macaroni & cheese
box potatoes
plastic silverware
napkins

brownie/cake mixes
spaghetti sauce and noodles
oatmeal/cereal
cans of tuna or chicken
dish soap
toilet paper

flour
sugar
stuffing
crackers
baby food
other ?

We will collect items in Homeroom from December 2-18. 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 4

February 5

March 4

May 13

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 he/she has 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 13.

Information was handed out Nov. 22. Those forms are due back by December 6. Please do not send any money at this time.



"Meet Us in the Middle"



WSMS Students of the Month

November



Grade 8



Asher H.



Braeden D.

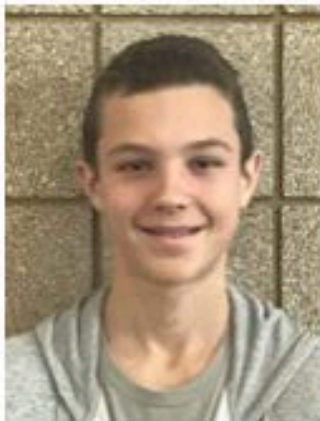


Sierra L.

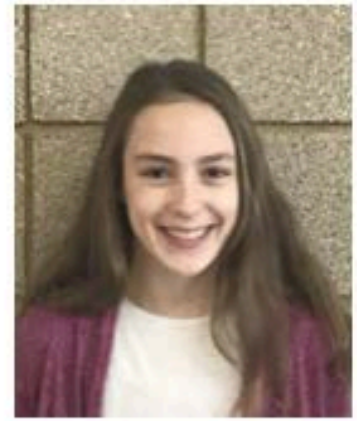
Grade 7



Grace S.



Carter P.



Kennedy G.

Grade 6



AJ C.-L.



Danielle C.



Ethan F.

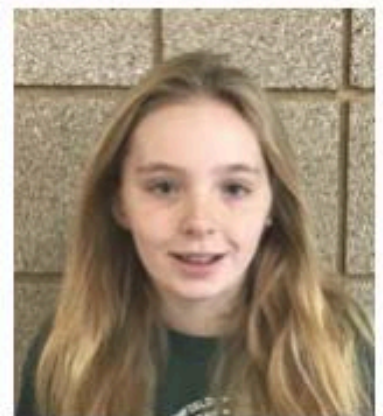
Grade 5



Lily T.



Isaiah L.



Elise F.



"Meet Us In the Middle"

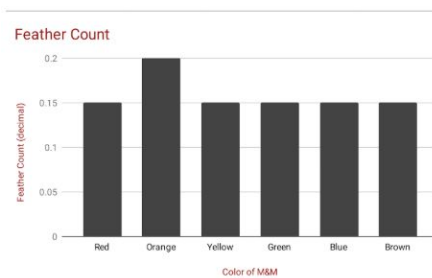




5th Grade December Update

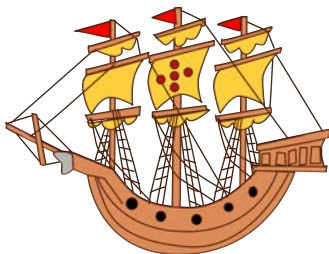
Math: After finishing our 2nd unit, we will be doing two different projects. These project will apply what the students learned in the first trimester. Then, we will be starting our third unit.

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 informational 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 English settlements in America.



Trimester 1 - Music 5 - Mrs. Glasel (Kjos) and Ms. Nimm (Burdick)

This past month we continued singing and talking about folk music. Our emphasis was on spirituals and their hidden messages. We also sang patriotic songs in celebration of Veteran's Day and studied the history of the Star Spangled Banner. We listened to and watched 5 versions of the song and used our music vocabulary to describe the music and choose which one that we like the best.

We continued to accompany our singing on the autoharps and barred instruments, and even revisited the bucket drumming. Our new instrument was the recorder. We put together the rhythms and pitches that we learned this trimester to play songs on the recorder. We also sang a South African song with conga drums, shakeres, slit drum, and claves. We even sang a jazzy song from the Caribbean which included the steel drums.

One of the focuses this month was on musical form. Form is how the music is put together. We learned that a lot of the songs that we sing are in AABA form or Verse - Refrain form. We also learned about Theme and Variations.

We ended our trimester talking briefly about jazz music. One of the main components of jazz is improvisation. We got to try it on our barred instruments and on the kazoos!

It will be sad to see these groups of students leave our music class to move on to their next Allied class. We had fun singing, playing instruments, and doing a lot of movement activities this trimester. We are looking forward to seeing you in a music class in 6th grade!

Trimester 2 - Music 5 - Mrs. Glasel (Czajka) and Ms. Nimm (Lassig)

Welcome 5th grade students to music class. Your music class will take on a little different format by having music every day for a trimester. Let's meet your teachers.

Hi, I am Mrs. Glasel, and I'm in my 30th year of teaching, all here at West Salem. Last year was my first year back to teaching 5th grade music. I taught 5th grade for my first 16 years of teaching before moving completely to the middle school to teach middle school general music and band lessons.



Hi, I am Ms. Nimm, and I'm in my 14th year of teaching, all here at West Salem, just like Mrs. Glasel! This is my first year teaching 5th grade music and I'm very excited to meet you. I also teach Choir (6, 7, 8), Soundscapes (7), and African Drumming (8).

Our classes will be based around the four main concepts of performing, creating, responding and connecting, so you can bet that they will be doing a lot of moving, singing, and activities. We will

start off each class with a song, mostly from the Get American Singing...Again! books which are songs that should be common repertoire in our American culture. Then after doing a rhythm or pitch activity, we will focus on a topic or song that reflect history and culture, folk music, and holidays. We will end with a listening or movement activity.





Social Studies - Mrs. Jeranek

Throughout December we will explore the civilization of ancient Greece. Our focus will center around geography 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. Our curriculum partners with ELA in preparation for the Greek Drama Festival.

All 6th grade students will participate in a Geography Bee in the regular classroom this month, with 6th grade finals before break. More details to come!



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 simplify expressions. This unit is a building block to future work in algebra.

We will spend December in Chapter 4 using the area of a parallelogram to derive the area formulas 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 products and prices. 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.

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. An invitation will be sent out via Skyward when the date has been set. Be sure to find out your student's favorite Greek myth, god, goddess, or hero!

Science - Mrs. Jarosh

Sixth graders have been working hard to master matter & chemistry concepts. The atom element projects have guided students to be able to draw a diagram of simple molecules. The projects were amazing, and we all enjoyed learning from one another. As we move forward, students will be working to

develop an understanding of The of Conservation of Mass and chemical reactions.





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. seventh grade students will continue to study Greek and Latin roots.

Regular Math - Mrs. Weber & Mrs. Coe

In December we will be finishing up our unit on solving algebraic equations. We have many fun activities planned to review this skill throughout the month. MATHO, which is a version of BINGO, and a scavenger hunt are just a few examples. We will not be starting a new unit before Christmas break.

Pre-Algebra - Mrs. Weber

We will be finishing up our unit on transformations during the month of December. The kids are learning how to translate, rotate and reflect shapes on a coordinate plane. We will also be finishing up our 3rd Mathcounts competition. The scores from these competitions are used to determine our WSMS Mathcounts team. Practices for this team will start in January. It is exciting to see how well some of the 7th

graders are doing on these. Keep working hard!!

English - Mrs. Martinson

The 7th grade spellers who will participate in the 7th grade bee on December 20 are the following: Gideon W., Lucy R., Jovey M., Katy N., Ethan C., Kayla O., Layla F., Madi C., Allyssa L., Nick G., MaKinlee M., Skye D., Kaylee C., Sydney M., Derek F., Eve T., Drew A., Will S.

The 7th graders will be reading and discussing the classic novel, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. We will discuss why this 175 year old novel is still relevant today. Please help your child find allusions to the novel in their daily lives. They will compare the novel to the 1984 movie version of the book. Students will also start presenting their verb slide show.

Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum

For 7th grade social studies, the students will focus on the first ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Students will examine the rights of being a citizen of our country and what some of the limits to those rights might be. We will also focus on the Geography Bee and completing the all-7th grade finals before break.

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 Tinkercad. After that, they will put all of their knowledge together of multiview sketches and cad work 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 watching photosynthesis in action, 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! With cells out of the way, we will be starting body systems and students will be creating their own experiments based on a single body system.

Ask them what body system they are working with and have them explain what experiment they are doing!



"Meet Us in the Middle"





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

We started Chapter 4 called “Graphing and Writing Linear Equations” on November 13. 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 6) - Mrs. Bentzen

We will learn how to solve and graph linear inequalities. We will have our third in-school Mathcounts competition on December 10th. The regional team will be determined after this third competition. The top ten scorers on these three competitions will determine our team. They will compete at Regionals on February 7th at the Omni Center in Onalaska.

The objectives for Chapter 6:

- *write, solve, and graph one-step and multi-step inequalities
- *learn to reverse an inequality sign when multiplying or dividing by a negative number
- *solve and graph compound inequalities using “and” and “or”
- *solve absolute value equations using “or”

*solve and graph absolute value inequalities using “and” and “or”

*graph linear inequalities in two variables

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

For the remainder of the trimester, students will be experiencing two big projects. Applying their construction skills and mechanisms knowledge, students are challenged to create “pull toys.” Reminiscent of toddler toys, each team/individual will construct a device which utilizes the rotary motion gained from the wheels traveling across the floor to drive some other movement in the device. Decorations can then be added to jazz up the device. When completed, students will be asked to create a document summarizing the experience.

Meanwhile, when not involved with the Pull Toy Challenge, students will be designing/creating a 3D printing project. This “challenge” will involve 3D printing parts to complete a task that I assign to the students. This should be a fun interactive project.

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 National History Day topics. Students have selected a topic in social studies, and they will research in both English and social studies. 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, pronouns and adjectives, we will continue with adverbs. 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 Molly A., Ben B., Leah B., Landon B., Maria C., Haley C., Tegan D., Ivy E., Kate F., Sydney F., Scarlet F., Lucas H., Reice K., Gretchen L., Carson M., Adam S., Kendal S., and Jack W.

Congratulations, spellers!

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 “Breaking Barriers 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 the holiday season is already upon us. It feels like school just started! We finished up our Astronomy unit to close out the trimester. We will now 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!

Essential Learning Outcomes:

- Construct a scientific explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from sources and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future.
- Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence from rock strata for how the geologic time scale is used to organize Earth's 4.6-billion-year-old history.

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 will 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 their books of choice since the beginning of the year. We've decided to have a little friendly competition between the classes this year! Everyone must read this choice book for 20 minutes each Reading class period. Ideally, students should also be reading these books at home on a daily basis. Please ask your son/daughter to tell you about what he/she is reading. Beginning on Dec. 13th, the students will do a project based on their favorite book from first trimester.

Vocabulary: In addition to "A Word A Day" (from the book *100 Words Every Middle Schooler Should Know*), 8th graders have been working with vocabulary from materials we're reading in class. They are also learning Greek and Latin roots.

During December we will continue applying reading strategies and elements of literature to short stories. So far we've read works by Roald Dahl, Shirley Jackson, O. Henry, Edgar Allan Poe, and Ray Bradbury.

If you are interested in reading any of the texts, they are posted in google classroom. Most selections will be read as a whole class. Either way, an audio of the text will be provided in google classroom along with 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 th percentile	50 th percentile	10 th percentile

By the end of 6th 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)



WSMS Choir and Band Holiday Concerts

When: Tuesday, December 10

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 black WSMS music polos
2. black pants
3. black socks
4. black shoes



Choir - Ms. Nimm

6th Grade Choir

This month the 6th grade students have been learning how to read choir music. They have received eight different songs to work on in preparation for our concert in January. The choir has also been working on reading music using Do, Re, and Mi.

7th & 8th Grade Choir

The 7th and 8th grade choirs will be presenting their concerts on Tuesday, December 10 at the Heider Center! The 7th grade students should report to the high school by 5:30pm, and the concert starts at 6pm. Their concert music features four different spirituals. Eighth grade students should report to the high school by 7pm, and the concert starts at 7:30pm. Their concert music features four spirituals and one holiday song.

7th Gr. Soundscapes

Students in Soundscapes will be creating their own music magazine over the next month. Each student has picked out his/her article topics and is now starting the research process.

8th Gr. African Drumming

Students in African Drumming just finished watching and analyzing a performance by the group STOMP. They will be working on creating their own group performances based on what they have seen the professionals do.



"Meet Us in the Middle"



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

Music Reading - The students are continuing to play the keyboards. Now they are reading music on the grand staff (bass and treble clefs) but are still only playing one hand at a time. They have been practicing pitch reading by using the app Staff Wars. We are going to explore other instruments this year, and this month we are going to play the harmonica also.

Music Appreciation - We started using GarageBand by creating a scary sound story by exploring how to make sounds on the iPad. This was a great way to explore the app without really worrying about making music. We will continue to learn more about this app through our next composition project using loops (pre-recorded short musical segments).

Our Music Alive magazine articles this month will focus on how noise cancelling headphones work and old forms of recordings.

General Music 7 - Mrs. Glasel

The students are continuing to play songs on the guitar. They are able to play songs going back and forth between the 1st and 2nd strings and will be adding the three string to their songs. They will also be composing a short song for the guitar using the pitches and rhythms that they know.

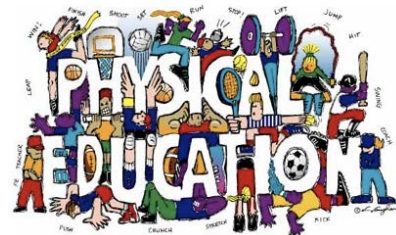
The students just finished up watching the musical Hello, Dolly, in which they learned about the complexity of storylines and character development. The next musical, Fiddler on the Roof, is a more serious musical with a look at the Jewish culture, their traditions, and how those traditions change throughout the musical.

Happy Holidays!



Healthy Living...

Winter is here!!! The new trimester means that the 5th and 6th grade students will be changing teachers. The winter season creates some amazing opportunities for the students to get outside while they are at home. Please encourage your child to go outside and enjoy the snow. There are numerous opportunities to be active in this weather: sledding, snowshoeing, building forts, making snow people, etc. We will occasionally get opportunities to do some of these things at school, but encourage your children to do them at home. The 7th and 8th grade students should be bringing their PE clothes home weekly and continue to be prepared for class. Up to this point, we have had very few students who have regularly been unprepared for class. Please remind your children to have active clothing and active shoes for PE. Happy Holidays!



“Meet Us in the Middle”



Spanish update - Ms. Rose

6th Grade:

¡Bienvenidos! Welcome to Spanish sixth grade! Our first unit will include introductions and basic vocabulary. We will practice letter sounds, numbers, calendar and weather vocabulary. We will also talk about different songs and cultural practices of Mexico and Central America. ¡Feliz Navidad, prospero año y felicidad!

7th Grade:

¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español! The 7th grade Spanish class will begin by reviewing basic conversations and asking each other questions in Spanish. We will also talk about the weather and compare our Wisconsin weather to different Spanish speaking countries.

8th Grade:

¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español! The 8th grade Spanish class will review introduction, classroom phrases and get to know each other through special person interviews - en español! Students will be developing speaking skills by describing themselves and others.

GRACIAS



Art update - Mrs. Hemker

Grade 5

This month 5th graders will be working on a variety of portraits. Animal portraits will be stylized and symbolic, and our self portraits will be more realistic style while we will look at facial features and proportions. We will also be working in clay and creating at least two finished pieces to take home.

Grade 6

As we begin the trimester, 6th grade will be working on two main projects. The first is a self portrait. These will be large material samplers, realistic in style and include backgrounds that describe the artist. The other unit will be clay. We will review our past clay practices and introduce new ones. Each student will complete at least two finished pieces to take home.



Grade 7

Seventh 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. We will also be working on observational drawings of shoes.

Grade 8

Students in 8th grade will be working on projects that represent themselves this trimester. Our first project will be a design that will be considered for this year's class t-shirt. The next will be a Poster featuring a quote that describes them. The poster will include a hand-written font. Eighth graders will also begin to design their wall block as a lasting way to represent themselves.



"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 for more information.

Level I meet is Monday, February 3 in Holmen

Level II meet is Tuesday, February 17 in Whitehall.

DEAR FORENSICS,

YOU HAVE INTRODUCED ME
TO NEW PEOPLE AND IDEAS.

YOU HAVE AMPLIFIED MY VOICE
AND OPENED MY MIND.

YOU HAVE CHALLENGED ME.
YOU HAVE CHANGED ME.

I LOVE YOU.

SG


**KEEP
CALM
AND
TALK TO
WALLS**



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. I'll try to work in as many as possible. Thanks! Ms. Friell



"Meet Us In the Middle"



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 2019-2020 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 for a substitute application.



Robotics teams update - Out of 31 teams competing at the Madison Regional (which is one of the tougher regional in the state of Wisconsin) Team Power Up placed 8th overall and The Professionals placed 10th overall for the robotics competition game. Both teams qualified to the sectional tournament in Watertown which is on January 5th. Team Brains on Time are the "on deck team" in case another team cannot attend. This is a huge achievement to qualify for sectionals. There are many teams that worked very hard and would love to be in our position.

Also all teams were nominated for various awards and had a few winners. Team Power Up won the Presentation Award for their project. Team The Professionals were awarded the Gracious Professionalism Award. Team Gear Up won the Strategy and Innovation Award.

Congratulations on all the FIRST Robotics participants on all their hard work!

Team Power Up

Nominated and Awarded Presentation Award. Placed 8th overall in the robot competition. They were selected to go to the Sectional Meet in Watertown.

Brennan G. (8th Grader)
Ben B. (8th Grader)
Jesse H. (8th Grader)
Easton R. (8th Grader)

Luke J. (7th)
Jax V. (7th)
Carson V. (7th)
Drew H. (7th)
Carter Q. (7th)
John N. (7th)
Dane B. (7th)

Team Gears

Nominated for Start - to - Finish Award and Teamwork Award. They placed 12th overall in the robot competition (Was 3rd after the 1st round). They were not selected to go to the Sectional Meet.

Greyson G. (4th Grade)
Tristan S. (5th Grade)
Gavin R. (5th Grade)
Abram W. (5th Grade)

Team: Brains On Time

They were nominated for the Presentation Award and "Start to Finish" Award. They are the 'on deck' team for sectionals so if any team can't make it then they will be invited.

Ava J. (5th)
Ava S. (5th)
Larissa S. (5th)
Aliana H. (5th)
Katie T. (6th)
Isabel K. (6th)

Team: The Professionals

Nominated and awarded the Gracious Professionalism Award. Nominated for another award but cannot recall which one. Finished 10th in the robot competition and selected to advance to Sectional meet in Watertown on January 5th.

Reice K. (8th Grade)
Sunnie J. (8th Grade)
Kate F. (8th Grade)
Emily F. (8th Grade)
Leah B. (8th Grade)
Kennedy G. (7th Grade)
Grace S. (7th Grade)
Allyssa L. (7th Grade)
Robert M. (5th Grade)

Team: Sewer Slugs:

Unfortunately, the Slugs were not nominated for any awards this year. For a (mostly) rookie team they scored exceptionally high, most areas coming in with "Accomplished" and "Exemplary" marks. In addition the team narrowly missed a 200 point run in the last round reaching the top of the bridge with both flags raised before being knocked off by the other team in the last 2 seconds of the round.

Ben Z.
Nicholas H,
Zach I.
Josh I.
Grayson H.
Gabby P.
Alex D.
Julian S.
Mila S.

Team: Gear Up

Won the 'Strategy and Innovation Award' and were nominated for one other. They did not make it to sectionals. They accidentally deleted all of their code less than two weeks before the competition, but made a good comeback.



Overall Score



Exceeds Expectations

Overall Accountability Ratings	Score
Significantly Exceeds Expectations	83-100 ★★★★★
Exceeds Expectations	73-82.9 ★★★★☆
Meets Expectations	63-72.9 ★★★☆☆
Meets Few Expectations	53-62.9 ★★☆☆☆
Fails to Meet Expectations	0-52.9 ★☆☆☆☆

Priority Areas

Student Achievement	School Score	Max Score	6-8 State	6-8 Max
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	75.1/100	75.1/100	61.3/100	61.3/100
Mathematics Achievement	37.8/50	37.8/50	32.2/50	32.2/50
	37.3/50	37.3/50	29.1/50	29.1/50

School Growth

English Language Arts (ELA) Growth	74.6/100	74.6/100	66.0/100	66.0/100
Mathematics Growth	32.1/50	32.1/50	33.0/50	33.0/50
	42.5/50	42.5/50	33.0/50	33.0/50

Closing Gaps

English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement Gaps	86.3/100	86.3/100	73.9/100	73.9/100
Mathematics Achievement Gaps	41.2/50	41.2/50	36.7/50	36.7/50
Graduation Rate Gaps	45.1/50	45.1/50	37.2/50	37.2/50
	NA/NA	NA/NA	NA/NA	NA/NA

On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness

Graduation Rate	91.3/100	91.3/100	85.5/100	85.5/100
Attendance Rate	NA/NA	NA/NA	NA/NA	NA/NA
3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	75.7/80	75.7/80	74.1/80	74.1/80
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement	NA/NA	NA/NA	NA/NA	NA/NA
	15.6/20	15.6/20	11.4/20	11.4/20

Priority Area Weights

Student Achievement	31.6%
School Growth	18.4%
Closing Gaps	25.0%
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	25.0%

MONDAY

2

- From the Grill**
 Carolina Style Pulled Pork Sandwich
 • Coleslaw
- Home Style**
 • (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun
 • Coleslaw
- Deli**
 Turkey BLT on WG Sub Roll
 Black Bean Corn Salsa and Tostito Scoop Chips
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

TUESDAY

3

- 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**
 • Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap
 • Broccoli Cheese Soup
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

WEDNESDAY

4

- Early Release Day!**
- From the Grill**
 • Bakalar's Hot Dog on WG Bun
 Side of Mac n' Cheese
 • Green Peas
- Home Style**
 • Creamy Mac N' Cheese
 • Italian Breadsticks
 • Green Peas
- Deli**
 Ham & Swiss on WG Croissant
 Sliced Apples with Caramel Cup
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

THURSDAY

5

- From the Grill**
 • Popcorn Chicken
 • Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice
- Home Style**
 • Saucy Orange Popcorn Chicken
 • Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice
- Deli**
 • Turkey Sub
 • Chicken Dumpling Soup
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

FRIDAY

6

- From the Grill**
 • Cheese Pizza - Personal Pan
 Hawaiian Pizza - Personal Pan
 • Honey-Glazed Carrots
- Home Style**
 Pepperoni Pizza - Personal Pan
 • Honey-Glazed Carrots
- Deli**
 • Chef Salad w/Chicken & Cheese
 Cottage Cheese Cup
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

9

- From the Grill**
 • Mozzarella Stuffed Breadstick with Marinara Dipping Cup
 • Mixed Vegetables
- Home Style**
 • Tater Tot Hot Dish
 • WG Dinner Roll
 • Mixed Vegetables
- Deli**
 Ham, Turkey and Cheddar Sub
 Steakhouse Potato Salad
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

10

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

11

- From the Grill**
 • "Chicken and Waffles!"
 Natural Chicken Tenders WG Waffle
 • Tri Tators
- Home Style**
 • "Chicken and Waffles!"
 Natural Chicken Tenders WG Waffle
 • Tri Tators
- Deli**
 • Chicken Caesar Wrap
 Bow Tie Pasta Salad
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

12

- From the Grill**
 • Meatball Marinara Sub on Hoagie Roll
 • Garlic Roasted Green Beans
- Home Style**
 • Pasta with Italian Meat Sauce
 • Pasta with Marinara Sauce
 WG Garlic Knots
 • Garlic Roasted Green Beans
- Deli**
 • Southwest Chicken Salad
 • Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

13

- 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**
 Crab Salad on Croissant
 Egg Salad on Croissant
 Fresh Fruit Deluxe Salad
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

16

- From the Grill**
 • Homemade Sloppy Joe on WG Bun
 • Oven Baked French Fries
- Home Style**
 • Mr. Rib Sandwich
 • Oven Baked French Fries
- Deli**
 • Mozzarella Stuffed Breadstick with Marinara Dipping Cup
 • Chicken Dumpling Soup
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

17

- Taco Tuesday!**
- From the Grill**
 (Low-Fat) Loaded Beef Nachos with Cilantro Lime Rice
- Home Style**
 • (Low-Fat) Loaded Beef Nachos with Cilantro Lime Rice
 • Taco Topping Bar
- Deli**
 Taco Truck Burritos
 Tostitos WG Scoops with Black Bean Corn Salsa
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

18

- 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**
 Check the line for a Chef's Special
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

19

- Holiday Slushies!! (Kiwi and Strawberry) Served in all lines with meal purchase
- From the Grill**
 • (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun
 Potato Stars
- Home Style**
 • (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun
 Potato Stars
- Deli**
 Check the line for a Chef's Special
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

20

- From the Grill**
 • Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza
 • Peas & Carrots
- Home Style**
 • Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza
 • Peas & Carrots
- Deli**
 • Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza
 • Peas & Carrots
- Grab and Go**
 • Panther PBJ Pack
 • Panther YOGURT Pack

23

Holiday Break - No School

24

Holiday Break - No School

25

Holiday Break - No School

26

Holiday Break - No School

27

Holiday Break - No School

30

Holiday Break - No School

31

New Years Eve - No School

December 2019

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

A cozy tradition

Family traditions give tweens a sense of security as they deal with the ups and downs of adolescence. Here's one idea: Have hot chocolate parties on cold winter days. Set out toppings like marshmallows, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Then, chat about your day while you enjoy your treat.

Welcome, second semester!

Before your child goes back to school, remind her to check her schedule for any changes second semester will bring. She should make sure she knows where new classrooms are and what supplies she'll need. *Tip:* Send an email introducing yourself to any new teachers she has.

Middle school dating

If your tween mentions classmates who are dating, ask him what that means in middle school. Often, tween relationships start with "talking," which means texting or chatting on social media. Ask your child whether he's interested in anyone, and share your expectations, such as only exchanging messages and photos he'd be okay for you to see.

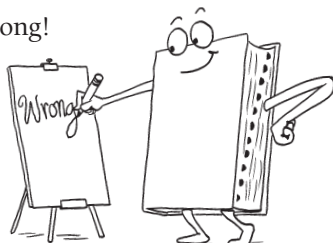
Worth quoting

"There are no shortcuts to anyplace worth going." *Beverly Sills*

Just for fun

Q: What word is spelled wrong in every dictionary?

A: Wrong!

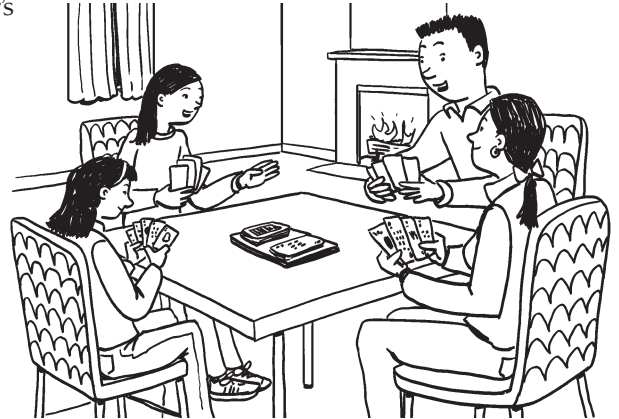


Healthy technology habits

Limiting your middle grader's screen time encourages her to interact with people in real life and focus on schoolwork. Try these tips.

Join in

Setting limits on electronics use for the whole family may make your tween more likely to cooperate. Ask everyone to silence and put away devices during game nights or car rides. You can enjoy conversation and pay attention to each other. Also, set up a charging station where everyone leaves devices at night so that sleep isn't interrupted.



Socialize face to face

Suggest that your child brainstorm screen-free activities to do with friends. *Examples:* Make up dance routines, work on a giant jigsaw puzzle. Or they could use electronics in ways that don't involve staring at screens. Maybe they'll sing along with a free karaoke app or go

outside and see who can take the coolest nature photos.

Stay focused

When your middle grader uses electronics for homework, have her close all apps or windows that she doesn't need for the assignment. She should also turn off notifications so she's not tempted to reopen the apps she closed. And if she takes a break, encourage her to make it screen-free. Perhaps she'll go for a short walk or play with her dog. 👍

Developing a growth mindset

Does your child know that learning actually makes his brain grow? Help him adopt a *growth mindset*, or an attitude that he can develop his abilities if he works at them, with this advice.

■ **Find alternate routes.** Say the dialogue in a story your tween is writing sounds unrealistic. Rather than thinking, "I'm just not a good writer," he could look for ways to improve his writing. Perhaps he'll ask someone to act out the story with him and decide how the characters would really talk.

■ **Aim for variety.** Encourage your child to strengthen the growing connections in his brain by learning new information in multiple ways. For example, to study Spanish vocabulary, he could choose a picture book and listen to an audiobook version of it in Spanish while he follows along in the book. That way, he'll see, hear, and say the words he's learning. 👍



Meaningful math

Math isn't just for the classroom. Numbers help to determine professional football team rosters, which TV shows stay on the air, and how new cars are designed. Your child can work with data, ratios, and percentages in areas that interest him. Share these examples.

Sports

Let your middle grader compare stats of teams and players in his favorite sport. He might look up and chart a hockey team's win-loss record and the star player's goals, assists, and total points. What percentage of the team's goals has that player scored so far this season?

TV shows

Television networks and streaming services decide which shows to keep based on how many people watch them. For a



month, suggest that your child follow weekly Nielsen ratings online for your family's favorite shows (see nielsen.com/us/en/top-ten/). By what percentage do viewer numbers change from week to week for each show?

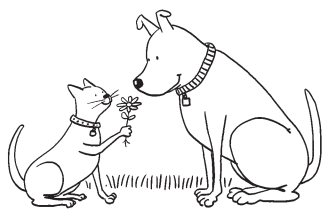
Cars

Engineers use math to design fuel-efficient cars. Ask your tween to look up the weight and gas mileage for various cars and calculate the weight-mileage ratio. He'll discover that lighter cars generally get better gas mileage. 👍



Q & A Spread kindness

Q I recently overheard my daughter and her friend making mean remarks about another girl. How can I encourage my child to be kinder?



A Being kind has benefits that matter to tweens, like helping them make and keep friends and feel good about themselves.

Suggest that your daughter challenge herself to do at least one kind act each day. Maybe she could smile and say good morning to the bus driver or custodian, or invite someone who's sitting alone in the cafeteria to eat lunch with her.

When you ask your child about school at the end of the day, be sure to include, "Who were you kind to today?" and "Who was kind to you?" Tell her what you did that was kind, too—you'll give each other ideas to try another day. 👍

Ready, set, debate

When would you want your tween to argue with you? During a friendly debate! Knowing how to make a strong argument can help her write persuasive essays and participate in class discussions. Here's a fun way to practice.

- 1. Choose a topic.** You might debate whether it's better to shop online or in stores, or whether we should colonize Mars or the moon.
- 2. Prepare arguments.** Have each person write down facts that support each side. *Examples:* Shopping online saves time because you don't have to drive to a store, and you can quickly compare options from several sites. But in a brick-and-mortar store, you can choose the vegetables you want or try on clothes, and you'll get in more steps for the day.
- 3. Hold a debate.** Assign half the family to one side and half to the other. Then, present your arguments for your side. Next, swap sides—each person argues the opposite position. Did anyone's opinion change as a result of the debate? 👍

Parent to Parent

Nervous? Try this

My son Ben loves to play piano, but he was nervous about this year's recital. I recently gave a big presentation at work, so I knew how he felt. I decided to talk to him about strategies I used to calm my nerves.

I told Ben that I practiced a lot. That helped me feel more confident because I knew the material better. Then during the presentation, I looked for friendly faces in the crowd. I

also kept going even when I stumbled over a few words.

Ben has been practicing for his recital, and he has also asked me to listen so he could play in front of an audience.

He said that on recital day, he plans to glance at our family for a boost of confidence before he sits down to play. I'm hoping that following my advice will make him a little less nervous. 👍



OUR PURPOSE

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

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