

PANTHER POST



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



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

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 homeroom 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 70** holiday food baskets to families and senior citizens in the West Salem area. We will continue this proud tradition of community service this year. Look for more details within the "Counselor Comments" section of the newsletter.

We will have no school on December 24 - January 4. School resumes on January 5. Our 1st trimester ended on November 25. Speaking of report cards.... recently, School Report Cards were released throughout the state. We are proud to report that WSMS holds the distinction of being a **"5 Star School"** that **"Significantly Exceeds Expectations."** As a point of reference, we are the 38th highest ranking public middle school in the state out of 358. Congratulations to our students, staff and community for this great accomplishment.

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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Please use the links below to view our newsletter in



SPANISH
or
GUJARATI



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WSMS STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

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

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

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

MORNING PROCEDURES

Doors will open for students at 7:15 a.m. when supervision starts. They can report to the Commons or make their way to the Success Center. Breakfast starts at 7:15 a.m. as well.

Unless they have a pass from a teacher, students are to remain in the designated areas only until 7:43 a.m., when the first bell rings

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

NEWSLETTERS

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



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

**WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL
MISSION STATEMENT**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

STUDENT CELL PHONE USE

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

- Must be turned off

- Must be kept in the student's locker

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

Students are NOT allowed to use cell phones to take video recordings of other students at school.

Students not following the guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. Please call if you have any questions.

ALLERGIES

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

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

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Please remember to keep the office informed of any changes in your contact information as soon as possible. It is important for us to be able to contact you in the event of an emergency.

If you have caller ID and you have missed a phone call from the middle school, please understand that we are unable to identify the person, extension number, or department that was trying to reach you. Rest assured that if your child is sick or injured, the school nurse will leave a message for you.

Please remind your child to leave a message if they call you.

*Even though students are not allowed to use their cell phones in school, we understand that they may need to text, email or call you if they are not feeling well. Please make sure they have been to the school nurse first and the nurse will then contact you.

SCHOOL SECURITY

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

ATTENDANCE

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

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

You can call 608-786-2090, Option 1, and leave a message at any time of the day or night. You can leave all absence messages on this voicemail. You can even leave information that is scheduled weeks to months in advance. We keep a yearly spreadsheet with all absences that are reported to us.

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

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

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 9	6:00PM - 7TH GRADE BAND CONCERT 7:30PM - 8TH GRADE BAND CONCERT
DECEMBER 24- JANUARY 2	NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK
JANUARY 14-16	7TH GRADE TREES FOR TOMORROW
JANUARY 15	7:00PM - 6TH GRADE BAND & CHOIR CONCERT
JANUARY 19	NO SCHOOL - TEACHER INSERVICE

ATHLETICS SCHEDULES

WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE LINK

PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK ABOVE TO VIEW FALL GAME SCHEDULES FOR:

6TH-8TH GRADE WRESTLING

7TH AND 8TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL

7TH AND 8TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL (STARTING IN JANUARY)

Lunch Menu



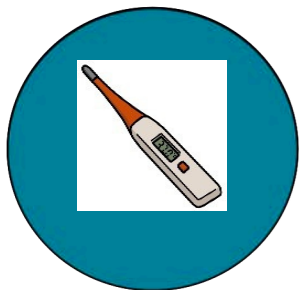
THE MOST UP-TO-DATE
MENU CAN BE FOUND ON
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
WEBSITE HERE:

DECEMBER LUNCH MENU



TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?

Below are guidelines to help parents and school districts determine when to keep children/students home from school. The recommendations are based on guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state public health professionals. They were developed to help prevent the spread of potentially contagious disease. Home is the best place for a child who is ill. If your child is sick with a diagnosed communicable disease, please notify the school as soon as possible. This notification will greatly assist others who, due to medical reasons and/or treatments, have weakened immune systems and may require immediate and specialized care.



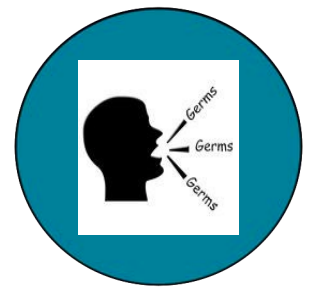
FEVER

With fever greater than 100.4° F*. Student may return when fever-free for **24 hours** (WITHOUT use of fever-reducing medicine).



VOMITING/DIARRHEA

Any unexplained vomiting episode. May return **24 hours** after last episode. Diarrhea = three or more unexplained episodes of watery or loose stool in **24 hours** OR sudden onset of loose stools. May return **24 hours** after last episode.



COUGH

Serious, sustained coughing, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing.



RASH

Any new rash accompanied by a fever. May return after rash goes away or clearance given by a health care provider.



SKIN LESIONS/SORES

Drainage from a sore that cannot be contained within a bandage OR sores are increasing in size OR new sores are developing day-to-day.




OTHER

Symptoms that prevent the student from active participation in usual school activities OR student is requiring more care than school can safely provide.

* Many authorities use either 100 (37.8 degrees Celsius) or 100.4 F (38.0 degrees Celsius) as a cut-off for fever, but this number actually can range depending on factors such as the method of measurement and the age of the person. CDC has public health recommendations that are based on the presence (or absence) of fever. What is meant by this is that the person's temperature is not elevated beyond their norm. In order to provide clarity the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction supports the use of 100.4°F.

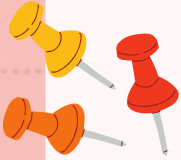


STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Each month, teachers send nominations for Student of the Month. November's focus was Practice Kindness - Be Considerate of Others. Below is a list of three students from each grade level that exemplified this focus. Mr. Wopat, Ms. Beld, Ms. Becker and Ms. Broughton notified parents of this accomplishment.

GRADE 5



DEVIN BALSAMO
FRANK BRUDOS
JACOB LORENZ

GRADE 6

MASON KNEBES
KEIRRA O'BRIEN
MAX TWITE

GRADE 7

ADRIANNE BECKER
ANNIKA RUDE
WILLIAM SCHAITEL

GRADE 8

SHILOH GULLICKSON
NATALIE RUDE
EMERSON WRIGHT



CONGRATULATIONS

for making a difference
in others lives!

We appreciate YOU!



CONTACT : STENBERG.JENNIFER@WSALEM.K12.WI.US IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE AN NHS STUDENT TO SELECT A TAG FOR YOU.

NHS *giving tree* **TREE**

**SELECT A TAG WITH A GIFT CARD SUGGESTION FROM THE GIVING TREE IN THE HS LMC TO
HELP A FAMILY IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.**

**ALL GIFTS MUST BE TURNED INTO MRS. STENBERG
(OR WSHS OFFICE) BY FRI., DEC. 12.**



**GIFT CARD REQUESTS ARE \$25 OR \$50 TO VARIOUS BUSINESSES.
TAGS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM TUES., NOV. 18 - THURS., DEC. 11 (OR UNTIL THEY ARE GONE).**



WSMS Band & Choir

Holiday Concerts

Marie W. Heider
Center for the Arts

405 E. Hamlin Street, West Salem

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

7th Grade - 6:00pm
(choir first, band second)

8th Grade - 7:30pm
(band first, choir second)

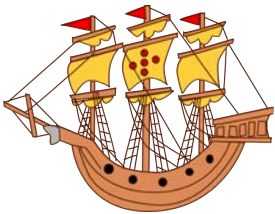
**Both groups need to wear their full uniform
and report to the WSHS music rooms
30 minutes prior to their grade's
scheduled concert start time.**



5TH GRADE DECEMBER UPDATE



Math: Students will continue to work with decimal numbers. They will focus on adding and subtracting decimal numbers and focusing on place value. They will also be doing an ugly sweater math project. This project will apply what the students have done with adding/subtracting decimals numbers to keep an accurate budget.



Writing: We have shifted our focus to informational writing. They have been introduced to paraphrasing and note taking. Students will apply that knowledge to their informational writing about a historical event which they research. They will support their information with a variety of text features.

Reading: We will be finishing our unit on Native Americans. We will be assessing students on nonfiction comprehension and vocabulary. AIMSweb screening will also be taking place in December.

Social Studies: Students are wrapping up the ship simulation and the Western Exploration portion of the unit. They will start to focus more on the first English settlements in America and colonization.

Science: We will be wrapping up our Ecosystems and Matter Cycling Unit. Students have been learning what matter is, where energy originates, and how both matter and energy move throughout the food chain. We will begin our Matter Properties unit in mid-December.



D.A.R.E:

Students will begin weekly D.A.R.E. lessons with La Crosse County Deputy Cody Bernhardt. This program gives kids the skills they need to handle the pressures that adolescence brings. This will eventually lead to a reflection paper and visual project. Our D.A.R.E. program will end with a graduation ceremony on Thursday, March 5th.

6TH GRADE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER
2025

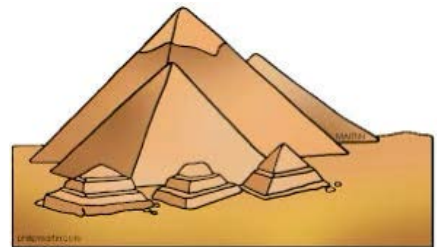
Reading & English – Mrs. Schultz & Mrs. Buisman

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 December, we will be combining Reading and English to explore 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. At the end of December, the Greek Drama Festival will feature the best groups from each class and their mythological creation! We plan on live streaming and recording this performance so the adults can enjoy the creations as well. Be sure to find out your student’s favorite Greek myth, god, goddess, or hero!

Social Studies – Mrs. Jeranek

Ancient Egypt will be our focus in December. We will explore the location and geography of Egypt, and researched the unintended (nature-made) and intended (man-made) technologies that improved Ancient Egyptian lives. Some of those technologies are still used throughout the world today!

Further into December, we continue to studies Ancient Egypt with a focus on Economy: the jobs people held and the conflicts that occurred between social classes. Ancient religion allows us to study scientific and mathematical developments necessary for pyramid construction and mummification to reach the afterlife, along with the movement of Israelites out of Egypt to reach their Promise Land.



To culminate our unit, students will be asked to research an Egyptian topic they'd like to know more about. Focusing on reading informational strategies, students will share their findings with their classmates. Have a wonderful December!

Math – Mrs. Alo & Mrs. Jehn

In December, students will continue working in Chapter 4 which covers percentages and real-life percent problems. This is another great chapter because it focuses on skills they will use the rest of their lives such as finding the best deal in order to save the most money. Ask your student to help you find the price after coupons and discounts that take a percentage off the original price. Have them help you figure out the tip for the server at the restaurant or for the hairdresser. Maybe with their new skills they will be able to help you save money as you shop for Christmas!

Right before break, students will begin the first half of Chapter 5 which is all about algebraic expressions and properties. Many of the concepts such as variables, combining like terms, and the various properties will be new to students.

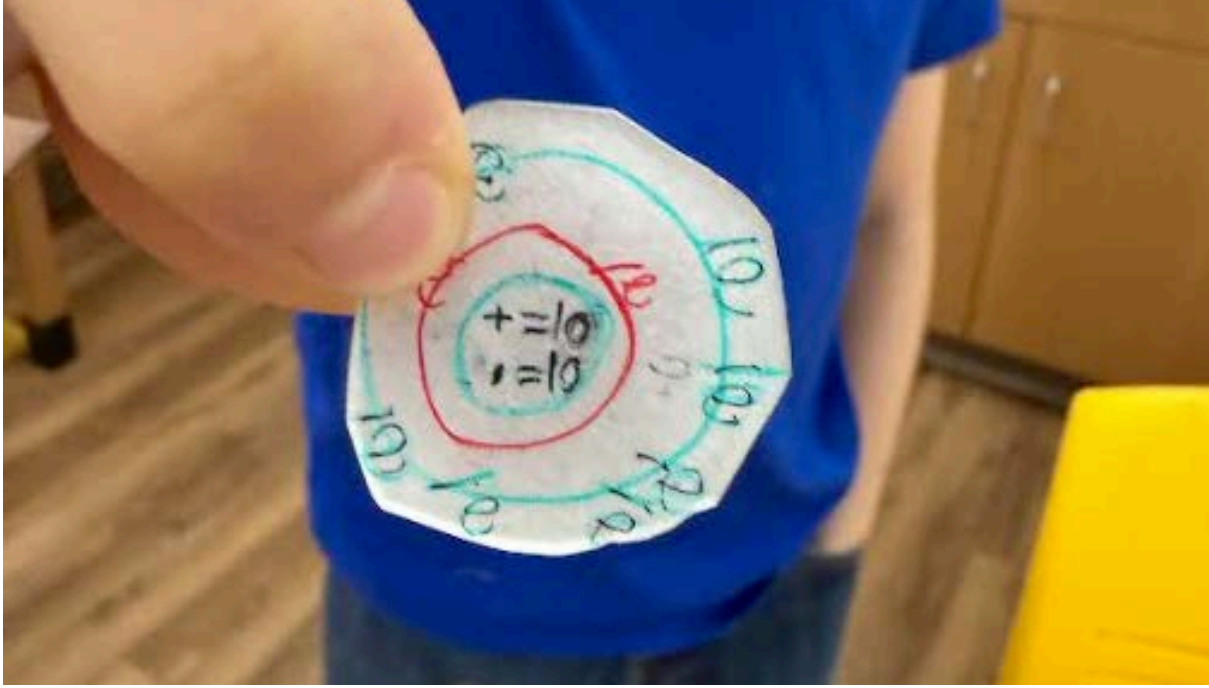
Accelerated Math – Mrs. Jehn

Students will work in Chapter 7 in the month of December which covers geometry topics including area, surface area, and volume. Students will learn the areas of parallelograms, triangles, trapezoids, kites, and composite figures. Then they will then learn to find the surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures including prisms and pyramids.

They will also begin working in the first half of Chapter 8 – Integers, Number Lines, and the Coordinate Plane. Understanding positive and negative integers typically is easy for students because they have grown up in Wisconsin. Later when they extend their thinking to use the basic math operations with positive and negative integers this concept becomes a little more difficult.

Science – Mrs. Jarosh

6th Grade students have been working to learn the first 20 Elements of the Periodic Table. We celebrated their efforts by making mini models of atoms with shrinky dinks!





7th Grade December Newsletter

ELA



Ms. Friell and Mrs. Rochester

Class Supplies: All students are required to have their binder and composition notebook. Both are left in the classroom to ensure they are never lost and are easily accessible. In addition, students should bring headphones and an independent book to class each day.

Lessons: Work to be turned in for a grade is posted on the homework hotline. If a student needs to miss school, please check GC for required work.

Writing and Language: Each class period, we practice working on sentences and/or parts of speech. Word Work also includes learning roots and spelling words. Student have been reviewing and learning strategies to write paragraphs and summaries. We will also be starting our argument unit.

Reading: During December, we will be reading The Giver. Students will be assessed on reading and writing learning targets as they read the novel. Students will have the opportunity to read their own choice book during December.

Dates to Know



Dec. 23- Holly Daze

Dec. 24-Jan. 4- Winter Break/No School



Tips/Helpful Links

PLEASE CHARGE YOUR IPAD EVERY NIGHT

[HOMEWORK HOTLINE](#)

Math



Mrs. Piersma and Mrs. Weber

We just finished up Unit 3 where we were introduced to algebra and using variables. We learned to simplify, add and subtract expressions by identifying and combining like terms. This will help us in our next unit which is solving equations and inequalities. We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving break with your families.

Pre-Algebra

Mrs. Weber



I hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving break with your families! It is hard to believe how fast this trimester has gone. We just finished up the 7th grade book and will be moving onto the 8th grade book. We still have a lot to get through but we are making great progress. Kids are adjusting better to the expectations of being in an accelerated class. I hope their hard work continues the rest of the year.

Science

Mr. Baker



Throughout November, we have been learning about how cells get their energy. This involved photosynthesis, respiration, and fermentation! Students got their heart rates up to an 80s workout or Just Dance videos for our respiration lab, measured the amount of oxygen produced in plants for the photosynthesis lab, and inflated gloves for our fermentation lab! Some students may have even made bread at home as part of a bonus activity! In December, we will jump into genetics and dissect deer hearts!

Social Studies

Mr. Mahlum



In 7th grade social studies, we will start to look at the Bill of Rights. These first ten Amendments to the US Constitution include many of the freedoms we have. Students will first look at the 1st Amendment and examine how those five freedoms impact our lives. Students will also look at the rights of those accused of a crime and how they protect us from being treated unfairly.

GRADE 8

newsletter

DECEMBER EDITION

ELA- Mrs. Meyer & Ms. Sackett

In 8th grade ELA, we have been focusing on identity since the start of the year. Beginning in December, we will transition from looking at our own identity to looking at the barriers faced by people throughout time. Students will start by selecting one book from a list of over 200 books to read with a character facing some type of barrier. We will use the topics from their selected books and the following WI State Civics Standard to guide exploration for their research paper. SS.PS2.c.m (6-8 grade) Compare and contrast the political, social, and economic status of marginalized groups both historically and in the present, both in the United States and worldwide. Investigate how groups (e.g., women, religious groups, civil rights groups, indigenous peoples, LGBTQ) have advocated for access to greater rights. Students have complete choice in all activities leading up to research and in the topic that they choose to research. Once students have selected their topic, we will do some practice note taking to prepare them for eventually taking their own notes for a research paper. Although our major writing focus is changing, our classroom routine is staying the same, allowing for plenty of practice reading and writing a variety of pieces. We also started our next read aloud, *Where Wolves Don't Die* by Anton Treuer, prior to leaving for Thanksgiving break and will finish it before winter break.

December Targets

- R.1 Make logical inferences from a text
- R.2 Cite textual evidence that strongly supports an analysis of a text
- R.3 Determine one or more central ideas and analyze their development over the course of the text
- R.4 Provide an objective summary of a text
- S.2 Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats
- S.3 Evaluate the effectiveness of the presentation
- L.1 Correctly write compound sentences
- L.2 Correctly write complex sentences
- L.4 Demonstrate appropriate use of the conventions of standardized English grammar and usage when writing or speaking

SOCIAL STUDIES- Ms. Morgan

As we move into December, our classes are wrapping up our study of the American Revolution. Students have explored major battles, key figures, turning points, and the powerful ideas that shaped the founding of the United States.

Next, we'll begin an exciting project: creating individual podcasts for our Voices and Stories of the American Revolution unit. Each student will research a person or event from the founding of our nations. They will investigate Patriots, Loyalists, soldiers, civilians, enslaved people, Native Americans, or others whose voices help tell a fuller story of the Revolution. Students will complete their research and begin drafting their podcast scripts before we leave for the holiday break. Final podcast episodes will be due in mid-January. We're looking forward to hearing the thoughtful, creative work our students produce.

We will be addressing the following learning targets this month:

- 8.AR.1 Examine the impact of historical events and individuals on the American Revolution
- 8.AR.3 Describe the importance of major battles of the American Revolution
- 8.AR.4 Explain the role of allies in the American Revolution
- 8.AR.6 Evaluate battle strategies and techniques leading to success within the American Revolution
- 8.HTS.1 Analyze primary and secondary sources to understand different viewpoints on an event
- 8.HTS.2 Gather and evaluate sources using the lateral reading process
- 8.HTS.3 Develop claims using evidence to support reasoning with analysis

REMINDER FOR THOSE GOING TO D.C. Your 2nd Payment (minus your candle fundraising) will be due January 6. We will be sending home a notice of what amount is due. If your student did not sell candles, his/her payment will be \$410 (and chaperones \$465).

MATH 8- Mrs. Coe & Mrs. Snook

We finished up Angles and Triangles (Unit 3) mid November and started working on Unit 4 Graphing and Writing Linear Equations. We will test on Unit 4 and start working on Systems of Linear Equations (Unit 5) in December.

Regular Math (Unit 4) - Mrs. Coe and Mrs. Snook

The learning targets for Unit 4:

- 4.1: Graph linear equations.
- 4.2: Find and interpret the slope of a line.
- 4.3: Graph proportional relationships.
- 4.4: Graph linear equations in slope intercept form.
- 4.5: Graph linear equations using intercepts.
- 4.6: Write equations of lines in slope intercept form.
- 4.7: Write equations of lines in point-slope form.



ALGEBRA- Mrs. Coe

We will wrap up Unit 4 on Writing Linear Functions and begin Unit 5 on Solving Systems of Linear Equations. We had our first two Mathcounts competitions in November, and will have our last in school competition in December. We will decide our official Mathcounts team before the holiday break!

The learning targets for Unit 5:

- 5.1: Solve linear systems by graphing.
- 5.2: Solve linear systems by substitution.
- 5.3: Solve systems of linear equations by elimination.
- 5.4: Solve linear systems with different numbers of solutions.
- 5.5: Solve equations by graphing.
- 5.6: Graph linear inequalities in two variables.
- 5.7: Graph and write systems of linear inequalities.

SCIENCE - Mrs. Smith-Waller

Science - 8th Grade - Ms. Smith-Waller

We just finished up our unit learning about weathering, erosion, and deposition focusing on how those processes change the surface of the Earth. We are going to take a little break from Geology and start our Astronomy unit next. We will begin by looking specifically at the Earth-moon-sun system and how those objects interact with each other. Our first focus will be the phases of the moon. We will complete a few activities demonstrating how the phases change and why we see what we see. Enjoy the season change as we near the Winter Solstice!

Essential Learning Outcomes:

- ESS5-1: Show understanding that solar system models explain and predict the cyclic pattern of lunar phases
- DM.1: Develop, use, and revise models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems
- CS.1: 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 in the future



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Happy December!

With a focus on gratitude and giving we will be spreading kindness to our community for the month of December. Once again, the middle school will join forces with the West Salem Lions Club to put together food baskets for local families. We will collect non-perishable items at school, and members of the Lions Club will deliver them to area families in need. What may seem to be a small gesture of giving certainly goes a long way for the people on the receiving end! Last year, we put together over 70 boxes. This year is proving to be a challenging time for many families so we are hoping to rise to this challenge and be just as successful.

Please consider donating some of the suggested non perishable items. We will kick off this event on Monday, December 1st, and run it through Wednesday, December 18th. Members of our local Lions Club will pick up the baskets on Wednesday, December 17th. The Lions Club will add additional items such as fresh fruit and vegetables and a Hansen's voucher and deliver them before Christmas. Please see below for a list of suggested items. Items will be collected during Homeroom times, so please feel free to send an item or two to school with your student. Thank you in advance for your generosity, kindness, and support. We hope to make this year's collection better than ever!

-Ms. Becker & Ms. Broughton



Please consider donating some of the suggested non perishable unexpired items:



- Cans of fruit
- Cans of vegetables
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Spaghetti sauce
- Pasta
- Cans of soup
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Oatmeal
- Cereal
- Meat/Tuna Helpers
- Cans of tuna or chicken
- Stuffing/Rice
- Box potatoes
- Crackers

CREATIVE COMPUTING 7TH GRADE



NOVEMBER

SCRATCH

Students in Creative computing have been working on creating their Generative Art project and then their Cookie Clicker project. They are learning about variables, conditional statements, sequencing and debugging as they work through these challenges!

SCAN ME TO
SEE SOME
EXAMPLES OF
GENERATIVE
ART!



COMING UP NEXT MONTH!

In December, students will begin planning and designing their own video games in Scratch. This is always a favorite project of the year and ties in all of the concepts we've been working on since the beginning of the year! Looking forward to seeing the results!

LMC & TECHNOLOGY 5TH GRADE



NOVEMBER

NATIONAL PARKS

Students in Ms. Schrader's and Ms. Folkers's class have been researching national parks and designing a scrapbook page with photos and info about an imaginary visit to that park.



BLOXELS



These students have also been creating their own retro video games on a platform called Bloxels. We are having a lot of fun creating and sharing these games!



COMING UP IN DECEMBER!

In December, the LMC will welcome two new 5th grade classes for Allied block. Looking forward to meeting Mr. Ringlien and Mrs. Fink's 5th grade classes up for Trimester 2!

Welcome

ART NEWS



MRS. HEMKER

December

Welcome to Tri 2

December

brings a new trimester. We will use the month to establish routines and begin work in various units.

5th grade will begin with names/font and abstract art

6th grade starts with a portrait sampler

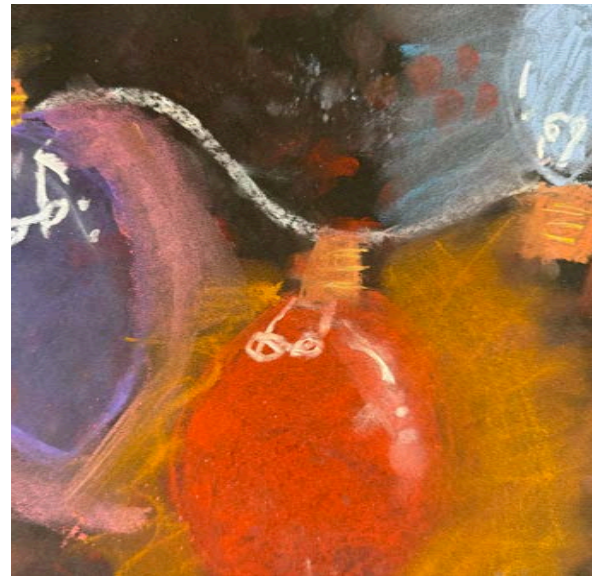
7th grade dives right in to one point perspective drawing

8th grade focuses on self for the semester

Art Elective students will be using the clay watercolor palette they made to begin work with liquid watercolor painting techniques.



**2025 West Salem Lions Club
Peace Poster Winners
Nora, Brooklyn and Haley**



After School Art is off to a great start!

***meetings are on Thursdays until 4:15**



All supplies are available for students to use in the art room. However, We do recommend students bring their own pencil, sharpie and large eraser to class if possible

hemker.angie@wsalem.k12.wi.us

STEM NEWS

December 2025

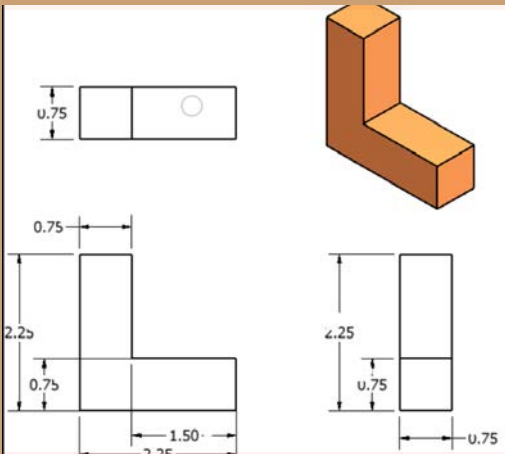
6TH GRADE

STUDENTS IN 6TH GRADE WILL START THE TRIMESTER LEARNING ABOUT THE ENGINEERING DESIGN PROCESS. THE STUDENTS ARE USING THE ENGINEERING DESIGN PROCESS TO DEVELOP AN ANKLE/FOOT ORTHOSIS FOR A CHILD IN NEED OUT OF RECYCLED MATERIALS. AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THIS CHALLENGE THE STUDENTS WILL PRESENT THEIR RESULTS TO THE CLASS.



7TH GRADE

STUDENTS IN 7TH GRADE WILL BE EXPERIENCING SOME "TECHNICAL DRAWINGS" WHICH CHALLENGES THEM TO DRAW FROM THREE PERSPECTIVES. THE STUDENTS ARE LEARNING HOW TO MULTI-VIEW SKETCH OBJECTS, MEASURE THEM TO THE NEAREST 1/16 OF AN INCH, AND DIMENSION THE DRAWINGS ON PAPER. THESE ISOMETRIC AND ORTHOGRAPHIC DRAWINGS WILL HELP AS WE WORK WITH A PROGRAM CALLED TINKERCAD TO GENERATE 3D MODELS ON THE COMPUTER. SOON WE WILL BE USING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF SKETCHING TO CREATE OUR OWN PUZZLE CUBES TO TAKE HOME.



8TH GRADE

In 8th grade STEM the students will be designing and building their own cardboard pinball machine.



ROBOTICS

In Robotics the students will be learning about gear ratios, speed vs. torque, and a variety of different types of gears. They will be using their knowledge to build a robot dragster!

ESPAÑOL

DICIEMBRE



Tío de Nadal → Catalan

Class Highlights

Hola familias,

Espero que todos se mantengan calentitos.

In Spanish class, November focused on Día de los Muertos. 8th graders learned the elements of an ofrenda and created their own for a pet, loved one, or celebrity. 7th graders made calaveras de azúcar. Both groups enjoyed a small fiesta and watched Coco.

Now, 7th graders are learning gustar and hobbies, and 8th graders are working with ser and descriptions of themselves and others.

¡Gracias por su apoyo!



Profe Taurizano

Upcoming events:

11/25- Panther Time Rotation

11/25- End of Trimester

1/6- El día de los Reyes Magos

Culture Connection

Ingredients / Ingredientes

- 2 tazas de azúcar / 2 cups granulated sugar
- 2 cucharaditas de agua / 2 tsp water
- 1 cucharadita de merengue en polvo / 1 tsp meringue powder

Calaveras de Azúcar



Mexico

Instructions / Instrucciones

1. Mezclar azúcar + merengue/ Mix sugar + meringue powder
2. Agregar agua poco a poco (debe quedar como arena mojada)/ Add water slowly until it feels like wet sand
3. Presionar la mezcla en el molde/ Press firmly into the skull mold
4. Desmoldar y dejar secar 12-24 horas/ Remove from mold and let dry 12-24 hours
5. Decorar con glaseado y colores/ Decorate with icing and colors

Sonríe



DECEMBER 2025

ETC UPDATE

WSMS NEWSLETTER

6TH GRADE

- Starting Wesbite Design
- Career Planning on Xello
- Intro to Graphic Designs

7TH GRADE

- Online Safety Test
- In Person Safety Test
- Measurement Test

8TH GRADE

- Online Safety Test
- In Person Safety Test
- Measurement Test



6th Grade Panther time is having their first introduction to the workshop with the introduction of sewing. We will start with learning how to learn about fabrics, how to iron them, and how to properly cut them. Then students will learn to hand sew by creating a little finger puppet.

7th Grade Panther Time will yet again be launching our Pinewood derby competition. Students will start the month by testing different designs and learning how to use the band saws.

Our 8th Grade Panther Time will be running the news. They will learn how to edit videos and organize what they want the news to look like, before they take over everything in week 3.

SAFETY GLASSES

All 7th and 8th Graders need Safety Glasses for ETC. We have a used bin for students but they are not in the best shape



PCR

The students will be starting their quest to be certified on every machine in the shop, by starting with the cricut. We will analyze possible profit margins of working with vinyl, and the students will create a window cling in their first project.

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HEALTHY LIVING

COLDER WEATHER IS UPON US! WE HAVE BEEN TRANSITIONING INDOORS AND CONTINUING ON WITH INVASION GAMES. WE WILL THEN TRANSITION TO NET/WALL GAMES. WE WILL BE MIXING IN MORE OF OUR HEALTH-BASED LESSONS NOW THAT WE ARE INSIDE. WE WILL ALSO BE REMINDING OUR STUDENTS TO GET OUTSIDE AND ENJOY THE COOLER WEATHER SO THEY CAN CONTINUE TO BE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE!



Music Notes

Music 5 (Kinstler & Nimm)

It's a new trimester and a new Allied class for 5th graders! The music department will welcome students from Ms. Folkers and Ms. Schrader's classes. We'll spend this trimester playing barred instruments, reading rhythm patterns, singing folk songs, discussing choirs and voice types, and well as learning about instrument choices for 6th grade! It will be a jam-packed trimester in all the best ways!

Choir 6

Students in Choir 6 continue to practice sight-singing in two different key signatures - F and G) They have been working on the notes Do, Re, Mi, and Sol and are getting used to the big jumps between Do and Sol. Choir 6 is also working on a brand new group of songs! All songs are written by composer PinkZebra and they will help the choir to work on singing higher pitches, and sustaining their voice for longer periods of time. These songs will be sung at their concert on Thursday, January 15.

Choir 7 & Choir 8

Students in both choirs are in the home stretch of preparing music for their upcoming concert! The concert is Tuesday, December 9 at the Heider Center. The 7th graders report at 5:30pm and their concert starts at 6pm. The choir will sing first, and then the band will play. We ask that all students who are not in the band stay to watch the band play and support their peers. The 8th graders report at 7pm and their concert begins at 7:30pm. The choir will watch the band perform and then sing our three songs. We can't wait to share with you the songs we've been working on!

Small Choir 6

Students in Small Choir 6 continue to play their Recorders and earn their Recorder Karate belts. They are also working on reading and writing rhythms. The goal is to write a short piece for recorders to perform!

Soundscapes 7

Students in Soundscapes are becoming expert judges for American Idol clips! We've been watching a series of bad singers and defining what each performer is doing wrong. Students will end this unit by finding their own poor performance and describing what they hear happening.

African Drumming 8

Students in African Drumming continue to practice reading rhythms using Rhythm Cups. They have also enjoyed "Field Trip Fridays" with a recent trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Students are also working on Ensemble 3, which requires five different parts/instruments and a special rhythm for the cowbells to play.



The Success Center

⚡ Does your student need a little extra support staying on top of assignments?
We're here to help!

📚 What We Offer:

- Guided homework assistance in all core subjects
- A quiet, structured space for focus and productivity
- Encouragement to build study skills and independence
- Caring, qualified staff who make learning fun!

🕒 Hours:

- Mornings before school
from 7:15 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.
- Afternoons after school
from 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.



Location:

- Room 213 (upstairs)



Mrs. Jambois and Mrs. Gross



Winter Squash is the Harvest of the Month!

Add winter squash to your favorite family meals:

- Dice, microwave or roast and add to salad, tacos, rice, or mac and cheese.
- Halve squash, roast cut side down, then add stuffing
- Puree microwaved or roasted squash for a soup or pie!

Make meals and memories together. It's a lesson kids will use for life.

Select – Choose squash that are heavy, firm, and have a full stem.

Store – Store in a cool, dark place for up to one month.

Prepare – Squash with thinner skin, like delicata and sweet dumpling, can be eaten without being peeled. Other winter squash, like butternut or acorn, have a hard rind that can be peeled with a vegetable peeler or sharp knife. You can peel squash before or after cooking.

Did you know?

In Aztec, Incan, Mayan, and Native American cultures, squash was grown in companionship with corn and beans. Squash, corn, and beans make up the traditional "Three Sisters".



Nutritious, Delicious, Wisconsin!
#WIharvestoftheMonth

This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – SNAP. The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension is an EEO/AA institution committed to diversity among its employees and in its programs.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Squash Soup Serves 6

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil (or cooking oil of choice)
- 2 medium onions, chopped
- 2 medium carrots, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 cup no salt added canned tomato sauce
- 5 cups low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
- 4 cups winter squash, cooked
- 1 1/2 tablespoons dried oregano
- 1 1/2 tablespoons dried basil

Directions:

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. In a large saucepan, heat oil over medium heat.
3. Stir in onions, carrots, and garlic.
4. Cook for about 5 minutes, covered.
5. Stir in the tomato sauce, chicken broth, cooked squash, and herbs.
6. Bring soup to a simmer and cook, covered, for 30 minutes.

Per serving: 127 calories, 4 g fat, 6 g protein, 19 g carbohydrate, 5 g fiber, 81 mg sodium



FOOD WISE
Healthy choices. Healthy lives.

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Source: laxf2s.org

Coulee Region Farm to School is a partnership between UW-Madison Division of Extension, and the School Districts of Bangor, Holmen, LaCrosse, Onalaska, and West Salem. FoodWise education is funded by the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-SNAP and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program-EFNEP. The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.