

December 2019



Newsletter

School District of West Salem

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Letter from Superintendent Troy Gunderson

Season's Greetings

The holiday season is a time when people reach out to family and friends with holiday greetings in the form of cards, letters, phone calls, and social media posts. The school district participates in two unique seasonal “greetings” of a sort. First, we receive a greeting from Madison in the form of our district report cards. This year we celebrate great news regarding our performance. We are meeting and/or exceeding many of our achievement goals. Second, we offer our greeting in the form of a municipal tax bill. The school district submits tax data to the folks in Madison who work with our local municipalities to process and deliver a tax bill in December.

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) released its annual report cards in November for school districts and school buildings. Excerpts of the report cards earned by our school district and three school buildings appear on the following pages. Our district strategic goal aims for all four of our report cards to indicate a level of performance listed as “Exceeding Expectations.” This year we narrowly missed our goal as three out of four met the mark. Of special note, our middle and

high schools both placed first in our regional cohort of Black River Falls, G-E-T, Holmen, Onalaska, Sparta, and Tomah. In addition, our elementary school earned the second-highest reading score across the entire 22 school district region. We are making a difference for our kids.

District residents will soon receive their 2019 tax bill from their respective municipalities. In light of the many changes connected to a series of successful referenda and rising property values, please note the included article and sample tax statement offering a brief primer on the basic information that appears on the bill.

The holiday season provides an opportunity to express gratitude and appreciation for our wonderful students, families, staff members, and community. Successful public education requires the support and engagement of everyone. Our outstanding report cards and reasonable tax bills indicate our school district offers outstanding value with great performance at a great price. A hearty thank you and congratulations goes out to all involved – well done!

On behalf of our entire school district community, we offer our sincere gratitude for your continued support of public education and wish you and yours a safe and joyous holiday season.

School District of West Salem

Your 2019 Tax Bill

Given the many recent changes to the factors impacting our school district property tax levy and mil rate, it appears December of 2019 is a great time to review your tax bill. The following summary offers a brief review of the key categories listed on the tax bill along with some insight as to how your bill is determined. For purposes of this discussion, please refer to the sample 2018 property tax bill on the following page.

Property Value

The local municipal assessor determines the **Total Assessed Value** of each property. The value is used to determine the property owner's "share" of the total value of the municipality. The total assessed value for the sample property is \$326,100. The **Fair Market Value** for each property is calculated annually by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. The fair market value is based upon sales of similar properties within the municipality. The fair market value for the sample property is \$328,600. The **Average Assessment Ratio** is the average comparison of the assessed value to the fair market value for the entire municipality. The assessment ratio is recalculated each year based upon the updated fair market value and any changes in assessment. The average assessment ratio in 2018 for this particular municipality, the Village of West Salem, was 99.2417806%. This means the average assessed value for each property in the Village of West Salem in 2018 was 99.24147806% of the fair market value for that particular property. The more accurate the municipal assessments, the closer this ratio is to 100.

Property Tax

The property tax collected from each property is first determined by dividing the total assessed value of the property by the average assessment ratio of the municipality to arrive at the **Equalized Value** (not listed on the tax bill) for the property. The equalized value determines each property owner's share of the tax levy and ensures fairness between municipalities within the school district, county, technical college, or other districts.

The **2018 Net Tax** is literally the total amount of tax paid by the property owner to the various taxing jurisdictions. In the case of the sample 2018 tax bill, the net tax is \$5,309.21. The 2018 net school district tax for the sample property is \$2,391.67. The **School Levy Credit** is the statewide credit used to lower school district property taxes. The 2018 credit for the sample property is \$531.66. This means the school district received \$2,923.33 in revenue from the sample property in 2018 including \$2,391.67 in taxes from the property owner and \$531.66 in levy credit from the state.

For school taxes in particular, the school board sets the annual school district levy in October. The levy amount determines the average levy rate, or "mil rate." In 2018 the School District of West Salem average levy rate was .00893 for a "mil rate" of \$8.98 per thousand. This average levy

rate can be used to approximate the school tax for each property. For example, the approximate school tax in 2018 for the sample property can be calculated by taking the 2018 school district levy rate of .00893 times the 2018 equalized value of \$328,591 for an approximate tax of \$2,934. After subtracting the school levy credit of \$533 you arrive at an approximate tax of \$2,401 or just over the actual tax of \$2,391.67. This is not an exact method because the "average" levy rate varies slightly between municipalities. In summary, net school tax equals assessed value divided by assessment ratio multiplied by district levy rate minus school levy credit.

What to look for in 2019

The school district "average" levy rate for 2019 was set at .00955 or \$9.55 per thousand, or about 7% higher than 2018. The increase is due to the successful operational referendum in April of 2018 thereby granting the district permission to exceed the state-imposed revenue limit.

The 2019 tax bill will again include additional information about school referenda as required by the legislature. The 2019 tax bill will highlight four separate referenda questions and the taxes attributed to each. For your reference, RF-4011 is the middle school, and RF-4012 is the outdoor sports facilities, RF-4466 is additional funding for the automotive lab and events center, and RF-4820 is the 2019 operational referendum to exceed the revenue limit.

Please note the sample 2018 tax bill displayed in this newsletter also includes data on RF-3847 and RF-3848 which do not appear on the 2019 bill. These numbers represent the swimming pool and transportation facility referenda from 2015. They will not appear on your 2019 tax bill because they are essentially paid off.

To provide additional taxpayer transparency, it should be noted that a \$254,618 tax levy for private school vouchers will not be listed in the "additional tax section" of your 2019 tax bill. This required levy to fund private school vouchers will result in an additional \$.26 per thousand added to the district mill rate. To calculate the estimated impact on your tax bill, divide the Total Assessed Value of your property by 1,000 and multiply the result by \$.26. Using the sample property referred to above valued at \$326,100, divide \$326,100 by 1,000 and multiply the resulting 326.1 times \$.26 to arrive at an estimated additional tax of \$84.79 to cover private school vouchers.

While I hope you find this information helpful in making your tax bill easier to understand, I fully realize it will not make it easier to pay. A number of successful referenda over the past four years has allowed the district to update our facilities and meet our budget demands. I simply my humble appreciation for your generous support of public education and my sincere promise we will make the most of every penny.

Thank you for reading.

Troy M. Gunderson, Superintendent

STATE OF WISCONSIN
PROPERTY TAX BILL
La Crosse County
Village of West Salem

2018 Real Estate
Bill Number [REDACTED]

Correspondence should refer to Tax Parcel [REDACTED]

IMPORTANT: See reverse side for important information.

Be sure this description covers your property. This description is for property tax bill only and may not be a full legal description.

[REDACTED] Acres 0.327 Document No [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 WEST SALEM WI 54669

Assessed Value Land	Ass'd Value Improvement	Total Assessed Value	Assessed Woodland	Ave. Assmt. Ratio	Net Assessed Value	0.016471824
62,900	263,200	326,100	0	99.2417806	Rate (Does NOT reflect credit)	
Est Fair Mkt Land	Est Fair Mkt Improvement	Total Est Fair Mkt.	Est Fair Mkt Woodland	School Taxes reduced by	A Star in this box means unpaid prior year taxes	
63,400	265,200	328,600	0	school levy tax credit 531.66		
Taxing Jurisdiction		2017	2018	2017	2018	% Tax Change
		Est. State Aids	Est. State Aids	Net Tax	Net Tax	
		Allocated Tax Dist	Allocated Tax Dist			
STATE OF WISCONSIN		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
La Crosse County		258,254.00	248,967.00	1,265.22	1,247.73	-1.40
NESHONOC LD		0.00	0.00	41.59	41.09	-1.20
Local Municipality		528,040.00	532,692.00	1,031.76	1,198.77	16.20
WEST SALEM SCHOOL		5,599,668.00	5,597,360.00	2,396.97	2,391.67	-0.20
WTC		472,817.00	479,031.00	500.12	492.20	-1.60
		Total		5,235.66	5,371.46	2.60
		First Dollar Credit		60.75	62.25	2.50
		Lottery Credit		106.31	0.00	-100.00
		Net Property Tax		5,068.60	5,309.21	4.70

FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY - Voter-Approved Temporary Tax Increases

Taxing Jurisdiction	Total Additional Taxes	Total Additional Taxes Applied to Property	Year Increase Ends
W.S. SCHOOL RF-3848	\$22,653.39	\$17.40	2038
W.S. SCHOOL RF-3847	\$11,326.69	\$8.70	2038
W.S. SCHOOL RF-4012	\$135,920.35	\$104.42	2038
W.S. SCHOOL RF-4011	\$496,895.38	\$381.74	2038
W.S. SCHOOL RF-4466	\$407,761.07	\$313.26	2023

On or prior to 01/31/19

Make Check Payable to:
 Village of West Salem
 Treasurer
 175 LEONARD ST
 WEST SALEM WI 54669

After 01/31/19

Make Check Payable to:
 LaCrosse County Treasurer
 212 6TH ST N
 LA CROSSE WI 54601

Total Due For Full Payment

Pay By 01/31/19 5,309.21

Installment Options

DUE DATE	AMOUNT
01/31/19	2,654.60
07/31/19	2,654.61

WARNING: If not paid by due dates, installment option is lost and total tax is delinquent subject to interest and if applicable, penalty.
Failure to pay on time. See reverse.

To receive receipt, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope
 All payments can be seen at www.lacrossecounty.org

REMIT THIS WITH FULL PAYMENT OR 1ST INSTALLMENT

2018 Real Estate Bill Number [REDACTED]

Correspondence should refer to number

Tax Parcel [REDACTED]

Village of West Salem

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 WEST SALEM WI 54669

OR



West Salem

District Report Card | 2018-19 | Summary

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 ★☆☆☆☆

District Information

Priority Areas

	District Score	Max Score	State Score	Max Score
Student Achievement	74.8/100		62.3/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	37.7/50		31.6/50	
Mathematics Achievement	37.1/50		30.7/50	

District Growth

English Language Arts (ELA) Growth	33.0/50		33.0/50	
Mathematics Growth	36.8/50		33.0/50	

Closing Gaps

English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement Gaps	17.2/25		18.1/25	
Mathematics Achievement Gaps	17.1/25		18.0/25	
Graduation Rate Gaps	43.8/50		32.7/50	

On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness

Graduation Rate	39.4/40		36.3/40	
Attendance Rate	37.7/40		36.6/40	
3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	7.5/10		6.2/10	
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement	7.8/10		5.7/10	

Priority Area Weights

	Percentage Weight
Student Achievement	30.8%
District Growth	19.2%
Closing Gaps	25.0%
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	25.0%



West Salem Elementary

West Salem | Public - All Students

School Report Card | 2018-19 | Summary

Overall Score



Meets 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 ★☆☆☆☆

School Information

Priority Areas

	School Score	Max Score	K-5 State Score	K-5 Max Score
Student Achievement	76.8/100		65.7/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	38.1/50		31.6/50	
Mathematics Achievement	38.7/50		34.1/50	

School Growth

English Language Arts (ELA) Growth	32.1/50		33.0/50	
Mathematics Growth	30.2/50		33.0/50	

Closing Gaps

English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement Gaps	31.4/50		37.9/50	
Mathematics Achievement Gaps	22.7/50		36.0/50	
Graduation Rate Gaps	NA/NA		NA/NA	

On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness

Graduation Rate	NA/NA		NA/NA	
Attendance Rate	75.6/80		74.5/80	
3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	15.0/20		12.3/20	
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement	NA/NA		NA/NA	

Priority Area Weights

	Percentage Weight
Student Achievement	28.7%
School Growth	21.3%
Closing Gaps	25.0%
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	25.0%



West Salem Middle West Salem | Public - All Students School Report Card | 2018-19 | Summary

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 ★☆☆☆☆

School Information

Priority Areas	School Score	Max Score	6-8 State	6-8 Max
Student Achievement	75.1/100		61.3/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	37.8/50		32.2/50	
Mathematics Achievement	37.3/50		29.1/50	
School Growth	74.6/100		66.0/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Growth	32.1/50		33.0/50	
Mathematics Growth	42.5/50		33.0/50	
Closing Gaps	86.3/100		73.9/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement Gaps	41.2/50		36.7/50	
Mathematics Achievement Gaps	45.1/50		37.2/50	
Graduation Rate Gaps	NA/NA		NA/NA	
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	91.3/100		85.5/100	
Graduation Rate	NA/NA		NA/NA	
Attendance Rate	75.7/80		74.1/80	
3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	NA/NA		NA/NA	
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement	15.6/20		11.4/20	

Priority Area Weights	Percentage Weight
Student Achievement	31.6%
School Growth	18.4%
Closing Gaps	25.0%
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	25.0%



West Salem High West Salem | Public - All Students School Report Card | 2018-19 | Summary

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 ★☆☆☆☆

School Information

Priority Areas	School Score	Max Score	9-12 State	9-12 Max
Student Achievement	72.6/100		59.8/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	37.2/50		31.1/50	
Mathematics Achievement	35.4/50		28.7/50	
School Growth	67.0/100		66.0/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Growth	34.9/50		33.0/50	
Mathematics Growth	32.1/50		33.0/50	
Closing Gaps	79.3/100		67.3/100	
English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement Gaps	17.6/25		17.4/25	
Mathematics Achievement Gaps	17.9/25		17.2/25	
Graduation Rate Gaps	43.8/ 50		32.7/50	
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	98.5/100		90.8/100	
Graduation Rate	98.5/100		90.8/100	
Attendance Rate	NA/NA		NA/NA	
3rd Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Achievement	NA/NA		NA/NA	
8th Grade Mathematics Achievement	NA/NA		NA/NA	

Priority Area Weights	Percentage Weight
Student Achievement	35.1%
School Growth	18.2%
Closing Gaps	26.7%
On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness	20.0%

Calendar of Events December

Athletic Events

Monday, December 2, 2019

- 5:45pm Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. Sparta @ Sparta High School
7:15pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Sparta @ Sparta High School

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

- 5:30pm Ice Hockey: Boys JV Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua Community Arena
6:00pm Basketball: Boys C-Team Game vs. Logan @ West Salem Middle School
6:00pm Basketball: Boys JV Game vs. Logan @ West Salem High School
6:15pm Wrestling: JV Match vs. Eau Claire North @ Eau Claire North High School
7:00pm Wrestling: Varsity Match vs. Eau Claire North @ Eau Claire North High School
7:15pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Logan @ West Salem High School
7:30pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua Community Arena

Thursday, December 5, 2019

- 5:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys JV Game vs. Tomah @ Panther Den
5:30pm Basketball: Boys C-Team/JV Game vs. Mauston @ Mauston High School
6:15pm Wrestling: JV Match vs. Logan @ West Salem High School
7:00pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Mauston @ Mauston High School
7:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Tomah @ West Salem Community Ice Arena
7:00pm Wrestling: Varsity Match vs. Logan @ West Salem High School

Friday, December 6, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Girls C-Team/JV Game vs. Arcadia @ Arcadia High School
6:00pm Basketball: Boys C-Team Game vs. Holmen @ West Salem Middle School
6:00pm Basketball: Boys JV Game vs. Holmen @ West Salem High School
7:15pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Arcadia @ Arcadia High School
7:15pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Holmen @ West Salem High School

Saturday, December 7, 2019

- 9:00am Wrestling: JV/Varsity Tournament vs. St. Ansgar @ St. Ansgar High School

Monday, December 9, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Boys C-Team Game vs. Aquinas @ Aquinas HS
7:15pm Basketball: Boys JV Game vs. Aquinas @ Aquinas HS

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Boys C-Team Game vs. Arcadia @ West Salem Middle School
6:00pm Basketball: Boys JV Game vs. Arcadia @ West Salem High School
6:15pm Wrestling: JV Match vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School
7:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. La Crescent @ Panther Den
7:00pm Wrestling: Varsity Match vs. Viroqua @ Viroqua High School
7:15pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Arcadia @ West Salem High School

Thursday, December 12, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Girls C-Team Game vs. Luther @ West Salem Middle School
6:00pm Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. Luther @ West Salem High School
6:30pm Gymnastics: Varsity Quad vs. Holmen, Sparta, Westby Area High School @ Westby High School Fieldhouse
7:15pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Luther @ West Salem High School

Friday, December 13, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Boys C-Team/JV Game vs. Luther @ Luther High School
7:15pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Luther @ Luther High School

Saturday, December 14, 2019

- 9:00am Wrestling: JV/Varsity Tournament vs. Barron Area Schools @ Barron
10:00am Gymnastics: Varsity Invitational vs. Baraboo, G-E-T, Markesan, Reedsburg, River Valley, Sauk Prairie & Tomah @ West Salem High School
1:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys JV Game vs. Antigo @ Panther Den
3:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Antigo @ Panther Den

Calendar of events continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Girls C-Team Game vs. Black River Falls @ West Salem Middle School
- 6:00pm Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. Black River Falls @ West Salem High School
- 7:15pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ West Salem High School
- 7:30pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls High School

Thursday, December 19, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Boys C-Team/JV Game vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls High School
- 7:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Aquinas @ Panther Den
- 7:00pm Wrestling: Varsity Match vs. G-E-T/Mel-Min @ Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School
- 7:15pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Game vs. Black River Falls @ Black River Falls High School

Friday, December 20, 2019

- 6:00pm Basketball: Girls C-Team Game vs. G-E-T @ West Salem Middle School
- 6:00pm Basketball: Girls JV Game vs. G-E-T @ West Salem High School
- 7:15pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Game vs. G-E-T @ West Salem High School

Saturday, December 21, 2019

- 9:00pm Wrestling: JV/Varsity Tournament vs. Beaver Dam @ Beaver Dam High School

Friday, December 27, 2019

- 9:00am Wrestling: Varsity Bi-State Classic @ La Crosse Center
- 12:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Ashland, Baldwin-Woodville Area School District, Madison Memorial, Madison West, Monona Grove, Onalaska & Oshkosh North @ Madison Ice Arena
- 1:45pm Basketball: Girls JV Tournament vs. La Crescent, Logan, Wautoma @ West Salem Middle School
- 1:45pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Tournament vs. La Crescent, Logan, Wautoma @ West Salem High School
- 1:45pm Basketball: Boys JV Tournament vs. Holmen, Melrose-Mindoro & Sparta @ West Salem Middle School

- 1:45pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Tournament vs. Baldwin-Woodville Area School District, Melrose-Mindoro & Sparta @ West Salem High School

Saturday, December 28, 2019

- TBD Wrestling: Varsity Bi-State Classic @ La Crosse Center
- 12:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Ashland, Baldwin-Woodville Area School District, Madison Memorial, Madison West, Monona Grove, Onalaska, Oshkosh North @ Madison Ice Arena
- 1:45pm Basketball: Girls JV Tournament vs. La Crescent, Logan & Wautoma @ West Salem Middle School
- 1:45pm Basketball: Girls Varsity Tournament vs. La Crescent, Logan & Wautoma @ West Salem High School
- 1:45pm Basketball: Boys JV Tournament vs. Holmen, Melrose-Mindoro & Sparta @ West Salem Middle School
- 1:45pm Basketball: Boys Varsity Tournament vs. Baldwin-Woodville Area School District, Melrose-Mindoro & Sparta @ West Salem High School

Sunday, December 29, 2019

- 12:00pm Ice Hockey: Boys Varsity Game vs. Ashland, Baldwin-Woodville Area School District, Madison Memorial, Madison West, Monona Grove, Onalaska & Oshkosh North @ Madison Ice Arena

Band Events

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

- 6:45pm Boys Basketball Game vs. Logan Orange Pep Band

Sunday, December 8, 2019

- 4:30pm Winter Concert @ Heider Center
Concert Band and Wind Symphony

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

- 6:45pm Boys Basketball Game vs. Arcadia Black Pep Band

Monday, December 16, 2019

- 6:30pm Rotary Lights Performance
Concert Band and Wind Symphony

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

- 6:45pm Girls Basketball Game vs. Black River Falls Orange Pep Band

Elementary School Events

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

12:20pm Early Release Day
Students dismissed @ 12:20pm
Buses depart @ 12:30pm

Thursday, December 5, 2019

6:30pm 5th Grade P.E. Night @ ES Gym

Friday, December 6, 2019

All Day 4K Visit to Labus Tree Farm

Monday, December 23, 2019-Tuesday, January 1, 2020

All Day No School-Christmas Break

Middle School Events

Tuesday, December 4, 2019

12:20pm Early Release Day
Students dismissed @ 12:20pm
Buses depart @ 12:30pm

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

8:00am Trimester 1 Grades Due

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

6:00pm 7th Grade Band and Choir Concert @
Heider Center
Students should report @ 5:30pm
7:30pm 8th Grade Band and Choir Concert @
Heider Center
Students should report at 7:00pm

Monday, December 23, 2019-Tuesday, January 1, 2020

All Day No School-Christmas Break

High School Events

Tuesday, December 4, 2019

12:20pm Early Release Day
Students dismissed @ 12:20pm
Buses depart @ 12:30pm

Friday, December 6, 2019

All Day 2nd Quarter Mid-Term

Monday, December 9, 2019

All Day 2nd Quarter Mid-Term Grades
Submitted

Monday, December 23, 2019-Tuesday, January 1, 2020

All Day No School-Christmas Break



HOLIDAY MUSIC CONCERTS

WSHS Band Concert
Sun. Dec. 8 @ 4:30 pm

7th grade Band/Choir Concert
Tues. Dec. 10 @ 6:00 pm

8th Grade Band/Choir Concert
Tues. Dec. 10 @ 7:30 pm

WSHS Choir Concert
Sun. Dec. 15 @ 7:00 pm

Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts
All Concerts are free and open to the Public

Let It GLOW

DANCE PARTY

WE ARE WS!!  DECEMBER 13th, 2019

FREE ADMISSION!!!

"Mitten Or Glove Donations Are Strongly Encouraged & Appreciated."

Dear Families,

Please join us @ West Salem Elementary School for some fun with friends, dancing, and playing games. December 13th. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Concessions & glow wands will be available for purchase. :)

December 13th, 2019
6pm - 8:30pm

LIVE DJ!!!

Community Events

West Salem High School

Alumni Hall of Fame

Nominations open until
December 15.

Nomination forms can be
found on our website at
www.wsalem.k12.wi.us



NHS GIVING TREE



WSHS LMC

**BEGINNING NOVEMBER 26
DUE DECEMBER 12**

TAGS FOR GIFTS CARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON A TREE IN
THE HIGH SCHOOL LMC. ALL GIFT CARDS MUST BE
TURNED IN MRS. JENNY STENBERG AT WSHS BY 3:15 PM
ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12.

WE ARE ASKING FOR GIFT CARDS ONLY AS THIS IS THE
BEST WAY TO DISCREETLY DISTRIBUTE THE GIFTS AND
MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONSIDERATION!



West Salem's Mitten Tree



Give the Gift of Warmth

Donate New, Handmade or
Gently Used Mittens, Hats, and
Scarves to help those in need of
warmth.

All sizes from infant to adult are
welcome!

Dropoff Locations: 3RT Networks, American Legion, Barber
Arms, Degenhart Tire, First National Bank, Lakeview
Health Center & Assisted Living, Oma Café, TRICOR
Insurance, Village Hall or Westview Inn

Donations accepted at locations through January 31, 2020.

We hope to stock the Mitten Tree throughout the winter season.



BRR, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!

Is your family struggling a bit this year
and need to have warm mittens, hats
and scarves to keep the chill out?

Please visit the Hazel Brown Leicht Library during
normal business hours and choose what you need
from the West Salem's Mitten Tree.

Tree will be ready on Monday, December 9th.

These items are donated by community members for
community members.

*Please keep warm this winter and enjoy your gift
of warmth!*



4K Registration and Screening

If you have a student who will be four years old by September 1, 2020, please join us for 4K registration and screening! Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Tuesday, January 14th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the elementary school. (Last names A-L)

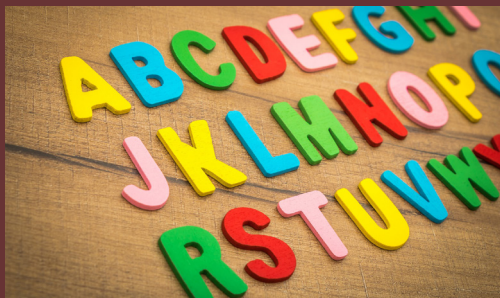
Thursday, January 16th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the elementary school (Last names M- Z).

Contact the elementary office at 786-1662 to pre-register.

Kindergarten Registration 2020-2021

If you have a student who will be five years old by September 1, 2020 and your child does not attend our 4K program, please contact the elementary school office at 786-1662 to pre-register.

All current WSES 4K students will automatically receive kindergarten registration information.



Thank You!

Mrs. Terri Martinson would like to thank everyone that donated embroidery floss to make friendship bracelets to send with a UW-La Crosse professor who will be visiting India in June.

She is overwhelmed by the support and generosity of the community and thanks everyone that donated.

District Announcements



Out of this World Fun!

Our elementary students were lucky enough to have author Stef Wade come to visit with them to talk about her book "A Place for Pluto." She is from the Milwaukee area and her book follows Pluto as he discovers he is no longer a planet and tries to figure out where he belongs in the solar system. She was inspired to write the book after her son found out that Pluto was no longer a planet and asked her about it. During her presentation, Stef read her book, discussed her writing process, answered questions and talked to students all about following their dreams and what it's like being an author. She is also the author of "The Very Last Leaf," which will be released in July, and "Q and U Call it Quits" which will be released Summer 2021. Thank you, Stef!

Transcript Information

Are you transferring to a different college or do you need a copy of your high school transcript?

WSHS graduates that need a transcript can request one online, or print out an official transcript request form by going to the Student Services page on the district website at www.wsalem.k12.wi.us

2019-2020 New Student Enrollment

Enrollment for new students can be completed at the District Office, 405 E. Hamlin St., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit our website at www.wsalem.k12.wi.us or call the District Office at (608)-786-0700.

The West Salem School District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, creed, 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 a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. 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: Eric Jensen, 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.

School Board Members

Syl Clements ~~~~~ 786-1491
Jane Halverson ~~~~~ 786-1067
Ken Schlimgen ~~~~~ 786-4382
Catherine Griffin ~~~~~ 769-1714
Tom Grosskopf ~~~~~ 386-0168
Robin Fitzgerald ~~~~~ 792-4130
Sean Gavaghan ~~~~~ 797-3585

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

District Announcements

Heider Center



The John Denver Christmas Tribute

Thursday, December 19, 2019

7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$24/\$22

A John Denver Christmas is a delightful blend of traditional Christmas music with some of your favorite John Denver hits and songs of the season!

Winning much acclaim and delighting audiences across the country, Chris Collins and the Boulder Canyon Band will bring you home for the holidays with music from an artist that shaped a generation.



Art Gallery

The Art of the Needle by
Coulee Country Chapter of the
Embroiderers' Guild of
America

Runs December 3-January 15,
2020

Art Reception

Thursday, December 5, 2019
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Box Office (608) 786-2550
Monday: Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Noon to 4:00
p.m.
Friday: Noon to 4:00 p.m.
www.heidercenter.org

WSHS Art Student of the Month

The West Salem High School Art Department is proud to announce that Ali Lovejoy is the Art Student of the Month for December. Ali has been working with digital photography during her time at WSHS. Her recent works have found her doing work for Senior Pictures, Wedding/Engagement Photos and Action shots of Student Athletes. Ali's work will be on display in the Heider Center Gallery from December 1st until January 15th.

There will be a public reception on Thursday, December 5th from 6-7:30pm. Refreshments will be provided.



FFA Travels to National Convention

The West Salem FFA attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana from October 29th through November 2nd. Their group was composed of eight students who were chaperoned by Mr Rueckheim, the West Salem FFA advisor. Their tour group also included students from five other FFA chapters. On the way down to the national convention, students had the opportunity to do two farm tours. For their first tour, they visited the Homestead Dairy, which has the largest robotic dairy operation in the world. They toured their robotic dairy where students got to see 36 robots in action milking 3500 cows. They also got to visit the calf barn, which was a highlight for a lot of the students. Their second tour was a visit to a shrimp farm, where they learned a lot about where the shrimp we eat comes from. At the conference, students had a variety of opportunities available to them. We attended two general sessions at the Lucas Oil stadium, and students also attended break-out sessions on their own. The main conference center was packed with activities that allowed students to meet professionals who work in the Ag industry. A college and career fair also gave students many opportunities to start planning for their futures. We all agreed that the FFA national convention was a rousing success!



AD FOR GRADS/FRIENDSHIP ADS

The Neshonoc Yearbook Ads for Grads program is a wonderful way to congratulate seniors on their accomplishments. The size options include anything from a full-page to a 1/8th page ad. The larger options provide more room for multiple photos and longer messages.

Friendship Ads are also an option for seniors. The ads provide an opportunity for seniors to celebrate their friendships with pictures and a message.

If interested please fill out the following form and turn it in to the yearbook staff by: **Monday, January 6, 2020!**

Your Name:

Address:

Phone:

Graduate's Name:

Ad size:

1/8 (\$40)

1/4 (\$65)

1/2 (\$100)

Full page (\$185)

Message:

If the ad includes photos, please label them clearly, and send them along with this form as well as payment to West Salem High School – Attn: Andrea Armstrong Room 242. Please make checks payable to **West Salem High School**. **Photos will be returned.** If you are emailing your photos, please send them to:

armstrong.andrea@wsalem.k12.wi.us

Want to skip the middle man? You may also "build your own" ad online at:
www.jostensadservice.com

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes October 28, 2019 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jane Halverson. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee Courier, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe's Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on October 24, 2019.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Catherine Griffin led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Shawn Handland recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Ben Wopat, Mike Malott, Ryan Rieber, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representative: Liam Sjoquist. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Syl Clements, Summer Houck and Eric Jensen.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Liam Sjoquist, Student Representative, reported on:

1. All fall sports have come to an end. Football lost by 1 point against Central on the 18th. Soccer lost 1-0 against Edgewood last Thursday. Volleyball lost 3-0 against Antigo also last Thursday. Cross Country boys placed 3rd at sectionals sending juniors Charlie McKinney and Brady Niemeier to state, and the girls placed 9th sending freshmen Macy Tauscher to state.
2. The Interact Club is holding a food drive all week, any non-perishable food items can be placed in the boxes located in the library, office, and student services.
3. Last Wednesday the high school recognized Unity Day by wearing orange and taking an all staff and student picture. Youth Frontiers also created a video that was shown to all homerooms regarding examples of both bullying and compassion that have happened inside the high school.
4. This past Saturday there was a Halloween party for children in the commons and the show choir performed during it.

Correspondence

A letter of appreciation from the La Crescent-Hokah Public Schools was read.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Business Operations Committee – Mrs. Griffin reported on the following agenda items: 2020 tax levy, mill rate and the impact of private school vouchers.

Teaching & Learning Committee – Mrs. Fitzgerald reported on agenda item academic achievement data and reporting.

District Strategic Initiatives update from the superintendent were reviewed.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a) Regular Board meeting Minutes of October 14, 2019;

b) invoices to be paid

c) donations from Errol Kindschy for the elementary school LMC, the middle school LMC and the high school LMC, from Brian and Angela Gross for the 4K Book of the Month Club; from the West Salem panther Booster Club for the middle school volleyball team; and from the West Salem lions Club for the Random Acts of Kindness Fund;

d) the Open Enrollment requests for the 19-20 school year as presented; e) co-curricular coaching recommendations, Evan Pagel-high school girls' basketball assistant coach, Janel Lochen-7th grade boys' & 8th grade girls' basketball assistant coach, Ben Garbers-8th grade boys' basketball assistant coach, Aaron Bahr & Caiden Buehler-middle school wrestling assistant coach, Eric Borre-high school boys' hockey head coach, and Shaun Borre and Bob Gorniak-high school boys' hockey assistant coach. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to approve the request for equipment for the Heider Center using Heider Funds, which includes Cyc Lights, new HD projector and screen, and house stage lighting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Griffin moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve the administration's request for additional 20 hours per week of Title I Paraprofessional support at the elementary school for the remainder of the school year as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to set the budget for the 19-20 school year as presented-proposed Fund 10 expenses at \$22,332,221 and proposed Fund 10 revenues at \$22,550,960. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Grosskopf moved, Mrs. Griffin seconded to set the 19-20 school year Tax Levy at \$9,240,504 with a Mill Rate of 0.00954799. Mr. Schlimgen moved to amend the motion to include wording that the differential going into prepaying debt. The motion failed for lack of a second. A vote on the original motion to set the 19-20 school year Tax Levy at \$9,240,504 with a Mill Rate of 0.00954799. Motion carried. (5 Aye, 1 Nay-Mr. Schlimgen)

Mrs. Halverson, Mrs. Griffin and Mr. Gavaghan will review the Board Grant application received.

The list of to do items / information requests was reviewed. No action was taken.

Adjournment

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mrs. Fitzgerald seconded to adjourn at 7:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

School District of West Salem

April 7, 2020

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the School District of West Salem, on Tuesday, April 7, 2020, the following offices are to be elected to succeed the present incumbents listed. The term of office for school board member is three years beginning on Monday, April 27, 2020.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Term</u>
School Board Member	Syl Clements	3 years-Expire April 23, 2023
School Board Member	Catherine Griffin	3 years-Expire April 23, 2023

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that a Campaign Registration Statement and a Declaration of Candidacy, must be filed no later than 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, in the office of the school district clerk. The office of the school district clerk is located at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

A description of the school district boundaries can be obtained from the school district office.

Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Done in the School District of West Salem on October 28, 2019

Robin Fitzgerald, Clerk

More information, including a candidate's checklist, and required filing forms can be found by visiting our website at www.wsalem.k12.wi.us

WSMS Robotics Competes at Regionals

Our middle school robotics students had a very exciting weekend competing in the FIRST Robotics Regional at Madison College on November 16 and 17. WSMS had five teams represented with thirty-one students across grades 5-8. Each team created a robot and then competed for a chance to move on to the sectional in Watertown on January 5. Two of our teams, Team Power Up and Team: The Professionals, placed 8th and 10th overall out of 31 total teams and earned a spot at the sectional! Team Brains on Time

were also selected as an “on deck” team and will go to sectionals if another team cannot make it. In addition, all of our teams were nominated for at least one award and several of them won. Team Power Up won the Presentation Award, Team: The Professionals won the Gracious Professionalism Award, and Team Gear Up won the Strategy and Innovation Award. We are very proud of our students for living our mission statement and showing their creativity and innovation. Way to go!



Harvest of the Month

December



Winter Squash

Did You Know?

There are over 15 different types of winter squash!

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

Check out our Facebook page
@SchoolDistrictofWestSalem
and
Follow us on Twitter
@WestSalemSD
and Instagram
@schooldistrictofwestsalem



For WSHS athletic events, visit our website:

- *click Calendars and then
- *click Coulee Conference

You can also set yourself up to receive automatic text or e-mail notifications for any of the activities listed OR subscribe to RSS.

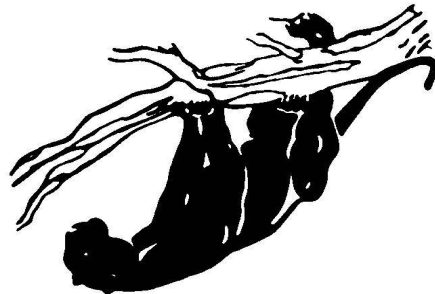


School District of West Salem

“Serve with Passion to Ignite Creativity,
Innovation and Excellence.”



#WeAreWS



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