



WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

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School Starts at 7:50!!

Dear Parents,

In last month’s newsletter, I mentioned that at WSMS we wanted to work with you to approach the New Year with purpose for our students. I would say we’re off to a great start! January was filled with unique learning opportunities and activities.

This February, we look to continue that momentum with a calendar full of activities to help our students learn, grow, and develop. At WSMS, our extracurricular activities provide wonderful opportunities for some of this development. Our Panther basketball, Mathcounts, Adaptive Sports League, and forensics teams have competition during the month. Good luck to all our participants!

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on February 10th. The format will be cafeteria style with appointments made through Skyward. Parents will have the option to either Zoom or meet in person. Parents who wish to Zoom will need to email that teacher to confirm the format and get a Zoom link.

Our Winter Wellness Committee has completed its organization of the activities for our Winter Wellness Day on February 11th. Students have an opportunity to participate in an activity to promote physical and mental wellness. Our Winter Wellness Day continues to be an activity that our students recall as having a positive impact on them during their middle school experience. It is great for both the staff and students to have an opportunity to interact in this setting. We are looking forward to great day of learning, physical activity, and a little bit of fun as well!

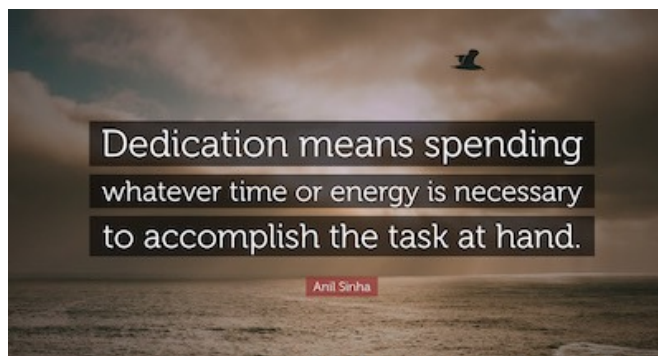
As always, we look forward to continuing to work together as a team to provide your child with an educational experience that strives to meet the district’s mission - Serve with Passion to Ignite Creativity, Innovation, and Excellence.

**PRACTICE KINDNESS
 ACT RESPECTFULLY
 WORK HARD.
 Go Panthers!**

Ben Wopat
 Principal
www.twitter.com/coachwopat
www.twitter.com/westsalemMS

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From the Office

MORNING PROCEDURES

Doors open at 7:30. At this time, students will be allowed into the building, or they may stay outside on the playground until 7:43, when the bell rings.

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

Absences, appointments, and messages

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

You may also call ahead or send a note to the office with any pre-planned absences. We will document it, and you will not have to call again on the day of the absence.

If you notify your student's teachers, PLEASE notify us as well, as sometimes the information doesn't make it to the office.

If your child needs to be picked up for an appointment, please send a note or call the office ahead of time 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 they are 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 in 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 they leave for school.

Middle School Security...

The middle school doors will be locked during 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). Once you enter the building, please sign in in the office.



“Meet Us in the Middle”



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 St. to have students get out is NOT safe**, as Mark St. 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.

Early Release Dates

Wednesdays - Release at 12:20
Buses leave at 12:30
February 9
May 11

Substitutes Needed

For the 2021-2022 School Year
in the following areas:

Secretarial, Paraprofessionals, Food Service Custodians,
Bus Drivers, & Teachers

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

The Middle School Newsletters

can be found on the district website - www.wsalem.k12.wi.us.
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.



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.



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.



"Meet Us in the Middle"





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.



MathCounts News

The following students made the 2022 WSMS Mathcounts Team:

Lydia Jothen, Isabel Krueger, Sammy Adams, Elliot Wolf, Breanna Smith, Katherine Townsell, Isaiah Laack, Tula Mitchell, Dillan Riste, Strykr Thrasher, AJ Cruz-Lambert, and Henri Schlecht.

Congratulations everyone! We started practicing after school in January. We will compete at the regional chapter competition on February 17th. This will be a virtual event. The top students from the regional competition will then compete at the state level in early March. Right now, the state event will be an in-person event. The national competition will be held in early May.

This is also an in-person event as of now.

Good luck, everyone!!!

The Mathcounts team is coached by Sarah Weber and Tammy Bentzen.



Character Strong, our Homeroom curriculum, keeps the 8 Essentials as the focal point of its lessons: patience, kindness, humility, respect, selflessness, forgiveness, honesty, and commitment. These compliment our own "Panther Pride" philosophy.


February will continue to focus on emotional understanding and regulation by exploring common myths about happiness. We will discuss happiness and what it means and doesn't mean when we are unhappy. Jon Kabat Zinn stated, "You can't stop the waves, but you can learn to swim." Periods of unhappiness are natural and common, yet we can still experience happiness when going through challenging situations. We will end the month building our teamwork skills and identifying our own unique traits we can bring to 'the team.'

The High School counselors will be coming over to talk to the 8th graders early February regarding high school registration. The 8th graders have spent some time on Xello, our Career Exploration portal so that they can feel better prepared to plan their High School courses and pursue higher education or the workforce in a few short years.

Cabin fever tends to set in as we approach February. Our annual Winter Wellness is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 11. Everyone seems to enjoy this outing; from fishing and bowling to swimming and skiing to jumping, climbing, and tubing. This is time well-spent interacting with each other (kids and adults alike) and exploring our talents and potential new hobbies. Not only is it time to connect and enjoy the winter, it's also a great way to rejuvenate as we head into the "home stretch" of the school year!

We will have "drop-in" style conferences with an option to reserve a time on Zoom on Feb. 10th and again in April. Please do not hesitate to contact teachers to address any concerns whenever they may arise. Communicating with teachers is a good way to show our youth that everyone is working together to help support them and to ignite creativity, passion, and excellence within them.

Lastly, as middle school counselors we always enjoy an opportunity to get into the classrooms and deliver a lesson or two! December and January allowed us an opportunity to get 6th and 7th grade on-boarded into Xello (career exploration). Please ask your student what they discovered about themselves and their interests. Better yet, have them show you their online portfolio! We will continue to update those interests over the next couple of years and continue planning their academic and career pathways. February brings lessons in internet and technology safety as well as preventing and reporting bullying - with a particular focus on online bullying and harassment.



A single act of kindness throws out
roots in all directions, and **the roots**
spring up and make new trees.

-Amelia Earhart

Goalcast

5th Grade **FEBRUARY**

Math Update:

Students have wrapped up multiplying and dividing fractions. Students applied what they know to a math project that involves adapting recipes. The next unit will focus on multiplying whole numbers and decimals. They will review multiplying multi-digit numbers and apply that knowledge to multiplying decimal numbers. A big part of this unit focuses on the power of 10 as well.

Science Update:

The students completed amazing science projects and presented them. They are on display in the pod. To end our space unit we will be looking at patterns on Earth in relation to our location in space. We will investigate shadows, seasons, and stars in the coming weeks.

Social Studies Update:

The American Colonies are currently being studied. We'll be learning about the villages, schools, people, laws, and economy associated with this time period. In geography, we'll begin to map US states of capitals. Hmmmm, the capital of Maine is?



Reading Update:

Students have been focusing on summarizing and finding themes in Graphic Novels and other fiction texts. Next they will be focusing on quoting text evidence from nonfiction in order to answer questions. This strategy will also apply to fiction as well.

Writing Update:

Students will continue working on grammar and sight words. They will be researching and writing papers for their DARE project.

DARE Update:

Students will continue to work through lessons with the DARE officer, Deputy Bernhardt. During February, students will complete a short paper and project focused on one of the topics they learned about in DARE. They will be graduating from DARE on March 10th at the Heider Center.

5th Grade Teachers:

Mrs. Burdick, Mrs. Czajka, Miss Fink, Mrs. Kjos, Mrs. Lassig, and Mr. Ringlien



“Meet Us in the Middle”



Math - Ms. McKinney and Mrs. Jehn

In January, we worked in Chapter 5 which included ratios, rates, unit rates, percents, and converting measures. If you haven't yet, ask your child to help you shop. They worked on finding the better buy using unit rate. This is a skill we encourage students to continue practicing with you when you shop because it is such a great life skill to have. They should be able to help you figure out the gas mileage for your car or any other unit rate situation. We finished the unit with percent and converting measures. Practice using coupons and helping find sale prices will support their learning of these skills. Time to take them shopping with you!

In February, students will be working in Chapter 6 - Integers and the Coordinate Plane. Understanding positive and negative integers typically comes easily to students because they have grown up seeing positive and negative temperatures. Later, when students learn to use the basic math operations with positive and negative integers, this concept becomes a little more difficult. Students will really extend their understanding of integers next year.

Accelerated Math - Mrs. Jehn

We finished Chapter 7 in January and learned a great amount about writing, solving, and graphing equations and inequalities. Chapters 8 and 9 are short and focus on surface area, volume, and statistical measures. The concepts of measures of variation and mean absolute deviation will be new to students and may bring back fond memories of a statistics course you might have taken years ago. These are difficult topics and very abstract for 6th grade minds.

Of course, these skills will be necessary for us to be able to start Chapter 10 which is the last chapter of the book and how we will spend the end of February and start of March. This chapter is all about data displays including stem-and-leaf plots, histograms, box-and-whisker plots. They will need to use what they learned about measures of center, measures of variation, and statistical questions in the previous chapter to describe the center, spread, and shape of the displays.

Science: Mrs. Jarosh

6th graders are exploring magnetism with many hands-on labs. The class favorite lab is using a magnet to pull iron out of cereal! We are focusing on being able to answer the following questions:

- What are the properties of a magnet?
- How do magnetic poles interact?
- How can an atom behave like a magnet?
- How can magnets be changed?
- How is earth like a bar magnet?
- What are the effects of Earth's magnetic field?

English - Mrs. Buisman

Six graders will finalize their opinion writing papers in February. For our final opinion writing piece, students chose to research one of the following topics: Should Homework be Abolished? Should Schools Require Uniforms? Should Cellphones be Allowed in School? Our next review unit in February will be about text features. Students will be learning to use the computers to showcase the text features they use. This will prepare students for making informational books later on in the school year.

Reading - Mrs. Schultz

Early this month, 6th graders will start reading their novels centering around Civil Rights and social diversity in America during the mid 1900s. While reading these novels, students will be focusing on the following:

- Choosing appropriate reading strategies to help better understand and remember the novel
- Analyze and identify social issues and instances of discrimination that were happening in the novel through personal reactions
- Make connections between background knowledge and the novel
- Use quotes from the novel in discussions, including personal reactions

Students are able to bring the books home and are assigned their first novel based on interest and reading level. A daily schedule will be shared with them in Google Classroom so they know the pages they need to read in their novel. Ask your student about their book and find out what they have learned about their characters and this era so far!

We will also be diving back into some word work! Students will be learning words with the suffixes -ian and -or. These suffixes mean a person who... Some words can be challenging, but I give lots of tips and tricks to help students remember those tough ones.

Social Studies: Mrs. Jeranek

In 6th Grade Social Studies, we have learned many geographical challenges and various Greek governments which made an impact on the way of life for Ancient Greeks. February will find us comparing ancient and modern Olympics and researching and presenting important battles between Greek city-states, as well as surrounding lands, such as Persia. We'll also learn about Alexander the Great and his control of Greek borders and beyond! Bring on the cold weather because our room will be filled with heated battles in February of 2022!



Language Arts - Ms. Friell

Classroom Supplies: All students are required to have a binder and two composition notebooks (one for grammar and one for writing). The binder and notebooks are left in the classroom so they are never lost and remain easily accessible.

Agendas/Lessons: A general plan is posted on the Homework Hotline. The specific plan (along with any materials) is posted in Google Classroom. If a student needs to miss school, please check GC for required work.

We will continue our work on the parts of speech. So far we've worked on nouns, verbs, adjectives, and prepositions. We'll focus on compound sentences and comma rules as we continue writing paragraphs on a variety of topics. These topics are related to what the students are learning in English class as well as their other core subjects.

Math 7- Mrs. Weber and Mrs. Piersma

We started off January learning about ratios and rates. We just finished that unit up and are moving on to percentages. This is a great unit to show the connection to math in our everyday lives. The kids love this unit too because they get to use a calculator! :).

Pre-Algebra- Mrs. Weber

We just wrapped up our unit of slope and linear equations. This was a little more challenging because it required the kids to interpret different numbers, not just use formulas. They definitely got better at it with practice.

I want to congratulate Tula Mitchell, Sammy Adams, Henri Schlect, and Isaiah Laack for making the math counts team as 7th graders. They competed against their classmates but also the 8th graders, so to make the team as a 7th grader is quite an accomplishment. Way to go!!

Reading - Mrs. Rochester

7th graders just started an SSR Unit. It is a choice book that they picked out. With this book, we will be focusing on plot, characters, theme, setting and conflict. The students all created a bookmark to keep in their book to keep them on track for reading. The books need to be completed by the end of February. As a final project, each student will be making a One-Pager about their choice book. A One-Pager has many different elements of the novel incorporated into one poster- including theme, characters, quotes, etc. 7th grade students are also working on Greek/Latin root vocabulary words.

Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum

In 7th grade Social Studies, we will continue our focus on the three branches of government. We will examine the Legislative Branch and start to understand who is part of it and what this branch is responsible for. Then, we will do the same for the Judicial Branch. By the end of the month, the students will have a good understanding of what each branch of government does.

Science - Mr. Baker

We are in the process of finishing up our genetics unit with a few fun labs including one of my favorites, "Supertasters!" With that out of the way, we began to delve into the inner workings of DNA and molecular genetics! How does DNA code for all the things in your body? To find out, we will be creating our own secret messages using DNA as the code. Be on the look out for days when we will be spending time outside snowshoeing and learning about winter forest ecology. The current plan is to head out to the forest on February 23 or 24.

Kindness begins with the
understanding that we all
struggle.

Charles Glassman

8th Grade

Please Note:

The high school counselors will be visiting math classes on February 14th and 15th to discuss high school classes and scheduling for the fall. Please ask your student about this and discuss their schedule and future plans. Look for more information on an upcoming parent night.

Science - Ms. Smith-Waller

We have been focused on Earth's history and Geologic Time for the last few weeks. We learned about the Early Earth, how to determine the relative age of rocks, the process used to determine the absolute age of rocks. To round out this unit, we learned about fossils and looked more closely at the eras of Earth's history as well as the significant events that help us organize our history into the geologic time scale. At the start of February, students will complete a project creating a timeline of Earth's history that will be 5 meters long (just under 15 feet). After finishing up our unit on Earth History, we will move into our Astronomy unit. This will begin by looking specifically at the Earth-moon-sun system and how they interact with each other.

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 nature operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future.
 - MS-ESSI-4: 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
- Develop and use a model to predict and/or describe phenomena.
 - MS-ESSI-1: Develop and use a model of the Earth-sun-moon system to describe the cyclic patterns of lunar phases, eclipses of the sun and moon, and seasons.

Social Studies - Ms. Morgan

Eighth-grade social studies students are slowly working their way through the early years of the republic (from Washington to Madison). Our focus will be on looking at how these presidencies and years shaped our country into what we are today.

By the end of February, students should be able to:

- compare and contrast the election of 1800 with modern elections
- explain how the Supreme Court gained the power of judicial review
- discuss the importance of the Louisiana Purchase
- analyze primary sources from the Lewis & Clark expedition
- explain the challenges and successes of Jefferson's presidency

Math - Mrs. Coe & Mrs. Bentzen

Regular Math (Chapter 7&8)

Mrs. Bentzen and Mrs. Coe

We will learn about real numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem in Chapter 7.

We will learn about volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres in Chapter 8.

The objectives for Chapter 7:

- *find square roots of perfect squares and cube roots of perfect cubes
- *evaluate expressions involving square roots and cube roots
- *provide geometric proof of the Pythagorean Theorem
- *use the Pythagorean Theorem to find missing side lengths of right triangles
- *use the converse of the Pythagorean Theorem to identify right triangles
- *use the Pythagorean Theorem to find distances in a coordinate plane
- *solve real life problems involving real numbers
- *define irrational numbers, approximate square roots and values of expressions involving irrational numbers

The objectives for Chapter 8:

- *know and apply the formulas for volume of cylinders, cones and spheres
- *find the heights of cylinders and cones given the volumes
- *find the radii of spheres given the volumes
- *identify similar solids and use properties of similar solids to find missing measures
- *understand the relationship between surface areas and volumes of similar solids
- *solve real-life problems involving cylinders, cones, and spheres

Algebra (Chapters 9&10) - Mrs. Bentzen

The objectives for Chapter 9:

- *identify and classify polynomials
- *add and subtract polynomials
- *multiply polynomials and find special products of polynomials
- *factor polynomials and factor special products
- *factor polynomials completely

The objectives for Chapter 10:

- *graph quadratic functions and compare them to the parent graph
- *find the axis of symmetry, the vertex, and minimum or maximum values
- *solve quadratic equations by factoring, graphing, using square roots, completing the square, and using the quadratic formula
- *use the discriminant to determine the number and type of solutions of a quadratic equation
- *determine whether a linear, exponential, or quadratic function best models a set of data

English/Language Arts - Ms. Meyer and Ms. Sackett

We are working hard to finish our diversity research papers. It's been a long process, but all of the work we've put in has helped immensely for the final product. In addition to researching, we are continuing to practice our reading strategies/concepts while reading our choice books. Students are given a journal prompt Monday-Thursday, and then we decide which one will be turned in and graded on Friday. As a reminder, if your child is not able to attend school, make sure they are checking Google Classroom for assignments and the absent video.

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

January has been a busy but fun month for making music. The students continued to sing and learn about folk songs and play on the autoharps and barred instruments. The new addition was the bucket drum, which students use ice cream buckets with chopsticks to make a classroom full of drums to reinforce rhythm playing. Soon we will adding another instrument - the recorder - which will reinforce pitch reading.

Martin Luther King day gave us an opportunity to learn how folk music were used in protests. "We Shall Overcome" and "Peace Like a River" were great songs to sing and add more verses. We also learned "Let There Be Peace on Earth" along with many songs about the great work of Dr. Martin Luther King.

We started talking about the 4 families of instruments - Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, and Strings. We will take a more in-depth look into the instruments through videos, interactive websites, and worksheets.

Keyboards and More 6 - Mrs. Glasel

Music Reading - The students have been continuing to learn some basic skills on the keyboard. They are now learning to play the intervals of a 2nd, 3rd and 4th, both melodic (1 finger at a time) and harmonic (2 fingers at a time), and are slowing starting to play 2 hands at the same time.

Music Appreciation - The students are reading some articles from the Music Alive magazines. Recently they read about and watched video clips related to the pitch percussion instrument and the drum set. We also read articles and discussed how music affects are mood, learning, and memory. Our next articles will focus on the saxophone and tuba.

They also just completed another composition using more of the Smart instruments in GarageBand which gave them a little more freedom in composing.

Guitars and Musicals 7- Mrs. Glasel

Guitars - The students now are playing songs on the first 3 strings and adding 2 simple one-finger chords (C and G7 chords). They also competed another composition for their guitars, using the rhythms, pitches, and symbols that they've learned so far.

Musicals - The students began watching West Side Story. This musical is based on Romeo and Juliet, and the students learned about the similarities of the two stories.

Choir 6 & Choir 7 - Nimm Students are learning how choral music is written, and picking choral versions of their favorite songs that could be performed at our next concert. Everyone will make suggestions, and then the class will vote on their favorites, and one song will be chosen! Students are also learning about expression in music. They are practicing using dynamics (how loud or soft), tempos (how fast or slow), and individual markings (staccato, fermata, and accents) to make the music more interesting to listen to. When this mini-unit is complete, students will once again be rehearsing concert music and practicing their sight-singing.

Choir 8 - Nimm Students learned how to put together a concert program, including how to find choral versions of their favorite songs. All students submitted possible programs and then the class voted on their favorites. The winning program will be performed at our Spring Concert. Students are also learning about expression in music. They are practicing using dynamics (how loud or soft), tempos (how fast or slow), and individual markings (staccato, fermata, and accents) to make the music more interesting to listen to. When this mini-unit is complete, students will once again be rehearsing concert music and practicing their sight-singing.

Small Choir 6 - Nimm Students are working on a music writing project using a five-note scale. They are putting together skills in pitch reading/writing, rhythm reading/writing, and song composition to complete this project.

Soundscapes - Nimm Students are researching topics of their choosing. They will be using this information to write a magazine article for our very own music magazine. When the magazine is complete, it will be shared electronically, and placed in the LMC.

African Drumming - Nimm Students are working on reading dotted notes using Rhythm Cups. They are also learning learn new group ensembles that incorporate a wider range of instruments and parts. This sometimes requires students to learn and play a part individually, which is a very challenging skill. Students are also reading about music from around the world using Music Alive Magazine.



UWEC Honors Band 2022

Bode Heineck, Syndi Schulz, Lydia Jochen
Maddie Holm, Tula Mitchell, Isabel Krueger
Lily Twite, Evelyn Martin, Evan Crusan,
and A.J. Cruz-Lambert had a GREAT day
at the Pablo Center in Eau Claire.

Allied, Etc.

Spanish - Mrs. Phillips

6th Grade

In the month of February, sixth graders will be introduced to food vocabulary and “me gusta” to describe their likes and dislikes. We will also look into some authentic recipes and common dishes found in Spanish speaking countries. Students will write a short book describing their food likes and dislikes! We will also learn about Día de Muertos and decorate sugar skulls.

7th Grade

The seventh graders will be working on describing themselves and friends in Spanish. They will be able to answer the question ¿De dónde eres? and they will work on interpreting short, descriptive stories. Students will use the word “tengo” to talk about school and activities. We'll end the trimester with the Bullfighting and Ferdinand unit.

8th Grade

Students in 8th grade Spanish have been working on their vocabulary to describe themselves and family members to others. They will read short stories in groups to help build their knowledge of these structures. The last unit of the trimester is Mexico and the Quinceañera. Students will learn about the Quince and plan their party!

8th Grade elective

We are learning all about verbs and conjugation. The current unit, La Universidad, is giving students the opportunity to talk and write about different situations that a college student might face using our current vocabulary. Our next unit is Bullfighting. We will expand on other target structures, short stories, and writing activities to learn about different aspects of Bullfighting in Spain.

Healthy Living - Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Olson, Ms. Serres, Mr. Reader

The Healthy Living team is excited to be getting seven new Professional Development students from UW-L. They will be teaching our 5th and 6th graders two days a week. We will be starting our Human Growth and Development Curriculum over the next two months so please keep an eye out for the email with more information. We hope that you are finding ways for your family to stay active even with the bitter cold outside. We are really looking forward to Winter Wellness. This is a great way to celebrate being healthy and active.

STEM - Mr. Jones

6th Grade STEM

We are working hard at designing the sturdiest toothpick bridge. Soon, students will be able to test their designs to see who made the best bridge that holds the most weight.

7th Grade STEM

The students are using what they learned with the multi-view sketches to make a puzzle cube. The puzzle cube consists of five separate pieces. Once finished, have fun solving your students' cube!

8th Grade STEM

The students are working hard to get their paper roller coaster finished in class. We are trying to see who can come up with the longest lasting coaster when a marble gets sent down the track. After we finish the coasters, we should have time to design something for the 3D printer.

Robotics

In Robotics, students have learned how to program using Robot C. Currently, they are testing their knowledge by building and programming a spinning sign. Next, they will make elevators and robot dragsters.



“Meet Us in the Middle”



Art - Mrs. Hemker

Grade 5

In February, 5th graders will be finishing up their clay work! They will glaze their cupcake container and use other techniques to add color to the others. We will photograph these and then wrap them carefully for home!. All projects reviewed a variety of clay techniques that they have learned since they were in Kindergarten. If time allows we will then move on to a variety of drawing practice projects and the creation of a handmade book to store them all in. Our Student teacher Mr. Kielman will be working with us for the rest of the trimester!

Grade 6

In February, 6th grade will also be finishing their clay. Their carved container will be glazed and re-fired. They will also be creating a clay animal rattle or whistle, they will choose how to finish these as well as their choice object. With our student teacher's guidance, we will have an opportunity to work on a bonus clay assignment this trimester. With the time remaining we will be working on a variety of drawing projects as we complete the trimester. *For students wanting to submit their safety poster (completed in January) to the Meemic contest, forms should be signed and returned to me by 2/10/22.

Grade 7

Students in grade 7 are completing their one point perspective pieces as we start the month. We will then move on to create a mandala or radial design which will be very detailed and in color. We also plan to work on value drawings of small objects from different views.

Grade 8

Students in 8th grade will complete their wall block designs as we begin February. They continue to work with acrylic paint to create two large scale abstract paintings that will be woven into a final piece of art. They have also started using Google Drawings to create a mosaic piece of digital art. Both classes will also be able to create at least one clay project before we wrap up the trimester.

8th Grade Elective

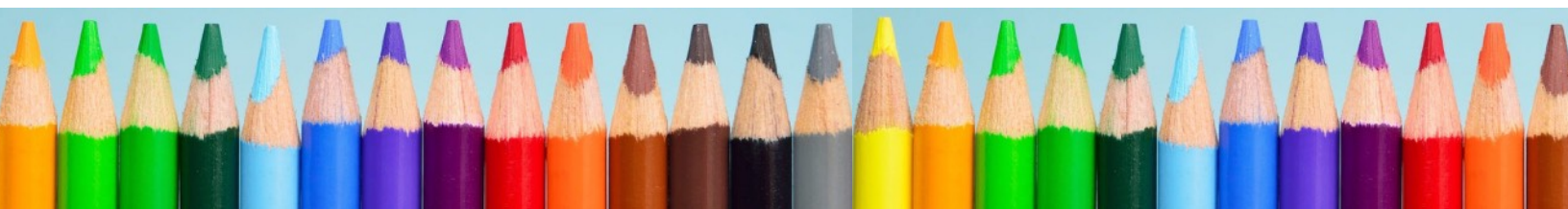
As we begin February the elective class will be finishing their water color work. They used their watercolor palettes to paint a liquid watercolor painting. We will be starting drawings of people soon, we will be taking photos and collaborating on this work. Individual work will be 2-3 drawing techniques to get us to look outside of how we think things look and look more deeply at how they actually look. Practicing our observation skills. We continue ongoing work that includes small samples of the materials, and examples of work we have been completing.

Have Extras?

The art room could use a few things if you happen to have extra.

- A toaster oven (used condition but the temperature gauge should still be visible and somewhat accurate)
- Hair Dryer/blow dryer
- Griddle (used condition but the temperature gauge should still be visible and somewhat accurate)
- Nail polish - partially used bottles that you no longer use

If you have any of these, and are planning to throw or donate them, please donate them to the art room. They will be used during class, after school art AND during summer school!



SPORTS INFO January MS Schedule

Feb. 1, MS Girls' BB* (H) vs Aquinas, 4:00	Feb. 10, MS Girls' BB* @ Sparta, Meadowview MS, 4:00
Feb. 3, MS Girls' BB* (H) vs Tomah, 4:15	Feb. 15, MS Girls' BB* (H) vs Onalaska, 4:00
Feb. 8, MS Girls' BB* @ Lincoln MS, 4:00	Feb. 22, MS Girls' BB* @ Longfellow MS, 4:00
*7th Grade at ES, 8th Grade at MS	

Adapted Sports League Schedule

Feb. 1 @ Holmen HS, 4:15	Feb. 17 vs Holmen, here (ES), 4:15
Feb. 3 @ Logan HS, 4:00	Feb. 22 vs Logan, here (ES), 4:15
Feb. 8 @ Central HS, 4:15	Feb. 24 vs Central, here (ES), 4:15
Feb. 14 vs. Onalaska, here (ES), 4:15	

The first ASL game vs. Onalaska



“Meet Us in the Middle”



Click [HERE](#) to see the student-created January Edition of "Black Cat News" (this is page 1) of our Newsletter

January 2022

Black Cat News

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Get to Know Mr. Wopat

by Jonathan G.

Why did you want to be a principal?

"I wanted to because I felt like I could help more people in that position and I enjoy problem solving."

Were you a principal at any other schools?

"I was the Dean of Students at Logan Middle School."

What did you do before being a principal?

"I was a coach and teacher for nine years at Logan High and was the Dean of Students at Logan Middle and a coach."

What is your favorite thing about being a principal?

"Watching students be successful and seeing our teachers work in the classroom."

Where are you from/Where did you grow up?

" Ontario, Wisconsin."

What was your favorite part of school?

"I enjoyed co-curriculars and in high school I liked history and literature."

Where do you want to go in retirement?

"I want to be a snow bird."

When do you plan on retiring?

"In probably like 15 years or something like that."

What are your hobbies outside of school?

"Hunting, coaching football, music, and traveling."



HARVEST OF THE MONTH
NEWSLETTER 02/2022



FUN FACTS

- China is the largest grower of sweet potatoes. Many farmers here in the Coulee Region grow them too!
- Sweet potatoes are commonly confused with yams. Yams are very large and found mostly in Asia and Africa.
- Sweet potatoes are roots, where as regular potatoes are tubers, or underground stems.

NUTRITION INFO

One medium potato has 100 calories and provides vitamins A & C, fiber and potassium.

PICK

Choose firm sweet potatoes with few blemishes. Discard potatoes with soft or rotten spots as the flavor will be affected.

STORE

Store sweet potatoes in a dark, dry and cool environment for up to 1 month. Remember to take the potatoes out of the plastic produce bag before storing.

PREPARE

Scrub the skin of the sweet potato under cool water before cooking. Sweet potatoes can be consumed with the peel on!

USE

Sweet potatoes can be baked whole, grilled, steamed, boiled, roasted, microwaved or sautéed! Microwaving sweet potatoes takes less time than regular potatoes – keep an eye on it! Sweet potatoes can also be added to baked goods like muffins, cakes and quick breads.

Sweet Potato Chips 3 Ways

Serves 4

Ingredients:

- 2 sweet potatoes, about ½ pound each
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. salt

Seasoning options:

- Option 1: ½ tsp. garlic powder and ¼ tsp rosemary
- Option 2: ½ tsp each: basil, oregano, parsley, garlic powder
- Option 3: ½ tsp. cinnamon

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400°F. Wash potatoes and slice evenly; about 1/8 inch thick. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and seasonings; toss to coat. Place potatoes in a single layer on a cookie sheet covered in parchment paper. Bake until light brown and tender-crisp (1bout 15-30 minutes).

Per Serving (119g): 130 calories, 3.5g fat, 0.5g saturated fat, 2g protein, 23g carbohydrates, 4g fiber, 640mg sodium
for more information visit www.laxfz.com

February 2022

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

7

From the Grill
• Chicken Nuggets with WG Dinner Roll Mixed Vegetables
Home Style
• Kickin' Chicken-Crispy Fatty with Pepper Jack Cheese Whole Grain Bun Mixed Vegetables
Deli
• Southwest Chicken Salad
• Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

8

Taco Tuesday!
From the Grill
• Cheese Pizzas or
• Homemade Taco Pizza
• Refried Beans
Home Style
• (Low-Fat) Loaded Beef Nachos Refried Beans
Deli
• Ham and Swiss on Crescent
• Fresh Fruit Deluxe Salad
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

9

From the Grill
• Homemade Soggy Joe on WG Bun Tri Tators Colelaw
Home Style
• Carolina Style Pulled Pork Sandwich Tri Tators Colelaw
Deli
• Homemade Grilled Cheese
• Creamy Tomato Soup
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

10

From the Grill
• (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun
• Potato Smiles
Home Style
• (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun
• Potato Smiles
Deli
• Turkey and Cheddar on WG Bun
• Cottage Cheese
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

11

Sweet Treat Friday!
• Rice Krispie Treat Offered with meals in all lines
From the Grill
• Pepperoni Pizza - Slice
• White Kernel Sweet Corn
Home Style
• Beef Burrito
• Whole Kernel Sweet Corn
Deli
• Cuban Ham and Sandwich
• Chicken Dumping Soup
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

14

From the Grill
• Chicken Potpy Hot and Spicy Whole Grain Bun Later Lots
Home Style
• Breaded Chicken Potpy Sandwich on WG Bun Tater Tots
Deli
• Ham, Salami & Pineapple Cheese Sub
• Broccoli Cheese Soup
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

15

Taco Tuesday!
From the Grill
• Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla Chips and Salsa
Home Style
• Chicken Tacos on Soft Shell Tortilla
• Refried Beans
Deli
• Turkey BLT on Sub Roll
• Sliced Apples with Caramel Dip
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

16

From the Grill
• Chicken Picnic Sticks Seasoned Brown Rice
• Mixed Vegetables
Home Style
• Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza OR Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza
• Mixed Vegetables
Deli
• Garden Salad with Choice of Meat/Yogurt/Cottage Cheese
• Creamy Chicken Pot Pie Soup
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

17

From the Grill
• Mini Corn Dogs
• Chee-Me - Cheddar
• Green Beans
Home Style
• Pasta with Chicken Alfredo or Pasta with Chicken Cajun Alfredo Garlic Breadstick
• Green Beans
Deli
• Ham & Cheese Sub
• Simply Chee - Cheddar
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

18

No School

21

From the Grill
• "Chicken and Waffles" Peppercorn Chicken WG Waffle Potato Wedges
Home Style
• "Chicken and Waffles" Peppercorn Chicken WG Waffle Potato Wedges
Deli
• Southwest Chicken Salad
• Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

22

Taco Tuesday!
From the Grill
• Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla Chips and Salsa
Home Style
• Walking Taco on Nacho Dorito Chips Salsa
Deli
• Ham, Turkey and Cheddar Sub
• Creamy Tomato Soup
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

23

From the Grill
• Mozzarella Stuffed Breadstick with Marinara Dipping Cup
• Mixed Vegetables
Home Style
• Tater Tot Hot Dish Mixed Vegetables WG Dinner Roll
Deli
• Homemade Grilled Cheese
• Creamy Tomato Soup
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

24

From the Grill
• Mexican Marinated Sub on Hoagie Roll Green Beans
Home Style
• Pasta with Italian Meat Sauce Garlic Toast
• Pasta with Marinara Sauce Garlic Toast
• Green Beans
Deli
• Turkey Club W/Hot
• Simply Chee - Cheddar
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

25

Sweet Treat Friday!
• 100% Fruit Juice Sluszy Offered with meals in all lines
From the Grill
• Cheesy Garlic French Bread Pizza Whole Kernel Sweet Corn
Home Style
• Pepperoni Calzone Whole Kernel Sweet Corn
Deli
• Turkey and Swiss on WG Croissant
• Chicken Noodle Soup
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack

28

From the Grill
• Bakalar's Hot Dog on WG Bun Side of Mtc'n Cheese Green Peas
Home Style
• Bakalar's Hot Dog on WG Bun Side of Mtc'n Cheese Green Peas
Deli
• Turkey BLT on WG Sub Roll
• Vegetable Beef Soup
Grab and Go
• Panther PB&J Pack
• Panther YOGURT Pack



WEST SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-2022 CALENDAR



AUGUST 2021				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

SEPTEMBER 2021					21
M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3	
NS	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30		

OCTOBER 2021					19
M	T	W	T	F	
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	ER	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22#	
25	26	27	28	NS*	

#No School for Elementary & Middle students only. High in school.

NOVEMBER 2021					19
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17§	18	19	
22	23	NS	NS	NS	
29	30				

DECEMBER 2021					17
M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3	
6	7	8§	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	NS	
NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	

JANUARY 2022					20
M	T	W	T	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
NS*	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	
31					

FEBRUARY 2022					19
M	T	W	T	F	
	1	2	3	4	
7	8	ER	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18#	
21	22	23	24	25	
28					

MARCH 2022					21
M	T	W	T	F	
	1	2§	3	4	
7	8	9	10	SD	
14	15	16	17	NS*	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31		

APRIL 2022					18
M	T	W	T	F	
				1	
4	5	6§	7	8	
11	12	13	14	NS	
NS	SD	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

#No school for Elementary & Middle students only. High in school.

MAY 2022					21
M	T	W	T	F	
2	3	4	5	6	
9	10	ER	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
NS	31				

May 11-ER
*ER K-8 Only
*9-11 No School
*12-SEP presentation day

JUNE 2022					3
M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	
20	21	22	23	24	
27	28	29	30		

First Day of School: September 1, 2021
Last Day of School: June 3, 2022
Graduation Day: May 29, 2022

SERVE WITH PASSION TO IGNITE
CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND
EXCELLENCE

NS = No School for All students
= No School for Elementary & Middle School students
ER = Early Release (K-12 Students dismissed at 12:20, Buses leave at 12:30 on October 13, February 9, May 11)
§ = High School students (dismissed at 12:00 on November 17, December 8, March 2, April 6)
SD = Snow Day or Make-up date (March 11 & April 19)
*** = Teacher Inservice (August 24 & 25, October 29, January 17, March 18 + 2 Floating)**