

January 2021

WEST SALEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Tami Bagstad- Principal

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We are excited to welcome our students back on January 4! Can you believe 2020 will be "last year" when we return?!?!?

We are working on adding an extra classroom to grades 2, 3, and 4, and will continue to work on class lists to make sure we have the best set-ups we can provide for our students, families, and staff!! We would like to thank all of the families who communicated throughout this process, and we are now working to see where this takes us! These extra classroom transitions will happen at the semester break, so students can come back to their cohorts and prepare for their new classrooms. Your children will see familiar and friendly faces! We are so very excited to welcome the following staff members to their new teams: Carrie Johnson to Grade 2, Heidi Schiefelbein to Grade 3, and we are bringing Becky Miller back from CRVA into Grade 4! We are so very excited and fortunate to have been able to make this work from within, and so excited that we will continue our tradition of excellence in the classroom with our "new" teachers!

Upcoming dates to check out:

Monday, Jan 4 - Return to school for a 5-day week!!

Friday, January 15 - District Virtual Learning Day (activities based on the theme of "Kindness" will be shared via Seesaw and Google Classroom - all students in the District will be at home for this online learning day!!)

Monday, January 18 - In Service Day (No School for students)

Tuesday, January 19 - return to school with our new classroom set-up in grades 2, 3, & 4, and Semester 2 begins already!!

January is also the time for our district's mid-year checks to see and ensure the growth of all of our students! Our teams are preparing to get everything put into place, and are very excited to see where our students are at. One celebration from our online platform is our continued grade-level discussions about the continued growth of our students while online, and we would like to THANK YOU for your support and partnership during this very interesting time! We know that without your support and guidance over the last few months, our students may not have shown as much growth! So, please, stop reading this long enough to give yourselves a "pat on the back" for a job well done!!

Mental health is more important now than ever! If you have 3 minutes to watch the following video, it gives some great information and ideas for how we can all provide opportunities to promote positive mental health! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjKR9qfOgOA>

-Tami Bagstad, Principal

NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

The Heider Center Meeting Room is now displaying new artwork! The Elementary Art Department is so proud of these artists!

Greyson Towner
Liv Athnos
Jude Miller
Kaylie Knudtson
Connor Willinger
Maelory Johnson

Click the video link to see all the fabulous artwork!

https://youtu.be/ICQ1Z_R9SZA

Kindergarten Registration 2021-2022

Now that West Salem has a 4-Year-Old Kindergarten program in place, we will no longer be hosting a kindergarten registration. If you have a student who will be five years old by September 1, 2021 and your child does not attend our 4K program, please contact the elementary school office at 786-1662 to pre-register.



Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Registration

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are not able to safely host our "traditional" 4K registration and screening events this year. Instead we will be hosting a virtual 4K registration event and inviting families to sign up for an in-person screening opportunity. Assuming community numbers allow, we will host small group screening sessions at the elementary school.

If you have a student who will be four years old by September 1, 2021 please join us for our virtual 4K registration and in-person screening. You will be asked to complete online registration information. After completing your child's online registration you will receive a link to sign up for one 30 minute in-person screening session at the elementary school. Please mark your calendars for one of the following screening session:

- Tuesday, February 23rd (evening sessions)
 - 30 minute sessions starting at 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
- Thursday, February 25th (evening sessions)
 - 30 minute sessions starting at 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
- Friday, February 26th (afternoon/day sessions)
 - 30 minute sessions starting at 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Please contact the elementary office at 608-786-1662 or email Jane Frank at frank.jane@wsalem.k12.wi.us to pre-register.

Just a reminder that students should have a change of clothing that is appropriate for the season at school especially for our lower grades. If you have borrowed clothing from the nurse's office, please wash and return it.

If anyone has any gently used pants (elastic waist band preferably) and/or underwear that their child has out grown, we are in need of boys and girls sizes 5-8.

Please send snow pants, hat and mittens daily with your children. They will be outside daily if weather permits. Extra gloves and hats packed in backpack would be a great idea for those sloppy wet snowy days.

NO SCHOOL

**Friday, January 1
Monday, January 18**

Friday, January 15 is a Virtual Learning Day - all students in the District will be at home for this online learning day

West Salem School District 3 yr. old Child Development Days

As part of ongoing Child-Find efforts our district is committed to ensuring that we keep up with screening children even during this time of enhanced safety measures due to COVID-19. We have changed our screening process for the 2020-2021 school year. This change will allow us to continue to screen and make early identifications of children who may need extra help now or in the near future. We traditionally host an in-person screening event in February paired with a parent questionnaire. This year we are going to use Ages and Stages (ASQ) and/or Ages and Stages Online. If you have a child who will be three years old by September 1, 2021 please contact Amber Clark at 608-786-1662 ext 3117 or clark.amber@wsalem.k12.wi.us to get online screening instructions or to request a paper screener be mailed to you. Once screening results are received (online or paper), someone from the Early Childhood team will contact you with your child's results. An optional virtual or in-person observation may be offered if there are any developmental concerns.

Information from the School Nurse

Testing in our Area:

La Crosse County Public Health Testing Information:

<https://lacrossecounty.org/covid19/testing-information>

At-Home COVID-19 Testing Option:

At-home COVID-19 saliva collection kits will be available to everyone who lives in Wisconsin, with or without symptoms, at no cost.

Wisconsinites can order the at home kit at this link:

[At-Home COVID-19 Testing Kit Information](#)