

January 2021



Newsletter

School District of West Salem

Contents

- Letter from Superintendent Ryan Rieber.....1-2
- Volunteer & 4K Registration Info.....2-3
- District Announcements.....4-5
- Substitute Info.....6
- 6th Grade Virtual Concert Info.....7
- School Board Minutes & Election Notice8-10
- District News.....11



Letter from Superintendent Ryan Rieber

Kicking Off a New Year

WOW! A year ago when we welcomed in a new year and new decade, little did we know what this year would bring! 2020 certainly brought unique opportunities, situations, and tests. Recently, I read the book *Just Look Up* by Joe Beckman. In the book, he discusses tests, which are not necessarily easy or fun. They are just meant for us to finish. When they are completed, they are something that we can move on from. Joe states, "Tests strip away false identities we've poured ourselves into, and they show us that we're more than the painful experience we're going through. Tests root us in our authentic selves; they help reveal to us who we really are, and they often show us a resilience we didn't know we had. Getting to the other side is a relief, and that is where the lessons are." Needless to say, 2020 has been a test for all of us with the hope and anticipation that we are beginning to get to the other side, and we are beginning to experience some relief. We are anxious and excited for what the new year will bring!

Welcome to the newness and optimism of a new year. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead of us, especially since we welcomed our students back into our district buildings on January 4th. Bringing our students back to our buildings helps to bring more joy to all of us this time of year. We have been preparing and planning for their return and it was great to see them all back on campus again. The time that we had with our students in September and October prepared us procedurally for their return. We are confident in the protocols that we have in place, and our school nursing staff continues to work diligently updating information and preparing for the necessary contact tracing. We will still face challenges, but we are ready for them.

The District has updated our COVID-19 Dashboard. The new dashboard will update and share our numbers within the district of staff and students who are unavailable for in-person instruction due to quarantine or positive COVID results. This dashboard is updated daily after any needed contact tracing and communication has been completed. Our goal and purpose of this is to be transparent for our families and community.

Letter continues on next page...

School District of West Salem

Thank you! These are two words that have the power to impact our health, happiness, and success. People who are grateful are more likely to hold and maintain positive relationships with others. Gratitude also improves our health through the reduction of stress along with thinking more clearly under pressure and healing us physically. It has also been found that it is physiologically impossible to be stressed and thankful at the same time. Gratitude and appreciation are essential for a healthy work environment. With all of this being

said, I want to say “Thank You” for all that our students, staff, parents, community members, and local partners have endured this past year. This has been a year that will not soon be forgotten, but one that will help to make us stronger and better people. Thank you for all that you have done, and I wish you all a happy and healthy 2021!

Ryan G. Rieber
Superintendent

Volunteers Wanted!

The School Nutrition Services Department is looking for volunteers to assist with meal pick-up for students that are learning virtually. Volunteers would hand out meals to families from approximately 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. outside the High School on Monday's. Please note, volunteers are required to wear a mask and abide by the school district's COVID-19 Attendance Guidelines.

Are you interested in helping out? If so, we require that you fill out the “Personal Data” section of the Paper Application and Background Check Form which can be found at the link below and email them to quinn.monica@wsalem.k12.wi.us and klunk.emily@wsalem.k12.wi.us. Paper application materials can also be picked up and returned at the District Office.

<https://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us/content/district/employment-opportunities>

Application-To access the application, scan the QR code below with your phone's camera or visit the link above.



Background Check-To access the background check, scan the QR code below with your phone's camera, or visit the link above.



4K Screening & Registration and Child Development Days

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 sessions:

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.

3 Year 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.

Giving Back this Holiday Season

The firefighters of the West Salem Volunteer Fire Department and the West Salem community went above and beyond this holiday season, collecting coats, hats, gloves, and toys for our families and students in need. In addition, the firefighters also gave generously out of their own pockets, donating \$2,700 to our Random Acts of Kindness Fund. We are so thankful for their generosity, and we know that they have helped make this holiday season a little bit merrier for many. Pictured L-R are Scott Johnson and Greg Hutson, members of the West Salem Volunteer Fire Department, West Salem Middle School Counselor Mike Lang, and West Salem Elementary School Counselor Gayle Lassen.



District Announcements



WSMS Science Teacher Wins Tools for Schools Award

West Salem Middle School 7th grade science teacher Brian Baker was recently awarded \$750 through the WXOW Tools for Schools program sponsored by Brenengen Auto Group, Dependable Solutions, and River Bank. Baker applied for the grant in order to purchase new GPS units for his students to use at the school forest. The grant will allow him to get eight new units that students will use to practice geocaching, make observations, collect forest measurements and explore different areas of the forest. We are so excited for our students to be able to use these devices to explore and learn in new ways!

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

2020-2021 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 and click on "Enrollment" at the top of the page 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

Jane Halverson ~~~~~ 786-1067
 Ken Schlimgen ~~~~~ 786-4382
 Catherine Griffin ~~~~~ 769-1714
 Tom Grosskopf ~~~~~ 386-0168
 Robin Fitzgerald ~~~~~ 792-4130
 Sean Gavaghan ~~~~~ 797-3585
 Erik Peterson ~~~~~ 792-5370

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

District Announcements

A Tradition Continues

As challenging and testing as 2020 proved to be, we certainly ended the year on a very positive and supportive note. Our middle school students, in conjunction with the West Salem Lions Club, continued their tradition of collecting non-perishable food items and toiletries for those in need, and our elementary students joined them this year too! Thanks to our caring and empathetic students, families, and community members, we were able to help over 95 of our neighbors with this collection! Several of our students even came up with the idea to distribute flyers to their neighborhood, and collected the items themselves to bring to school. This was such an inspiring and heart-warming story of generosity and students wanting to help others! These students modeled our mission of serving with passion and creating excellence within our community.

West Salem Middle School Counselor Mike Lang worked with the Lions Club members as they came to the middle school to pick up and deliver the baskets to the recipients. They shared with him how appreciative all of the individuals and families were when they dropped off the items. He said, "I had the honor to hand out a couple of baskets myself and the tears in the eyes of the mom who got one of the baskets was heart-breaking, yet heart-warming at the same time. All were extremely grateful for your generosity. We cannot THANK all of YOU who donated in any way to this worthwhile event enough." Thank you, West Salem students, staff, and community members for your continued generosity!



Athletics Update

Now that students are returning to in-person classes, athletics have also resumed. Please see below for details regarding our spectator policy for high school home events. At this time, middle school athletes will not be participating in games.

Spectator Policy

Each athlete will be given 4 tickets for immediate family members to attend home events. Family members must remain seated together and socially distanced from other groups.

No visiting fans will be allowed.

To allow more people to view the events from home, we will also be livestreaming all home games and matches on our District YouTube channel. Our channel can be found by searching "School District of West Salem."

To view the most current schedule of athletic events, please visit our website, click on "Schools" > "High School" > "Activities" > "Athletics" and scroll down to the "Livestream Events" link. This link will show the dates, times, and livestream links for all of the week's home and away events. Please remember to check this link as an event approaches, in case of any last-minute changes or cancellations.

Thank you for your support of Panther athletics!

PANTHERS



Substitutes Wanted!

We are in need of substitutes in all areas, but particularly teaching staff and paraprofessionals!



Did you know you are eligible to become a licensed sub if you have an associate or bachelor's degree?

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY PLEASE CONTACT:

Barb Buswell, Human Resources Director
(608)-786-0700

buswell.barb@wsalem.k12.wi.us

www.wsalem.k12.wi.us

Go to "District" > "Employment Opportunities"



WEST SALEM MIDDLE
SCHOOL

6TH GRADE VIRTUAL BAND CONCERT

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020

7:00 P.M.

SHAREABLE ZOOM LINK COMING
SOON

All 6th Graders are required to log-in and
parents/families are encouraged to watch.

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

School District of West Salem

April 6, 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election to be held in the School District of West Salem, on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 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 26, 2021.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Term</u>
School Board Member	Robin Fitzgerald	3 years-Expire April 21, 2024
School Board Member	Jane Halverson	3 years-Expire April 21, 2024

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 5, 2021, 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 16, 2021.

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 26, 2020

Jane Halverson, Clerk

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes November 23, 2020 Marie Heider Meeting Room 7:00 p.m.

As noted on the Public Meeting Notice: The health and safety of district employees, Board of Education and the community is our number one priority. Therefore, the district is taking precautionary measures consistent with the CDC and the La Crosse County Health Department recommendations. *Board members will be participating via remote access. The Heider Meeting Room of the District Offices, 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, Wisconsin, will be open to limited spectators. If physical space is required for accessibility to view the meeting. Public comments can be submitted to the Superintendent/School Board Executive Assistant. Live streaming of this meeting was available on our District's YouTube page. Face coverings were required to be worn when attending the meeting and social distancing measures should be followed.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by President Catherine Griffin. 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, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on November 19, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Ryan Rieber led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Jane Halverson recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

(Remotely) Present: Erik Peterson, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin (in person), Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also (remotely) in attendance – Administrators: Ryan Rieber (in person), Ben Wopat, Eric Jensen, Mike Malott, Tami Bagstad, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Madisyn Haun and Maxwell Goetz. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr (in person). Excused: N/A.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to approve the agenda as presented. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Madisyn Haun, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The band had virtual auditions for concert band.
2. The senior finance class recently completed their family budget project in which they learned how to create a budget for them and their assigned family. They had to buy cars, a house, make a grocery list, buy clothes, household items, and budget for an unexpected expense that one of our high school staff members have experienced.

Maxwell Goetz, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Some winter sports have begun zoom meetings for practice.
2. Seniors have begun selecting their class motto, song, flower, and speaker for graduation.

Correspondence – None.

Public comments

As per the meeting notice, public comments could be submitted to the Superintendent/School Board Executive Assistant. There were four public comments submitted and were in regards to co-curricular activities and requesting this item be on the December 14, 2020, Board Meeting agenda.

Greg Stenberg, Bill Hehli, Charlie McConkey, and Todd Jordan submitted comments which were read aloud.

Written and Oral Reports

Staff Relations Committee – Mr. Peterson reported on the agenda item, meet with members of the staff to see how things are going in the three buildings.

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Business Operations Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Consent Agenda

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

- a) the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 9, 2020;
- b) invoices to be paid;
- c) to accept the donation from Festival Foods-Onalaska for the middle school;
- d) to hire Aaron Bahr-middle school head wrestling coach, Caiden Buehler-middle school assistant wrestling coach, Isaiah Schmidt-assistant 8th grade boys' basketball coach, Nick Murray-high school assistant boys' basketball coach.

A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mr. Grosskopf seconded to approve Neola for policy services. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Mrs. Griffin welcomed the motion for closed session: The Board will discuss, consider and, if appropriate, take action pursuant to Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (c) "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility," regarding the superintendent's evaluation.

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 8:00 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Gavaghan moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Aye; and Mr. Schlimgen, Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Halverson, Clerk

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes December 14, 2020 High School LMC 7:00 p.m.

As noted on the Public Meeting Notice: The health and safety of district employees, Board of Education and the community is our number one priority. Therefore, the district is taking precautionary measures consistent with the CDC and the La Crosse County Health Department recommendations. *Board members may participate via remote access. The room will be open to limited spectators. Live streaming of this meeting was available on our District's YouTube page. Face coverings

School District of West Salem

School District of West Salem Regular Board Meeting Minutes December 14, 2020 High School LMC 7:00 p.m.

were required to be worn when attending the meeting and social distancing measures should be followed.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Catherine Griffin. 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, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on December 10, 2020.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Ryan Rieber led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Ben Wopat recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Erik Peterson, Jane Halverson, Ken Schlimgen, Tom Grosskopf, Catherine Griffin, Robin Fitzgerald, and Sean Gavaghan. Also in attendance – Administrators: Ryan Rieber, Ben Wopat, Eric Jensen, Mike Malott, Tami Bagstad, Deanna Wiatt, and Shawn Handland; Student representatives: Madisyn Haun and Maxwell Goetz. Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. School Nurses Beth Clements and Kate Brohmer. School Medical Director Dr. Rose Wolbrink. Excused: N/A.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Halverson moved, Mr. Schlimgen seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

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

- a) the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2020;
 - b) the invoices to be paid;
 - c) accept donations from Paul & Ann Van Dyck and Duane Schaper for the Angela Labus Memorial Scholarship Fund; and
 - d) the resignation of Darren Fruit as the freshmen baseball coach.
- Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Peterson moved, Mr. Gavaghan seconded to welcome our students back on January 4th face-to-face 4k-5th grade, five days/week and utilize our hybrid model in grades 6-12. This is how we kept our doors open successfully in October. This mode allows us to follow all of the mitigation strategies of face masking, social distancing, and hand hygiene as recommended. This is being recommended with the understanding that as we continue to gain information, talk to local and state health officials, and monitor the health of our school and community that the overall goal is to have all students 4k-12 face-to-face, full time, as soon as we can. Using district data and the administration making the decision regarding the mode of learning going forward. A roll call vote was taken: Mrs. Fitzgerald, Aye; Mr. Gavaghan, Aye; Mr. Peterson, Aye; Mrs. Halverson, Aye; Mrs. Griffin, Aye; Mr. Grosskopf, Nay; and Mr. Schlimgen, Nay. Motion carried. Mr. Malott provided direction for co-curricular activities from this point forward. Mr. Grosskopf moved to follow the recommendation for co-curricular activities by Mr. Malott. Motion withdrawn.

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mr. Peterson seconded to approve the high school new course offering for 2021-2022 school year, AP Environmental Science.

Connection with the Community

Maxwell Goetz, Student Representative, reported on:

1. The high school resumed their meetings.
2. The varsity esports team has been competing in the past few weeks. They are currently 3-2 having to forfeit one match to COVID. They are a division three team and plan to be the number two seed come playoffs in January. They play Fennimore next week and plan to move up to 4-2. JV Esports was cancelled this winter however they will be joining another league this spring to compete.

Madisyn Haun, Student Representative, reported on:

1. Seniors have begun to submit their senior quotes.
2. Seniors are also moving forward in the SEP and their final copy of the paper is due next week Tuesday.
3. Juniors have been taking the pre-act over the past few Fridays.

Correspondence

A thank you note from the family of Loris Griffin was read.

Written and Oral Reports

CESA #4 Board of Control – Mrs. Halverson reported on the events of their last meeting.

District Strategic Initiative updates from the Business Operations Team, the Superintendent's Cabinet Team and the Superintendent were reviewed.

Human Resource updates: the resignation freshmen baseball coach-Darren Fruit; the hiring of paraprofessionals Sam Adams and Angela Gross.

Public Comments

The following spoke on the return to school/co-curricular activities: Ella Jordan, Maddie Quick, Ted Stein, Angela Gross, Nathan Gribble, Chris Hutchenson, Lance Wulf, Jennifer Eads, and Lori Szymanski.

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

Adjournment

Mr. Schlimgen moved, Mrs. Halverson seconded to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Halverson, Clerk

Operation Holiday Cheer

Our staff entered the field of education because they care about students, and they want the best for them, both in and out of the classroom. Before the holidays, they wanted to remind their students that they have missed them and are so proud of the hard work they have been putting in during virtual learning. On Wednesday, December 23rd, staff from all of our buildings embarked on "Operation Holiday Cheer," and gathered gifts, loaded up busses, vans, and cars, donned their Santa hats, and traveled to every stu-

dent's home to spread some holiday cheer. Seeing the smiles that lit up their faces as they opened the doors was a wonderful gift for everyone and we were so happy to be able to spread some cheer to our students. A huge thank you to all of our staff members for their work to make this event a success from organizing bus routes to assigning staff, ordering and sorting gifts and traveling throughout West Salem and the surrounding communities to ensure all students received some cheer.



COULEE REGION

FARM TO SCHOOL
LOCAL FOODS. HEALTHY KIDS

HARVEST OF THE MONTH
NEWSLETTER 1/2021



Did You Know?

Cabbage is one of the oldest known vegetables!

JANUARY



cabbage

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.

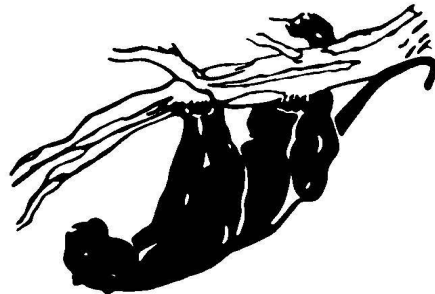


School District of West Salem

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



#WeAreWS



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WEST SALEM, WI
PERMIT NO. 38

School District of West Salem
405 East Hamlin Street
West Salem, WI 54669