

# PANTHER POST



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



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

Dear WSMS Families,

Congratulations to students, parents and staff on a very successful school year! Looking back on the year we have all had opportunities to grow as individuals and as a community of learners. We wish our 8th graders the best as they continue their educational journey at the high school. We know you'll do very well in the next stage of your education. You're ready!

I want to draw your attention to the many items contained within this newsletter. Some are year-end items and others are items that pertain to next school year. Please feel free to keep this newsletter someplace handy, as you may want to reference it over the next couple of months.

As always, we encourage you to take an active role in building relationships with your child, our staff and community. We thank you for your continued support of our efforts as we work together to provide the best middle school experience for your child.

Have a great summer with family and friends.

Ben Wopat  
Principal  
[www.twitter.com/coachwopat](http://www.twitter.com/coachwopat)

Important Info	2-3
Attendance	4
Calendar of Events	4
Student of the Month	5
Summer School	6
From the Nurse	6
WEB Leader Training	7
Band & Color Guard	8
End of Year Highlights	9-10
Art	11
Spanish	12
5th Grade Orientation	13
Freshman Orientation	14
Summer Food Outreach	15
WSHS Musical	16
Harvest of the Month	17
2026-2027 Calendar	18

Please use the links below to view our newsletter in

**SPANISH**  
or  
**GUJARATI**

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## WSMS STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

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

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

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

## MORNING PROCEDURES

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

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

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

## NEWSLETTERS

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

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

**WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MISSION STATEMENT**



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## STUDENT CELL PHONE USE

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

- Must be turned off

- Must be kept in the student's locker

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

Students are NOT allowed to use cell phones to take video recordings of other students at school. Students not following the guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. Please call if you have any questions.

## ALLERGIES

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

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

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

## SCHOOL SECURITY

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

# ATTENDANCE

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

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

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

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



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

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


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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 6-24	SUMMER SCHOOL
AUGUST 17 & 18	8TH GRADE WEB LEADER TRAINING
AUGUST 18	PICTURE DAY AND REGISTRATION
AUGUST 19	CLASS OF 2034 5 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE ORIENTATION
AUGUST 25	WSMS OPEN HOUSE
AUGUST 25	DRUMLINE PRACTICE
AUGUST 26-28	7TH AND 8TH GRADE BAND AND COLOR GUARD CAMP
AUGUST 31	1ST DAY OF 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR



# STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Each month, teachers send nominations for Student of the Month. May's focus was **Practice Kindness - Positive Attitude.**

Below is a list of three students from each grade level that exemplified this focus.

Mr. Wopat, Ms. Beld, Ms. Becker and Ms. Broughton notified parents of this accomplishment.

## GRADE 5

EASTON JAROSH

TENLEY MOORE

ALANNA WOODARD



## GRADE 6

FREYAH SCHOLTEN

EMILY WILKES

## GRADE 7

OLIVIA GRASS

ADDILEY SCHULTZ

ADDISON WUENSCH

## GRADE 8

JEREMIAH KEETON

SOPHIA SPREHN

JEYDI  
SANCHEZ HERNANDEZ



## CONGRATULATIONS

for making a difference  
in others lives!

## We appreciate YOU!



# Summer SCHOOL

JULY 6 - 24, 2026

Questions? Contact Amanda Beld  
5-8 Summer School MS Administrator  
[beld.amanda@wsalem.k12.wi.us](mailto:beld.amanda@wsalem.k12.wi.us)

## FROM THE NURSE

### IMMUNIZATION UPDATE



Per the state of Wisconsin Law (Statute 252.04) students are to have up to date documentation of immunizations on file or have completed the immunization health waiver by the 30th day of school. Summer is a great time to schedule an appointment with your primary physician for your students if they are needing updated vaccinations. If you choose to not vaccinate your child and would like to complete a health waiver, please reach out to [wsnurses@wsalem.k12.wi.us](mailto:wsnurses@wsalem.k12.wi.us) and one can be sent to you. If you have questions regarding immunizations please reach out to the email above.

**8TH  
GRADE**



**8TH GRADE WEB LEADER TRAINING  
AUGUST 17 & 18 | 8AM-1PM  
WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM**

Meet in the gym at 8:00am each morning with your water bottle, a pen or pencil, and some light snacks (no nuts or peanut/peanut butter allowed).

Wear comfy, school appropriate clothes (no skirts) for the activities we will do and learn.

During your training you will receive information about expectations such as report time and attire for the 5th grade orientation day.

The WEB Coordinators,  
Amber Coe, Nicole Shrake and Whitney Folkers

Questions? Call (608) 786-2090 ext. 4219

# 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND & COLOR GUARD CAMP

This camp is for ALL 7th & 8th Grade students who are registered for band or color guard for this upcoming school year.

This does not include students signed up for 7th Grade Beginner Band.

We will be preparing for our two fall parades and our halftime performance on September 5th.

There is no special registration for this camp. Camp is held at the Middle School Band Room. Students are to dress comfortably, wearing socks with athletic shoes. **Absolutely no flip-flops, crocs, or sandals. Please also bring a water bottle.**

## Camp Times

- |                        |             |                             |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| • Tuesday, August 25   | 3:30-5:00pm | Drumline Practice           |
| • Wednesday, August 26 | 4:00-8:00pm | Marching Band & Color Guard |
| • Thursday, August 27  | 4:00-8:00pm | Marching Band & Color Guard |
| • Friday, August 28    | 8:00am-Noon | Marching Band & Color Guard |

## UPCOMING BAND DATES

### WS Homecoming Parade

**Friday, September 18 | 1:30pm report time**

Band will march in the parade starting at 2pm

Students wear "School Spirit" Orange, Black & White (or uniform)

### Torch Light Parade in La Crosse

**Thursday, September 24 | 5:45pm report time**

Band will march in the parade, starting at 7pm

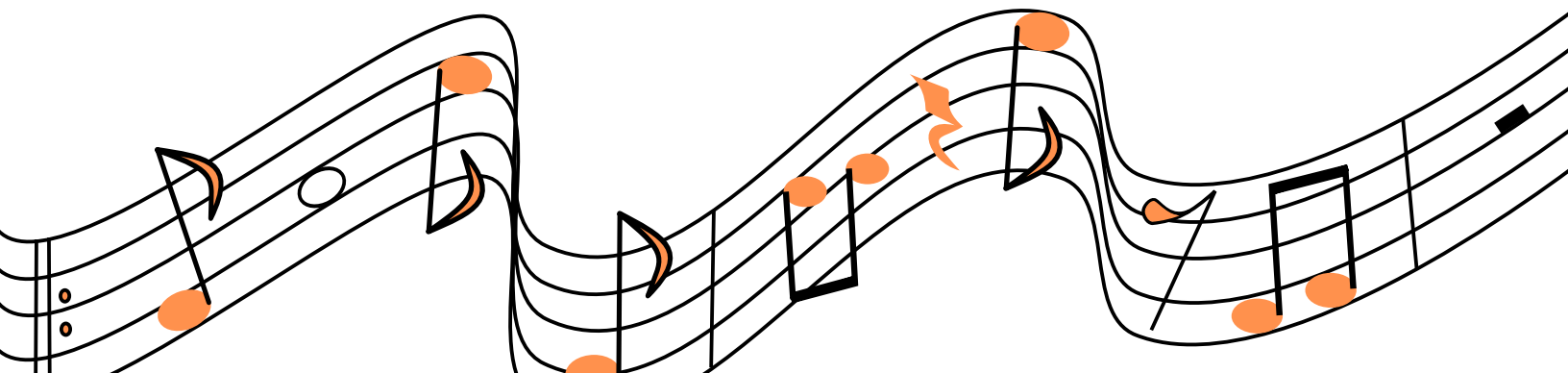
Students wear performance uniform. ALL band and color guard.

### "Band Night" with WSHS Marching Band at Football Game

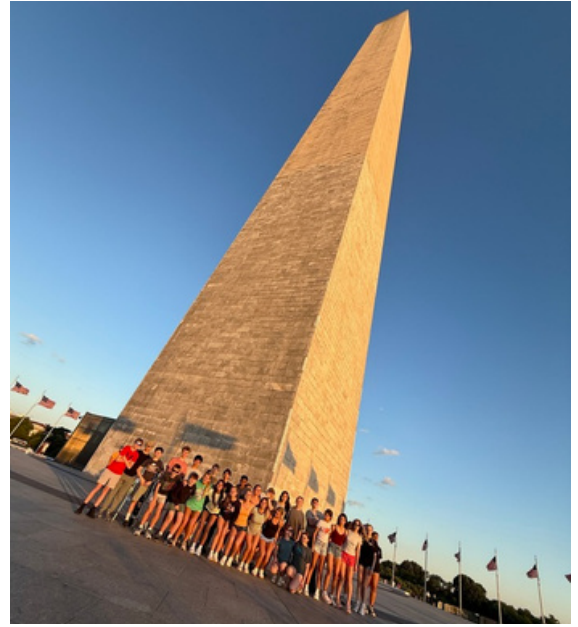
**Friday, October 9 | 5:45pm report time**

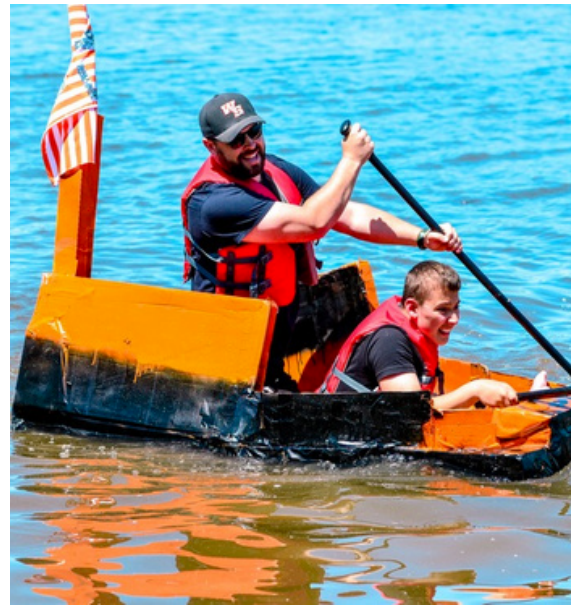
Band will perform at halftime of West Salem Varsity Football game.

Students wear performance uniform. ALL band and color guard.



# END OF YEAR HIGHLIGHTS!





**YOU DID IT!**



# 8TH GRADE ART ELECTIVE

Mrs. Hemker's 8th grade art elective students welcomed West Salem's Kindergartners for an art exchange! Each student drew the head of a person/animal/creature-and mailed it to the other building. When 8th graders got the exchange, their job was to add a body and background. After that the classes met each other and exchanged ideas. It was awesome!



# Clase de Español

**JUNIO**

*Qué tengan un excelente verano!*

## THANK YOU

¡Gracias por un año increíble! I am so proud of each one of the students in Spanish class and in Panther Time. I have loved seeing your growth over the year and getting to know you.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Our 7th Grade entrepreneurs recently went global, launching custom clothing stores tailored to countries around the world. To prepare for opening day, students researched their assigned nation's currency and May climate to curate a collection that was both stylish and practical.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

Our 8th Graders brought the laughs this week, transforming the classic "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" skit into a Spanish-language production. Students put their interpersonal skills to the test, practicing real-time conversation while creatively expressing their likes and dislikes. It was a high-energy way to build fluency and confidence through improvisation!

## REMINDERS OVER SUMMER

Watch a series in Spanish

Listen to a Podcast in Spanish

Read in Spanish





**CLASS OF  
2034**



# **5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ORIENTATION DAY**



**AUGUST 19, 2026, 8:30AM-12:00PM**



**WSMS GYMNASIUM**



**Wear comfy clothes (no skirts) and  
leave your bags, backpacks, hats,  
and phones at home...travel light!**

The purpose of this orientation day is to make the transition from elementary school to middle school a positive one. Eighth graders will be serving as leaders and mentors to the fifth graders. Large and small group activities are designed to address students' needs and concerns in an enjoyable manner. Students will be eating a school-provided lunch with their leaders that day. Drop your student off and let them enjoy a few hours of independence at the Middle School.

We can't wait to meet your child!  
The WEB Coordinators,  
Amber Coe, Nicole Shrake & Whitney Folkers

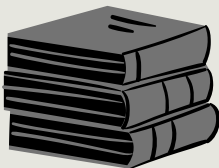
**\*Please do not drop off your student  
early because there is no supervision  
available.\***



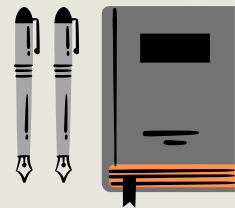
# FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

**CLASS 2030**

**WELCOME  
TO WSHS**



**1ST DAY  
OF SCHOOL  
AUGUST 31**



**WS HIGH SCHOOL  
490 N. MARK ST**



Freshmen will receive orientation to all things high school on the first day of school - August 31, 2026.

Link Leaders will guide students through locker function, navigating the school building, and understanding the schedule. Freshmen will set up laptops and hear from Mr. Braun regarding school policies and procedures. Finally, they will complete team bonding activities with their homeroom both at the high school and at the Outdoor Education Center (OEC).

School photos will begin at 7:15 am and will conclude before any group goes to the OEC. School buses will run at typical times. The day will conclude at 3:14.

**If you have any questions, please contact the  
high school office at 608-786-1220.**



Dear Families,

With school meals ending, here are some great options for food this summer!

## FEED OUR CHILDREN SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM



The Feed Our Children Summer Lunch Program will be up and running again this summer. Lunch will be served on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting June 2nd. You can pick up a lunch for your child at Our Saviors Lutheran Church 359 Leonard St N from 11am - 12:30pm. Delivery can also be provided within the Village of West Salem. Sign up for deliveries here: [Link to Summer Lunch Delivery](#). Watch the Facebook Page, district newsletter and direct any questions to [Feedourchildrenws@gmail.com](mailto:Feedourchildrenws@gmail.com)

## WEST SALEM CARE AND SHARE FOOD PANTRY

Our Saviors Lutheran Church (359 N. Leonard). Use the alley entrance. West Salem, Barre Mills, Bangor, Rockland, and Mindoro communities. Saturdays from 10am – 12pm. You will need to present 1 form of ID. Contact Melody at 608-498-9099. Volunteer opportunities available.

## WAFER FOOD PANTRY

1603 George St, La Crosse - (608) 782-6003 - [WAFER LaCrosse FAQs](#)

### Food distribution

Mon-Fri 10:00am – 12:45pm; Mon, Tues, Thurs Evenings 4:00pm – 7:45pm

\*Must be in the lobby and checked in 15 minutes prior to close.

### Mobile Food Pantry - West Salem

Anytime Fitness Parking Lot. 1500 WI-16 Trunk, West Salem  
1st Friday of each month 10:45am-11:45am.

### Things you will need:

1. Photo ID with every visit.
2. Mail verification once a year or when you change place of residence for all members of the household. Mail needs to have been received within the last 30 days (i.e. cable bill, bank statement, lease, utility bill, Food Share statement, etc.)



## TO FIND ADDITIONAL SUMMER MEAL SITES NEAR YOU

### [USDA Summer Meal Finder](#)

Call 2-1-1

(2-1-1 is a free, easy-to-remember phone number connecting callers with health and human services in their community.)

Text 'SFSP' to 914-342-7744

If you have questions, don't hesitate to call West Salem School District at 608-786-0700 or visit the nutrition services webpage for more information: [WSSD Nutrition Services](#)

We look forward to continuing to serve our students next school year.  
Have a great summer and see you in the fall!

Sincerely,  
Emily Klunk, Director of School Nutrition

West Salem High School Presents



**SCHOOL VERSION**

**Thurs. - Fri, June 11-12 & Wed. - Thurs., June 17-18, 2026 at 7:00 pm**

**Marie W. Heider Center for The Arts**

**Tickets \$10** • available at Box Office during business hours or 1 hour before show time

"Grease: School Version" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## Farm Highlight



**Jolivette Farms:** W3452 State Road 16  
West Salem, WI 54669

Jolivette Farms is a 500 acre farm, raising strawberries on 13 of them! June is the perfect time to visit this local farm to pick your own strawberries and pick up other fruits and vegetables that are grown on their remaining 487 acres during the rest of the growing season. This 54 year-old farm has been sustainably supporting the 7-Rivers communities ever since its purchase by John Jolivette in 1970! Visit their Facebook page or website for more information on hours and produce availability.



### FUN FACTS:

- Strawberries are the only fruit with the seeds on the outside. There are on average 200 seeds per strawberry!
- Strawberry plants are perennials, meaning they will come back every year after being planted!
- Strawberries are a member of the rose family!

### Nutrition Info:

One cup of whole strawberries has 46 calories and provides vitamin C, fiber and folate

**PICK:**  
Choose brightly colored berries with green caps attached. Avoid berries with soft spots or mold.

**STORE:**  
Refrigerate unwashed berries in a non-airtight container and use within a couple of days. To freeze, place clean, hulled berries in a single layer on a cookie sheet and freeze, then place in a sealed plastic bag and use within 1 year.

**PREPARE:**  
Rinse under cold water and remove green tops just before consuming!

**USE:**  
Make fruit kebobs with strawberries, watermelon, grapes, cantaloupe, blueberries and pineapple! Strawberries are a great addition to breakfast on pancakes, waffles cereal or parfaits. Dip fresh berries in melted dark chocolate for a treat!

## Recipe of the month

### Berries with Banana Cream Serves 4

- 1/3 cup yogurt, low-fat plain
- 1/2 banana, ripe
- 1/2 ounce 100% fruit juice (orange works well)
- 2 cups sliced strawberries
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon

Honey should not be fed to children under 1 year of age.

### Directions:

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Combine yogurt, banana, and juice and mash with a fork until most chunks are gone.
3. Wash and slice strawberries.
4. Top the berries with the yogurt banana mixture.
5. Top with honey and cinnamon.

Per serving: 61 calories, 1 g fat, 2 g protein, 13 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 22 mg sodium



Source: laxf2s.org



# WEST SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026-2027 CALENDAR



AUGUST 2026					1/0
M	T	W	T	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24*	25*	26*	27*	28	
31					

SEPTEMBER 2026					20
M	T	W	T	F	
	1	2	3	NS	
NS	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2026					20
M	T	W	T	F	
			1	2	
5	6	ER	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	NS	
NS*	27	28	29	30	

Homecoming = September 18

NOVEMBER 2026					18
M	T	W	T	F	
2	3	4	5	6	
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	NS	NS	NS	
30					

DECEMBER 2026					17
M	T	W	T	F	
	1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	NS	NS	
NS	NS	NS	NS		

JANUARY 2027					19
M	T	W	T	F	
				NS	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
NS*	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

FEBRUARY 2027					19
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	ER	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	NS	

MARCH 2027					19
M	T	W	T	F	
NS*	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	SD	NS	
NS	30	31			

APRIL 2027					21
M	T	W	T	F	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	NS*	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2027					20
M	T	W	T	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	ER	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	
NS					

May 12 - ER  
\*ER 4K-8 Only  
\*9-11 No School  
\*12-PP presentation day

JUNE 2027					3
M	T	W	T	F	
	1	2	ER	SD	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30			

**First Day of School For Everyone:** August 31, 2026  
**Last Day of School:** June 3, 2027  
**First Day of 4K:** September 1, 2026  
**Graduation Day:** May 28, 2027

SERVE WITH PASSION TO IGNITE  
CREATIVITY, INNOVATION, AND  
EXCELLENCE

**NS** = No School for All students

**ER** = Early Release (Students dismissed at 12:20, Buses leave at 12:30 on October 8, February 4, May 6)

**SD** = Snow Day or Make-up date (March 25 & June 4)

\* = Teacher Inservice (August 24, 25, 26 & 27, October 26, January 18, March 1 & April 16.)