



**WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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**School Starts  
at 7:50!!**

Dear WSMS Families,

Winter sports have ended, the temperature is slowly increasing, and spring will be here before we know it. A big thank you to our staff, students, and parents in ensuring we maintain a focus on learning during the winter months. Our Trimester ends on March 4th.

We held our annual Winter Wellness day on Friday, February 11. It was great to witness the impact this day had for both our students and staff. This experience provides an opportunity for them to interact in a different setting than the day-to-day school experience. I was also very proud to hear the positive feedback from the locations our students visited. **PANTHER PRIDE** was on display in the community as our students were **Practicing Kindness, Acting Respectfully,** and **Working Hard** in the settings we visited.

An important district referendum will be voted on April 5th. You will find access to information on this issue at the following link: [Referendum 2022](#). I encourage you to review this information and exercise your right to vote.

In March, we continue to provide engaging and enriching activities for our students: State Math Counts, WSMS Band Extravaganza, and our 5<sup>th</sup> Grade D.A.R.E. Graduation. On behalf of our staff, I want to thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working together as a team to provide your child with the an educational experience that strives to meet the district's mission - **Serve with Passion to Ignite Creativity, Innovation, and Excellence.**

Go Panthers!

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

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## 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.

**Messages called into the office after 1:30 may not get to your child before dismissal.**

## **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.

## **WSMS BAND EXTRAVAGANZA CONCERT**

Tuesday, March 15 - 7pm  
West Salem Middle School New Gym

Come and enjoy performances from all of our bands, beginning with the WSMS Jazz Ensemble.

Each grade level concert band will play three selections,  
followed by a mass band performance to end the evening!

There will be a live stream of the event as well.

Performers will report to WSMS at 6:30 dressed in their concert attire.

ALL students will have a clean-up responsibility after the concert ends.

## 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  
 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](http://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](http://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.



## Middle School Dance (6th-8th grades)

Friday, March 4th, 3:30-5:30  
Location: Big Gym

The Student Council is organizing this event and hope all can come for a fun "END OF THE TRIMESTER" activity. (Teachers will be chaperoning the dance.) There will be great music, fun games, a photo booth, and concessions! This is a fundraiser for the school's Random Acts of Kindness Fund. Admission is \$1.00. Students attending the dance will **not** go home between the end of school and the start of the dance. The dance is casual, so what each child wears to school is perfect for dance attire (as long as it follows school dress policy). Students will not be allowed to leave the dance and come back. Please plan to pick up your child **promptly at 5:30**. If you have any questions, please contact the Student Council advisors, Martha Burdick or Amber Coe.



March is here! We were thrilled to be able to participate in our Winter Wellness outing this year! This has been an invaluable relationship-building event for the middle school since 2005. This is a time when both sides (students and staff) see the other side as 'human.' It is so much fun and certainly very rewarding developing these connections. Thank you to all who supported this endeavor! We are already discussing plans for next year's Winter Wellness :-)

Our Character Strong lessons will start off focusing on 'dreamcasting.' The goal is to start thinking about our dreams for the future so that we can make plans on how to reach them. This doesn't mean we have to know exactly what we want at this stage of life, yet at least start to think what our future may entail. (8th grade had a little experience with this when the high school counselors came over to talk about high school registration.) Lessons will also circle back to a discussion on emotions/emotional regulation.

Counselors were able to present lessons to all grade levels this month with a focus on Internet Safety and a responsible "digital footprint". There were also reminders as always about treating each other with kindness and respect. We encourage you to check in with your students and ask them what they learned about their digital footprint and how they can protect themselves. It is our hope to present to each grade level at least once more this year about Youth Mental Health and being **responsive** to, but not responsible for our friends and classmates' mental health.



These students competed in the virtual Regional MathCounts Event

## MATHCOUNTS®



The regional Mathcounts virtual competition was held on Thursday, February 17th. There were 48 competitors representing six different schools. The schools competing were Holmen, Ithaca, Onalaska, Providence Academy, Viroqua, and West Salem.

Students competed as individuals and as teams. West Salem's individual results were as follows: 28th place - Henri Schlecht, 24th place - Tula Mitchell, 21st place - Dillan Riste, 20th place - Kate Townsell, 14th place - AJ Cruz Lambert, 11th place - Elliot Wolf, 9th place - Isaiah Laack, 7th place - Breanna Smith, 6th place - Lydia Jochen, 4th place - Isabel Krueger, and 1st place - Sam Adams. West Salem's team (Sam Adams, Izzy Krueger, Lydia Jochen and Elliot Wolf) placed first overall!

Mathcounts is a national program designed to promote excellence in math and science in grades 6-8. Mathcounts allows students to improve their problem solving skills. Adams, Krueger, Jochen, Wolf, and Smith advance to the state competition in Sheboygan on March 12. Good luck, everyone! West Salem's coaches are Tammy Bentzen and Sarah Weber.



Izzy K, Lydia J, Elliot W and Sammy A will represent WSMS at the State MathCounts Competition.

**5th Grade**

**Math:** Students are continuing to work with whole numbers and decimal operations. After we wrap up multiplying, students will switch their focus to division. This unit will include long division with multi-digit divisors and decimal numbers! Keep working on those multiplication and division facts at home.

**Reading:** All classes will be wrapping up the R.A.C.E. strategy to answer questions about both fiction and nonfiction text. They will start a Historical Fiction unit and eventually be put into American Revolution book clubs.

**Writing:** Students just completed their DARE and will present the first week of March. During March, students will brush up on test-taking skills and work on letter writing. They will choose a famous author and write a letter to him or her.

**Social Studies:** We are wrapping up our early colonies unit. Learning about the 13 colonies will prepare the students as we move into the American Revolution. Students have also started mapping the regions of the United States. New England and Middle Atlantic maps are already complete. *Keep practicing those states and capitals! There are Apps on iPads to study states!*

**Science:** A new trimester brings forth a new science unit. We will be learning about the four Earth systems, hydrosphere, atmosphere, geosphere, and biosphere. As we learn about these systems, we will also explore how each system interacts with one another, and how the biosphere could not exist without the other three.



**“Meet Us in the Middle”**



## **Math - Ms. McKinney and Mrs. Jehn**

We finished Chapter 6 at the end of trimester 2 and will use those integer skills in Chapter 7. This chapter is Equations and Inequalities and focuses on writing, solving, and graphing equations and inequalities. Students will learn to work with one and two variables. These skills are the building blocks for algebra in the future.

We will end March in Chapter 8 which covers surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures including prisms and pyramids.

Also, keep taking your kids shopping, having them figure out your bill, asking them to tell you the percentage you will save, making them figure out the tip, etc. The stories your children are sharing about it are excellent! Since these are lifelong skills we all use daily, it's great for them to continue honing these skills from Chapter 5 to become better and better at saving money in the future.

## **Accelerated Math - Mrs. Jehn**

We finished the 6th grade textbook! Students completed Chapters 8 and 9 covering surface area, volume, measures of center (mean, median, mode), and measures of variation (range, interquartile range, mean absolute deviation). Chapter 10 was about data displays including stem-and-leaf plots, histograms, box-and-whisker plots. They needed to use what they learned about measures of center and measures of variation to describe the center, spread, and shape of the displays.

March brings us into the 7th grade textbook and Chapters 11 and 12 during which students will learn the integer rules using them to add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers and rational numbers. These chapters are a bit like elementary school when students first encountered fast facts because they will need to make time to do some fast fact practice on their own at home to be successful.

## **Science: Mrs. Jarosh**

The learning is SHOCKING as students connect their knowledge of atoms to how electricity works! Students will again design their own scientific research to test a variable of their choice connecting to electricity!

- How do electric charges interact?
- What is an electric field?
- How is an electric current produced?
- How are conductors different from insulators?
- What causes electric charges to flow in a current?
- How does resistance affect current?
- What are the basic features of an electric current?
- How do you calculate electric power?

## **English - Mrs. Buisman**

In 6th grade English, students will continue working on text structure and text features in their writing to prepare for our informational writing unit. We will also spend time focusing on our listening skills as we prepare for the forward exam which will take place in April. Another part of the Forward exam we will prepare for a bit is the TDA. This is the writing part of the exam. We will look at some TDA writing samples to critique and learn from.

## **Reading - Mrs. Schultz**

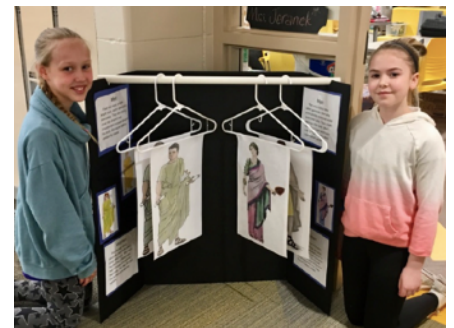
Mid-March we will be wrapping up our Social Issues unit surrounding the Civil Rights Era. Many students had the opportunity to read all 10 of the Civil Rights novel options and some even choose to continue reading the novels during free read time! We also will be working with the suffixes -ology and -phobia, which are always fun and interesting for students. Students will have FREE READ time again at the end of the month. This is independent reading where students can choose any book they want to read for enjoyment.

Our next area of study will take on similar social issues, looking at them with a global perspective. Students will choose a Human Rights topic and conduct some intense research on this, which will be used for their final product to be completed in English class with Mrs. Buisman. While researching, students will use a variety of non-fiction reading strategies when delving into their different resources. They will begin in hardcopy sources, which will be the basis of their information so they can decipher what information on the internet is valid and what isn't.

Happy Reading! - Mrs. Schultz

## **Social Studies: Mrs. Jeranek**

During the month of March, we will study the Roman Empire. Throughout the Roman Unit, we will use various text structure graphic organizers to learn about the many ways Romans lived, important achievements in technology that we still have today! The second part of the unit will be a research opportunity. Students will use graphic organizers to inquisitively gather information through multiple sources to explore their topic. Also, students will use their creativity to a display their findings! It is also a wonderful way to take a break from the normal Social Studies textbook learning!



## 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 sentence variety 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 recently finished up our unit on percent and interest. It was great for kids to see and think about the real world connection in finding sale prices and talking about being smart with their money as they get older. They also enjoyed getting to use their calculators for the first time this year. If you were able to meet with any teachers at conferences, thank you! If not, please know you can email with questions and concerns at any time.

## Pre-Algebra- Mrs. Weber

It has been a fast month of February. We had winter wellness, an early release, and the school forest all this month. We still finished up our unit on systems and most kids did an amazing job on the unit test. We will continue to practice this skill and review the different ways to solve systems. This will be something they will see in algebra and beyond. Keep working hard!!

## Reading - Mrs. Rochester

7th graders just finished up a choice unit. Students were able to pick out the book they wanted to read.The students all created a bookmark to keep track of how many pages to read to finish on time.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, questions, etc.The One-Pager is due March 3 or March 4.We also worked on practical reading skills during this choice unit.We focused on the variety of reading skills in everyday life, connotation or denotation of a word, tone, and choosing the right definition when using google. 7th grade students are also working on Greek/Latin root vocabulary words. Following our choice unit, students will be reading books as part of an environmental unit.

## Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum

In 7th grade Social Studies for the month of March we will wrap up our unit on the three branches of government.We will take a closer look at the Judicial Branch and the jobs and responsibilities of those who sit on the high court. Students will get a chance to pick a Supreme Court case and do a little bit of research regarding the importance of that case in our country.

## Science - Mr. Baker

We ended February by heading out to the school forest for some winter ecology activities. Students learned about wolves, experimented with insulation, went geocaching, and hunted prey animals with scent only! In class we have been having fun finishing up genetics and writing secret messages using DNA! March will now be a month for evolution and classification.We will start taking a look at all the different types of animals and what adaptations they need to survive.

# 8th Grade

## Science - Ms. Smith-Waller

We finished up our study of Earth's History in February and then started to learn about Astronomy.We began by looking specifically at the Earth-moon-sun system and how those objects interact with each other. Our first focus was the phases of the moon.We completed a few activities demonstrating how the phases change and why we see what we see. Feel free to ask your 8th grader why we see the different phases of the moon! Next, we will study Lunar and Solar eclipses.We will recreate the positions of the Earth, moon, and sun to model how these two events occur.We will finish up our first section of this unit on the Earth-moon-sun system by learning the reason we have seasons.A favorite activity for me is a kinesthetic activity where we will use our bodies to represent the Earth and move around the sun.This will help us better understand how the Earth moves in space and what we experience here on Earth as a result.

Essential Learning Outcomes:

- 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.

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

The 8th graders just finished their research papers.They should be proud of the effort they put in the last few months researching and writing these papers, and we all agree that it feels good to be done. Before we start our next big unit, we are going to spend some time with poetry. We will learn to analyze poetry and will even spend some time writing our own poems. Students are back to reading a choice book for their STRAW reading time which gives them material for their journal writes.We continue to work on compound and complex sentences with the end goal of using these correctly and consistently in their writing.



## Social Studies - Ms. Morgan

March finds 8th-grade social studies students looking at the growth of our nation. During this time, we will look at the removal of the Native American tribes to make way for settlement on their land. This will include information on tribal sovereignty in Wisconsin which is taught to meet the Act 31 Mandate. Don't know what this mandate is? Wonder why it exists? Check out the following website: <https://dpi.wi.gov/amind/fact-sheet>.

By the end of the month, students will be able to:

1. Explain what led to the event known as the Trail of Tears
2. Describe how the Treaty of Prairie du Chien 1825 set up our territory/state's ability to remove tribes from their lands in Wisconsin
3. Compare tribal removal in Wisconsin to other areas of the state
4. Explain why Act 31 exists
5. Provide details on the push and pull factors for emigration within the U.S.

We will also welcome Mr. Ross Piersma to our room beginning in mid-March. Mr. Piersma is a student-teacher from Viterbo University in La Crosse. He is actually returning after doing some clinical hours with us this fall! We look forward to exploring history with him for the duration of the year.

## Math - Mrs. Coe & Mrs. Bentzen

### Regular Math (Chapter 7&8) Mrs. Bentzen and Mrs. Coe

We will complete Chapter 8 about volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres and learn about data analysis and displays in Chapter 9 in March.

The objectives for Chapter 9:

- \*construct and interpret scatter plots
- \*find and assess lines of fit for scatter plots
- \*use equations of lines to solve problems and interpret the slope and the y-intercept
- \*use two-way tables
- \*choose appropriate data displays

### Algebra (Chapters 9&10) - Mrs. Bentzen

In March, we will complete Chapter 10 about quadratics equations and functions, and learn about radicals and geometry connections in Chapter 11.

The objectives for Chapter 11:

- \*graph square root functions
- \*simplify radical expressions
- \*solve radical equations
- \*apply the Pythagorean Theorem and Its Converse
- \*apply the Distance and Midpoint Formulas

# Allieds

## Spanish - Mrs. Phillips

### 6th Grade

In March we welcome a new group of sixth graders to Spanish. Hola, ¿Cómo estás? They will begin by working on basic conversation, vocabulary, and pronunciation. We will practice conversations and expand our vocabulary including numbers, weather expressions, days of the week and months. The cultural focus is music and we will hear a different song every week as part of the "locura de marzo"!

### 7th Grade

Welcome to Spanish, third trimester seventh graders! Students in seventh grade Spanish will start by discussing cognates and their importance in the language. We will have basic conversations and practice asking each other questions. We will be discussing the calendar, birthdays, and special occasions. We will also listen to a lot of new music in Spanish as we participate in "locura de marzo"!

### 8th Grade

In eighth grade Spanish we will begin the trimester by reviewing introductions and begin our trimester long presentational assignment, "Special Person Interviews". We will use our developing conversational skills by regularly speaking to each other in Spanish.

### Spanish I

Spanish elective students will begin the "locura de marzo" music activity. We will also be working through two units that include commands and saber/conocer. In order to practice these new structures we will play games, read stories, write stories, and watch a few videos. Our daily presentational assignment "anuncios" will continue throughout the month of March.

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

Our seven Professional Development Students from UW-La Crosse are making an impact already on our 5th and 6th grade students! We are extremely excited to have them with us. We will also be welcoming two student teachers at the end of the month. The warmer weather is coming, we promise! Please send an extra pair of socks and shoes with your child so they can change out of any wet or dirty footwear as we begin to go outside. Happy Spring!

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

We concluded the units on the 4 families of instruments and on spirituals with hidden messages. We continue to improve pitch reading by playing recorders and improve rhythm reading by playing bucket drums and doing body percussion.

We now turned our focus more to listening. We did a comparison of some different versions of "Down by the Riverside" and "The Star Spangled Banner". For each version, students need to describe what voices and instruments they heard/saw and then describe/respond to the music. It was interesting to see the wide variety of opinions of which version was their favorite and least favorite. We will continue to respond more to listening with SQUILT (Super Quiet Un-Interrupted Listening Time) which the students will listen to famous pieces of music and pick out timbres, tempos and moods.

As we finish up our time with these students, Ms. Nimm and Mrs. Glasel would like to thank the students for their hard work and participation in music class.

## **Trimester 2 - Music 5 - Mrs. Glasel (Ringlien) and Ms. Nimm (Fink)**

Your music class will take on a little different format by having music every day for a trimester. Let's meet your teachers.

Mrs. Glasel is in her 32nd year of teaching, all here at West Salem. Along with band, she taught 5th grade for the first 16 years before moving completely to the middle school to teach 6th - 8th grade general music and band lessons. When the 5th grade moved to the middle school, she began to teach 5th grade again and realized how much she missed teaching these energetic kids.

Ms. Nimm is in her 16th year of teaching, all here at West Salem, just like Mrs. Glasel! She also teaches Choir (6, 7, 8), Soundscapes (7), and African Drumming (8).

Our classes will be based around the four main concepts of performing, creating, responding and connecting, so that will involve a lot of moving, singing, listening, and rhythm/pitch activities. We will play many different instruments, and will learn about songs reflecting American culture as well as different holidays.

## **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 up to a 5th both melodic (1 finger at a time) and harmonic (2 or more fingers at a time), and are now putting 2 hands together.

**Music Appreciation** - The students are reading some articles from the Music Alive magazines. Recently they read about and watched video clips related to the saxophone, music of the Olympics, and noise cancelling headphones.

The students are also being exposed to different styles of music through the Music Workshop unit. This month's videos included The Birth of Rock, The Evolution of Rock, and Country music.

A recent composing project was on iWriteMusic which the students wrote a percussion ensemble for 3 instruments. Then groups of 3 students played each of the compositions, with each student playing a different instrument (cowbell, tambourine, and bucket drum) on each song.

## **Guitars and Musicals 7- Mrs. Glasel**

**Guitars** - The students are now playing songs that are incorporating 3 simple 1-finger chords (C, G7, G). They are learning what the chord symbols above a song mean and how to accompany a singer.

**Musicals** - The students finished up watching West Side Story and noticed the similarities with the story of Romeo and Juliet. Next they will watch Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, which shows how songs move the story along and help to shape the characters.

## **Choir 6, 7, & 8 - Nimm**

We continue to work on the fundamentals of singing. Each rehearsal consists of a set of warm-ups, sight-singing, and learning concert music. The weekly warm-ups are designed to stretch the singers' vocal ranges, encourage good diction, and use proper breathing techniques. In sight-singing, Choir 7 and Choir 8 have just added a fifth note to their scale - La. Choir 6 is working on rhythms in 6/8 time signature. All three choirs have a variety of two and three-part music that they are learning for their concerts in May.

## **Small Choir 6 - Nimm**

Students are learning about the many different styles of music. They just finished an overview of Classical music, and will be continuing with Rock N Roll, Pop, Country, Jazz and more!

## **Soundscapes - Nimm**

Students have finished researching the music related topic of their choice. They will be taking their information and writing a magazine article for our class magazine project.

## **African Drumming - Nimm**

Students continue to use the Rhythm Cup Explorations units to help them learn rhythms. They have been working on tied notes, and will be moving on to 6/8 time signature. Students are focusing on Ensembles 9 and 10 which also use 6/8.

## Art - Mrs. Hemker

### Grade 5

Welcome to MS grade 5 families! This month 5th graders will be working on a variety of portraits. A painting of an animal that represents them is the first focus. Later this month, portraits will turn to a more realistic style where we will look at facial features and proportions. If time allows we will also be working on an abstract painting of our names.

### Grade 6

As we begin the Trimester, 6th grade will be working on some mini-works in various styles. Our first project will include creating a portfolio for storage. Students will fill this portfolio with completed works by the end of the trimester. Our first large scale project will guide a review of material use by creating a portrait sampler. Students will then move on to some artist research and will create an informational poster as well as a parody.

### Grade 7

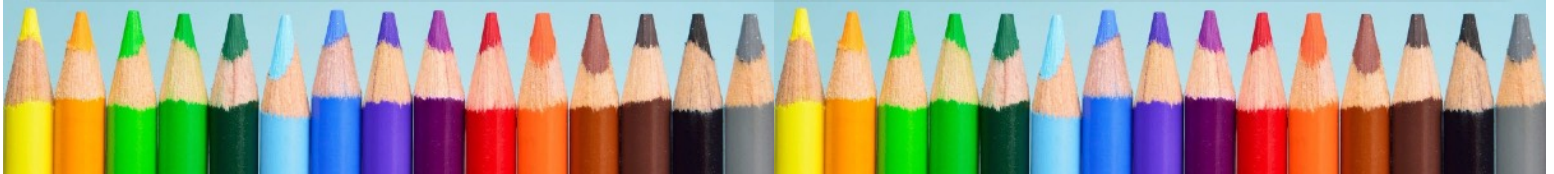
7th graders will spend the month of March experimenting with drawing from different points of view. One of the projects will require students to create the entire drawing from start to finish by observing an inanimate object of their choice. We will also be working on observational drawings of shoes, which will include a shading review.

### Grade 8

Students in 8th grade will be working on projects that represent themselves this trimester. Our first project will be a design that will be considered for this year's class t-shirt. The next will be a Poster featuring a quote that describes them. The poster will include a hand written font. 8th graders will also begin to design their wall block as a lasting way to represent their 8th grade self.

### 8th Grade Elective


Various types of drawing are the focus of the month of March. Students will continue to create practice samplers of materials as well as completed pieces using various techniques. Pen and Ink, charcoal and ebony pencil will be used as well as the possibility of others if time allows.



## ADAPTED SPORTS LEAGUE HOSTED ONALASKA ON FEB. 14



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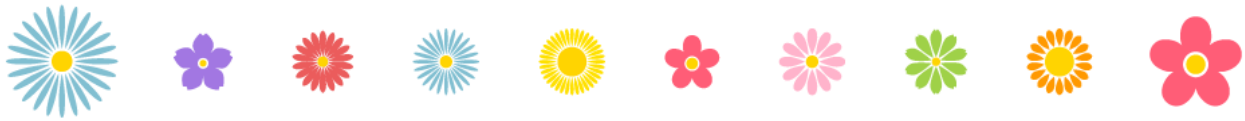


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# Black Cat News

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

**In This Issue**

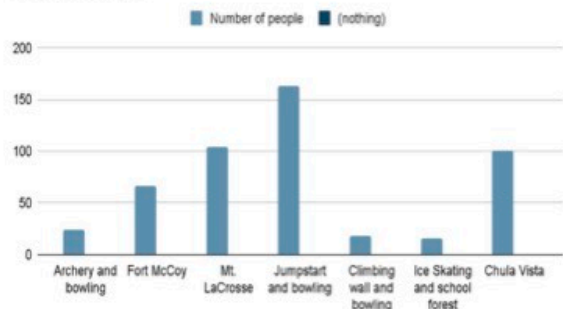
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## Winter Wellness

by Kara J. and Evelyn M.

On February 11th, our entire school went on a field trip! On Winter Wellness Day, students get to pick where they go for the day. There are many different options to choose from, like Chula Vista (an indoor water park), Fort McCoy (a tubing location), Mt LaCrosse (downhill skiing and snowboarding), Jumpstart (a trampoline park) and bowling, Features (bowling) and archery, a climbing wall and bowling, and lastly, ice skating and our school forest. Kids look forward to the day because it's social and a break from school work.

Winter Wellness



# MS LUNCH MENU [HERE](#)



HARVEST OF THE MONTH  
NEWSLETTER 03/2022



## FUN FACTS

- "Green" beans can actually be green, yellow, purple, or speckled in these colors.
- Green beans may grow as bush beans or pole beans. Pole beans are climbers; they need a trellis or pole to hold up the plant

## NUTRITION INFO

One cup of green beans has 35 calories and provides manganese, folate, and vitamins C & K.

## PICK

Choose green beans that are deep in color and free of brown spots. A fresh bean will have a velvety touch and make a snapping noise when broken.

## STORE

Store unwashed green beans in perforated bag and use within a few days. Blanched green beans can be frozen and used within 12 months.

## PREPARE

Before use, wash under running water. Remove the stem end by snapping off, trimming with kitchen scissors, or cutting with a knife.

## USE

Serve fresh, raw green beans with dip for a quick snack or add to a summer salad. Top steamed or roasted beans with olive oil and toasted almonds. They can also be sautéed or stir fried.

## Three Sisters Soup

Serves 5

### Ingredients:

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ▪ ¼ pounds squash or sweet potatoes | ▪ ½ tsp. cumin                                     |
| ▪ 2 Tbsp. olive oil                 | ▪ ½ tsp. dried thyme                               |
| ▪ 1 ½ cup onions, chopped           | ▪ ½ tsp. black pepper                              |
| ▪ ½ cup celery, chopped             | ▪ 1 cup corn, fresh or frozen                      |
| ▪ ¼ cup carrots, chopped            | ▪ ½ cup green beans, trimmed and chopped           |
| ▪ 1 ½ tsp. garlic, minced           | ▪ 1 ¼ cup Great Northern Beans, drained and rinsed |
| ▪ 1 ½ cup low-sodium chicken broth  | ▪ ¼ cup low-sodium salsa                           |
| ▪ 1 tsp. salt                       |  |
| ▪ ½ tsp. coriander                  |  |

### Directions:

If using squash, trim, peel, quarter and seed. Cut squash/sweet potatoes into ½-inch cubes. Heat oil in a large stockpot over medium heat. Add onions, celery and carrots and cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook, stirring for 1 minute more. Add broth, squash/sweet potatoes, salt, coriander, cumin, thyme and pepper. Bring to a slow boil. Cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender, 30-45 minutes. Add corn, green beans, Great Northern beans, salsa and remaining salt. Return to a simmer and cook until green beans are tender, about 5 minutes.

Per Serving (3/4 cup): 134 calories, 2g fat, .2g saturated fat, 7g protein, 24g carbohydrate, 5g fiber, 344mg sodium

for more information visit [www.laxf2s.org](http://www.laxf2s.org)

Coulee Region Farm to School is a partnership between La Crosse County Health Department, Mayo Clinic Health System – Franciscan Healthcare, Gundersen Health System, and the School Districts of Bangor, Holmen, La Crescent-Hokah, La Crosse, Onalaska, and West Salem.



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# 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)**