

## WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

2020



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Issue 8

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- \*Early Release - March 4
- \*End of Trimester - March 6

Dear 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. We will hold our annual Winter Wellness day on Friday, March 6. When we combined re-booking locations, bus driver availability, and the upcoming warming weather....this was the only date we could secure. So please keep your fingers crossed at home for cooperative weather on this day!

It's always great to witness the impact this day has 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. In March we continue to provide engaging and enriching activities for our students: State Math Counts, Middle School Musical, Grade 6-8 Band Extravaganza, and the Trimester 2 Awards Assembly. Our Trimester ends on March 6<sup>h</sup>. We have an early release on March 4<sup>th</sup>. See the calendar inside this issue for more details.

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](https://www.twitter.com/coachwopat)



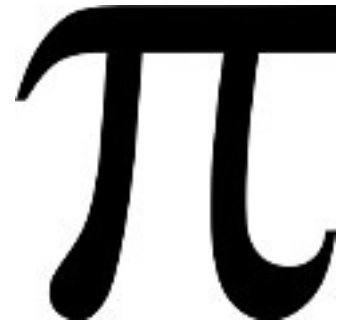
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## March 14 is Pi Day

Pi Day is celebrated on March 14th around the world. Pi (a Greek letter) is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant — the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter — which is approximately 3.14159.

Pi has been calculated to over one trillion digits passed its decimal. As an irrational and transcendental number, it will continue infinitely without repetition or pattern. While only a handful of digits are needed for typical calculations, Pi's infinite nature makes it a fun challenge to memorize and to computationally calculate more and more digits.



### Calendar of Events...

- 4 - Early Release - 12:20
- 6 - WINTER WELLNESS DAY
- 6 - State Mathcounts
- 6 - Trimester 2 ENDS
- 8 - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS - Spring ahead!!
- 13 - NO SCHOOL - (snow make-up day if needed)
- 17 - Band Concert
- 18 - Piano Solo & Ensemble
- 27 - NO SCHOOL

# MARCH



Winter Wellness -  
rescheduled  
will now be on.....  
Friday, March 6



## Counselor Comments...

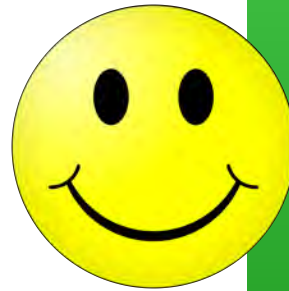
One burst of cold that so happened to be on the day we were supposed to go on our annual Winter Wellness outing followed by the "threat" of warm weather made us a little nervous about it happening at all. By the time you read this newsletter, we will hopefully have had 'the luck of the Irish' on our side and have been able to enjoy and rejuvenate from this worthwhile event!

In homeroom, we will finish up our lessons on patience. A valuable habit/skill that will benefit us throughout our lives. It is important to remember (and practice) the words of St. Francis de Sales...*Have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself.*" Later in the month we will focus our lessons on 'gratitude' and 'the mind' (reason, emotion, and wise -- the 'balance' between reason and emotion).

The Wisconsin Forward Exam window is quickly approaching.

- 5th grade = March 23-27
- 6th grade = April 14-17
- 7th grade = April 6-9
- 8th grade = April 20-24

More information will be coming regarding these tests.



## Healthy Living... Mr. Brewer, Mrs. Olson, Mrs. Dellenbach

The Healthy Living team can't wait for the warmer weather that is hopefully on the way. We are looking forward to getting outside.

Our 7th and 8th grade students will be working on officiating and following the rules during modified gameplay.

6th Grade students have wrapped up their Quidditch unit and will be moving towards some small-sided basketball games with a focus on cooperating with others.

Our 5th grade students have recently finished their basketball activities and will be moving towards more cooperative activities. Please have your children continue to bring in the proper clothing and shoes for PE. Thank you and Happy Spring!



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*



# March is Youth Art Month!

One of our very own 8th grader Adelyn B. has been selected for the 2020 Wisconsin Art Education Association's Youth Art Month Flag. This flag and her original design will be on display in Madison at the capitol as well as representing WI at the National Art Education Association Conference in Minneapolis in March. You can see the flag below. Addie's work is front and center!







**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 space projects and essays. 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 will be starting our early colonies unit. This unit teaches the students about how the early settlements eventually turned into separate colonies. Learning about the colonies will prepare the students as they move closer to the American Revolution. Students will also start studying states, capitals, and abbreviations in their homerooms and social studies classes. This eventually leads to a culminating state research project in May.

If a child does not start off studying and learning the states, it becomes increasingly more difficult to catch up. Please help your child learn the states. How can you help?

\*\*Save all of your child's maps, study guides, and tests for study purposes.

\*\*Quiz, quiz, quiz your child----Make it a fun game.

\*\*Purchase flashcards or a fun geography game

\*\*We have a few APPS on the iPad or find some great website Games on your own.

**Science:** Space is wrapping up which leads to our next social studies unit. The projects that the students made really turned out to be amazing! We also had a fantastic time at the school forest snowshoeing and learning about winter!

**Behavior reminder:** Remind your child to continue to be responsible and finish his/her assignments. If it is not completed at school, then it is your child's responsibility to finish it at home. Keep being respectful, responsible, and safe!  
**-Grade 5 Team**



### **Art - Mrs. Hemker**

In March students in 5th grade will be working on finishing up the non-traditional canvas project. They are using acrylic paint for these unique and colorful pieces. We will then move on to begin working in clay. Students will create a functional container as well as a sculptural piece.



## Trimester 1 - Music 5 - Mrs. Glasel (Kjos) and Ms. Nimm (Burdick)

This past month we continued singing and talking about folk music. Our emphasis was on spirituals and their hidden messages. We are continuing to do a lot with our listening skills with SQUILT (Super Quiet Un-Interrupted Listening Time) We studied the history of The Star Spangled Banner and listened to 5 versions of the song. We used our music vocabulary to describe the music and choose which one that we like the best.

We continued to accompany our singing on the autoharps and barred instruments, and even revisited the bucket drumming. Our new instrument was the recorder. We put together the rhythms and pitches that we learned this trimester to play songs on the recorder. We also sang songs and added auxiliary percussion instruments such as the conga drums, shakers, slit drum, claves, jingle bells, finger cymbals, and tambourine.

One of the focuses this month was on musical form. Form is how the music is put together. We learned that a lot of the songs that we sing are in AABA form or Verse - Refrain form. We also learned about Theme and Variations.

We ended our trimester talking briefly about jazz music. One of the main components of jazz is improvisation. We got to try it on our barred instruments and on the kazoos!

It will be sad to see these students leave our music classes to move on to their next Allied class. We had fun singing, playing instruments, and doing a lot of movement activities this trimester. We look forward to seeing you in a music class in 6th grade!

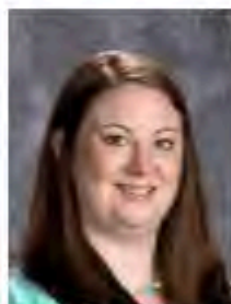
## Trimester 3 - Music 5 - Mrs. Glasel (Ringlien) and Ms. Nimm (Fink)

Welcome 5th grade students to music class! Your music class will take on a little different format by having music every day for a trimester. Let's meet your teachers.

Hi, I am Mrs. Glasel, and I'm in my 30th year of teaching, all here at West Salem. Last year was my first year back to teaching 5th grade music. I taught 5th grade for my first 16 years of teaching before moving completely to the middle school to teach middle school general music and band lessons.



Hi, I am Ms. Nimm, and I'm in my 14th year of teaching, all here at West Salem, just like Mrs. Glasel! This is my first year teaching 5th grade music, and I'm very excited to meet you. I also teach Choir (6, 7, 8), Soundscapes (7), and African Drumming (8).



Our classes will be based around the four main concepts: performing, creating, responding and connecting. You can bet that you will be doing a lot of moving, singing, and activities. We will

start off each class with a song, mostly from the Get American Singing...Again! books which are songs that should be common repertoire in our American culture. Then after doing a rhythm or pitch activity, we will focus on a topic or song that reflect history and culture, folk music, and holidays. We will end with a listening or movement activity.





### 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 9 of the Civil Rights novel options and some even chose 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 also have more FREE-READ time. 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 continue to study the Roman Empire. Throughout the Roman Unit, we will use various text structure graphic organizers to learn about the many ways Romans lived, and important achievements in technology that we still use 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 topics. 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!



*“Meet Us in the Middle”*





**English - Mrs. Buisman**

In 6th grade English, students are reviewing text features and text structure. They are using Google Slides to create different features to enhance writing. This will prepare them for creating informational books in the third trimester. In grammar, students are continuing to practice pronouns.

**Spanish - Mrs. Phillips**

¡Welcome to Spanish, third trimester seventh graders! Students in seventh grade Spanish will start by reviewing basic conversations and asking each other questions. We will be discussing the calendar, birthdays and special occasions. ¿Qué tiempo hacer? We will be also talking about the weather and create our own weather video or skit.

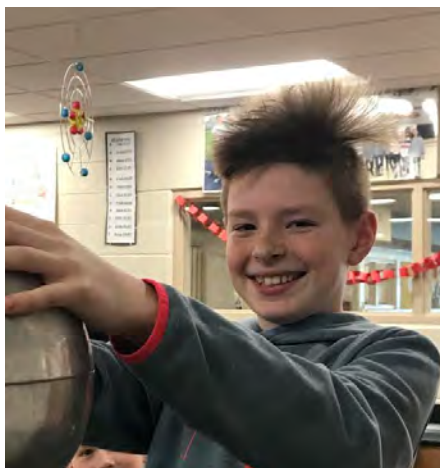
**Art - Mrs. Hemker**

As we begin the Trimester, 6th grade will be working on two main projects. The first is a self portrait. These will be large material samplers, realistic in style and include backgrounds that describe the artist. We will then move

on to create plaster masks with a partner. The next unit will be clay. We will review our past clay practices and introduce new ones. Each student will complete at least two finished pieces to take home.

**Science - Mrs. Jarosh**

6th grade scientists have been "shocked" the past few weeks learning about electricity. Individually, they created inquiry based static electricity labs. Students followed the scientific method to test, collect data and conclude their results. It's an exciting process to watch students be so engaged. As we move forward, students will explore motion, forces and energy!



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*



**Math - Mrs. Jehn & Mrs. Adams****Regular Math**

We finished Chapter 6 at the end of Trimester 2 and will use those integer skills in Chapter 7 throughout the month of March. 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. Understanding a letter can represent any number will be tough. If your child struggles with this, ask them to sing the song *I Think I'm Alone Now*. No, it's not the version of your youth, but the tune is the same and will give them a reminder of what to do.

Also, keep taking your kids shopping and having them figure out your bill, ask them to tell you the percentage you will save, make them figure out the tip, etc. The stories your children are sharing about this are excellent! Since these are 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.



SPRING

**Success Center**

The Success Center is a resource room for students before school. Here, students can receive help from staff who attend WSMS classes and are equipped to walk students through information they may have missed or just do not understand. It is also the place where students can make up tests and quizzes. It is open from 7-7:45am. If students attend the Success Center, parents are responsible for transportation to school.

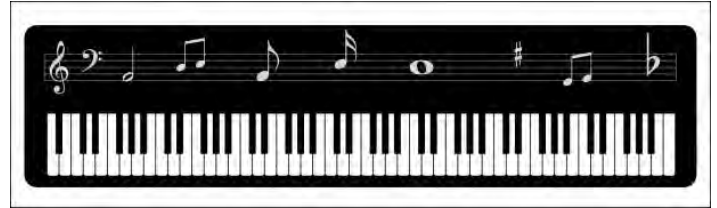
**Homework**

Students should expect to have homework in math and reading on a regular basis. Math homework will be an extension of what is learned during class. Students will be given class time to work, but most will have to take the homework home to complete. In reading, students are expected to read an independent reading book nightly for a minimum of 20 minutes. Most other classes will have homework on an intermittent basis. You should not expect more than an hour of homework nightly. When absent, students should be getting the information missed off Google Classroom.



**Music Reading -**

We are continuing to work on their keyboard skills and are now learning about the intervals of a 4th and 5th. More of our songs have both hands playing together and doing two different things at the same time. We will soon begin to play in a new hand position - G position.



We also have been reading rhythms with bucket drumming. To get the different sounds on the bucket, we have to hit them in different places. Reading the music to determine where to hit and when to hit the buckets is a challenge.

**Music Appreciation -**

We recently learned how the music affects our mood, and learning and memory. We will continue to learn about the Science of Sound: sound production, how we hear, hearing ranges, and the prevention of hearing loss. As hearing loss is occurring at a much younger age than in the past, it is important to understand why it is happening and what we need to do to prevent it. We are learning which sounds that we can listen to at a safe decibel and how long they can listen to louder sounds before hearing damage could occur.

Our Music Alive magazine articles this month will focus on the bass, the tuba, and Music of the Olympics.

**General Music 7 - Mrs. Glasel**

We are continuing to advance on the guitar as we work on being proficient at using the first 3 strings and the 1-finger chords (C and G7). Soon we will be playing songs that add the 4th string.

We also took our Knowledge of Reading Music for the Guitar test and wrote our 2nd composition. Then we played our composition on the guitar. Mrs. Glasel thought that many of the compositions were very melodic and pleasant.



We finished up watching the musical Fiddler on the Roof in which we learned different cultures and traditions. The next musical we will explore is West Side Story. We will discuss the story of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and find similarities between the two stories.







**Reading - Mrs. Rochester**

During the month of March, seventh grade students will be starting an environmental unit study. During this unit, the students are reading fiction books related to an environmental issue. Similar to the previous unit, students will be given a choice to read one of eight books. Upon completion of the novel this month, the students will conduct research about a specific environmental issue and use the research to

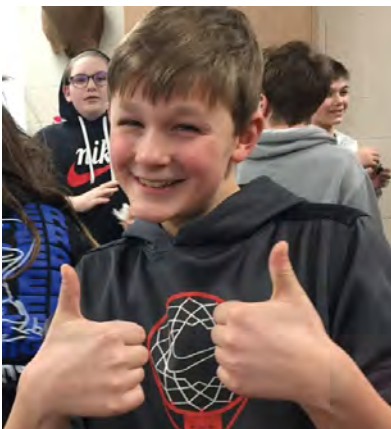
create a documentary/website in a small group. They will also be reading non-fiction articles to enhance their understanding of environmental issues, watching environmental commercials, viewing environmental propaganda, and analyzing the commercials and propaganda. During this unit, students will be studying the following literary elements: tone/mood, foreshadowing, point of view, and the importance of setting. In addition, the students will be continuing to write in their journal everyday in response to

what they are reading. The students should also be reading at least 25 pages of their choice book at home.



**Science - Mr. Baker**

We finished the genetics unit with a few fun labs including one of my favorites, "Supertasters!" We are now learning about molecular genetics! How does DNA code for all the things in your body? To find out, we will be creating our own secret messages using DNA as the code.



**Math - Mrs Weber & Mrs. Coe****Regular Math**

We are on our way to the last Trimester! Where did the year go? We will be starting Unit 6 which focuses on percents. This will include review of fractions and decimals and is a good real life concept to learn. We will be Forward testing on April 7, 8 and 9. Please plan ahead and try not to schedule appointments on these mornings. Thank you!!

**Advanced Math**

March 6 is the end of Trimester 2 already. We will be starting the last trimester with a project reviewing systems of linear equations and slope. The students will be creating their own cities using these skills. March is also when we celebrate Pi Day (3-14). We will work through Unit 6 where the focus is functions. When we finish with that, we will move onto the Unit on Pythagorean Theorem.

**English - Mrs. Martinson**

In March, the 7th graders will be finishing up their animal topic argument presentations. This is a good chance for the 7th graders to practice their speaking skills. They have been working on the argument for about a month. Hopefully, they will have good evidence to convince their peers. Then they will be starting their essay on The Vietnam War in conjunction with Gathering Fireflies. They are just finishing this book about the Hmong immigration to the United States in Reading class. Students will be taking notes, writing an outline, rough draft, and a final draft. The essay will be due at the end of March.

**STEM - Mr. Jones**

During the month of March, the students will apply their knowledge from the paper bridge challenge to build a truss bridge using toothpicks and glue. They have a great start and are having fun doing so! Once we build our toothpick bridges, we are

going to test them to see how much weight our designs can hold. This should be a fun, friendly competition to see which group can design a bridge that holds the most weight.

**Spanish - Ms. Rose**

Welcome to Spanish, Third Trimester Seventh Graders! Students in seventh grade Spanish will start by reviewing basic conversations and asking each other questions. We will be discussing the calendar, birthdays and special occasions. ¿Qué tiempo hacer? We will be also talking about the weather and create our own weather video or skit!

**Art - Mrs. Hemker**

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 scratch by observing an inanimate object-adding color with their

choice of materials. We will also be working on observational drawings of shoes. This project will continue on into April.

**Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum**

In 7th Grade Social Studies the students will finish learning about the Judicial Branch of the United States government. Once we finish with the three branches of government unit, we will shift our attention to our "laws" unit. We will start to look at the different types of laws we have in our country as well as the reasons behind these laws.



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*





### **Math - Mrs. Bentzen & Mrs. Coe Regular Math (Chapter 8)**

We finished Chapter 7 on March 6. We will start Chapter 8 on March 10. We will learn about volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres.

The objectives for Chapter 8:

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

### **Algebra - Mrs. Bentzen**

We started Chapter 10 on February 24. We will explore quadratic equations and functions.

The objectives of Chapter 10:

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

### **STEM - Mr. Jones**

During the month of February, our 8th graders have been working hard designing and programming to make the VEX kits do different tasks. This month students will be building Robot Dragsters, Spinning Signs, and Elevators. They will also be programming these to work based on various challenges. They have completed one task already! Feel free to look up my youtube channel WSMS STEM periodically as I will post some of their solutions throughout the year.

### **English - Mrs. Sackett & Mr. Tashner**

In 8th grade English, we are finishing up the final projects for *The Call of the Wild*. Soon, we are moving on to the last big writing assignment: argument writing. Students will spend some time reading several articles, looking at both sides of an argument, choosing a position, and writing a paragraph. Eventually the students will be choosing a topic, researching, writing, and presenting an argument presentation. In addition to the argument writing, we are still reviewing parts of speech and will be putting all eight parts of speech together. Compound and complex sentences continue to be a focus that we practice on a regular basis.

### **Social Studies - Ms. Morgan**

Eighth Grade Social Studies students recently completed their National History Day projects. This year we had a great variety of topics. We even had students with family connections to events in history that they chose to research. Watch for the next newsletter for a list of students who were chosen to compete at the regional competition at UW-La Crosse at the end of this month.

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

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





## Reading - Ms. Friell

**Supplies:** To be prepared for class, students must bring the following to class every day: pen/pencil, iPad, book of choice (fiction or non-fiction), and a Reading binder. The students' Reading binders will stay in the classroom, so they only have to get it off the shelf at the beginning of class.

**Independent Reading:** Students have been reading their books of choice since the beginning of the year. We've decided to have a little friendly competition between the classes this year! Everyone must read this choice book for 20 minutes each Reading class period. Ideally, students should also be reading these books at home on a daily basis. Please ask your son/daughter to tell you about what he/she is reading.

**Vocabulary:** In addition to "A Word A Day" (from the book *100 Words Every Middle Schooler Should Know*), 8th graders have been working with vocabulary from materials we're reading in class. They are also learning Greek and Latin roots.

In March we will focus on reading non-fiction, media literacy, and persuasive techniques (propaganda).

If you are interested in reading any of the texts, they are posted in Google Classroom. Most selections will be read as a whole class. Either way, an audio of the text (when available) will be provided in Google Classroom along with the text.



## Science - Ms. Smith-Waller

How is it possible we are already finishing with the 2nd trimester of the year? We have worked through a lot of information so far, but we still have some new topics to discover. We are finishing up our study of Plate Tectonics this month. Next up, we will learn about weathering and erosion and how those processes changed Earth's surface. March brings the spring equinox and on to longer, warmer days!

### Essential Learning Outcomes:

- Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for phenomena.
  - Analyze and interpret data on the distribution of fossils and rocks, continental shapes, and seafloor structures to provide evidence of the past plate motions.
- Construct a scientific explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from sources and the assumption that theories and laws that describe nature operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future.
- Construct an explanation based on evidence for how geoscience processes have changed the Earth's surface at varying time and spatial scales.

### Spanish - Mrs. Phillips

In eighth grade Spanish we will begin the trimester by continuing to develop our conversational skills. We will master all of the classroom phrases and learn about many Spanish-speaking countries through student-led presentations. We will continue to add vocabulary so that we can talk about our likes, dislikes and food! ¿Qué te gusta comer?

### Art - Mrs. Hemker

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. 8th graders will also begin to design their wall block as a lasting way to represent themselves here at the middle school. Students will also be working on a watercolor pencil drawing that is inspired by nature and an abstract drawing that begins as the letters of their name.



### Choir - Miss Nimm

**6th Grade Choir** - 6th grade students are back to “normal” choir rehearsals for the month of March. They have a variety of new music selections to work on for their spring program, and they are continuing to work on their sight-singing abilities using solfege syllables (do, re, mi, etc.). Students in everyday choir will be starting a unit on drum circles.

**7th Grade Choir** - Each week in March, 7th grade students will have the opportunity to reflect upon their own rehearsing techniques and abilities through a weekly checklist system. The checklist was created by the class and serves as a reminder of how the class should be using rehearsal time. It is also a way for students to hold themselves accountable for their behavior and participation in class.

**8th Grade Choir** - 8th grade students have begun rehearsing the music for their spring concert. This program was picked by the class and was created by Hailey B. and Haley C. It will feature songs about love and heartbreak. The class is continuing to practice their sight-singing abilities using solfege syllables (do, re, mi, etc.) and will be working with a new key signature as well.

**Soundscapes** - After completing a series of GarageBand projects, the soundscapes will be starting an Introduction to African Drumming unit. In this unit, they will learn to play several songs using a variety of percussion instruments including conga, bongo, gankogui, shekere, and cowbell.

**African Drumming** - 8th grade students in African Drumming will be creating a "How To" video for Ensemble 6 that they will be sharing with the 6th grade students who are in choir every day. African Drumming continues to work on Rhythm Cups to practice reading a variety of rhythms.



*“Meet Us in the Middle”*



## 2020 REGIONAL MATHCOUNTS NEWS!

The regional Mathcounts competition was held on Friday, February 7 in Onalaska. There were 68 competitors representing eight different schools.

The team results were as follows: 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Viroqua, 2<sup>nd</sup> place – West Salem, and 1<sup>st</sup> place – Onalaska. Other schools participating were Holmen, Prairie du Chien Bluff View Intermediate, Ithaca, Richland Center St. Mary of the Assumption, and Hillsboro. West Salem's team consisted of Celia M., Reece S., Haley C. and Kate F.

The individual results were as follows: 10<sup>th</sup> place – Sam S. (West Salem), 9<sup>th</sup> place – Reice K. (West Salem), 8<sup>th</sup> place – Rylan R. (West Salem), 7<sup>th</sup> place – Kate F. (West Salem), 6<sup>th</sup> place – Haley C. (West Salem), 5<sup>th</sup> place – Arthur W. (Onalaska), 4<sup>th</sup> place – Jovey M. (West Salem), 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Cedar S. (Viroqua), 2<sup>nd</sup> place – Celia M. (West Salem), and 1<sup>st</sup> place – Benjamin H. (Onalaska). Reece S. finished in 11<sup>th</sup> place (tie). Also competing for West Salem were Braeden D. and Luke J. in 16<sup>th</sup> place (tie).

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 as individuals, as well as, in teams of four. West Salem's team of four advances as a team, and Jovey M., Rylan R., Reice K. and Sam S. advance as individuals to the State Competition on March 7 in Sheboygan. West Salem's coaches are Tammy Bentzen and Sarah Weber.





# Activities to Support Reading at Home

Your child should read at least 20 minutes outside of school to maintain or increase their reading abilities. Research has shown that the best way to develop strong readers is to have them read more, with books at their level that are interesting to them. Let your child choose what to read within these guidelines.

The following are some suggestions for how to support reading at home:

- Have discussions about the current classroom novel or their independent reading book. Find out your student's opinions of them and what he/she think may happen as they continue to read. Revisit this discussion days later.
- Encourage your child to read to a younger sibling, a pet, or to you!
- Expose your child to sophisticated vocabulary. This will assist with understanding vocabulary he/she may encounter in their independent reading. Explain any challenging words you use.
- Subscribe to magazines that will interest your child.
- Read the newspaper together. Discuss interesting articles or editorials.
- Take your child to the public library. Check out books together. Check out audio versions of difficult text to follow along with. Read a book that was made into a movie and watch the movie together as a reward for finishing the book. Discuss similarities and differences.
- Find a book to read together. Read it aloud or individually, but stop every once in a while to discuss the text and see if your child has any questions or confusions to clear up.
- Listen to books in the car.
- Limit the amount of time spent watching TV and playing video games.
- Provide time and space for your child to read. Children love converting closets or corners of rooms into reading nooks with bean bags and reading lights!
- When out and about, have your student read aloud information. For example, at restaurants have your student read the descriptions of menu items. At a museum have him or her read the information available for the different exhibits. Pick up brochures for upcoming trips, and let your student read it to the family in preparation.
- Make reading fun and enjoyable!

## Important Dates for 8th graders...



Pumpkin Cake Roll



Red Velvet Cake Roll



Carrot Cake Roll



Strawberry Cheesecake Cake Roll



Chocolate Crème Cake Roll



Lemon Crème Cake Roll

### **8th grade fundraiser for end of the year class trip/activities.**

8th graders will be selling Joyful Traditions Cake Rolls as a fundraiser,

Order sheets will be **handed out on February 24** and will be **due back to their 8th grade teachers on March 9**. The cake rolls will be **delivered on March 18 at 2pm**.

**Families have two options for pickup: have an adult with a vehicle pickup the pastries at school between 2:30-4:30 on March 21 or have the student carry them home after school that day. We are unable to store the boxes of cake rolls due to no freezer access.**

Cake Rolls come in 6 flavors - Pumpkin, Red Velvet, Carrot, Strawberry Cheesecake, Chocolate Creme, and Lemon Creme will be \$14.00. **The student will receive \$7.00 for every box sold.**

This is an individual fundraiser -- each student will have his/her profit deducted from the cost of the last week of school activities (either the DC trip or from the cost of the field trips back here at school during the last week of school).



**8th grade Promotion is on May 28 at 7pm in the Heider Center.** Students need to be in the West Salem High School Commons at 6:30pm. The ceremony will last about one hour.

**The attire for all 8th graders will be the 8th grade class shirt which was designed by an 8th grade classmate.**

**8th grade class trip.....May 31 - June 5**



**Tuesday, March 17**  
**WSMS BAND EXTRAVAGANZA**

Location: WSMS GYM (NOT at the Heider Center)

Time: 7 pm (students report to the WSMS gym at 6:30pm)

Who's Performing: The Jazz Ensemble, 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Band Students

Special Event: The evening will conclude with a mass band performance of 250+ young musicians.





# Forensics

**Congratulations** to the 7th and 8th grade students who participated in Forensics this year! All 26 participants received the highest rating at their competition held in Whitehall on February 17.

Kate F. (Special Occasion — opening argument for a trial)  
Emily F. (Special Occasion — opening argument for a trial)  
Amanda V (Non-Original Oratory)  
Zipa X, Zana S, Marissa K, Teagan D (Play Acting)  
Noelle Z, Eva C, Kiley C, Annika P, Rebekah K, Madeline P (Play Acting)  
Sunnie J, Maria C (Readers' Theatre)  
Signe R, Taylor B, Emily S (Readers' Theatre)  
Corbin F (Prose Reading)  
Leah B (Informative)  
Sydney M (Persuasive)  
Julia B, Hazel H (Readers' Theatre)  
Drew H, Carson V, Emma H, Brook G (Readers' Theatre)  
Samantha M, Clair W (Readers' Theatre)  
Paige G (Persuasive)  
Sophie B (Non-Original Oratory)  
Iris M (Non-Original Oratory)

Forensics is a great opportunity for students to practice their speaking and performance skills while having fun with peers and meet students from neighboring school districts. Students practice during their recess time and before or after school.





### Early Release Dates

Wednesdays - Release at 12:20

Buses leave at 12:30

March 4

May 13

### **2020 Summer School Program**

It's that time of year again to start thinking about West Salem's Summer School. Be sure to mark your calendars. This year summer school will be held July 20th through August 7 8:30 - 11:40 am for K - 8 students.

### **Summer Swimming Lessons ~**

The school district will again be offering swimming lessons. Please note swimming lessons are not held during the July-August summer school session. The lessons will be held June 8-19, June 22-July 3, or July 6-17.





### MONDAY

**2**

**From the Grill**

- Bakalar's Hot Dog on WG Bun
- Side of Mac n' Cheese Green Peas

**Homestyle**

- Creamy Mac N' Cheese or Bacon Mac! (new) Italian Breadsticks Green Peas

**Deli**

- Ham & Swiss on WG Croissant Baked Scoop Chips and Salsa

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

### TUESDAY

**3**

**Breakfast for Lunch!**

**From the Grill**

- French Toast Sticks Jones Dairy Sausage Links Warm Cinnamon Apples

**Home Style**

- Colby Cheese Omelet Jones Dairy Sausage Links Warm Cinnamon Apples Honey Bun Goldfish

**Deli**

- Turkey BLT on WG Sub Roll
- Broccoli Cheese Soup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

### WEDNESDAY

**4**

**Early Release Day!**

**From the Grill**

- Carolina Style Pulled Pork Sandwich
- Coleslaw
- Mashed Potatoes

**Home Style**

- Meatballs & Gravy with Buttermilk Biscuit
- Mashed Potatoes

**Deli**

- Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap Sliced Apples with Caramel Cup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

### THURSDAY

**5**

**From the Grill**

- Popcorn Chicken
- Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice

**Home Style**

- Saucy Orange Popcorn Chicken
- Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice

**Deli**

- Turkey Sub
- Chicken Dumpling Soup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

### FRIDAY

**6**

**From the Grill**

- Cheese Pizza - Personal Pan
- Hawaiian Pizza - Personal Pan
- Honey-Glazed Carrots

**Home Style**

- Pepperoni Pizza - Personal Pan
- Honey-Glazed Carrots

**Deli**

- Chef Salad w/Chicken & Cheese
- Cottage Cheese Cup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**9**

**From the Grill**

- Mozzarella Stuffed Breadstick with Marinara Dipping Cup
- Mixed Vegetables

**Home Style**

- Tater Tot Hot Dish Mixed Vegetables WG Dinner Roll

**Deli**

- Ham, Turkey and Cheddar Sub
- Steakhouse Potato Salad

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**10**

**Taco Tuesday!**

**From the Grill**

- Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla Refried Beans

**Home Style**

- Walking Taco on Nacho Dorito Chips Refried Beans

**Deli**

- Homemade Grilled Cheese
- Creamy Tomato Soup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**11**

**From the Grill**

- "Chicken and Waffles!" Natural Chicken Tenders WG Waffle Waffle Fries

**Home Style**

- "Chicken and Waffles!" Natural Chicken Tenders WG Waffle Waffle Fries

**Deli**

- Chicken Caesar Wrap
- Bow Tie Pasta Salad

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**12**

- 100% Fruit Juice Slushy
- Offered with meals in all lines

**From the Grill**

- Meatball Marinara Sub on Hoagie Roll Garlic Roasted Green Beans

**Home Style**

- Pasta with Italian Meat Sauce Garlic Knots
- Pasta with Marinara Sauce Garlic Knots
- Garlic Roasted Green Beans

**Deli**

- Southwest Chicken Salad
- Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**13**

No School

**16**

**From the Grill**

- Homemade Sloppy Joe on WG Bun Tri Tators

**Home Style**

- Mr. Rib Sandwich Tri Tators

**Deli**

- Ham and Swiss on Croissant
- Chicken Noodle Soup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**17**

**Taco Tuesday!**

**From the Grill**

- Taco Truck Burritos (New!) in TWO VARIETIES! with Cilantro Lime Rice

**Home Style**

- (Low-Fat) Loaded Beef Nachos with Cilantro Lime Rice

**Deli**

- Taco Topping Bar
- Turkey BLT on Sub Roll
- Broccoli Cheese Soup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**18**

**From the Grill**

- Chicken Nuggets with WG Dinner Roll
- Mashed Potatoes

**Home Style**

- Turkey Pot Roast in Gravy with WG Dinner Roll
- Mashed Potatoes

**Deli**

- Chef Salad w/Chicken & Cheese
- Creamy Chicken Pot Pie Soup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**19**

**From the Grill**

- (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun
- Potato Stars

**Home Style**

- (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun
- Potato Stars

**Deli**

- Cuban Flatbread Sandwich
- Chicken Dumpling Soup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**20**

**From the Grill**

- Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza Honey-Glazed Carrots

**Home Style**

- Stuffed Crust Cheese Pizza Honey-Glazed Carrots

**Deli**

- Turkey Sub
- Vegetarian Minestrone

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack



**23****From the Grill**

- Chicken Patty - Hot and Spicy Whole Grain Bun Tater Tots

**Home Style**

- Veggie Burger Spicy Black Bean (Morningstar, nut free) Tater Tots OR
- (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun Tater Tots

**Deli**

- Ham, Salami & Provolone Cheese Sub
- Beef and Vegetable Soup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**24****Taco Tuesday!****From the Grill**

- Pork Taco on Soft Shell Tortilla
- Refried Beans

**Home Style**

- Chicken Taco on Soft Shell Tortilla
- Refried Beans

**Deli**

- Homemade Grilled Cheese
- Creamy Tomato Soup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**25****From the Grill**

- Kick'n Chicken-Crispy Patty with Pepper Jack Cheese Whole Grain Bun
- Oven Baked French Fries

**Home Style**

- BBQ Teriyaki Chicken Seasoned Brown Rice
- Mixed Vegetables

**Deli**

- Southwest Chicken Salad
- Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**26**

- Rice Krispie Treat Offered with meals in all lines

**From the Grill**

- Mini Corn Dogs
- Chex Mix - Cheddar
- Honey-Glazed Carrots

**Home Style**

- Pasta with Chicken Alfredo or Pasta with Chicken Cajun Alfredo Garlic Breadstick
- Honey-Glazed Carrots

**Deli**

- Chicken Caesar Wrap
- Parmesan Peppercorn Pasta

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**27**

No School

**30****From the Grill**

- Bakalar's Hot Dog on WG Bun Side of Mac n' Cheese Green Peas

**Homestyle**

- Creamy Mac N' Cheese or Bacon Mac! (new) Italian Breadsticks Green Peas

**Deli**

- Ham & Swiss on WG Croissant Baked Scoop Chips and Salsa

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

**31****Breakfast for Lunch!****From the Grill**

- French Toast Sticks Jones Dairy Sausage Links Warm Cinnamon Apples

**Home Style**

- Colby Cheese Omelet Jones Dairy Sausage Links Warm Cinnamon Apples Honey Bun Goldfish

**Deli**

- Turkey BLT on WG Sub Roll
- Broccoli Cheese Soup

**Grab and Go**

- Panther PBJ Pack
- Panther YOGURT Pack

More Details: [wsalem.nutrislice.com/menu/west-salem-middle-school/lunch/](http://wsalem.nutrislice.com/menu/west-salem-middle-school/lunch/)

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March 2020

# Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



## Short Stops

### Illustrated notes

Your middle schooler has probably heard the phrase “A picture is worth a thousand words.” It’s good advice that she can apply to note taking. Suggest that she incorporate sketches into her notes. She’ll include more detail in a shorter amount of time, and seeing a drawing may help her remember the information more easily.

### Let your child be himself

Your tween is likely to face disappointments that you went through at his age, like not making a team or the end of a friendship. Listen to his feelings before sharing yours. He may have a different reaction than you did, and taking cues from him will let him process the experience in his own way.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In a disturbing trend, more tweens and teens are “cutting”—meaning they’re cutting their skin in an effort to “feel something” and cope with overwhelming emotions. Signs of this include small, straight cuts on the arms and legs or wearing long sleeves and pants on hot days. If you see any evidence of cutting, call your child’s doctor right away.

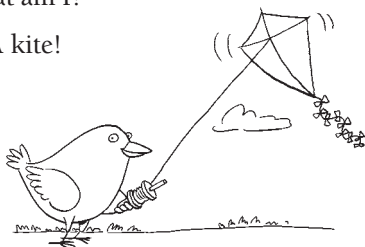
### Worth quoting

“Deal with the faults of others as gently as with your own.” *Chinese proverb*

### Just for fun

**Q:** I have a tail but no head. What am I?

**A:** A kite!



## Responsibility all around

Taking care of what needs to be done lets your middle grader accomplish his goals and be a good citizen. Help him become more responsible in these key areas.

### Self

Encourage your tween to take responsibility for his actions rather than blaming others. Say he gets a low quiz grade and complains that the teacher didn’t explain the material clearly. Ask what he could do the next time he doesn’t understand something. He might raise his hand or talk to the teacher after class. He’ll learn that he’s in charge of his own success.

### Others

Have your middle grader find a way to follow through on his responsibilities to others. He could use his planner, a calendar, or an electronic alert to remind himself about his drama club fundraiser or his weekly video call with his grandparents. Then before he makes



new plans, he should check to see if he’s available.

### Community

A responsible community member obeys laws and takes care of shared property. Look for opportunities when you’re out together. While driving, you might point out how you move over when you pass a cyclist. Or at the grocery store, your tween could return a cart someone left in the middle of the lot so it doesn’t dent a car. 👍

## Ready for standardized tests

Springtime brings warmer weather—and, for your middle schooler, standardized tests. Help your child prepare with these tips.

■ **Know the dates.** Ask your tween to print out two copies of the testing schedule and highlight the tests she will take. She could post one copy on the refrigerator (so you’re in the loop) and keep the other copy in her backpack.

■ **Be supportive.** Tell your middle grader that you know she’ll do her best. Offer to look over her completed practice tests. Remind her to pack sharpened pencils with erasers, and a water bottle and healthy snack if permitted.

■ **Keep it in perspective.** Encourage her to take the tests and any practice tests seriously—but not to stress. Remind her that the results are only one measure of her performance in school. 👍



# Use your (academic) words

Your tween may not text the word *derive* to her friend or say *foreshadow* in everyday conversation. But words like these are important in school and will give her a richer vocabulary for the future. Suggest these fun vocabulary boosters.

**Make profiles.** Have your child create pretend social media profiles for vocabulary words. On paper, she could include an “About me” section describing the word’s meaning. For



*analyze*, she may write “I love to carefully examine things.” Under “Friends,” she might place related words and phrases such as *evaluate* and *break down*. Perhaps she’ll include a “Photos” section with drawings showing the concept, such as a detective looking at evidence.

**Play I Spy.** In this version, the goal is to see how many ways you and your middle grader can use school vocabulary in daily life. She might talk

about the *perimeter* of a building as you walk by it, hear someone *clarify* an answer during dinner, or notice an *abstract painting* in a waiting room. 👍

## Up-close science

How do magnifying glasses work? Your middle grader can discover the science behind them by making a curved lens out of gelatin. Share these steps with him.

1. Bring 1 cup water to a simmer on the stove or in the microwave.
2. Pour a 3-oz. packet of light-colored gelatin into a bowl. Add the hot water, and stir constantly for 2 minutes.
3. Let the gelatin cool for 10 minutes. Then, put 1 tbsp. on a plate in the refrigerator for 4 hours until it hardens.
4. Measure 1 tbsp. water into a short, clear glass. Carefully place the hardened gelatin (flat side down) in the glass.



5. Now try to read a book through the gelatin “lens” by moving the glass over the text. The lens bends, or refracts, light, so the words appear larger—just like with a magnifying glass. 👍



## Q & A Nutrition for my tween

**Q** My son is always hungry, and it seems like he eats constantly. Unfortunately, he doesn’t always make the best choices. What should I do?

**A** Your child is growing faster than at any other time since infancy, so it’s normal for him to feel hungry.

Since your son is likely to reach for what’s most readily available when his tummy rumbles, stock up on snacks that are nutritious and filling. Examples include Greek yogurt, nuts (if he’s not allergic), hummus, avocados, lean turkey slices, and bananas.

Also, busy tweens may be tempted to skip breakfast, but a healthy morning meal will keep him full until lunchtime. A complete breakfast might include eggs, whole-wheat toast, fruit, and a glass of fat-free milk. Help him plan his meal the night before—or he could meet friends for a nutritious breakfast at school. 👍



## Parent to Parent “My mom is so embarrassing!”

My daughter Charlene and I were always close, so I was hurt when she started acting like I was an embarrassment in public. As we headed into her sports banquet, for instance, she walked 10 steps behind me.

I mentioned this to my neighbor who has older kids. She reassured me that this is a normal part of Charlene becoming independent from me. She said that letting her kids

walk apart from her seemed to make them less resistant to going places with her. She also tried to avoid doing things that embarrassed them most, like hugging them in front of their friends. Eventually, she said, this phase will end.

I still don’t enjoy Charlene thinking I’m embarrassing. But I’m glad she’s becoming her own person, and I know it won’t last forever. 👍



### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators,  
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# WEST SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT 2020-2021 CALENDAR



\*\*Summer School July 20-August 7, 2020

AUGUST 2020				
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 2020					21
M	T	W	T	F	
	1	2	3	4	
NS	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2020					20
M	T	W	T	F	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	ER	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23#	
26	27	28	29	NS*	

#No school for Elementary & Middle students only

NOVEMBER 2020					19
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	
25	30				

DECEMBER 2020					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 2021					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 2021					19
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	ER	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19#	
22	23	24	25	26	

#No school for Elementary & Middle students only

MARCH 2021					21
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	SD	
15	16	17	18	NS*	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30	31			

APRIL 2021					19
M	T	W	T	F	
			1	NS	
NS	SD	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2021					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 K-8 Only  
\*9-11 No School  
\*12-SEP presentation day

JUNE 2021					3
M	T	W	T	F	
	1	2	3	SD	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29				

**First Day of School: September 1, 2020**

**Last Day of School: June 3, 2021**

**Graduation Day: May 30, 2021**

**Early Release Days:**

**October 14, February 10, May 12**

**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 (Students dismissed at 12:20, Buses leave at 12:30)**

**SD = Snow Day or Make-up date (March 12, April 6, June 4)**

**\* = Teacher Inservice (August 25 & 26, October 30, January 18, March 19 + 2 Floating)**