November 2021 **PANTHER POST** Vol. 9, Issue 4

WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

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School Starts at 7:50!!

It's November already? It must be, because the leaves are turning, the chill of fall is in the air, and hopefully the school year has settled into a productive and positive routine for your family. Recently, we completed our First Trimester Mid-Term at WSMS. We also completed our student/parent/teacher conferences on October 14 & 18. Thank you to all the students and parents who attended. It's important that students see your support and communication regarding their academic progress. It shows students that you understand how important their education is and helps them prioritize learning as they grow older and become increasingly more responsible for their education.

The month of November is full of opportunities and important dates for our students. Our fall sports seasons come to an end and our winter sports seasons begin. Our annual Veterans Day Program will be held on Thursday, November 11, at 1:50pm on the football field, and you are invited to attend. You can find more information about our program on page 3. Our first trimester ends on November 23, and we will not have school November 24 – 28 for Thanksgiving break. A reminder that our P.A.W. scores will be a part of our report card this year. Now, grades 5-8 behavioral/life skills will be assessed and reported out using defined rubrics. We are calling this P.A.W.s. (click on the link).

1. PRACTICE KINDNESS
2. ACT RESPECTFULLY
3. WORK HARD

Each teacher will report out a score for their classroom on report cards. We're excited to report out not just student academic progress, but also how students are showing their PANTHER PRIDE in the classroom.

We look forward to continuing to work together to provide your child with the best educational experience here at West Salem Middle School. On behalf of our staff, we hope you have a great Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends. This year, I am once again very thankful for the opportunity to lead a student-centered staff, work with supportive parents, and with your incredibly talented children within a strong community.

Thankful to be a Panther,

Benjamin J. Wopat

https://twitter.com/CoachWopat

Inside this Issue:

From the Office

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.

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.

Transportation

School Bus Safety Video from Rick Kline at the Bus Garage… Click the link.

https://youtu.be/_UKO_BJaoiA

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.

VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM

As Covid still necessitates caution in large group, indoor gatherings, West Salem Middle School will be hosting a commemoration of Veterans Day on Nov. 11th beginning at 1:50 on the football field. The event will begin with the singing of the National Anthem which will be followed by a short speech by one of the West Salem area veterans, a volley of gunfire, and the playing of Taps. Students and other participants are encouraged to dress for the weather.

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 for a substitute application.

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.

Early Release Dates

Wednesdays - Release at 12:20
Buses leave at 12:30
February 9
May 11

The Middle School Newsletters

can be found on the district website - **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.

Counselor Comments…

We have passed the halfway point of the 1st Trimester and are enjoying many opportunities to meet with students. Parent/Teacher conferences have come and gone, yet please do not hesitate to reach out to your student's teachers or one of us with any academic, personal or social concerns. We share a common goal: provide the best education we can as well as fostering rich social and emotional lessons, the aim of which is to develop a well-rounded, responsible and respectful young adult.

Homeroom lessons this month will focus on emotional regulation and values. Having strong feelings is common, normal, and healthy. The key is for us to be able to regulate our feelings instead of our feelings controlling us. There can be many instances throughout the day that cause us to have a quick reaction. Positive self-talk and counting are two strategies that can be helpful in preventing spontaneous reactions. Reminding ourselves to take a deep breath and calm down, count backwards from 10 or naming the feeling can all have a positive impact on our responses. Of course, there are many other strategies you can utilize to help regain control of your feelings. Be sure to have several different options to choose from for yourself.

The average person makes over 35,000 choices a day. Many of these choices -- whether we are aware of them or not -- are motivated by what we value. It's interesting that many of our decisions are based on our values, but seldom do we formally discuss our values with our family telling them 'this is what we value.' It is through our everyday interactions we tend to demonstrate what our values are. Of course, November reminds us to be grateful for the many blessings we have in life. If we truly stop to think about all the good in our lives, that list would be endless! Thank you for entrusting us with your children!

~Ms. Becker & Mr. Lang

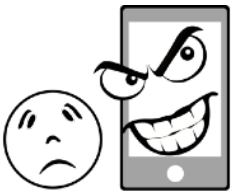
Tips for the Middle Years

Attendance Matters

Missing even a few classes, whether they're in person or online, can have a snowball effect. Not only does being absent make it hard for your child to keep up, but chronic absenteeism is linked with a higher dropout rate. Make sure your middle grader knows you expect him to be in every class every day, unless he's sick or there's a family emergency.

Digital Manners

Before your tween sends a text, post, or email, suggest that they ask themself, "Is this nice? Would I say it in person?" If the answer to either question is no, it's a good idea to reword. Tip: If they feel the need to type a disclaimer like "No offense, but … " they probably shouldn't hit "send."



Fine tune that Study Routine

Set the scene- Silence electronics, set a timer to take breaks, and gather supplies and snacks before starting homework.

Always have a plan- Your middle grader could find a regular time to study each day that fits with mealtimes and other activities. It might be at 5 p.m. most days and 7 p.m. on Wednesdays when your family eats dinner early. Then, they can start each session by listing specific tasks and how long they expect them to take.

Personalize the approach- The "right" way to study is different for every student. Suggest that your child experiment with study methods to find favorites-sometimes music helps for others silence is best. Desk, bed, kitchen table, all are okay, but make sure the environment is working for your learner.

"Meet Us in the Middle"

5th Grade

During math, we will continue to work with decimals. Students will start to add and subtract decimals and whole numbers. They will also apply that knowledge to various word problems.

We will continue to work on our reading strategies to help reach our reading goals. Students should continue to read at home and fill out reading logs. After we finish comparing characters, our lessons will start to shift to nonfiction features and reading strategies.

Writing will start to change their focus to informational writing. They will learn different aspects and features of information writing and apply that to their own writing pieces.

In science, we will be finishing up our Matter Unit. We will be learning about physical and chemical changes and running several science experiments using the scientific process. Our next unit will be about space.

In social studies we will finish mapping the Western Hemisphere. We will start learning about explorers who wanted to discover new parts of the world, like Marco Polo and Ferdinand Magellan. We will then jump into explorers who wanted to travel to the "New World".

Important Dates:
November 23rd-First Trimester Ends
November 24th-No School
November 25th-No School
(Happy Thanksgiving!)
November 26th-No School

6th Grade

Math - Ms. McKinney and Mrs. Jehn
October in 6th grade math was all about fractions and decimals. Students spent the month multiplying, dividing, adding, and subtracting them.

November will consist of working in Chapter 3 - Algebraic Expressions and Properties. They will learn to write and evaluate algebraic expressions using coefficients, variables, and constants. Students will also learn about various properties of addition and multiplication including the commutative, associative, and distributive properties to combine like terms and simplify expressions. This will be very new and very abstract for many students.

As November comes to an end, students will begin work in Chapter 4 - Area of Parallelograms. They will learn about the areas of parallelograms, triangles, and trapezoids. Students will also learn how to determine the area of an irregular shape known as a composite figure and how to use a coordinate plane to find the area of a polygon.

Accelerated Math - Mrs. Jehn
Students will complete Chapter 4 - Areas of Polygons at the start of November and be assessed on areas of parallelograms, triangles, trapezoids, composite figures, and polygons in the coordinate plane. In November students will begin working in Chapter 5 which includes ratios, ratio tables, rates, unit rates, comparing ratio and rates, percents, and converting measures. This is one of my favorite chapters because it is so applicable to their lives now and forever. Who doesn't want to find the best deal to save the most money? Ask them to help you shop. They will have learned to find the unit price and compare unit prices - maybe they will be able to help you save money as you shop for Christmas. Happy shopping and saving!

Science: Mrs. Jarosh
We are moving into our Matter and Its Interactions unit which explores the basics of Chemistry. Students will be mastering the foundational skills of atomic composition and learning how to develop models of particle motion. Students will be provided the opportunity to choose an element to research and build a model of. They will continue to work hands-on and collaboratively to develop these skills.

Language Arts: Mrs. Buisman
In the month of November, 6th grade English students will be focusing on summary writing. We will practice and perfect writing summaries as we read different Greek Mythology stories. These stories will build background knowledge of Greek characters and stories because students will be writing and performing skits about their own fractured Greek Mythology story in December. In grammar, we will be focusing on correcting fragments and run-on sentences as well as combining sentences.

Social Studies: Mrs. Jeranek
We have finally settled into routines in 6th Grade Social Studies!
During the month of November, we will work on note-taking and informational reading strategies while learning in person and at home. Our topic will be Ancient Egypt. Students will learn about Egypt's geography, the mummification process, pyramid building, and Egyptian pharaohs. The following standards will be covered:
-Analyze how technology interacts with the environment.
-Differentiate between intended and unintended consequences of various forms of technology and how they may affect societies.
-Locate the major regions on a map and their physical features including continents, cities, countries, bodies of water, landforms, and mountain ranges.

–Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis and reflection.
-Use multiple perspectives to analyze and explain issues or events within and across time periods, events, or cultures.
I'm looking forward to another exciting month of learning!

Reading – Mrs. Schultz
SURVIVAL and CHANGES!! Those are some of the themes of the unit we started mid-October. As students are reading and discussing the class novel, Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelsen, they will be identifying and explaining the themes of the novel as well as the types of conflict found within. We will be focusing on analyzing characters, identifying figurative language devices, and how to use discussion etiquette to have meaningful discussions in which all students can participate. At the end of the unit, students will complete an end of the book project demonstrating their knowledge of theme, conflict, and the changes the characters made throughout the novel. The essential question for this novel has the students thinking how Touching Spirit Bear helps them better understand different human experiences. The question is: How does reading this novel helps you to understand yourself and others? Talk with your student about the novel and how the characters have been changing throughout!

7th Grade

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.

Each class period, we practice working on sentences and parts of speech.We've reviewed nouns and verbs and are working on identifying and writing complete sentences.The students have learned the R.A.C.E.S. strategy to write paragraphs. This strategy helps them answer a question while citing and explaining their reasons and evidence. In addition to this more academic writing, they are also preparing to write their own narratives by reading and responding to a variety of short narratives as models.

Math 7- Mrs. Weber and Mrs. Piersma

Happy Fall!! We wrapped up one of our toughest units on rational numbers. This includes fractions and decimals and is usually pretty challenging for many kids. Most did a great job this year, and if they struggled a bit, we will continue to review these concepts throughout the year. We are now learning some basic algebra; solving simple and complex equations with variables. Keep working hard!!!

Pre-Algebra- Mrs. Weber

We are flying through the 7th grade book pretty quickly and will be starting the 8th grade book very soon. The kids are doing a great job of keeping up with the homework and math counts. We had our first school competition in math counts at the end of October. We will have a total of 3 of these which we will use to determine the math counts team. Happy Fall and keep up the hard work!

Reading - Mrs. Rochester

The students have just finished up The Outsiders. Many of the students thoroughly enjoyed the book! It was great to hear the students tell me their parents read this book when they were the same age and enjoyed it! We will also be watching the movie upon completion of the book.Your son/daughter will be bringing home a permission slip to sign since the movie is rated PG-13.We will be starting our dystopian unit this month.A dystopia is a society that usually has a group of people making negative decisions for the rest of the society.The conditions of the society are usually grim due to overcrowding, sickness, lack of food, and misery. The Hunger Games is a perfect example of a dystopia. During this unit, the students will be given a choice of eight novels to read. They will choose one book and participate in meaningful book activities with other students.They will be discussing characteristics of dystopias and looking at real life examples. Finally, seventh grade students are continuing to study Greek and Latin root words.

Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum

For 7th grade Social Studies, the students will start to explore the early governments we had here in the United States.We will study the first attempt at a written plan of government...which was called the Articles of Confederation. Students will understand why this plan failed and how its failure led to the U.S. Constitution. Once we study the Constitutional Convention, we will then start to pick apart the structure of the U.S. Constitution.

Science - Mr. Baker

In science, we are finishing up with cells and cell processes including one of my favorite labs, the Osmosis Lab! Students dissolved the shells off eggs and then conducted experiments on their egg babies to see what would happen to them in different solutions. Some eggs swelled up and others shriveled! Finally, we took our eggs outside to get rid of them in the most fun way possible! Coming up we will be dissecting deer hearts, so if you hunt please send deer hearts to school for us to use!

8th Grade

Science - Ms. Smith-Waller

It is hard to believe we have already completed two months of school! We finished up our Weather Unit and started learning about how Earth's surface changes. We have been looking at the processes of weathering, erosion, and deposition. In this unit, we will make observations of how things like wind, water, ice, and gravity wear down Earth's surface, move sediments, and then deposit them to build Earth's surface back up again. Next up, we are continuing to look at how geoscience processes have changed Earth's surface by looking at what is going on under the surface. We will be learning about plate tectonics, volcanos, earthquakes, and locations of fossils around the world to get a bigger picture of how Earth's surface has changed throughout its history. Enjoy what is left of the fall!

Essential Learning Outcomes:

- 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.
  - MS-ESS2-2: Construct an explanation based on evidence for how geoscience processes have changed Earth's surface at varying time and spatial scales.
- Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for phenomena.
  - MS-ESS2-3: Analyze and interpret data on the distribution of fossils and rocks, continental shapes, and seafloor structures to provide evidence of the past plate motions.

Social Studies - Ms. Morgan

We have been working our way through the American Revolution this fall. We have explored the events of the revolution and the events leading up to it through multiple perspectives. We have been working on the skills of historians including taking a position on an issue and developing a well-supported argument from quality sources. Students have been challenged to analyze primary source materials from people who were actually there. Later this month, students will have the opportunity to "Be Washington", an interactive leadership experience from Mt. Vernon, as we learn about the events surrounding the Second Battle of Trenton and the Newburgh Conspiracy. Check it out for yourself at www.bewashington.org.

Students also received information related to the DC trip at the end of the year. Students and potential chaperones are asked to return the form on or before 11/4. Fundraising materials were also distributed for the fall candle fundraiser.

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

In 8th grade ELA, we will continue discussing our Identity theme - What makes you....you? by focusing on beliefs. After watching videos, close reading both fiction and non-fiction pieces, and discussing different beliefs, students have written and will turn in a paragraph about one of their own beliefs by using examples from their own lives. Additionally, we will continue the Global Read Aloud, *The Barren Grounds*, and make connections with students from other parts of the country/world as pen pals. Finally, we will further our understanding of and practice with sentence variety by continuing with both compound and complex sentences.

Math - Mrs. Coe & Mrs. Bentzen

Regular Math (Chapter 4)
Mrs. Bentzen and Mrs. Coe

We finished up Chapter 3 at the end of October. We will be covering Chapter 4 called "Graphing and Writing Linear Equations" in the month of November.

The objectives for Chapter 4:

*understand that lines represent solutions of linear equations
*graph linear equations
*find slopes of lines by using two points on the line and by using tables
*identify parallel and perpendicular lines using slopes
*write and graph proportional relationships
*find slopes and y-intercepts of graphs of linear equations
*graph linear equations written in slope-intercept form and in standard form
*write equations of lines in slope-intercept form
*write equations of lines using the slope and a point and by using two points

Algebra (Chapters 6) - Mrs. Bentzen

We will finish chapter 5 on November 9th. We will learn how to solve and graph linear inequalities in chapter 6. We completed our first in-school Mathcounts competition at the end of October. We will do our second competition before Thanksgiving break.

The objectives for Chapter 6:

*write, solve, and graph one-step and multi-step inequalities
*learn to reverse an inequality sign when multiplying or dividing by a negative number
*solve and graph compound inequalities using "and" and "or"
*solve absolute value equations using "or"
*solve and graph absolute value inequalities using "and" and "or"
*graph linear inequalities in two variables

8th Grade at the Outdoor Education Center

Music

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

October has been a busy but fun month for making music. The students continued to accompany their singing on the autoharps and barred instruments, but they also added two new instruments - Recorders and Bucket Drums. The recorders reinforce pitch reading, and bucket drumming uses ice cream buckets with chopsticks to make a classroom full of drums to reinforce rhythm playing to pop songs.

A big focus this month was on the 4 families of instruments - Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, and Strings. Through videos, interactive websites, and worksheets, the students learned what makes each family and each instrument different. The unit will conclude with a neat book called "The Remarkable Farkle McBride".

Keyboards and More 6 - Mrs. Glasel

The students have been continuing to learn some basic skills on the keyboard. We are learning about the names of the lines and spaces in bass clef and treble clef reading.

The students are working on different types of composing. The first project was a parody. The students read an article about parodies, and then wrote one on their own to the tune of "Jingle Bells" using a music writing program on the iPad. The lyrics focused on something about the autumn season. They divided the words to fit with the rhythm of the music. The second project was a Scary Sound Story, which allow the students to explore and create sounds in the GarageBand app.

Our Music Alive magazine article this month will focus on The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Guitars and Musicals 7 - Mrs. Glasel

Guitars - The students are continuing to play songs on the guitar. They have moved to the second string and added the pitches of B, C, and D. They are able to play songs going back and forth between the 1st and 2nd strings. They also added half notes, dotted half notes, and whole notes to their songs.
Musicals - After learning a little about the theater scene called Broadway, the students started to watch the musical "Hello, Dolly". This humorous musical will show how music helps enhance the story, develop the characters, and shows life in the 1890s.

From Ms. Nimm...

Choirs - All three choirs continue to work on sight-singing and preparing our 2 and 3-part harmony concert music. They also continue to work on sight-singing. A new note (Sol) has been introduced, as well as a new key signature, or place where Do is located. All three grades will do at least one voice recording during class to check on pitch matching, rhythm reading, and part independence.

Small Choir - Students in Small Choir will be finalizing a study on rhythm reading with a project called Pizza Rhythms. This project will require them to write a short piece of music that can be played on 4 different auxiliary percussion instruments. After the piece has been written, the class will perform all of the different Pizza Rhythms.

Soundscapes - Students in Soundscapes will be concluding a study of the voice by finding and then describing a good, okay, and bad singer who has auditioned for one of our many talent based TV competitions. Students will be writing about the singers and then presenting their singers to the rest of the class. Later in the month, we will begin learning about some styles of music that aren't as popular as what can be heard on the radio.

African Drumming - Students in African Drumming continue to practice reading music using Rhythm Cup Explorations. They will be working on Ensemble 5 and will need to make a how-to video that can be presented to my 7th grade Soundscapes class. The video will demonstrate and instruct all of the different instruments, patterns, and the complete ensemble.

Spanish - Mrs. Phillips

6th Grade

Sixth grade Spanish is learning to discuss likes, dislikes and food. We will also look into authentic recipes and traditional dishes. The cultural focus will be on the Day of the Dead traditions, which includes decorating sugar skulls!

7th Grade

The seventh grade Spanish classes have been working on describing themselves and friends. In the month of November, students will work on the verb tener. They will describe things they have and have to do. ¿Qué tienes que hacer?

8th Grade

Students in 8th grade Spanish will practice talking about themselves and family members. To wrap up the trimester, students will discuss families, birthdays and celebrations. We will also read stories and learn about the Quinceañera.

Spanish 1/8th Grade Elective

Students in 8th grade elective Spanish are expanding on eighth grade Spanish materials. In the month of November, we will also read about Day of the Dead and the Recycled Orchestra.

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

Colder weather is coming!!! We will be starting some new units to kick off November and one of those will be an Inclusion unit. We still plan to take our classes outside as much as possible until there is a significant amount of snow on the ground, so please remind your children to wear warmer clothes on days they have Healthy Living. We will be transitioning to net/wall activities when we move to indoor classes. We will also be starting our Health-focused lessons.

The Healthy Living department is accepting any lightly used shoes if anyone is willing to donate, as our inventory of shoes has gotten low.

STEM - Mr. Jones

6th Grade STEM

We are working hard at designing the sturdiest toothpick bridge. Soon, students will be able to test their designs to see who made the best bridge that holds the most weight.

7th Grade STEM

The students are using what they learned with the multi-view sketches to make a puzzle cube. The puzzle cube consists of five separate pieces. Once finished, have fun solving your students' cube!

8th Grade STEM

The students are working hard to get their paper roller coaster finished in class. We are trying to see who can come up with the longest lasting coaster when a marble gets sent down the track. After we finish the coasters, we should have time to design something for the 3D printer.

Robotics

We just finished learning about gears and gear ratios. Next, we will begin building each mechanism (simple gear trains, bevel gears, rack and pinion, leadscrew, crank and slider, worm and wheel). After that, we will use what we learned about the mechanisms to build our own pull toy.

Adaptive Sports League

Art - Mrs. Hemker

Grade 5

In November, 5th graders will be finishing up their clay work! They will glaze their cupcake container and paint their miniature set of three. They will choose how to finish their choice piece. We will photograph these and then wrap them carefully for home! All projects reviewed a variety of clay techniques that they have learned since they were in Kindergarten. We will also be reviewing color and the color wheel by using a variety of techniques and materials to create 4 separate wheels. We will then move on to a variety of drawing practice projects and the creation of a handmade book to store them all in.

Grade 6

In November, 6th grade will also be finishing their clay. Their carved container will be glazed and refired. They will also be creating a clay animal rattle or whistle, they will choose how to finish these as well as their choice object.. We will also be working on a variety of drawing projects as we complete the trimester.

Grade 7

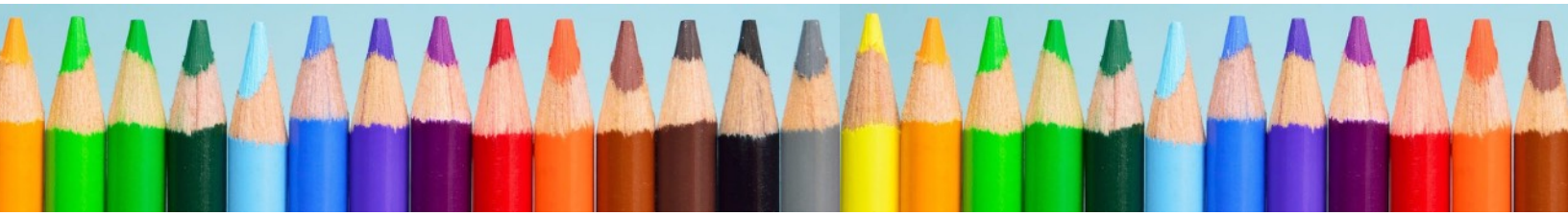
This month, 7th graders will be finishing up their large scale collage pieces. We will them move on to create a mandala or radial design as well as drawing small objects that they brought from home.

Grade 8

Students in 8th grade will complete their wall block designs as we begin November. They continue to work with acrylic paint to create two large scale abstract paintings that will be woven into a final piece of art. They have also started using Google Drawings to create a mosaic piece of digital art. Hopefully, these classes will also be able to spend a few days drawing in the open air as well as a bit of clay time.

8th Grade Elective

As we begin November, the elective class will be finishing their acrylic tree painting that involves multiple layers and techniques. We will then be working on a cardboard construction project that will review joining techniques as well as sculptural concepts. Lastly, this class will be creating watercolor palettes that will be used to paint a liquid watercolor painting. We continue ongoing work that includes small samples of the materials, and examples of work we have been completing.



Our Pop Tab Collection for
Ronald McDonald House
was a **HUGE** success!

We collected **219 POUNDS** of pop tabs! We are so proud of our students for serving with passion to help others!

Ronald McDonald House programs allow parents to stay close to their children while they are hospitalized far from home. This helps them feel the comforts of home without incurring hotel and food costs.

SPORTS INFO
November MS Schedule

4th Boys' BB (H) vs Holmen Middle, 4:00
7th - ES, 8th - MS
9th Boys' BB (7&8) at Longfellow Middle, 4:00
9th Wrestling at Westby High, 4:30
11th Boys' BB (7&8) at Sparta Middle, 4:00
(Meadowview Middle School)
16th Boys' BB (H) vs. G-E-T Middle, 4:30
7th - ES, 8th - MS
16th Wrestling at Tomah Middle, 4:30
18th Boys' BB at Tomah, 4:15
7th - Tomah La Grange Elem. Gym
8th - Tomah Middle School
23rd Boys' BB (H) vs Lincoln Middle, 3:45
7th - ES, 8th - MS
23rd Wrestling at Onalaska Middle, 4:30
29th Boys' BB (H) vs Westby Middle, 4:15
7th - ES, 8th - MS
30th Wrestling (H), 4:30

UNPAID MEAL ACCOUNTS

https://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us/content/district/board-of-education/policies-procedures

Parents and guardians must plan for their child to have sufficient access to food at school on each school day and must actively monitor and manage their child's school food service account. The student's household will begin receiving negative balance notifications when the account falls below - $0.01 via the automated phone/ email messaging system.

Non-payment will result in the Interruption of Service. Ala Carte purchases are not allowed to be charged; regardless of building or child grade level. Reimbursable breakfast and lunch meals will continue to be served to all students without service interruption for the 2021-22 school year.

Payments may be made to family meal accounts by bringing a check or cash to their child's school office, by making online payments through Skyward Family Access or by mailing payments to the District Office c/o Nutrition Services, 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669.

For additional information please refer to the Director of School Nutrition housed at the District Offices; 405 East Hamlin Street West Salem, WI 54669.

Thank you,
Emily Klunk, RDN
Director of School Nutrition

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

...wsletter October 2021

Black Cat News

In This Issue

Update on last month's front page story. WSMS collected 219 pounds of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House charity..

Black Cat News is written and designed by 7th grade Panther Time students. Do you have ideas or pictures for future issues? Let a 7th grader know!

Homecoming

by Will C.

Homecoming is an American tradition. It's held at high schools and universities all over the country. Homecoming began at colleges and high schools as a celebration for the first game of the season.

Homecoming at West Salem was held from October 5 - 9. The middle school held two competitions. One was decorating the pod. Grade levels competed against each other. The other competition was held between Homerooms. A talley was kept each day for the number of people who dressed up. Mr. Mahlum, Mrs. Meyer, and Ms. Serres were the winning Homerooms and were treated to donuts. These were the dress up days:

Monday- PJ day and bed head
Tuesday- Sports day
Wednesday-Fancy day
Thursday- Decade day
Friday- Black and Orange Day

West Salem played Tomah this year for Homecoming. We won 53 - 6.

Harvest of the Month

November Brussels Sprouts

Pick:

•Choose small, firm, compact sprouts with unblemished leaves.

•If possible, select sprouts that are still attached to the stalk.

Store:

•Sprouts that are still on the stalk will keep for several days in the refrigerator. If sprouts have been removed from the stalk, use within 3-5 days.

Prepare:

•Remove from the stalk with a sharp knife.

•Remove any discolored outer leaves, and prepare as desired!

•If cooking whole sprouts, cut an X in the base to ensure even cooking.

Nutrition Info

One cup of cooked Brussels sprouts has 60 calories and provides vitamin C and A.

Fun Facts

Brussels sprouts got their name from Brussels, Belgium, where they originated!

One serving of Brussels sprouts contains as much vitamin C as an orange.

In Wisconsin, peak Brussels sprout season is from about September through December. Look for them at winter farmers' markets!

Uses

Sprouts can be baked, roasted, steamed, or sautéed. The method of cooking greatly influences the flavor . If you don't like them steamed, try them roasted or sautéed.

Try adding sliced sprouts to soups, casseroles or stews!

Try caramelized sprouts – saute sliced sprouts with a little olive oil, minced garlic, salt and a teaspoon or two of brown sugar. Yum!

Family Friendly Activities

Check out your local farmers' market and purchase sprouts that are still in the stalk. Count the number of sprouts on each stalk!

How many cruciferous vegetables can you name? Here are a few examples to get you started: Brussels sprouts, radishes, napa cabbage, and kale!

The Harvest of the Month is a partnership between La Crosse County Health Department's Foot Steps to Health initiative, the La Crosse County Farm2School Program, area school districts and the community. Funding for this project was provided by the UW School of Medicine and Public Health from the Wisconsin Partnership Program.

Roasted Brussels Sprouts

Serves 8 (1/2 cup per serving)

Ingredients:

2 pounds fresh Brussels sprouts
1 Tbsp. olive oil
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. black pepper

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Wash and remove the ends of each sprout, along with any discolored leaves. Chop larger sprouts in half to ensure even cooking. Place the sprouts into a bowl with the olive oil, salt and pepper. Spread the sprouts onto a sheet pan and place into the oven for 15-20 minutes until edges are brown and crispy.

For more information on Farm2School & Foot Steps to Health visit: www.GetActiveLacrosse.org!

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 1/2 cup (116g)
Servings Per Container 8

Amount Per Serving

Calories 60	Calories from Fat 20
	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 2g	3%
Saturated Fat 0g	0%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 170mg	7%
Total Carbohydrate 10g	3%
Dietary Fiber 4g	16%
Sugars 2g	
Protein 4g	

Vitamin A 15% • Vitamin C 160%
Calcium 4% • Iron 8%

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

	Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Saturated Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g

Calories per gram:
Fat 9 • Carbohydrate 4 • Protein 4

November 2021

West Salem Middle School

Lunch

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 **From the Grill** • "Chicken and Waffles!" Popcorn Chicken WG Waffle Waffle Fries **Home Style** • "Chicken and Waffles!" Popcorn Chicken WG Waffle Waffle Fries **Deli** • Southwest Chicken Salad • Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**2** **Taco Tuesday!** **From the Grill** • Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla Cowboy Salsa **Home Style** • Walking Taco on Nacho Dorito Chips Cowboy Salsa **Deli** Ham, Turkey and Cheddar Sub • Cheez-It Crackers **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**3** **From the Grill** • Mozzarella Stuffed Breadstick with Marinara Dipping Cup • Mixed Vegetables **Home Style** • Tater Tot Hot Dish Mixed Vegetables WG Dinner Roll **Deli** • Homemade Grilled Cheese • Creamy Tomato Soup **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**4** **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** • Turkey Club Wrap Simply Chex - Cheddar **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**5** **Sweet Treat Friday!** • 100% Fruit Juice Slushy Offered with meals in all lines **From the Grill** • Cheesy Garlic French Bread Pizza Whole Kernel Sweet Corn **Home Style** • Pepperoni Calzone Whole Kernel Sweet Corn **Deli** • **Turkey and Swiss on WG Croissant** • Chicken Noodle Soup **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack
8 **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 & Cheese Italian Breadsticks Green Peas **Deli** Turkey BLT on WG Sub Roll Vegetable Beef Soup **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**9** **Breakfast for Lunch!** **From the Grill** • French Toast Sticks Jones Dairy Sausage Links Warm Cinnamon Apples **Home Style** • French Toast Sticks Colby Cheese Omelet Warm Cinnamon Apples **Deli** • Ham & Swiss on WG Croissant Baked Scoop Chips and Salsa **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**10** **From the Grill** • Mr. Rib Sandwich Tri Tators **Home Style** • Meatballs with Gravy with Dinner Roll Mashed Potatoes **Deli** • Chicken Bacon Ranch Wrap • Broccoli Cheese Soup **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**11** **From the Grill** • Popcorn Chicken • Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice **Home Style** • Saucy Orange Popcorn Chicken • Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice **Deli** Garden Salad with Choice of Meat/Yogurt/Cottage Cheese • Cheez-It Crackers **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**12** **From the Grill** • Cheese Pizza - Personal Pan Hawaiian Pizza - Person Pan • Honey-Glazed Carrots **Home Style** Pepperoni Pizza - Personal Pan • Honey-Glazed Carrots **Deli** • Turkey Sub White Chicken Chili **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack
15 **From the Grill** • Chicken Nuggets with WG Dinner Roll Mixed Vegetables **Home Style** • Kick'n Chicken-Crispy Patty with Pepper Jack Cheese Whole Grain Bun Mixed Vegetables **Deli** • Southwest Chicken Salad • Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**16** **Taco Tuesday!** **From the Grill** • Taco Truck Burritos Bean and Cheese De Chile Relleno (Vegetarian) Cilantro Lime Rice **Home Style** • (Low-Fat) Loaded Beef Nachos with Cilantro Lime Rice • Taco Topping Bar **Deli** Ham and Swiss on Croissant Fresh Fruit Deluxe Salad **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**17** **From the Grill** • Homemade Sloppy Joe on WG Bun Tri Tators **Home Style** • Carolina Style Pulled Pork Sandwich Coleslaw **Deli** • Homemade Grilled Cheese • Creamy Tomato Soup **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**18** **From the Grill** • (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun • Potato Smiles **Home Style** • (Cheese) Hamburger on WG Bun • Potato Smiles **Deli** • Turkey and Cheddar on WG Bun • Cottage Cheese **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**19** **Sweet Treat Friday!** • Rice Krispie Treat Offered with meals in all lines **From the Grill** • Pepperoni Pizza - Slice • Whole Kernel Sweet Corn **Home Style** • Cheese Pizza or • Homemade Taco Pizza • Whole Kernel Sweet Corn **Deli** • Cuban Flatbread Sandwich • Chicken Dumpling Soup **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack
22 **From the Grill** • Chicken Patty - Hot and Spicy Whole Grain Bun Tater Tots **Home Style** • Breaded Chicken Patty Sandwich on WG Bun Tater Tots **Deli** • Ham, Salami & Provolone Cheese Sub • Broccoli Cheese Soup **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**23** **Taco Tuesday!** **From the Grill** • Beef Taco Wedge • Refried Beans **Home Style** Chicken Taco on Soft Shell Tortilla • Refried Beans **Deli** Turkey BLT on Sub Roll Sliced Apples with Caramel Cup **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**24** No School	**25**	**26** No School
29 **From the Grill** • "Chicken and Waffles!" Popcorn Chicken WG Waffle Waffle Fries **Home Style** • "Chicken and Waffles!" Popcorn Chicken WG Waffle Waffle Fries **Deli** • Southwest Chicken Salad • Brown Chicken & Wild Rice Soup **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack	**30** **Taco Tuesday!** **From the Grill** • Chicken and Cheese Quesadilla Cowboy Salsa **Home Style** • Walking Taco on Nacho Dorito Chips Cowboy Salsa **Deli** Ham, Turkey and Cheddar Sub • Cheez-It Crackers **Grab and Go** • Panther PBJ Pack • Panther YOGURT Pack			

Menu likely to change based on product availability.

5th Grade - EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM (EDP)

The West Salem Middle School offers a supervised, after school study time Monday through Thursday from 3:15 - 4:15 for our **5th graders**. This time is provided for students who struggle with completing homework and wish to improve by independently working after school, but with adult assistance if needed, to complete their daily work. Students who finish their work early will be allowed to leave no sooner than 3:35. **PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.**

This program is voluntary. However, we do require permission from parents for students to attend. Once a student begins the program, we strongly suggest that he/she remains in the program for a minimum of six weeks. We would need to be notified by a parent if a child will no longer be attending the program.

This program is a voluntary opportunity for students and as such, disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. The following rules and expectations will apply:

- Students are expected to attend EDP every day, **even if all of their homework is completed**. The earliest they can leave is 3:35. They are to bring a book to read which will be a part of the nightly 20 minutes reading
- **If a student cannot attend EDP on a certain evening, please notify the office or the EDP supervisor through a phone call or e-mail or a note from a parent.**
- **If a student does not check in with the EDP supervisor, it will be considered an unexcused absence. We will attempt to notify the parents by telephone or e-mail if a student is not in attendance after school.**
- If a student's behavior is disruptive to others, they will call home and may be asked to leave.
- If a student is involved in an after school activity, he/she needs to stay in EDP until 3:35 p.m. and then report to practice.

We want this program to be a positive experience for students who wish to improve their homework quality. Students find that if they work in EDP, they can get most, if not all, of their homework completed.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Lang or any of the EDP supervisors at the Middle School at 786-2090.

PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

I have read the information on both sides of this sheet and give permission for my child to attend EDP under the conditions stated.

Please provide a phone number we can contact you at after school if needed. _____

_____ _____

Student name (printed) Date Parent Signature Date

EDP does run Monday through Thursday (except on Early Release days and parent-teacher conference nights). The earliest a student can leave is 3:35. (This is to help prevent students from "rushing" to do their work.) Otherwise, they will remain in EDP until all of their work is completed or 4:15, whichever comes first.

Please note: There is an occasional cancellation of EDP and we do announce this to the students throughout the day. If we know enough in advance, we will attempt to send this out via Skyward to parents. It will be the student's responsibility to inform their parents of any cancellations.

EDP SUPERVISORS

Mrs. Burdick……burdick.martha@wsalem.k12.wi.us
Mrs. Czajka…….czajka.mary@wsalem.k12.wi.us

6th-8th Grade — EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM (EDP)

The West Salem Middle School offers a supervised, after school study time Monday through Friday from 3:15 - 4:15. This time is provided for students who wish to improve their grades by independently working after school, but with adult assistance if needed, to complete their daily work. Students who finish their work early will not be allowed to leave until 3:35. Please see the reverse side for further information.

This program is voluntary. However, we do require permission from parents for students to attend. Once a student begins the program, we strongly suggest that he/she remains in the program for a minimum of six weeks. We would need to be notified by a parent if a child will no longer be attending the program.

This program is a voluntary opportunity for students and as such, disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. The following rules and expectations will apply:

- We will provide an assignment booklet for each student to keep track of assignments and homework. The EDP supervisor will HIGHLIGHT or CIRCLE incomplete work and initial completed work in order to help communicate with parents. It is suggested that parents require their child to bring this notebook home in order to share where they are at with their work.
- Students are expected to attend EDP every day, **even if all of their homework is completed**. The earliest they can leave is 3:35. They can read a book or review/study if "all of their work is done."
- If all of their work is completed for the day but still have multiple Fs, they will remain in EDP until 4:15. We expect them to connect with teachers to create a plan to get those grades up.
- **If a student cannot attend EDP on a certain evening, please notify the office or the EDP supervisor through a phone call or e-mail or a note from a parent.**
- **If a student does not check in with the EDP supervisor, it will be considered an unexcused absence. We will attempt to notify the parents by telephone or e-mail if a student is not in attendance after school.**
- If a student's behavior is disruptive to others, they will call home and may be asked to leave.
- If a student is involved in co-curricular activities, he/she needs to stay in EDP until 3:35 p.m. and then report to practice. They are allowed to attend competitions as long as they are in good academic standing.

We want this program to be a positive experience for students who wish to improve their grades. Students find that if they work in EDP, they can get most, if not all, of their homework completed (and with quality!). If you have any questions, please contact Mike Lang, middle school counselor, at 786-2090 or lang.mike@wsalem.k12.wi.us

PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

I have read the information on both sides of this sheet and give permission for my child to attend EDP under the conditions stated.

Please provide a phone number we can contact you at after school if needed. _____

_____ _____

Student name (printed) Date Parent Signature Date

Revised 9/21

EDP does run Monday through Friday (except on Early Release days and parent-teacher conference nights). The earliest a student can leave is 3:35, even if all of their work is completed. (This is to help prevent students from "rushing" to do their work.) Otherwise, they will remain in EDP until all of their work is completed or 4:15, whichever comes first.

Please note: There is an occasional cancellation of EDP and we do announce this to the students throughout the day. If we know enough in advance, we will attempt to send this out via Skyward to parents. It will be the student's responsibility to inform their parents of any cancelations.

FRIDAYS

Students in EDP on Fridays will be **allowed to leave as soon as they are checked off** by one of the supervisors, indicating that all of their work is complete. (They do need to report to EDP on Fridays even if they do not have any work.) The reason for this exception is that Fridays are typically "lighter" days for homework and many of the students in EDP have their work completed by the time they arrive or shortly thereafter. For those students in EDP who **do not** have their work completely finished, they will still be expected to stay until 4:15 or when they have completed all of their assigned work, whichever comes first.

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					

#No school for Elementary & Middle students only. High in school.

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	

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)**