

PANTHER POST



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



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Dear Parents,

It must be November, 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 student/parent/teacher conferences on October 23 & 27. 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 view learning as a priority as they become increasingly more responsible for their education as they grow older.

The month is full of opportunities and important dates for our students. Our fall sports seasons came to an end and our winter sports seasons begin. Our annual Veterans Day Program will be held on Tuesday, November 11, at 7:50 am in our main gym, and you are invited to attend. You can find more information about our program on page 4. Our first trimester ends on November 25, and we will not have school November 26 – November 30 for Thanksgiving break.

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,

Ben Wopat
<https://twitter.com/CoachWopat>

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Please use the links below to
view our newsletter in





IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WSMS STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

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

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

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

MORNING PROCEDURES

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

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

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

NEWSLETTERS

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



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

**WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL
MISSION STATEMENT**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

STUDENT CELL PHONE USE

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

- Must be turned off

- Must be kept in the student's locker

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

Students are NOT allowed to use cell phones to take video recordings of other students at school.

Students not following the guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. Please call if you have any questions.

ALLERGIES

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

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

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

SCHOOL SECURITY

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

ATTENDANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY

On Tuesday, November 11, the West Salem Middle School will honor our Veterans. We will have an assembly starting at 7:50 a.m. in the main gymnasium (commons area), with both the middle school band and choir performing. All Veterans are welcome to attend. During the event, students will learn about how the flag is folded and what each fold represents. Students will also get to see and thank a member of each.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 11	VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY - 7:50AM <i>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOUND ON PAGE 4</i>
NOVEMBER 25	TRIMESTER 1 ENDS
NOVEMBER 26-28	NO SCHOOL - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
DECEMBER 9	7TH & 8TH GRADE BAND CONCERT
DECEMBER 24- JANUARY 2	NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK

ATHLETICS SCHEDULES

WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE LINK

PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK ABOVE TO VIEW FALL GAME SCHEDULES FOR:

6TH-8TH GRADE WRESTLING

7TH AND 8TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL

7TH AND 8TH GRADE GIRLS BASKETBALL (STARTING IN JANUARY)

Lunch Menu



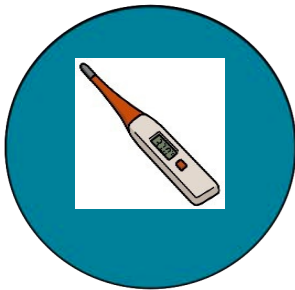
THE MOST UP-TO-DATE
MENU CAN BE FOUND ON
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
WEBSITE HERE:

NOVEMBER LUNCH MENU



TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?

Below are guidelines to help parents and school districts determine when to keep children/students home from school. The recommendations are based on guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state public health professionals. They were developed to help prevent the spread of potentially contagious disease. Home is the best place for a child who is ill. If your child is sick with a diagnosed communicable disease, please notify the school as soon as possible. This notification will greatly assist others who, due to medical reasons and/or treatments, have weakened immune systems and may require immediate and specialized care.



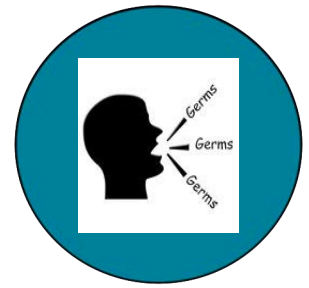
FEVER

With fever greater than 100.4° F*. Student may return when fever-free for **24 hours** (WITHOUT use of fever-reducing medicine).



VOMITING/DIARRHEA

Any unexplained vomiting episode. May return **24 hours** after last episode. Diarrhea = three or more unexplained episodes of watery or loose stool in **24 hours** OR sudden onset of loose stools. May return **24 hours** after last episode.



COUGH

Serious, sustained coughing, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing.



RASH

Any new rash accompanied by a fever. May return after rash goes away or clearance given by a health care provider.



SKIN LESIONS/SORES

Drainage from a sore that cannot be contained within a bandage OR sores are increasing in size OR new sores are developing day-to-day.



OTHER

Symptoms that prevent the student from active participation in usual school activities OR student is requiring more care than school can safely provide.

* Many authorities use either 100 (37.8 degrees Celsius) or 100.4 F (38.0 degrees Celsius) as a cut-off for fever, but this number actually can range depending on factors such as the method of measurement and the age of the person. CDC has public health recommendations that are based on the presence (or absence) of fever. What is meant by this is that the person's temperature is not elevated beyond their norm. In order to provide clarity the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction supports the use of 100.4°F.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH



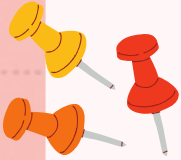
Each month, teachers send nominations for Student of the Month. October's focus was Act Respectfully - Act In A Respectful Manner. Below is a list of three students from each grade level that exemplified this focus. Mr. Wopat, Ms. Beld, Ms. Becker and Ms. Broughton notified parents of this accomplishment.

GRADE 5

MACI COOPER

ELLIE HAAS

MADDIE STELLOH



GRADE 7

AIDEN IVERSON

ALEAH KAST

AVYN MICKELSON

GRADE 6

LIAM GLAVIN

GARRETT KRAUSE

STARLING SCHWARZ

GRADE 8

PHILIP DURNIN

LYNZE HANSON

NAHLA PERL

CONGRATULATIONS

for making a difference
in others lives!

We appreciate YOU!



5th Grade October Newsletter

During math, we will finish our work with fractions and mixed numbers. We will then move into our decimals unit. This will include adding, subtracting, place value, comparing, and word problems with decimals.

Writing will be finishing up their narrative unit and will change their focus to informational writing. They will learn different skills and features of informative writing and apply that to their own writing pieces.

In social studies we are learning about early European explorers who ventured to different parts of the world, like Christopher Columbus and other Spanish conquistadors. We are also talking about the economic impact of trade in the 1400's. Students will take part in a ship simulation and cross the Atlantic Ocean for gold and glory.

We will continue our unit on Native Americans. We will be learning about quoting, summarizing, and comparing and contrasting stories in this unit. Students should continue to read at home daily.

In science, we will be finishing up our Ecosystems and Matter Cycling Unit. We have been learning where plants get their matter, and how matter is transferred throughout ecosystems. Our next unit will be about space.

Important Dates:

November 25th-First Trimester Ends

November 26th-No School

November 27th-No School

(Happy Thanksgiving!)

November 28th-No School



6TH GRADE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER
2025

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 Mikaelson, 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 help you to understand yourself and others? Talk with your student about the novel and how the characters have been changing throughout!

English – Mrs. Buisman

In English, our November focus will be writing summaries. Students will be front-loaded with Greek mythology stories to read and then write summaries on to prepare for the upcoming Greek Drama Unit. In grammar, students will continue recognizing fragments and run-on sentences. Students will also work on combining sentences to improve their writing skills.

Social Studies – Mrs. Jeranek

We finished our exploration of Early People throughout the world and have started our first ancient civilization. In November the focus is Ancient Mesopotamia. We will study geographical locations and survival techniques in this dry, hot climate. Technologies invented by Sumerians that we have modernized and use today will be researched. Function of citizens through various rulers and systems of law will also be studied. After Mesopotamia we will cross the Red Sea and explore Ancient Egypt, which will take us through 1st Trimester.

Math – Mrs. Alo & Mrs. Jehn

6th grade math was all about fractions and decimals in the month of October. Students spent the month adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing them.

November begins with Chapter 3 which includes ratios, tape diagrams, ratio tables, rates, unit rates, comparing ratios and rates, and converting measures. This is a great chapter because it is so applicable to their current and future lives. Who doesn't want to find the best deal or price and save the most money? Ask your child to shop with you to help you find unit prices, compare unit prices, and find the best buy – happy shopping and saving!

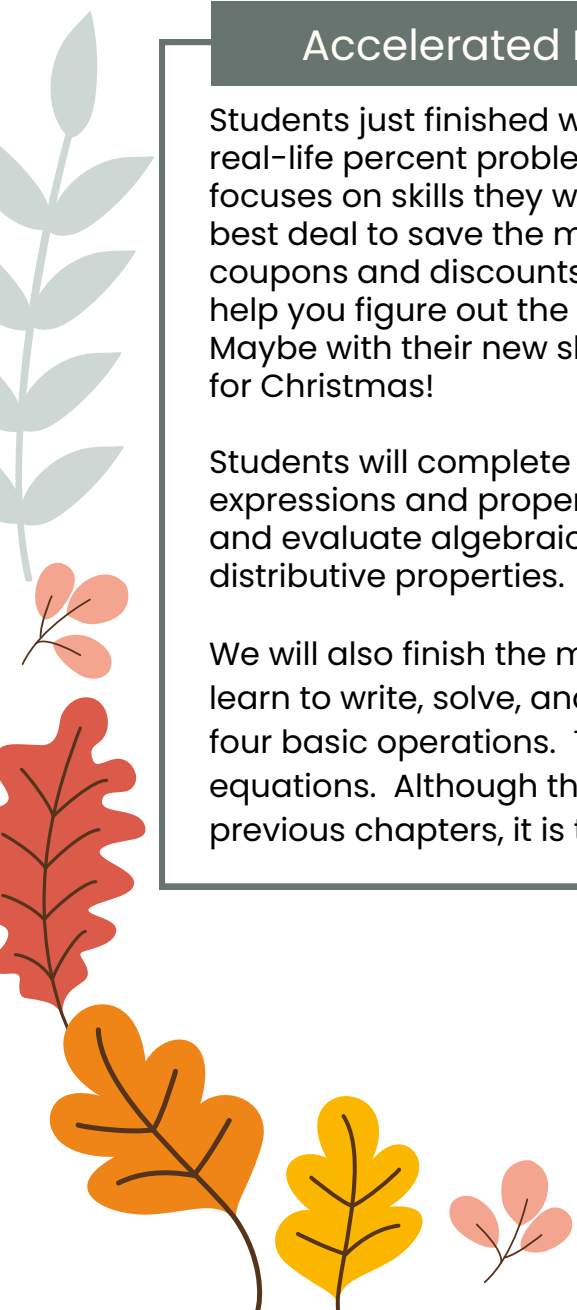
The month will end in Chapter 4 which includes percentages. This chapter is just as applicable to real life as students learn about finding the best deal, tipping, and paying sales tax.

Accelerated Math – Mrs. Jehn

Students just finished working in Chapter 4 which included percentages and real-life percent problems. This is another one of my favorite chapters because it focuses on skills they will use the rest of their lives. Who doesn't want to find the best deal to save the most money? Ask them to help you find the price after coupons and discounts that take a percentage off the original price. Have them help you figure out the tip for the server at the restaurant or for the hairdresser. Maybe with their new skills they will be able to help you save money as you shop for Christmas!

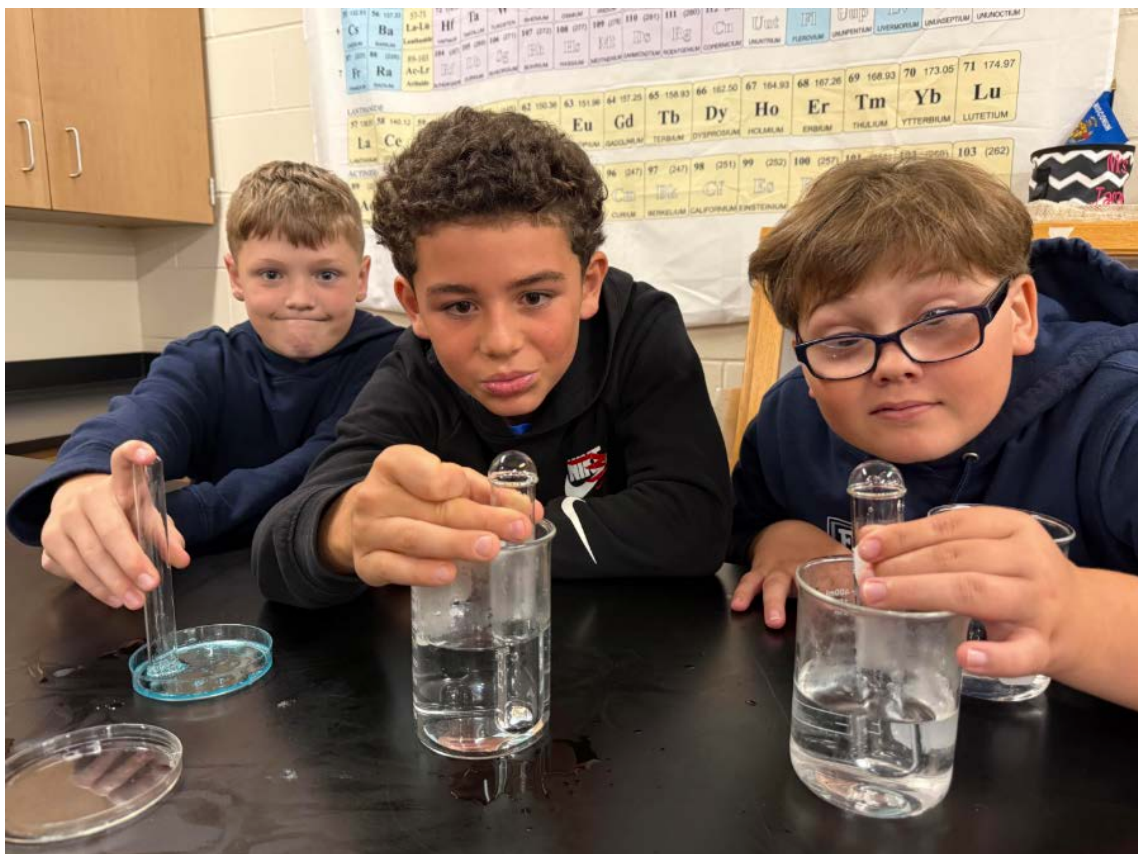
Students will complete Chapter 5 in November which works on algebraic expressions and properties. At the end of this chapter they will be able to write and evaluate algebraic expressions using the commutative, associative, and distributive properties.

We will also finish the month in Chapter 6 which is titled Equations. Students will learn to write, solve, and graph one-variable equations and inequalities using the four basic operations. They will also work with writing and graphing two-variables equations. Although this chapter is new material and more conceptual than previous chapters, it is typically a favorite chapter for students.



Science – Mrs. Jarosh

Molecular Motion in action! 6th graders can describe the structure and motion of solids, liquids and gases!





7th Grade November Newsletter

ELA



Ms. Friell and Mrs. Rochester

Class Supplies: All students are required to have their binder and composition notebook. Both are left in the classroom to ensure they are never lost and are easily accessible. In addition, students should bring headphones and an independent book to class each day.

Lessons: Work to be turned in for a grade is posted on the homework hotline. If a student needs to miss school, please check GC for required work.

Writing and Language: Each class period, we practice working on sentences and/or parts of speech. Word Work also includes learning roots and spelling words. Student have been reviewing and learning strategies to write paragraphs and summaries.

Reading: During November, we will be continuing our suspense unit. Students will be reading multiple short stories to analyze elements of suspense. Students will also be reading self selected choice books.

Dates to Know



Nov. 25– End of Trimester 1

Nov. 26–28 – No School



Tips/Helpful Links

PLEASE CHARGE YOUR IPAD EVERY NIGHT

[HOMEWORK HOTLINE](#)

Math



Mrs. Piersma and Mrs. Weber

Thank you to all the parents that came to conferences. It was nice to be able to catch up with you! We just finished up our 2nd unit. We learned how to multiply and divide fractions and decimals with negative numbers. We have moved on to our unit on expressions, which starts to introduce the use of variables. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Pre-Algebra

Mrs. Weber



Thank you to all the parents that stopped in at conferences. I enjoyed meeting some of you and sharing the incredible progress we are making in class. We are finishing up our unit on circles and will start to learn to use the formulas for volume and surface area next. We will have also have our first in school Mathcounts competition in early November. We will have 3 of these in school competitions and the 12 scores in 7th and 8th grade will be invited on the Mathcounts Team. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

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!

Social Studies Mr. Mahlum

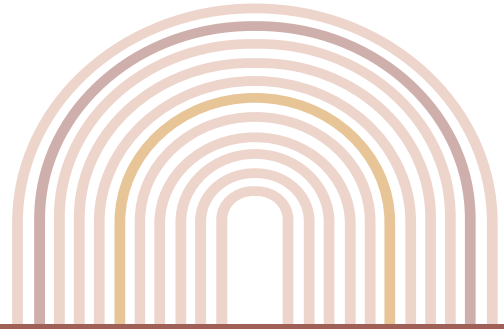


In November, 7th grade students will start to explore the early governments we had here in the United States. We will study the first attempt at a written plan of government, which was called the Articles of Confederation. Students will understand why this plan failed and how its failure led to the U.S.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



GRADE 8

newsletter



NOVEMBER EDITION

ELA- Mrs. Meyer & Ms. Sackett

In 8th grade ELA, we are continuing with our Identity theme - What makes you...you? by finishing and turning in our Personal Essays where we have considered a hobby that has added to our lives, a belief we demonstrate in multiple areas of our lives, and a person who has made a significant impact on who we are. Ask your student about their topics for each of these paragraphs. We will end the month (and the first trimester) with a mini unit reading Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart." After reading the short story, we will practice our summarizing skills through a project and writing a summary of the story. Additionally, we will further our understanding of and practice with sentence variety by continuing with both compound and complex sentences.

Targets covered in November

R.1 Make logical inferences from a text

R.2 Cite textual evidence that strongly supports an analysis of a text

R.6 Determine the meaning of words and phrases, including figurative and connotative meanings

L.1 Correctly write compound sentences

L.3 Use a variety of sentence types in writing

L.4 Demonstrate appropriate use of the conventions of standardized English grammar and usage when writing or speaking

W.1 Write a clear claim

W.4 Clearly introduce an examined topic by beginning with a hook, including background beginning with a hook, including background information, and finishing with the thesis statement

W.5 Write a conclusion that provides closure and ties up loose ends

W.6 Create writing that utilizes effective transitions

W.7 Produce clear and coherent writing through proper organization

S.2 Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats

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 are making 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:

- ES2-2: Show understanding that water movement causes weathering, erosion, and deposition, changing landscape features
- SV.1: Use appropriate science vocabulary in different contexts
- DM.1: Develop, use, and revise models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems
- PI.1: Collect data under a range of conditions that serve as the basis for evidence to answer scientific questions or test design solutions
- AD.1: Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence for explanations of phenomena
- CS.1: Construct a scientific explanation based on valid and reliable evidence obtained from sources and the assumption that theories and laws that describe the natural world operate today as they did in the past and will continue to do so in the future

MATH 8- Mrs. Coe & Mrs. Snook

We finished up Transformation (Unit 2) at the end of October, and will begin Angles and Triangles. We will focus on interior and exterior angles of triangles and polygons in the month of November.

Regular Math (Unit 3) - Mrs. Coe and Mrs. Snook

The learning targets for Unit 3:

- 3.1: Find missing angle measures created by the intersections of lines.
- 3.2: Understand properties of interior and exterior angles of triangles.
- 3.3: Find interior angle measures of polygons.
- 3.4: Use similar triangles to find missing measures.

ALGEBRA- Mrs. Coe

We will be starting Unit 4 which is Writing Linear Functions. We will continue our Mathcounts each week and we will complete our first in-school Mathcounts competition during the first part of November!

The learning targets for Unit 4:

- 4.1: Write equations of lines in slope-intercept form.
- 4.2: Write equations of lines in point-slope form.
- 4.3: Recognize and write equations of parallel and perpendicular lines.
- 4.4: Use scatter plots and lines of fit to describe relationships between data.
- 4.5: Analyze lines of fit and find lines of best fit.
- 4.6: Understand the concept of arithmetic sequences.
- 4.7: Graph and write piecewise functions.

SOCIAL STUDIES- Ms. Morgan

This month, our middle school historians will embark on an exciting journey into one of the most pivotal moments in history — the American Revolution! With America's 250th Birthday just around the corner, there's no better time to explore how our nation was born and the powerful stories of the people who made it happen.

Students will dive deep into the voices of the Revolution by researching, writing, and producing their own historical podcasts. Through this creative project, they'll bring to life the perspectives of soldiers, patriots, loyalists, and everyday people who helped shape the fight for independence.

Our learning targets for this unit include:

- Examining the impact of key events and individuals on the American Revolution.
- Using content-specific vocabulary to communicate historical understanding.
- Describing the importance of major battles and their outcomes.
- Explaining the role of allies, such as France, in the Revolution.
- Comparing and contrasting American and British advantages and disadvantages during the war.
- Evaluating the strategies and battle techniques that led to success.

By the end of the unit, students will not only understand what happened during the American Revolution but also why it mattered — and how the voices of ordinary people helped spark extraordinary change.

Stay tuned — we can't wait to share their finished podcasts with you as we celebrate America's 250 years of independence!

DC Payments Due!

If your student is attending the Washington, D.C. trip at the end of the year, the first payment of \$410 is due on or before November 21st. This payment secures your student's spot on the trip.

Students will receive candle fundraiser information later this month. Profits from this fundraiser, along with any earnings from the 7th-grade fundraiser, will be applied toward the second payment, with the final fundraiser deducted from the final payment.

For chaperones, the first payment of \$465 is also due by November 21st.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

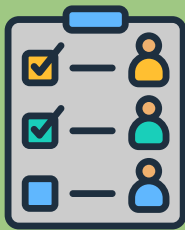
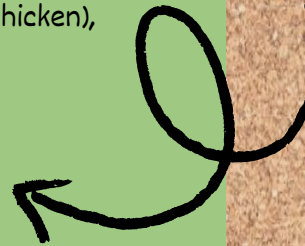


We have passed the halfway point of the 1st Trimester and are enjoying many opportunities to meet with students. Parent/Teacher conferences have come and gone, yet please do not hesitate to reach out to your student's teachers or one of us with any academic, personal or social concerns. We share a common 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.

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! One particular way we will show our gratitude will be creating cards for our service members and veterans. Thank you for your service. Also, thank you for entrusting us with your children!

Looking ahead and now more than ever, some in our community may be experiencing food scarcity. We will be coordinating our annual food drive in coordination with the West Salem Lion's Club. Weekly contests among homerooms will take place featuring some of our most needed items. More information will be coming soon. Common and helpful items to donate are canned soups, canned meat (tuna and chicken), cereals, oatmeal, pasta and sauce, macaroni and cheese and other shelf stable items.

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 she ask herself, "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.

5TH GRADE LMC

LMC - SCHRADER & FOLKERS

During our first 8 weeks of school, Ms. Schrader and Ms. Folkers's students have been learning to navigate the library. We have been getting to know the different fiction genres, learning to use Destiny Discover to search for books and finally locate those books on the shelves. Students are doing a great job of learning to be independent and efficient library users!

We have also been doing some fun projects to practice using different apps such as Canva, Green Screen and PicCollage.



CREATIVE COMPUTING



Students in Creative Computing have been learning about basic computing concepts such as sequencing, loops and functions. We are just finishing up a Generative Art project where students write algorithms to create computer-generated art. Soon, we will begin making our own games using a coding platform called Scratch.

November

Art Newsletter

West Salem Middle

2025

November

The Last Month of Tri 1

All Classes are wrapping up their work from the trimester. Look for portfolios of work to start coming home the week of 11/17/25.

5th

Clay Wall art and Tic Tac Toe Boards

6th

Clay Carved Containers and Instruments

7th

Clay Bowls/Plates and Human Figures

8th

After Finishing Wall Blocks we will be doing Clay Tiles and Slab Containers



Art Elective

Students have completed Acrylic and are working on some portraits. We will be moving in to clay watercolor palettes and using liquid watercolor soon. This will also lead us in to water color pencil work. Some beautiful work is happening in here!



*ALL photos in this newsletter are from the school Forest

We created forest art on October 16&17 on the 8th graders last middle school visit to the school forest.



6th Grade Panther Time

Students are finished planning their Trashion Fashion and working on completing their wearable art. Photos coming soon

Announcements



Paint Aprons are available for all students everyday.



After School Art Starts on 11/6. If your child is participating, make sure you have sent back a permission slip



The art room could use a used iron or 2. The old ones we had are no longer heating up.



STEM AND ROBOTICS

NOVEMBER 2025
MR. JONES

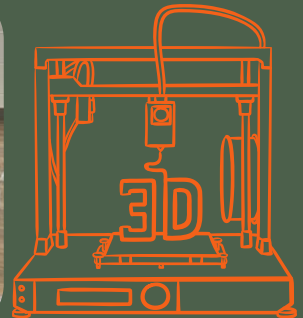
STEM AND ROBOTICS CLASSES

6th Grade STEM: Building Toothpick Bridges!
7th Grade STEM: Designing Puzzle Cubes
8th Grade STEM: Making Cardboard Pinball Machines
Robotics: Learning how to build and program robots



MR. JONES' PANTHER TIMES

6th Grade: Computer Housing Design
7th Grade: 3D Printing and Air Skimmers
8th Grade: Paper Roller Coasters



ESPAÑOL

Noviembre

Hola

November is here, and we're so excited to celebrate el Día de los Muertos in class together.

Here's what's happening this fall season:

Important Dates

24 & 27 de Octubre

Parent/Teacher Conferences

1-2 de Noviembre

Día de los Muertos

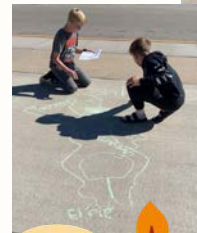
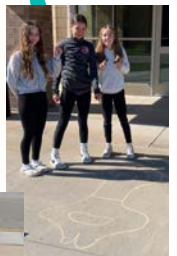
25 de Noviembre

Panther Time Rotation



Día de los Muertos Fiesta

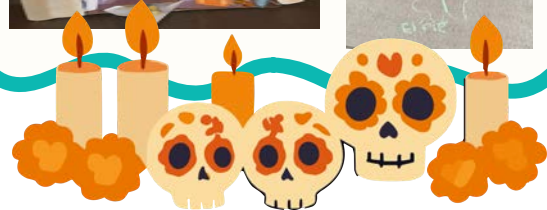
We will have snacks, activities and a movie (Coco) on Día de los Muertos. Students have been making Calaveras de Azúcar (7th grade) & Ofrendas (8th grade).



Classroom Activities

This month, we'll be:

- Learning about the celebration of Día de los Muertos
- 8th Grade: Learning how to describe ourselves and others with the verb (Soy-Es)
- 7th Grade: Activities and likes and dislikes (Me gusta, Le gusta)



Cultura

Día de los Muertos is a time for families to remember and celebrate loved ones who have passed away.

ETC

UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2025

WSMS NEWSLETTER

6TH GRADE

- Finishing Scenario Work
- Finalizing Websites
- Applying Graphic Design skills to the real world.

7TH GRADE

- working on Nighstand Valets
- Sanding
- Finishing Procedure

8TH GRADE

- Sanding Projects
- Soldering
- Joining Projects
- Reflecting on website



PANTHER TIME NEWS

6th Grade Panther time is getting into the thick of their sewing projects. Recently they learned how to use an iron and how to fold and cut fabric correctly.

7th Grade Panther Time are now finished with their pinewood derby testing and are into the designing phase of making their own cars. Students are using the band saws to cut out their own designs.

Our 8th Grade Panther Time has been killing it with running the school news. Many staff are saying this is the best trimester out of all of the 3 years we have been running the news.

REASSESSMENTS

If any students would like to reassess a grade in the grade book (specifically the measurement test) - they can come get a retest ticket out of the orange binder in the front of the room.

PCR

The students have been working on clock projects, and have been building unique designs that include multiple layers of thin acrylic or wood sheets to create their designs.

shrake.tyler@wsalem.k12.wi.us



HEALTHY LIVING



OUR 8TH GRADERS HAD A GREAT TIME AT THE SCHOOL FOREST ON OCTOBER 16TH AND 17TH. THEY WERE ABLE TO BIKE, HATCHET THROW, HIKE, COMPLETE A SERVICE PROJECT AND ENJOY FOREST ART WITH MRS. HEMKER. THERE WERE LOTS OF GREAT MEMORIES MADE AND EVERYONE HAD A FUN TIME LEARNING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS!



Music Notes

Music 5 (Kinstler & Nimm)

Students finished reviewing all of the instruments in an orchestra and discussed what their options will be if they participate in band next year. They are now learning about choirs and voice types. Students finished practicing rhythm and pitch reading in preparation for playing the recorders, which everyone started on Monday, October 27!

Choirs 6, 7, 8

Choirs continue to work on sight-singing using Do, Re, Mi, etc. to learn the pitches. All three groups have a variety of potential choir songs to sing at their December or January concert.

Small Choir 6

Students are reviewing the first three notes played on recorder – B, A, and G. They will begin Recorder Karate over the coming weeks and work to earn their next "belt" – a piece of embroidery thread to tie to their recorder! Along with recorders, students have learned how to use GarageBand to compose music.

Soundscapes 7

Students began the year with the movie musical, "Mary Poppins" – discussing the importance of the songs, the creativity of the lyrics, and the overall sound of the musical. They are beginning a unit on how a body makes sound. This will lead into becoming expert judges of American Idol bad auditions.

African Drumming 8

Students have completed two group ensembles, and are currently working on creating a lullaby in GarageBand that uses traditional Chinese instruments. The class is now in the routine of Tappin' Tuesdays and Field Trip Fridays. Every Tuesday we practice reading basic rhythms using Rhythm Cup Explorations by Wendy Stevens. On Fridays we investigate a new region or country of Africa to learn what life is like on that continent.



The Success Center

✨ Does your student need a little extra support staying on top of assignments?
We're here to help!

📚 What We Offer:

- Guided homework assistance in all core subjects
- A quiet, structured space for focus and productivity
- Encouragement to build study skills and independence
- Caring, qualified staff who make learning fun!

🕒 Hours:

- Mornings before school
from 7:15 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.
- Afternoons after school
from 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

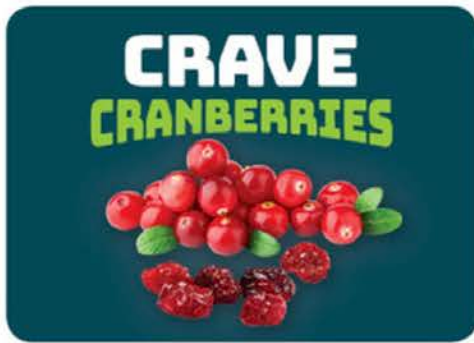


Location:

- Room 213 (upstairs)



Mrs. Jambois and Mrs. Gross



Cranberries are The Harvest of the Month!

Add cranberries to your favorite family meals:

- Toss cranberries on oatmeal or cold cereal.
- Mix dried cranberries, raisins, cereal, and nuts for a healthy snack mix.
- Add cranberries to salads for a refreshing punch of tartness.

Make meals and memories together. It's a lesson kids will use for life.

Select – Cranberries are available fresh, frozen, canned, dried, and as 100% juice. If selecting fresh, choose plump, firm berries with a deep red color.

Store – Refrigerate cranberries for up to 2 months or freeze for up to 9 months.

Prepare – Sort and discard bruised cranberries. Do not thaw frozen cranberries. Simply rinse the frozen berry and add to your favorite muffin or stuffing recipe.

Did you know?

Cranberries are the state fruit of Wisconsin! 62% of the cranberries grown in the United States come from Wisconsin.



Nutritious, Delicious, Wisconsin!
#WlHarvestOfTheMonth

Recipe of the month

Kale and Cranberry Stir Fry Serves 5

Ingredients:

- 1 teaspoon vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup onion (chopped or 1/4 medium onion)
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1 clove minced garlic or 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 6 cups kale, chopped (leaf portion, no stems)
- 1/4 cup freshly squeezed orange juice (1/2 orange)

1. Directions: Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Add oil and onion to large skillet. Stir and sauté over medium-high heat (350 °F in an electric skillet) until onion is clear.
3. Add cranberries and garlic. Continue to sauté for 2 to 3 minutes.
4. Add kale. Pour or squeeze orange juice over top of kale. Continue to stir fry for about 5 minutes until kale is wilting and hot.
5. Serve immediately.

Per serving: 58 calories, 2 g fat, 1 g protein, 10 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 20 mg sodium



FOOD WISE
Healthy choices. Healthy lives.

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Source: laxf2s.org

Coulee Region Farm to School is a partnership between UW-Madison Division of Extension, and the School Districts of Bangor, Holmen, LaCrosse, Onalaska, and West Salem. FoodWise education is funded by the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program–SNAP and Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program–EFNEP. The University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.