PANTHER POST

WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL
AMANDA BELD, INTERIM PRINCIPAL
JASON MAHLUM, DEAN OF STUDENTS

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

Dear Panther Families,

It certainly feels like November—the leaves are turning, there's a crisp autumn chill in the air, and I hope the school year has settled into a smooth, positive routine for your family. Having served as your Associate Principal for the past seven-plus years, I am honored and excited to step into the role of Interim Principal. I look forward to continuing to partner with you to support our students and keep West Salem Middle School thriving. I am also happy to share that Jason Mahlum will be serving as our Dean of Students for the remainder of the school year. We are both eager to work together with you to give our kids a wonderful year!

We recently wrapped up our parent-teacher-student conferences on October 23 & 27, and I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who attended. Your active involvement sends a powerful message to our students about the value of their education, helping them take pride and ownership in their learning journey as they mature.

Looking ahead, November is packed with meaningful moments and key dates for West Salem Middle School:

- **Athletics Transition:** As our fall sports wrap up, we want to celebrate our student-athletes' efforts and welcome the start of the winter sports season!
- **Veterans Day Program:** Please join us for our annual Veterans Day Program on Wednesday, November 11, at 7:50 AM in the main gym. Additional details can be found on page 4.
- **End of Trimester 1:** The first trimester officially ends on November 24.
- **Thanksgiving Break:** There will be no school from November 25 through November 27.

On behalf of our entire dedicated staff, I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with warmth, rest, and connection with family and friends. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside our talented students, supportive families, and exceptional staff.

Thankful to be a Panther,

Amanda Beld
Interim Principal

Important Info	2-3
Attendance	4
Veterans Day	4
Calendar of Events	5
Athletics Schedules	5
Lunch Menu	5
From the Nurse	6
Students of the Month	7
5th Grade	8
6th Grade	9-11
7th Grade	12-13
8th Grade	14-16
Counselor's Corner	17
LMC	18
Art	19
STEM & Robotics	20
Spanish	21
ETC	22
Healthy Living	23
Music	24
Harvest of the Month	25

Please use the links below to view our newsletter in

SPANISH

or

GUJARATI

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WSMS STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

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

In the interest of your child's safety, all students **MUST** be dropped off or picked up by parents on East Avenue. **Students CANNOT be dropped off on Mark Street.** Temporarily stopping your vehicle on Mark Street to have students get out is NOT safe, as it is very busy during peak morning & afternoon hours.

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

MORNING PROCEDURES

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

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

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

NEWSLETTERS

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

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

WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

STUDENT CELL PHONE USE

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

- Must be turned off
- Must be kept in the student's locker

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

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

ALLERGIES

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

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

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

SCHOOL SECURITY

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

ATTENDANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY

On Wednesday, 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 all the branches of the military, and hear from a guest speaker who will talk about what it means to be a Veteran. Students will also get to see and thank a member of each.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 6	GRADE 6 TO OEC
NOVEMBER 11	VETERANS DAY ASSEMBLY - 7:50AM *ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOUND ON PAGE 4*
NOVEMBER 24	TRIMESTER 1 ENDS
NOVEMBER 25-27	NO SCHOOL - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
DECEMBER 8	7TH & 8TH GRADE BAND CONCERT
DECEMBER 24-JANUARY 1	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



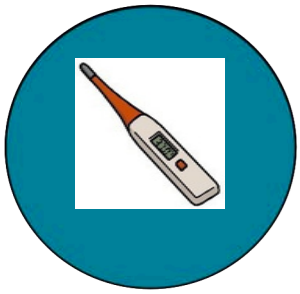
THE MOST UP-TO-DATE MENU CAN BE FOUND ON THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE HERE:

NOVEMBER LUNCH MENU

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction

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. November's focus was **Act Respectful - Exhibit behavior that is respectful of all people, all places, and everyone's learning time.** 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

CALEB KOLANDER

KINLEY GOLDBECK

TAYLOR KYSER

GRADE 6

MAREN EVENSEN

PAISLEY GEIER

BEAU KNEIFL

GRADE 7

JACOB BAHR

JAXON BAUER

VIOLET KLOSSING

GRADE 8

AUTUMN AMUNDSON

AVA JOHNSRUDE

GAVIN MILLER

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 a mini unit on one of our geometry units before moving onto place values and adding/subtracting decimal numbers.

We will wrap up The House on Hackman's Hill and then start our Native American Unit. We will be learning about quoting, comprehending nonfiction text, and vocabulary. Students should continue to read at home daily.

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 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. The focus of our next unit will be matter properties.

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.

Important Dates:

November 11th-Veteran's Day
November 24th-First Trimester Ends
November 25th-No School
November 26th-No School
(Happy Thanksgiving!)
November 27th-No School





6TH GRADE NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026

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 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 language arts class, our November focus will be writing summaries. Students will be front-loaded with Greek mythology stories to read and then write summaries 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 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

Our 6th graders had a blast investigating states of matter! Hands-on lab experiments with beakers, test tubes, and liquid diffusion allowed students to watch molecular motion in action as they explored how particles move in 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 October, we will be reading The Outsiders. This classic explores the themes of family, friendship, and growing up. Students will be expected to read at school and each student will have a copy of the book. Students will be assessed on reading and writing learning targets as they read the novel. Students will also be reading self selected choice books.

Dates to Know

Nov. 24- End of Trimester 1
Nov. 25-27 - 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.4 Provide an objective summary.
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.6 Demonstrate appropriate use of the conventions of standardized English grammar and usage when writing or speaking
W.1 Write a clear claim
W.5 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.6 Write a conclusion that provides closure and ties up loose ends
W.7 Create writing that utilizes effective transitions
W.8 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

We just finished up our unit learning about weather and now we are ready to start our Astronomy unit next. We will begin by looking specifically at the Earth-moon-sun system and how those objects interact with each other. Our first focus will be the phases of the moon. We will complete a few activities demonstrating how the phases change and why we see what we see. Enjoy the season change as we get those beautiful fall colors!

Essential Learning Outcomes:

- ESS5-1: Show understanding that solar system models explain and predict the cyclic pattern of lunar phases
- DM.1: Develop, use, and revise models to describe, test, and predict more abstract phenomena and design systems
- 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 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 explore one of the most pivotal events in American history—the American Revolution! As we celebrate America's 250th birthday, students will investigate how our nation was born and learn about the people and events that shaped its founding.

Throughout the unit, students will examine key events and influential individuals, learn important historical vocabulary, and explore major battles and their outcomes. They will also investigate the role of allies such as France, compare American and British strengths and weaknesses, and evaluate the strategies that contributed to American victory.

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

Honoring Korean War Veterans
As Veterans Day approaches, our 8th graders will put their historical research skills to work by learning about Korean War veterans from the West Salem area. Often called the "Forgotten War," the Korean War deserves to be remembered for the sacrifices made by veterans and their families.

Through this project, students will research local veterans and help preserve their stories by adding their names and contributions to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Legacy Memorial. We will begin with veterans honored in the Veterans Memorial Court of Honor in Village Park, along with those whose families have already contacted us.

Do you have photographs, newspaper clippings, letters, or other materials about a local Korean War veteran that you would be willing to share? We would love to hear from you! Please contact morgan.jenny@wsalem.k12.wi.us.

Washington, D.C. Trip: First Payments Due
A reminder for families whose students are attending our Washington, D.C., trip at the end of the school year: the first student payment of $442 is due by November 20. This payment secures your student's spot on the trip.
Students will receive information about the candle fundraiser later this month. Profits from this fundraiser, along with proceeds from the 7th-grade fundraiser, will be applied toward the second payment. Proceeds from the final fundraiser will be deducted from the final payment.

For chaperones, the first payment of $504 is due by November 20

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

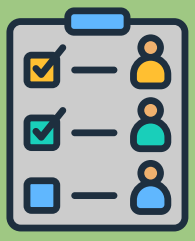
We have passed the halfway point of the 1st Trimester and are enjoying many opportunities to meet with students. Parent/Teacher conferences have come and gone, yet please do not hesitate to reach out to your student's teachers or one of us with any academic, personal or social concerns. We share a common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

LA heartfelt thank-you to the Barre Mills Lions Club for their generous donation to our Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) Fund! Not only did they provide a wonderful evening of music in the park this summer, but they also passed the hat to raise money for several local groups in need. The RAK Fund continues to support students throughout the West Salem School District by helping meet a variety of needs. We are incredibly grateful for the Lions' generosity and their continued commitment to our community!

We would also like to extend our thanks to the West Salem Lions Club for donating several dozen accordion file folders to our middle and high schools. These organizational tools are a valuable resource for students as they transition from keeping materials in stationary desks to transporting them between classes. This thoughtful donation will help our students stay organized and prepared for success. Thank you for supporting our students in so many meaningful ways!

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 & READER

During our first 8 weeks of school, Ms. Schrader and Ms. Reader'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.

Soon 5th graders will put their research skills to work learning about a national park of their choosing.



CREATIVE COMPUTING



Students in Creative Computing have been learning about basic computing concepts such as sequencing, loops and functions. We will soon be starting a Generative Art project where students write algorithms to create computer-generated art. After that, we will begin making our own games in Scratch.

November

Art Newsletter

"Exploring, learning, and growing together—one day, one lesson, and one success at a time!"

West Salem Middle 2026 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 11/16/25.



5th
Bobbleheads and Tic Tac Toe Boards

6th
Clay Carved Containers and Weavings

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 waterclor pencil nature studies. We will be moving in to clay watercolor palettes and using liquid watercolor soon. If you are at school, check out the acrylic canvases hanging in th gallery. Some beautiful work is happening in here!



*ALL photos in this newsletter are from the school Forest

We created forest art on OCtober 20&21 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



School Forest Fun

Announcements

Paint Aprons are available for all students everyday.

After School Art Starts on 11/12. 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.

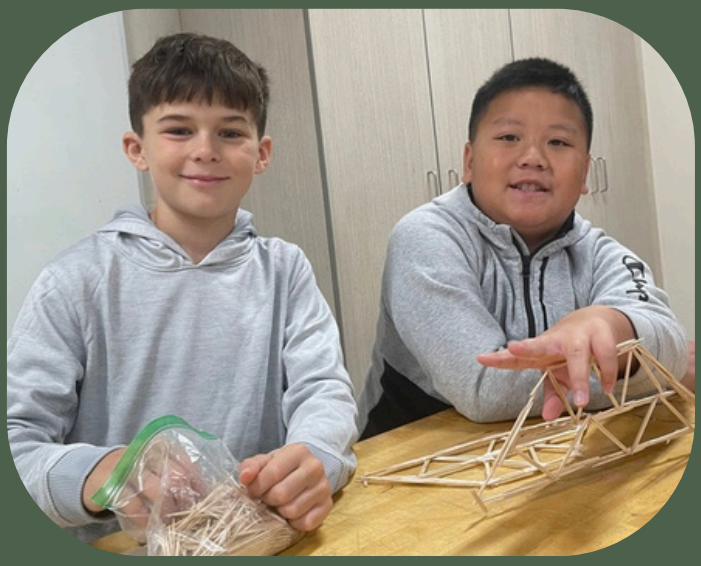
STEM AND ROBOTICS

NOVEMBER 2026
MR. JONES

STEM AND ROBOTICS CLASSES

6th Grade STEM: Building Toothpick Bridges!
7th Grade STEM: Designing Puzzle Cubes
8th Grade STEM: Making Cardboard Mechanical Projects
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: School Video Announcements



Noviembre

Spanish newsletter



Holiday: Día de los Muertos

¡Hola, familias!

All amazing Spanish students have been working hard to learn and memorize the 21 Spanish-speaking countries! Now it's time to stamp our passports and explore the cultures and traditions of the Spanish-speaking world. This month, each grade is diving into different aspects of Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. Students are learning about the meaning behind ofrendas and their traditional elements, creating their own tributes to loved ones, and exploring Mexican folk art through colorful alebrijes and calaveras de azúcar, sugar skulls. We are excited to bring these traditions to life through creativity, hands-on activities, and cultural exploration (perhaps even a fiesta)!

Quick Reminders

- Support at Home: Ask your student to teach you two new Spanish words or cultural facts every Friday!
- Please don't hesitate to reach out!

Contact:
kirking-taurizano.karlee@wsalem.k12.wi.us

Engineering Technology & Careers

Newsletter



6TH GRADE -ETC

Students have been going strong with their graphic design unit and have been learning everything from logo design to video editing all the way to laser engraving. Scenario 7 will be coming up at the start of November and this will be the final test that overrides many other grades in the gradebook.

7TH GRADE -ETC

Students have been working on their nighstand docking stations by edge gluing boards together to make their designs. They will plane, map, and cut out their designs using the bandsaws next.

8TH GRADE -ETC

Students finished their graphic design pieces on CorelDraw and will be starting in the woodshop on their wood base pieces. Students can buy their own lights if they would like, so they can have a remote control to for their project.

PANTHER TIME NEWS

6PT

Pinewood Derby
Students have been working on their cars in teh woodshop and beginning the decorating portion on their first cars. The bracket will begin in a couple of weeks.

7PT

Workshop Creations
Students have been creating some really cool puzzles

8PT

WSMS Live
Students have been running the news for the alst couple of weeks. They are doing a great job

PANTHER CREATIONS & RETAIL

Students are working on Laser Engraver training by going through testing on all 4 laser engravers. Each Laser can do something different compared to the next





Healthy Living

8th grade had a blast at the school forest. They did 5 different activities related to different areas of wellness while out there .















November 2026

NEWSLETTER

WSMS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Mrs. Kinstler

5th Grade General Music
(see Miss Nimm's notes)

6th Grade Keyboards and More
Students took a break from playing piano keyboards and have been studying film music. They explored the vocab terms underscore, leitmotif, and mickey mousing. Then students used this new knowledge by creating their own stop motion video with their own composed music.

7th Grade Guitars & Musicals
Students are now up to 4 chords on the guitar and playing simple melodies on string one. They finished watching *Yankee Doodle Dandy* and are creating a frontpage newspaper article about George M. Cohan.

8th Grade Almost Daily Ukulele
Students are up to eight chords and continue working on how to read melodies in TAB. They have also been learning about the histroy of Country music which will conclude with creating Country Music Trading Cards and a digital escape room.

Mr. Waldhart

6th Grade Band is working on sheet music for the first time, doing a great job on "Zombie Stomp" with student teacher, Mr. Dillie. They are also working with Mrs. Jeranek to learn about Mesopotamia and King Hammurabi's harsh laws through the song "Code of Hammurabi." Student should be finishing targets WU2, WU3, 13, 25, 31, 36, 43, 51.

7th Grade Band is working on new music for their December 8th concert. Targets include scales 1-4, 155, 163, 165, 175.

8th Grade Band is working on Veterans Day Music and new music for their December 8th concert. Targets include scales 1-4, 65, 72, 77, 89, 98.

Ms. Nimm

General Music 5
Finishing instrument families, beginning to read notes on the staff, playing recorders

Panther Time 5
Playing Orff and classroom instruments, Practicing note names and values

Choir 6
Reading and rehearsing two-part choir music, Sight-singing using Do/Re/Mi

Small Choir 6
Playing new songs on the recorder using B/A/G, Learning time signatures and how music is organized

Choir 7
Rehearsing spirituals in two-part harmonies, Sight-singing using Do/Re/Mi/Fa/Sol

Soundscapes 7
Elements of Music Unit: Melody, Harmony, Rhythm, Form, Dynamic, Timbre, Tonality, Texture

Choir 8
Rehearsing two and three-part music, Sight-singing using Do/Re/Mi/Fa/Sol/La

African Drumming 8
Practicing rhythm reading, Rehearsing Ensemble 4, Using world instruments in Garageband to create a lullaby

Upcoming Dates

7th Grade Choir & Band Concert - Tuesday, December 8 - 6pm, Heider Center - Students report at 5:30pm in concert dress (black pants, black shoes, music polo shirt)
8th Grade Choir & Band Concert - Tuesday, December 8 - 7:30pm, Heider Center - Students report at 7pm in concert dress (black pants, black shoes, music polo shirt)



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.

wisconsin harvest of the month

Nutritious, Delicious, Wisconsin!

#WIHarvestoftheMonth

FOOD WISE

UW-MADISON EXTENSION

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.